

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Eighth Session
(Thirteenth Lok Sabha)



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LOK SABHA

Monday, December 10, 2001/Agrahayana 19, 1923
(Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Complimentary Membership by
ITDC Hotels

*281. SHRI RAMJIVAN SINGH :
SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH :

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether ITDC hotels have given complimentary membership for swimming pool, free accommodation and other facilities to some important persons during the last three years;

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

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

(d) if so, the outcome thereof along with the loss suffered by these hotels during the said period as a result thereof; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to withdraw such facilities ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN) : (a) to (e) Yes, Sir. However, strict instructions have been issued that no complimentary membership be given for swimming pool and health club. The issue of giving free accommodation in accordance with existing hospitality trade practices is being re-examined. With regard to complimentary membership accorded during previous years, a retired senior IAS officer has been asked to look into the entire issue and submit his report within two months. Further action will be initiated on receipt of the report.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJIVAN SINGH : Sir, India Tourism Development Corporation was set up in 1966 with an objective to develop tourist centres and provide more facilities so that more and more tourists could be attracted. Earlier it earned huge profit but now due to mismanagement

in corporation it has started incurring losses and now it is on the verge of disinvestment. Managers and officials misuse the hotels and restaurants due to which heavy loss is being suffered.

Sir, Hon'ble Minister has just now given reply. The hon'ble Minister is known as an efficient, skilful and strict administrator. I would like to draw his attention towards the reply given to unstarred Question No. 35 on 19th November 2001 in this House itself wherein it was stated that "instructions have been issued and action is being taken. Now one sentence has been added that strict instructions have been issued in this regard".

Sir, I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister whether market rent will be charged from the managers and officials who are staying in these hotels and restaurants illegally. Along with it the facilities of Health Club and swimming pools for which annual fee of Rs. 40 thousands and Rs. 15 thousand respectively is charged are being used by relatives of officials and managers by getting their membership illegally. I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister whether they will be removed within a stipulated time period and market rent will be charged from them. He has stated that inquiry will be conducted regarding illegal stay of officials, employees, officers and managers and its report will be sought within two months, whether the concerned list will be presented in this House ?

SHRI JAG MOHAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, these complimentary passes broadly fall under three categories—health Club, swimming pool and allotment of rooms. So far the issue of swimming pool and health club is concerned, orders have been passed to stop issuing complimentary passes. It has been enforced since November that no complimentary passes will be issued for health club and swimming pool.

Secondly, some rooms are allotted occasionally and if these rooms are allotted to any officer, action will be taken. But sometimes rooms are allotted on the basis of commercial considerations as when some outside party comes for business purposes then accommodation is provided on complimentary basis. Only Vice-President is empowered for allotment of such accommodations.

As I have stated in my reply that a retired I.A.S. Officer has been deputed to examine it rationalisation of allotment of accommodation on strategic business considerations.

So far the issue of non entitled officers staying in hotels is concerned, orders have been issued on 31st October for vacating those accommodations. Three officers were staying in such accommodations and these accommodations have already been got vacated on 31st October. They were

told that full market rent will be charged from them for staying in hotels after 31st October. Two of them have already left and the remaining one person, who is just to leave has been asked to pay market rent for the period of his stay there after 31st October.

As I have stated that I have a list of persons who got the package of health club and swimming pool, the inquiry officer will be given this list for examination. The hon'ble Member has said that annual fee worth Rs. 40 thousand and Rs. 15 thousand is charged for health club and swimming pool respectively. But the fee amount given by him is not exact. I will tell the exact amount if he wants to know but broadly what he has stated is correct and this practice has been stopped now.

SHRI RAMJIVAN SINGH : Sir, whether the hon'ble Minister has taken any measures to stop its recurrence and misuse of hotels, restaurants and facilities of health club and swimming pools, if so, the details thereof ?

SHRI JAG MOHAN : It has already been stopped. Orders have been issued regarding health club and swimming pools. So far the issue of business considerations is concerned that is being examined and action will be taken after receiving report in this regard.

You may be aware that disinvestment of hotels is being done. Now these will not come under the Government departments but will given to private parties. Disinvestment of three hotels has been done and three are in the process and dealing of the remaining is being done by the Ministry of Disinvestment.

SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon'ble Minister has mentioned the three complimentary but free of cost food is the fourth complimentary. The persons staying in hotels get free of cost food and several officers who are not entitled are availing this facility for many years whether any action has been taken against them ?

SHRI JAG MOHAN : As I have told that price of food will be recovered from the persons who availed the facility of free of cost food and were not entitled to do so as per the terms and conditions. Inquiry officer has been deputed for the purpose.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government is trying to sell several hotels under I.T.D.C. when they are unable to run these hotels then how the Government will be run. The Government is responsible for proper working of these hotels. What about the future of the Government if hotels are sold in such a manner. I.T.D.C. should not be privatised rather these hotels should

be run properly I would like to know whether the Government would take this matter into consideration ?

SHRI JAG MOHAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hotels incurring losses are being disinvested for smooth functioning of the Government. It is policy decision of the Government that such work should be undertaken by the private sector. This decision has been taken to boost efficiency and productivity. Private sector can do this work efficiently thus the Government do not want to take up this work.

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, since when the said I.A.S. officer has been appointed for this inquiry. The period of two months fixed for it has completed or not? If not, the date when it will be completed. Hotels are run on commercial basis and thus persons who run hotels commercially have experience in this field. The I.A.S. officer appointed for it has any experience in this field. The people who run Taj hotel are also members of Board of Directors. . . . (Interruptions)

Whether you have sought the suggestion of those people? Today, the competition in hotel industry has increased to such an extent that a hotel room for which Rs. 10,000 used to be charged is being given on a rent of Rs. three thousand and even one and a half thousand only. I want to know whether you have thought in terms of commercialising this or whether you still want to stick to the old policies and decision. Whether you want to bring about changes on the lines of profit earning private hotels or want to continue to follow the old regime.

SHRI JAG MOHAN : As I said that the officers proposed to be appointed have been asked about the their availability in November and asked to submit report within two months. That is an administrative matter and it is to be inquired whether someone has taken illegal complementary or not ?

Second thing in regard to the reduction in hotel rates or in regard to the losses being suffered by the hotel industry. The traffic inflow of tourists has witnessed a decline throughout the world including India after the September 11th incident and owing to it also the rates of hotels have come down. As far the consideration for their commercialisation is concerned, we have formulated the policy of disinvestment on the basis of that only. I have also told that it is being implemented.

SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the reply of the part 'b' is not contained in the information laid on to the Table of the House by the hon. Minister. It has been asked in it that if so, what is the **statewise** details.

thereof? I would urge upon the hon. Minister to provide this details.

Perhaps some hotels have been running into losses owing to the dearth of the consumers. However, it is really surprising to learn that even the hotels in renowned tourist spot like Manali are not occupied to its capacity. As per the information, I have, the single ITDC hotel at Manali has been running into losses? I would like to know the reasons therefor? It has also come to my knowledge that the Government has made final decision in regard to handing over this hotel into the private sector. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he, before handing over this hotel to the private hotel, will hold a probe into the reasons for recurring losses suffered by it despite being situated at such an important tourist place like Manali?

SHRI JAG MOHAN : I will supply you the list. It is a long list wherein the Statewise details of the hotels has been provided. This also has the details you want to know and I will send it to you. As far the ITDC hotel at Kullu-Manali is concerned, it is in the list of hotels proposed to be disinvested. It has already been advertised for disinvestment but as no bid had been received in this regard, it has once again been put up for disinvestment. There are several reasons for the losses incurred by it. First, the tourist inflow is seasonal, i.e. it is more in summer. Secondly, tourist traffic inflow has dwindled after the incident of 11th September. However, the decision for its disinvestment has been made and it is being disinvested.

SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I do not agree with this thing. Manali is always short of accommodation. You hold a probe into it. . . . (*Interruptions*)

SHRI JAG MOHAN : We are holding probe into it but disinvestment is going on.

[*English*]

Linking of Southern Rivers

*283. SHRI M. CHINNASAMY : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to link all the Southern rivers to solve the flood and irrigation problems in that region;

(b) if so, the present status of the proposal; and

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

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI ARJUN SETHI) : (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

In 1980, the Ministry of Water Resources, then known as the Ministry of Irrigation, formulated a National Perspective Plan for integrated water resources development through inter-linkages of several southern based Peninsular rivers and the Himalayan rivers. Through this programme it is intended to assess the surplus basins as of now for possible transfer of water from surplus to deficit basins in order to optimally utilise the water resources of the country. With this purpose the Government of India has established the National Water Development Agency (NWDA) in 1982 as an autonomous society to carryout water balance and feasibility studies of the Peninsular and Himalayan rivers. In the Peninsular Component (Southern region), 16 links have been taken up for feasibility studies of which 12 links pertain to inter-linking of the southern rivers. Feasibility reports for three of the linkages have been completed. Implementation of the water transfer links would only be possible if the concerned co basin States agree to the water linkage proposal and other logistical support necessary for project implementation and availability of fund.

SHRI M. CHINNASAMY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government had started the process in 1980. Already twenty years have lapsed. I want to know from the hon. Minister, when will the scheme be completed, by what time the scheme proposed is likely to be implemented and what is the cost of the scheme. Will the Minister please reply?

SHRI ARJUN SETHI : Sir, for integrated development of water resources in the country and to use the water optimally, the Government, in 1980, formulated a perspective plan, and in 1982, the National Water Development Agency (NWDA) had been constituted. Feasibility studies for inter-linking of rivers for transfer of water from surplus region to deficit region are being carried out. The hon. Member will be happy to know that feasibility studies for three links in the Peninsular region, that is, in the southern region have been completed. I would just like to inform the hon. Member, as also this august House that these feasibility studies will be completed for Peninsular rivers by 2003 and for Himalayan rivers by 2007.

SHRI M. CHINNASAMY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is mentioned in the Statement that "implementation of the water transfer links would only be possible if the concerned co-basin States agree to the water linkage proposal and other logistical support necessary for project implementation and availability of funds." I would like to know from the hon. Minister, what steps the Government has taken so far to get the consent from the co-basin States.

SHRI ARJUN SETHI : Sir, it is a fact that unless the concerned States agree to the transfer of surplus water to the deficit region, the transfer of water from surplus

region to deficit region cannot be carried out. We are having discussions with the State Governments and whenever any feasibility study is being done, we always consult the State Government concerned and with their approval this is done. We are having constant interaction with the States for achieving the target.

SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY : Sir, just now the hon. Member from Tamil Nadu has suggested that unless you get the clearance or acceptance from the co-basin States, you cannot do it. For example, in one of the three links which you are working out through the NWDA, that is, Mahanadi to Godavari and Godavari to Tamil Nadu, I do not know whether the Andhra Pradesh Government has accepted the proposal. Then why is this exercise being done? Unless you take the consent first, all these schemes will remain in theory. So, Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister through you, how far these links are basically accepted by the co-basin States. Without that, there is no point in carrying out this exercise. The Minister has to give an answer to the House.

SHRI ARJUN SETHI : Sir, the hon. Member has rightly stated that unless the State Governments give their consent, this inter-linking of rivers for transfer of water from surplus region to deficit region cannot be carried out. We are always having interaction not only with the Andhra Pradesh Government but with all the State Governments where this inter-basin transfer is mooted out. So, we are having discussions not only in the NWDA Governing Body meetings, but our officials also at different times are meeting the officials of the State Governments. I hope that unless we agree to this, the flood and drought management in the country cannot be done properly. So, in the national interest, all the States should agree so that these schemes can be implemented.

[Translation]

SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the issue of rivers of South India and Himalayan rivers has been raised. The region of Narmada and some rivers also falls in between these rivers and it is considered as the link between both these regions.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : This question is on linking of southern rivers. You go through the question first. If you want to ask on southern rivers,

[Translation]

SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL : I am saying the thing related to that only. The Himalayan rivers have been talked

about inbetween and we are mentioning about southern rivers. These rivers are the link between both these regions.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : This is only on the southern rivers.

[Translation]

SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL : You cannot bypass him.

MR. SPEAKER : You may ask about the southern rivers, if you want to.

SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL : Sir, the hon. Minister has given the information.

MR. SPEAKER : There is no question of Minister's information either you ask about the southern rivers, else you sit down.

[English]

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI : Sir, the hon. Minister has rightly said that 16 links could be made out of which feasibility reports for three have been completed. But there are certain rivers which flow within the same State. For example, in Andhra Pradesh there is the K.G. Basin, Krishna-Godavari Basin. There is shortage of water in Krishna river and there is always surplus water which flows from Godavari river. If these two rivers are inter-linked most of the dry areas of Andhra Pradesh could be covered with the surplus water of Godavari, without affecting the water resource rights of the other States. Will there be any feasibility report for such a thing or is one contemplated to be made for inter-linking these two rivers where there is no dispute because they flow in one State? Will the hon. Minister consider about this Krishna-Godavari Basin?

SHRI ARJUN SETHI : Sir, one link has been proposed inter-linking Mahanadi with Godavari river and Godavari with Krishna. This link has been proposed and the feasibility studies have already been over. If this link is implemented, then in the deficit region, of Andhra Pradesh will be connected having surplus water and the problem of drought will not be there. The link has been proposed in this way and if it is implemented, this problem of inter-linking of rivers will be made in the region.

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI : Mahanadi is in hon. Minister's State.

SHRI ARJUN SETHI : The inter-linking of rivers, traverse in different States beginning from Orissa to Andhra Pradesh and also to Tamil Nadu etc. This link has been

proposed and this will cover Mahanadi, Godavari and Krishna and this will pass through Vijayawada.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL : Sir, we have a rainy season of only three months in India. In the rainy season, the rivers are flooded and in the summer we have the scarcity of water. We do not have water for drinking purposes and for irrigation purposes. This problem of stopping the flood ravages, supplying the water for irrigation purposes and drinking purposes can be solved only by storing the water behind the dams in the country and shifting the water from one river basin to other river basin. This is one of the most important things which has to be done in a country which is based on agriculture.

Unfortunately, the feasibility report is taking such a long time. The work was started in 1985 and we are told that it will be completed in 2005. Is it not too long a time for a matter like this? If you really want to help the people in India economically and agriculturally and to give them employment, attention should be paid to this problem. We are told that there is a dispute between the two States and that is why the water cannot be taken from one river basin to the other river basin.

As is rightly stated by some hon. Members on the floor of the House, there are rivers in one State only and the water from one river basin can be transferred to the other river basin without consulting the other States also. Even these kinds of projects are not being done.

So, what I am trying to understand is this. Has the Government understood the importance of taking the water from one river basin to the other river basin and then providing employment facilities, providing facilities for agriculture and all those things? Is the Government really sincere in this matter? Or, is it only waiting saying that the feasibility report is not available? And, for 25 years, the feasibility report is not available. When we have the computers and satellites to help us, the feasibility report should be ready within three months and we are waiting for 25 year. Is it not too long a time? Will the Government do something in this matter?

SHRI ARJUN SETHI : Mr. Speaker Sir, I am entirely in agreement with the sentiments expressed by hon. Senior Member from the other side. Sir, he will agree at the sametime with me that for this purpose only and for having integrated development of water resources as well as the optimal use of available water in the country, this particular Body, NWDA had been constituted. I am in agreement with the hon. Member that a lot of time has been taken. I would like to appeal the hon. Member and the hon. House that 'water' is a State subject and figures in the State List. So,

we have to take the consent of the concerned States which are being involved in the inter-linking of rivers. Unless we do that, we are unable to do anything or whatever we desire to do. But certainly, I shall have to take the consent of the States concerned. . .

MR. SPEAKER : You will be taking the consent of the States to expedite the matter.

SHRI ARJUN SETHI : Yes, I shall have to take the consent of the States concerned before I implement these proposals for transferring water from one region to the other. Unless I do that, I will be in trouble. If the august House is agreeable, we intend to have even an amendment to the concerned Act itself to achieve the progress in a time-bound manner. Unless the State Governments cooperate, we cannot do it. If the august House is very much eager to do this, I will be bringing the required amendment so that we can have the required power to ensure that this transfer of water, and management of flood as well as management of drought can be achieved in a time-bound manner.

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM : In the Statement laid by the hon. Minister, there are, of course, contradictions because in the first place, it says that there is a National Perspective Plan and then, at the end, it says that all water transfer links would only be possible if the concerned co-basins' States agree to the linkage proposal etc. Actually, it is more than 20 years that the National Water Development Agency had been constituted and 22 years since National Perspective Plan was formulated. I think, the whole exercise has been a waste because nothing concrete has been established so far and only three linkage proposals, that is, the feasibility studies have been done. My question is this. I want to know at this stage, after the lapse of two decades, whether the Government is having concrete plans to have the permission to consent of the States for deciding these disputes and then implementing the linkage proposals already finished by the National Water Development Agency.

MR. SPEAKER : Madam, it was already asked. The previous supplementary was also the same.

SHRI ARJUN SETHI : Sir, there is no contradiction in my Statement. Hon. Member has asked me 'you have not achieved', but I can say it on the floor of the House that we have achieved a lot, and by 2005, these feasibility studies can be over. As the hon. Members in the House are eager, the Government is also very much eager to have these projects implemented fast. I would request, as I have already stated not only the hon. Members here but also even the States concerned, that they should cooperate in

the national interest so that this problem of flood and drought can be solved for all times to come.

[*Translation*]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government, in its reply has said that the National Water Development Agency has formulated a scheme for linking 16 southern rivers and its feasibility report has also been received. All are aware that the Himalayan rivers cause floods in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. I would like to know as to how many Himalayan rivers, from the linkage point of view, have been studied in the feasibility report. Whether the scheme envisages to link Ganga and Kaveri or not and also whether any study in regard to divert the water of flood causing rivers to the south and desert areas of Rajasthan has been conducted or not ?

SHRI ARJUN SETHI : Sir, as I have stated earlier, there are two components. One is peninsular component in the southern region and another is Himalayan component in the northern region. In the northern region, in Himalayan rivers development component, there are 14 links and in these links. . . .(*Interruptions*) He asked for northern region. . . .(*Interruptions*) There are 14 links. If you allow me, I can read all these things.

MR. SPEAKER : No.

[*English*]

Social Security System

+

*284. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU :
SHRI NARESH PUGLIA :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to launch a social security system in a bid to widen pension cover mainly to include therein the workers of the unorganised sector such as contract labour, self-employed and private servicemen;

(b) if so, whether the blue print of the system has since been prepared;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the extent to which the workers in the country are likely to be benefited by this system ?

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

Statement

(a) to (d) The Employees' Pension Scheme, 1995 framed under the provisions of the Employees' Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952 is already applicable to 180 industries/classes of establishments employing 20 or more persons. The Scheme does not make any discrimination between organised and unorganised sectors. Possibilities are being explored by the Government for extending pension coverage to identifiable groups who are presently not covered under the Employees' Provident Fund Scheme.

Krishi Shramik Samajik Suraksha Yojana 2001 has been launched from July 2001. The Scheme will provide life-cum-accident insurance, money back and superannuation benefits. The scheme is expected to cover around 10 lakh agricultural workers in 50 selected districts in the country over a span of 3 years.

The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority has been asked to provide a road map for pension reforms envisaging social security coverage for the unorganised sector. The Second National Commission on Labour has also been given a mandate to suggest an umbrella legislation for ensuring a minimum level of protection to the workers in the unorganised sector.

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is the most important and alarming issue. India has working population of about 40 crores out of which hardly four crore, including Armed Forces, are covered under the Provident Fund Scheme. In the unorganised sector, even the home-based workers and agricultural labourers have no scheme in the country. The Governments are coming and going, but nobody has thought about the unorganised sector.

11.32 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

In one meeting the hon. Minister made a statement "I want to moot a scheme regarding this unorganised sector." I have read it. I want to know from the hon. Minister what are the measures being considered to extend social security cover to the unorganised sector.

[*Translation*]

SHRI SHARAD YADAV : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member has asked a very important question. The total work force in the country is 40 crore and in my opinion this number can not be less than it. The work force in unorganised sector is 36 crore which include 23 crore agricultural workers, 1.7 crore workers in the construction

sector, 3.7 crore in manufacturing sector and the number of work force in transport and other services is 3.7 crore. During the CBT meeting on P.F., we had seriously thought over as to how the social security net could be expanded by my Ministry. After the CBT meeting, I spoke for devising the ways for expanding the P.F. facility to the workers in unorganised sector which, at present, is for the workers in organised sector alone. The employer-employee equation may remain balanced in organised sector but the problem arises in unorganised sector where the employees are unable to be in control of anything.

Certainly, for their protection the scheme of old age pension is there for employees. I am fully concerned as to how to expand the social security network. In regard to the question asked by the hon. Member, I would like to tell that the Government is seriously considering it. We will try to devise means for bringing in social umbrella in provident fund and pension.

In the last budget, the Government of India particularly the Minister of Finance had given the statement about widening the social security net and umbrella. A committee and a group of Ministers was set up for this. It is discussing how to widen this net. If unorganised labour is not brought under this net and their financial condition is not improved, then the economic condition of India can never improve. At present it is being deliberated by the group of Ministers.

On the other hand, we have started many schemes. We started one scheme after coming into power and that is 'Krishi Shramik Samajik Yojana' (Agriculture Labour social security scheme). On experimental basis we have selected 50 districts and one block each in each of these 50 districts. We have planned to make Life Insurance as the nodal agency and for this scheme a provision of 76 crore rupees in the budget has been made. It is to be pondered over how this scheme could be implemented all over the country. First, we will introduce it in 50 districts on experimental basis, and afterwards it will be expanded. We want to implement this scheme on large scale in tenth plan. It will put financial burden. Till now the financial burden is of 76 crore rupees. Within this allocation it is not possible to cover the entire area. Similarly, there are many schemes like 'Janshree Bima Yojana' welfare funds and many schemes being implemented by different States etc. the centrally funded schemes which are being implemented are National old age pension. National family benefit scheme, National maternity benefit scheme, but I agree that. . . . (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The reply is very long.

SHRI SHARAD YADAV : I am replying in detail because this is an important question.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Indeed, it is lengthy.

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : He has answered almost all the supplementaries.

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : Sir, the Insurance Regulatory Authority had been asked to provide a road map for pension reforms envisaging social security coverage for the unorganised sector. The National Commission on Labour had also been given a mandate to prepare a legislation to extend this facility to the employees in the unorganised sector. If the Insurance Regulatory Authority has agreed to this proposal, then, what are the recommendations of this Authority ?

Sir, my second question pertaining to this is that the Provident Fund Miscellaneous Provision Act, 1952 is already applicable in case of 180 industries and classes of establishments employing 20 or more persons. Now, would the Government consider reducing this number to ten persons ? If it is made applicable for ten persons, then more establishments and organisations would come under this and this benefit would get extended to more number of people. Does the Government have any proposal on this ?

[*Translation*]

SHRI SHARAD YADAV : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this matter is under consideration. A meeting in this regard was held in December last. And it was discussed in OBT that the figure should be reduced from 20 to 10 but there is inherent danger too. We should also pay attention towards the fact that the criteria of 10 workers will also cover sweet shops, carpenter, tailors and barbers. It may happen that these type of people will get into the problem. Though the laws are there yet they are being misused. I had opposed this proposal in the last meeting and had also stated that it should be examined at length. We will seriously look into the matter and then move forward. The social security umbrella should definitely be widened but it should not be widened in a way, that the machinery, whether it is created by us or was created earlier is disturbed to the detriment of the workers. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we are paying attention towards what the hon'ble Member has submitted. We will bring it after paying due consideration.

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Naresh Puglia - not present.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : Hon. Deputy-Speaker, the policy of the present Government is creating social insecurity for the organised as well as unorganised labourers. For instance, the tea industry in Assam, Kerala and West Bengal is facing a serious crisis. Last time during *Puja*, they could not even pay a bonus of eight per cent to the labourers. What is the reason? There is a policy decision by the Government to allow import of tea from other areas into this area. Secondly, the excise duty of Rs. 5 that was withdrawn, previously has again been imposed. Is it not the duty of the Labour Ministry to see that the tea industry, which supports lakhs of labourers and their families, is looked after by the Government jointly by the Ministries of Labour and Finance; that this crisis is not further strengthened, and that the Government must try and solve the problems of the labour class in this particular industry?

[Translation]

SHRI SHARAD YADAV : Mr. Deputy, Speaker, Sir, this is a completely different question and is of different kind, but definitely it is a serious question. If he would give it in writing, then it would be better as this question is not related to the main question.

[English]

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : Don't talk about niceties. You are the Labour Minister. Do not create labour pain; try to reduce it. You take it up.

[Translation]

SHRI SHARAD YADAV : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, instead of raising this question here. If the hon'ble Member had brought this issue to me, it would have been better. The hon'ble Member is expressing his concern over here but he has not done so outside. When I was civil Aviation Minister, he used to express his concern and I redressed all his grievances. Therefore the question raised by him, does not come under this.

SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I hail from Sagar district of Madhya Pradesh. Lakh of labourers in Damoh, Sagar and Jabalpur district are engaged in Beedi making. Besides Madhya Pradesh, lakhs of labourers are engaged in Beedi Making in Bihar, Bengal, Jharkhand and Orissa. Manufactures get it done through contractors. Those contractors do not properly register these employees due to which the labourers do not get pension facility. Usually, one member of a family is registered by contractor whereas 5-6 members of the family

are engaged in beedimaking, and zarda and leaves are issued in the name of the person who is registered.

This way, due to irregularities in the registration. The whole family gets deprived of the pension.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister whether attention will be paid towards taking action to rectify the faults in registration so to make pension facility available to beedi workers, and to penalise the manufacturers who are guilty of negligence in this work.

SHRI SHARAD YADAV : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, hon'ble Members has raised the question about the beedi workers particularly the beedi workers engaged in unorganised sector whose number is very high. The question is definitely linked with the livelihood of workers. The Government have made a number of efforts in this regard. There are many complications in the contract system. If more strict action is taken, then the well settled contractors, issue less leaves and thereby beedis. These type of complaints have come to light. I sent the commissioner for enquiry to Damoh and Jabalpur. The report is with me. The question of the hon'ble Member is quite relevant. I would like to inform him that the number of beedi workers is 45 lakhs. In the welfare schemes and programmes for social security is being implemented. There is vast scope for improvement. We have seriously taken the question raised by you, and are working to bring about desirable changes.

SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister whether the Government are doing something for workers engaged on contract basis in unorganised sector and is making arrangements to abolish contract system? If not, the reasons therefor?

SHRI SHARAD YADAV : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, there is no proposal to abolish contract system. There is a law about contract system and work is going on under this law. The Government do not intend to abolish this system.

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the hon'ble Minister has stated in the reply that life cum accidental insurance money back and Super annuation benefit comes under Agriculture, workers social security scheme. At present after agriculture it will be implemented in textile sector. In textile sector, there are many unorganised workers who work for 12 hours. They do not even get half salary. What is the Government doing to implement labour laws in unorganised sector. This will help workers in reaping

full benefits. What provisions are you going to make in this regard? You are not doing so in textile sector.

[English]

Secondly are the possibilities being explored by the Government for extending the pension coverage to the unidentifiable groups who are, presently, not covered under the Employment Provident Fund Scheme?

[Translation]

What action are you going to take against those who have not implemented it. If the above does not happen then workers will not get much benefit. Don't you want to give this benefit to them? Are you going to take any action in this regard. Suppose, if anybody shut down the company then the workers suffer the most.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Rawale, let him answer now.

[Translation]

SHRI SHARAD YADAV : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, hon'ble Rawaleji has raised the question about agriculture, labour, social scheme. Earlier I stated that 50 districts, 50 blocks have been selected to implement Agriculture, Labour Social Security Scheme on experimental basis. At many places, encouraging results are coming. In a block of Raipur, there is great enthusiasm about it. As far as the submission regarding cotton growers and textiles workers and workers of organised textile sector is concerned, We are going to enact law for the workers of unorganised sector and want to expand the purview of already existing laws. We want to bring more and more workers under this umbrella. We are making efforts in this regard. I agree that cotton growers are also part of unorganised agriculture sector. They will also be included in it and will not be left out.

[English]

SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY : Sir, all the welfare schemes are lying in the papers only. They are not being implemented at the grass-root level.

The hon. Minister, instead of flying, has now come in the field. I wish him success.

My specific question is : whether the Government is seriously considering to bring a comprehensive legislation for the welfare including the pension facilities of the most downtrodden people and landless agricultural workers.

[Translation]

SHRI SHARAD YADAV : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have already stated that this is definitely a difficult task. 54 years have elapsed since independence but in 54 years, the people sitting on both sides have not been able to solve this problem. They said, it is definitely a new experience for us.

In every respect, this scheme is being observed less grounded and I accept it.

However it is certainly not that the works are not taking place. Several schemes have yielded good results also e.g. social welfare schemes providing social security in two or three States. Central Government has also been assisting in this regard but some State Governments like Kerala and Karnataka have been working very well. Bengal Government have also formulated a good scheme for agricultural labourers. State Government will contribute Rs. 20 in it and 20 rupees will be contributed by the worker. Similarly social agricultural (Krishi Samajik) Scheme launched by us will have the total contribution of Rs. 365 i.e. one rupee each day will be contributed by the worker and the Government will add the double amount on its own. This is being properly monitored. All the State Governments have been providing cooperation and are showing a lot of enthusiasm in regard to this scheme. I am of the view that it is not the responsibility of the Union Government alone. Hon. Members also should have the information about this scheme and we will also intimate them in this regard. The scheme must be monitored at the lower level and unless proper monitoring is done, work cannot be done properly.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to whether the issue of large scale migration of lakhs of agricultural labourers in the unorganised sector of Bihar to other States which has been adversely affecting the State's agriculture, has been taken up in the report of the committee constituted to look into the various aspects of and scope for the expansion of social security umbrella so that the social security may be provided to these workers. The Report has been submitted to the group of Ministers. Such a large scale migration has occurred that 20 lakhs agricultural labourers have migrated to other States in search of livelihood. This is adversely affecting the agriculture. The hon. Minister may kindly give the information in this regard.

SHRI SHARAD YADAV : Mr. Deputy, Speaker, Sir, in response to what the hon. Member Shri Devendra Prasadji has asked, I would like to tell that not only in Bihar but

in all other areas in the country which are lacking in irrigation facilities whether it is Bundalkhand, Mahakaushal, Chhattisgarh, East Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Orissa or North East but wherever poverty prevails. . . .(Interruptions) You may speak I will give reply afterwards. . . .(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Mr. Minister, Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav has asked the supplementary.

[Translation]

SHRI SHARAD YADAV : He is asking a lot. Please speak a bit.

[English]

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY : Is there any benchmark to identify the unorganised sector ? . . .(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SHARAD YADAV : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I resumed my seat because I feel that since when I have rose to reply, he has been interrupting.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You kindly reply to the supplementary of Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav.

[Translation]

SHRI SHARAD YADAV : Certainly the question asked by the hon. Member is serious and the migration has been taking place from those areas where the agricultural production is less and it further declines when the labourers migrate from these areas. This things is very much in our mind and it will also be taken up in the agenda of Group of Ministers whereas the feasibility of bringing these agricultural labourers under the social security umbrella will also be assessed.

SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL : Migration labourers i.e. farm labourers always come seasonally on work as Shri Yadavji has also told, I would like to know as to whether the Government propose to assign seasonal status to them. A frame work had been chalked out in this regard when I was in Public Grievances committee with Rajiv ji. I would like to know as to what does the Government propose to do for giving seasonal status to the crores of labourers working as farm labourers in biri manufacturing and sugar mills. Whether the Government propose to allow the proposal of grating 30 per cent shares to the labourers in lieu of their PF and insurance contributions.

SHRI SHARAD YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have given the reply to this question and I want to say it again that certainly a development authority has been constituted for it and the Group of Ministers has also been looking into this matter.

Road Show in Foreign Countries

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*286. SHRI RAMPAL SINGH :
DR. ASHOK PATEL :

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to organise 'Road Show' in various foreign countries with a view to making India a favourite destination from the tourism point of view;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the names of the countries where such shows are proposed to be organised and the time by which these are likely to commence ?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. After the downturn in tourism following terrorist attacks on World Trade Centre, New York, USA, the Ministry of Tourism set up a Task Force to deal with the fall out. One of the promotional tools recommended by the Task Force is to hold road shows in the more potential foreign markets. The Ministry is interacting with industry and trade associations to finalise cost effective road shows in order to make India a more attractive tourist destination.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMPAL SINGH : Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to know from the hon. Minister, the names of the countries where road shows are proposed to be organised by the task force constituted for the purpose and the time by which this will commence its work alongwith the total cost involved ?

SHRI JAG MOHAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, as per the existing position we are trying to organise road shows at every place. We have been making intensive efforts in regard to the West European Market. However alongwith it we are trying to turn East due to fall out in Europe. We are exploring the countries like Japan, Thailand, Korea etc. we have tourist offices at 18 places and we have been organising these road shows through them. We also contact trade and industries associations and further NRI

and PIO with them. We will meet the expenses in this regard through our budgetary provisions.

Recently, the World Tourism Organisation. Meet took place in Japan. I also took part in it. At that time we with the help of our association organised road shows at all the places so that maximum Japanese tourists may come to India. Similarly Government of China had invited us. We organised similar road shows in China and did whatever we could in China market. We also organised 'Road Shows' with the help of the Members of our Association in London World Mart.

Besides, all our tourist officers also organise these road shows. We are trying all the places.

[English]

Every country is being tapped

[Translation]

especially those which have greater tourist potential. We are also moving towards Middle East. We are trying at other places also but we are doing our best keeping in view our budgetary constraint.

SHRI RAMPAL SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, what is the outcome of road shows organised abroad and whether the number of tourist has increased owing to it ?

SHRI JAG MOHAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, as I told right now that we have constituted this task force in response to the fall out of the 11th September incident and we are trying to organise Road shows through it. A little time has passed since its inception, hence it is difficult to assess its impact. Even otherwise it is difficult to assess as to how many tourists have come after having been inspired to do so after Road shows but we will keep on trying that maximum tourists come.

We have formulated a seven point strategy under which we have been conveying new areas also. Earlier we did not use to make much efforts in regard to China, Japan, Thailand etc. but now we are also trying intensively in these areas also so that maximum tourist may visit India.

DR. ASHOK PATEL : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir through you, I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to how much money is likely to be spent on organising road shows abroad? Whether the task force have identified the countries which are likely to yield maximum after organising Road shows there ?

SHRI JAG MOHAN : As I have said earlier we have been spending from the budgetary provisions we have for

it and we will continue to spend keeping in view the budgetary constraints. If the need for more arises, we will try to get our allocation enhanced by approaching the Planning Commission. It will certainly yield good result. We are trying everywhere, but making intensive efforts in areas having more potential.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Pay Parity for Employees of EPFO

*282. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether Section 5D(7) of the EPF and MP Act, 1952 provides for pay parity to the employees of the Employees Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) with that of similar cadres in the Central Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any proposal to treat all employees of EPFO at par with Central Government employees is pending with the Government for a long time;

(d) if so, whether the EPFO has modified their recruitment rules to meet all conditions laid down in the said Act;

(e) if so, whether Assistants and Superintendents/ Section Officers of Employees State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) have pay parity with their counterparts in the Central Government;

(f) if not, the reasons for not according equal treatment to similar cadres of EPFO;

(g) whether the proposal has any financial implications; and

(h) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken to resolve the issue ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) :
(a) to (h) As per Section 5D(7)(a) and (b) of Employees' Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952, the method of recruitment, salary and allowances, discipline and other conditions of service of employees of Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) shall be specified by the Central Board in accordance with the rules and orders applicable to the staff of the Central Government drawing corresponding scales of pay.

In determining the corresponding scales of pay of EPF officers and employees, the Central Board shall have regard to the educational qualifications, method of recruitment, duties and responsibilities of such officers and employees under the Central Government. Accordingly, the EPFO has framed the recruitment rules and has adopted the pay scales as recommended by the 5th Central Pay Commission.

At present, there is no proposal pending with the Government to treat all employees of the Employees Provident Fund at par with the Central Government employees.

The Assistants in ESI Corporation have been granted pay scale of Rs. 5500-9000 on the basis of the decision of the Hon'ble Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT). Principal Bench, Delhi subject to the outcome of the writ petition No. 3844/99 pending before the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi. The Superintendents and Section Officers of ESI Corporation are in the same pay scale as their counterparts in the Central Government. The Superintendents in EPFC are also at par in the pay scale as compared to their counterparts in the Central Government and ESIC.

A proposal regarding modification of recruitment rules for the post of Assistant/Superintendent and redesignation of the post of Superintendent as Section Officer and to grant them pay scales at par with the Assistants and Section Officers working in the Central Sectt. is, at present, under consideration of the Central Board of Trustees, EPF.

Statutory Powers to River Board Organisation

*285. SHRIMATI D.M. VIJAYA KUMARI :
SHRI K.E. KRISHNAMURTHY :

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have given some statutory powers to the River Board Organisation in the management of water resources;

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

(c) whether some State Governments have opposed this decision of the Government; and

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

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI ARJUN SETHI) : (a) to (d) The River Boards Act, 1956 provides for establishment of River Basin Organisation with advisory role in consultation with the concerned State Governments. No River Basin Organisation has been set up in the country under this Act so far. However, Brahmaputra Board, Betwa River Board and Damodar Valley Corporation under different Acts of Parliament; Bhakra Beas Management Board and Tungbhadra Board under State Reorganisation Acts and Narmada Control Authority under Inter State Water Disputes Act, 1956 have been set up as per details given below :

Sl.No.	Name	Constituted under Act/Law/Notification
1.	Damodar Valley Corporation	Damodar Valley Corporation Act No. XIV of 1948. The act received assent of Governor General on 27th March 1948.
2.	Bhakra Beas Management Board	Punjab Reorganisation Act 1966 Part VIII (Bhakra Nangal and Beas Project) and amended in 1976.
3.	Betwa River Board	Betwa River Board Act 1976 No. 63 of 1976 10th April 1976.
4.	Brahmaputra Board	The Brahmaputra Board Act 1980 No. 46 of 1980.
5.	Tungabhadra Board	Notification Constituting the Tungabhadra Board No. DW IV 4(a) dt. 10.3.1995 in pursuance of Sub Section (4) of Andhra State Act (30 of 1063)
6.	Narmada Control Authority	Constituted by a notification dated 10th September 1980 to give effect to the decision of NWDT award under Section 6-A of Inter State Water Dispute act, 1956.

The National Water Resources Council (NWRC) while deliberating the draft revised National Water Policy in its 4th Meeting held on 7th July, 2000 considered *inter-alia* the provision relating to setting up of River Basin

Organisations (RBOs) with statutory powers. While some States supported this change some other States like Goa, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Punjab and Uttar Pradesh opposed the setting up of RBOs

with statutory powers. In view of the divergent views expressed on this, the NWRC directed that a Working Group under the chairmanship of Union Minister of Water Resources be constituted to examine the draft provisions. The Working Group discussed this issue and, arrived at a consensus, recommending to NWRC *inter-alia* that a provision on setting up of RBOs, without proposing the statutory/regulatory powers, be introduced in the revised National Water Policy.

Constitutional Protection to Weaker Sections

*287. SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI : Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Article 46 of the Constitution directs the State to promote with special care the economic interests of the weaker sections of the people, particularly of the SCs and STs so as to protect them from social injustice and exploitation;

(b) if so, the steps being taken to give effect to this Constitution directive in the field of Coal and Mining sector through State sponsored schemes/programmes such as leasing of coal and other Minerals/Metals, quarrying, award of agency/licence/permit for transportation etc.; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefore ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The existing provisions in Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957 do not provide for reservations in leases etc. for weaker sections of society including SCs and STs as a means of promotion of their economic development.

Notices to Private/Public Sector Hotels

*288. SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY :
SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH :

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have issued show cause notices to private as well as public sector hotels in the country for not complying with the guidelines of their Star classification;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the hotels which are charging high rates from customers are likely to be declassified; and

(d) if so, the details in the regard ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN) : (a) to (d) The Department of Tourism classifies hotels under various Star/Heritage categories for a fixed term. In case the hotel is interested for further extension of the classification period, the hotel is required to apply 3 months before expiry of the classification period as per the guidelines laid down in this respect. As a number of classified hotels in the private as well as public sector did not adhere to the hotel classification guidelines and did not apply for further reclassification, well before and upon the expiry of their classification periods, the show cause notices were issued to the hotels asking them as to why the hotels, should not be declassified. In response to the show cause notices, the hotels have replied and applied for fresh classification by the Department and their applications for classification are under process.

Under the guidelines for classification there is no provision to regulate hotel tariffs/charges and therefore the question of declassification of hotels charging high rates does not arise. Tariff is governed by market forces.

Agricultural Marketing

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

(a) whether the Government are reviewing the present system of agricultural marketing in the country in the context of increasing agricultural production;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to announce certain packages in the form of incentives for promotion of agricultural marketing;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the measures the Government propose to take in this regard and the time by which the review of the system of agricultural marketing is likely to be completed ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AJIT SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir. The Government had constituted on 19th December 2000, an Expert Committee on Strengthening and Developing of Agricultural Marketing. The Committee submitted its Report on 29th June 2001. The main recommendations of the Expert Committee are given below :

(i) Government need to examine existing legal framework governing the institution of regulated markets and remove all such restrictive provisions which inhibit growth of a competitive marketing structure in the country;

(ii) Government need to promote direct marketing of agricultural produce by the farmers to maximize their share in the price;

- (iii) More commodities should be added to the list of commodities allowed for forward and futures trading to reduce price risk and to facilitate integration of domestic market with international markets;
- (iv) Government should promote development of national warehousing receipt system for agricultural commodities to induce increased flow of funds to the agriculture sector and to improve price risk management;
- (v) Credit policy of the Government should support pledge financing by treating it as a priority sector lending to agriculture with the facility of concessional re-finance;
- (vi) Government need to promote marketing extension, training and research and use of information technology in agricultural sector to provide a variety of services to the farmers.

(b) to (d) An inter-Ministerial Task Force has been constituted to examine the recommendations and suggest measures for implementation of the recommendations of the Expert Committee. The State Governments/Union Territory Administrations have also been requested to examine the recommendations of the Expert Committee and provide their feed back to the Task Force. Currently, the term of the Task Force is up to 4.1.2002. Decisions on the packages to be announced and other measures to be initiated for promotion and development of agricultural marketing would be taken on the basis of the report of the inter-Ministerial Task Force.

Code Sharing Agreement with Foreign Airlines

*290. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY :
SHRI Y.V. RAO :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Air India has entered into code sharing agreements with several foreign airlines recently;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the extent to which the Air India is likely to be benefited therefrom; and
- (d) the financial implications, if any involved therein ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN) : (a) and (b) During current year Air India has entered into Code Share/Block Space Agreements (CS/BSA) with Lufthansa, Silk Air, Malaysian

Airlines and Thai Airways. At present Air India has such agreements with 14 airlines.

(c) and (d) Under these Agreements, Air India obtains a specified number of seats from the operating carrier at an agreed cost per seat. The revenues derived therefrom accrue wholly to Air India. These code shares present Air India with the ability to hold out services to various markets without committing its own physical resources. Air India is expected to generate a profit of about Rs. 92 crores from commercial agreements (CS/BSAs) with foreign airlines during the current financial year.

[Translation]

Assistance from Private Sector for Tourism

*291. SHRI PADAM SEN CHOUDHRY : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government propose to seek assistance from private sector to boost tourism;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN) : (a) to (c) According to the present policy/practice private sector is encouraged to actively participate and invest in tourism industry and related infrastructure in India.

[English]

Seminar on Airport and Air Traffic Services

*292. SHRI RAMESH CHAND TOMAR :
SHRI MOHAN RAWALE :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

- (a) whether a seminar on Airport and Air Traffic Services was held recently at New Delhi
- (b) if so, the details of discussions held in the seminar and the outcome thereof;
- (c) whether a need to improve the airport and air traffic facilities in the country have been stressed; and
- (d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to improve the airport and air traffic facilities in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN) : (a) to (d) It has come to notice

that a seminar was organised on 20th October, 2001 at New Delhi by Air Traffic Controllers Guild (India), a professional body of Air Traffic Controllers of India. This was not an official event organised by either the Airports Authority of India (AAI) or the Government. The organisers have not informed about the details of the deliberations at the Seminar. However, steps are taken to modernise the Air Traffic System and communication facilities which include modernisation of Air Traffic System at Delhi and Mumbai, installation of State of the art radars at airports, provision of Instrument Landing System (ILS) at airports where jet aircraft operations are taking place etc. CAT-III A ILS has been installed at Delhi which would permit operation of authorised aircraft in a visibility of more than 200 metres. AAI has also initiated steps to develop satellite based communication, navigation and surveillance system at par with developments in global civil aviation.

[Translation]

Modernisation of Aircraft Fleet

*293. SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA :
SHRI RAMDAS RUPALA GAVIT :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Indian Airlines is contemplating to modernise its fleet of aircraft;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the details of new and old Boeing aircraft with the Indian Airlines at present; and
- (d) the amount likely to be spent on the modernisation of old Boeing planes ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN) : (a) to (d) The age profile of the aircraft in Indian Airlines as on 1st December, 2001 is as follows :-

Type	No. of aircraft	Average Age (excluding leased aircraft)
A-300	6+2*	21.2
A-320	30+4*	10.3
B-737	11	20.3
DO-228	3	16.2
Total No of Aircraft	50+6*	Average Age of fleet 14.2 Years

(*Leased Aircraft)

In order to augment capacity and replace its ageing fleet, Indian Airlines has both short term and long term plans to induct aircraft in its fleet.

To meet the short term requirements, Indian Airlines has considered leasing of aircraft on dry lease basis. Two A-300 B4 aircraft were taken on lease in May/June 1998 for a period of three years which was further extended for a period of two years i.e. till May/June, 2003. Two 320 aircraft were taken on lease in April/May, 2001 for a period of five years and another two A-320 aircraft in November, 2001. Two more A-320 aircraft are scheduled for induction in March, 2002.

Indian Airlines is also in the process of acquiring six 50 seater aircraft on dry lease basis for better connectivity in the North East.

To meet its long term requirement of replacing the fleet of B-737 and A-300 (including leased aircraft) Indian Airlines has carried out a techno-economic evaluation for induction of the suitable aircraft types available in the market. According to the study about 38 additional jet aircraft are required for capacity growth as well as replacement until 2006-07. The project cost of induction of these aircraft would be approximately Rs. 9,000 crores phased over five years period.

[English]

Cost of Paddy

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

- (a) whether the cost of cultivating one hectare of paddy went up from Rs. 3311.11 paise in 1981-82 to more than Rs. 18,000/- per hectare in 1996-97;
- (b) whether the Government have any contingency plan to arrest this phenomenal rise in the larger national interest; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AJIT SINGH) : (a) The cost of cultivation of paddy varies from State to State depending upon factors like agro-climatic conditions, availability of irrigation and intensity of use of inputs and varieties sown. The cost of cultivation of Paddy per hectare varied from Rs. 1606 in Assam to Rs. 5474 in Punjab during 1981-82 and Rs. 8617 in Assam to Rs. 20937 in Andhra Pradesh and Rs. 17967 in Punjab during 1996-97.

(b) and (c) The higher cost of cultivation on account of intensified use of inputs is compensated to a great

extent by rise in the yield levels achieved by the farmers. For instance Per Quintal Cost of Production of Paddy in Assam during 1981-82 was Rs. 92, which increased to Rs. 401 in 1996-97. Likewise in the case of Punjab, the Cost of production per Quintal of Paddy increased from Rs. 102 in 1981-82 to Rs. 345 in 1996-97. To increase the production and productivity of paddy, the 'Integrated Cereal Development Programme – Rice' was launched, which has now been subsumed under Macro Management Mode of Scheme implementation with the view to provide greater flexibility to the States to adopt the components suited to their agro climatic conditions, which may be instrumental in realizing better output. Besides, the Government also provides market and price support so as to encourage farmers to increase production of paddy in the country.

[Translation]

Package for Irrigation Projects

*295. SHRI P.R. KHUNTE : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to give any special package to those irrigation projects which have not been given their due share of money by the State Governments;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI ARJUN SETHI) : (a) to (c) For accelerated completion of ongoing approved irrigation projects, the Government of India launched a Central Loan Assistance Programme viz. the Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) during 1996-97. such assistance is with the twin objective of (i) accelerating the completion of ongoing irrigation projects and (ii) realising bulk benefits of irrigation within a short period of time.

Under this programme only those major/medium projects qualify for assistance which have the investment clearance of the Planning Commission. Central Loan Assistance (CLA) under the programme is given in the ratio of 2:1 (Centre : State) for general category States and 3:1 (Centre : State) for special category States. An amount of Rs. 6861.27 crores have been released as CLA for 146 major and medium projects and 2374 minor irrigation schemes upto November, 2001. The irrigation benefits from the major and medium schemes under AIBP have so far been 10.92 lakh hectares as reported by the concerned State Governments.

WTO Conference in DOHA

*296. SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether a WTO conference was recently held in Doha;

(b) if so, the main issues relating to labour discussed therein and the outcome thereof; and

(c) the extent to which the labour sector is likely to be affected as a result thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Fourth Ministerial Conference of WTO was held recently at Doha, Qatar during 9-13 November 2001. At the Conference an attempt was made by the developed countries to reintroduce the issue of Core labour standards in the agenda of the WTO. The first Ministerial Conference of the WTO held at Singapore in 1996 had clearly envisaged that ILO is the appropriate forum to set and deal with the issues of core labour standards. At Singapore, it was also agreed that the comparative advantage of countries, particularly low wage developing countries, must in no way be put into question. At the Doha Conference, the developing countries including India were able to once again reconfirm the legitimate jurisdiction of ILO. Reference to labour issues in the Doha Ministerial Conference is limited to reaffirming the declaration adopted at the Singapore Ministerial Conference of the WTO and taking note of the work underway in the ILO on the Social Dimension of Globalisation.

There will be no repercussions arising out of the Doha Ministerial Declaration on the Indian Labour Sector.

[English]

Life Cycle Assessment Study of Steel Plants

*297. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether life cycle assessment study for optimum utilization of resources by SAIL, Bhilai, TISCO, Jamshedpur and RINL, Vizag Steel Plants has been initiated in the recent past;

(b) if so, the details thereof and other plants in which such system has been set up so far;

(c) the expenditure incurred on the study; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government for development and promotion of cleaner technologies in other steel plants ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Ministry of Environment and Forests (MOEF), Government of India initiated the first multi-institutional study of Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) for Indian Steel Sector in March, 1997, jointly with the active participation of the three premier integrated steel plants, namely, Bhilai Steel Plant (BSP), Steel Authority of India Limited, Tata Iron and Steel Company Limited (TISCO), Jamshedpur and Visakhapatnam Steel Plant (VSP), Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (RINL). The study envisages a "cradle to gate" analysis of the environmental burdens associated with the production of steel right from the extraction of ore till the steel exit gate using a steel industry customised software, Ecobilan Model for the Blast Furnace-Basic Oxygen Furnace (BF-BOF) route.

The ICA study initiated by the Ministry of Environment and Forests (MOEF) is nearing completion. Data inventory analysis report for reference year 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000 have been compiled by the steel plants using the Ecobilan Model.

As per available information, in no other steel plant such system has been set up so far.

(c) The total outlay for the study is Rs. 4.18 crore out of which Government of India's share is Rs. 1.39 core. Out of Rs. 1.39 crore a sum of Rs. 1.3 crore has already been released. The Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) has incurred on expenditure of Rs. 3.35 lakh on the Life Cycle Assessment Study. VSP/RINL incurs the expenditure in terms of man hours spent and no separate record of cost on this head is maintained.

(d) Ministry of Steel have been propagating the idea in different fora about the need for adoption of energy efficient cleaner technologies in various processes of steel manufacture.

Dereservation of Public Sector Mining Area

*298. SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI :
SHRI SHIVAJI MANE :

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

(a) whether the Government propose to dereserve the Public Sector Mining Area;

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

(c) the reaction of the State Governments thereto; and

(d) the extent to which it will be beneficial to the workers in protecting their interests ?

THE MINISTER OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The Mineral Advisory Council (MAC) in its 26th meeting held on 30.8.2000 discussed the issue of dereservation of areas reserved for exclusive public sector exploitation and decided that States would review the reserved areas for possible dereservation in a time bound manner. The issue was again discussed in the Conference of State Ministers of Mining and Geology held on 14.7.2001 and it was decided that the States would review the areas reserved under the erstwhile Rule 58 of Mineral Concession Rules, 1960 and denotify areas not required for exclusive exploitation by Public Sector Undertakings. In case of remaining areas, the State Governments would send full justification, areas wise, for continuing with reservation for further consideration of the Central Government.

The State Governments have started reviewing the areas of possible dereservation. The State Governments of Andhra Pradesh and Chhattisgarh have already submitted proposals for dereservation of areas no longer required for exploitation through public sector undertakings, for approval of the Central Government.

Since the areas proposed to be dereserved as idle areas where no mining is taking place now, there is no repercussion on the workers.

Prices of Steel Products

*299. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI :
SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ :

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the prices of steel products crashed by over Rs. 1,300 per tonne compared to the prices in March 2001.

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the extent to which it has affected domestic steel industry; and

(d) the remedial steps being considered by the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY) : (a) and (b) After liberalization of steel sector, the prices of steel are determined by the interplay of market forces and international prices, which are dynamic in nature. Prices

of steel products vary from market to market and product to product. A statement showing the comparative market prices of select steel products in March 2001 and October 2001 in selected markets is enclosed. The fall in prices could be attributed to a number of factors which, inter alia, include sluggish growth in domestic demand for steel and steel consuming sectors, fall in international prices, global excess capacity, cheap imports, imports of second and defectives and dumping of steel by certain countries.

(c) The domestic steel industry has been affected in terms of depressed domestic prices, reduced profitability and unutilized capacity.

(d) The Government has initiated several remedial measures which inter alia, include :

- (i) Imposition of anti dumping duty on imports of HR coil from Russia and Ukraine,
- (ii) Regulation of imports of seconds and defectives;
- (iii) Higher allocation of funds to infrastructure sector to increase demand for steel,
- (iv) Rationalization of duty structure for inputs for steel making,
- (v) Launching of a National Campaign to increase consumption of steel.

Statement

Trend of Market Prices Prevailing in March, 2001 and Variation with reference to the Market Prices Prevailing in October, 2001

(Rs. Per Tonne)

Item	Month	Market Prices					
		Calcutta	Delhi	Mumbai	Chennai	Hyderabad	Kanpur
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Pig Iron	Mar' 01	9100	9500	8500	8600	9000	10000
	Oct' 01	9200	9300	8500	8600	9000	10000
LM Gr. IV	Variation	+100	-200	0	0	0	0
Billets	Mar' 01	11750	13500	11200	12700	12250	13000
	Oct' 01	11100	12500	11800	12500	12500	12100
100 mm	Variation	-650	-1000	+600	-200	+250	-900
Blooms	Mar' 01	11400	13400	10800	12400	11800	12200
	Oct' 01	11200	12500	11000	12300	11800	12000
150×150 mm	Variation	-200	-900	+200	-100	0	0
Wire Rods	Mar' 01	15250	16700	15500	15800	15000	15700
	Oct' 01	15300	16000	15200	16000	16000	15200
6mm	Variation	+50	-700	-300	+200	+1000	-500
Wire Rods	Mar' 01	14700	16200	15000	15700	15000	15300
	Oct' 01	14800	16000	15000	16000	15600	14600
8mm	Variation	+100	-200	0	+300	+600	-700
Rounds	Mar' 01	14050	15500	14800	14900	15000	13800
	Oct' 01	14000	15300	14800	15000	15300	14000
12 mm	Variation	-50	-200	0	+100	+300	+200
Torsteel	Mar' 01	14325	16500	15000	15000	14800	15000
	Oct' 01	13900	16200	15000	15000	14300	14300
10 mm	Variation	-425	-300	0	0	-500	-700

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Angles	Mar' 01	13900	16000	14600	14700	14300	14200
	Oct' 01	15600	15500	15500	15500	14800	14500
50x50x6 mm	Variation	+1700	-500	+900	+800	+500	+300
Angles	Mar' 01	13450	16000	14300	14500	14600	14300
	Oct' 01	14100	15000	15000	15300	14700	13500
100x100x8 mm	Variation	+650	-1000	+700	+800	+100	-800
Joist	Mar' 01	16000	16000	15200	15800	15200	17000
	Oct' 01	16300	15800	15600	16200	15500	16500
125x70 mm	Variation	+300	-200	+400	+400	+300	-500
Joist	Mar' 01	15550	16300	16000	16400	15500	16000
	Oct' 01	16000	16700	16500	17200	15800	16500
300x140 mm	Variation	+450	+400	+500	+800	+300	+500
Channels	Mar' 01	14250	15800	14300	15100	14600	14500
	Oct' 01	15000	15500	15400	15500	15500	14500
75x40 mm	Variation	+750	-300	+1100	+400	+900	0
Channels	Mar' 01	14250	15900	14300	15000	14500	14500
	Oct' 01	15200	15300	15300	15500	15500	14500
100x50 mm	Variation	+950	-600	+1000	+500	+1000	0
Plates	Mar' 01	15250	17100	15500	17200	15600	15300
	Oct' 01	13900	14700	14200	14000	13800	14200
6 mm	Variation	-1350	-2400	-1300	-3200	-1800	-1100
Plates	Mar' 01	15250	17100	15500	17000	15600	15200
	Oct' 01	14000	14500	14200	14000	13800	14200
8/10 mm	Variation	-1250	-2600	-1300	-3000	-1800	-1000
HR Coils 2.00 mm (TMQ)	Mar' 01	17800	18500	17500	17500	16400	15800
	Oct' 01	15600	15200	15800	15200	15000	15000
	Variation	-2200	-3300	-1700	-2300	-1400	-800
HR coils 3.15 mm (TMQ)	Mar' 01	15550	16700	16500	17000	15800	15800
	Oct' 01	14150	14600	15000	14500	14800	14100
	Variation	-1400	-2100	-1500	-2500	-1000	-1700
CR Coils 0.63 mm	Mar' 01	20850	20000	20800	22500	21100	21500
	Oct' 01	19300	18000	19500	18500	19000	18000
	Variation	-1550	-2000	-1300	-4000	-2100	-3500
GP Sheets 0.63 mm	Mar' 01	24650	27000	27500	25000	24500	25500
	Oct' 01	23300	21000	25000	24200	22500	20100
	Variation	-1350	-6000	-2500	-800	-2000	-5400
GC Sheets 0.63 mm	Mar' 01	25100	27000	27500	26500	25000	25000
	Oct' 01	23700	21500	25500	23500	23000	23000
	Variation	-1400	-15500	-2000	-3000	-2000	-2000

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Melting Scrap	Mar' 01	8300	8500	7100	7300	6000	8200
	Oct' 01	8200	7500	7200	7000	6800	7800
	Variation	-100	-1000	+100	-300	+800	-400
HBI/Songe Iron	Mar' 01	7150	6000	7000	7000	6000	6800
	Oct' 01	7000	7200	7100	7200	6500	7500
	Variation	-150	+1200	+100	+200	+500	+700

Effects of LTC Facilities on Tourism

*300. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE :
DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV :

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether his Ministry has requested the M/o Finance to defreeze Leave Travel Concession (LTC) facilities to Government employees;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether domestic tourism has been adversely affected as a result thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN) : (a) to (d) The Ministry of Tourism has requested for restoration of LTC facility in the interest of encouraging growth of domestic tourism in the country. The matter is presently under consideration.

Iron Ore Mines in IISCO

3096. SHRI SUNIL KHAN : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether IISCO has three iron ore mines like Chiria, Gua and Sukri which are the best in the country and the ore deposits near Manoharpur constituting nearly two billion tons are the second largest such deposits in the world;

(b) whether the company has three collieries like Chasnalla, Jitpur and Ramnagar wherein deposits in the mines are sufficient not only to meet IISCO's requirement, but also other Steel Plants; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY) : (a) IISCO has three captive iron ore mines namely Chiria, Gua and

Sukri. Chiria Iron Ore deposit situated near Manoharpur in the State of Jharkhand is the largest in India, estimated at around two billions tonnes of mining reserves. Gua's reserves are estimated at 182 millions tonnes. Sukri reserves are estimated at about 80 millions tonnes of iron ore.

(b) and (c) IISCO's collieries are situated at Chasnalla, Jitpur and Ramnagore. The estimated reserves are as under :

Name of the Collieries	Estimated reserves (Million tonnes)
Chasnalla	76
Jitpur	26
Ramnagore	103

Installation of Hidden Cameras at Airports

3097. SHRI SAIDUZZAMA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are planning to instal hidden Cameras to locate the culprits at various airports in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, airport-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN) : (a) and (b) Close Circuit Television (CCTV) surveillance cameras have been installed at the international airports of Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata. CCTV cameras are also proposed to be installed at other international airports in the country namely Chennai, Thiruvananthapuram, Amritsar, Goa, Ahmedabad, Hyderabad and Bangalore and at the domestic airports at Jammu, Srinagar and Calicut. These cameras will be monitored by Airport Management, Airport Security Unit, Customs, and Immigration to observe movement of passengers and employees in the terminal building, security hold areas and baggage make up area, to assist

in facilitation, security and regulatory functions. The system is expected to be completed in all respects by May, 2002.

Special Steel from Alloy Steel Plant

3098. SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether due to imposition of restriction on import of special steel by USA and European countries, Alloy Steel Plant has provided special steel for Bofors common balls during Kargil War;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether ASP manufacture modern spare parts for artificial Sattelites, special steel for war trucks body, bullet-proof Jackets, rocket, axle, etc.;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether ASP received recognition from ISO 9002 seven times; and

(f) if so, the steps taken by the Government for its revival ?

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

(b) Alloy Steel Plant (ASP) is the regular supplier of SAE-9260 and B-24 steel to Ordnance Factories which are used for making shells for Bofors Gun.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) ASP is producing Spade and Jackel steel and supplying to HVF Avadi and Ordnance Factory, Medak for armoured vehicles and bullet proof jackets. ASP is also supplying steel to ISRO, Bharat Electronics, Bharat Dynamic and others which are used for artificial satellites.

(e) ASP received ISO-9002 certification for the whole plant in September 1994 and re-certification of the same has been achieved on September 1997 and September 2000, which is valid upto September 2003.

(f) With a view to revive ASP, SAIL is presently taking steps to convert the plant into a joint venture with a suitable partner.

Flood Forecast

3099. SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the World Bank funded programme on modernisation of hydrological data collection and updating the accuracy of flood forecasting launched in 1996 and

scheduled for completion by March 2002 has been extended by one more year;

(b) if so, the number of World Bank funded programmes operating in Andhra Pradesh;

(c) the progress made on each programme so far;

(d) the mount utilised by the State Government; and

(e) the time by which these programmes are likely to be completed ?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI ARJUN SETHI) : (a) Yes, Sir. The World Bank aided Hydrology Project launched in September, 1995 and scheduled for completion in March, 2002 has been extended by one year i.e. upto to March, 2003.

(b) In addition to the Hydrology Project two projects namely Andhra Pradesh Irrigation Project-III and Andhra Pradesh Economic Restructuring Project (Irrigation Component) are being implemented in Andhra Pradesh with the World Bank assistance of US \$ 325 million and US\$ 142 million respectively.

(c) to (e) Upto September, 2001 US \$ 122.44 million and US \$ 57.82 million have been utilized by the Government of Andhra Pradesh for Andhra Pradesh. Third Irrigation Project and Andhra Economic Restructuring Project (Irrigation Component) respectively. These projects are scheduled for completion by January, 2003 and March 2004 respectively.

Facilities for Sky Marshals

3100. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Security Guard (NSG) has urged for special low-velocity bullets and proper communication facilities for their team members deployed as sky marshals inside aircraft; and

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

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN) : (a) and (b) The National Security Guard has made a request for specialised ammunition as well as sophisticated communication facilities for Sky Marshals. Procurement action has been initiated.

[Translation]

Forest Based Industries

3101. SHRI LAXMAN GILUWA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have made any efforts to set up forest based industries in Jharkhand State particularly Singhbhum region;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) and (b) Establishment of forest based industries is in the competence of the State Government. The Government of Jharkhand have made efforts and formulated its Industries Policy, 2001 in which the forest based industries is one of the sector, which has been declared "Thrust Area" for the centralised industrial development of the State. The industries brought under the category of "Thrust Area" are :

- (i) Sisal and other fibres.
- (ii) Forest based industries e.g. bamboo, lac etc.
- (iii) Medicinal and flower based industry.

The State of Jharkhand in its Industrial Policy has also decided to encourage rural industrialisation in the field of forest based industries like silk production and minor forest produce.

(c) Does not arise.

Irrigation Facilities in Bihar

3102. SHRI RAJO SINGH : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the projects for augmentation of irrigation facility in Bihar pending with the Union Government for clearance;

(b) the time by which these projects are likely to be approved; and

(c) the funds proposed to be allotted to the Government of Bihar under the rapid irrigation benefit programme during the current year ?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI ARJUN SETHI) : (a) and (b) Four major irrigation projects of reorganized Bihar State have been received in the Central Water Commission for techno-economic appraisal. Out of these Punpun Barrage and Tilaiya Dhadar have been accepted by the Advisory Committee of Ministry of Water Resources subject to certain conditions which are yet to be complied with by the State Government. The Kadwan Reservoir and Upper Mahananda projects are under correspondence with the State Government. Clearance of these projects depends inter-alia upon the promptness of compliance of the observations of various Central appraising agencies by the State Government.

(c) Government of India has been providing Central Loan Assistance under Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme for early completion of ongoing irrigation projects since 1996. Details of Central Loan Assistance released to Government of Bihar till March 2001 are given in the statement attached. For 2001-2002, the Planning Commission has fixed a ceiling of Rs. 20 crores for Bihar under Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme.

Statement

(Rs. in crore)

Sl. No.	Name of Project	CLA released during					Total	
		1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-2001		2001-2002
Major, Medium and Minor Irrigation Projects								
1.	Western Kosi Canal	10	0	14.635	30.57	59	114.205	
2.	Upper Kiul	2.5	0	5.1	7.625	1.2	16.425	
3.	Durgawati	1	0	1.15	11	18.74	31.89	
4.	Bansagar	0	1.5	2	80		83.5	
5.	Orni Reservoir	0	2.03	5.5	0	2.37	9.9	
6.	Bilasi Reservoir	0	1.62	0.8	0.5	47	3.39	
7.	Sone canal modernization	0	0	7	0	66.66	73.66	
Total		13.5	5.15	36.185	129.695	148.44	0	332.97

[English]

Development of Tourism in Southern States

3103. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have provided any assistance to the Southern States to develop and exploit tourism potential during the last three years; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and year-wise ?

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

(b) Development and promotion of tourist centres/ places is primarily undertaken by the State Government/ UT Administration themselves. However Central Department of Tourism provides funds on the basis of projects prioritised annually in consultation with them. The details of funds sanctioned to the Southern States, State-wise and year-wise are given below :

(Rupees in lakhs)

Name of the State	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-2001
Andhra Pradesh	274.08	222.22	141.00
Karnataka	407.48	890.70	489.30
Tamil Nadu	316.20	531.95	113.83
Kerala	653.05	772.28	408.85
Pondicherry	15.00	163.89	26.18
Lakshadweep	29.00	Nil	Nil

[Translation]

Setting up of FPI in U.P.

3104. RAJKUMARI RATNA SINGH : Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state the number of proposals approved to set up food processing industries in the country during the last three years, State-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (PROF. CHAMAN LAL GUPTA) : For setting up Food Processing Industries barring alcoholic beverages no Government approval is required to be obtained. However, under the Plan

Schemes, the Ministry of Food Processing Industries extends financial assistance to PSUs, NGOs, private sector, etc. for setting up/expansion/modernisation of Food Processing Industries including infrastructural facilities and food-parks. State-wise list of financial assistance extended by the Ministry during the last three years is attached as statement.

Statement

Number of units extended Financial Assistance under Plan Schemes of the Ministry for setting up Food Processing Industries in different States during 1998-99 to 2000-2001

States/Union Territories	No. of units extended financial assistance		
	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-2001
Andhra Pradesh	2	7	4
Karnataka	3	5	2
Kerala	5	4	6
Tamilnadu	—	3	—
Orissa	3	3	1
Bihar	—	—	1
West Bengal	12	6	3
Uttar Pradesh	3	5	5
Punjab	3	1	4
Haryana	—	1	2
Himachal Pradesh	2	1	—
Jammu and Kashmir	—	1	1
Gujarat	1	6	3
Madhya Pradesh	3	1	2
Maharashtra	6	7	8
Goa	—	1	—
Assam	6	6	4
Meghalaya	—	1	—
Tripura	—	—	2
Manipur	3	3	15
Nagaland	2	2	1

[English]

**Minimum Support Price for Potato
and Onion**

3105. SHRI G. MALLIKARJUNAPPA :
SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI :
SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Karnataka had submitted proposals on market intervention scheme (MIS) for Potato and Onion during 1996-97 to the Union Government;

(b) if so, whether the audited report furnished by HOPCOMS for procurement of Potato and Onion during 1996-97, under MIS submitted to the Union Government for reimbursement of 50% loss has incurred a total loss of Rs. 60.53 lakhs in this operation;

(c) whether the Union Government was also reminded on April 14, 2001;

(d) if so, whether the Union Government has cleared this pending proposal so far; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) HOPCOMS did not submit the accounts in accordance with the terms and conditions of sanctioned MIS. Hence, the Government of Karnataka was requested to submit the revised accounts, which has been received. The Central Government share of loss will be released to the Government of Karnataka for reimbursing to HOPCOMS after finalisation of accounts.

Clearance to Projects under CRZ

3106. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether his Ministry has recently discussed the issue of relaxation of the coastal regulation zone with the Ministry of Tourism;

(b) if so, the details of the decision taken in that regard;

(c) whether a number of projects have been held up because of the CRZ; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government for early clearance of the projects ?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) and (b) No formal discussions have taken place recently with the Ministry of Tourism for relaxation of the provisions of Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) Notification, 1991.

(c) and (d) No tourism projects are held up because of the coastal zone regulations. In fact the Coastal Regulation Zone Notification provides for construction of beach resorts between 200-500m from High Tide Line in CRZ – III areas. For early clearance of proposals relating to construction of beach resorts, the proposals are considered internally after they have been examined and recommended by the respective State Coastal Zone Management Authorities.

Landslide in Kerala

3107. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of people killed in recent landslide in Kerala; and

(b) the compensation paid to the affected families ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) and (b) As per information furnished by Government of Kerala, 38 persons died in the landslides incident occurred on 9th November, 2001 at Amboori near Neyyar dam in Neyyattinkara Taluk of Thiruvananthapuram District, Kerala. An ex-gratia @ Rs. 50,000/- each to the next of kin of the deceased adults and @ Rs. 15,000/- to the next of kin of the deceased children has been sanctioned.

Foreign Agreements in Agriculture Sector

3108. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the countries with whom agreements signed and proposed to be signed for cooperation in agriculture, animal husbandry and dairy development during each of the last three years and the current year till date;

(b) the details of pending agreements and reasons for these being pending;

(c) the names of the States wherein foreign assistance schemes are being implemented in the field of

agriculture, animal husbandry and dairy development; and

(d) the progress report of the said schemes, State-wise ?

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.

Delinking of Minimum Support Price

3109.DR. N. VENKATASWAMY : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to delink/dismantle minimum support price for procurement of foodgrains during the current session; and

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

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

(b) Does not arise.

Reservation for Physically Handicapped

3110.SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) the number of posts reserved for disabled/physically handicapped persons in his Ministry and its departments during each of the last three years, Post-wise, Category-wise;

(b) the number of posts for disabled/physically handicapped persons lying vacant as on October 31, 2001;

(c) the number of disabled/physically handicapped persons given employment on such posts; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY) : (a) to (d) In the three years from 1998-99 to 2000-01, only one vacancy in the grade of LDC in the CSCS cadre of the Ministry of Steel has been reserved for being filled by the physically handicapped on the basis of the results of the Clerk's Grade Examination, 1999. The nomination for the filling of this vacancy is still awaited. As on 31.10.2001, there is no other vacancy reserved for the physically handicapped.

In respect of the organization of the Development Commissioner for Iron and Steel, an attached office of the Ministry of Steel, no appointments have been made because of the on-going downsizing of the organization's manpower since 1997.

[Translation]

Development of Ayojadhya Hills In West Bengal

3111.SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have provided any assistance to develop Ayojadhya Hills Tourist spot in West Bengal;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN) : (a) No financial assistance has been provided to the Government of West Bengal during the current Plan period for development of Ayojadhya Hills as a tourist spot.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Central financial assistance is provided to State Governments/U.T. Administrations for tourism projects prioritized in consultation with them every year. No project for Ayojadhya Hills has been prioritized during this period.

[English]

Licence to Foreign Vessels for Fishing

3112.SHRI J.S. BRAR : Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether licences have been given to foreign vessels for fishing in Indian Coastal Areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof including terms and conditions;

(c) whether the decision to give licences to foreigners have adversely affected the earning and livelihood of Indian fishermen and as such indigenous fish food processing;

(d) the quality of fish captured by foreign vessels and the Indian fishermen in each quarter of this year; and

(e) the steps taken to ensure reasonable availability of fish to coastal fishermen ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (PROF. CHAMAN LAL GUPTA) : (a) to (e) Information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

Displaying of Ingredients on Food Packets

3113. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR :
SHRIMATI JAYASHREE BANERJEE :

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have made it compulsory for all the food companies engaged in products like biscuits, ice creams, soft drinks, paneer etc., to prominently display a "brown dot" on their packs if these products contain any non vegetarian ingredients;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether most of the food products contain several additives, enzymes and food processing aids which come from animal origins;

(d) if so, whether these products have been containing non vegetarian ingredients till date; and

(e) if so, the details of other vegetarian products containing non-vegetarian ingredients ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (PROF. CHAMAN LAL GUPTA) : (a) and (b) In order to provide correct information to the consumer about the nature of food purchased by them, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare had made it mandatory to display on the label of the package of food having non-vegetarian ingredient, a symbol and colour code so stipulated for this purpose under Prevention of Food Adulteration Act 1954 and Rules 1955 made there under (PFA Act 1954). The symbol shall consist of a brown colour filled circle having a diameter not less than size specified according to size of package, inside the square with brown outline having side double the diameter of circle. For this purpose, non-vegetarian food has been defined as an article of food which contains whole or part of any animal including birds, fresh water or marine animals or eggs or products of any animal origin, but not including milk and milk products, as an ingredient.

(c) to (e) Additives, enzymes and food processing aids can be derived from both vegetarian and non-vegetarian sources and source is not required to be declared under PFA Act, 1954. The use of these depends upon the technological necessity and decided by the manufacturers of food products. As such, specific information in this regard is not available.

Highest Wages to Workers

3114. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the details regarding workers/employees receiving highest and lowest as well, wages in ten top countries in the world, country-wise, separately;

(b) the gap between the highest and lowest wages;

(c) the productivity of the highest wage earners in different countries and the lowest wage earners, country-wise, separately; and

(d) the productivity in relation to per dollar wage earnings in developed countries, separately ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) and (b) A statement-I showing country-wise gross earnings per employee (in US \$) in the year 1999 in ten top countries is enclosed. The lowest gross earning per employee worked out to US \$ 408 for Zimbabwe in 1997 for which the latest information is available. The wages are, however, not strictly comparable as these are un-adjusted of the Purchasing Power Parity Index.

(c) The statistics on the productivity of highest and the lowest wage earners in different countries is not available due to lack of uniformity in the definition of occupations and skills across countries. However, a statement-II showing country-wise annual average of value added per worker in manufacturing for the period 1995-99 as per the 'World Development Indicators - 2001' is enclosed.

(d) A statement-III on the productivity in relation to per dollar wage earnings in developed countries is enclosed.

Statement-I

Gross earnings per employees in 1999 (US \$)

No.	Country	US \$ 1999
1	2	3
1.	Denmark	39260.16
2.	Japan	37056.42
3.	Germany	33130.45
4.	Belgium	30067.34
5.	United States	29980.00
6.	United Kingdom	28745.11

1	2	3
7.	Netherlands	28739.50
8.	Finland	26217.58
9.	Austria	24079.00
10.	Canada	23346.08

Source : International labour Organisation, New Delhi.

Statement-II

\$ per year 1995-99

No.	Country	\$ Per Year
1	2	3
1.	Argentina	37,480
2.	Australia	57,857
3.	Austria	53,061
4.	Bangladesh	1,711
5.	Belgium	58,678
6.	Bolivia	26,282
7.	Brazil	61,595
8.	Canada	60,712
9.	Chile	32,977
10.	China	2,885
11.	Hong Kong China	19,533
12.	Colombia	17,061
13.	Costa Rica	7,184
14.	Czech Rep.	5,094
15.	Denmark	49,273
16.	Ecuador	9,747
17.	Egypt, Arab Rep.	5,976
18.	Ethiopia	7,094
19.	Finland	55,037
20.	France	61,019
21.	Germany	79,616
22.	Greece	30,429
23.	Guatemala	9,235
24.	Honduras	7,427

1	2	3
25.	Hungary	6,106
26.	India	3,118
27.	Indonesia	5,139
28.	Iran, Islamic Rep.	89,787
29.	Iraq	34,316
30.	Ireland	86,036
31.	Israel	35,526
32.	Italy	50,760
33.	Jamaica	11,091
34.	Japan	92,582
35.	Jordan	11,906
36.	Kenya	228
37.	Korea, Rep.	40,916
38.	Malaysia	12,661
39.	Mauritius	4,217
40.	Mexico	25,931
41.	Morocco	9,089
42.	Netherlands	56,801
43.	New Zealand	32,723
44.	Norway	51,510
45.	Oman	61,422
46.	Panama	17,320
47.	Paraguay	14,873
48.	Phillippines	10,781
49.	Poland	7,637
50.	Portugal	17,273
51.	Romania	3,482
52.	Singapore	40,674
53.	Slovenia	12,536
54.	South Africa	16,612
55.	Spain	47,016
56.	Sri Lanka	3,405
57.	Sweden	56,675
58.	Switzerland	61,848

1	2	3
59.	Syrian Arab Rep.	9,918
60.	Thailand	19,946
61.	Turkey	32,961
62.	United Kingdom	55,060
63.	United States	81,353
64.	Uruguay	16,028
65.	Venezuela, RB	24,867
66.	Yemen, Rep.	5,782
67.	Zambia	16,615
68.	Zimbabwe	11,944

Source : World Development Indicators – 2001

Statement-III

	Yearly productivity in \$	Hourly compensation in \$
Germany	36791	21.8
France	39798	15.5
Japan	44695	12.8
US	51148	14.9
Spain	23879	11.4
Korea	12659	3.7
Mexico	10532	1.6

Productivity is measured as value added in manufacturing per person per year in 1990 \$. Hourly compensation costs in manufacturing, which include gross earnings and health and pensions schemes are also in 1990 \$.

Source : International Labour Organisation, New Delhi.

SCs/STs in Group A and B Services

3115.SHRI A. NARENDRA : Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the representation of SCs and STs in Class I (Group-A) services stood only at 10.68% (SCs-08.41% and STs-2.27%) and in Class II (Group-B) services only 13.20% (SCs-09.68 and STs-3.52%) as against 22.5%

quota prescribed for them (15% for SCs and 7.5% for STs) as on January 1, 1996 under Central Public Sector Enterprises.

(b) if so, the total number of 'posts' in (i) Class I (Group-A) category and (ii) Class II (Group-B) and equivalents thereof under his Ministry; and

(c) the number of persons belonging to (i) General (ii) SC (iii) ST and (iv) OBC categories working against such posts including their respective percentages to such posts as ascertained in view of instructions contained under para 5 of DOPT OM No. 3612/96-Estt. (Res) dated July 2, 1997 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation does not have any Central Public Sector Enterprise.

(b) and (c) Not applicable.

[Translation]

Use of Generator Sets by DTC

3116.SHRI JAI PRAKASH : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Delhi Transport Corporation (DTC) has installed generator sets for hoardings of advertisement agencies at their bus stands;

(b) if so, whether the Central Pollution Control Board has issued some directions to stop these gensets;

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

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

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

(b) The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has taken up the matter regarding installation and operation of generators for illumination of Sign Boards/Hoardings provided at DTC bus stands with Delhi Transport Corporation (DTC), Delhi Vidyut Board (DVB), Delhi Municipal Corporation (MCD), New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) and Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC). It has been suggested that, in case of permanent display of advertisement hoardings at the bus stands, diesel generator sets may be replaced by regular electrical connections to avoid pollution in public places and remove eye-sore from the roads.

(c) and (d) Delhi Vidyut Board (DVB) has drawn a policy for providing non-domestic metered connections to DTC bus shelters for the hoardings in November, 2001. The Delhi Transport Corporation (DTC) or the advertising agencies for the hoardings have to submit an application for availing of legitimate non-domestic connection for DTC bus shelter wherever it is required.

Bonded Labourers

3117. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the estimate number of bonded labourers as on date especially in tribal areas of various States including Maharashtra;

(b) whether any scheme has been prepared/ proposed for their freedom and rehabilitation;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the details of bonded labourers freed/rehabilitated especially in tribal areas of various States including Maharashtra, State-wise;

(e) whether tribal areas have been given any assistance during last three years;

(f) if so, the details thereof including Maharashtra during each of the last three years, State-wise; and

(g) whether any committee has been set up/ proposed for detection of bonded labourers and for their freedom and rehabilitation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) to (d) The Bonded Labour System has been abolished under the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976. Identification, release and rehabilitation of the bonded labourers is the direct responsibility of the State Government concerned. In order to assist the State Governments in the task of rehabilitation of bonded labourers, the Ministry of Labour has been implementing a Centrally Sponsored Plan Scheme since 1978. Under this Scheme rehabilitation assistance of Rs. 20,000/- for each bonded labourer is provided to the State Governments on a 50:50 sharing basis. The Scheme also provides for financing of the activities relating to survey of bonded labourers, awareness generation and evaluatory studies.

So far the State Governments have reported identification of 2,82,138 bonded labourers out of which 2,60,714 bonded labourers have been rehabilitated under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme. The State-wise details

of bonded labourers identified, released and rehabilitated are given below :

State	Bonded Labourers	
	Identified and released	Rehabilitated
Andhra Pradesh	36,289	29,552
Bihar	13,092	12,368
Karnataka	62,763	55,267
Madhya Pradesh	12,822	11,897
Orissa	49,911	46,843
Rajasthan	7,478	6,321
Tamil Nadu	65,573	65,573
Maharashtra	1,393	1,309
Uttar Pradesh	27,797	27,797
Kerala	823	710
Haryana	544	21
Gujarat	64	64
Arunachal Pradesh	3,526	2,992
Total	2,82,135	2,60,714

(e) and (f) Details of the funds released during the last three years under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme for rehabilitation of Bonded Labourers State-wise are as under. The area-wise details of the funds released are not maintained.

(Rs. in lakhs)

States	Years		
	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01
Arunachal Pradesh	—	70.84	497.64
Bihar	4.90	—	—
Orissa	1.75	—	—
Tamil Nadu	278.90	303.82	371.60
Uttar Pradesh	12.45	3.95	—
Rajasthan	—	4.00	25.40
Haryana	—	—	16.00
Punjab	—	—	10.00

(g) Under the provisions of the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976, Vigilance Committees both

of the district and sub-divisional levels have been set up to identify, release and rehabilitate bonded labourers.

[English]

Air Net-Work for North-East Region

3118. SHRI M.K. SUBBA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Aerospace Laboratories, Bangalore, has suggested establishment of a well connected air net-work to the North-East for strategic reasons;

(b) if so, the broad features thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN) : (a) to (c) As informed by National Aerospace Laboratories (NAL), Bangalore, they have conducted nationwide and focused studies for the North-East and Karnataka for the development of feeder services in the country. NAL has suggested that use of a combination of feeder (14 seater) and 50 seater aircraft in the region with a hub at Guwahati, training of local manpower to operate and maintain aircraft could prove potentially useful.

[Translation]

Outstanding Dues against Private Airlines

3119. SHRI RAM SAJIVAN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether a huge amount of Government money is outstanding against the private airlines;

(b) if so, the names of such airlines alongwith the total outstanding amount against each of them;

(c) whether some private airlines have embezzled these outstanding dues and closed their operations;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the details of amount paid to the Government as licence fee or fees under some other head by private airlines during the last three years ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN) : (a) to (e) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Company Status to Alliance Airlines

3120. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to make Alliance Airlines a fully holding company on the lines of Indian Airlines;

(b) if so, the time by which it is likely to be done and the funds proposed to be allocated for the purpose; and

(c) the time by which it is likely to acquire its own aircraft and appoint its own employees in place of personnel of the Indian Airlines who are on deputation alongwith the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN) : (a) and (b) Airline Allied Services Limited (AASL) is a wholly owned subsidiary of Indian Airlines. AASL is operating an airline in the brand name of Alliance Air. Indian Airlines and Alliance Air are jointly covering total network of domestic air services operated by Indian Airlines earlier i.e. before the transfer of its Boeing 737 aircraft fleet to Alliance Air. There are, therefore, no plans to separate Alliance Air from Indian Airlines.

(c) Alliance Air presently operates 11 B-737 aircraft which have been transferred from Indian Airlines. These aircraft continue to be owned by Indian Airlines. Alliance Air is a subsidiary of Indian Airlines and therefore, Indian Airlines is responsible for acquiring and providing aircraft to Alliance Air.

Indian Airlines has undertaken a techno economic evaluation for acquisition of new aircraft for renewal of its old Airbus A-300 and Boeing 737 aircraft and also to meet traffic growth. On completion of process of acquisition the fleet of Boeing 737 aircraft will be replaced in phases. Activities like major maintenance of aircraft, passenger check-in and ground handling, sales, training of pilots/cabin-crew/engineers as well as security are handled by Indian Airlines on behalf of Alliance Air. The manpower requirements of Alliance Air is met through i) deputationists from Indian Airlines and ii) short-term contract from the open market. The number of employees on deputation from Indian Airlines is at present 76 and directly recruited on short-term contract are 699.

[English]

R.B.S. College at Agra

3121. SHRI RAJ BABBAR : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to give the status of Agriculture University to the RBS College, Agra; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the same is likely to be done ?

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

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

[Translation]

Compensation to Agricultural Labourers

3122. SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to compensate those agricultural labourers who die while at work; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) and (b) There is no such proposal under the consideration of the Government at present. However, the Government has launched a social security scheme 'Krishi Shramik Samajik Suraksha Yojana-2001' for the agricultural workers. The scheme, inter-alia, provides for lump sum payment of Rs. 20,000/- in case of death and Rs. 50,000 in case of death due to accident. The scheme is being implemented by Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) in 50 selected districts covering 10 lakh agricultural workers in the first phase in a span of 3 years. Depending upon the performance of the scheme during the first phase and availability of funds, it will be extended to other districts.

[English]

Case against NAFED

3123. SHRI ARUN KUMAR : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether CBI has registered a case against officials of NAFED during 1998;

(b) if so, the details of the Officials of NAFED involved therein; and

(c) if so, the status of the cases on date ?

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The CBI and registered the case against the following officers :

(i) Shri D.N. Gupta, Manager

(ii) Shri A.K. Rastogi, Assistant Accounts Officer

(iii) Shri U.S. Jaggi, General Manager and

(iv) Shri Sushil Kumar, Senior Assistant.

(c) Having completed the preliminary investigation, the CBI, during August, 2001, had sought the sanction from the NAFED for initiating prosecution against S/Shri D.N. Gupta, Manager; and A.K. Rastogi, Assistant Accounts Officer. The NAFED's sanction was conveyed to the CBI on 25th September, 2001. The CBI, on 27th September 2001, has filed the charge sheet against these officials in the competent court. As to S/Shri U.S. Jaggi, General Manager and Sushil Kumar, Sr. Assistant, the CBI had recommended for taking Departmental action against them. During the departmental inquiry, none of the charges levelied against Shri Jaggi was established. NAFED has, however, initiated disciplinary proceedings against Shri Sushil Kumar, Sr. Assistant.

[Translation]

Wheat Stored by FCI on Runway of Prithviraj Airport

3124. SHRI C.N. SINGH : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that food Corporation of India has stored wheat on the runway of Prithviraj Airport at Pratapgrah, Uttar Pradesh as a result of which the runway is being damaged;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Food Corporation of India is compensating the damage;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the time by which the stored wheat is likely to be transferred at another place by FCI ?

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

[English]

Prices of Coal and Lignite

3125. SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO : Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) the calorific value of Lignite and the grade of coal with which Lignite is equated;

(b) the prices of coal and Lignite, Grade-wise, company-wise;

(c) the reasons of variation in the prices; and

(d) the steps being taken to remove the disparity ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) The gross calorific value of lignite ranges between 2600-2800 kilocalories/Kgs. Lignite cannot be equated even with lower grades of non-coking coal in terms of calorific value

due to its high moisture content and much lower fixed carbon content.

(b) The prices of coal as fixed by Coal India Limited and Singareni Collieries Company Limited are given in the Statement enclosed. The net price (Ex-Plant Neyveli) of Lignite fixed by Neyveli Lignite Corporation Limited is Rs. 900.64 per tonne.

(c) Various prices of coal and lignite are fixed by the respective companies based on their cost of production, market conditions and commercial considerations.

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

Statement

Prices of various grades of coal revised by Coal India Limited (CIL) and its subsidiaries since revised on 1.2.2001 are as follows :

PRICES OF RUN OF MINE (ROM) COAL W.E.F. 1.2.2001

Non-Coking Coal

(Rs. Per Tonne)

GR	WCL		SECL			CCL		BCCL		NCL		MCL	
	LF	NLF	In certain Specified Mines			LF	NLF	LF	NLF	LF	NLF	LF	NLF
A	1083	1017	1100	999	934	1177	1100	1121	1047	1147	1072	979	912
B	1022	956	1034	939	872	1065	989	1014	942	1039	964	885	819
C	955	890	862	784	717	890	813	847	774	867	792	740	674
D	902	835	736	669	600	758	680	722	648	740	664	633	566
E		708			497		539		514		527		445
F		590			396		431		410		420		351
G		445			283		308		294		300		250

NOTE :

1. WCL Western Coalfields Limited
2. SECL South Eastern Coalfields Limited
3. CCL Central Coalfields Limited
4. BCCL Bharat Coking Coal Limited
5. NCL Northern Coalfields Limited
6. MCL Mahanadi Coalfields Limited
7. GR Grade of Coal
8. LF Long Flame
9. NLF Non-Long Flame

The above list is only for Run of Mine (ROM) Coal. Separate rates exist for Steam, Rubble and Slack.

Price of ROM Coal for Eastern Coalfields Limited (ECL) with effect from 1.2.2001

NON-COKING COAL

(Rs. Per Tonne)

GR	Rates in Certain Specified SP Mines	Rates in Certain Specified Mines in Raniganj	SP Mines and Mugma		Rajmahal Project		Salan Pur NLF	Coal Produced in other collieries of Raniganj	
			LF	NLF	LF	NLF		LF	NLF
A	1319	1388	1199	1120			1177	1263	1184
B	1192	1312	1085	1007			1059	1192	1115
C	996	1118	905	828			870	1018	939
D	810	905	735	660	915		694	824	748
E				524		703	524		524
F				417		597	417		417
G				298		479	298		298

NORTH EASTERN COALFIELDS

(Rs. Per Tonne)

Assam Coal	Grade of Coal and UHV Range (K. Cal. Kg.)	Run of Mines
A	6200-6299	998
B	5600-6199	741

Note :

- In grade A, for every additional universal heat value (UHV) of 100 kilo calories per kg. exceeding 6299 kilo calories per kg., additional Rs. 65 per m.t. is added to the price of a grade.
- For UHV exceeding 7099 kilo calories per kg., the price of coal is Rs. 1836 per m.t., for run of mine (ROM) coal.

SINGARENIS COLLIERIES COMPANY LIMITED

(Rs. Per Tonne)

Grade	Steam Coal	Slack Coal	ROM Coal	Crushed Run of Mine Coal
Grade B	1224.00	1174.00	1164.00	1209.00
Grade C	1107.00	1057.00	1047.00	1092.00
Grade D	987.00	937.00	927.00	972.00
Grade E	761.00	747.00	741.00	786.00
Grade F	638.00	624.00	618.00	663.00
Grade G	485.00	471.00	465.00	510.00

Price of Coal (ROM) with effect from 1.2.2001

COKING COAL

(Rs. Per Tonne)

Grade	BCCL		ECL Mugma	CCL	SECL	WCL	Subsidiaries other than BCCL, ECL and CCL
	Rates in Certain Specified Mines	Other than Specified Mines					
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Steel Grade I	1914	1695					
Steel Grade II	1598	1416					

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Washery GR-I	1385	1227	1312	1287	1096	1075	
Washery GR-II	1147	1016	1087	1067	907	890	
Washery GR-III	848	751	803	789	671	803	
Washery GR-IV	789	699	747	734	625	659	
Semi Coking Grade-I	1335	1183	Raniganj 1360	1241			1096
Semi Coking Grade-II	1106	979	Raniganj 1126	1027			907

Direct feed Coking Coal in Certain Specified Mines 1899 (ASH Exceeding 20% but not Exceeding 21%)

Centrally Sponsored Scheme

3126. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH :
SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of each scheme under Centrally sponsored schemes under his Ministry;

(b) the criteria adopted for allocating funds under each scheme to States and corresponding Central share;

(c) whether the said funds have been provided to the States as 100% grant or it follow the usual 70/30 (loan/ grant) formula for plan assistance; and

(d) the details of proposal received from each State in this regard, funds released and utilised by State during the last three years ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) :
(a) to (c) The salient features of Centrally Sponsored Schemes implemented by the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation alongwith pattern of assistance, i.e. Central and State share, grant and loan, etc., are enclosed as statement-I. Funds to States are allocated/released on the basis of proposals received from States, scope of a scheme in the concerned State, amount lying unspent with the State out of earlier releases made under the Scheme, and overall resource position of the Department.

(d) The details of funds released and utilised by States, State-wise under Centrally Sponsored Schemes during the last three years are enclosed as Statement-II.

Statement-I

List of Centrally Sponsored Schemes

1. Assistance to Coop. weaker Section.

2. Assistance to Women Cooperatives
3. Non-overdue Cover Scheme
4. Agri. Credit Stabilisation Fund
5. Special Scheme for SC/ST
6. Integrated Cereal Development Programmes in Rice Based Cropping System Areas
7. Integrated Cereal Development Programmes in Wheat Based Cropping System Areas
8. Integrated Cereal Development Programmes in Coarse Cereals Based Cropping System Areas
9. Special Jute Development Programme
10. Sustainable Development of Sugarcane Based Cropping System Areas
11. Balanced and Integrated Use of Fertilizer
12. Promotion of Agricultural Mechanization among Small Farmers
13. Integrated Development of Tropical, Arid and Temperate Zone Fruits
14. Production and Supply of Vegetable Seeds.
15. Development of Commercial Floriculture
16. Development of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants
17. Development of Roots and Tuber Crops
18. Development of Cocoa and Cashew
19. Integrated Programmed for Development of Spices
20. Development of Mushroom
21. Use of Plastics in Agriculture

22. Bee-keeping
23. National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas
24. Schemes for Foundation and Certified Seed Production of Vegetable Crops
25. Soil Conservation in Catchments of River Valley Projects and Flood Prone Rivers
26. Reclamation and Development of Alkali Soils
27. State Land Use Boards.

2. Intensive Cotton Development Programme (ICDP) under Mini-Mission-II of Technology Mission on Cotton

Objectives : To enhance the production, per unit area through (a) technology transfer, (b) supply of quality seeds, (c) elevating IPM activities/ and (d) providing adequate and timely supply of inputs to the farmer.

Salient Features The components under the scheme include: (a) assistance for production of breeder, foundation and certified seed and distribution of certified seed; (b) Field and Integrated Pest Management Demonstrations; (c) Training of farmers and Extension Workers; (d) Distribution of Plant Protection Equipments; water saving devices; Bio-agents and pheromone traps. Assistance is also being provided for the establishment of bio-agents labs and seed delinting plants for adequate availability of bio-agents and quality delinting seed respectively.

Pattern of Assistance 75:25 Centre : State

Grant : 100% Loan : Nil

3. Oilseeds Production Programme (OPP)

Objectives : The objective of the scheme is to increase the production of oilseeds in the country to achieve self-sufficiency.

Salient Features : The scheme envisages assistance to the States for following components :

- (i) **Seed related :-** Production and purchase of Breeder seed, production of foundation and certified seed and distribution of certified seeds and

minikits, crash programme for production of TL seed of soyabean and Groundnut.

- (ii) **Demonstration :-** Frontline, Block and IPM Demonstration
- (iii) **Improved Method of irrigation :-** Distribution of sprinklers.
- (iv) **Distribution of improved farm implements and plant protection equipment including power drawn implements.**
- (v) **Distribution of Rhizobium cultures, Nutrients and Micronutrients, seed treatment chemical, weedicides, gypsum/pyrite, Root Grub Control.**
- (vi) **Development of infrastructure :-** Seed storage, threshing floor and irrigation at Government farms.
- (vii) **Training of Farmers.**

Pattern of Assistance

The scheme is being implemented on 75:25 basis as Central and State share respectively. In case of frontline demonstration, minikits distribution and breeder seed production, the assistance is given on 100% basis by Central Government.

Grant 100% Loan : Nil

4. Accelerated Maize Development Programme (AMDP)

Objectives : The increase maize production and productivity in the country from 10 million tonnes to 11.44 million tonnes and from 1.5 tonnes/hectare to 1.80 tonnes/hectare respectively upto the terminal year of 9th Plan i.e. 2001-2002 (revised).

Salient Features

Main emphasis is being given for transfer of modern crop production technology through the following components :

- (a) **Components for which 100% Assistance is given by Central Government**
- Front line Demonstration by ICAR;
 - Training of Officers at National and State Level;

- Production of certified seed of Maize;
 - Seed Minikit Demonstrations;
 - Conference/Seminars/Workshops on Maize Development; and
 - Evaluation and Monitoring.
- (b) **Components for which 75% assistance is given by Central Government and 25% by State Government**
- Field Demonstrations on improved crop production technology and Integrated Pest Management (IPM);
 - Training of farmers on crop production technology;
 - Incentives for use of certified seeds of hybrids/improved varieties (deleted since 2001-2001 as desired by Planning Commission);
 - Incentives for use of improved implements;
 - Publicity through electronic media; and
 - Contingencies for POL.

The programme (AMDP) is in implementation in all maize potential districts of 26 States viz; Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Jammu and Kashmir, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Orissa, Rajasthan, Punjab, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, Uttaranchal, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.

Pattern of Assistance 100% by GOI for National level components 75:25 basis between GOI and State Governments for State level components.

Grant : 100% Loan : Nil

5. National Pulses Development Project (NPDP)

Objectives : The objective of the scheme is to increase the production of pulses in the country to achieve self-sufficiency.

Salient Features

The scheme envisages assistance to the States for following components :

- (i) Seed related :- Purchase of Breeder seed, production of foundation and certified seed, distribution of certified seeds and minikits, and crash programme for production of seed of pulses.
- (ii) Demonstration :- Frontline, Block and IPM Demonstration
- (iii) Improved Method of irrigation :- Distribution of sprinklers.
- (iv) Distribution of improved farm implements and plant protection equipment including power drawn implements.
- (v) Distribution of Rhizobium cultures, Nutrients and Micro-nutrients, gypsum/pyrite, Nuclear Poly hedrosis Virus (NPV) and seed treatment chemical.
- (vi) Training of Farmers.

Pattern of Assistance

The scheme is being implemented on 75:25 basis as Central and State share respectively. However, in case of UTs, the Government of India meets the entire expenditure from the funds provided under the scheme including minikit distribution.

Grant : 100% Loan : Nil

6. Oil Palm Development Programme (OPDP)

Objectives : To promote oil palm cultivation in the country.

Components : Area Expansion under Oil Palm and installation of Drip Irrigation System.

Pattern of Assistance 75:25 between Centre and States

Grant : 100% Loan : Nil

Salient features of the scheme

Oil Palm cultivation assumes significance for augmenting the indigenous availability of edible oil as it is the highest oil yielding perennial crop. The components of the scheme are : Assistance for Planting Material, Assistance for Cultivation Costs, Drip Irrigation, Training, Extension and Publicity, Establishment and Provision for

Staff for implementation the project, Development of Seed Gardens, Front line Demonstrations, Leaf Nutrients Analysis Laboratories, Testing of oil palm genotypes under varied environmental conditions, Assistance for diesel pumpsets.

7. Cooperative Marketing, Processing, Storage etc. programmes in cooperatively under/least developed States

Objectives : To correct regional imbalances and to provide needed momentum to the pace of development of various programmes of co-operative Agricultural marketing, processing, storage etc., in under/least developed States/UTs by providing financial assistance on liberal terms to augment the income of farmers and weaker sections of the community

Salient Features The scheme provides for distribution of agricultural inputs, development of agro processing including storage, marketing of foodgrains and plantation/horticulture crops, development of weaker and tribal sections, cooperatives, in dairy, poultry and fisheries.

Pattern of Assistance National Cooperative Development Co-operation (NCDC) sanctions assistance to cooperative projects/schemes. Funds are not released to States directly.

8. Share Capital participation in Cooperative Sugar Factories

Objectives : The scheme aims at supplementing the resources of State Governments to enable them to contribute to the share capital of cooperative sugar factories so as to expedite the project implementation.

Salient Features : Under the scheme, assistance is extended for investment loan for share capital participation in new cooperative sugar mills, term loan assistance to the existing cooperative sugar mills for undertaking modernization, expansion and diversification projects.

Pattern of Assistance National Cooperative Development Co-operation (NCDC) sanctions assistance to

cooperative projects/schemes. Funds are not released to State directly.

9. Share capital participation in growers cooperative spinning mills

Objectives : To help cotton growers to fetch remunerative return for their produce through value addition.

Salient Features The scheme provides for assistance to share capital loan for new mills as well as term loan assistance to undertake expansion and modernization of growers cooperative spinning mills.

Pattern of Assistance National Cooperative Development Co-operation (NCDC) sanctions assistance to cooperative projects/schemes. Funds are not released to State directly.

10. Timely Reporting Scheme (TRS)

Objectives : To obtain reliable and timely estimates of area under principal crops in each season with break up of area into irrigated/unirrigated, traditional and high yielding varieties of crops and also land utilization statistics which is used for designing of crop estimation survey by conducting priority Girdwari in 20% selected villages every year. This scheme is implemented in the States that are cadastrally surveyed. In addition TRS provides the sampling frame for crop cutting experiments.

Salient Features Land Record Manual in different States contain instructions on period of crop enumeration and procedure for compilation of crop area at village and successive higher levels. The time schedule is also prepared. The expectation is that crop abstract will become available by the time the final forecast for different crops become due. Experience has shown that this does not happen and there has been considerable time lag in the availability of reliable and correct statistics of area sown under different crops. This has greatly handicapped planning and policy administration. TRS provide for consolidation of area statistics through advance enumeration of substantial number (20%) of villages selected at random.

Pattern of Assistance : Shared between Centre and States on 50:50 Basis.

Grant : 100% **Loan** : Nil

11. Establishment of an Agency for Reporting of Agricultural Statistics (EARAS)

Objectives : To generate estimates of area and production of principal crops through surveys in 20% selected villages in every season through special staff. In the sample village crop area is to be reported based on complete enumeration of all fields/survey numbers. Surveys are specially required as no agency in these States is engaged in updating of land use statistics.

Salient Features : In the non-land record States, the State agencies do not up date land utilisation record and therefore there has been gap in the data. The scheme provides for setting up a whole time agency to cover a sample of 20% of the villages every year to generate basic land use statistics. In the sample village the crop areas are reported on the basis of complete enumeration. Supervision is in built in the scheme.

Pattern of Assistance : On 50:50 Basis between Centre and States

Grant : 100% **Loan** : Nil

12. Improvement of Crop Statistics (ICS)

Objectives : The objective of this scheme is to bring about improvement in crop statistics by conducting spot supervision of :

- (i) area enumeration,
- (ii) area aggregation, and
- (iii) crop cutting experiments

In 10,000 villages. Supervision is carried out by Central and State equally (5,000 villages by Central agency NSSO and 5,000 villages by State machinery).

Salient Features : In India, estimates of area under crops are obtained by the method of complete

enumeration based on field to field inspection done by the village revenue agencies in all land record States and the sample surveys in the States where land utilisation record is not maintained. The estimates of yield of principal crops are based on random sampling, crop cutting experiments conducted under the general crop estimates surveys. The whole exercise is of large scale data generation in a decentralized set up hence the quality and timeliness is susceptible to several factors. The scheme is needed to locate, through the joint efforts of the Central and State authorities., lacuna, if any, in the State system of collection of agricultural statistics and suggest measures to effect lasting improvements in this system. The joint effort take the form of sample check on (I) area enumeration, (ii) page totaling of khasara registers (iii) and crop cutting experiments.

Pattern of Assistance : On 50:50 Basis between Centre and States

Grant : 100% **Loan** : Nil

13. Agricultural Census

Objectives : The conduct quinquennial Agricultural Censuses and Input Surveys in the country. The Census provides vital information on the structure of agriculture in the country.

Salient Features : The Censuses are conducted by utilizing the machinery of the State Governments. Honorarium for field work for data collection is paid to the employees of the State Governments. The salaries of nucleus staff provided at State headquarters for coordination of census operations are borne by Government of India under the scheme. The cost of processing of data is also borne by the Govt. of India.

Pattern of Assistance : 100% assistance by the Government of India.

Grant : 100% **Loan** : Nil.

Statement-II

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

(Rs. in Lakhs)

S. No.	Name of the State	1998-99		1999-2000		2000-2001	
		Allocation/Releases	Expenditure	Allocation/Releases	Expenditure	Allocation/Releases	Expenditure (Provisional)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	6334.92	6327.03	6175.51	5312.24	3914.84	5260.57
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	473.63	355.46	475.05	243.63	761.31	794.35
3.	Assam	540.19	189.04	386.91	456.97	1099.27	192.67
4.	Bihar	352.53	333.02	240.70	179.27	419.59	17.61
5.	Goa	233.92	179.23	202.06	60.46	49.12	156.13
6.	Gujarat	4533.67	3433.78	4789.31	4575.21	4713.47	3692.61
7.	Haryana	1634.97	1520.70	1648.80	1611.23	1833.74	2023.10
8.	Himachal Pradesh	1322.19	1264.02	1116.09	1326.06	1338.17	1269.07
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	1054.35	939.18	1060.35	1018.90	917.87	434.45
10.	Karnataka	8476.45	8915.82	8159.30	6514.77	7180.52	5705.63
11.	Kerala	4071.73	2027.87	2571.59	2058.06	3724.72	538.71
12.	Madhya Pradesh	7692.98	6436.23	7696.70	8900.25	5506.69	6440.38
13.	Maharashtra	12378.62	9883.62	8324.33	8841.11	10633.31	8352.73
14.	Manipur	571.95	613.26	984.03	686.41	935.68	716.32
15.	Meghalaya	431.65	421.26	598.02	56.22	724.74	293.75
16.	Mizoram	961.45	796.16	894.94	740.23	1088.99	1010.77
17.	Nagaland	1142.08	1102.11	1223.07	990.76	1489.72	1416.60
18.	Orissa	3622.31	3546.21	4594.78	2562.70	1680.81	2664.25
19.	Punjab	1295.49	1014.93	1206.84	329.45	849.49	437.53
20.	Rajasthan	9268.88	8583.88	8470.36	7346.15	8133.23	8037.73
21.	Sikkim	475.81	492.26	541.89	330.36	825.29	755.17
22.	Tamil Nadu	5740.11	5737.76	5513.83	4430.36	5665.59	4323.58
23.	Tripura	570.09	565.84	951.07	779.39	817.25	1002.11
24.	Uttar Pradesh	8322.90	8594.61	7603.00	10122.21	7068.83	7436.80
25.	West Bengal	1285.97	959.21	1534.60	1255.58	1537.09	2094.72
26.	Uttaranchal					882.00	440.08
27.	Chhattisgarh					963.00	Not Reported
Total		82788.84	74232.49	76963.13	70727.96	74754.33	65507.42

Development of Tourism in Orissa

3127. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether his Ministry has received any proposal from Orissa during the last three years for the development of tourism in the State;

(b) if so, the present status of the proposals; and

(c) the steps taken to expedite the approval of the proposal ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN) : (a) Department of Tourism, Government of India provides financial assistance to States/UTs for tourism projects prioritized in consultation with them every year. Financial assistance have been provided to Orissa also under this scheme.

(b) Details of projects sanctioned for Orissa during the last 3 years are as under :-

Year	No. of projects	Amount Sanctioned (Rs. in lakhs)
1998-1999	6	178.60
1999-2000	20	306.90
2000-2001	4	156.94

(c) Incomplete/deficient projects not sanctioned during any particular year are considered again if these are reprioritized in the subsequent year.

[Translation]

Regularisation of Encroached Forest Land

3128. SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA :
SHRI TARACHAND BHAGORA :
SHRI BHERULAL MEENA :

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

(a) whether the power to regularise the possessions made by the tribals prior to the year 1980 on the Government forest land lies with the Union Government;

(b) if so, whether the Government have constituted a committee and recommended regularisation of 4663 possessions;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the number of such possessions in Rajasthan and the names of the districts in which the Government are contemplating to regularise and possessions made by the tribals on the forest land prior to 1980; and

(e) the steps taken to regularise such possessions ?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) The Central Government considers only such cases of encroachments on forest land in respect of which the State Governments had made commitment for regularisation prior to Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 coming into existence i.e., 25.10.1980. Regularisation is done only on the basis of eligibility and criteria fixed at the time of such commitments.

(b) The Central Government has not constituted any Committee for regularisation of encroachment cases.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e) The list of proposals received so far from the Government of Rajasthan for regularisation of encroachment of forest land under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and the action taken on these proposals is attached as statement.

Statement

No.	Name of Districts	Area (U.A.)	Status
1.	Pratapgarh	594.2	Essential information sought from the State Government and till then proposal treated closed.
2.	Chittorgarh	16.8	-do-
3.	Dungarpur	340.0218	-do-
4.	Udaipur (North Forest Division)	91.5159	-do-
5.	Udaipur (South Forest Division)	922.76	-do-
6.	Udaipur (Wild Life Forest Division)	223.4972	-do-
7.	Banswara	841.2260	-do-
8.	Rajsamand	0.6173	-do-
9.	Pali	7.35	-do-
10.	Baran	133.44	-do-

[English]

Funds to Centrally Sponsored Schemes

3129.DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the salient feature of the centrally sponsored schemes viz. (i) Rehabilitation of Bonded Labour (ii) Equipment Modernisation and Maintenance (iii) Introduction of trades in Industrial Training Institutes (iv) Setting up of new women Wing and (v) Management Information System;

(b) the criteria for allocating funds under each scheme to the States and corresponding Central share; and

(c) the details of proposals received, funds released and utilised by the States during the last three years, State-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) and (b) The salient features of the Centrally Sponsored Schemes are given in the attached statement-I.

(c) The State-wise/Scheme-wise details of the funds released during last 3 years are given in the attached statement-II.

Statement-I**I. Rehabilitation of Bonded Labour :**

Centrally Sponsored Scheme for Rehabilitation of Bonded Labourers is being operated since May, 1978. Rehabilitation Assistance to the extent of Rs. 20,000/- per freed bonded labourer is provided under the Scheme. The expenditure is shared by the Central and State Government concerned on 50:50 basis. Further, under the modified Centrally Sponsored Scheme, which is effective from May, 2000, 100% subsidy is given @ Rs. 2 Lakh per district for conducting surveys of bonded labourers, Rs. 5 lakh per State per annum for conducting evaluatory studies and Rs. 10 lakh per State per annum for creating awareness generation relating to abolition of bonded labour system. The expenditure for conducting surveys, evaluatory studies and awareness generation programmes are entirely borne by the Central Government and there is no State's share on the expenditure on the above components.

The Central Assistance are released to States on the receipt of complete proposals from the States.

II. Equipment Modernisation and Maintenance, Introduction of Trades in Industrial Training Institutes, Setting-up of new Women Wings and Management**Information System :**

1. **Equipment Modernization Scheme** : The objective of the scheme is to assist States/UTs in replacing obsolete and outdated equipments and making up shortages in the identified 378 ITIs, so that proper equipment is made available for training to work on. The expenditure under this scheme is shared on 50:50 basis between Central and State-Governments.
2. **Establishment of Equipment Maintenance System** : Keeping in view the large number of Govt. ITIs spread all over the country and the prevailing inadequate maintenance system/situation of machinery, it was proposed to set up 19 Equipment Maintenance Workshops and 100 Machine Maintenance Cells spread all over the country. The expenditure under this scheme is shared on 50:50 basis between Central and State Governments.
3. **Introduction of new trade courses in existing ITIs** : The main objective of the scheme is to expand existing ITIs adequately by introducing new need based trades, so that these institutes are in position to produce skilled craftsmen, quantitatively and qualitatively to meet specific demands of present and future industries. The expenditure under this scheme is shared on 50:50 basis between the Central and State Governments.
4. **Establishment of new ITIs/Wings for Women** : The objective of the scheme is to expand the Women's Vocational Training Programme, both quantitatively and qualitatively to meet the growing skilled manpower requirements for Industry, service sector and self employment. 100 ITIs/Wings for women have been set up under the scheme. The expenditure under this scheme is shared on 50:50 basis between the Central and State Governments.
5. **Establishment of Management Information System** : The main objective of the scheme is to improve National Vocational Training System planning, management and supervision by establishing Management Information System, procurement of computer hardware and software and setting up of MIS units at State Directorates. The scheme envisages training of users in the application of software developed by NIC. The scheme is 100% funded by the Central Government.

The funds released during last 3 years under different components of the project were fully utilised by the States and no advance funds were released to the States during this period.

Statement-II

Details of funds released by the Ministry of Labour to various State Governments :

I. Rehabilitation of Bonded Labour

Year	State	Central Assistance released in Rs. lakhs	1	2	3
1998-99	Bihar	4.90	1999-2000	Tamil Nadu	278.90
	Orissa	1.75		Uttar Pradesh	12.45
2000-2001				Arunachal Pradesh	70.84
				Rajasthan	4.00
				Tamil Nadu	303.82
				Uttar Pradesh	3.95
				Arunachal Pradesh	497.64
				Tamil Nadu	371.60
				Rajasthan	25.40
				Haryana	16.00
			Punjab	10.00	

II. Vocational Training Project

(In Rs. Lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of State	Year	Equipment Modernisation	Equipment Maintenance	Introduction of trades in Industrial Trg. Institutes	Setting up of new Women ITIs/Wings	Management Information Syst.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1998-99	60.18	10.75	5.27	32.93	-
		1999-2000	4.32	-	-	-	6.28
		2000-2001	0.25	-	-	-	0.02
2.	Assam	1998-99	43.51	5.77	3.85	6.83	0.45
		1999-2000	1.50	-	1.18	0.29	2.81
		2000-2001	0.25	-	-	-	0.24
3.	Bihar	1998-99	43.53	-	-	-	-
		1999-2000	2.65	-	-	-	2.89
		2000-2001	0.31	-	-	-	0.24
4.	Gujarat	1998-99	123.45	28.17	21.48	27.05	1.20
		1999-2000	15.65	-	2.98	1.88	3.14
		2000-2001	0.38	-	1.92	1.35	-
5.	Haryana	1998-99	33.49	13.21	5.94	8.62	0.45
		1999-2000	3.86	-	-	-	3.24
		2000-2001	-	-	-	-	-

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
6.	Himachal Pradesh	1998-99	50.01	2.06	2.66	0.08	—
		1999-2000	2.85	—	—	—	3.27
		2000-2001	—	—	0.28	—	0.14
7.	Jammu and Kashmir	1998-99	14.23	7.21	7.15	—	0.44
		1999-2000	1.42	—	—	—	3.17
		2000-2001	0.24	—	—	—	0.02
8.	Karnataka	1998-99	105.87	11.01	15.41	33.47	1.15
		1999-2000	3.40	—	5.50	9.93	3.20
		2000-2001	0.80	—	2.83	4.82	0.02
9.	Kerala	1998-99	137.50	14.41	9.22	25.99	1.20
		1999-2000	5.79	—	0.03	1.45	2.99
		2000-2001	0.50	—	—	—	0.14
10.	Madhya Pradesh	1998-99	30.28	6.63	15.31	53.43	0.45
		1999-2000	3.23	—	1.25	0.90	3.13
		2000-2001	0.25	—	0.67	0.45	—
11.	Maharashtra	1998-99	414.40	27.30	19.35	37.78	1.20
		1999-2000	40.70	—	4.55	7.17	3.09
		2000-2001	22.37	—	2.32	3.34	0.02
12.	Orissa	1998-99	39.49	4.57	3.11	9.48	0.60
		1999-2000	3.02	—	—	—	3.17
		2000-2001	—	—	—	—	—
13.	Punjab	1998-99	212.24	28.66	42.63	28.68	0.45
		1999-2000	4.02	—	—	—	3.45
		2000-2001	0.13	—	—	—	—
14.	Rajasthan	1998-99	114.78	13.03	11.04	18.57	0.45
		1999-2000	4.60	—	2.58	1.33	3.14
		2000-2001	0.25	—	1.45	0.65	—
15.	Tamilnadu	1998-99	54.72	26.65	24.03	35.95	1.20
		1999-2000	5.27	0.92	0.98	1.40	3.19
		2000-2001	0.36	—	2.23	0.76	0.02
16.	Uttar Pradesh	1998-99	107.36	9.30	29.05	33.46	1.20
		1999-2000	10.41	—	—	—	3.12
		2000-2001	0.58	—	—	—	—

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
17. Delhi	1998-99	33.59	4.75	4.88	—	0.45	
	1999-2000	3.36	—	—	—	3.07	
	2000-2001	—	—	—	—	—	
18. Goa	1998-99	1.18	4.90	1.71	—	—	
	1999-2000	0.25	—	—	—	—	
	2000-2001	—	—	—	—	—	
19. Manipur	1998-99	4.40	—	1.35	—	—	
	1999-2000	0.38	—	—	—	—	
	2000-2001	—	—	—	—	—	
20. Mizoram	1998-99	3.10	—	—	—	—	
	1999-2000	—	—	—	—	—	
	2000-2001	—	—	—	—	—	
21. Tripura	1998-99	6.22	—	0.54	—	—	
	1999-2000	—	—	—	—	—	
	2000-2001	—	—	—	—	—	
22. Pondicherry	1998-99	3.35	—	—	—	—	
	1999-2000	—	—	—	—	—	
	2000-2001	—	—	—	—	—	
23. Chandigarh	1998-99	8.50	—	—	—	—	
	1999-2000	—	—	—	—	—	
	2000-2001	—	—	—	—	—	
24. West Bengal	1998-99	213.99	—	9.07	125.08	0.44	
	1999-2000	4.65	—	—	—	3.27	
	2000-2001	—	—	—	—	0.14	

Farmers Representation in ACPC

3130. SHRIMATI PRENEET KAUR : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to include farmers representatives in the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices as they are the beneficiaries and have better idea of the crops and their costs;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

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

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

(a) to (c) The Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACPC) is a seven members body. Out of them three are non-official members – generally eminent farmers who have better understanding of agricultural production and consumer problems.

Integrated National Food Processing System

3131. SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY : Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government propose to introduce Integrated National Food Processing System to increase the Food Processing in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (PROF. CHAMAN LAL GUPTA) : (a) and (b) The Ministry of Food Processing Industries has initiated action for formulating a National Food Processing Policy and a Draft Policy has been prepared which envisages inter-alia creation of enabling environment, infrastructural development, backward and forward linkages, rationalization of tax structure, harmonization of food laws, etc. which may facilitate integration of the food chain and improve efficiency.

Withdrawal of Subsidies

3132. SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government propose to do away with subsidies granted to farmers; and

(b) if so, the remedial measures taken in this regard ?

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

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Single Window System

3133. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBHA MANDLIK : Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have laid emphasis on single window system for increasing investment in mine sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the said system is likely to start functioning ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) to (c) From time to time suggestions are made to the Government for formulating single window system for increasing investment in mining sector. The mineral concessions are granted by the State Governments under the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 (MMDR Act) and rules framed thereunder. The investors are required to take other clearances for working the mineral concessions granted, for example; permission for aerial surveys from the Director General of Civil Aviation, clearances under various statutes administered by the

Ministry of Environment and Forest, etc. Since the clearances are granted under different statutes, the Government has laid emphasis on the State Governments/ various Departments to work in coordination, so that investors could be benefited. The Department of Mines has sensitised the State Governments and various Central Ministries/Departments on the need to work in coordination through meetings of the Mineral Advisory Council (MAC) held on 30.8.2000, the Conference of the State Ministers of Mining and Geology held on 14.7.2001 and the Tripartite meeting of the Central Government, State Governments and the investors held on 12.11.2001.

[English]

Additional Reserves of Coal and Lignite

3134. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK : Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the areas in Orissa, Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh where additional reserves of coal and lignite have been discovered; and

(b) the programme drawn for the proper exploitation of said reserves ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) A total of 7.60 billion tonnes of additional coal reserves in indicated and inferred categories have been added to the national inventory of geological reserves of coal during the period 1.1.2000 to 1.1.2001 in the States of Orissa and Chhattisgarh/Madhya Pradesh. The additional reserves in these States as assessed by Geological Survey of India and Sub-group-II on Coal and Lignite exploration for formulation of Xth Plan are as under :

State	Coalfields	Geological reserves added in indicated and inferred categories (billion tonnes)
1	2	3
Orissa	IB River	0.17
	Talcher	0.95
	Total	1.12
Madhya Pradesh/	Sohagepur	0.40
Chhattisgarh	Singrauli	1.44
	Sonhat	0.06

1	2	3
	Lakhanpur	0.11
	Mand Raigarh	3.96
	Tatapani Ramkola	0.51
	Total	6.48
	Total for Orissa, M.P./Chhattisgarh	7.60

The lignite occurrences in the State of Chhattisgarh/Madhya Pradesh and Orissa are not reported.

(b) The programme of exploration of coal deposits in potential blocks is drawn after the indicated and inferred categories of reserves are converted into proved category by detailed exploration followed by preparation of Geological Report and viable mine project report. The detailed exploration in the State of Orissa and Chhattisgarh/Madhya Pradesh in areas where additional coal reserves have been established during the period 1.1.2000 to 1.1.2001 is yet to be programmed.

Welfare Schemes for Mines and Quarry Workers

3135. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that a large number of mine and quarry workers are not getting any benefits from the welfare schemes of the Government in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, whether there is any proposal to survey and expand the number of such beneficiary workers in the State;

(c) if so, the outcome of the survey; and

(d) the additional workers to be brought under the scheme and the additional funds proposed to be allocated for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) The Government has been implementing welfare schemes in the field of education, medical, housing and recreation activities for the benefit of eligible mine workers employed in the Limestone and Dolomite Mines, Iron Ore/Manganese Ore and Chrome Ore Mines and Mica Mines under relevant Welfare Fund Acts/Rules all over the country including Andhra Pradesh.

(b) No such proposal is pending.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Air Services to Uttar Pradesh

3136. SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the names of proposed and sanctioned schemes for the development and expansion of air services in Uttar Pradesh from 1995-96 to 2000-2001, year-wise;

(b) the reasons of non-completion of sanctioned schemes in time and its financial implications; and

(c) the remedial steps being taken by the Government for speedy completion of sanctioned schemes?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN) : (a) Airlines plan their air services based on their commercial/operational viability and they are also guided by the Route Dispersal Guidelines issued by the Government. During the last five years following new services were started by different airlines to/from Uttar Pradesh :

- In 1995, Indian Airlines was operating services on Delhi-Agra-Khajuraho-Varanasi, Delhi-Lucknow-Patna-Kolkata, Delhi-Lucknow-Delhi, Delhi-Varanasi-Bhubaneswar-Delhi, Mumbai-Varanasi-Lucknow-Mumbai, and Varanasi-Kathmandu-Varanasi sectors. Services were also introduced as Delhi-Lucknow-Patna-Ranchi-Kolkata sector.
- In 1996, Indian Airlines started services on Delhi-Varanasi-Delhi.
- In 1997, Indian Airlines had operated services on Delhi-Khajuraho-Varanasi-Delhi and Varanasi-Khajuraho-Agra sectors. In the same year, Sahara Airlines started operations on Patna-Lucknow sectors and Jet Airways on Delhi-Lucknow-Delhi sector.
- Indian Airlines started a service on Mumbai - Varanasi route in 1998. In the same year, Jet Airways started three new services on Delhi-Varanasi-Delhi-Varanasi-Khajuraho-Varanasi and Mumbai-Lucknow-Mumbai routes.
- Indian Airlines introduced two new services on Mumbai - Lucknow and Lucknow - Varanasi

routes and Sahara Airlines on Lucknow Patna and Varanasi-Kolkata- Varanasi routes in 1999.

- In 2000, Indian Airlines started its service between Goa and Agra.

(b) and (c) The works sanctioned during 1995-96 relating to expansion of terminal building and extension of apron and construction of link taxiway at a cost of Rs. 14.02 crores was completed in August, 1998 at Agra Airport. The works sanctioned during 1996-97 relating to resurfacing of taxi-track and extension of apron and construction of isolation bay at a cost of Rs. 11.81 crores is nearing completion at Lucknow Airport. The extension of runway including acquisition of land and associated works taken up during 2000-2001 at a cost of Rs. 32 crores are in progress and are likely to be completed in March, 2003 at Lucknow airport. The work for construction of technical block cum control tower during 2000-2001 at a cost of Rs. 5 crores has been proposed at Lucknow airport. The work relating to special repair to turning pad at Varanasi airport taken up in 1999-2000 at a cost of Rs. 2.72 crores was completed in June, 2001. The tender action is at hand for the proposed extension and modification of terminal building during 2000-2001 at Varanasi airport at a cost of Rs. 45 crores.

[English]

Water Supply Projects of Uttar Pradesh

3137. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Water Supply Projects of Uttar Pradesh pending with the Union Government for clearance; and

(b) the time by which the Projects are likely to be accorded approval ?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI ARJUN SETHI) : (a) Twelve major water resources project proposals for irrigation and drinking water supply have been received in Central Water Commission from Government of Uttar Pradesh out of which eight project proposals have been accepted by the Advisory Committee of Ministry of Water Resources subject to certain observations which are yet to be complied by the State Government and remaining four projects are under correspondence with the State Government.

(b) Clearance of project proposals depends upon the promptness with which the State Government complies with the observations of Central Appraisal Agencies.

[Translation]

National Horticulture Board

3138. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the activities for which the National Horticulture Board provides funds to the NGOs; and

(b) the funds made available to each State particularly Maharashtra and Jharkhand during 2000-2001 ?

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

(a) The National Horticulture Board (NHB) under the following schemes/activities provides funds to the NGOs :-

- (1) Development of Commercial Horticulture through Production and Post Harvest Management.
- (2) Capital Investment Subsidy Scheme for Construction/Expansion/Modernisation of Cold Storages and Storages for Horticulture Produce.
- (3) Technology Development and Transfer for Promotion of Horticulture.
- (4) Establishment of Nutritional Garden in Rural Areas.

(b) State-wise details of the funds released to the NGOs by the NHB during 2000-2001 are given in statement attached.

Statement

State-wise Release of Funds to the NGOs by the National Horticulture Board (NHB) during the year 2000-2001.

(Rs. in Lakhs)

Name of State/Union Territory	Funds Released to NGOs
1	2
Andhra Pradesh	19.600
Assam	03.575
Bihar	06.700
Delhi	08.500
Gujarat	00.300
Haryana	00.375

1	2
Himachal Pradesh	01.000
Jammu and Kashmir	05.000
Jharkhand	00.000
Kerala	01.000
Karnataka	02.000
Lakshadweep	02.500
Maharashtra	11.100
Nagaland	00.200
Orissa	00.375
Punjab	05.200
Uttar Pradesh	13.125
West Bengal	01.060
Total	81.610

[English]

Loss to National Horticulture Board

3139. SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Horticulture Board has suffered loss of Rs. 90.60 lakh due to release of loan and subsidy to private limited company without obtaining bank guarantee during 1994;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have enquired into the matter;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof;

(e) the action taken against the officials found responsible;

(f) whether frauds are also being committed in the sale and purchase by the Kendriya Bhandar in Connivance of the officials with the suppliers;

(g) if so, whether there is any proposal for scrutiny of the sales and purchase in the Kendriya Bhandar during the last two years; and

(h) if so, the details thereof ?

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

(a) to (e) It has come to the notice of the Government that in one of the cases, the National Horticulture Board

(NHB) has released Rs. 54.29 lakhs as loan and Rs. 5.00 lakhs as subsidy to a Private Limited Company in the absence of bank guarantee, during 1994 and 1995. In Para 2.2 of Report No. 4 of 2000 (Civil) of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) for the year ended 31st March, 1999, it has been estimated that NHB has suffered a loss of Rs. 90.60 lakhs, on this account upto April 1999. It has been decided to hold a departmental inquiry to ascertain, inter-alia, administrative lapses on the part of the NHB officers. Separately, NHB has also filed two court cases in this regard. One is the Civil Suit for the recovery of NHB's loan/ subsidy alongwith the pental interest filed in the District and Session Court, Gurgaon, and the another one is a criminal case where the Police after investigation filed challan in the District and Sessions Court against Managing Director of the Company. The criminal case is now before the Hon'ble High Court of Punjab and Haryana, Chandigarh.

(f) No case of fraud committed in sale and purchase by Kendriya Bhandar has come to the notice of the Government.

(g) and (h) Do not arise.

Implementation of Slaughter/Transport of Animals Rules

3140. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any notification for slaughter and transport of animal/birds has been issued;

(b) if so, the steps being taken to implement the same;

(c) whether the Government propose to assist NGOs who are interested to campaign; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

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

(a) Under the provisions of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960 (59 of 1960), the following Rules have been notified with regard to the slaughter and transport of animal/birds :

(i) **Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Slaughter Houses) Rules, 2001**

- published on 26.03.2001.

(ii) **Transport of Animal Rules, 1978**

- published on 23.03.1978 and amended on 26.03.2001.

(iii) **Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Transport of Animals on Foot) Rules, 2001**

– published on 26.03.2001.

(b) The implementation of the operative provisions of the above mentioned Rules are enjoined on the State Governments and their agencies.

(c) and (d) As informed by the Department of Animal Welfare, at present there is no approved Scheme for assistance to NGOs who are interested to campaign in this regard.

Joint Venture by Coal India Limited

3141. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL :
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK :
SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR :

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

(a) whether the Coal India Limited (CIL) is planning to take new projects with foreign agencies;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the mines identified for the purpose;

(d) the steps being taken in this regard;

(e) the present production capacity of CIL; and

(f) the extent to which it is likely to be expanded by the proposed venture ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) and (b) Coal India Limited is exploring different routes including joint ventures for development of new projects. However, participation of foreign agencies in such joint venture can be confirmed only after finalisation of bids.

(c) Two new opencast projects namely, Magadh and Amrapali in the command area of Central Coalfields Limited (CCL) have so far been identified for joint venture for production of coal.

(d) Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India (ICICI) has been appointed as consultant to advise the appropriate route for development of Magadh and Amrapali projects. They have developed a request for qualification bid document. The consultant has held discussions with representatives of various mining companies. A core group at CIL is also examining the various options for early implementation of the projects.

(e) Total annual capacity as on 1.4.2001 as assessed by Central Mine Planning and Design Institute Limited is 312.32 million tonnes of coal.

(f) The annual production capacity of Magadh and Amrapali opencast projects is 12.0 million tonnes of coal per year each.

National Commission on Cattle

3142. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK :
SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE :
SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBHA MANDLIK :
SHRI NAMDEO HARBAJI DIWATHE :
SHRI C.N. SINGH :
SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set up the National Commission on Cattle;

(b) if so, the terms and reference of the Commission;

(c) whether Commission has given any recommendation so far;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken/being taken by the Government thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The National Commission on Cattle has already been set up with the Terms of Reference as per statement enclosed.

(c) Yes, Sir.

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

Statement*Terms of Reference of the National Commission on Cattle*

(a) To review the relevant laws of the land (Centre as well as States) which relate to protection, preservation, development and well being of cow and its progeny and suggest measures for their effective implementation,

(b) To study the existing provisions for the maintenance of Goshalas, Gosadans, Pinjarapoles and other organisations working for protection and development of cattle and suggest measures for making them economically viable.

- (c) To study the contribution of cattle towards the Indian economy and to suggest ways and means of organising scientific research for maximum utilisation of cattle products and draught animal power in the field of nutrition and health, agriculture and energy, and to submit a comprehensive scheme in this regard to the Central Government,
- (d) To review and suggest measures to improve the availability of feed and fodder to support the cattle population

[Translation]

Plantation Pattern of Paddy

3143. DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT :
SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA :
SHRI RAMESHWAR DUDI :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether with a view to bring drastic improvement in the paddy crops, the Government propose to accord more priority to rural education and health services as per success achieved by China in this regard; and

(b) 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.

[English]

Reserved Posts for Handicaps

3144. SHRI BRAHMA NAND MANDAL : Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state :

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

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

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) The number of posts reserved for disabled/physically handicapped persons in the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation during the last three years is as follow :-

Year	Name of Post	Category	No. of posts reserved
1999	Steno Grade-III	Low Vision	1
	LDC	Orthopaedically Handicapped	1
	LDC	Deaf	1
	DEO-III	Deaf	1
	DEO-III	Low Vision	1
2000	Peon	Orthopaedically Handicapped	2
	LDC	Deaf	1
2001	Peon	Low Vision	1
	-	-	-

(b) Details of posts lying vacant as on 31.10.2001 are as follow :-

Year	Name of Post	Category	No. of posts vacant
1999	Steno Grade-III	Low Vision	1
	LDC	Orthopaedically Handicapped	1
	LDC	Deaf	1
	DEO-III	Deaf	1
	DEO-III	Low Vision	1
2000	LDC	Deaf	1
	Peon	Low Vision	1
2001	-	-	-

(c) During 1999 two posts of peon, both Orthopaedically Handicapped, were filled.

(d) Action has already been initiated to fill up remaining vacancies.

Import of African Ivory

3145. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether all the former dealers have been asked to surrender their African Ivory stock imported by them legally;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether a 'Certificate of Ownership' can be issued to a dealer under the provisions of Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to remedy the situation ?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) and (b) The Supreme Court of India has, in its order dated 24.9.2001, directed the Central and the State Governments to inventories and keep the imported ivory articles under this custody.

(c) and (d) Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 provides for issuance of Certificate of Ownership' to the dealer for bonafide personal use only.

(e) Since the matter is sub-judice no remedial action can be taken.

HUDCO Housing Project for Manipur

3146. SHRI HOLKHOMANG HAOKIP : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Manipur Government has given the necessary guarantee to HUDCO for its Rs.15 crore Housing Project for SCs and STs Government employees in Manipur; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for the delay to expedite this project ?

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

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Northern Coalfields Limited

3147. DR. BALIRAM : Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether officers of the level of M1, M2, M3 in Northern Coalfields Limited (NCL) Singrauli are working on the same project for more than five years and are encouraging corruption there;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which the said officials are likely to be transferred; and

(d) the transfer policy of the said level officers ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) In Northern Coalfields Limited there are some officers of M1, M2 and M3 grades who are working in same projects for more than five years. However, the company has denied that such postings are encouraging any corruption.

(b) Out of 146 officers in M1, M2 and M3 Grade posted in various projects of NCL, there are 24 officers who are working in the same project for more than five (5) years as on 1.12.2001. Except in one case where investigation by Vigilance Department of NCL is in progress, there is no complaint in regard to other officers. The Vigilance Department of the Company takes necessary action on any complaint regarding corruption.

(c) Posting of the officers will be effected during March/April alongwith other cases.

(d) An executive who has completed ten years of service in the same company and has more than 2 years to retire is transferable to an other company. However, large scale transfers are to be avoided but at least 10% of Executives specifying the above criteria are to be transferred. In case of sensitive posts in Civil Engineering, Sales and Marketing and Materials Management disciplines, an executive is transferable on completion of five years of service in the same company.

National Project for Cattle and Buffalo Breeding

3148. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a proposal for sanction of Centrally sponsored scheme of National Project for Cattle and Buffalo Breeding has been sent by the Government of Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, whether sanction has since been accorded; and

(c) the details of sanction of the said scheme to various States during the last three years ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) :
(a) Yes, Sir. A proposal of Govt. of Tamil Nadu under National Project (NPCBB) for Cattle and Buffalo Breeding was received in April, 2001, requesting central assistance to the tune of Rs. 10019.97 lakh.

(b) After the launch of NPCBB in October 2001, the States were requested to submit proposal in the prescribed format in conformity with the guidelines for the scheme. However, the Government of Tamil Nadu is yet to constitute a State Implementing Agency (SIA) which is a requirement under the Scheme.

(c) A total sum of Rs. 1570.75 lakhs was released under NPCBB 2000-01 to the following States :-

Haryana	-	Rs. 523.00 lakh
Punjab	-	Rs. 501.00 lakh
Andhra Pradesh	-	Rs. 339.00 lakh
Manipur	-	Rs. 67.75 lakh

Coverage of Farmers under Minimum Support Price

3149. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Minimum Support Price covers barely 20 per cent of farmers in the country;

(b) whether Government propose to increase the coverage of farmers in this regard;

(c) if so, the details of such additional coverage of farmers;

(d) whether other crops are likely to be brought under the MSP scheme; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) :
(a) to (e) Under the Minimum Support Price Scheme 25 crops are included and all farmers growing these crops are eligible to take advantage of the scheme. These 25 crops cover about 82 per cent of the total sown area. Lentil (Masur) was included under the MSP scheme from 2000-01 crop and it has been decided to include Peas under the MSP scheme from 2001-02 crop.

[Translation]

Proposal from Private Airlines regarding Memorandum Fee

3150. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL :
SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Airports Authority of India has received any proposal from the private airlines regarding memorandum fee;

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

(c) the number of proposals disposed of so far; and

(d) the details thereof ?

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

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Farmers living below Poverty Line

3151. SHRI ANANT GUDHE : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of farmers living below the poverty line in Maharashtra, district-wise;

(b) the details of schemes being implemented for the farmers;

(c) the details of funds released by the Government during the last three years; and

(d) the number of farmers benefited by such funds alongwith the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) :
(a) The Planning Commission estimates percentage of persons living below the poverty line at national and State level from the large sample surveys on consumer expenditure conducted by the National Sample Survey (NSS) Organisation. The last such survey was conducted in the 55th Round of the NSS covering the period July 1999 to June 2000. On the basis of the 30-day recall tabulation in the Key-Results of the 55th Round large sample survey of Household Consumer Expenditure in India carried out by the National Sample Survey Organisation, the number and percentage of persons living below poverty line in 1999-2000 in Maharashtra are as under :

Rural		Urban		Combined	
Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
125.12 lakh	23.72	102.87 lakh	26.81	227.99 lakh	25.02

Separate estimate of district-wise poverty is not available.

(b) The Department of Agriculture and Cooperation provide Central assistance through various Central Sector and Centrally Sponsored Schemes such as : Oilseed Production Programme; National Pulses Development Project; Accelerated Maize Development Programme; Macro Management; Schemes for Horticulture Development; Balanced and Integrated Use of Fertilizer; Establishment of Seed Banks; Distribution of Minikits; various extension related programmes; etc.

(c) Allocation/Releases of funds by the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation for Central Sector and Centrally Sponsored Schemes in Maharashtra State during the last three years is as under :

Year	Allocation (Rs. lakh)
1998-99	12378.62
1999-2000	7928.95
2000-2001	10634.11

(d) The Schemes implemented by the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation are production oriented, the benefit of which flows to all categories of farmers. Thus it is not possible to quantify the number of beneficiaries.

Rail link to Lalmatia Mine

3152. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether his Ministry propose to extend railway line to Lalmatia Mine where Mandari Hill-Dumka-Ramghaat rail line to be constructed;

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

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) to (c) Rajmahal OCP (Lalmatia Mine) of ECL is a captive mine for NTPC's Farakka and Kahalgaon STPSs. Coal from Rajmahal is despatched primarily through Merry-Go-Round system of NTPC, NTPC has an extension programme for its Kahalgaon STPS and to meet the additional coal

requirement for such expansion, ECL proposes to augment capacity of Rajmahal OCP as well as start opening new unit in nearby blocks. In that event, NTPC is required to augment their present MGR capacity and construct separate MGR for evacuating coal from the new project. The proposed alignment of new rail line is not likely to help much in coal evacuation from Rajmahal/new mine. However, extension of siding from Pirpainti to Rajmahal OCP will help in establishing an alternative route for coal evacuation other than captive.

[English]

Unauthorised Mining

3153. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether his Ministry issued any guidelines to States to protect the rivers from unauthorised mining in Kerala;

(b) whether the Government are aware that unauthorised mining from rivers is still going on in Kerala; and

(c) if so, the details of action taken by the Government in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) to (c) Instances of illegal/unauthorised mining in different States are brought to the notice of the Central Government from time to time Responsibility for checking illegal mining, if any, rests with the State Governments. Several provisions exist in the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 (MMDR Act) to curb illicit mining. Moreover, to further strengthen the provisions in this regard, under recently introduced Section 23C of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957, State Governments have been empowered to make rules for preventing illegal mining, transportation and storage of minerals.

[Translation]

Flood Control

3154. SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR CHOUDHARY : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the funds allocated to Bihar for flood Control during the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(b) whether the Government of Bihar has fully utilized the said funds;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) :
(a) to (d) As per information received from the Ministry of Water Resources, agreed outlay for Ninth Five Year Plan is Rs. 400 Crores, against which the latest expenditure estimate is Rs. 415.24 Crores.

Illegal Mining in M.P.

3155. SHRI RAMANAND SINGH : Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) the number of mines alongwith the name of the firms engaged in mining activity in Satna district of Madhya Pradesh at present location and mine-wise;

(b) whether the Union Government are aware that many lease holders are illegally and arbitrarily indulging in mining work even after the expiry of the lease period;

(c) if so, the details thereof including the said activity by M/s Jailal Bharatlal in Khodri village; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to check such illegal mining in the State ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) As per information furnished by the Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM), a subordinate office of the Department of Mines, 18 bauxite mines, 5 kaolin mines, 1 laterite mine, 40 limestone mines and 13 ochre mines are operating in Satna district of Madhya Pradesh. Details of these mines indicating the name of the mining lease holder, location of the mine etc. is given in the statement enclosed.

(b) Instances from time to time are brought to the notice of the Central Government that mining is being continued by the mining lease holders in the States after the expiry of the period of mining leases. Under Rule 24A of the Mineral Concession Rules (MCR), 1960, if the mining lease holder applies for renewal of mining lease within the prescribed time, he can continue mining operations even after expiry of the mining lease period till the State Government passes order on the renewal of the mining lease application.

(c) IBM has reported that M/s Jailal Bharatlal was granted mining lease over an area of 40.876 hectares for minerals bauxite, ochre and white earth. The period of mining lease has expired on 25.9.98 but the mining lease holder is working on the orders of the High Court.

(d) Controlling of illegal mining falls under the purview of the State Governments. To strengthen their hand, the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation (MMDR) Act, 1957 has been amended recently to delegate powers to the State Government to frame rules for preventing illegal mining etc.

Statement

List of Mines with their owners in Satna District of Madhya Pradesh

(Based on MCDR returns received for the year 1999-2000)

Mineral Name	Lessee Owner Name	Village Name	Mine Name	Mine Owner
1	2	3	4	5
Bauxite	Bansal Khanij Udyog	Bijahri	Bijahri	Private
	Bansal Khanij Udyog	Kusiyara	Kusiyara	Private
	G.S. Singh	Madwajhar	Narohill	Private
	Hiralal Rameshwar Prasad	Khadri	Khadri 4DA	Private
	Ismail and Sons	Kubri	Kubri No. 2	Private
	Ismail and Sons	Kubri	Kubri-I	Private

1	2	3	4	5
	Krishna Das Tikaram	Argat	Argat (6.00)	Private
	Krishna Das Tikaram	Argat	Argat (10.16A)	Private
	M.P. Mineral Supply Co.	Ghatania	Ghatania (13.43)	Private
	M.P. Mineral Supply Co.	Ghatania	Ghatania (9.50)	Private
	M.P. Mineral Supply Co.	Nowgaon	Nowgaon 19.01	Private
	M.P. Mineral Supply Co.	Sidha Kothar	Sidha Kothar (20.626)	Private
	M.P. Mineral Supply Co.	Udali	Udali	Private
	Madhya Pradesh State Mining Corpn.	Tamar	Tamar	Public
	Rakesh Agencies	Borui	Bawai (Borui)	Private
	Rakesh Agencies	Sidha Kothar	Sidha Kothar	Private
	Ramachandra Bansal	Batahara	Batahara	Private
	Ramachandra Bansal	Ghatania	Ghatania	Private
Kaolin	Arun Kumar Bansal	Latagaon	Latagaon	Private
	Kunjilal Ishwari Prasad Agrawal	Badkhora	Badkhora	Private
	Kunjilal Ishwari Prasad Agrawal	Barui	Barui (8.17B H.A)	Private
	Kunjilal Ishwari Prasad Agrawal	Naugaon No. 4	Naugaon No. 4	Private
	Shri Krishnadas Tikaram	Khomaraha	Khomaraha	Private
Laterite	B.L. Jain	Piprahat	Piprahat	Private
Limestone	Anil Kumar Nagrath	Bhatoora	Bhatoora (2.696 HECT)	Private
	Bafati and Co.	Bhatoora	Bhatoora	Private
	Birla Corpn. Ltd.	Naina, Nimi, Bara	Sagmania	Private
	Diwan Lime Co. (P) Ltd.	Amilia	Amilia	Private
	Diwan Lime Co. (P) Ltd.	Bhatia	Bhatia	Private
	Hukum Chand Stone Lime Co.		Bhatura (16.12)	Private
	J.L. Wahi		Piprahat 8.05 ACS	Private
	Jaiswal Stone Lime Co.	Bamhour	Bamhour (8.48 H)	Private
	Jaiswal Stone Lime Co.	Bamhour	Bamhour (13.29 H)	Private
	Madan Lal Ghari	Bhatiya	Bhatiya (66.74 AC)	Private
	Madhya Bharat Minerals Processing P.	Kolawal	Kalawal (2.720 HECT)	Private
	Maihar Cement	Bhadanpur	Bhadanpur	Private
	Maihar Cement	Tilora, Sirmilli	Tilora (193.252 H)	Private
	Prism Cement Ltd.	Hinoti	Prism Cement (793.004 HA)	Private
	Prism Cement Ltd.	Hinouti and Sijah	Prisimarea 253.326 HECT	Private
	R.L. Sehgal	Bhatiya	Bhatiya (10.06 AC)	Private

1	2	3	4	5
	R.L. Sehgal	Bhatiya	Bhatiya (9 AC)	Private
	R.L. Sehgal	Bhatiya	Bhatiya (18.895 HA)	Private
	R.L. Sehgal	Bhatiya	Bhatiya (20 AC)	Private
	R.L. Sehgal	Bhatiya	Bhatiya (7.859 HA)	Private
	R.L. Sehgal	Piprahat	Piprahat (35.00 Bhegha)	Private
	R.P. Nagrath	Bhatoora	Bhatoora 1.306 H	Private
	Raghvendra Kumar Aggrawal	Ramsthan	Rajasthan Lime Stone 18ACR	Private
	Rai Lime Co.	Bhadanpur	Bhadanpur (S.Patti) (1.628)	Private
	Rai Lime Co.	Bhadanpur	Bhadanpur (S.Patti) 3.84 H	Private
	Rai Lime Co.	Naden	Nadan (1)	Private
	Rai Lime Co.	Pahari	Pahari I	Private
	Rai Lime Co.	Pahari	Pahari No. 3	Private
	Rai Lime Co. Omprakash Rai	Pahari	Pahari No. 2	Private
	S.N. Sunderson and Mines Ltd.	Bhatiya	Bhatiya II	Private
	S.N. Sunderson and Mines Ltd.	Bhatiya	Bhatiya I	Private
	S.N. Sunderson and Mines Ltd.	Bhatoora	Bhatoora (10 Acres)	Private
	Sharad Kumar Bansal	Pipari	Pipari (34.168 H)	Private
	Steel Authority of India Ltd.	Khamaria	Ispat I and II	Public
	Sunil Kumar Kalia	Bhatoora	Bhatoora 6.062 Acres	Private
	Sunil Jouhar	Barahiya	Barahiya	Private
	Sunil Jouhar	Bhatia	Bhatia	Private
	Sutna Stone Lime Co. Ltd.	Satnasiding	Raghurajnagar	Private
	Sutna Stone Lime Co. Ltd.	Satnasiding	Siding	Private
	The Maihar Stone and Lime Co.	Girgitta	Girgitta (258.998 H)	Private
Ochre	Bansal Khanij Udyog	Jamuwani	Jamuwani	Private
	Harris Minerals Supply Co.	Kararia	Kararia	Private
	Harris Minerals Supply Co.	Tikar	Tikar	Private
	Jailal Bharatlal	Khodri	Moregarh	Private
	Kunjilal Ishwari Prasad Agrawal	Barui	Barui	Private
	Lachhilal and Sons	Tagi (Turra0	Ukatha	Private
	Mahesh P. Aggarwal	Pagarkala	Pagarkala	Private
	Neogi and Sons	Ladra	Ladra	Private
	Neogi and Sons	Mauhariya	Audhri	Private
	Ramchandra Bansal	Mungwari	Mungwari	Private

1	2	3	4	5
	Sharad Kumar Bansal	Piparitola	Piparitola	Private
	Sharad Kumar Bansal	Piparitola	Piparitola	Private
	Smt. Gayatri Devi Bansal	Siddha	Siddha Kothar	Private

[English]

Unused Airports in Andhra Pradesh

3156. SHRI KALAVA SRINIVASULU : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether there are a number of air-fields and airports of second world war time which are lying unused in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any plan to revive and put them to use for intra-State air travel in the State; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN) : (a) and (b) The Airports at Donakonda, Cuddapah and Warrangal in Andhra Pradesh are non-operational.

(c) and (d) Airports Authority of India had requested the State Government of Andhra Pradesh to take over these three airports for aviation activities but there has been no response from the State Government

Revival of ECL

3157. COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY :
SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV :
DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV :
SHRI K.E. KRISHNAMURTHY :

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

(a) whether the Eastern Coalfields Limited (ECL) has taken up 95 projects since its inception of which 40 have been abandoned/suspended rendering infructuous investment of Rs. 71.76 crores;

(b) whether the Government have prepared any plan for revival of the Eastern Coalfields Limited (ECL) recently;

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

(d) the strength of workers in the ECL at present;

(e) whether the Government have chalked out any plan for the welfare of these workers; and

(f) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) In Eastern Coalfields Limited, 98 projects were taken up since its inception out of which 40 projects have been abandoned/suspended due to various reasons. Total expenditure incurred in the abandoned/suspended projects amounts to Rs. 71.76 crores. However, expenditure incurred on plant and machinery, prospecting, infrastructure etc. are being utilised gainfully in existing mines.

(b) and (c) Coal India Limited engaged Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India (ICICI) in 1997 to prepare a restructuring-cum-revival plan for Eastern Coalfields Limited. The ICICI submitted their final in January, 2000. Controller General of Accounts (CGA) had expressed reservations about certain observations of ICICI, CGA instead suggested an alternative plan. After a thorough review, a plan for survival and eventual revival of the company has been drawn up by ECL management and submitted to the Government for consideration. The plan will be taken up for implementation after its approval by the competent authority. The broad outline of the proposal is as under :-

- (i) No worker will be terminated but if the workers come forward for Voluntary Retirement Scheme, it will be considered.
- (ii) The manpower and machines will be re-deployed in such a way that optimal utilization of men and machines is achieved. In the process, work in some mines may be discontinued.
- (iii) Instead of outright purchase of Heavy Earth Moving Machinery (HEMM), these would be taken on lease to work some opencast mines.
- (iv) Financial support by CIL/Govt. for meeting liabilities for payment, of arrear wages and debt servicing.
- (v) Further relief by reduction of cess by the Govt. of West Bengal to the level of royalty in other States.

(vi) Closure of some mines of ECL which have become commercially unviable.

(d) The strength of workers in ECL as on 1.11.2001 is 122503.

(e) and (f) ECL has a budget for welfare of its workers which includes housing, water supply, medical etc. Besides, employment to the dependants is provided for the employees in case of death in harness. There is also pension scheme for workers who are eligible through Coal Mines Provident Fund Organisation.

[Translation]

Cultivation of Spices

3158. SHRI BISHNU PADA RAY : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the total area under cultivation of spices in Andaman and Nicobar Islands;

(b) the number of farmers benefited therefrom;

(c) whether there is any arrangement for bringing produces from this plantation area to the market;

(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) The total area under cultivation of spices in Andaman and Nicobar Islands is reported to be 1200 ha.

(b) The number of farmers benefited from spices cultivation is approximately 4000.

(c) to (e) In the Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands, producers themselves collect and market the produces. There is no specific arrangement for bringing produces from plantations area. No regulated market and market infrastructure are available specific to spices.

[English]

World Trade Organisation

3159. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the World Trade Organisation has been disappointment to country and that instead of leading to greater market access for countries like India, the developed world has raised its trade barriers and hike subsidies on agricultural products;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto and strategy made in this regard; and

(c) the details of trade barriers the country is facing due to WTO agreements?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) to (c) WTO Agreements have provided a predictable rule based multilateral trading system which protects developing countries from the bilateral pressures of the developed countries. By virtue of signing of WTO agreement India is automatically entitled to get the treatment of most favoured nation (MFN) from all WTO members for its exports. There are both rights and obligations accruing from membership of the WTO.

As per Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) report the support to agriculture in OECD countries has increased from US\$ 308 billion in 1986-88 to US\$ 361 billion in 1999.

India's negotiating proposals submitted to WTO for mandated negotiations under Agreement on Agriculture aims at protecting its food and livelihood security and creating increased market access opportunities with a view to promote agricultural exports. Further, in the recently concluded 4th Ministerial Conference of the WTO at Doha, Member Countries have committed themselves to negotiations aimed at substantial improvement in market access, substantial reduction in trade distorting domestic support and phasing out of export subsidies. Special and Differential Treatment for developing countries including recognition of food security and rural development have now become an integral part of the mandated agricultural negotiations.

[Translation]

Boom in the Bottled Water Industry

3160. SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV :
SHRI RAMJILAL SUMAN :

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been boom in the bottled water industry in the country;

(b) if so, the number of industrial units engaged in the sale of drinking water in the country from 1995-96 till date; and

(c) the affect on available water resources in the country as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI ARJUN SETHI) : (a) and (b) Bureau of Indian Standards has no information regarding quantum of boom in bottled water industry, number of units engaged in the manufacture and sale of drinking water from the year 1995-1996 onwards.

Ministry of Health and Family Welfare had issued GSR 759E and GSR 760E in September, 2000 notifying 'Packaged Natural Mineral Water' and 'Packaged Drinking Water' as food and making it mandatory that after 29th March, 2001 the manufacture and sale of above mentioned items should be with BIS Certification Mark. In compliance to the above notification, the units engaged in the manufacture and marketing of 'Packaged Drinking Water' and 'Packaged Natural Mineral Water' are to obtain license from Bureau of Indian Standards to use BIS Certification Mark on their product. As on date, 324 licenses have been issued for use of BIS Certification mark under IS 14543:1998 'Packaged Drinking Water' and 4 licenses have been issued under IS 13428:1998 'Packaged Natural Mineral Water'.

(c) There is no effect on the available water resources in the country as a result thereof.

[English]

Subsidy to Self-Employed Youths

3161.DR. MANDA JAGANNATH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to provide subsidy and lending at lower rates of interest of self-employed youths who will be maintaining refrigerated vans and trucks to transport fruits and vegetables; and

(b) if so, the measures taken in this regard and to boost proper export of horticulture and agricultural crops ?

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

(a) and (b) The Department of Agriculture and Cooperation is implementing a scheme, "Development of Commercial Horticulture through Production and Post Harvest Management" through the National Horticulture Board (NHB), an autonomous body under this Department. Under the scheme, financial assistance is provided in the form of back-ended capital investment subsidy @ 20% of the total project cost with a maximum limit of Rs. 25.00 lakhs per project and to the maximum of Rs. 30.00 lakhs per project in the case of North Eastern/Tribal/Hilly areas for components which reduce the post harvest losses including refrigerated vans; specialized transport vehicles for transportation of fruits and vegetables. Self employed

youths are also eligible, among others, to avail the benefits under the scheme.

To boost exports of horticulture products and achieving sustained exports of fresh produce the Agricultural and Processed Food Projects Export Development Authority (APEDA), an Organisation under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry have initiated steps like Integrated programmes for production of quality and productivity of selected fruits and vegetables; establishment of post-harvest management facilities; Strengthening of Information data base in terms of quality and other requirements of importing countries; Strengthening of testing facilities; and Setting up of Agri-Export Zones (AEZ).

[Translation]

Irregularities in Appointments

3162.DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Airports Authority of India had conducted a written examination for some posts on June 3, 2001;

(b) whether the result of the written examination was not published in any leading newspaper and the appointments were made on the posts even more than double of the posts advertised in the newspapers;

(c) whether senior officers of the department have committed gross financial irregularities in filling up these posts; and

(d) if so, the steps taken to conduct an inquiry into the irregularities committed in those appointments and penalize the senior officers found guilty in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN) : (a) Yes, Sir. A written examination was conducted on 3rd June, 2001 for recruitment to the post of Accounts Assistant.

(b) Yes, Sir. The successful candidates were informed of their selection directly. A total of 107 vacancies of the post of Accounts Assistants were available on the date of advertisement. It was initially decided to fill up 46 vacancies. However, 33 more vacancies of the post of Accounts Assistants became available due to the promotion of Accounts Assistants to the post of Assistant Manager (Accounts) raising the vacancies to 140. With the induction of CISF in different airports, there was an acute shortage of Accounts Assistants staff. To cope up with the situation, it was decided to fill up 107 vacancies from amongst the successful candidates who took the examination on 3rd June, 2001.

(c) and (d) There are no financial irregularities in filling up these posts.

[English]

School for Street Children

3163. SHRI RAJIAH MALYALA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to start schools for the street children and destitutes in Siddipet area of Medak District in Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

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

(b) Does not arise.

Minister Flies above the Law

3164. SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH :
MOHD. SHAHABUDDIN :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to a news-item captioned under "Minister flies above the Law" appearing in Indian Express, dated September 24, 2001;

(b) if so, the factual details of violation of code/guidelines issued by the DGCA; and

(c) the preventive action proposed to be taken by the Government to avoid such recurrences in future ?

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

(b) Indian Airlines has not received any report regarding travel of any unauthorized person in the Cockpit in its flights in violation of guidelines laid-down in para 6.14 of the Operations Manual duly approved by DGCA. Air India has also not received any report of the stated violation of DGCA guidelines.

(c) Does not arise.

Co-operative Sugar Societies

3165. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that co-operative consumer societies have become a burden on

the public and are not supplying the items of daily use at competitive prices and of good quality;

(b) if so, the steps being taken to review the functioning of the existing consumer co-operative societies and stop giving further aid and not to sanction any more consumer co-operative societies; and

(c) the efforts being made to bring Kendriya Bhandar under the aegis of the Consumer Affairs Ministry ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) and (b) No Sir, the Consumer Co-operative Societies have not become a burden on the public as is revealed from their increasing sales level both in the urban and in the rural areas, of the Country. As per the decision taken by the Government of India earlier, the Centrally Sponsored Scheme for assistance to consumer co-operatives both in the urban and rural areas was transferred to the State sector on 31/03/1992. The review of the consumer co-operatives is not contemplated separately at the moment.

(c) The Administrative control of Kendriya Bhandar vests with the Department of Personnel and Training. So far, no request for transfer of the Kendriya Bhandar to the Department of Consumer Affairs has been received.

[Translation]

Agricultural Farms

3166. SHRI NIHAL CHAND CHOUHAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of Central State Agricultural Farms in India the location thereof;

(b) the total income of Central State Agricultural Farm of Rajasthan State during the last three years;

(c) if so, the reasons for running in losses of these Central State Agricultural Farms and whether the Government takes care of these farms from time to time; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to increase the income of these farms and the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) There are 11 Central State Farms under the State Farms Corporation of India. These are located at Suratgarh, Sardargarh, Jetsar in Rajasthan, Hisar in Haryana, Bahriach and Reabareli in Uttar Pradesh, Raichur in Karnataka, Aralam in Kerala, Kokilabari and Barpeta in Assam and Chengam in Tamil Nadu. Of these, four Farms at Raebareli, Kokilabari, Barpeta and Chengam are proposed for closure.

(b) The three Central State Farms of Rajasthan together earned a gross income of Rs. 62.08 crores during the last three years.

(c) The reasons for losses have been (i) lack of irrigation facilities, (ii) drought conditions in Rajasthan and (iii) steep rise in the salary and wages due to regularization of labour. Financial assistance is provided to the State Farms Corporation of India from time to time.

(d) The steps taken to increase the income of these Farms are inter-alia (i) maximization of cropping area under latest varieties, (ii) inclusion of high value crops in the cropping programme, (iii) large scale adoption of Integrated Pest Management practices, (iv) replacement of old tractors and machinery in a phased manner, (v) land development like leveling, lining of irrigation channels etc., (vi) harvesting of rain water to the maximum extent possible, (vii) implementation of voluntary Retirement Scheme.

Krishi Vigyan Kendras

3167. SHRIMATI HEMA GAMANG : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any provision has been made in this year in budget to open new Krishi Vigyan Kendras;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) the details of the proposals mooted some years back to open new Krishi Vigyan Kendras in the country particularly in Bihar and Orissa;

(d) whether all these Krishi Vigyan Kendras have been opened; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. There is a provision of Rs. 19.26 crores in this year to open new Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVK).

(c) The proposal mooted was for in principle approval to open new 66 KVKs in the country including five in Bihar and three in Orissa, over a period of three years (2001-2002 to 2003-2004).

(d) and (e) The process of opening the sanctioned KVKs has begun. The approval of the competent authority has been obtained for the implementation schedule and identification of suitable organizations and site for the establishment of the KVKs is in process.

Computer Education under MPLADS

3168. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY :
SHRI MANSINH PATEL :

Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether any scheme has been formulated to provide computer education in the schools of remote rural areas with part assistance from the MPLADS;

(b) if so, the details outlines thereof;

(c) whether any provision has been made under this scheme to impart computer education in various States of the country; and

(d) if so, the States where computer education is being imparted alongwith the number of such schools in these States and the schemes formulated for their expansion in future ?

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

[English]

Tourism Projects

3169. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Tourism Projects submitted by North Eastern States, to the Union Government during the last three years;

(b) the details of projects out of the above sanctioned by the Union Government so far, State-wise; and

(c) the amount sanctioned to each project during the said period ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN) : (a) to (c) The Department of Tourism, Government of India in consultation with the State Governments of North Eastern States sanctioned 280

projects amounting to Rs. 60.93 crores and released an amount of Rs. 22.24 crores during the last three years i.e.

1998-99 to 2000-2001. A Statement showing the details is enclosed.

Statement

Project sanctioned, amount sanctioned and released to North Eastern States including Sikkim during 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001

(Rs. in lakhs)

S. No.	State	1998-99			1999-2000			2000-2001		
		No. of projects sancd.	Amt. sancd.	Amt. Released	No. of projects sancd.	Amt. sancd.	Amt. Released	No. of projects sancd.	Amt. sancd.	Amt. Released
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1.	Assam	15	457.95	146.14	17	357.35	92.76	12	298.35	101.27
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	6	216.31	65.55	11	239.28	70.20	8	90.00	26.94
3.	Manipur	8	140.49	41.40	10	229.00	70.10	18	782.77	235.42
4.	Meghalaya	5	120.48	37.50	6	80.72	20.26	5	105.59	36.10
5.	Mizoram	8	203.34	137.95	13	297.23	157.01	13	309.19	95.33
6.	Nagaland	11	230.54	97.60	16	302.90	179.89	8	156.53	53.04
7.	Sikkim	15	136.03	61.42	13	118.98	43.57	33	376.49	127.43
8.	Tripura	9	169.21	105.50	7	340.76	17.31	13	333.23	104.05
Total		77	1674.35	693.06	93	1966.22	751.10	110	2452.15	779.58

Development of Agro-Forestry

3170. SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to plant as agro-forestry multipurpose populus deltoids, paulownia fortunei tree species for commercial cultivation in Tamil Nadu Region by identifying the suitability of weather conditions prevailing and matching the phenophasic moisture;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government to educate the villages to inculcate the development of agro-forestry system in the country; and

(c) if not: the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) and (b) Research Wing of the State Forest Department of Tamil Nadu had undertaken introduction trial of Populus deltoids and Paulownia fortunei tree species for commercial cultivation. The research trial of Paulownia species have failed and it is not found suitable

for Tamil Nadu. Based on the research trials and viability of the Populus deltoids, the villagers will be educated accordingly. National Forest Policy envisages to inculcate in the people a direct interest in forests, their development and conservation and to make them conscious of the value of trees, wildlife and nature in general through involvement of educational institutions.

(c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Animal Husbandry

3171. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government proposed to set up a technology mission to promote animal husbandry in tribal region of the country;

(b) the number of districts of Madhya Pradesh proposed to be included therein; and

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

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

(a) No, Sir.

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

[English]

Assistance by MPs for Construction of School Buildings

3172. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state :

(a) the number of MPs who have provided Rs. 10 lakhs for construction of school buildings in Orissa which was affected by super cyclone in 1999;

(b) the names of the individual projects taken up against each allotted sum; and

(c) the progress of the work made so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) 87 MPs of Lok Sabha have given their consent for contribution of Rs. 10 lakhs each for construction of assets permissible under MPLADS.

(b) and (c) Orissa State Disaster Mitigation Authority has informed that they have received contribution of 60 MPs of Lok Sabha @ Rs. 10 lakhs each. 87 High School buildings have been identified for utilising the contribution against which the work of 28 High School buildings have already been taken up.

Tickets under Special Package

3173. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE :
SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the British Airways has authorised its travel agents to issue tickets for Rs. 18,000 any where in Europe and Rs. 29,000/- to any destination in the world under a package valid upto March 31, 2001;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this scheme is in violation to the IATA code of conduct; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to meet the challenge?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN) : (a) to (d) The package offered by the British Airways was brought to the notice of the Directorate General of Civil Aviation by Air India. Since this was in violation of the existing norms of approval of international tariffs, British Airways was directed to withdraw the same. This direction was complied with.

[Translation]

Work by Contractors in Bhilai Steel Plant

3174. SHRI CHANDRA PRATAP SINGH : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether some items of work in Bhilai steel Plant is assigned to the contractors;

(b) if so, names of the contractors to whom work has been assigned and the number of labourers engaged by them;

(c) whether the contractors are paying much less wages to the labourers engaged by them than the rate of wages fixed by the administrator; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and if not the steps being taken to conduct an inquiry in this regard?

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

(b) At present there are 178 contractors and 3196 numbers of contractual workers engaged on contractual jobs in Bhilai Steel Plant. It would not be in the commercial interest of SAIL to provide the contractors details.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise. The State labour machinery conducts regular inspection and there have been no complaints of lower payments as on date.

[English]

Expenditure on Refreshment and Food by Airlines

3175. SHRI P.D. ELANGO VAN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be please to state :

(a) the total expenditure incurred on providing refreshments and food in Indian Airlines/Air India during each of the last three years;

(b) whether the contract for supply of refreshments and food is raised out every year; and

(c) if so, the details of the suppliers given contract for supplying of refreshments and food items, in flights of Air India/Indian Airlines and Alliance Air respectively in the last two years and the total amount paid to them for the same period ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN) : (a) Expenditure incurred by Air India and Indian Airlines for providing catering arrangements to the passengers on board during the last three years are as under :

(Rs. in crores)

Year	Air India	Indian Airlines
1998-1999	114.69	084.40
1999-2000	103.43	091.03
2000-2001	098.91	100.89

(b) and (c) In Air India, contract for meal uplift with the caterers is normally for three years. At most stations there is more than one caterer and catering contracts are entered into for generally a three year period following the tender process. Only in the case of stations with sole suppliers, generally in the Gulf and Africa regions, there is an ongoing catering contract wherein the rates are negotiated from time to time depending on menu changes, inflation etc. The total amount paid to the caterers for supply of refreshment and food items on the flights for aforementioned stations during the last 2 years was Rs. 13.77 crores.

In Indian Airlines the contracts are entered for a period of 1 to 2 years. The total amount paid for supply of refreshment and food items on the flights of Indian Airlines/ Alliance Air during the last 2 years was Rs. 192 crores.

Pepper Farmers

3176 SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the total production of pepper in each State during the last three years, year-wise and State-wise;

(b) the price of pepper during the said period;

(c) whether the price of pepper has fallen during the current year;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government to protect the farmers therefrom;

(e) the details of pepper imported and exported during the above period;

(f) whether there is great demand of pepper abroad;

(g) if so, whether the export of pepper has declined during the above; and

(h) if not, the reasons therefor and the steps taken/ being taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) The latest statistics of production of black pepper are available for 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000. The State-wise statistics of production for these three years are as under :

(In Thousand Tonnes)

State	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
Karnataka	0.92	1.03	1.65
Kerala	55.52	64.34	56.43
Tamil Nadu	0.80	0.90	0.12
A and N Islands	0.08	0.08	0.08
Pondicherry	0.01	0.01	0.01
All - India	57.33	66.36	58.29

(b) to (h) The exports, imports and the Wholesale Price Indices (WPI) of black pepper (base year 1993-94 = 100) during 1997-98 to 2000-01 are given below :

(Exports/Imports in Tonnes)

Year	Exports	Imports	WPI
1997-98	31349	1694	421.1
1998-99	29943	2216	511.2
1999-2000	31978	2097	525.9
2000-2001	17134	2643	501.4

According to the average WPI of 5 months from April 2001 to August 2001, the WPI has declined to 303.2. The fall in prices of pepper is mainly due to increase in supply position in the international markets and the main buying countries have reduced their inventory level.

Government have not officially made any assessment of demand of pepper abroad. However, there was a decline in exports during 2000-01 compared to previous three years.

Government have taken the following steps to improve exports :

Support exporters, traders, processors and growers to improve quality of pepper through

post harvest training, setting up of processing units and improving infrastructure including in-house laboratories for quality checks.

- Awarding spice house certificate and Indian spices LOGO for consistent improvement in quality.
- Assist exporters in brand promotion.
- Participate in international fairs and seminars to promote Indian pepper.
- The futures trading of pepper, conducted by Indian Pepper and Spice Trade Association (IPSTA) at Cochin, gives opportunities for growers and traders to participate in futures trade for better prices. Government of India have also decided to conduct futures trading of pepper in dollar terms.
- Popularising organic farming of pepper which fetches a premium price in the international market.

Availability of Good Quality Palm Fruits

3177. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is vast availability of good quality palm fruits in India mainly in Bihar, Assam, Orissa, Uttar Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, whether the Government have undertaken any research work especially in these States to extract more palm oil;

(c) if so, the details of the research work undertaken in these States to make country self-reliant in edible oil;

(d) the total palm oil produced during the last three years; and

(e) the total plan outlay approved for reasarch work and assistance provided to States of Andhra Pradesh and Assam in extracting more palm oil ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) :
(a) There is vast availability of good quality palm fruits in Assam, Andhra Pradesh and Orissa. However, oil palm cultivation has not been recommended for Bihar and Uttar Pradesh.

(b) Research work related to oil palm is carried out through the State Agricultural Universities, Agriculture/

Horticulture Departments of the states and National Research Centre for oil Palm, Pedavegi (Andhra Pradesh). Research is being undertaken on Development of improved varieties/hybrids of palm oil. The Regional Research Laboratory (RRL), Trivandrum is also carrying out research on development of efficient technologies for oil extraction.

(c) Research is being done by Indian Council for Agricultural Research (ICAR) on development of improved varieties/hybrids of edible oilseeds namely sesamum, niger, sunflower, safflower, groundnut, rapeseed-mustard and soyabean and development crop production and crop protection technologies.

(d) The total palm oil produced in India during the last three years is about 55,000 MTs.

(e) An amount of Rs. 3420.50 lakhs and Rs. 44.57 lakhs has been provided to the States of Andhra Pradesh and Assam respectively, during the Ninth Five Year Plan under Oil Palm Development Programme (OPDP).

Development Plan for Hampi

3178. SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL) :

SHRI H.G. RAMULU :

SHRI G. MALLIKARJUNAPPA :

SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI :

SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ :

SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE :

SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA :

SHRI R.S. PATIL :

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA :

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that recognition given by UN to Hampi as World Heritage site is being withdrawn;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether many proposals are pending for development of Hampi in Karnataka;

(d) if so, whether any special scheme is likely to be introduced to develop Hampi as a spiritual city; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

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

(b) Does not arise

(c) A proposal for comprehensive development of Hampi was received from the Government of Karnataka. However, the State Government has been asked to submit relevant details in the standard format.

(d) No such proposal has been received from the State Government of Karnataka.

(e) Question does not arise.

Family Photo Identity Cards in Karnataka

3179. SHRI H.G. RAMULU : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Employees State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) has introduced family photo identity cards to the insured persons; and

(b) if so, the number of persons who have been issued family photo-identity cards in Karnataka so far ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) About 55, 700 Family Photo Identity Cards have been issued on Insured Persons in Karnataka, so far.

Modernisation of Tuticorin Airport

3180. DR. A.D.K. JAYASEELAN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of Special Economic Zone (SEZ) being set up at Tuticorin in Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government have received any proposal from Government of Tamil Nadu for modernisation of Tuticorin airport in order to operate flights to cope up with the demand made by the State Government under the SEZ;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN) : (a) to (d) Government of Tamil Nadu had informed that Tuticorin was being developed as a major container terminal and requested for extension of runway to facilitate air services to Maldives, Colombo and Chennai via Madurai. The State Government has been informed that there is no proposal to upgrade runway and other facilities at Tuticorin airport, at present, as no airline has shown willingness to operate from Tuticorin airport.

Export of Steel by MOIL

3181. SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE :
KUMARI BHAVANA PUNDLIKRAO GAWALI :

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Manganese Ore India Limited (MOIL) is the single largest producer of high grade manganese ore in the country;

(b) if so, the quantum of steel, out of the total production, exported to different countries by it during the current financial year; and

(c) the details of the diversification projects proposed to be taken up by the Government for the expansion of steel sector ?

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

(b) Manganese Ore India Limited (MOIL) is engaged only in the production of various grades of manganese ore, etc. and does not produce steel as such. However, the Company is exporting the manganese ore to various countries, as per Government guidelines. The details of exports of manganese ore for the last four years are mentioned below :

Year	Quantity (In Metric Tonnes)	Value (Rs. in crores)
1998-1999	16,200	3.79
1999-2000	57,150	16.36
2000-2001	69,800	21.56
2001-2002 (April-October, 2001)	62,350	20.02

(c) After liberalisation of the steel industry, the production of steel and the various expansion/diversification projects connected therein are undertaken by the concerned private and public sector undertakings themselves depending upon the inter-play of market forces. Government has no role to play for such projects.

Procurement of Stone Boulders at Higher Rates

3182. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether stone boulders were procured at higher rates of Rs. 455/- per cubic meter is FBP ignoring the lower rates received during 1997 resulting in an extra expenditure of Rs. 29 lakhs;

(b) whether any investigation has been made therein and if so, the outcome thereof;

(c) whether there is any proposal to fix the responsibility and accountability of officials responsible for causing the loss;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken to bring transparency in the Government purchases of any sorts ?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI ARJUN SETHI) : (a) to (e) Stone boulders were procured @ Rs. 445/- per cubic meter in FBP during 1997. This cost include the cost of transportation and handling at site, i.e., loading, unloading and stacking. The matter was examined in the Ministry and it was found that no violation of any codal rules/regulations had occurred in the procurement. The procurement of stone boulders did not cause any loss to the project. There is no failure on the part of any individual and the question of fixing responsibility does not arise.

[Translation]

Concessional Air Tickets for Senior Citizens

3183. SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether senior citizens and certain other categories are given 50 per cent concession in the domestic flights of Indian Airlines;

(b) if so, whether the said concession has been withdrawn in the case of Shimla-Delhi, Shimla-Kullu and some other domestic flights of Himachal Pradesh for some time;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the time by which the said facility is likely to be restored for senior citizens of hilly and backward regions ?

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

(b) to (d) Presently, Indian Airlines operates flights to Shimla, Kullu and Dharamshala in Himachal Pradesh, with the small size Dornier aircraft which has limited saleable capacity of 15 seats. Since operations with Dornier aircraft is highly uneconomical, no concessional fares are offered on the flights operated by this aircraft.

Production of Paddy

3184. SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the production of paddy during the last three years and the current year;

(b) the names of the major paddy producing States;

(c) the area under high yielding paddy variety cultivation in Andaman and Nicobar Islands, during 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000, area-wise; and

(d) the reasons for decline in area under paddy cultivation alongwith the steps taken to increase the same ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) The estimated production of paddy during the last three years and the current year is given in the table below :

(In Million tonnes)

Year	Production
1998-99	129.12
1999-2000	134.21
2000-2001*	129.45
2001-2002 (Kharif)**	114.63

*Fourth advance estimates as on 29.6.2001

**First advance estimates as on 28.9.2001

(b) The major paddy producing States in the country are West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Punjab, Bihar, Tamil Nadu, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Assam, Karnataka, Haryana, Maharashtra and Gujarat.

(c) The information on area under high yielding paddy variety is not maintained. However, the total area under paddy in Andaman and Nicobar Islands was 12.2 thousand hectares during each of the year 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000.

(d) There is a long-term upward trend in the total cultivated area under paddy in the country, albeit with minor fluctuations. The area under paddy cultivation has increased from 42.69 million hectares in 1990.91 to 44.97 million hectares in 1999-2000.

Flight Operated on International Routes by Air India

3185. YOGI ADITYA NATH : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the names of countries for which the Air India is operating its flights;

(b) the details of flights out of them operated from Delhi;

(c) whether the Government propose to operate flights for other countries also; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN) : (a) Air India at present is operating to 26 countries both physically and/or through code shares/joint ventures. The countries are Abu Dhabi, Bahrain, Holland, Thailand, Germany, USA, Denmark, Saudi Arabia, Tanzania, Qatar, Dubai, Switzerland, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Malaysia, Kuwait, UK, Mauritius, Oman, Kenya, Japan, France, South Korea, Russian Federation, Singapore and Austria.

(b) Air India operates 89 flights per week ex-Delhi to USA, Canada, United Kingdom, Europe, Russian Federation, Maritius, Gulf and Middle East, Thailand, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Japan, South Korea, Singapore, Kenya and Tanzania.

(c) and (d) At present, traffic rights are available to Air India in 97 countries for operating air services. However, actual operations depend on airline's commercial judgement.

[English]

**Development of National Parks/
Sanctuaries**

3186. SHRI SAHIB SINGH : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of National Zoological Parks and Sanctuaries in the country, State-wise;

(b) the details of the physical, social, economic and ecological infrastructure facilities in each of them;

(c) whether these are inter-connected by networking;

(d) if not, whether there is a plan to connect them by networking and if so, the details thereof;

(e) the number of tourists visited these parks and sanctuaries during each of the last five years; and

(f) the steps taken for increasing the occupancy rate?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) State-wise list of the National Parks, Wildlife Sanctuaries and Recognised Zoos in the country is enclosed as statement.

(b) The National Parks and Sanctuaries have basic infrastructure for protection and conservation of wildlife and its habitat. The Central Government provides funding for achieving these objectives through centrally sponsored schemes, 'Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries'

'Project Tiger' and 'Project Elephant'. For Socio-economical objectives the Government of India is also implementing a separate scheme "Eco-development around National Parks and Sanctuaries including Tiger Reserves"

(c) and (d) Major National Parks and Sanctuaries particularly those covered by 'Project Tiger' have internet linkages.

(e) and (f) Statistics relating to number of tourists visiting the National Parks and Sanctuaries is not collated and compiled by the Government of India. However the trends indicate that the number of visitors in many National Parks and Sanctuaries has gone beyond their carrying capacity and steps to regulate the number of tourists have been taken in such National Parks and Sanctuaries. Wider publicity is being made for lesser known National Parks and Sanctuaries so that the pressure of visitors on popular National Parks and Sanctuaries is minimized.

Statement

*State-wise list of National Parks, Sanctuaries and
Recognised Zoos*

S. No.	State	National Park	Sanctuaries	Recognised Zoos
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andaman	9	96	1
2.	Andhra Pradesh	4	21	18
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	2	11	3
4.	Assam	5	15	1
5.	Bihar	1	11	1
6.	Chandigarh	0	2	0
7.	Chattisgarh	3	10	2
8.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0	1	1
9.	Daman and Diu	0	1	1
10.	Delhi	0	2	2
11.	Goa	1	6	1
12.	Gujarat	4	21	9
13.	Haryana	1	9	4
14.	Himachal Pradesh	2	32	6
15.	Jammu and Kashmir	4	16	0

1	2	3	4	5
16.	Jharkhand	1	10	6
17.	Karnataka	5	21	16
18.	Kerala	3	12	7
19.	Lakshwadweep	0	1	0
20.	Madhya Pradesh	9	25	6
21.	Maharashtra	5	33	18
22.	Manipur	1	5	1
23.	Meghalaya	2	3	1
24.	Mizoram	2	5	2
25.	Nagaland	1	3	1
26.	Orissa	2	18	8
27.	Punjab	0	10	5
28.	Rajasthan	4	24	7
29.	Sikkim	1	5	2
30.	Tamil Nadu	5	20	12
31.	Tripura	0	4	2
32.	Uttar Pradesh	1	23	15
33.	Uttaranchal	6	6	5
34.	West Bengal	5	15	13
Total		89	497	177

[Translation]

Support Price of Crop

3187. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI :
SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Madhya Pradesh has requested the Union Government of announce support price for the linseed crop;

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

(c) the reasons for delay in taking a decision ?

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

(a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The proposal of the State Government of Madhya Pradesh for fixing the Minimum support price (MSP) of linseed was received and examined. Since the production of linseed is localized in nature and the MSP is fixed for commodities having all India importance in terms of area and production, it has not been feasible to agree to the proposal.

[English]

Backlog of Reserved Vacancies

3188. SHRI A.K.S. VIJAYAN :
SHRI BHAN SINGH BHAURA :

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether backlog/carried forward vacancies reserved for SCs/STs and OBCs are required to be treated as a 'separate and distinct group' as provided under Article 16(4) B of the Constitution to overcome 50% ceiling limit on vacancies to be reserved in a year;

(b) if so, indicate backlog/carried forward vacancies ascertained as per para 5 of the DOPT OM No. 36012/2/96-Estt. (Res.) dated July 2, 1997 in respect of (1) SCs, (2) STs and OBCs in Group A, B, C and D Categories of services as on August 29, 1997 in his Ministry when Special Recruitment Drives etc. meant for filling such vacancies were stopped; and

(c) the details of such backlog vacancies filled during the last four years and those which remain unfilled as per 'post based roster' ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN) : (a) to (c) Information is being collected and would be placed at the table of the House.

[Translation]

Central Regional Scheme to Recharge Ground Water

3189. SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI :
SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI :

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have formulated any Central Regional Scheme in regard to recharging of ground water resources;

(b) if so, the projects under which this scheme is being implemented; State-wise; and

(c) the details of funds allotted to each project ?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI ARJUN SETHI) : (a) Yes, Sir. The Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) under the Ministry of Water Resources is implementing a pilot Central Sector Scheme on "Studies on Artificial Recharge of Ground Water" in different States in co-ordination with concerned State Government agencies.

The Government have earmarked funds amounting to Rs. 25.00 crore for the scheme during the IX Five Year Plan.

(b) and (c) State-wise details of the proposals approved under the scheme are given in enclosed Statement.

Statement

State-wise details of approved proposals under the Central Sector Scheme "Studies of Recharge to Ground Water"

State/Union Territories	Name of the Proposal	Approved cost (Rs. in lakh)
1	2	3
Andhra Pradesh	1. Scheme proposed for artificial recharge of ground water in Abhangapatnam village, Koilkonda Mandal Mahaboobnagar district, Andhra Pradesh	2.50
	2. Scheme proposal for artificial recharge of ground water in Malkapur village, Koilkonda Mandal, Mahboobnagar district, Andhra Pradesh	2.75
	3. Scheme proposal for artificial recharge of ground water in Ananthpur village, Koilkonda Mandal, Mahboobnagar district, Andhra Pradesh	2.40
	4. Scheme proposal for artificial recharge of ground water in Kesahvapur village, Koilkonda Mandal, Mahboobnagar district, Andhra Pradesh	2.20
	5. Scheme proposal for artificial recharge of ground water in Mallapur village, Koilkonda Mandal, Mahboobnagar district, Andhra Pradesh	2.90
	6. Project for conservation of water conservation at Khammam district, Andhra Pradesh	30.00
	7. Scheme proposal for Artificial recharge of ground water in Bora Banda Wadika Thimmannapally H/O Revelly Village, Midjil Mandal, Mahboobnagar District, Andhra Pradesh	3.00
	8. Scheme proposal for Artificial recharge of ground water in Tekula Kunta Wadika Thimmannapally H/O Revelly Village, Midjil Mandal, Mahboobnagar District, Andhra Pradesh	4.30
	9. Scheme proposal for Artificial recharge of ground water in Mondoni Kunta Wadika Thimmannapally H/O Revelly Village, Midjil Mandal, Mahboobnagar District, Andhra Pradesh.	1.75
	10. Scheme proposal for Artificial recharge of ground water in Revelly Village, Midjil Mandal, Mahboobnagar District, Andhra Pradesh. SY No. 62, check dam across yatakirosi Chelka Wadika of 2nd order of stream.	2.75
Assam	1. Rain water harvesting in selected areas of Sonapur Block and Guwahati Area of Kamrup district, Assam.	63.50
Bihar	1. Project proposal for artificial recharge ground water in Patna University Campus, Patna, Bihar.	5.84

1	2	3
	2. Rain water harvesting at combined building, Bhagalpur, Patna, Bihar	4.99
	3. Rain water harvesting at Jawahar Lal Nehru Medical College building, Bhagalpur, Patna, Bihar	4.89
	4. Project for artificial recharge from Bal Ganga Nala, Rajgir Hill, Navada district, Bihar.	4.68
Delhi	1. Scheme for Artificial recharge to ground water at Deen Dayal Upadhyay Hospital, New Delhi.	4.55
	2. Artificial recharge scheme in park of D-Block, Vasant Vihar, New Delhi.	5.60
	3. Artificial recharge Scheme for President Estate, New Delhi.	12.73
	4. Artificial recharge to ground water in Kushak Nala, New Delhi.	3.32
	5. Artificial recharge to ground water in Lodi Garden, New Delhi.	5.37
	6. Scheme for rain water harvesting in Shram Shakti Bhawan, New Delhi.	4.10
	7. Scheme for artificial recharge to ground water at Prime Minister's office, South Block, New Delhi.	5.50
	8. Scheme for artificial recharge to ground water at Vayusenabad, Air force station, Tughlakabad, New Delhi.	5.41
	9. Scheme for Artificial Recharge to Ground water at Tuglak Lane and surrounding area's, New Delhi.	9.36
	10. Artificial recharge Scheme to ground water at Safdergunj Hospital New Delhi	8.23
	11. Scheme for Artificial Recharge to Ground water at Meera Bal Polytechnic Campus, Mahrani Bag, New Delhi.	1.76
	12. Scheme for artificial recharge to ground water at 5, Janpath Road, New Delhi.	0.60
	13. Scheme for artificial recharge to ground water at group housing for abhiyan CGHS Ltd. Plot-15, Sector-12, Dwarka, New Delhi.	0.85
	14. Artificial recharge to ground water at Sultangarhi tomb, New Delhi.	6.00
	15. Artificial recharge to ground water to Ryan international School, Sector-C Pocket-8, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi.	2.45
	16. Scheme for Artificial recharge to ground water at DTC Central Workshop-II, Okhla, New Delhi.	6.80
Gujarat	1. Central Sector Scheme for Roof top Harvesting of Rain water at Gujarat High Court Building, Sola, Ahmedabad, Gujarat.	10.30
	2. Proposal for rain water harvesting scheme – IFFCO Residential colony Kasturinagar IFFCO – Sertha, District Gandhinagar, Gujarat.	6.75
	3. Central Sector Scheme for Rain water Harvesting at Physical Research Laboratory, Ahmedabad, Gujarat.	3.00

1	2	3
Haryana	1. Scheme for artificial recharge to ground water from Brahm sarovar, Kurukshetra town, Haryana.	9.56
	2. Scheme for Artificial Recharge through Shafts in depressions of district Kurukshetra, Haryana.	21.26
	3. Scheme for Artificial Recharge through Roof Top Rain Water Harvesting in DC office, Faridabad Haryana.	1.70
	4. Scheme for artificial recharge in National Security Guard Campus, Manesar, Haryana.	7.02
	5. Scheme for artificial recharge to ground water through link channel of Hasanpur distributary at Hamidpur bund, Mahendergarh district, Haryan.	29.41
	6. Scheme for artificial recharge to ground water through escape water of JLN canal at Deroli-Ahir Mahendergarh district, Haryana.	23.30
	7. Scheme for artificial recharge to ground water through water in depression in district Panipat, Haryana.	16.96
	8. Scheme for artificial recharge to ground water from Markanda river in Shahabad block, district Kurukshetra, Haryana.	27.91
	9. Scheme for artificial recharge to ground water at Aravalli view Rail Vihar, Sector-6, Gurgaon.	4.27
	10. Artificial recharge to ground water at Gwal Pahari, Gurgaon.	6.35
Himachal Pradesh	1. Pilot scheme for roof top rain water harvesting to recharge ground water in the premises of Executive Engineer, IPH division, Indora, Kangra.	1.99
	2. Scheme for irrigation and artificial recharge through check dam on nallah at village Chalokhar, Hamirpur district, Himachal Pradesh.	6.50
	3. Pilot scheme for artificial recharge through check dam on Bhatti nala in Kathog (Kunli) village, Kangra district, Himachal Pradesh.	11.21
	4. Pilot scheme for roof top rainfall harvesting to recharge ground water in Palanpur town district Kangra, Himachal Pradesh	2.05
	5. Pilot Scheme for artificial recharge through check dam cum ground water dam in Nakar Khad village Renta Dhawala tehsil Dehra, district Kangra, Himachal Pradesh.	24.14
	6. Check dam on Suhal Nallah in village Adhwani in Dehra tehsil, Kandra district. Himachal Pradesh.	35.76
Jammu and Kashmir	1. Artificial recharge to ground water at Sunghwal in Kandi belt, Jammu district, Jammu and Kashmir.	39.60
	2. Scheme for Roof Top Rain Water Harvesting at Nirman Bhawan, Panama Chowk, Jammu	5.30
	3. Scheme for Roof Top Rain Water Harvesting at Airport Building, Satvari, Jammu.	5.00

1	2	3
	4. Scheme for artificial recharge to ground water at Dewal in Bilawar Tehsil, Kathua, Jammu.	20.00
	5. Roof top rain water harvesting at Government higher Secondary School Bhalwal, District Kathua, Jammu and Kashmir.	9.40
	6. Scheme for artificial recharge to ground water at Bhalwal village in Kathua district, Jammu and Kashmir.	11.53
	7. Artificial recharge project -- Jammu action plan for project design and implementation of roof top rain water harvesting at Bhalwal district, Jammu (Jammu and Kashmir)	3.00
	8. Artificial recharge project – Jammu action plan for project design and implementation of rood top rain water harvesting at Government women college, Gandhi Nagar, Jammu (Jammu and Kashmir)	6.24
	9. Rooftop rainwater harvesting for Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Udampur district, Jammu and Kashmir State	20.00
Jharkhand	1. Artificial recharge from Kadma Nala at Karma Nala, Block Shikaripara, District Dumka, Patna, Bihar.	3.53
	2. Artificial recharge from Pusaro Nala at Nakti Village, Dumka, Patna, Bihar	4.10
	3. Artificial recharge from Brahmani Nala at Manjhaiara, Dumka, Patna, Bihar.	3.68
	4. Artificial recharge from Tepra Nala at Jermundi Block, Dumka, Patna, Bihar.	3.39
	5. Proposal for roof top rain water harvesting in the office building of Central Horticulture (Indian Institute of Horticulture Research, Ranchi), Patna, Bihar.	6.74
	6. Project proposal for roof top rain water harvesting for Engineers line cantonment area, Ranchi, Bihar	6.60
		-
Karnataka	1. Artificial Recharge in Bangalore University Campus" Karnatak.	13.75
Kerala	1. Scheme for construction of subsurface dyke at Ayilam in Trivandrum district, Kerala	6.25
	2. Recharge well at Printhanam, Kerala (Artificial recharge structure in part of Kottayam district, Kerala	1.80
	3. Percolation tank at Chirakulam, Kerala (Artificial recharge structure in part of Kottayam district, Kerala	7.70
	4. Check dam with tidal regulator at Ayandikadayu, Chirayinkil Trivandrum district, Kerala	15.00
	5. Scheme for artificial recharge structure at Bangalamkulam in Kasargad district, Kerala	1.55
	6. Scheme proposal for artificial recharge to ground water at Chunnambukalthodu, in Palghat district, Kerala	17.32
	7. Scheme for artificial recharge structure at Kadapallam in Kasargad district, Kerala State.	6.00

1	2	3
	8. Scheme proposal for roof water harvesting in Mayyil Colony. Taliparamba taluk, Kannur, Kerala	1.80
	9. Scheme proposal for recharge to ground water at navai Academy, Ezhimala taluk, Kannur, Kerala	10.20
Madhya Pradesh	1. Scheme for construction of percolation tank in sikheri village, District Mandsaur, Madhya Pradesh	8.27
	2. Pilot project for ground water recharge through Roof Top Rain water harvesting in Narmada Water Supply, PHED Colony, Musakhedi, Indore	6.94
	3. Conservation and artificial recharge of ground water in Tumar watershed, Mandsaur block, Mandsaur district, Madhya Pradesh	23.48
	4. Scheme for roof top rain water harvesting for Dewas City, Dewas district, Madhya Pradesh	6.00
	5. Artificial recharge to ground water in Dewas district, Madhya Pradesh	9.16
Maharashtra	1. Artificial recharge to ground water in Watershed TE-11 of Jalgaon district, Maharashtra	74.33
	2. Roof top rain water harvesting at Panchanyat Samiti Office premises, Warud District Amravati, Maharashtra	0.80
	3. Roof top rain water harvesting in KITS campus, Ramtek, Maharashtra	1.50
Meghalaya	1. Scheme for roof top rain water harvesting in Shillong city, Meghalaya	20.32
Mizoram	1. Scheme for roof top rain water harvesting in Mizoram	28.00
Nagaland	1. Project for rooftop rain water conservation for multipurpose use in Kohima and Mokokchung townships, Nagaland	70.00
	2. Roof top rain water harvesting and storage in Rengma Area in Nagaland	10.96
Orissa	1. Pilot scheme to arrest salinity ingress through ground water recharge in Bhadrak, Kendrapara and Puri districts of Orissa	592.00
	2. Scheme of rain water harvesting/roof top rain water harvesting in Raj Bhawan Area, Bhubhaneshwar	13.50
	3. Arresting salinity ingress and ground water recharge in Chandbali and Basudevapur blocks of Bhadrak Orissa	647.00
Punjab	1. Scheme for Recharge of sarovar water in Golden Temple, area, Amritsar, Punjab	9.75
	2. Pilot Scheme for Roof Top Rain water harvesting to recharge ground water in Kheti Bhavan, Amritsar town, Punjab	1.00
	3. Scheme for Artificial Recharge to Ground Water from Dhuri Link Drain in Dhuri Block, District Sangrur, Punjab	34.20
	4. Pilot project for Artificial Recharge to Ground Water from Village Pond in Village Issru, Khanna Block, District Ludhiana, Punjab	1.55

1	2	3
	5. Artificial recharge scheme to ground water from Bist Doab canal system in Nurmahal area, district Jalandhar, Punjab	11.62
	6. Artificial recharge scheme to ground water from Dhuri drain in Sangrur district, Punjab	39.10
	7. Pilot project for artificial recharge from Choe No 1 Bhakhara Main Line Canal near village Dhanetha Samana Block, Patiala, Punjab	11.57
	8. Pilot study for artificial recharge to ground water from Bassain drain in Moga district, Punjab	29.35
	9. Pilot study for artificial recharge to ground water from Sirhind Choe in Patiala district, Punjab	30.35
	10. Scheme for artificial recharge to ground water from existing and new rain water harvesting structures, Village Parol Naggal, Block Majri, Tehsil Kharar, District Ropar, Punjab	19.26
	11. Scheme for artificial recharge to ground water by utilising water of existing water harvesting structures (Low dams), Village Chhoti Bari Naggal, Majri Block, Tehsil Kharar, District Ropar, Punjab	17.80
	12. Scheme for artificial recharge to ground water harvesting rain water in Low dam village Majra, Block Majri, Tehsil Kharar, District Ropar, Punjab	27.85
Rajasthan	1. Scheme for construction of subsurface barriers (SSB) at Makhar and Bhagoli village on Kantli river, District Jhunjhunu, Rajasthan	14.50
	2. Scheme for construction of roof top/pavement rain water harvesting structures for artificial recharge in the office building of CGWB Western Region Jaipur	3.96
	3. Roof top/pavement rain water run off harvesting at sinchal Bhawan Jaipur	4.90
	4. Roof top rain water harvesting at Chief Minister's residence Jaipur	5.70
	5. Rooftop rain water harvesting at Governor house, Raj Bhavan Jaipur	5.10
	6. Roof top/pavement rain water run off harvesting structures at Rajasthan High Court Jaipur	3.80
	7. Roof top/pavement rain water run off harvesting structures at State Secretriate (part-I and part-II), Jaipur	4.80
	8. Roof top runoff harvesting artificial recharge structures part of Institutional building of MREC. Jaipur	2.10
	9. Roof top/pavement rain water runoff harvesting at Vitta Bhavan, Jaipur, Rajasthan	3.90
	10. Roof top/pavement rain water runoff harvesting at Reserve Bank of India Ram Bagh Circle, Jaipur, Rajasthan	4.02
	11. Roof top rain water harvesting structure at ground water department building premises. Jaipur, Rajasthan	3.00

1	2	3
	12. Concept plan for project design and implementation of Roof Top/Pavement Rain Water Run-off harvesting structures at officers training school (OTS, Nehru Bhawan), Jaipur, Rajasthan	11.11
	13. Artificial recharge at College of Technology and Engineering, (CTAE), Udaipur, Rajasthan	4.50
Tamil Nadu	1. Scheme for construction of subsurface dyke for Artificial recharge/Ground water conservation Nailan Pillai petral of Gingee block, Gingee village, Villupuram district, Tamil Nadu	8.00
	2. Construction of percolation pond at Narasipuram, Alandurai watershed, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu	9.90
	3. Construction of percolation pond at Vadipalayam village, Tiruppur Taluk, Coimbatore district, Tamil Nadu	9.50
	4. Augmentation of ground water through artificial recharge in Vanur Watershed Villupuram district, Tamil Nadu	132.93
	5. Construction of a water harvesting structure at 240 Thondamuthur, Coimbatore Tamil Nadu	9.20
	6. Formation of a pond in Kosavampalayam village near Arasur in Udumalpet Taluk Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu	13.50
	7. Reconsideration of modified scheme on Revitalisation of a percolation pond at Vadapatti village, Virudhunagar district, Tamil Nadu	6.51
	8. Scheme for artificial recharge to ground water in Central Leather Research Institute Chennai, Tamil Nadu	8.97
Uttaranchal	1. Scheme for Artificial Recharge in Thano Micro watershed at Ramnagar Danda, Thano Reserved Forest, Doiwala Block District Dehradun	2.00
Uttar Pradesh	1. Scheme for Artificial Recharge to Ground Water in Chogawan Area, District Bagpat (Uttar Pradesh)	8.50
	2. Project proposal for artificial recharge by roof top rain water harvesting at Bhujal Bhavan, Lucknow	3.77
	3. Project proposal for artificial recharge by roof top rain water harvesting at New Lucknow University Campus, Jankipuram, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh	1.97
	4. Project proposal for artificial recharge by roof top rain water harvesting at Jal Nigam Colony, Indira Nagar, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh	1.97
	5. Scheme for artificial recharge to ground water through storm water run off in Aligarh City, U.P.	32.76
West Bengal	1. Scheme for Artificial Recharge by Recasting of Channel from Chetua to Jamuna, Pandua Block, District Hoogly, West Bengal	8.79
	2. Artificial Recharge at Khatara Bangar (Kankana Bangar) Over-Developed and Arsenic affected area, parts of Swarup Nagar and Gaighat Blocks. District North 24-Parganas, West Bengal	38.78

1	2	3
	3. Integrated Approach of Artificial Recharge of Ground Water for Improvement in the Watershed management in the water scarce area of Purulia District. West Bengal	60.44
	4. Experimental studies for removal of Arsenic from contaminated ground water in Joypur Village, Barasat I block, North 24 Parganas, West Bengal	7.36
	5. Study of artificial recharge in different ground water conditions for improvement of watershed management in Midnapore district in the State of West Bengal	33.32
	6. A pilot project study to evaluate the effect of Roof top rain water harvesting on ground water resource of Salt lake city, West Bengal	10.83
	7. A pilot study of evaluate the effect of Roof top rain water harvesting on Ground water resources (unconfined shallow aquifer) of Visva Bharati Area, Bolpur, West Bengal	7.65
	8. Roof top rain water harvesting at Baishnabghatapatuli office campus, Calcutta	10.65
Chandigarh	1. Artificial recharge to ground water under central sector scheme in Punjab University, Chandigarh	2.79
	2. Scheme for Artificial recharge to ground water in Shantikunj area sector-16 (Leisure Valley) Chandigarh	14.31
	3. Scheme for roof top rain water harvesting at Bhujal bhawan Chandigarh	3.74
	4. Scheme for Artificial recharge to ground water at office of Chandigarh housing board in Sector 9, Chandigarh	11.47
	5. Scheme for Rain water harvesting at DAV School in Sector 8, Chandigarh	9.41
	6. Scheme for Artificial recharge to ground water at Technical Teacher Training Institute, Sector 26, Chandigarh	12.13
	7. Scheme for utilising surplus water monsoon runoff for sector 26,27,19, 30,20, Chandigarh	10.38

[English]

Remunerative Price to Farmers

3190. SHRI K. MURALEEDHARAN :
 SHRI V.S. SIVAKUMAR :
 SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA :
 SHRI NAMDEO HARBAJI DIWATHE :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether condition of farmers has turned worst due to fall in price and in the absence of getting

remunerative price for the agricultural produce in the country particularly in Kerala;

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

(c) whether the Government have formulated any policy to check the rising prices of implements used in the agriculture;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps being taken/proposed to be taken to lower the cost of farming and increase remunerative price of agricultural produce to improve the condition of the farmers of the country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) and (b) The wholesale prices of certain agricultural commodities are ruling below the minimum support prices (MSPs) at some selected centres of the country including Kerala. Information about losses to farmers is not maintained. However, the farmers' income, which is reflected in Gross Value Addition (GVA) in Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, Forestry and Fishing has increased from Rs. 269383 Crores in 1997-98 to Rs. 290895 Crores in 2000-01 at constant prices.

(c) and (d) There is no statutory control on the prices of agricultural implements and these are determined by market forces,

(e) The Government has taken several steps for increasing the productivity of different crops so as to ensure higher incomes to the farmers. The yield of rice and wheat has increased by 10.7% and 20.2% respectively over the last decade. Moreover, the MSPs of major agricultural commodities have been raised substantially over the years.

Development of Cattle Farms

3191. SHRI THIRUNAVUKARASU : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the amount allocated for development of cattle farms and cattle rearing centres and research institutes in the country during the last three years, State-wise; and

(b) the steps taken by the Government to develop said farms, centres and institutes in the country particularly in Tamil Nadu ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) While assistance is provided to States to improve their breeding infrastructure, there is no specific allocation for cattle farms and cattle rearing-centers. However development of State cattle and buffalo breeding farms is an eligible component under centrally sponsored schemes. The amount released for cattle farms/cattle rearing centers including gaushalas and allocation made for Research Institute are given in statement enclosed.

(b) The recently launched National Project for Cattle and Buffalo Breeding has provision for strengthening of farms and Cattle rearing centres. State Government of Tamil Nadu has been requested to participate in the Project. An appropriate proposal in conformity with the guidelines is awaited.

Statement

(Rs. Lakh)

State/UT*	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-2001
Arunachal Pradesh	—	10.00	10.00
Hayana	787.00	800.00	945.00
Karnataka	213.69	300.82	215.65
Kerala	—	12.00	—
Mizoram	—	10.00	—
Orissa	311.20	405.28	332.44
Punjab	—	—	75.00
Rajasthan	120.86	143.29	170.61
Tamil Nadu	—	20.00	—
Uttar Pradesh	950.03	1098.12	1188.26
Total	4281.78	2798.51	2935.96

*Amount includes funds provided to Central Cattle Farms and Indian Council of Agriculture Research units located in the States.

[Translation]

Poaching of Animals

3192. SHRI UTTAMRAO PATIL :
SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR :

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

(a) whether the incidents of poaching of tigers, elephants and other endangered animals are on the verge of increase in various States for the last three years;

(b) if so, the details of such instances noticed by the Government during the said period, State-wise;

(c) the details of cases registered and pending disposal as on September 30, 2001, State-wise;

(d) whether the Government propose to provide additional assistance to check the incidents of poaching and if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the details of effective steps taken/proposed to be taken to curb this menace ?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) and (b) Seizure made by the enforcement agencies in the recent past indicate that there has been a recent spurt in poaching and illegal trade of wildlife and its products. The details of total quantity of wildlife material seized all over the country are not maintained at the level of Central Government. Details of important seizures made during last three years along with number of persons arrested is in statement-I.

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

(d) The Central Government provides assistance to the State Governments on the basis of the proposals received from time to time subject to the availability of funds.

(e) The steps taken by the Government to curb the poaching of wild animals is given in statement-II.

Statement-I

The details of important seizure along with number of persons arrested

S.No.	Case detected	Date	Persons arrested and action taken
1.	Seizure of 3 nos. of tiger skins, 50 nos. of leopard skins and 5 nos. of otter skins at Sahibabad, Uttar Pradesh	18.12.1999	8 nos. of offenders arrested. Complaint filed in the Court.
2.	Seizure of 4 nos. of tiger skins, 70 nos. of leopard skins, 18000 nos. of leopard claws, 132 nos. of tiger claws and 221 nos. of black buck skins at Khaga	12.1.2000	6 nos. of offenders arrested. Complaint filed in the Court.
3.	Seizure of 50 nos. of leopard skins and 15 otter skins at Haldwani	6.5.2000	No person arrested. Legal action initiated by CBI
4.	Seizure of 30 nos. of leopard skins at Haldwani	21.5.2000	No person arrested. Legal action initiated by CBI
5.	Seizure of 1757 nos. of snake skins by Wildlife Regional Office, Chennai	12.6.2000	3 offenders were arrested. The case is in the Court.
6.	Seizure of 2000 skins of Cobra, Russel viper and other snakes near Kumbakonam in Tamii Nadu by Wildlife Regional Office, Chennai	13.6.2000	5 persons were arrested. The case is in the Court.
7.	Seizure of 70 shawls, 26 pure shahtoosh and 44 suspected shahtoosh shawls at Delhi	2.2.2001	2 nos. of offenders arrested. Legal action initiated by CBI
8.	Seizure of 1 nos. of tiger skin, 5 nos. of tiger skulls, 10 nos. of tiger claws, 23 kgs. of tiger bones, 3 nos. of tiger teeth and 4 nos. of leopard skins at Nagpur	21.3.2001	6 offenders were arrested. Legal action initiated by CBI

Statement-II

(1) Steps taken at the State level :

- (i) Legal protection has been provided to wild animals against hunting and commercial exploitation under the provisions of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.
- (ii) State level and District level coordination committees have been set up in several States to prevent poaching and illegal trade in wildlife.

(2) Steps taken at National level

- (i) Government of India has set up Regional and Sub-regional Offices for wildlife preservation in major export and trade centres of the country to prevent smuggling of wild animals and their products.
- (ii) Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has been empowered under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 to apprehend and prosecute wildlife

offenders. Anti poaching efforts are being coordinated with INTERPOL.

- (iii) Financial and technical help is being extended to the States under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes, viz. Project Tiger, Project Elephant, Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries and Eco-development around Protected Areas for enhancing the capacity and infrastructure of the States for providing effective protection to wild animals. Financial assistance is, in particular, being provided for raising 'Strike Forces' and providing arms to the protection staff for combating the organised poachers. Assistance is also provided for giving rewards to the informers for eliciting information about poachers and smugglers.
- (iv) A Special Coordination and Enforcement Committee has been set up under the chairmanship of Secretary, Environment and Forests, Government of India, for control of poaching and illegal trade in wildlife.
- (v) Export of wild animals and their derivatives is prohibited under EXIM Policy.
- (vi) A National Conference of Forests and Environment Ministers of State Government was held on 29th and 30th January, 2001. It was resolved to organise existing protection staff into viable formations for effective control of poaching and to create enforcement infrastructure both within and out side protected areas.
- (vii) Ministry of Home Affairs has written to all the State Governments to lend a helping hand to the field formations to curb poaching and illegal trade in wildlife.
- (viii) To check alienation of the local communities due to wildlife depredation, the Central Government gives compensation to the extent of Rs. 1 lakh to the kith and kin of the persons killed by the wild animals.
- (ix) A meeting of Tiger Enforcement Task Force of CITES was organized during April, 2001 in Delhi to work out a strategy for controlling illegal trade in tiger parts and products.

(3) Steps taken at International level

- (i) Government of India seeks international co-operation under the provisions of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of

Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES) for control of illegal trade in wildlife items.

- (ii) To control transboundary trade a protocol has been signed with People's Republic of China and a MOU has been signed with His Majesty's Government of Nepal.
- (iii) A Global Tiger Forum of Tiger Range Countries has been created for addressing international issues related to Tiger Conservation.

[English]

Training to Farmers

3193. SHRI G. GANGA REDDY : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether Netherlands propose to train 4800 women farmers of Andhra Pradesh to boost agriculture in the State;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether similar programmes and on-farm extension demonstrations are likely to be extended to other States; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) and (b) About 34,000 women farmers from small and marginal households are proposed to be trained during five years under "Andhra Pradesh Training of Women in Agriculture and Allied Sectors" (ANTWA-Phase II) with the assistance of Government of Netherlands to enhance awareness and skill for sustainable agriculture and alternate income-earning opportunities and value addition in agri-products.

(c) and (d) Government of Netherlands have been providing assistance for implementation of "Training of Women in Agriculture" (TWA-Phase-II) in twelve districts of Gujarat and in 12 districts of Andhra Pradesh under "Andhra Pradesh Training of women in Agriculture and Allied Sectors" (ANTWA-Phase II). At present there is no new proposal for extending the programme to other States.

Regulatory Authority for Remunerative Price

3194. SHRI PRABODH PANDA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government propose to set up a regulatory authority to ensure the remunerative price of Jute, Paddy, Potato and Onion in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the said regulatory authority is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (c) (c) There is no proposal before the Government to set up a regulatory authority. However, under the Scheme of Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) being implemented by the Government, nodal agencies like Food Corporation of India, Jute Corporation of India, etc. have been set up to ensure remunerative prices to the farmers through market intervention, whenever required. For horticulture crops like potato and onion and also certain minor crops, the Government is implementing the Market Intervention Scheme (MIS). The Scheme is implemented for a particular commodity on the request of the State Government (s), and under the scheme the States are required to bear 50 per cent of losses (25 per cent in case of North-Eastern States), if any.

SCs/STs/OBCs in Services

3195. SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL :
SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE :

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the representation of SCs and STs in Class I (Group-A) services stood only at 13.59% (SCs -10.38% and ST - 3.21%) and in Class II (Group-B) services only 14.41% (SCs - 11.73% and STs - 2.68%) as against 22.5% quota prescribed for them (15% for SCs and 7.5% in respect of ST) as on 1/1/1998 under the Government;

(b) if so, the total number of posts in (i) Class I (Group-A) and (ii) Class II (Group-B) categories and equivalents under his Ministry; and)

(c) the number of persons belonging to (i) General, (ii) SC (iii) ST and (iv) OBC categories working against them including their respective percentage to such posts as ascertained in view of instructions as contained under para 5 of DOPT OM No. 36012/2/96-Estt. (Res) dated 2nd July 1997 ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN) : (a) No, Sir. The representation of SCs and STs as on 1.1.1998 under Central Government in Group A Services was 14.24% (SCs -10.8% and STs - 3.44%) and in Group B Services it was 15.37% (SCs - 12.35% and STs - 3.02%).

(b) The total number of posts in (i) Class I (Group-A) and Class II (Group-B) Categories and equivalents in Department of Tourism is as follows :-

	Total Sanctioned Posts	
Class I (Group A)	-	52
Class II (Group B)	-	117

(c) The number of persons belonging to (i) General (ii) SC (iii) ST and (iv) OBC Categories working against the sanctioned posts of (i) Class I (Group-A) and (ii) Class II (Group-B) including their respective percentage to such posts as ascertained in view of instructions as contained under para 5 of DOPT OM No. 36012/2/96-Estt. (Res.) dated 2nd July, 1997 is as under :-

	General	SC	ST	OBC	Total
Class I (Group) A-	42 (80.76%)	07 (13.46%)	02 (3.85%)	01 (1.92%)	52
Class II (Group) B-	78 (68.42%)	22 (19.29%)	08 (7.02%)	06 (5.26%)	114*

* (3 Posts of Group-B Gazetted are vacant)

Fodder and Fodder Seed Production

3196. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government had spent huge amounts on projects to achieve target for fodder and fodder seed production and the projects are yet to be made functional;

(b) if so, the details of such projects which have not yet been made functional and the amount spent on the projects till-date;

(c) the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) Yes, Sir. There is ongoing scheme "Assistance to States for Feed and Fodder Development" under which one time grant is provided on 25% to 100% Central share basis. The implementing agency is the State Governments and the monitoring is also being done by them. Fund is released on the basis of proposals received from the States, their viability and the utilization of previous fund released to them. Besides, Central Feed and Fodder Development

Organisation comprising 7 Regional Stations for Forage Production and Demonstration, 1 Central Fodder Seed Production Farm, Hesserghatta, Bangalore, these farms are engaged in multiplication of fodder seeds and Central Minikit Testing Programme under which fodder kits are supplied to the farmers through State Governments free of cost for fodder and fodder seed production.

(b) and (c) There are four components of the scheme "Assistance to States for Feed and Fodder Development"

for which the fund is released for fodder and fodder seed production. The amount released for these components during last three years is shown in statement enclosed. Some State Governments have not furnished Fund Utilization Certificates.

(d) The monitoring of the process is being continuously done by the Government of India and the State Governments are being following up to send the Utilization Certificate for the funds released to them.

Statement

The amount released/revalidated under four components of the scheme "Assistance to States for Feed and Fodder Development" during last three years for Fodder and Fodder Seed Production

(Rs. in Lakhs)

Components/State	1998-99		1999-2000		2000-2001	
	Release	Revalidation	Release	Revalidation	Release	Revalidation
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
A. Strengthening of State farms for production of fodder seeds						
Meghalaya	30.00	—	—	30.00 *	—	—
Kerala	40.86	—	—	40.86 *	—	—
Karnatak	15.00	3.00	—	15.00	7.50 *	—
Tripura	15.00	—	—	15.00	—	—
Nagaland	—	16.00	16.00	—	—	16.00
Arunachal Pradesh	—	—	—	—	22.50 *	—
B. Fodder seed production through registered growers						
Punjab	3.33	—	—	3.33	—	3.33 *
Meghalaya	—	1.34	—	—	—	—
C. Establishment of silvipasture system for increasing biomass production.						
Mizoram	7.80	—	7.89 *	—	—	—
Kerala	30.00	—	—	30.00 *	—	—
Karnataka	30.00	—	—	11.00	25.00 *	—
Himachal Pradesh	3.00	—	—	—	3.00 (1.50)*	—
Uttar Pradesh	—	58.46	—	—	—	—

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Tamil Nadu	-	9.99		-	-	-
Sikkim	-	-	6.00	-	-	6.00
D. Development of grassland including grass reserves.						
Karnataka	30.00	-	-	14.00	25.00 *	-
Tripura	11.20	-	-	11.20	-	-
Meghalaya	-	8.40	-	-	-	-
Uttar Pradesh	-	5.60	-	-	-	-
Sikkim	-	-	5.60	-	28-00 *	5.60
Jammu and Kashmir	-	-	25.20	-	-	25.20
Gujarat	-	-	28.00	-	-	28.00 *
Orissa	-	-	56.00	-	-	56.00 *
Maharashtra	-	-	-	-	7.60 *	-
Arunachal Pradesh	-	-	-	-	7.00 *	-
Nagaland	-	-	-	-	14.00 *	-

*Utilization certificate not received.

[Translation]

Minimum Wages to Labourers

3197. SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether minimum wages fixed by the Government are not paid to their labourers by private contractors/companies;

(b) if so, whether most of the Government works are done by the private agencies and they exploit their own labourers; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken to check such tendencies ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) to (c) The Minimum Wages Act, 1948 provides for fixation, revision and enforcement of minimum wages to the workers in the scheduled employments both in Central and the State spheres. In the Central sphere the officers of the Central Industrial Relations machinery secure enforcement and in the State sphere, the State enforcement machineries ensure implementation of the Act. The officers of these machineries who are appointed as Inspectors in accordance with the procedure prescribed in the Act, conduct regular inspections of the establishments including the contractors

and direct and employers to make payment of shortfall of wages whenever any case of non-payment or less payment of minimum wages is noticed by them. There are legal and penal actions provided in the Act against the defaulting employers.

Further, the provisions of the Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1970, make the contractors responsible to pay wages to the workers before expiry of the prescribed period in the presence of the authorised representatives of the Principal Employers.

[English]

SCs/STs/OBCs in Services

3198. SHRI RAMJILAL SUMAN : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the representation of SCs and STs in Class I (Group A) Services stood only at 13.59% (SCs - 10.38% and STs - 3.21%) and in Class II (Group B) Services only 14.41% (SCs - 11.73% and STs - 2.68%) as against 22.5% quota prescribed for them (15% for SCs and 7.5% in respect of STs as on 1/1/1998 under Central Government;

(b) if so, the total number of posts in (i) Class I (Group A) Category and (ii) Class II (Group B) Category and equivalents thereof under his Ministry; and

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

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI ARJUN SETHI) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Special Component Plan

3199. SHRI PRAKASH YASHWANT AMBEDKAR : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have been implementing various schemes and programmes under Special Component Plan (SCP) and TSP since 1978 for achieving overall development of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes majority of whom live below poverty line;

(b) if so, the schemes/programmes formulated/being implemented by his Ministry under SCP and TSP for training and empowering educated unemployed youth from SC/ST community in the field of agriculture as stipulated in letter No. 280-PMO/80 dated 12.3.1980 from the Prime Minister's Office addressed to Agriculture Ministry amongst other Ministries/Organizations while commencing SCP/TSP;

(c) amount of funds requisitioned, procured and utilized by his Ministry during VIth, VIIth and Ninth Five Year Plans for such schemes/programmes; and

(d) the details of the Scheme being implemented for eradication of poverty and empowerment of SCs and STs ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) to (d) No, Sir. Department of Agriculture and Cooperation 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 therefore 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 to provide allocation/funds for Special Component Plan (SCP) for SCs and Tribal Sub Plan (TSP) for STs.

Welfare of Fishermen

3200. DR. V. SAROJA :

DR. A.D.K. JAYASEELAN :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether any demand has been received for welfare of fishermen especially in coastal areas of the country particularly in Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, whether any Law is proposed to be brought forward for their welfare and security;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Government are aware of hardships faced by Indian fishermen due to virtual stoppage of export of fish based products from Tamil Nadu; and

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

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

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

(e) and (f) There is no stoppage of export of fish from the country or even Tamil Nadu. During the period 1.4.2001 to 30.9.2001, 151620 MTs of fish and fishery products valued at Rs. 2832 crore were exported from the country. 27787 MTs of fish and fishery products valued at Rs. 1054 crore were exported during the current year from the two ports of Chennai and Tuticorin from Tamil Nadu. A series of steps aimed at further boosting of production of fish specially through aquaculture, controlling of disease outbreak and encouraging the brand name of Indian fish in the the international market have been initiated by the Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA).

Contract Labour

3201. DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Directorate of Maize Research, Pusa, under ICAR has been deploying certain categories of staff on casual/contract basis for a long-time;

(b) if so, the criteria adopted in such appointments, categories-wise;

(c) the present strength of such staff, the date since when they have been working and the details of wages/salary (with perks) being given to them, categories-wise;

(d) whether any deductions are also being made from their salaries;

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

(f) whether the Government propose to regularize the services of such staff after completion of certain length of service there; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) and (b) The Directorate of Maize Research (DMR), New Delhi does not deploys contractual staff on long-term basis. The Directorate implements a number of time bound research projects and has been engaging Research Associates/Research Fellows on contractual basis under these projects as per the requirements of research work and makes payment to them following the rates of Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR). The contractual appointments of Research Associates/Research Fellows are made initially for six months, which may be extended further on six monthly basis depending upon their work performance and requirements of work, but in no case more than the period of the project concerned.

Further, for seasonal field/lab work, work contracts are awarded as per rules for completion of identified work to the work contractor who deploys his own work force as per the terms of the contract. Service contracts are also entered into with agencies under selected projects. The payments are made by the DMR to the contractor/agency concerned under work contracts/service contracts and not to the individual staff deployed by them.

(c) There are total fourteen Research Associates/Research Fellows working under various time bound projects of this Directorate at present. Details of their wages/salary etc. being paid by the DMR are in the statement.

(d) and (e) No, except the Income Tax wherever required under rules.

(f) and (g) No, Sir. The ICAR/DMR have no liability of any kind for such contractual workers.

Statement

S. No.	Name of Research Associate/Research Fellow	Salary/Wages per month (Rs.)	Date of Appointment
1	2	3	4
1.	Dr. S.B. Singh	10,500+HRA*	23.06.1997
2.	Mrs. Priyanka Kumari	8800+HRA	18.12.1998

1	2	3	4
3.	Mr. D.K. Singh	8800+HRA	20.12.1999 to date
4.	Ms. Charu Sudan	8800+HRA	03.12.1999 to date
5.	Mr. Pradeep Kumar Rai	8800+HRA	01.04.2000
6.	Mr. R.K. Sahoo	8800+HRA	09.03.2000
7.	Ms. Sophia Rafique	8800+HRA	31.03.2000
8.	Mr. A.P. Singh	8800+HRA	07.04.2000
9.	Mr. Satya Prakash	8800+HRA	07.06.2000
10.	Mr. Shaliesh Kumar	8800+HRA	10.07.2000
11.	Mrs. Menna Mehta	8800+HRA	01.08.2001
12.	Mr. Harshvardhan Singh	8800+HRA	14.08.2001
13.	Dr. S.K. Chandel	10500+HRA	01.01.2000
14.	Ms. Anshu Garg	8800+HRA	04.09.2000

*HRA = House Rent Allowance as Admissible.

Revision of Norms of Expenditure from NCCF and CRF

3202. PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have revised the norms of expenditure from the National Calamity Contingent Fund (NCCF) and the Calamity Relief Fund (CRF);

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

(c) whether the Government have discussed the issue with the State Government before the norms were changed; 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 details are enclosed as statement.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The States of Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Orissa, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh were represented on the Expert Committee set up to review the norms of expenditure from National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF) and Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) and views of all the States were invited.

Statement*F.No.3-9/2000-NDM**Department of Agriculture and Cooperation NDM Division**Revised List of Items and Norms of Expenditure for Assistance from Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) and National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF) for the period 2000-2005*

S.No.	Items	Norms of expenditure for assistance from CRF and NCCF
1	2	3
1.	Gratuitous Relief	
(a)	Ex-Gratia payment to families of deceased persons.	Rs. 50,000/- per deceased
(b)	Ex-Gratia payment for loss of a limb or eyes.	Rs. 25,000/- per person (The Gratuitous relief for loss of limb etc., should be extended only when the disability is more than 40% and certified by a Govt. doctor or doctors from panel approved by the (Govt.)
(c)	Grievous injury requiring hospitalisation for more than a week.	Rs. 5,000/- per person
(d)	Relief for the old, infirm and destitute, children.	Rs. 20/- per adult, Rs. 10/- per child, per day
(e)	Clothing and utensils for families whose house have been washed away.	Rs. 500/- for clothing and Rs. 500/- for utensils per family
2.	Supplementary Nutrition.	Rs. 1.05 per day per head as per ICDS norms
3.	Assistance to small and marginal farmers for :-	
(a)	Desilting etc.	25% and 33-1/3% to small farmers and marginal farmers respectively on the basis of NABARD pattern subject to ceiling of Rs. 5,000/- per hectare.
(b)	Removal of debris in hill areas, and	
(c)	Desilting/Restoration/Repair of fish farms	
(d)	Agriculture input subsidy where crop loss was 50% and above.	
(i)	for agriculture crops, horticulture crops and annual plantation crops	-Rainfed areas Rs. 1000/- per hectare
(ii)	Perennial crops	-Rs. 2500/- per hectare in area with assured irrigation Rs. 4,000 per hectare
(e)	Loss of substantial portion of land caused by landslide, avalanche, change of course of rivers.	Rs. 10,000/- per hectare
4.	Employment Generation (Only to meet additional requirements after taking into account, funds available under Plan Schemes viz., JRY, IJRY, EAS, etc.)	As per Jawahar Gram Samridhi Yojana norms.

1	2	3
5.	Animal Husbandry Assistance to small and marginal farmers/agricultural labourers :-	
(a)	For replacement of draught animals, milch animals or animals for haulage or for livelihood	As per pattern of subsidy under Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana for small and marginal farmers.
(b)	For provision of fodder/fodder concentrate	Large animals – Rs. 12.00 per day Small animals – Rs. 6.00 per day
(c)	Procurement, storage and movement of fodder	To be assessed by NCCM
(d)	Movement of useful cattle to other areas	To be assessed by the NCCM for NCCF/by State level Committee for CRF
6.	Assistance to Fishermen :	
(a)	For repair/replacement of boats, nets and damaged or lost	Subsidy will be provided other equipments subject to ceilings on subsidy per family as per SGSY pattern.
	– Boat	The cost of boats will also be determined with reference to approved cost under SGSY
	– Dugout-Canoe	
	– Catamaran	
	– Nets	
(b)	Input subsidy for fish seed farm	Rs. 2,000/- per hectare
7.	Assistance to artisans in handicrafts sector by way of subsidy for repair/replacement of damaged equipments.	
(a)	Traditional Crafts	
(i)	For damaged equipments	Rs. 1,000/- per person
(ii)	For raw material	Rs. 1,000/- per person
(b)	For Handloom Weavers	
(i)	Repairs/replacement of loom equipments and accessories	Rs. 1,000/- per loom
(ii)	Purchase of yarn and other materials	Rs. 1,000/- per loom
8.	Assistance for repair/restoration of damaged houses	
(a)	Fully damaged houses	
(i)	Pucca House	Rs. 10,000/- per house
(ii)	Kuchha House	Rs. 6,000/- per house
(b)	Severely damaged houses	
(i)	Pucca House	Rs. 2,000/- per house
(ii)	Kuchha House	Rs. 1,200/- per house

1	2	3
	(c) Marginally Damaged Houses	Rs. 800/- per house
9.	Emergency supply of drinking water including transportation of drinking water in urban areas.	To be assessed by NCCM Team for NCCF/by State level committee for CRF.
10.	Provision of medicines, disinfectants, insecticides for prevention of outbreak of epidemics.	-do-
11.	Medical care for cattle and poultry against epidemics.	-do-
12.	Evacuation of people affected/likely to be affected.	-do-
13.	Hiring of boats for carrying immediate relief and saving life.	-do-
14.	Provision for temporary accommodation, food, clothing, medical care etc. of people affected/evacuated.	-do-
15.	Air dropping of essential supplies	-do-
16.	Repair/restoration of immediate nature of the damaged infrastructure relating to communication, power, public health, drinking water supply, primary education and community owned assets in the social sector.	-do-
17.	Replacement of damaged medical equipments and lost medicines of Govt. hospitals/health centres.	-do-
18.	Operational cost (Of POL only) for Ambulance Service, Mobile Medical Teams and temporary dispensaries.	-do-
19.	Cost of clearance of debris.	-do-
20.	Draining off flood water in affected area.	-do-
21.	Cost of search and rescue measures.	-do-
22.	Disposal of dead bodies/carcasses.	-do-
23.	Training to core multidisciplinary groups of the State Officers drawn from different cadres-expenditure to be met from CRF	-do-

NCCM – National Centre for Calamity Management

NCCF – National Calamity Contingency Fund

POL – Petrol, Oil and Lubricants.

**Regularisation of Workmen in Durgdha
Coal Collieries**

3203. SHRI BIKASH CHOWDHURY :
SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA :

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

(a) whether the Government have received any complaint for non-implementation of a Tribunal award in the matter of regularisation of the workmen, engaged in Durgdha Coal Collieries in Jharkhand;

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

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to implement the said award?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) Yes. Sir. A representation dated 9.6.2001 was received from Shri Baijnath Kewat, Secretary, Bihar Colliery Kamagar, Union.

(b) and (c) The award was rendered in Industrial Dispute case Reference No. 105 of 1994 on 4.1.2001 whereby the management of Bharat Coking Coal Limited was directed to regularise Shri Muslim Ansari and 52 others in its permanent employment as Mazdoor category.

The Honourable Division Bench of the Jharkhand High Court has stayed the operation of the award after admitting the Letters Patent Appeal No. 339/2001 through its order dated 12.7.2001, considering the submissions made by the Management.

Reservation of SCs/STs and OBCs

3204. SHRI RAMESH C. JIGAJINAGI : Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether backlog/carried forward vacancies reserved for SCs, STs and OBCs are required to be treated as a separate and distinct group as provided under Article 16 (4) B of the Constitution to overcome 50% ceiling limit on vacancies to be reserved in an year;

(b) if so, the details of backlog/carried forward vacancies ascertained as per para 5 of the DOPT OM No. 36012/2/96-Estt. (Res.) dated July 2, 1997 in respect of (1) SCs, (2) STs and OBCs in Group A, B, C and D categories of services as on August 29, 1997 in the Ministry of Food Processing Industries when Special Recruitment Drives etc. meant for filling such vacancies were stopped;

(c) the details of such carried forward vacancies filled during each of the last four years and those which remain unfilled; and

(d) the details of vacancies/posts accrued to reserved classes in all categories of posts during the last three years as per post based roster?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (PROF. CHAMAN LAL GUPTA) (a) As per Government Policy backlog/carried forward vacancies reserved for SCs, STs are treated as a separate and distinct group to overcome 50% ceiling limit on vacancies to be reserved in an year.

(b) The details of backlog/carried forward vacancies in respect of SCs and STs are as under as on August 1997.

Group	SC	ST
A	1	1
B	Nil	1
C	1	Nil
D	Nil	Nil

(c) All the Vacancies as mentioned in Para (b) above have been filled up. The year-wise details are as under :

Group	SC	ST
A	1999	2000
B	-	2001
C	1999	-
D	-	-

(d) The vacancies accrued before the inception of Post-based roster have been filled up as stated above. As such no backlog vacancies exist as per post-based roster.

Vacancies accruing to the reserved classes have been filled up as per Roster points in terms of the post-based Roster. However, one vacancy of SC in Group 'A' accrued in the year 2000 could not be filled up due to non-eligibility of the candidate. Proposal has been sent to fill up the post.

Losses Suffered by Air India on Haj Flights

3205. SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Air India suffered a loss of over Rs. 68.00 crores on operation of Haj chartered flights during the period 1993 to 1999;

(b) whether these flights were operated on 'No profit, No loss' basis;

(c) whether as on January 1999 Rs. 565 and 496 crores were overdue to Air India from the Government of India and the Central Haj Committee respectively;

(d) whether these overdue accounts have since been cleared;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN) : (a) Yes, Sir. The loss of Rs. 68.00 crores was towards various expenses which include "Catering on ground" and "give-aways" to the haj pilgrim as a gesture of goodwill, loss of interest on delayed payments and an ad-hoc concession of Rs. 1.00 crore given to Haj Committee. This amount could not be recovered by Air India as there was no provision for that.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The amount outstanding from the Government as on January, 1999 towards Haj-1998 was Rs. 5.65 crores and not Rs. 565 crores. Similarly the amount due from the Haj Committee as on January, 1999 was Rs. 4.96 crores and not Rs. 496 crores.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. The amount of Rs. 5.65 crores due from the Government towards Haj-1997, 1998 and 1999 has been settled. The amount of Rs. 4.96 crores due from the Haj Committee towards Haj-1995, 1996, 1997 and 1998, has also been settled.

(f) Does not arise.

Percentage of SCs, STs and OBCs in Services

3206. SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA :
SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN :
SHRI BHAN SINGH BHAURA :
SHRI A. NARENDRA :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the representation of SCs and STs in Class I (Group-A) services and in Class II (Group-B) services is very low as against 22.5% quota prescribed for them under Central Government and Central Public Sector Enterprises;

(b) if so, the total number of posts in Class I (Group-A) and Class II (Group-B) categories and equivalents thereof under the Ministry of Civil Aviation and its subordinate offices including PSUs; and

(c) the persons belonging to (i) General (ii) SC (iii) ST and (iv) OBC categories working against them including their respective percentage to such posts as ascertained in view of instructions as contained under para 5 of DOPT OM No.36012/2/96-Estt. (Res.) dated July 2, 1997 ?

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

[Translation]

Report on Water Harvesting and Flood Control

3207. SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the report has been submitted to the Union Government for water harvesting and to deal with floods;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have formulated any action plan to deal with such situation;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government expect better water harvesting after the implementation of the plan; and

(f) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI ARJUN SETHI) : (a) to (f) As per available information no such report for water harvesting has been submitted to the Union Government. However, the Central Ground Water Board constituted an internal group to undertake a study to prepare a conceptual framework for estimating the additional ground water resources that could be available by arresting the surplus monsoon run-off and storing in the sub-surface aquifer. Accordingly a conceptual framework of a National Perspective Plan for recharge to ground water by utilizing surplus monsoon run-off has been prepared. The salient features of the plan are :-

(i) In the 20 river basins in the country surplus monsoon run-off available has been estimated as 86.47 million hectare metres;

(ii) Keeping in view the present depth to water and the void space available, it would be possible to create surplus potential of 59.06 million hectares by saturating the aquifer. Out of this storage, it would be possible to retrieve 43.64 million hectare metres;

(iii) However, on the basis of the available surplus monsoon runoff which is not uniform in time and space, the ground water storage that could be

feasible has been estimated as 21.42 million hectare metres of which about 16 million hectare metres is considered retrievable; and

- (iv) The above resource could be harnessed to create an irrigation potential of 32.00 million hectares.

As regards floods, the Government of India constituted several expert committees to study the problem of floods in the country. The Rashtriya Barh Ayog (RBA) set up in 1976 examined the problem in detail and submitted its report in 1980. The recommendations of RBA, which form the framework for flood management strategy in the country, were forwarded to various State Governments for implementation. Further, a number of other Expert Committees/Task Forces were constituted from time to time to examine the area/region specific problems relating to floods, whose recommendations were sent to the respective State Governments for implementation. Besides this, the Government of India has set up Ganga Flood Control Commission to tackle the flood problem in Ganga basin, which has prepared comprehensive plans for flood management for all the 23 river systems of Ganga basin. Similarly, the Brahmaputra Board set up by the Government of India under an Act of Parliament has prepared Master Plan for main Brahmaputra and Barak valley inter-alia to control floods in North Eastern region. These plans have been forwarded to respective State Governments for preparing detailed schemes based on ground surveys and for implementation. The Central Water Commission has also set up 159 Flood Forecasting Stations on major interstate rivers which give timely warning to flood affected regions in various States.

Relaxation in Labour Laws

3208. SHRI BHERULAL MEENA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the main hurdle in the construction of roads in the country is old labour laws and legal hindrances;

(b) if so, whether it is being contemplated to relax these laws for speedy construction of roads in the country in public interest; and

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) to (d) Review/updation of labour laws is an ongoing process in order to bring them

in tune with the prevailing situation and emerging needs of the economy. Taking into consideration the requirement of productivity, efficiency, competitiveness, employment generation and economic reforms, a need has been felt to make amendments in certain labour laws including those applicable to the road construction and steps initiated accordingly. The Government has also set up the Second National Commission on Labour with a view to suggest rationalisation of existing laws relating to labour in the organised sector and to suggest an umbrella legislation for ensuring a minimum level of protection to the workers in the unorganised sector.

[English]

Royalty on Coal

3209. SHRIMATI KUMUDINI PATNAIK Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to allot funds in shape of grants-in-aid to all the coal bearing States in lieu of pending decision on revised royalty on coal; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

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

(b) Does not arise in view of answer given in part (a) of the question.

[Translation]

Crop Insurance Scheme

3210. SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE :
SHRIMATI HEMA GAMANG :
SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ :
SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI :
SHRIMATI PRENEET KAUR :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the present status of pilot crop insurance scheme which was launched a few years back;

(b) the amount provided for payment of premium for small marginal farmers under the scheme during the last three years;

(c) whether the farmers of the country have got the desired benefit;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government have any scheme to provide adequate information to farmers about the said scheme;

(f) if so, the details thereof since most of the farmers are not getting the benefits of the said scheme;

(g) the action being taken by the Government in this regard and to implement the insurance scheme in all the States;

(h) whether the Government are considering to have certain changes in crop insurance policy;

(i) if so, the details thereof including the main changes; and

(j) the time by which it is likely to be introduced ?

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

(a) No such scheme was launched during the last few years.

(b) to (g) Do not arise.

(h) to (j) Yes, Sir. The Government have already implemented a new crop insurance scheme known as National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS) from Rabi 1999-2000 season. The scheme provides for more coverage in terms of farmers, crops and risks. The salient features of this scheme are attached as statement.

Statement

Salient Features of National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS)

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

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

yield data is available for adequate number of years.

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

[English]

Setting up of Food Laboratories

3211. SHRI R.L. JALAPPA : Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up a network of food laboratories to help entrepreneurs to assure quality production for exports;

(b) if so, the number of food laboratories proposed to be set up in the country, State-wise; and

(c) the amount proposed to be spent thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (PROF. CHAMAN LAL GUPTA) : (a) to (c) For reorienting and strengthening the mechanism of quality assurance and to promote the exports on a long term basis through quality control and pre-

shipment inspection, Government of India enacted the Export (Quality Control and Inspection) Act, 1963. Under the purview of the Act, Government of India have established Export Inspection Agencies (EIAs) under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry at Bombay, Calcutta, Cochin, Delhi and Chennai with 45 sub-offices spread all over the country for carrying out pre-shipment inspection of export goods. All these offices are well equipped for inspection and certification with laboratories providing the back up for testing of samples. A Plan fund of Rs. 1.5 crores has been approved by the Government of India for modernization and up-gradation of laboratories during 2001 – 2002. An amount of Rs. 3.8 crores is proposed to be spent on modernization and up-gradation of the EIC laboratories during the years 2002-2003, 2003-2004 and 2004-2005. Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MFPI) do not set up any laboratories. However, Ministry of Food Processing Industries had preliminary discussions with various Ministries/Departments for strengthening and up-gradation of existing food laboratories to help entrepreneurs to ensure quality production for export. In addition to this, Ministry of Food Processing industries is already providing financial assistance to various agencies for setting up of quality control laboratories and up gradation of existing laboratories as also to introduce Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP) system so as to manufacture quality products.

[Translation]

Projects for Flood Control

3212. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :
DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA :
SHRI RAJO SINGH :

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether some projects related to flood control in Northern Bihar and Eastern Uttar Pradesh are under consideration;

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

(c) the extent to which the losses suffered by floods is expected to be curtailed on the completion of these projects; and

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

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI ARJUN SETHI) : (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Mines Safety Measures

3213. DR. SANJAY PASWAN : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the role of the Directorate General of Mines Security to check the accidents in mines and in respect of mines safety;

(b) whether the aforesaid Directorate has failed to serve the purpose for which it had been created;

(c) if so, whether Government are considering to wind up this Directorate in view of its non utility;

(d) if so, by when; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) Provisions for safety of persons employed in mines are contained in the Mines Act, 1952 and the Rules and Regulations framed thereunder. The Directorate General of Mines Safety Dhanbad (DGMS) also issues guidelines in the form of circulars to the Management for improving safety measures. These provisions are required to be complied with by the mine managements. The officers of the DGMS inspect the mines periodically to oversee the status of compliance with the safety provisions and to take action as provided for under the Mines Act, 1952 in case of default. The objective of DGMS is the reduction in risk of occupational diseases and casualty to persons employed in mines by drafting appropriate legislation and setting standards, by overseeing compliance thereof and through a variety of promotional initiatives and awareness programme creating an environment in which safety is given due priority. Besides the legislative measures the DGMS is promoting a number of other initiatives, such as :-

(a) Conference on Safety in mines,

(b) Self-regulation by management,

(c) Workers' participation in safety management,

(d) Tripartite and Bipartite reviews at various levels,

(e) Training of work persons,

(f) Observance of safety weeks and Safety Campaigns,

(g) National Safety Awards.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Does not arise.

(e) The fact that DGMS is achieving its objectives is clear from the reduction in the number of mine accidents over the last few decades and the fact that death in Indian Mines compare favourably with those of other countries, including quite a few developed countries.

[English]

**Operation of Jumbo Jet from
Trivandrum Airport**

3214. SHRI V.S. SIVAKUMAR :
SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the Trivandrum International Airport has all the required facilities to operate Jumbo Jets;

(b) if so, whether there is any plan to operate such services from this Airport; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN) : (a) The runway at Trivandrum airport has been extended to cater to Boeing 747 aircraft. There is a parking stand for B-747 aircraft. The airport has also been equipped with navigational aids, Instrument Landing System, state-of-the-art technology Airport Surveillance Radar and Monopulse Secondary Surveillance Radar systems and other communication facilities.

(b) and (c) No request has been received from any airline to operate regular scheduled services with B-747 aircraft.

[Translation]

Agricultural Production

3215. SHRI BRIJLAL KHABRI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the increase in agricultural production has not been in proportion to the increase in the population in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the measures being taken by the Government to increase the agricultural production ?

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

(a) and (b) The compound growth rate of production of all principal crops have been provisionally estimated at 1.96 per cent for the period 1990-91 to 2000-01 as against the average annual exponential growth rate of population of 1.93 per cent from 1990-91 to 2000-01.

(c) To increase agricultural production, various schemes have been taken up for implementation by the Government, like the Technology Mission on Oilseeds and Pulses, Technology Mission on Cotton, etc., Research in agriculture has also been taken up with renewed vigour so as to improve quality and productivity of crops. The Government also switched over from the conventional Schematic approach to Macro Management mode for providing assistance to States from November 2000. The scheme integrates 27 schemes into one Macro Management Scheme for supplementation/complementation of States' efforts through work plans, which gives flexibility to States to address the specific problems faced by them, avoid overlapping in the contents of the different schemes and aim for allround development of agriculture. Implementation of this scheme will further boost the agriculture production.

[English]

**Threat to Bird Species due to Increased
Crow Population**

3216. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the increasing crow population is likely to accelerate the pace of vanishing bird species like Warblers, Bulbuls, Mynahs, Doves, Partridges, Quails and Peafowl etc.; and

(c) if so, the efforts being made to maintain a balance and promote all species against the threats of increased crow population ?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) There is no conclusive evidence regarding increase in crow population and its likely impact on the existence of other bird species.

(b) Does not arise.

Bauxite Mines

3217. SHRI PRABHAT SAMANTRAY : Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Bauxite mines in Orissa and Chhattisgarh location-wise;

- (b) the estimated deposits of Bauxite in those areas;
- (c) whether the Government have privatised some of those mines; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) to (d) There are 5 reporting bauxite mines in Chhattisgarh and 2 reporting bauxite mines in Orissa. The district-wise details are as under :-

Name of the State	District	Name of the Mine	Name of the owner	Sector
Chhattisgarh	Kanker	Keshkal	Madhya Pradesh State Mining Corporation	Public
	Korba	Phutkapahar	Bharat Aluminium Company Limited	Joint
	Surguja	Mainpat	Bharat Aluminium Company Limited	Joint
		Kudag	Hindalco Industries Limited	Private
		Mainpat	Madhya Pradesh State Mining Corporation	Public
Orissa	Koraput	Panchpatmali	National Aluminium Company Limited	Public
	Sundargarh	Tantra	Orissa Industries Limited	Private

As per the National Mineral Inventory prepared by Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM), the total recoverable resources of Chhattisgarh were placed at 60 million tonnes and in Orissa these were placed at 1395 million tonnes (as on 1.4.95).

[Translation]

R and D in Steel Sector

3218. SHRI RAMSHAKAL : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

- (a) the details of investment/expenditure made on research and development work on steel in various public and private sector units along with the results achieved therefrom;
- (b) whether the Government propose to increase investment on research and development with a view to produce good quality steel in terms of world class quality and low cost;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the total investment proposed in public and private sector steel units during the current year and coming three years; and
- (e) the present status of ongoing research and development projects in public/private sector along with the names of projects under consideration?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY) : (a) According

to information available, Public Sector Steel Plants spent Rs. 54.33 crore and Private Sector Steel Plants spent Rs. 16.0183 crore during the year 2000-01. Both Public and Private Sector Steel Plants have completed several research projects related to iron and steel, yielding benefits in terms of process optimization, increase in productivity, improvement in quality, development of improved steel products, reduction in cost of production, reduction in energy consumption, utilization of solid waste etc.

(b) and (c) To supplement Research and Development activities in the iron and steel sector, Government of India have decided to spend up to Rs. 150 crore per annum from the interest proceeds of Steel Development Fund (SDF). Accordingly, an Empowered Committee (EC) has been set up in the Ministry of Steel to approve and monitor Research and Development projects in Iron and Steel Sector. So far 24 research projects have been approved with total cost of Rs. 167.92 crores (approx.) Out of these, SDF contribution will be Rs. 85.26 crores. The research areas covered by these projects include improvement in quality of steel products, reduction in cost of production etc. in the Indian iron and steel plants.

(d) The total investment in Research and Development by Public and Private Sector Steel Plants in the current years and in the coming three years are expected to be marginally higher than that in the previous year (2000-01).

(e) According to available information, the public and private sector steel plants are pursuing 38 major research and development projects during the current year (2001-

02). These projects concern different areas of iron and steel making, up-gradation of raw materials, product development, increase in productivity, reduction of energy consumption and reduction in cost of production etc.

[English]

Rules for Tour Operators

3219. KUMARI BHAVANA PUNDLIKRAO GAWALI : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) the rules formulated by the Government for Travel Agents and Tour Operators;

(b) whether there is any requirement for adventurous tour operators to get approval from the Government for running their business; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the number of tour operators granted such approval during the last three years ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN) : (a) Department of Tourism, Government of India has a voluntary scheme of granting recognition as approved tour operators/travel agents for which necessary guidelines have been formulated.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. To encourage functional specialisation, Department of Tourism has a voluntary scheme of recognition for adventure tour operators also. The total number of approved Adventure Tour Operators during the last three years is 8.

Grants of Mining Lease to Aluminium Companies

3220. DR. RAJESWARAMMA VUKKALA : Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Aluminium companies are facing delay in grant of mining lease;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the other constraints faced by the refineries to get adequate supply of Bauxite ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) and (b) Under Section 10(3) of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 mining leases are granted by the State Government concerned. Proposals for prior approval of the Central Government for grant of mineral concessions for minerals specified under the First Schedule to the aforesaid Act originate from the respective

State Governments and are processed and disposed of by the Central Government as per provisions of law. Bauxite is a mineral listed in the First Schedule to the Act and hence all efforts are made to expedite approval of the Central Government in the least possible time. In certain cases, the proposals received from the State Governments are found incomplete and consequently, in such cases, the State Governments are asked to furnish complete information/additional information for expeditious disposal of such cases.

(c) Bauxite and alumina can be freely imported by the end users under the trade policy of the Government, and hence the aluminium refineries can supplement the indigenous supply of the raw material, if any, through imports.

[Translation]

Disease-Free Cultivation of Vegetables

3221. SHRI TARACHAND BHAGORA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the small farmers who want to earn more profits are using polluted water and chemicals in the cultivation of vegetables which is giving rise to fatal diseases;

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last two years on the basis of official data; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government so far to ensure the disease-free cultivation of vegetables ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) to (c) Some of the vegetables are grown using sewage water specially in areas near to the cities. However, no reports have been received regarding fatal diseases due to vegetables. Indian Council of Agriculture Research has initiated two ad-hoc projects for studying the effect of sewage water on vegetable crops. The council has also developed a number of varieties/hybrids resistant to important diseases and pests in vegetable crops.

[English]

Promotion of Horticulture and Floriculture in Tamil Nadu

3222. SHRI V. VETRISELVAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have any data on the scent flower production in the country used for producing scents;

(b) the details of the exports made including quality and value of floriculture during the last two years; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to promote horticulture and floriculture in Tamil Nadu ?

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

(a) The total production of flowers in the country during 1999-2000 was 509 thousand metric tones of loose flowers and 6806 lakh numbers of cut flowers. The data on production of flowers producing scent is not available.

(b) The value of flowers exported during 1999-2000 was Rs. 105.16 Lakhs and during 2000-2001 Rs. 123.12 Lakhs. The flowers which are exported from the country include out flowers, out foliage, dried flowers and flower seeds etc.

(c) Government is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme "Macro Management in Agriculture – Supplementation/Complementation of States efforts through work plans" in all States including Tamil Nadu. Under this Scheme funds are allocated to States. The scheme provides greater flexibility to States in prioritizing their needs. The development of horticulture and floriculture are included in this scheme. The State can pursue the programmes of horticulture and floriculture under this scheme Besides, National Horticulture Board under its

programme "Development of Commercial Horticulture through Production and Post-Harvest Management" provides assistance in the form of back ended capital subsidy @20% of total project cost with a maximum limit of Rs. 25.00 Lakhs. Agricultural Produce Export Development Authority (APEDA), Ministry of Commerce, is also implementing various programmes for horticulture and floriculture industry which are availed by Tamil Nadu also.

Pending Mining Projects

3223. SHRI KOLUR BASAVANAGOUD : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any proposals to release forest land for the renewal of mining leases have been received from Karnataka;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken so far in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) to (c) The Central Government has received 21 proposals to release forest land for the renewal of mining leases from Karnataka from 1998 to November 2001. The details of proposals and action taken by the Central Government on each proposal are enclosed as statement.

Statement

S.No.	Name of Proposal	Area (ha.)	Date of Application	Status
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Doddanavar Brothers, Belgaum	43.30	17.4.2001	Approved on 20.6.01
2.	VNK Menon, Bellary	22.45	8.8.2001	Returned on 22.8.01
3.	MML at Thimapanagudi, Bellary	295.00	6.3.2000	Approved on 18.4.01
4.	Balaji Mines and Minerals Ltd., Bellary	22.66	16.3.2000	Approved in-principle on 10.7.00.
5.	Tungabhadra Minerals, Bellary	47.66	23.11.2000	Approved on 9.1.01
6.	Bharat Mines and Minerals, Bellary	26.20	20.7.2000	Approved on 20.3.01
7.	Srinivasulu, Hospet	60.00	4.9.2000	Closed on 16.7.01
8.	KIOCL, Chikmagalur	46.05	12.7.99	Approved subject to approval of the Hon'ble Supreme Court
9.	Hothur Traders, Bellary	38.38	10.8.99	Approved on 21.9.00
10.	Goga Guru Shanthiah	42.90	17.8.99	Returned on 23.12.99
11.	Ramghad Minerals, Bellary	20.23	25.10.99	Rejected on 11.1.00

1	2	3	4	5
12.	M. Dharasharatharama Reddy, Chitradurga	19.95	22.6.98	Approved on 20.4.99
13.	M/s Mineral Enterprises, Chitradurga	12.87	8.7.98	Approved on 1.10.99
14.	M/s Associated Mining Co., Bellary	10.12	16.10.98	Approved on 24.3.00
15.	M/s Goel Brothers, Belgaum	8.00	9.11.98	Approved in-principle on 3.2.00
16.	M/s DN Enterprises, Chitradurga	12.00	6.01.99	Closed on 31.3.00
17.	Mysore Cements Ltd., Tumkur	19.38	2.6.99	Approved in-principle on 14.3.00

Proposals closed till Regional Environment Impact Assessment in Bellary-Hospet region has been completed.

S.No.	Name of Proposal	Area (ha.)	Date of Application
18.	M/s Gaviappa, Bellary	32.00	20.6.01
19.	MML, Jambunathanahally, Bellary.	38.45	6.6.00
20.	Venganapatty, Hospet	123.84	5.9.00
21.	M/s Veeyam Pvt. Ltd., Bellary	16.19	1.10.99

[Translation]

**Filling up of Vacant Posts for
Promotion of Hindi**

3224. SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of posts of Hindi translators/Hindi Officers/Assistants created in the Ministry and concerned public sector undertakings to promote Hindi as official language and also to promote correspondence in Hindi;

(b) the details of the posts out of them lying vacant so far alongwith the time since when these are lying vacant;

(c) the reasons for lying these posts vacant; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to fill up these vacancies ?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) There are 20 posts in this Ministry and in the public sector undertaking under this Ministry, for the promotion of Hindi as official language.

(b) 2 posts of Hindi Translator (Grade I and II, respectively) are lying vacant since 1997.

(c) The reason for non filling up of the vacant posts is that the relevant recruitment rules were being amended.

(d) The recruitment rules have since been amended.

**Dharna by School Teachers under
Coal Department**

3225. SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN SHARAN SINGH : Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the teachers of school run by Department of Coal is sitting on dharna in Delhi in connection with their demands;

(b) if so, since when these teachers sat on dharna; and

(c) the decision taken by the Government on their demands ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) No Sir, no school is being run by Department of Coal.

(b) and (c) Does not arise in view of the reply in part (a) above.

[English]

Extension of Trade Union Act in Sikkim

3226. SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to extend the Trade Union Act, 1926 in Sikkim;

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

(c) the measures taken/proposed to be taken to protect the worker's right of Association and collective bargaining in the State in the meantime ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) to (c) Trade Unions Act, 1926 is applicable to the State of Sikkim.

Forest Cover

3227. SHRI BAHADUR SINGH : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Andhra Pradesh has become the first State to involve industries like Indian Tobacco Company to increase the Forest Cover;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to involve industries in other States also to increase the Forest Cover ?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) and (b) It has come to the notice of Central Government that the State Government of Andhra Pradesh had issued a Government Order No. 112 dated 22.9.2000 where it has been agreed in principle for involvement of the industries in supporting the Vana Samrakshana Samities (VSS) in re-generating the degraded forest areas subject to fulfilment of certain conditions.

The basic objective of the National Forest Policy, 1988 is to conserve the bio-diversity of the country and to meet the requirement of fuel-wood, fodder, minor forest produce and small timber of the rural and tribal populations. It is also one of the objectives of the National Forest Policy that industry should fulfil their requirement of raw-material through raising plantation on non-forest wastelands. The Government of Andhra Pradesh order issued on 22.09.2000 for involvement of industries in raising plantation on forest land is under examination, in the light of National Forest Policy, 1998 and other Central Acts, details of tripartite agreement to be signed between VSS, industries and State Government, areas earmarked for afforestation, modality for buy back arrangement, etc.

(c) Assignment of any forest land or any portion thereof by way of lease or otherwise to industries not managed or controlled by Government requires prior approval of Central Government in accordance with Section 2 of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. At present, there is no such proposal under consideration in the Ministry.

[Translation]

Minimum Support Price for Foodgrains

3228. SHRI BHUPENDRASINH SOLANKI :
SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI :
SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have chalked out a plan to provide the benefits of minimum support price of foodgrains directly to the farmers;

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

(c) whether this plan is likely to minimize burden on Food Corporation of India to buy foodgrains;

(d) if so, the time by which this new plan is likely to be implemented and the agency through which the benefits would reach to farmers indicating the details of benefits; and

(e) the measures taken to promote horticulture and organic agriculture ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) to (d) Under the existing Minimum Support Price scheme, the Government, through central nodal agencies, procures agricultural commodities, covered under the scheme, so as to ensure remunerative prices to the farmers. No other scheme has been finalized so far to replace the existing scheme.

(e) For promoting horticulture, the Government is implementing National Horticulture Board Programmes; Integrated Development of Coconut Industry; Technology Mission on Integrated Development of Horticulture in the North-eastern States including Sikkim; Central Sector Scheme on Development of Horticulture in Tribal/Hilly Areas; and Central Sector Scheme on Human Resource Development in Horticulture. With regard to promotion of organic agriculture, Government set up a Task Force on Organic Farming. The Task Force has submitted the report in November 2001 giving various suggestions for promotion of organic farming in the country.

[English]

Delay in Recovery of PF

3229. SHRIMATI RENU KUMARI : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) referred to the Ministry in November 1998 the matter of discontinuance of maintenance of Demand-Collection-Balance Register (DCBR) without the approval of the Government consequent to which cross of rupees remained outstanding against the hundreds of establishments etc.;

(b) if so, whether his Ministry has looked into the observations made by CAG in the matter of delay in recovery of provident fund contribution; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) to (c) The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) vide, his report number 4 of 2000 (other autonomous bodies for the year ended March, 1999) had raised the issue of discontinuance of maintenance of Demand-Collection-Balance Register (DCBR). The C and AG was informed that the Demand Collection Balance Register has never been discontinued. However, with regard to audit observations, necessary instructions for proper maintenance of DCBR were issued.

[Translation]

Handing over of Lalgarh Airstrip to Army

3230. SHRI PUSP JAIN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Rajasthan propose to hand over the Lalgarh airstrip at Shri Ganganagar on international border in Rajasthan to Army;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the quantum of funds allocated from the Union Budget to the State Government during the last three years ?

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

[English]

Financial Aid to AI and IA

3231. SHRI GANTA SREENIVASA RAO : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have extended a 500 million indemnity to Air India as on November 30, while the same has been declined to Indian Airlines; and

(b) if so, the reasons for declining the same to Indian Airlines ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN) : (a) and (b) As per the agreement with the lessors/lenders of aircraft Air India is required to have insurance cover against the third party liability arising out of war and allied risks to the extent of US\$ 1500 million. The insurance market was in a position to provide this cover only upto US\$ 1000 million. Therefore, they had approached the Government to cover the balance US\$ 500 million. Government of India had accordingly extended the US\$ 500 million indemnity to Air India till November 30, 2001. Effective 1st December 2001, the insurance market has been able to provide cover upto US\$ 1500 million. Air India has therefore availed of this cover and the Government indemnity which was in place upto 30th November 2001 has been withdrawn.

In the case of Indian Airlines, the insurance cover required is only US\$ 500 million which they have been able to get through insurance market.

Ban on Poaching of Shark

3232. SHRI A.P. ABDULLAKUTTY :
SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL :
SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI :

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

(a) whether the Union Government have recently imposed a ban on poaching of Shark;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether some State Governments/Members of Parliament have represented against this move of the Union Government;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Union Government are likely to reconsider their decision by way of lifting the said ban to save the future of fishermen; and

(f) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) and (b) The Central Government had issued a notification on 11th July, 2001 imposing ban on hunting of shark species in order to maintain viable population in the wild.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. In the representations received from various quarters, an appeal was made to the Govt. to lift the ban on fishing of sharks etc.

(e) and (f) In view of the representations made by the State Governments, Members of Parliament and others

regarding the plight of poor fishermen community, it has been decided to restrict the hunting prohibition to 10 Shark species only that are considered vulnerable, endangered or critically endangered.

Impact of WTO on Agriculture

3233. SHRI SURESH KURUP : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the World Trade Organisation (WTO) obligations are leaving a disastrous impact on Indian agriculture;

(b) whether with the presence of global form sector in the domestic market, the Indian farmers are being driven out as they are not able to compete with the products; and

(c) if so, the Government's reaction thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) to (c) According to the Agreement on Agriculture India is not required to reduce the assistance given to the agriculture. The WTO Agreement on Agriculture does not really constrains us from following our developmental policy with regard to agriculture. Apart from this, WTO agreements have provided a predictable rule based multilateral trading system which protects developing countries from the bilateral pressures of the developed countries. By virtue of signing of WTO agreement of India is automatically entitled to get treatment of the most favoured nation (MFN) from all WTO members for its exports.

There has not been any significant change in the composition of imports except edible oil. Import of edible oil takes place as there is a gap in the demand and the indigenous production.

In order to keep a watch on the imports, the Government have put in place a suitable mechanism for monitoring the import of sensitive items and are committed to provide adequate protection to the domestic producers by resorting to various WTO compatible measures which include calibration of applied tariffs within bound tariffs, anti-dumping and safeguard action and imposition of countervailing duties under certain specified circumstances. Further, in the recently concluded 4th Ministerial Conference of the WTO at Doha, Member Countries have committed themselves to negotiations aimed at substantial improvement in market access, substantial reduction in trade distorting domestic support and reduction with a view to phasing out of export subsidies. Special and Differential Treatment for developing countries including recognition of food security

and rural development have now become an integral part of the mandated negotiations on agriculture.

Kantilo Nilamadhab as Tourist Centre

3234. DR. PRASANNA KUMAR PATASANI : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to declare 'Kantilo Nilamadhab' in Orissa as a tourist centre; and

(b) the time by which the same is likely to be done ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN) : (a) There is no practice to declare any place as a tourist centre by the Department of Tourism, Government of India.

(b) Does not arise.

Burning of Crops by Farmers

3235. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the incidents of burning their own paddy and wheat crops by farmers in some States have come to the notice of the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the remedial steps taken by the Government in the matter ?

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

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Expansion Plan by NALCO

3236. SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO : Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Aluminium Company (NALCO) has drawn up any expansion plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the investment to be involved therein; and

(d) the steps taken in that regard so far ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) to (d) National Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO) is currently implementing the following major expansion projects :-

Sl. No.	Name of the expansion Project	Location	Existing capacity (Tonnes)	Capacity after expansion (Tonnes)	Project Cost (Rs. in Crs.)
1.	Bauxite Mines	Damanjodi	24 lakh	48 lakh	1664.60 (Mines + Refinery)
	Alumina Refinery	Damanjodi	8 lakh	15.75 lakh	
2.	Aluminium Smelter	Angul	8 lakh	3.45 lakh	2062 (Smelter + CPP)
	Captive Power Plant (CPP) 7th Unit	Angul	720 MW	840 MW	
3.	CPP 8th Unit	Angul	840 MW	960 MW	480

Setting up of Plant Quarantine Office

3237. SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Meghalaya Exporters and Importers Association has requested the Directorate of Plant Protection, Quarantine and storage to set up Plant Quarantine Office at Dawki; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to set up the said office ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, through the Commissioner Customs, North Eastern Region, Shillong, a suggestion was received to set up a Plant Quarantine Office at Dawki. Opening of a new Plant Quarantine Office depends on the volume of international trade at the station and requires creation of new posts for providing staff. Dawki is not included in the new Plant Quarantine Stations proposed during the IX Plan.

[Translation]

Retirement Age

3238. SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the names of Government owned companies in the field of Civil Aviation which have reduced the retirement age of their employees to 58;

(b) whether Government propose to reduce the retirement age of employees to 58 years in their remaining companies also;

(c) if so, the time by which such decision is likely to be taken;

(d) whether Government also propose to reduce the retirement age of employees to 58 years in Airport Authority of India; and

(e) if so, by when ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN) : (a) Indian Airlines and Air India have reduced the retirement age of their employees to 58.

(b) to (e) At present there is no proposal under consideration of the Government to reduce the retirement age of the employees in remaining PSU's including Airports Authority of India.

[English]

Regular Flight from Bagdogra to Kolkata

3239. SHRI P. MOHAN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal from Airport Authority, West Bengal regarding the regular flights from Bagdogra to Kolkata and vice-versa;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN) : (a) to (c) In the recent past, requests have been received from Government of West Bengal regarding increase, in services between Bagdogra and Kolkata. In the Summer Schedule, Indian Airlines was operating three days in a week service between Kolkata and Bagdogra. The frequency of operation of this service has been increased to five days a week in the Winter Schedule effective 28th October, 2001.

Construction of Runway at Lilabari Airport, Assam

3240. SHRIMATI RANEE MARAH : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the progress made in construction of runway and Air Traffic Control Building of Lilabari Airport (North Lakhimpur) in Assam; and

(b) the date by which flights to and from Lilabari airport is to commence?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN) : (a) Extension/strengthening of runway to 7500 feet was completed in May, 2001 at Lilabari airport. 90% of the construction work of Air Traffic Control building has been completed at this airport and is likely to be fully completed by March, 2002.

(b) Indian Airlines, Jet Airways and Sahara Airlines have been intimated of the development and availability of runway at this airport for starting their operations. Airlines plan their services based on commercial and operational viability subject to route dispersal guidelines.

Misuse of Funds in Legal Expenses by Air India

3241. SHRI GUTHA SUKENDER REDDY : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government received any complaints regarding misuse of funds in legal expenses by Air India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any official of Air India is involved therein; and

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

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

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Survey of Pilots and Pilot Trainees

3242. SHRI GUTHA SUKENDER REDDY :
DR. D.V.G. SHANKAR RAO :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to conduct a survey of all the pilots and pilot trainees in view of the recent terrorist attack on World Trade Centre in New York on September 11, 2001;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

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

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Dereservation of Vacancies

3243. SHRI MOHAN S. DELKAR : Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether a large number of vacancies/posts reserved for SCs, STs and OBCs are being 'dereserved' and filled by 'others' despite imposition of a ban on dereservation of such vacancies;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the details of instances where vacancies/posts reserved for SCs, STs and OBCs have been dereserved and filled by other persons since April 1, 1989 under his Ministry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Not applicable.

[Translation]

Waterlife Development

3244. SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH RAJUKHEDI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have approved the continuous sanctioned scheme waterlife development in soft water in State of Madhya Pradesh for implementation during 2001-2002; and

(b) if so, the details of amount to be released as centres share and the time by which it is likely to be released?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) Yes, Sir. The administrative approval of Government of India for continuance of the ongoing Centrally Sponsored Scheme on "Development of Freshwater Aquaculture" for the year 2001-2002 has been issued to the Government of Madhya Pradesh.

(b) Central share has not been released during the year 2001-2002 as the Government of Madhya Pradesh has unspent balance of Rs. 145.91 lakh from the releases made under the scheme in previous years.

Unemployed Youth

3245. SHRI JAIBHAN SINGH PAWAIYA :
SHRI A.K. MOORTHY :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have launched/proposed to launch any time bound programme to provide employment to all the unemployed in the country in various States including Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, whether the Government have fixed any target in this regard;

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

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) to (d) The Approach to the Tenth Five Year Plan has recognised the importance of providing gainful high quality employment to the additions to the labour force and it is listed as one of the monitorable objectives for the Tenth Plan and beyond. The growth strategy of Tenth Plan would lay emphasis on rapid growth of those sectors which are most likely to create high quality employment opportunities and deal with the policy constraints which discourage growth of employment. Particular attention will be paid to the policy environment influencing a wide range of economic activities, which have a large employment potential. These include sectors such as construction, real estate and housing, transport, Small Scale Industry (SSI), modern retailing, Information Technology (IT) enabled services and a range of other new services, which need to be promoted through supportive policies. Emphasis will also be laid on tourism to ensure realization of full potential of this activity.

Employment Strategy in the Tenth Plan will focus on employment growth and on the qualitative aspects of employment. In order to enable the poor to access the opportunities and to ensure consistency between the requirement and availability of skills, emphasis will also be placed on skill development.

Government is also implementing special programmes for eradication of poverty and generation of employment. The major poverty alleviation programmes, which provide employment in the rural areas, are Swarna Jayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana, Jawahar Gram Samridhhi Yojana and Employment Assurance Scheme. In the urban areas, Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rojgar Yojana (SJSRY) is in operation since 1.12.97, which also seeks to provide gainful

employment to the poor. Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana is being implemented as a Central Plan scheme to provide employment opportunities to educated unemployed youths in both rural and urban areas.

[English]

Implementation of Centrally Sponsored Schemes

3246. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR :
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK :
SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL :
SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA :

Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether many Centrally sponsored schemes remain unimplemented and developmental activities are affected badly due to the frequent transfers of District Magistrates/Deputy Collectors in many districts;

(b) if so, whether the Government have chalked out any plan to tackle this problem;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to implement the Centrally sponsored schemes without any delay ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) to (c) Centrally Sponsored Schemes are administered by the various Ministries/Departments of the Central Government and implemented by the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations with Central funding and/or appropriate State contributions. The Central Ministries/Departments monitor the progress of implementation of their respective Centrally Sponsored Schemes and take appropriate measures to tackle deficiencies in implementation of their Schemes. Some of the Centrally Sponsored Schemes, which form part of the Twenty Point Programme, are also monitored Centrally by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, who, through their monthly reports, also bring out the areas of shortcomings in the implementation of these Schemes. The fact that the Centrally Sponsored Schemes are remaining unimplemented and developmental activities are getting badly affected due to frequent transfer to District Magistrates/Deputy Collectors in many Districts has not been revealed in the reports prepared by this Ministry. However, in the report of the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India for the period 1999, among the reasons for poor implementation

of Centrally Sponsored Schemes, one of the reasons is that individual officers do not stay at particular posts for long. Given the scheme of All-India Services, transfers and postings of All-India Service Officers are matters which fall under the purview of the State Governments. However, a proposal mooted by the Ministry of Home Affairs to change the Rules for the All-India Services to provide for a minimum tenure for 2 years to IAS/IPS/IFS officers serving in key District positions has been referred to various State Governments.

(d) Other reasons for poor implementation of Centrally Sponsored Schemes, according to CAG's report are the large number of Centrally Sponsored Schemes, which are difficult to be effectively monitored and which face problems of counterpart funds not being made available by the States, leading to uncertainty at the field level about availability of funds. A Sub-Committee of the National Development Council has been examining the issues of transfer of some Centrally Sponsored Schemes to the States for better implementation.

[Translation]

Export of Processed Food

3247. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN : Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) the details of processed food items exported during each of the last three years, State-wise; and

(b) the details of the measures, taken/proposed to be taken to increase the export during remaining period of the Ninth Five Year Plan ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (PROF. CHAMAN LAL GUPTA) : (a) The details of exports of processed food items concerning this Ministry during the last three years is given in Statement. The statewide figures are not maintained.

(b) Apart from promotion of Agri Export Zones which will cater to export products, with an end to end approach, Ministry of Food Processing Industries, Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) and Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) provide to units engaged in production for export purposes, financial assistance for :

- (1) Creation of infrastructure such as cold chain from farm to market, integrated cargo handling and cold storage facilities at various ports.

- (2) Stetting up/expansion/modernisation of food processing units including technology up-gradation.
- (3) Total Quality Management such as setting up of quality labs and implementation of HACCP and ISO 9000.
- (4) Improvement in packaging material and technologies.
- (5) Conduct of feasibility studies for various products in international markets and participation in international fairs and exhibitions.
- (6) Assistance for sourcing raw material of processable varieties for processing.
- (7) Research and Development in product process and packaging to meet industry requirements.

Statement

Details of Export of Processed Food Items for the last 3 years

(Value : Rs. Crores)

Item	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-2001
Processed Fruits and Vegetables	705.6	993.6	1345.5
Animal Products	851.7	905.0	1637.1
Other Processed Food (Guar Gum, Groundnut, Alcoholic Beverages, Milled Products etc.)	1134.5	1494.4	1798.0
Rice	6279.4	3125.8	2943.3
Walnuts	68.9	60.5	109.9
Marine Products	4626.8	5116.6	6443.8
Total	13666.9	11695.9	14277.6

[English]

Wildlife Trafficking

3248. SHRI AMBAREESHA :
SHRI C. SREENIVASAN :
SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN :
SHRI BRAHMA NAND MANDAL :

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

(a) whether wildlife trafficking is on the rise in the country;

(b) if so, the total quantity of wildlife material skin etc.) seized during each of the last two years and current year, till-date;

(c) the number of persons arrested on this account;

(d) the number of cases registered against persons found in illegal possession of wildlife materials during the above period, State-wise;

(e) the number of such cases pending in different courts in the country, State-wise; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to combat the rising menace of wildlife trafficking ?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) to (c) Seizure made by the enforcement agencies in the recent past indicate that there has been a recent spurt in the illegal trade of wildlife and its products. The details of total quantity of wildlife material seized all over the country are not maintained at the level of Central Government. Details of important seizures made during last two years and the current year along with number of persons arrested is in the statement-I enclosed.

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

(f) The steps taken by the Government to combat the rising menace of wildlife trafficking is given in statement-II enclosed.

Statement-I

The details of important seizure along with number of persons arrested

S.No.	Case detected	Date	Persons arrested and action taken
1.	Seizure of 3 nos. of tiger skins, 50 nos. of leopard skins and 5 nos. of otter skins at Sahibabad, Uttar Pradesh	18.12.1999	8 nos. of offenders arrested. Complaint filed in the Court.
2.	Seizure of 4 nos. of tiger skins, 70 nos. of leopard skins, 18000 nos. of leopard claws, 132 nos. of tiger claws and 221 nos. of black buck skins at Khaga	12.1.2000	6 nos. of offenders arrested. Complaint filed in the Court.
3.	Seizure of 50 nos. of leopard skins and 15 otter skins at Haldwani	6.5.2000	No person arrested. Legal action initiated by CBI
4.	Seizure of 30 nos. of leopard skins at Haldwani	21.5.2000	No person arrested. Legal action initiated by CBI
5.	Seizure of 1757 nos. of snake skins by Wildlife Regional Office, Chennai	12.6.2000	3 offenders were arrested. The case is in the Court.
6.	Seizure of 2000 skins of Cobra, Russel viper and other snakes near Kumbakonam in Tamil Nadu by Wildlife Regional Office, Chennai	13.6.2000	5 persons were arrested. The case is in the Court.
7.	Seizure of 70 shawls, 26 pure shahtoosh and 44 suspected shahtoosh shawls at Delhi	2.2.2001	2 nos. of offenders arrested. Legal action initiated by CBI
8.	Seizure of 1 nos. of tiger skin, 5 nos. of tiger skulls, 10 nos. of tiger claws, 23 kgs. of tiger bones, 3 nos. of tiger teeth and 4 nos. of leopard skins at Nagpur	21.3.2001	6 offenders were arrested. Legal action initiated by CBI

Statement-II**(1) Steps taken at the State level :**

- (i) Legal protection has been provided to wild animals against hunting and commercial exploitation under the provisions of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.
- (ii) State level and District level coordination committees have been set up in several States to prevent poaching and illegal trade in wildlife.

(2) Steps taken at National level :

- (i) Government of India has set up Regional and Sub-regional Offices for wildlife preservation in major export and trade centres of the country to prevent smuggling of wild animals and their products.
- (ii) Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has been empowered under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 to apprehend and prosecute wildlife offenders. Anti poaching efforts are being coordinated with INTERPOL.
- (iii) Financial and technical help is being extended to the States under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes, viz. Project Tiger, Project Elephant, Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries and Eco-development around Protected Areas for enhancing the capacity and infrastructure of the States for providing effective protection to wild animals. Financial assistance is, in particular, being provided for raising 'Strike Forces' and providing arms to the protection staff for combating the organised poachers. Assistance is also provided for giving rewards to the informers for eliciting information about poachers and smugglers.
- (iv) A Special Coordination and Enforcement Committee has been set up under the chairmanship of Secretary, Environment and Forests, Government of India, for control of poaching and illegal trade in wildlife.
- (v) Export of wild animals and their derivatives is prohibited under EXIM Policy.
- (vi) A National Conference of Forests and Environment Ministers of State Government was held on 29th and 30th January, 2001. It was resolved to organise existing protection staff into viable formations for effective control of poaching

and to create enforcement infrastructure both within and out side protected areas.

- (vii) Ministry of Home Affairs has written to all the State Governments to lend a helping hand to the field formations to curb poaching and illegal trade in wildlife.
- (viii) To check alienation of the local communities due to wildlife depredation, the Central Government gives compensation to the extent of Rs. 1 lakh to the kith and kin of the persons killed by the wild animals.
- (ix) A meeting of Tiger Enforcement Task Force of CITES was organized during April, 2001 in Delhi to work out a strategy for controlling illegal trade in tiger parts and products.

(3) Steps taken at International level

- (i) Government of India seeks international co-operation under the provisions of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES) for control of illegal trade in wildlife items.
- (ii) To control transboundary trade a protocol has been signed with People's Republic of China and a MOU has been signed with His Majesty's Government of Nepal.
- (iii) A Global Tiger Forum of Tiger Range Countries has been created for addressing international issues related to Tiger Conservation.

[Translation]

Marketing Facilities for Farmers

3249. SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether farmers are not getting any benefit of marketing facilities to sell their produce in market due to pressure from trades;
- (b) the reaction of the Government thereto; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to provide marketing facilities to farmers ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. The State Governments provide marketing facilities to the farmers to sell their produce in the market yards established under their respective State

Agricultural Marketing Regulation Acts. As on 31.3.2001 there were 34,598 wholesale and rural primary markets in the country. In addition, Food Corporation of India (FCI) AND various State agencies in consultation with the State Governments establish a number of purchase centres at various mandis and key points to facilitate procurement of food grains. For the Rabi and Kharif marketing seasons of the year, 2000-01, 8110 and 6633 purchase centres was opened, respectively.

(c) Under a Central Sector Scheme for development of agricultural produce markets, Government of India had provided funds during the period 1972-73 to 1991-92 for development of 3658 markets.

A Central Sector Scheme of Agricultural Marketing Information Network is being implemented to enable speedy collection and dissemination of market information/data for efficient and timely utilization by the farmers, traders, etc.

Under the Technology Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture in North-eastern States including Sikkim, grants are provided for development of wholesale markets, rural primary as well as for strengthening of laboratories for quality control in the region.

The Government had also constituted an Expert Committee to examine the existing marketing system in the country. The Expert Committee in its report has recommended several reforms for strengthening and developing of Agricultural Marketing in the country.

An inter-Ministerial Task Force has been constituted to examine the recommendations and suggest measures for implementation of the reforms suggested by the Expert Committee. The State Governments/Union Territory Administrations have also been requested to examine the recommendations of the Expert Committee and provide their feed back to the Task Force.

Varieties of Cotton Seeds and Sugarcane

3250. SHRI DANVE RAOSAHEB PATIL : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Indian Scientists are engaged in research to develop better varieties of cotton seeds and sugarcane saplings:

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which these varieties are likely to be made available to farmers ?

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

(b) The Central Institute of Cotton Research, Nagpur and 21 centres of the All India Coordinated Cotton Improvement Project located at different State Agricultural Universities (SAUs) and two national institutes, namely Sugarcane Breeding Institute (SBI), Coimbatore and Indian Institute of Sugarcane Research, Lucknow alongwith 20 centres of the All India Coordinated Research Project on Sugarcane located at different SAUs in the country are engaged in research to develop improved varieties of cotton and sugarcane, respectively. The development of improved varieties/hybrids is a continuous process. However, during the last five years, 52 varieties/hybrids of cotton and 17 varieties of sugarcane have been developed and released for cultivation in different States of the country.

(c) The seed of many improved varieties/hybrids is being produced by various seed producing agencies and are made available to farmers. However, the seed to recently released varieties is in the seed production chain and certified quality seed will be available to farmers in 3 to 4 years time.

[English]

Reservation for SC/ST/OBC

3251. SHRI K.A. SANGTAM : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether persons belonging to SCs/STs and OBCs who are selected on merit are not required to be shown against the quota of vacancies/posts reserved for their communities;

(b) if so, the total number of persons belonging to SCs, STs and OBCs who have been selected/recruited/promoted on merit to different categories of services and not counted against the 'reserved quota of vacancies/posts' for their communities during the last three years and under his Ministry;

(c) whether the candidates belonging to SCs, STs and OBCs who have been selected on merit but shown/adjusted against vacancies/posts reserved for their communities; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN) : (a) Yes, Sir. This is the policy and it is being followed in the Ministry of Tourism.

(b) Nil

- (c) There is no such case.
 (d) Does not arise.

Reservation for SCs/STs and OBCs

3252. SHRI BHAN SINGH BHAURA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

- (a) whether some of the Departments/Subordinate and Attached Offices, Public Sector and Autonomous Organizations/Corporations under his Ministry are not nominating Liaison Officers for SCs, STs and OBCs for ensuring proper compliance of Government instructions in the matters of reservations;
 (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
 (c) the total number of Organizations/Offices under this Ministry which function as 'Administrative Unit' dealing with establishment and staff matters; and
 (d) the total number of Liaison officers nominated for the above purpose as on date ?

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

Backlog of Reserved Vacancies

3253. SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

- (a) whether 'backlog/carried forward vacancies' reserved for SCs/STs and OBCs are required to be treated as a 'separate and distinct group' as provided under Article 16(4) B of the Constitution to overcome 50% ceiling limit on vacancies to be reserved in a year.
 (b) if so, indicated backlog/carried forward vacancies ascertained as per para 5 of the DoPT OM No. 36012/2/96-Estt. (Res.) dated July 2, 1997 in respect of (1) SC, (2) STs and OBCs in Group A, B, C and Categories of services as on August 29, 1997 in his Ministry when Special Recruitment Drives etc. meant for filling such vacancies were stopped;
 (c) the details of such backlog vacancies filled during the last four years and those which remain unfilled; and
 (d) the details of fresh vacancies/posts accrued to reserved classes in all categories of posts during the last four years as per 'post based roster' ?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI ARJUN SETHI) : (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Environmental Courts

3254. DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FOREST be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Supreme Court has emphasised that all environment courts, tribunals and appellate authorities should include a sitting or retired High Court or Supreme Court Judge and Scientist or group of Scientists;
 (b) if so, the details of thereof, and
 (c) and the reaction of the Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Supreme Court in its judgement dated January 27, 1999 in respect of Civil Appeal Nos. 368 – 371 of 1999 arising out of SLP (C) Nos. 10317 – 10320 of 1998 has observed that ". . . the Government of India should, in our opinion, bring about appropriate amendments in the environmental statutes, Rules and notification to ensure that in all environmental Courts, Tribunals and appellate authorities there is always a Judge of the rank of a High Court Judge or a Supreme Court Judge, – sitting or retired – and Scientist or group of Scientists of high ranking and experience so as to help a proper and fair adjudication of disputes relating to environment and pollution. . ." The National Environment Tribunal Act, 1995 and the National Environment Appellate Authority Act, 1997 contain commensurate provisions.

Permission to Foreign Airlines to operate flights from Cochin

3255. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH :
 SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government have given permission to various foreign airlines to operate international flights from Nedumbasseri Airport, Cochin to different international sector as announced by Hon'ble Prime Minister in his Kumarakom Package;
 (b) if so, the number of foreign airlines approached his Ministry for the clearance; and
 (c) the details of airlines given such permission ?

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

(b) Oman Air, Silk Air, Kuwait Airways, Emirates, Yemen Airways, Qatar Airway, Saudia, Gulf Air, Sri Lankan Airlines, Aeroflot and Uzbekistan Airways have approached this Ministry seeking clearance for operating flights to/from Cochin.

(c) Cochin has been granted as a point of call to Oman Air and Silk Air (Singapore). Apart from this Emirates Airline of Dubai has also been granted access to Cochin effective September, 2002.

New Hybrid Varieties of Seeds

3256. SHRI R.S. PATIL : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Universities of Agricultural Science and the Central Food Technological Institute, Mysore have launched a programme to provide new hybrid varieties of seeds to farmers in Karnataka;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto ?

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

(a) The Universities of Agricultural Science, Bangalore and Dharwad are conducting research on development of hybrids in Karnataka, whereas Central Food Technology Research Institute, Mysore has the mandate to conduct research on post-harvest technologies.

(b) The two State Agricultural Universities (Universities of Agricultural Sciences, Bangalore and Dharwad) have developed and released hybrids of rice, sorghum, maize, sunflower and cotton. Some of the important hybrids released are :

- (i) Rice : KRH-1 and KRH-2
- (ii) Sorghum : DSH-3 (Kharif), DSH-4 (Rabi)
- (iii) Maize : DMH-2
- (iv) Sunflower : KBSH-1, KBSH-41 and KBSH-42
- (v) Cotton : DHH-11

These universities supply the breeder seed of parental lines of different hybrids to Karnataka Seed Corporation, National Seed Corporation, other State Seed Corporations and Private Sector organisations for further multiplication of seed before it is distributed to the farmers.

(c) The reaction of Government of Karnataka is encouraging and seeds are being distributed through the Department of Agriculture for various programmes of the Government of Karnataka in order to popularise the hybrids.

ESI Hospitals

3257. DR. C. KRISHNAN : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to take over ESI hospitals from the State Governments;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

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

(d) whether the Government propose to establish independent E.S.I. Hospitals in backward industrial areas like Shiv Kasi for the lakhs of industrial workers; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) to (c) The ESI Corporation has decided to set up one Model Hospital in each State. The consent of the respective State Government has been asked for to hand over one hospital to ESI Corporation for developing it in to a Model Hospital.

(d) and (e) The ESI Corporation has established a 50 bed hospital at Sivakasi.

[Translation]

Sprinkler Irrigation

3258. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are granting subsidies to the farmers for installation of sprinkler irrigation system;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total area on which the irrigation is done by the sprinkler system in the country specially in Himachal Pradesh, State-wise;

(d) whether only big farmers are getting the benefit of this project; and

(e) if not, the facts in this regard ?

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

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Assistance is provided for the promotion

of sprinkler Irrigation system. The pattern of assistance is 50 per cent of the cost of sprinkler set limited to Rs. 15,000 for SC/ST/Women and Small and Marginal farmers. For general farmers the assistance is given @ 33 per cent of the cost of sprinkler set limited to Rs. 10,000.

(c) State-wise total area under sprinkler irrigation is not maintained.

(d) and (e) The reply to (a) and (b) imply that all categories of farmers are getting benefit of this project. Small and Marginal, SC/ST and Women farmers are getting more assistance than the general farmers.

[English]

Development of Bee-Keeping

3259. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have formulated a scheme for the development of Bee-keeping;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the funds allocated for the purpose, State-wise; and

(d) the details of Bee-keeping industry in the country; State-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) and (b) A Central Sector Scheme on Development of Bee-keeping for Improving Crop Productivity was launched by the Ministry of Agriculture during the Eighth Five Year Plan with effect from 1994-95. The Scheme was continued during Ninth Five Year Plan till September, 2000. However, with effect from October, 2000 the Scheme was subsumed under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Macro Management in Agriculture – Supplementation/complementation of State Efforts through Work Plans. Under the Scheme the State Governments have the option to take up programmes depending upon their felt needs and requirement through the Work Plans. Besides, the Khadi and Village Industry Commission (KVIC) through its Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP) provides, inter alia, financial assistance in the form of margin money to village industry projects, including Bee-keeping units. Moreover, a sub-programme on Bee-keeping has been taken up as a part of UNDP – KVIC Project.

(c) The details of funds earmarked in the Work Plans for development of Bee-keeping in different States during the current financial year 2001-02 are given in the

statement-I enclosed. The KVIC has distributed an amount of Rs. 3.99 lakhs to Tamil Nadu from its budgetary sources during 1999-2000. In addition, an amount of Rs. 15.36 lakhs and Rs. 5.79 lakhs was paid to Haryana and Uttar Pradesh respectively from the consortium bank credit source.

(d) The State-wise details of production and employment of Bee-keeping activities under KVIC purview during 1999-2000 are given in the statement-II enclosed.

Statement-I

Amount Earmarked for Bee-keeping under Macro Management Scheme during 2001-02

State	Amount (Rs. in lakhs)
Bihar	41.75
Gujarat	13.25
Haryana	24.75
Himachal Pradesh	5.20
Jharkhand	10.80
Kerala	34.50
Mizoram	20.00
Rajasthan	11.80
Uttar Pradesh	79.75
Delhi	3.00

Statement-II

Bee-keeping activities under KVIC during 1999-2000

Sl. No.	State/UT	Value of Honey Production (Rs. in lakhs)	Employment (Lakh Persons)
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	26.59	0.01
2.	Arunchal Pradesh		
3.	Assam	309.01	0.31
4.	Bihar	424.97	0.32
5.	Goa		
6.	Gujarat	48.91	

1	2	3	4
7.	Haryana	54.32	0.01
8.	Himachal Pradesh	73.80	0.03
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	74.14	0.01
10.	Jharkhand		
11.	Karnataka	175.09	0.13
12.	Kerala	320.10	0.18
13.	Madhya Pradesh	2.69	
14.	Maharashtra	51.50	0.01
15.	Manipur	120.33	0.09
16.	Meghalaya	47.29	0.03
17.	Mizoram	13.33	
18.	Nagaland	21.12	
19.	Orissa	134.39	0.19
20.	Punjab	119.03	
21.	Rajasthan	2.48	
22.	Sikkim	5.04	0.01
23.	Tamil Nadu	659.00	0.73
24.	Tirpura	20.79	0.01
25.	Uttar Pradesh	142.17	0.05
26.	Uttaranchal		
27.	West Bengal	540.89	0.18
28.	Andman and Nicobar		
29.	Chandigarh		
30.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli		
31.	Daman and Diu		
32.	Delhi	24.42	
33.	Lakshdweep		
34.	Pondicherry	1.17	
		3412.57	2.30

Setting up of Mineral based Units

3260. SHRI G.J. JAVIYA : Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set up mineral based Units in Gujarat particularly in Porbandar and Saurashtra; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) Under the liberalised Industrial Policy followed since 1991, the entrepreneurs can freely set up any mineral based industry and the Government does not have any proposal to set up mineral based industries on its own in Gujarat.

(b) In view of (a) above does not arise.

Macro Management of Agriculture

3261. SHRI DINSHA PATEL : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to, state :

(a) whether the Government have adopted a new concept "Macro Management of Agriculture" through "work plans";

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the extent to which the States including Gujarat have been benefited from the new scheme; and

(d) the details of results achieved by the new concept in the first year till date ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The Department of Agriculture and Cooperation initiated the Macro Management Scheme by integrating 27 Centrally Sponsored Schemes. Macro Management Scheme aims at all round development in agriculture through Work Plans prepared by States. The benefits, apart from better targeting of scarce financial resources, include :

- reflection of local needs and crop/region specific priorities;
- greater flexibility and autonomy to States;
- optimum utilization of scarce financial resources;
- removal of regional imbalances.

Under Macro Management Scheme the funds are released to States as Central assistance in lump sum on the basis of the Work Plan proposals received and finalized in consultation with the States. The States have been given a free hand to finalize their sector-wise allocations as per

developmental priorities as reflected in their Work Plan proposals, subject to certain conditions.

During the year 2000-01, an amount of Rs. 378.88 crores was released to the States including Gujarat for implementation of their Work Plans under Macro Management Scheme. The details of State-wise releases for the year 2000-01 in the statement enclosed.

During the current financial year, viz. 2001-02, a sum of Rs. 850 crore has been provided in the B.E. 2001-02 for implementation of the scheme. Out of this, sum of Rs. 378.15 Crore (approx.) has been released as first installment including Gujarat as shown in statement enclosed.

Since the Scheme was started from November, 2000, the details of the results achieved will be available only at the end of the financial year 2001-02.

Statement

State-wise Allocation under Macro Management Mode

(Rs. in lakhs)

S. No.	State/UTs	Releases in 2000-01	Releases in 20001-02
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1362.79	2025.00
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	473.15	219.50
3.	Assam	409.47	523.50
4.	Bihar	261.07	1800.00
5.	Jharkhand		675.00
6.	Goa		90.00
7.	Gujarat	1511.43	1800.00
8.	Haryana	916.28	810.00
9.	Himachal Pradesh	687.51	810.00
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	492.64	810.00
11.	Karnataka	4222.00	2925.00
12.	Kerala	2672.93	1800.00
13.	Madhya Pradesh	1518.40	2250.00
14.	Chhattisgarh	963.00	765.00
15.	Maharashtra	6884.75	4500.00

1	2	3	4
16.	Manipur	390.35	345.00
17.	Mizoram	466.30	360.00
18.	Meghalaya	466.39	202.74
19.	Nagaland	1016.47	501.00
20.	Orissa		1485.00
21.	Punjab	500.00	1035.00
22.	Rajasthan	3438.55	3600.00
23.	Sikkim	635.28	162.86
24.	Tamil Nadu	2807.00	2250.00
25.	Tripura	340.59	350.00
26.	Uttar Pradesh	4033.00	3420.00
27.	Uttaranchal	690.00	630.00
28.	West Bengal	728.65	1125.00
29.	Chandigarh		50.00
30.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli		135.00
31.	Delhi		-
32.	Lakshdweep		90.00
33.	Pondicherry		135.00
34.	Daman and Diu		45.00
35.	A and N Islands		90.00
Total		37888.00	37814.60

Pisciculture

3262. SHRI RAMCHANDRA VEERAPPA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have set up any training centre for increasing Pisciculture in rural areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) and (b) Training Centers have been sanctioned by the Government of India under various Centrally Sponsored/ Central Sector Schemes for imparting practical training and increasing pisciculture in the rural areas. Details of Training Centres sanctioned for establishment/upgradation is provided in the attached statement.

(c) Does not arise.

Statement

Sl. No.	States/UTs	Freshwater aquaculture	Brackish water Aquaculture	Fisheries Training and Extension	World Bank Assisted Project	ICAR	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1	1	3	-	-	5
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	-	-	1	-	-	1
3.	Assam	1	-	-	-	-	1
4.	Bihar	-	-	3	-	-	3
5.	Goa	-	1	1	-	-	2
6.	Gujarat	-	1	2	-	-	3
7.	Haryana	1	-	1	-	-	2
8.	Himachal Pradesh	1	-	3	-	-	4
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	1	-	3	-	-	4
10.	Karnataka	1	1	5	-	-	7
11.	Kerala	1	1	1	-	1	4
12.	Madhya Pradesh	1	-	3	-	-	4
13.	Maharashtra	1	1	-	-	1	3
14.	Manipur	1	-	2	-	-	3
15.	Meghalaya	1	-	2	-	-	3
16.	Mizoram	1	-	1	-	-	2
17.	Nagaland	1	-	3	-	-	4
18.	Orissa	1	1	2	1	1	6
19.	Punjab	1	-	4	-	-	5
20.	Rajasthan	1	-	-	-	-	1
21.	Sikkim	-	-	-	-	-	-
22.	Tamil Nadu	1	1	5	-	1	8
23.	Tripura	1	-	2	-	-	3
24.	Uttar Pradesh	1	-	3	-	-	4
25.	Uttaranchal	-	-	-	-	1	1
26.	West Bengal	1	1	2	1	-	5
27.	A and N Islands	-	-	1	-	-	1
28.	Chandigarh	-	-	-	-	-	-

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
29.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	-	-	-	-	-	-
30.	Daman and Diu	-	-	-	-	-	-
31.	Delhi	-	-	-	-	-	-
32.	Lakshdweep	-	-	-	-	-	-
33.	Pondicherry	-	-	-	-	-	-
34.	Chhattisgarh	-	-	1	-	-	1
35.	Jharkhand	-	-	1	-	-	1
Total		20	9	55	2	5	91

Airworthiness Certificates to Aircraft

3263. SHRI C. SREENIVASAN :
SHRI AMBAREESHA :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the details of requirement needed for issuance of airworthiness certificate to aircraft;

(b) whether a number of aircraft/planes have been given airworthiness certificates without following the laid down guidelines;

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

(d) the action taken/being taken against the guilty officers who issued these certificates ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN) : (a) Rule 50 of the Aircraft Rules, 1937 empowers the Director General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) to issue/renew or validate the Certificate of Airworthiness. Certificate of Airworthiness, which is valid for one year, is issued by DGCA after satisfying that the aircraft is manufactured in accordance with an approved type design and various equipments are installed on the aircraft, as specified by DGCA.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Support Price of Cotton

3264. SHRI SHIVAJI VITHALRAO KAMBLE : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether support price of cotton have been declared;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether cotton procurement is not yet made in Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh etc. till date despite its support price being declared;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the time by which cotton procurement is likely to be made ?

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

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government has fixed the Minimum Support Prices (MSP) for basic varieties such as F-414/ H-777/J-34 at Rs. 1675/- per quintal and for H-4 variety at Rs. 1875 per quintal for 2001-2002 cotton season. The MSPs for other varieties are fixed by the Ministry of Textiles on the basis of market price differentials of the basic varieties.

(c) to (e) Under the Price Support Scheme (PSS), the Cotton Corporation of India (CCI), a central nodal agency, has commenced price support operation of raw cotton and has procured a total quantity of 26300 bales of 170 kgs. each of raw cotton as on 26.11.2001 during 2001-2002 season in the States of Rajasthan, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka. The share of Madhya Pradesh is 5,785 bales. Procurement is continuing.

As regards Maharashtra, procurement has been started by the Maharashtra State Cotton Growers Marketing Federation under the Monopoly Procurement Scheme w.e.f. 7.11.2001 and has procured kapas equivalent to 5.36 lakh bales of 170 kg. each of lint cotton as on 30.11.2001 as compared to 5.30 lakh bales procured during the corresponding period of last year.

Flying Schools

3265. SHRI RAMCHANDRA PASWAN :
SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the number of recognised flying instruction schools which train commercial pilots;

(b) whether the number of flying instructional schools are inadequate for the trainee pilots; and

(c) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to open more high-quality pilot training schools in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN) : (a) There are 44 recognised flying training schools/clubs/institutions imparting flying training in the country (list attached as statement)

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Statement*List of Flying Clubs/Schools/Institutions***(A) FLYING CLUBS/SCHOOLS/INSTITUTES COVERED UNDER SUBSIDY SCHEME****Andaman and Nicobar Islands**

Andaman and Nicobar Flying Training Institutes, Port Blair (October, 1998)

Andhra Pradesh

Andhra Pradesh Flying Club, Hyderabad (8.9.1958)

Assam

Assam Flying Club, Guwahati (28.02.1967)

Bihar

Bihar Flying Training Institute, Patna (1940)

Jamshedpur Co-operative Flying Club, Jamshedpur (1966)

Delhi

Delhi Flying Club, (28.05.1923)

Gujarat

Gujarat Flying Club, Baroda (20.12.1958)

Haryana

Haryana Institute of Civil Aviation, Karnal (1967)

Hissar Aviation Club, Hissar (1965)

Pinjore Aviation Club, Pinjore (01.04.1991)

Karnataka

Government Flying Training School, Bangalore (1948)

Kerala

Kerala Aviation Training Institute Thiruvananthapuram (14.7.1959)

Madhya Pradesh

Madhya Pradesh Flying Club, Indore with one branch at Bhopal (1951)

Maharashtra

Ajanta Flying Club, Aurangabad

Bombay Flying Club, Mumbai (09.05.1928)

Nagpur Flying Club, Nagpur (1948)

Orissa

Government Aviation Training Institute, Bhubaneswar (1946)

Punjab

Amritsar Aviation Club, Amritsar (1962)

Ludhiana Aviation Club, Ludhiana (1968)

Northern India Flying Club, Jalandhar Cantt.

Patiala Aviation Club, Patiala (October, 19262)

Rajasthan

Banasthali Vidyapith Flying Club (11.8.1961)

Rajasthan State Flying School, Jaipur (31.01.1997)

Tamil Nadu

Coimbatore Aviation Training Academy, Coimbatore (1960)

Madras Flying Club, Chennai (04.03.1930)

Uttar Pradesh

Government Flying Training Centre, Lucknow with 3 branches at Kanpur, Faizabad and Varanasi (01.08.1980)

West Bengal

Government Flying Training Institute, Kolkata
(07.08.1963)

(B) PRIVATE FLYING CLUBS/SCHOOLS/INSTITUTES**Andhra Pradesh**

Flytech Aviation Academy, Hyderabad (01.11.1996)

Wings Aviation Pvt. Ltd., Hyderabad (09.10.1998)

Bihar

Tata Nagar Aviation, Jamshedpur (22.7.1996)

Gujarat

Ahmedabad Aviation Akademi (01.05.1994)

Karnataka

Academy of Carver Aviation (P) Ltd., Balgaum

Bangalore Aeronautics Technical Services Pvt. Ltd.
(BATS) (12.01.1994)

Taneja Aerospace and Aviation Ltd., Bangalore
(16.4.1996)

Madhya Pradesh

Frank Airways Pvt. Ltd. Indore (06.11.199)

Pondicherry (Union territory)

Orient Flight School, Pondicheery (26.12.1994)

Rajasthan

Rajputana Aviation Academy, Kota (22.07.1996)

Tamil Nadu

Tetra Aviation Academy, Salem (04.02.1997)

Uttar Pradesh

Garg Aviation Ltd., Kanpur (11.10.1996)

(C) AUTONOMOUS ORGANISATION UNDER MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION

Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Uran Akademi, Fursatganj,
(Uttar Pradesh) (21.03.1985)

[English]

Production of Pepper

3266. SHRI VAIKO : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the production of the pepper in the country in comparison to the world during the last three years and country-wise figures;

(b) the estimated production of pepper in the coming season in the country in comparison to the world estimated, country-wise figures;

(c) the estimated internal consumption during this period;

(d) the details of pepper price in the country during the last three years in comparison to world, year-wise and country-wise;

(e) the estimated fall in the pepper price alongwith reasons therefor; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to help the farmers in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) :
(a) and (b) The latest statistics of production of black pepper in the country are available for 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000. These are as given below :

year	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
Production (thousand tonnes)	57.33	66.36	58.29

The estimates of production of black pepper for ensuing season in the country are not made. Similar figures in respect of world/other countries are also not available. However, a comparative Statement on production of chillies and pepper in different countries of the world for the years 1997, 1998 and 1999 from FAO Production Yearbook is given in the Statement-I enclosed.

(c) No official estimates of internal consumption of black pepper are prepared.

(d) The monthly prices of pepper at important locations in India vis-a-vis those in Brazil and United Kingdom during 1998 to 2000 are given in statement-II

(e) The Wholesale Price Indices (WPI) (base year 1933-94 = 100) of black pepper during 1997-98 to 2001-02 are given below :

Year	WPI
1	2
1997-98	421.1
1998-99	511.2

1	2
1999-2000	525.9
2000-01	501.4
2001-02*	303.2

*Average of 5 months from April 2001 to August 2001.

The fall in prices of pepper is mainly due to increase in supply position in the international markets and the main buying countries have reduced their inventory level.

(f) Government have taken the following steps to improve exports which in turn will help the farmers :

- Support exporters, traders, processors and growers to improve quality of pepper through post harvest training, setting up processing units and improving infrastructure including in-house laboratories for quality checks.
- Awarding spice house certificate and Indian spices LOGO for consistent improvement in quality.
- Assist exporters in brand promotion.
- Participate in international fairs and seminars to promote Indian pepper.
- The futures trading of pepper, conducted by Indian Pepper and Spice Trade Association (IPSTA) at Cochin, gives opportunities for growers and traders to participate in futures trade for better prices. Government of India have also agreed to conduct futures trading of pepper in dollar terms.
- Popularising organic farming of pepper which fetches a premium price in the international market.

Statement-I

Production of Chillies and Peppers, Green

('000 Tonnes)

	1997	1998	1999
	1	2	3
World	16543	17553	18088
Africa	1993	2024	2313

	1	2	3
Algeria	191	157	156
Benin	24	20	20 F
Bureina FASO	7 F	7 F	7 F
Cote Divoire	21	21 F	21 F
Egypt	363	385	635
Ghana	235	300	300
Libya	13 F	14 F	14 F
Mali	1 F	1 F	1 F
Mauritius	1	1	1 F
Morocco	201	204	200 F
Nigeria	745	709	738
Sudan	4 F	5 F	5 F
Tunisia	186	200	215 *
N.C. America	2211	2582	2679
Barbados	1	1 F	1 F
Canada	42	35	38 F
Cuba	10	12 F	12 F
Dominican RP	12	16	17 F
EL Salvador	2 F	2 F	3 F
Guatemala	2 F	2 F	2 F
Honduras	4 F	2	2 F
Jamaica	7	7	7 F
Mexico	1446	1850	1943
Panama	2 F	2 F	2 F
Puerto Rico	4 F	4	4 F
Trinidad Tob	1 F	1 F	1 F
USA	679	649	649 F
South America	281	331	334
Argentina	90 F	90 F	93 F
Bolivia	6	6	6 F

	1	2	3		1	2	3
Chile	60 F	71	72 F	Yemen	9	10	10
Colombia	10 F	10 F	10 F	Europe (FMR)	2516	2611	2494
Ecuador	5	17	4	Europe	2630	2747	2642
Paraguay	10	9	10 F	Austria	6	6 F	6 F
Peru	32	49	50 F	Bel-Lux	12	14	13 F
Uruguay	7 F	7 F	7 F	Bulgaria	180	242	242 F
Venezuela	62	72	83	Croatia	25	28	37
Asia (FMR)	9370	9806	10052	Czech REP	5 F	5 F	5 F
Asia	9394	9836	10086	France	28	27	26
Azerbaijan	2 *	3 F	2 F	Greece	91	103	100 F
Bhutan	9 F	9 F	9 F	Hungary	141	152	153 F
China	7033 F	7283 F	7513 F	Italy	357	349	316
Cyprus	2	2	2 F	Macedonia	100	111	111 F
India	48 F	49 F	49 F	Moldova REP	28 *	30 F	38 *
Indonesia	316	274	274 F	Netherlands	251	250	250 F
Iraq	30 F	32 F	29 F	Portugal	1 F	1 F	1 F
Israel	79	95	95 F	Romania	167	191	60
Japan	169	160	160 F	Slovakia	42	42 F	42 F
Jordan	19	19 F	19 F	Spain	893	883	924
Kazakhstan	22 *	27 *	32 *	UK	7	7	8
Korea DP RP	50 F	50 F	50 F	Ukraine	86	106	110 *
Korea REP	322	288	307	Yugoslav SFR			
Kuwait	4	5	6	Yugoslavia	209	200 F	200 F
Philippines	18	18 F	18 F	Oceania	34	33	33
Qatar	1	1 F	1 F	Australia	32	31	31 F
Sri Lanka	72	62	62 F	Fiji Islands	1 F	1	1 F
Syria	40	40 F	38 F	New Zealand	1 F	1	1 F
Thailand	12 F	13 F	13 F				
Turkey	1130	1390	1390 F				
Untd Arab EM	6	6	7 F				

F - FAO Estimates

* - Un-Official Figures.

Source : FAO Production Yearbook 1999, Vol. 53

Statement-II*Prices of Black Pepper in India, Brazil and United Kingdom*

Country	State/Centre	Variety	Year	January	February	March	April
India	Kerala, Alleppey	Palai	1998	15100	178000	20200	20500
			1999	19000	17500	18000	17700
			2000	21800	20700	21300	22500
	Kerala, Cochin	Ungarbled	1998	15200	17500	20200	20500
			1999	NA	NA	17600	17500
			2000	21800	19500	21200	21800
	Karnataka, Sirsi	-	1998	17196	NA	20529	NA
			1999	20629	NA	20890	16200
			2000	21269	21819	20499	22899
	Karnataka, Mangalore	-	1998	14064	14250	18750	NA
			1999	18000	16278	16732	16000
			2000	19500	18732	18652	21636
	Tamil Nadu, Chennai	Garbled	1998	20800	19400	19400	19750
			1999	21200	21200	18000	18200
			2000	22500	22500	20000	22000
Brazil		Grade I	1998	NA	18653	18262	NA
			1999	21335	20130	20884	NA
			2000	24707	23833	24144	23789
UK	London	Sarawak	1998	16577	16710	21637	23142
		Special	1999	21335	21415	21310	19944
		Black	2000	23177	21865	22150	21170

National Water Management Project

3267. SHRI A.P. JITHENDER REDDY : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have formulated comprehensive proposal for National Water Management Project-II.

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith estimated cost of the Project;

(c) whether the Government have sought any assistance from World Bank; and

(d) the names of the beneficiary States on completion of the Project ?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI ARJUN SETHI) : (a) to (d) A comprehensive proposal for

National Water - Management Project Phase II covering 428 schemes and CCA of 6.3 million ha in 11 States viz. Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Goa, Gujarat, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal, amounting to Rs. 2880 crores was forwarded to the World Bank for assistance through Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance, in December, 1996. The World Bank did not agree to fund the proposal.

Indo-Nepal Cooperation of Water Resources

3268. SHRI R.L. BHATIA : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been any progress in the cooperation on water resources between India and Nepal; and

(Rs. per quintal)

May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
20500	20100	21700	21700	21000	20500	19000	20600
18300	18600	18500	20600	21500	25500	24100	21500
22400	21000	21000	20400	18000	16500	12500	14500
20500	20000	21600	21300	20300	19900	19800	20400
18000	18000	17900	21000	21500	25500	22800	21300
22200	20800	20800	20100	19100	NA	NA	NA
NA	NA	18892	NA	NA	NA	19899	20195
15190	17899	17890	20946	19839	22829	23719	21469
21896	19669	19299	20946	17691	18569	15696	14279
19600	18500	NA	NA	NA	NA	19098	18694
16520	16532	16636	19232	19232	NA	23034	20000
21600	19000	18552	18932	18200	18200	NA	NA
20000	20000	21000	21700	21700	22200	21700	21750
18000	18200	18400	22100	22250	25500	26500	22500
21700	20500	20000	21000	18000	18200	14000	13000
NA	NA	23031	23312	21767	21690	21736	20506
NA	22526	21695	21810	23177	23975	26578	25559
24057	NA	NA	20948	16884	16370	14295	NA
22369	25057	22605	22017	21340	21690	21736	21360
19305	19927	19959	22682	24052	23975	25271	25340
21161	21362	19998	20249	18291	16133	15248	13998

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI ARJUN SETHI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There has been significant progress in the cooperation in water resources between India and Nepal. In this regard an India Nepal Joint Committee of Water Resources (JCWR) headed by the respective Secretaries of the Ministry of Water Resources of the two countries have been formed, to discuss and take decisions on important issues. Regarding multipurpose projects on various rivers common to India and Nepal, the Detailed Project Report (DPR) for Pancheshwar Multipurpose Project is already under preparation by Joint Project Office, Kathmandu. Further, the Inception Report in respect of Sapta Kosi High Dam Multipurpose Project and Sun Kosi Storage cum diversion Scheme has also been finalized

paving the way for field investigations and preparation of DPR. An India-Nepal Standing Committee (SCIP) constituted in 1986 is also meeting regularly to look into various inundation problems faced by the two countries in the border areas.

Demands of Beedi Workers

3269. SHRI NAMDEO HARBAJI DIWATHE :
 SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADODA MANDLIK :
 SHRI C.N. SINGH :
 SHRI SHIVAJI MANE :
 SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI :
 SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "Beedi workers take

protest march" appeared in the Hindu dated November 28, 2001;

(b) if so, the demands made by the beedi workers and their Unions;

(c) the time by which these are serving with the Government along with the reasons;

(d) whether the Government have taken any action on their demands;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the time by which all the demands are likely to be examined ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The main demands include uniform minimum wages for beedi workers throughout the country, abolition of contract and sub-contract system in beedi making, supply of sufficient quantity of raw materials, issue of identity cards and log book to all beedi workers including home-based women workers, withdrawal of exemption given to unbranded beedis in excise duty, withdrawal of concession given to mini cigarettes in excise duty, equal pay for women workers, withdrawal of 100% FDI from cigarette Multi National Companies (MNCs) and withdrawal of excise concession given to MNCs in North East Areas and pressurize America to lift the ban on export of Indian beedis.

(c) to (f) The demands were made in the past also by the Beedi Workers Unions. The Government has considered all these demands and taken appropriate action where needed. Government have enacted the Beedi and Cigar Workers (Conditions of Employment) Act, 1966, to protect beedi workers from exploitation of the employers. It empowers the State Governments to frame rules in regard to various matters including the manner in which sorting or rejection of beedis is done and maximum limit of the percentage of the rejection of beedis, distribution of raw materials, settlement of disputes etc. Implementation of the above Act and the Rules made thereunder is done by the State Governments.

Under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, beedi making is included as a scheduled employment in the State sphere. State Governments are the appropriate Governments to fix and revise minimum wages.

Groundnut and Sunflower

3270. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ :

SHRI G. MALLIKARJUNAPPA :

SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Karnataka has urged the farmers to grow alternative crops in place of groundnut and sunflower crops following the detection of virus which affects these plants in the State;

(b) if so, whether Agricultural Commissioner has pointed out that Hyderabad-based research institute has confirmed the presence of the virus, which can effect the groundnut and sunflower in Chitradurga, Bellary, Koppal and Tumkur districts;

(c) whether the Government of Karnataka has urged the Government of India to provide necessary assistance and research in switching over to alternative crops like ragi and maize;

(d) if so, whether both the Government of India and the Government of Karnataka have provided assistance to the farmers for change over an alternative crops;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor ?

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) No, Sir.

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

(f) The recommendations of local Agricultural Universities and International Crops Research Institute for Semi Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) have been obtained by Government of Karnataka in this regard.

Workers in CIL, ECL, BCCL

3271. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE : Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state :

The number of workers in various subsidiaries of Coal India Limited, Eastern Coalfields Limited, Bharat Coking Coalfields Limited, Western Coalfields Limited, Central Coalfields Limited and Singareni and other coal mines in Madhya Pradesh who have been permanently or partially crippled or declared medically unfit because of various factors including pneumoconiosis during the last three years, year-wise, company-wise and colliery-wise, underground and on surface, separately ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) The details of the number of workers in various subsidiaries of Coal India Limited in Madhya Pradesh who have been

permanently or partially crippled or declared unfit because of various factors including pneumoconiosis during the last three years, company-wise and year-wise are given and under :

Name of the Company	No. of Workers Declared Medically Unfit		
	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01
ECL	29	3	0
BCCL	79	34	9
CCL	57	37	29
SECL	71	59	69
NCL	7	7	0
WCL	77	34	29

Effect of Declining Water Level on Hydel Projects

3272. SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether two major hydel power projects on Krishna River Srisaillam and Nagarjunasagar in Andhra Pradesh have come to halt due to decline in water level; and

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

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI ARJUN SETHI) : (a) No, Sir. On 3.12.2001 Nagarjunasagar generated 185 mw and Srisaillam 322 mw. The cumulative generation since 1.4.2001 till 3.12.2001 at these two hydel stations is 766.80 million units and 1184.44 million units respectively.

(b) Does not arise.

Users Fee at Airports

3273. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that users fee is collected at various airports in the country;

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

(c) whether the Government have issued any instructions/guidelines against collection of such fees; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN) : (a) and (b) At Calicut Airport User Development Additional Fee (UDAF) was being collected at the rate of Rs. 500 per embarking international passenger since October, 1995. The rate of UDAF has been revised from Rs. 500 to Rs. 375 with effect from 5.1.2001. As per information available, Cochin International Airport Ltd. is charging Service Fee at the rate of Rs. 500 with effect from 14.4.2000 to international passengers except infants and passengers travelling by international flights to any destination within India.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

National Sericulture Museum and Documentation Centre

3274. SHRI G. MALLIKARJUNAPPA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Karnataka State Sericulture Research and Development Institute (KSSRDI) has decided to set up a National Sericulture Museum and Documentation Centre;

(b) if so, whether the KSSRDI has also planned to organise an international seminar on sericulture in Bangalore;

(c) whether there is a lot of interest about sericulture in foreign countries like Zimbabwe and other African nations and seminar would provide them a good chance to interact with India's experts and farmers; and

(d) if so, the manner in which the Union Government have helped in improving the sericulture activities ?

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) An International Seminar is contemplated to be organized during 2004-05 as a part of Silver Jubilee Celebrations of the Karnataka State Sericulture Research and Development Institute (KSSRDI).

(c) Joint collaborative Research Development and Training on Sericulture with Zimbabwe and other African nations can be extended by utilizing the expertise and facilities available at Karnataka State Sericulture Research and Development Institute (KSSRDI).

(d) So far no proposal has been received because the proposed Seminar is in 2004-05.

[Translation]

Theft of Coal

3275. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT : Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) the loss suffered by coal mines and coal companies of the country due to misappropriation of funds and pilferage of coal during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the details of expenditure incurred by the officials on parties and on repair of company vehicles from outside agencies State-wise; and

(c) the details of policies framed and steps taken by the Government towards checking of losses and corruption ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) No case of

loss due to misappropriation of funds has been reported in any subsidiary of CIL during the last three years, except in Mahanadi Coalfields Limited, Orissa. The details of these cases are as under :

Year	Amount Involved	Amount Recovered
1998-99	Rs. 63.38 lakhs	Rs. 54.66 lakhs
1999-2000	Rs. 7.27 lakhs	

Theft of Coal is carried out clandestinely and as such it is not possible to exactly specify the loss due to theft. However, as per raids conducted by security personnel as well as joint raids with the law and order authorities of the concerned State Governments during last three years, the following quantities were recovered in the subsidiary companies of Coal India Limited :-

Company	1998-99		1999-2000		2000-2001	
	Quantity recovered (T)	Approximate Value (Rs. Lakhs)	Quantity recovered (T)	Approximate Value (Rs. Lakhs)	Quantity recovered (T)	Approximate Value (Rs. Lakhs)
ECL	15324.00	122.60	342.00	2.74	22353.00	179.30
BCCL	277.62	2.99	2842.00	42.16	148.54	1.92
CCL	510.00	5.10	727.00	7.26	244.20	2.40
NCL	33.00	0.22	2.00	0.02	15.00	0.10
WCL	133.42	1.33	93.00	0.88	265.07	2.77
SECL	32.00	0.27	48.00	0.15	107.00	0.72
MCL	144.00	0.84	321.00	1.66	95.00	0.47
NEC	50.00	0.50	0	0	0	0
Total	16504.04	133.85	4375.00	54.87	23227.81	187.68

(b) The coal companies do not incur expenditure on parties. The expenditure incurred on repair of company vehicles from the outside agencies during 2000-01 is given below :-

State	Expenditure (In Rs. Lakhs)
1	2
West Bengal and Assam	248.57
Madhya Pradesh	501.51
Maharashtra	231.18
Chattisgarh	321.55

1	2
Orissa	155.98
Uttar Pradesh	152.94
Jharkhand and Others	966.52

(c) The policies and steps adopted for checking losses and corruption are :-

- (i) Regular periodical inspections and surprise checks are being carried out by Vigilance Department.
- (ii) Specific cases of any irregularity are investigated by the Vigilance Departments of CIL and its subsidiaries.

- (iii) Periodical auditing is being carried out at regular intervals round the year by auditors.
- (iv) A drive has been launched, with the help of the concerned State Governments, to verify the antecedents of linked consumers in the non-core sector sponsored by State Governments.

Chidia Iron Ore

3276. SHRI LAXMAN GILUWA : Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state :

- (a) whether Chidia Iron Ore mines at Manoharpur in West Singhbhum have huge reserves;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether there are no roads to approach the mines and lack of electricity has compelled the use of generators there; and
- (d) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) and (b) As reported by the Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM), a subordinate office under the Ministry of Coal and Mines, Department of Mines, there are 4 leaseholds which comprises Chidia Iron Ore Mines with total lease area of 2270 hect. The block wise approximate recoverable reserves are as follows :

West Central Block	566 million tonnes
North Block	517 million tonnes
East Central Block	326 million tonnes
South Block	286 million tonnes

The total reserves in all the 4 blocks are about 1695 million tonnes.

(c) IBM has reported that approach roads are available up to the mine. However, these roads are seasonal and often disrupted by river/nallahs crossing these roads specially in rainy season. No electric power supply is available at the mines. The nearest power grid is available at a distance of 12 kms. The mining operations are being carried out with the help of diesel generators.

(d) The holders of mineral concessions are required to coordinate with the State Governments for infrastructural facilities at the mining sites.

[English]

Irrigation Potential

3277. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the gap between irrigation potential created and utilized has not been bridged despite the constitution of Command Area Development Programme;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI ARJUN SETHI) : (a) and (b) the gap between irrigation potential created and utilized has been considerably bridged through the implementation of the Command Area Development (CAD) Programme in projects covered under the programme. However, the gap has not been completely bridged, inter alia, on account of the following :

- (i) Non inclusion of all irrigation projects in the Command Area Development programme.
- (ii) Changes in cropping pattern, than that initially envisaged, and
- (iii) Poor maintenance of irrigation systems and siltation of canals/reservoirs.

(c) The steps taken by the Government to bridge the gap between potential created and utilized include encouragement and assistance for Participatory Irrigation Management involving the beneficiaries to improve the efficiency of the system and ensure better maintenance of the existing assets. Further, the State Governments are motivated to allocate more resources for improving water use efficiency and irrigation practices for utilization of the created potential. Trainings are also imparted to the farmers and field functionaries for efficient on farm water management and adoption of suitable cropping pattern.

Wasteful Expenditure

3278. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether his Ministry has identified any sectors of his Ministry/departments in which wasteful expenditure is maximum;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the quantum of wasteful expenditure identified therein during each of the last three years; and

(d) the steps taken so far by his Ministry to curtail/stop such expenditure ?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) to (d) Government is not aware of any wasteful expenditure in any of the sectors. It is only after carefully considering each proposal on merit keeping in view the rules and procedures that the actual administrative and financial sanctions are issued. Any expenditure is only incurred thereafter.

Profit Earned by Durgapur Steel Plant

3279. SHRI SUNIL KHAN : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Durgapur Steel Plant has made operating profit in first quarter;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have any proposal to invest Rs. 250 crore for purchasing machines to make it fully profit making plant; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Durgapur Steel Plant (DSP) has earned a Gross Margin (Profit before interest and depreciation) of Rs. 55 crores in the first quarter of current year (2001-02). However, it made a net loss of Rs. 54 crores after charging interest and depreciation.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Unreasonable Demand by Organised Trade Unions

3280. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the organised trade unions in the country are insisting on unreasonable demands in various industries in the country;

(b) if so, the details of demands and whether these demands are in accordance with country's labour laws; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) to (c) The trade unions have generally voiced the concern of workers on the policies of disinvestments and privatization. In the 37th session of

the Indian Labour Conference held in New Delhi on 18-19 May, 2001, it was demanded that there should no dis-investments in the defence sector and also in the companies earning profits. It will be difficult to categorize these demands as reasonable or unreasonable, Since they have been made in the specific context of the ongoing economic reforms process and express the workers' perception, which have a certain sanctity in a democratic society.

Mid-Air Violations

3281. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned 'Official writes to IAF on mid-air occurrence' appearing in the Hindu, Delhi, dated September 11, 2001.

(b) if so, the details of mid-air violations of flight occurred on August 18, 2001; and

(c) the fresh steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government for establishing a clear cut set of rules to monitor aircraft movement over the restricted defence air zones, where commercial planes are not allowed to fly ?

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

(b) There was on mid-air violation as the reported traffic was at 2000 ft. below the Jet Airways flight while the required separation at this level is 1000 ft.

(c) In view of the above, no fresh steps have been taken in this matter. As per existing system Air defence identification zone, Restricted and Prohibited areas have been established in the Indian Airspace to control and monitor flying of commercial planes over such areas. Also, the Military Liaison Unit has been established in the four major international airports i.e. Mumbai, Delhi, Kolkata and Chennai to monitor the flying over Indian Airspace. Civil Defence co-ordination procedure exists to control and regulate the air traffic.

Barrage of Yamuna River

3282. SHRI RAJ BABBAR : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have sanctioned the construction of a barrage on Yamuna river at Bhuiya Ghat in Agra to bring improvement in water supply;

(b) if so, the amount sanctioned and the amount spent so far; and

(c) the work completed so far and the time by which the barrage is likely to be completed ?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI ARJUN SETHI) : (a) to (c) The Agra Barrage Project was found technically feasible by the Central Water Commission and approved by the Expenditure Finance Committee on 13.2.2001 for Rs. 120.47 crores for completion in 5 years as a part of Taj Protection Mission.

Automatic Independent Surveillance System

3283. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Airports Authority of India (AAI) has indigenously developed Automatic Independent Surveillance System (AIS) operational at some airports in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the extent to which it is likely to help the security aspects of aircraft/flight ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN) : (a) and (b) Automatic Dependent Surveillance System (ADS) has been developed jointly by the Airports Authority of India (AAI) and Electronics Corporation of India Ltd., (ECIL), Hyderabad. This has been installed at Chennai and Kolkata airports. However, this is operational at Chennai only and at Kolkata, it is likely to be made operational after test operation.

(c) ADS is used for surveillance of air traffic over oceanic airspace. It provides accurate positioning report of the aircraft and helps in optimizing the airspace management.

Illegal Unloading of Coal

3284. SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY : Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether illegal unloading of Coal in transport transit is posing a serious threat of Coal Industry;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the remedial measures being taken by the Government to check this illegal coal unloading in transit ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) to (c) The subsidiaries of Coal India sell coal on Free On

Rail/Road (F.O.R.) basis. After purchase, since the coal belongs to the buyer during transit, any illegal unloading in transit should not adversely affect Coal India.

Agreement between Air India and Virgin Atlantic

3285. SHRI SAIDUZZAMA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether an agreement was signed between Air India and Virgin Atlantic for 6 flights which was duly approved by the Government in March, 2000;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Air India has failed to implement this agreements;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps being taken to look into this serious lapse and fix responsibility in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN) : (a) and (b) As per the principles laid down in the Heads of Agreement (HOA) concluded between Air India (AI) and Virgin Atlantic (VS) in December, 1999 and approved by the Government in March, 2000, VS can operate against AI's unutilized entitlement under the India-U.K. Air Services Agreement on London-Delhi sector subject to a code-share/block space agreement (CS/BSA) with AI. The agreement provides for operation of 3 services by VS on the days not served by AI. The agreement also provides for VS increasing its operations upto 6 frequencies under a trigger mechanism whereby an increase in frequencies will be considered provided AI retains its current loads on its 10 frequencies and seat factors on the CS/BSA flights exceeding an agreed level.

(c) to (e) No, Sir. As per the agreement VS commenced two services effective 5th July, 2000 on the days not served by AI. VS's proposal to operate the third frequency was not supported by AI since it would have entailed an overlap with AI's operations in violation of the agreement. The Government have asked AI to arrange a meeting with VS to resolve the issue.

[Translation]

Visit of Domestic/Foreign Tourists in Maharashtra

3286. SHRI RAMDAS RUPALA GAVIT : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) the details of tourist places in Maharashtra and the number of foreign/domestic tourists visited these places during each of the last three years; and

(b) the foreign exchange/revenue earned therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN) : (a) The main tourist places of Maharashtra visited by foreign/domestic tourists are as under :

Aurangabad-Ajanta-Ellora, Alibag, Ahmednagar, Bhandardara, Bhimashankar, Ganpatiphule, Kolhapur, Lonavala-Khandala, Matheran, Mahabaleshwar, Mumbai, Murud Janjira, Nagpur, Nashik, Nanded, Panhala, Raunar, Pandharpur, Parli, Pohe, Ratnagiri, Raigarh Shirdi, Sinhgarh, Sindhudurg, Sevagram, Shivneri Fort, Trimbakeshwar, Vajreshwari and Wardha.

During the last three years the domestic and foreign tourists visited Maharashtra are given below :

Year	1998	1999	2000
Domestic	7183687	7542871	8297158
Foreign	980850	1033816	1075169

(b) There is no mechanism to quantify the income earned from tourism by individual States. However, during the last three years the following are the estimated foreign exchange earnings from tourism for the country;

Year	In Rs. Crores	In US \$ Million
1998	12150.00	2948.00
1999	12951.00	3009.00
2000	14475.43	3295.54

Labour Law to Multinational Companies

3287. SHRI C.N. SINGH : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn towards the news-item captioned "Pepsi per karamcharyon ko jabran nikalne ka arrop" appearing in Jansatta, dated November 7, 2001;

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

(c) whether existing labour laws do not apply to multinational companies;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps being taken by the Government to implement labour laws on said companies to safeguard the interests of labourers there?

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

[English]

Reduction in Number of Unions

3288. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have any policy to reduce the number of Unions in industrial units;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the extent to which this is likely to be proved helpful in maintaining harmony;

(d) whether such a proposal has been implemented in any industry so far; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) to (e) Certain amendments in the Trade Unions Act, 1926 have been made by the Government. These amendments have been notified in the Gazette of India on 3rd September 2001. One of the amendments in the Act is as follows : "Provided that no Trade Union of workmen shall be registered unless at least ten per cent, or one hundred of the workmen, whichever is less, engaged or employed in the establishment or industry with which it is connected or the members of such Trade Union on the date of making of application for registration.

Provided further that no Trade Union of workmen shall be registered unless it has on the date of making application not less than seven persons as its members, who are workmen engaged or employed in the establishment or industry with which it is connected;

Once this amendment comes into force on a date appointed by the Central Government by a notification, it is expected to reduce the formation of number of Unions. This will also be helpful in maintaining industrial harmony in the country.

Breed of Cattle

3289. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of indigenous recognized breeds of cattle and their potential in terms of Drought Animal Power and Milk;

(b) whether nearly 80% are termed as non-descript;

(c) if so, the steps taken to bring them under locally known breeds;

(d) whether several adverse effects of CB programme are surfacing in respect of diseases and productivity reduction; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

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

(a) A list of indigenous breeds of cattle is given in statement enclosed. Peak yield as high as 32.00 Kg. in a day is recorded in a few indigenous breeds of cattle. However, average lactation yield in different milch breeds range from 1200-2262 kg. So far as draught animal power is concerned, draught output of 0.70 HP. have been recorded, while the overall average power rating per bullock of all type is estimated to be about 0.5 HP.

(b) Although breed wise census is not conducted for Livestock, it is generally accepted that about 80% of indigenous cattle do not conform to the characteristics of any breed and hence are described as non-descript cattle.

(c) Broad outline of breeding policy for cattle in the country adopted since sixties envisage improvement of indigenous breeds through selective breeding and use of these breeds for genetic upgradation of nondescript cattle. Programmes are undertaken in line with this policy. The recently launched National Project for Cattle and Buffalo Breeding also has a focus on indigenous Breeds.

(d) and (e) Most of the adverse effects observed in crossbred stock relate to higher susceptibility to climatic and nutritional stress as well diseases than native cattle, resulting in sub-optimal output from crossbred animals in terms of productivity and reproductive efficiency. These effects can be reduced considerably by adopting appropriate management and health cover packages which are generally cost effective and affordable.

Statement

Breed	Breeding tract	Type
1	2	3
1. Gir	Gujarat	Milch

	1	2	3
2.	Sahiwal	Punjab	Milch
3.	Red Sindhi	Punjab	Milch
4.	Rathi	Rajasthan	Milch
5.	Deoni	Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Maharashtra	General utility
6.	Hariana	Haryana, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan	General utility
7.	Mewati	Rajasthan	General utility
8.	Ongole	Andhra Pradesh	General utility
9.	Gaolao	Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra	General utility
10.	Krishna Valley	Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra	General utility
11.	Tharparkar	Gujarat and Rajasthan	General utility
12.	Kankrej	Gujarat	General utility
13.	Nagori	Rajasthan	Draught
14.	Bachaur	Bihar	Draught
15.	Kenkatha	Uttar Pradesh	Draught
16.	Malvi	Madhya Pradesh	Draught
17.	Kehrigarh	Uttar Pradesh	Draught
18.	Hallikar	Karnataka	Draught
19.	Amritmahal	Karnataka	Draught
20.	Khillari	Maharashtra	Draught
21.	Bargur	Tamil Nadu	Draught
22.	Kangayam	Tamil Nadu	Draught
23.	Ponwar	Uttar Pradesh	Draught
24.	Siri	West Bengal, Sikkim	Draught
25.	Nimari	Madhya Pradesh	Draught
26.	Dangi	Maharashtra	Draught
27.	Red Kandhari	Maharashtra	Draught

Source : ICAR (2000) – Animal Genetic Resources of India (Cattle and Buffalo).

Irrigation Projects in Orissa

3290. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the shortcomings in the implementation of several irrigation projects in Orissa;

(b) if so, the irrigation projects where such irregularities have been revealed; and

(c) the action taken against the officials involved therein ?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI ARJUN SETHI) : (a) The Government of Orissa have reported that certain shortcomings in the implementation of some irrigation projects in the State have come to their notice.

(b) The irrigation projects are Water Resources Consolidation Project, Kusumi Jore, Rengali and Manjore irrigation projects.

(c) First Investigation Reports in respect of 10 cases in the above projects have been lodged by the Central Bureau of Investigation.

Ban on Pesticides

3291. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether to boost the export of foodgrains Government propose to issue instructions to State Governments for banning the use of pesticides which are toxic and whose residues persist for along time in food commodities and the environment; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and its likely impact on production of foodgrains ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) and (b) Under the Insecticides Act, 1968, the pesticides are registered by the Registration Committee after satisfying about their efficacy to target pests and safety to human beings and environment. When used on recommended crops as per the recommended dosage, manner of application etc. under good agricultural practices, residues are not likely to cross the prescribed limits. However, whenever any report is received by the Government that a particular pesticide is toxic/hazardous, the said pesticide is reviewed by experts for its continued use or otherwise in the country. Based on such reviews,

26 pesticides and 5 formulations of 4 other pesticides have been banned for use in the country. The list of these pesticides is enclosed as statement.

Statement*List of Pesticides/Pesticide Formulations Banned in India***A. Pesticides and their formulations banned for import, manufacture and use**

1. Aldrin
2. Benzene Hexachloride
3. Calcium Cyanide
4. Chlordane
5. Copper Acetoarsenite
6. Dibromochloropropane
7. Endrin
8. Ethyl Mercury Chloride
9. Ethyl Parathion
10. Heptachlor
11. Menazone
12. Nitrofen
13. Paraquat dimethyl Sulfate
14. Pentachloro nitrobenzene
15. Pentachlorophenol
16. Sodium Methane Arsonate
17. Tetradifon
18. Toxafen
19. Aldicarb
20. Chlorbenzilate
21. Dieldrin
22. Maletic hydrazide
23. Ethylene Dibromide
24. TCA (Trichloro acetic acid)
25. Nicotin Sulphate*
26. Phenyl Mercury Acetate*

Use shall be
banned w.e.f.
17.7.2003

B. Pesticide formulations banned for import, manufacture and use

1. Methomyl 24%L
2. Methomyl 12.5%L
3. Phosphamidon 85% SL
4. Carbofuron 50% SP
5. Captafol 80% DS*

*Banned for use in India but their manufacture is allowed for export.

**Expansion of Air India and
Indian Airlines**

3292. SHRI BRAHMA NAND MANDAL :
SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether progress of expansion plan of Air India and Indian Airlines has been adversely affected due to shortage of new aircraft and pilots for existing aircraft ?

(b) if so, the remedial steps proposed to be taken by the Government to overcome the problem; and

(c) the time by which the expansion plans are likely to be implemented ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN) : (a) to (c) In view of the disinvestment, it was found desirable that the decisions regarding major capital expenditure and purchase of new aircraft be left to the new management. However, to meet the short term requirement, Air India have taken 4 A310-300 aircraft on dry lease with a view to augment its routes

and passengers carrying capacity. Air India is also considering the induction of 4 additional A310-300 aircraft on dry lease – 2 by end of December, 2001/early January 2002 and 2 in the second quarter of 2002.

Similarly, Indian Airlines has also inducted four A-320 aircraft on dry lease basis, two in April/May 2001 and two in November, 2001. Another two A-320 aircraft are scheduled for induction in March, 2002. The lease tenure of two A-300 aircraft has also been extended from 3 years to 5 years.

[Translation]

Pending Irrigation Proposals of Bihar

3293. SHRI RAJO SINGH : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the details of irrigation proposals submitted by the Government of Bihar to the Union Government for approval during the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(b) the details of proposals still pending with the Union Government;

(c) the number of proposals approved by the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs till date;

(d) the assistance provided to the State Government for the purpose; and

(e) the projects implemented so far with the said assistance ?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI ARJUN SETHI) : (a) and (b) Seven irrigation project proposals have been received from Bihar in the Central Water Commission during Ninth Five Year Plan for techno-economic appraisal, out of which four proposals belong to reorganized Bihar State :

S. No.	Project	Latest Estimated Cost (Rs. in Crore)	Status
1	2	3	4
1.	Punpun Barrage Project	84.5519	Accepted by the Advisory Committee of MOWR on 03.08.2001 subject to fulfillment of certain conditions by the State Government, viz, clearance from environment angle.
2.	Tilayia Dhadhar Project	301.79	Accepted by the Advisory Committee of MOWR on 31.05.2001 subject to fulfillment of certain conditions by the State Government, viz, clearance from environment angle and fulfillment of relevant clauses of the 19.07.78 Inter-State Agreement.

1	2	3	4
3.	Kadwan Reservoir Project	1111.14	Observations forwarded to State Government, compliance awaited.
4.	Upper Manananda	124.00	Observations forwarded to State Government, compliance awaited.

(c) After technical examination appraisal in the Central Water Commission, the project proposals are considered by the Advisory Committee of MOWR for their acceptance. Thereafter, the investment clearance is granted by the Planning Commission provided the stipulations, if any, of the Advisory Committee are fulfilled. No proposals are pending with the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs.

(d) The Government of India has been providing Central Loan Assistance (CLA) under Accelerated Irriga-

tion Benefits Programme (AIBP) since 1996-97 for early completion of on-going irrigation projects. Details of the Central Loan Assistance released under the programme to the Government of Bihar in the enclosed statement.

(e) Orni Reservoir Project has been reported by the Government of Bihar as completed. Bilasi and Upper Kuil are also reported as being likely to be completed during 2002.

Statement

(Rs. in crore)

Sl. No.	Name of Project	CLA released during					Total	
		1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-2001		2001-2002
Major, Medium and Minor Irrigation Projects								
1.	Western Kosi Canal	10	0	14.635	30.57	59	114.205	
2.	Upper Kiul	2.5	0	5.1	7.625	1.2	16.425	
3.	Durgawati	1	0	1.15	11	18.74	31.89	
4.	Bansagar	0	1.5	2	80		83.5	
5.	Orni Reservoir	0	2.03	5.5	0	2.37	9.9	
6.	Bilasi Reservoir	0	1.62	0.8	0.5	47	3.39	
7.	Sone canal modernization	0	0	7	0	66.66	73.66	
Total		13.5	5.15	36.185	129.695	148.44	0	332.97

Purchase of Sub-Standard Quality Explosives

3294.DR. BALIRAM : Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the explosive material used in the explosive works in various projects of the Northern Coalfields Limited (NCL) Singrauli, is not being purchased from the Government companies;

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

(c) the details of explosives purchase for various projects during the last three years, separately;

(d) whether the payment is being made for the more quantity than the actually purchased from the private sector companies as result of which the officers get lakhs of rupees each year;

(e) the procedure followed for purchase of explosive material;

(f) whether the Government propose to conduct a thorough inquiry into the above case and punish the officers involved in corruption; and

(g) if so, the details thereof ?

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

and (b) Explosive is being purchased from suppliers including M/s. IBP Co. (a Government of India undertaking), having rate contract with NCL/CIL. The names of suppliers for SMS explosives/large dia cartridges/cast booster explosives to NCL mines, as on 1.12.2001 are as under :

- (i) M/s. IBP Co. Ltd.
- (ii) M/s. Indian Explosives Ltd.
- (iii) M/s. IDL Industries Ltd.
- (iv) M/s. Bharat Explosives Ltd.
- (v) M/s. Keltech Energies Ltd.
- (vi) M/s. Navbharat Fuse Co. Ltd.
- (vii) M/s. Premier Explosives Ltd.
- (viii) M/s. Blastech (India) Pvt. Ltd.
- (ix) M/s. Solar Capitals Ltd.
- (x) M/s. Emul Tek Private Ltd.
- (xi) M/s. Sua Explosives and Accessories Ltd.
- (xii) M/s. Ideal Explosives Ltd.
- (xiii) M/s. Godavari Explosives Ltd.
- (xvi) M/s. Anjana Explosives Ltd.

The annual requirement of SMS explosives of NCL is about 80,000 tonnes. IBP Co. Ltd. (a Government of India undertaking) who was not LI tenderer offered to supply 19,000 tonnes only against the subject tender. After booking the LI tenderer fully, the balance quantity was distributed amongst all other responsive tenderers (including IBP Co. Ltd.) who accepted the counter offer of LI price.

(c) NCL had purchased the following quantities of SMS explosive for different projects during last three years as under :-

(Figs. in tonnes)

Project	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01
1	2	3	4
Jhingurdah	2185	2503	2885
Gorbi 'B'	1132	48	Nil
Bina	7917	8269	7994
Jayant	14434	16695	17338
Dudhichua	9813	14342	18870
Amlohri	8269	8825	8833

1	2	3	4
Nigahi	11777	15197	16323
Kakri	2645	2765	3306
Khadia	5008	5765	5601
NCL - Total	63180	74409	81150

(d) Payment is strictly made on actual quantity measured on Electronic Weigh Bridges.

(e) Explosives are purchased through open tender by NC/CIL and rate contracts are finalised after price negotiations etc. Annual quantity is fixed considering the plant capacity/licence capacity.

(f) and (g) Do not arise in view of reply given to part (d) above.

[English]

Coastline Protection Project in Tamil Nadu

3295. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the details of Coastline Protection Project submitted by Tamil Nadu under National Coastal Protection Plan;

(b) whether the Project has since been considered by the Central Water Commission; and

(c) if so, the time by which the proposal is likely to be accorded approval ?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI ARJUN SETHI) : (a) The Government of Tamil Nadu submitted in July 2001 a revised proposal, estimated to cost Rs. 169.39 crore for inclusion of the same under National Coastal Protection Project (NCPP). The proposal of Tamil Nadu includes construction of 12.763 kms of sea walls/groynes in Kanyakumari district, 1.61 km of seawall in Tuticorin district, 1.10 km of sea wall in Ramananthapuram district, 2.745 km of seawall/revetment wall in Nagapattinam district, 0.750 km of seawall in Kuddalore district, 2.46 km of seawall in Chengalpattu district, 3.02 km of seawall and 10 Nos. of groynes (total length 2.52 km) with 3.50 km of restoration of seawall in Chennai North, dredging of Cooum and Adayar river mouths, vegetative protection and nourishment of beach.

(b) and (c) The proposal was examined in Central Water Commission and comments sent to the State

Government in September 2001 for compliance. Reply to the comments is awaited from the State Government.

Death of Elephants

3296. SHRI Y.V. RAO : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a large number of elephants have been killed recently near railway back of Digboi in Assam;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) and (b) 7 elephants (4 adult cows, 1 sub-adult cow and 2 male calves) were killed when a herd of elephants was run over by a passenger train on the evening of 15th November, 2001 on Bogapani-Digboi sector in Tinsukhia district. The elephants had come from Lakhipata forests and were crossing the railway line when they were hit by the train.

(c) The Railway Authorities have been requested to regulate the speed and timing of trains in the accident prone areas as well as to take steps for increasing the visibility for train drivers along the railway tracks. The Chief Wildlife Warden of Assam has been requested to keep close liaison with the Railway Authorities.

New Airports in Uttar Pradesh

3297. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal from the Government of Uttar Pradesh for setting up of new airports in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether some organisation and public representatives have also given representations regarding setting up of airports at some places like Noida, Kanpur, Kheri and Gonda; and

(d) if so, the details in this regard along with the reaction of the Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN) : (a) to (d) A proposal for developing an airport in Greater Noida by the State Government of Uttar Pradesh was received by the Government of India. However, Government of India

indicated that there is no justification for having a new international airport near Delhi as the existing airport can fulfil the future demands on a long term basis with the required expansion when needed. The Government of Uttar Pradesh has been advised to undertake a techno-economic feasibility study by a professional body so that this airport could be located at a suitable location along the proposed Taj Expressway. Kanpur is already having an operational Civil Airport maintained by Airports Authority of India and there is no proposal under consideration for setting up of new airports of Kheri and Gonda.

Subsidies

3298. SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of different types of subsidies given to agriculture sector at present;

(b) what is the amount earmarked for each State for the above purpose during 2001-2002;

(c) whether it has been utilized and if not the reasons therefor ?

(d) whether the Government propose to withdraw all the subsidies from the agriculture sector; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) and (b) Subsidies given to agriculture are both product and non-product specific. These include subsidies on fertilizers, diesel, electricity and water etc. and also support in the form of research, extension, market intervention etc. Accordingly total support to agriculture can not be meaningfully segregated State-wise.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

[Translation]

MOU with Russia in Steel Sector

3299. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether any Memorandum of Understanding has been signed with Russia for enhancing participation in the field of Steel during the recent visit of the Prime Minister to that country;

- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the details of the production of Steel during the last two years ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY) : (a) No, Sir.

- (b) Does not arise.
- (c) The production of finished steel in the country during the last two years is as under :

Year	Quantity (in million tonnes)
1999-2000	26.71
2000-0001	29.70 (Prov)

[English]

Misuse of Air Tickets

3300. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

- (a) whether air tickets of various domestic airlines in the country are misused by several passengers;
- (b) if so, the number of incidents noticed during the last three years till date; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to prevent the misuse of such air tickets ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN) : (a) and (b) Indian Airlines has reported 21 cases in which passengers were found to be misusing the air tickets during the period 1st December, 1998 to 6th December, 2001.

- (c) Indian Airlines has initiated following steps to prevent the misuse of air tickets;
- (i) The mandatory and optional security features prescribed by International Air Transport Association (IATA) are being incorporated at the time of printing of tickets to prevent unauthorized alterations and tampering of air ticket.
- (ii) Use of automated tickets to prevent fraudulent tampering and alterations.
- (iii) In Departure Control System, the type of concession held by the ticket holder is indicated on the boarding card at the time of check in to prevent its misuse.

- (iv) Regular awareness programmes are conducted for frontline staff to detect fraudulently altered and tampered tickets.
- (v) Streamlining of Proforma for issuing Senior Citizen and Student Concessional Tickets.
- (vi) Deterrent action has been taken against pasengers misusing Indian Airlines tickets and also travel agencies facilitating the misuse of such tickets.

'No Fly Zone' in Andhra Pradesh

3301. SHRI K.E. KRISHNAMURTHY :
SHRI GUTHA SUKENDER REDDY :
SHRI RAMANAIDU DAGGUBATI :
SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU :
SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh have requested to declare temple area of Tirumala as a "No Fly Zone" for Security reasons; and
- (b) if so, the reaction of Union Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN) : (a) State Government of Andhra Pradesh has requested to declare the airspace over Tirumala Temple near Tirupati airport as a No Fly Zone.

(b) The matter is under consideration of the Government.

Soyabean Oil

3302. SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether India continue to have adverse effect from the arrivals of low cost soyabean oil from US and Latin American countries;
- (b) if so, whether the crops in these nations are huge and subsidies are given on soya farming;
- (c) whether this flow of soyabean oil into our country is likely to help to stabilize the price line;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) whether the importers in these nations are producing manufactures certificate from appropriate authorities that oil is not extracted from genetically modified seed ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) :
(a) Palm oil being the cheapest edible oil in the international market is imported in bulk quantity. Other edible oils like soyabean oil, sunflower oil etc. are imported in comparatively smaller quantities. The overall heavy import of edible oil has affected the Indian farmers including soyabean growers resulting in heavy decline in the prices of edible oils in the domestic market due to which the prices of oilseeds grown by farmers have also gone down.

(b) United States and Latin American countries are major producers of soyabean. The information relating to subsidies being given by these countries on soya farming is not available.

(c) and (d) The inflow of soyabean oil into our country is causing a decline in the prices of edible oils and oilseeds in domestic market which are acting as demotivating factors for farmers growing oilseeds including soyabean. The Government has to undertake procurement of oilseeds under MSP to ensure remunerative price to the farmers.

(e) As per the information made available neither the importers are producing nor the custom is asking them to produce certificate from the suppliers that soyabean oil is not extracted from genetically modified seeds.

Employment Opportunities

3303. SHRI A. NARENDRA :

SHRI K.E. KRISHNAMURTY :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the target fixed for creating additional employment opportunities during the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(b) whether the prescribed target has since been achieved;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government propose to fix a target for creating additional employment opportunities during the Tenth Five Year Plan period; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) No targets of job creation are fixed. However, the total work opportunities in the 9th Five Year Plan were projected to increase by about 5 crores.

(b) As per the estimates of the National Sample Surveys conducted by the National Sample Survey Organisations (NSSO) on employment and unemployment, the total number of employed (work force) on Usual Principal and Subsidiary Status basis in the country has been estimated at 39.7 crores in 1999-2000 as against 37.4 crores in 1993-94.

(c) One of the main reasons is that the economy did not grow at the desired rate.

(d) and (e) The Approach to the Tenth Five Year Plan has recognized the importance of providing gainful high quality employment to the additions to the labour force and it is listed as one of the monitorable objectives for the Tenth Plan and beyond. The growth strategy of Tenth Plan would lay emphasis on rapid growth of those sectors which are most likely to create high quality employment opportunities and deal with the policy constraints which discourage growth of employment. Particular attention will be paid to the policy environment* influencing a wide range of economic activities which have a large employment potential. These include sectors such as construction, real estate and housing, transport, Small Scale Industry (SSI), modern retailing, Information Technology (IT) enabled services and a range of other new services which need to be promoted through supportive policies. Emphasis will also be laid on tourism to ensure realization of full potential of this activity.

Employment Strategy in the Tenth Plan will focus on employment growth and on the qualitative aspects of employment. In order to enable the poor to access the opportunities and to ensure consistency between the requirement and availability of skills, emphasis will also be placed on skill development.

Improvement of Taladanda Main Canal

3304. SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

- (a) the total estimated cost of Taladanda Main Canal and Distributory No. 12 in Orissa;
- (b) the amount sanctioned by the Government for the improvement and management of the project; and
- (c) the time by which the work is likely to be completed ?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI ARJUN SETHI) : (a) The project proposal of improvement to Taladanda main canal and Distributory No. 12 with estimated cost of Rs. 57.06 crores (1998 level) was received in September 1999 in Central Water Commission (CWC) for techno-economic appraisal. Comments of CWC on the project have been sent to the State Government, on which compliance is still awaited.

(b) and (c) Water being a State subject, the concerned State Governments are primarily responsible for planning, funding and execution etc. of all types of irrigation projects/schemes including flood control and drainage from their own resources and as per their own priorities.

[Translation]

Payment of Dues to Workers of Katihar Jute Mills

3305. SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR CHOUDHARY : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the amount deposited under compulsory savings scheme (Indira Fund) and Provident Fund of about 1400 workers of Katihar Jute Mills has not been deposited into their accounts till date;
- (b) if so, whether a large number of workers have met untimely death and no payment of the above mentioned money has been made to their dependants; and
- (c) if so, the total funds under these heads and the time by which the payment is likely to be made ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) to (c) As a result of the recovery action initiated against M/s Katihar Jute Mills, an

amount of Rs. 14.95 lakh has already been recovered against the total Provident Fund dues of Rs. 70.75 lakh. Provident Fund claims are being settled as and when received. During the last financial year 30 pension claims, 168 final settlements and 130 cases of advance have been settled.

[English]

Research Project by Gulberga University

3306. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

- (a) whether a Research Project has been launched by Gulberga University in Kamataka to combat salinity problem in Upper Krishna Project (UKP) area;
- (b) if so, the funds provided by his Ministry for the project; and
- (c) the progress made so far on the project ?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI ARJUN SETHI) : (a) to (c) A research project entitled "Studies for Combating Salinity Problem in Upper Krishna Project (UKP) Area" was sanctioned to the Principal Investigator of the Department of Bio-technology, Gulberga University, in February, 1996 for an estimated cost of Rs. 6.02 lakh. The project was to be completed in 4 years time. First installment of Rs. 2,35,540/- was released in February, 1996 and the second installment of Rs. 80,605/- was released for the project in December, 1998. Thus the total amount released for the project so far is Rs. 3,16,145/-.

Indian National Committee on Irrigation and Drainage (INCID), who is monitoring the progress, has reported that as per the Annual Report received for the periods upto March, 2000, the Principal Investigator has carried out experiments using petri-dishes and pots and small plots for initial screening and salt tolerance aspects of locally cultivated sugarcane, banana, groundnut, soyabean and sunflower. Field experiments on three locations were also undertaken in the saline area of Upper Krishna Project alongwith farmers awareness campaign etc.

Refueling facilities to Foreign Aircraft in India

3307. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether some foreign military aircraft transporting relief materials for the Afghan refugees have been extended the facility of refueling at certain airports in India;

(b) if so, the names of the countries to which these aircraft belongs; and

(c) the airports where this facility was made available in the recent past ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Six C-130H aircrafts belonging to Japan Self Defence Air Force Aircraft carrying emergency relief materials for the refugee relief operations conducted by UNHCR, were extended the facility of refueling at the international airports at Kolkata and Delhi in October, 2001.

Medical Tourism

3308.DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV :

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV :

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to promote Indian System of Medical Tourism;

(b) if so, the detail thereof;

(c) whether the Government have chalked out any plan in this regard; and

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

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN) : (a) and (b) Promotion of Health/'Medical' Tourism is undertaken through Indian System of Medicine and Homeopathy to popularise traditional health care systems such as Ayurveda, Yoga, Panchkarma, Rejuvenation therapy etc.

(c) and (d) Government of India in association with the State Governments have developed new innovative tourism products targeting international and domestic tourists to promote Health/medical tourism. Government extends help and support to festivals such as International Yoga Festival to attract international tourists. Some State Governments provide financial incentives to ensure quality facilities and services in medical tourism.

River Tourism

3309.PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have conducted any survey of the potential of River Tourism in any area in the country;

(b) if so, the names of the rivers where survey has been conducted;

(c) whether any funds have been allocated to the State Government for the purpose; and

(d) if so, the details of steps proposed to increase River Tourism ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN) : (a) and (b) Based on the techno-economic feasibility studies, Government of India declared three National Waterways namely the Ganga, the Brahmaputra and the West Coast Canal.

(c) and (d) Development of tourism including river tourism is primarily the responsibility of the State/U.T. Government concerned. However, Central Department of Tourism extends financial assistance to specified tourism projects prioritised in consultation with the State/U.T. Governments. For promotion of river tourism financial assistance is given to States/U.Ts for procurement of cruise vessels, boats, catamaran, rice boats, house boats, glass bottom boats, water sports equipment etc.

[Translation]

Fruitgrove in Andaman and Nicobar Islands

3310.SHRI BISHNU PADA RAY : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the total hectares of area covered under fruitgrove in Andaman Nicobar Islands;

(b) the number of farmers benefited therefrom;

(c) whether there is any arrangement for bringing produces from this plantation area to the market; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) and (b) An area of 4087 hectares have been covered under fruit grove in Andaman and Nicobar Islands which has benefited about 8000 farmers.

(c) and (d) the produce is mostly sold by the farmers in the local market. However, regular road transport as well as inter-islands ferry services are available for transporting the produce to the market at Port Blair.

Poisonous Elements in Foodgrains

3311. RAJKUMARI RATNA SINGH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether poisonous elements have been found in the foodgrains to the use of chemical pesticides which have posed a danger to the health;

(b) if so, the details in this regard; and

(c) the efforts made by the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) and (b) As per the reports in the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, no such information has come to notice.

(c) For the risk assessment from the point of view of health of consumers, maximum tolerance limits are prescribed under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954 which is administered by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. The Food (Health) Authorities in the State Governments as well as Government of India keep a check on the quality of foods and take action under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954, whenever any violation takes place.

[English]

National Human Resources Development Scheme

3312. SHRI ARUN KUMAR : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have introduced National Human Resources Development Scheme under Rajiv Gandhi Drinking Water Mission in the country;

(b) if so, the budget provision made for the year 2000-2001; and

(c) the amount given to the State Government during the current financial year for the purpose State-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI ARJUN SETHI) : (a) Yes, Sir. The Central Government has launched a National Human Resources Development (NHRD) Programme in 1994 all over the country, with the Rajiv Gandhi National Drinking Water Mission under the Ministry of Rural Development, as the nodal agency. The main objectives of the programme were to train at least one grassroots level worker in each village to enable the

Panchayati Raj Institutions and communities to take up Operation and Maintenance activities and community participation, related to rural water supply programme and sanitation systems, besides capacity building of the line department in State Governments.

(b) An amount of Rs. 791.52 lakh was allocated by the Government of India for the above programme during the year 2000-2001.

(c) State-wise details of amount released to the States by the Government of India for the National Human Resources Development Programme during the current financial year is given in the Statement enclosed.

Statement*Funds Released under NHRD during 2001-2002*

Head "3601" States		(Rs. in lakhs)	
Sr. No.	State	Cost approved 2001-2002	Funds Released 2001-2002
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	109.42	54.75
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	20.56	10.28
3.	Assam	51.93	25.97
4.	Bihar	63.72	0.00
5.	Chhattisgarh**	67.10	0.00
6.	Goa	33.98	16.99
7.	Haryana	14.20	7.10
8.	Himachal Pradesh*	38.50	0.00
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	0.00	0.00
10.	Jharkhand	0.00	0.00
11.	Karnataka	96.80	48.40
12.	Madhya Pradesh	74.19	37.10
13.	Maharashtra	0.00	0.00
14.	Manipur	25.24	12.62
15.	Meghalaya	19.21	9.60
16.	Mizoram	31.43	15.72
17.	Nagaland	19.80	9.90
18.	Orissa	90.66	45.33
19.	Punjab	46.85	23.43

1	2	3	4
		30.64	15.32
		0.00	0.00
22.	Tripura	0.00	0.00
23.	Uttanchal	86.13	43.00
24.	West Bengal	32.99	11.29
Total		953.35	386.80

* No release was made since State Government having significant opening balance.

** Initial project was approved during 2000-01 for 2000-01 and 2001-2002

[Translation]

Cow Slaughter

3313. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA
DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA
SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA
YOGI ADITYA NATH :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that cow-slaughtering is increasing in the country day-by-day;

(b) if so, whether at present there are nearly as 3600 abattoirs in the country where cow slaughtering takes place;

(c) if so, the position of meat exported during the last three years;

(d) whether some of the Indian species of cow are at the verge of extinction due to bovine slaughter in the country;

(e) if so, whether the Government are considering to bring a legislation in this regard with a view to check cow slaughtering;

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

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(a) No, Sir.

(b) There are at present 2733 registered and 5038 unregistered abattoirs in the country which are admin-

istered by the State Government. Slaughter of cow is banned by legislation by States except West Bengal, Kerala and Manipur.

(c) There is a complete ban on export of beef as per the EXIM policy. The meat other than beef exported by the Ministry of Commerce through APEDA during the last three years are as under :-

	98-99	99-2000	2000-2001 (MT)
Buffalo Meat	153956.15	167291.41	288027.84
Sheep and Goat Meet	8648.45	12419.44	11902.85
Poultry Product	7390.89	836793.00	15836.12
Animal Casings	382.06	352.65	573.70
Processed Meat	297.96	815.77	130.69

(d) Some of the native breeds are on the verge of extinction. However, extinction of breeds is a global phenomenon which occurs due to changes in farming practices and socio-economic preferences and the bovine slaughter is not the sole reason for such extinction.

(e) Under the distribution of legislative powers between the Union and the States as enjoined by Article 246 (3) of the Constitution, preservation of cattle is a matter on which the Legislature of the State has exclusive powers to legislate.

(f) and (g) Question does not arise.

Survey in Tribal Dominated States

3314. SHRIMATI HEMA GAMANG : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have conducted any survey to explore the possibilities of fisheries, dairying, animal husbandry, horticulture and floriculture etc. in the tribal dominated States like Orissa, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government propose to start any new scheme at present for their exploitation at the commercial level; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(a) and (b) The Ministry of Agriculture has not conducted

any specific survey to explore the possibilities of fisheries, dairying, animal husbandry, horticulture and floriculture etc. in the tribal dominated States like Orissa, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand. However, Fishery Survey of India regularly conducts marine fishery resources survey and assessment along Orissa coast through its survey vessels based at Visakhapatnam.

(c) and (d) The Government is already implementing various scheme for the development of these sectors in all the concerned States including the tribal regions. However, the Government is not proposing any new scheme for the commercial exploitation of these sectors.

[English]

Poultry Farmers

3315. SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government propose to distribute the funds for selected breeds to boost the production of meat and egg type quails to backyard poultry farmers in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the steps taken by the Government to educate the backyard poultry farmers for their better livelihood; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

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

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) This Department is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme "assistance to State poultry/duck farms" in North Eastern States and other 13 less poultry development States/UTs. It is stipulated that only low input technology birds are distributed by the State farms which are assisted under the Scheme mostly to marginal farmers, landless labourers, women in groups and other socially backward sectors of the society.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Schemes/Projects under MPLADS

3316. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the schemes/projects funded under MPLADS in Godda during each of the last five years, block-wise;

(b) the details of the schemes/projects which have been completed so far and which are lying incomplete as on date; and

(c) the reasons for their incompleteness and the time by which these are likely to be completed ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) to (c) Works under MPLADS are taken up on recommendation of the Members of Parliament and are implemented by the district authorities following the established procedure of the State Government under the overall guidance of the Guidelines on MPLADS. The details of work including the number of works recommended, the number of works taken up for implementation, the number of works completed, and the status of ongoing works are maintained by the district authorities.

[English]

Economic Development of SCs/STs

3317 SHRI RAJAIHA MALLYALA
SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA

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

(a) whether the Government have been implementing various schemes and programmes under Special Component Plan (SCP) and Tribal Sub Plan (TSP) since 1978 to boost overall development of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe communities who live below poverty line.

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the funds allocated and spent by his Ministry during VIth, VIIth, VIIIth and Ninth Five Year Plans for implementation of such schemes/programmes in Coal and Mining Sector;

(d) the quantified benefits and targets achieved in this regard so far;

(e) the details of new schemes and programmes being formulated by his Ministry under SCP and TSP for the Tenth Five Year Plan in the field of coal and mining, specifying the nature/scope and target of such schemes and programmes; and

(f) the funds to be allocated for the purpose during the said plan ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) and (b) The subsidiaries of Coal India Limited under the Department of Coal, Government of India have mining operations spread over in different States of India including Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Maharashtra, Orissa and Assam etc. All these companies have formulated Tribal Sub Plans/Schemes and Special Component Plans/Schemes under the 20 Point Programme during the 8th and 9th Five Year Plan for implementation in and around coalfield areas including the surrounding villages mostly inhabited by SC/ST community and backward class.

(c) As informed by CIL, the funds allocated and spent by subsidiaries of CIL during VIIIth and IXth Five Year Plans in respect of such schemes are given at statement-I below.

(d) Welfare activities undertaken are of very diverse nature and therefore their benefit cannot be quantified. Some of the activities undertaken under the above schemes in the villages around the Coal Mines are given in statement-II below.

(e) and (f) Similar kind of activities will be undertaken under the SCP and TSP by subsidiaries of Coal India Limited from the year 2002-03 onwards. Funds for the purpose will also be allocated by the subsidiaries on yearly basis. On an average Rs. 3 crores is being spent on TSP/SCP.

Statement-I

Budget and Expenditure on community development (Special Component Plan, Tribal Sub Plan and Community Development Plan)

Year	Budget	Expenditure
1995-1996	753.00	724.00
1996-1997	778.00	806.40
1997-1998	1161.00	1163.00
1998-1999	1380.00	966.28
1999-2000	1116.00	855.31
2000-2001	1289.88	912.14

Statement-II

Work done under Community Development Scheme (Special Component Plan, Tribal Sub Plan and Community Development Plan)

Sl.No.	Name of Work
1.	Construction/repair of community centre
2.	Installation offhand pump/sinking of wells/tube wells/bore wells
3.	Construction/extension/repair of educational institutions buildings.
4.	Construction/repair of roads/culverts
5.	Medical services and health camps
6.	Water supply through pipeline
7.	Plantation of fruits bearing plant in schools
8.	Sport and cultural activities
9.	Other miscellaneous works including electrification
10.	Village electrification
11.	Afforestation

Crop Estimation Surveys

3318. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK :
SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR :
SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the main objective of the Centrally Sponsored Crop Estimation Surveys of fruits, vegetables and minor crops scheme;

(b) the names of the States where the above scheme is being implemented alongwith the crops included therein;

(c) the funds allocated to each State under the Scheme during the last two years and the current year; and

(d) the time by which the said scheme is likely to be implemented in the remaining States ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) :
(a) The main objective of the Centrally sponsored Scheme namely, "Crop Estimation Surveys of fruits, vegetables and

minor crops" is to obtain reliable estimates of area, yield and production of selected crops in specified States and also to test feasibility of methodology used for estimation (because of special features of fruits, vegetables and minor crops).

(b) The names of States where the scheme is being implemented and the details of Crops included therein, are given in statement-I enclosed.

(c) The funds allocated to different States under the Scheme are given in statement-II enclosed.

(d) The Government of India has already requested to all States/UTs to formulate and forward proposal so as to enable implementation of the scheme in all the States/ Union Territories.

Statement-I

State	Crops
1. Andhra Pradesh	Mango, Banana, Citrus, Onion, Turmeric.
2. Gujarat	Mango, Banana, Guava, Onion.
3. Haryana	Mango, Citrus, Guava, Grapes, Onion, Tomato, Potato.
4. Himachal Pradesh	Apple, Citrus, Ginger, Potato.
5. Karnataka	Mango, Banana, Guava, Grapes, Citrus, Turmeric, Potato, Onion, Tomato.
6. Maharashtra	Mango, Banana, Grapes, Citrus, Onion, Tomato.
7. Orissa	Mango, Banana, Potato, Onion, Turmeric, Tomato, Cauliflower, Cabbage.
8. Punjab	Citrus, Mango, Potato, Onion, Tomato, Cauliflower.
9. Rajasthan	Citrus, Guava, Turmeric, Ginger.
10. Tamil Nadu	Mango, Banana, Guava, Citrus, Grapes, Pineapple, Potato, Tomato, Onion, Cabbage, Turmeric.
11. Uttar Pradesh (Including Uttaranchal)	Mango, Guava, Potato.

Statement-II

Allocation of Funds to States

(Rs. in Lakh)

Name of the State	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002 (Current Year)
1. Andhra Pradesh	18.00	20.00	31.00
2. Gujarat	27.00	50.00	45.00
3. Haryana	7.00	7.84	11.00
4. Himachal Pradesh	15.00	24.00	25.00
5. Karnataka	57.00	66.16	90.00
6. Maharashtra	32.27	56.00	57.00
7. Orissa	20.00	32.00	34.00
Punjab	18.00	20.00	25.00
9. Rajasthan	14.73	15.00	18.00
10. Tamil Nadu	15.00	17.00	26.00
11. Uttar Pradesh (Including Uttaranchal)	16.00	32.00	38.00
Total	240.00	340.00	400.00

American Flights to and fro India

3319. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether certain American Air Lines had discontinued their flight to and fro India in the wake of terrorists attack in USA in September, 2001;

(b) if so, the names of the airlines and the reasons therefor; and

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

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

(b) and (c) United Airlines have withdrawn all of their services whereas North West Airlines have curtailed their operations. Discontinuation and resumption of services are matters of commercial judgement of the airlines concerned.

Privatisation of New Coal Mines

3320. SHRIMATI D.M. VIJAYA KUMARI : Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to hand over New Coal Mines to private sector; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, mine-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) The Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Amendment Bill 2000 has been introduced in the Rajya Sabha with the following objectives :

(i) To allow the Indian Companies to mine coal and lignite in the country without the existing restriction of captive mining. In other words, the objective is to allow the Indian companies in public and private sector to mine coal and lignite and also to sell the same in the open market.

(ii) To allow the Indian Companies in the public and private sector to be engaged in exploration of coal and lignite resources in the country.

(b) Coal blocks can be offered to private sector only when the Amendment Bill becomes a statute, after passing by both the Houses of Parliament.

[Translation]

Reservoir Schemes

3321. SHRI RAMPAL SINGH : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the number of reservoir schemes sent by various State Governments including Uttar Pradesh to the Union Government during each of the last two years, State-wise;

(b) the number of schemes cleared along with the number of schemes still pending with the Union Government for clearance;

(c) the time since when these schemes are pending and the reasons for such a long pendency; and

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

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI ARJUN SETHI) : (a) to (c) Out of 30 reservoir schemes submitted by various State Governments, including Uttar Pradesh to Central Water Commission (CWC) for techno-economic appraisal during the last two years, 26 are under correspondence with State Government. 3 schemes have been accepted by the Advisory Committee of Ministry of Water Resources subject to certain observation which are yet to be complied by the concerned State Government. One scheme has been accorded investment clearance by the Planning Commission. The details of these schemes are given in the enclosed Statement.

(d) Clearance of major medium irrigation projects depends on resolution of inter-state issues wherever involved and prompt compliance of observations of various Central Appraising Agencies by the State Government.

Statement

S.No.	Name of Projects	Name of the State	Date of Receipt in CWC	Status
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Surampalem Res. Scheme Phase II Reservoir Scheme	Andhra Pradesh	7/2000	B
2.	Bhupatipalem Reservoir Scheme	Andhra Pradesh	7/2000	B
3.	Kalwakardu Lift Irrigation Scheme	Andhra Pradesh	11/2000	A
4.	Nettampadu Lift Irrigation Schemes	Andhra Pradesh	11/2000	A
5.	Gollavagu Reservoir Project	Andhra Pradesh	6/2001	A
6.	Rallivagu Reservoir Project	Andhra Pradesh	9/2001	A
7.	Nilwai Reservoir Project	Andhra Pradesh	9/2001	A
8.	Halon Irrigation Project	Maharashtra	1/2001	A
9.	Chitri	Maharashtra	1/2001	A

1	2	3	4	5
10.	Andhra Khore	Maharashtra	2/2000	A
11.	Wakod	Maharashtra	3/2000	A
12.	Sapan	Maharashtra	9/2000	A
13.	Sonapur (Tomba)	Maharashtra	9/2000	A
14.	Gul River	Maharashtra	11/2000	A
15.	Ghataprabha	Maharashtra	1/2000	A
16.	Kordimalla	Maharashtra	3/2000	A
17.	Dara	Maharashtra	3/2000	A
18.	Nagan	Maharashtra	3/2000	A
19.	Northmand	Maharashtra	4/2001	A
20.	Morna Gureghar	Maharashtra	4/2001	A
21.	Wang	Maharashtra	4/2001	A
22.	Nagewadi	Maharashtra	6/2001	A
23.	Kamani-Tanda	Maharashtra	7/2001	A
24.	Turi-Guntat Irrigation Project	Orissa	1/2000	A
25.	Mahendranaya Irrigation Project	Orissa	3/2000	A
26.	Hadua Irrigation Project	Orissa	2/2001	B
27.	Shahpurkandi Dam Project	Punjab	2/2000	**
28.	Sri Dashmesh Irrigation Project	Punjab	2/2001	A
29.	Kachonda Dam	Uttar Pradesh	11/2000	A
30.	Mahanadi Reservoir Schemes	Chhatisgarh	7/2001	A

A=Under Correspondence

B=Accepted by TAC subject to observations

**Accorded Investment Clearance by Planning Commission on 05.11.2001

*[English]***Recharging of Ground Water**3322. SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY
SHRI NARESH PUGLIA :

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have been actively considering to enact a model law to sustain sources of water through effective conservation and recharging of ground water;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the State Governments have been directed to set up regulatory authorities to effectively implement the said law; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI ARJUN SETHI) : (a) and (b) Water being a State subject, suitable legislation for regulation and control of ground water development has to be enacted by the States/Union Territories. However, in 1970 the Union Government had circulated a "Model Bill to regulate and control the development of ground water and matters connected therewith" to all the States/Union Territories to enable them to enact suitable legislation for regulation and control of

ground water development. Thereafter, a revised Model Bill was circulated in September, 1992 and again in June, 1996 to all the States/UTs. So far, States of Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu have enacted legislation to regulate the use of ground water.

The Model Bill circulated by the Union contains a provision for establishment of State Water Authority by respective States/Union Territories to frame broad policies for administration of the legislation and its effective implementation.

Visveshvaraya Iron and Steel Limited

3323. SHRI H.G. RAMULU : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) the date on which the Visveshvaraya Iron and Steel Limited, Bhadravathi was taken over by Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL);

(b) the amount spent by SAIL for upgradation and modernisation of the above plant since its takeover;

(c) whether SAIL is trying to sell the above unit;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) the total accumulated losses of the above unit; and

(f) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to modernise and upgrade the said plant?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY) (a) Visveshvaraya Iron and Steel Limited (VISL) became a subsidiary of Steel Authority of India Ltd. (SAIL) in 1989 with SAIL acquiring majority shares. Later, VISL was merged with SAIL in December, 1998, in public interest, under Section 396 of the Companies Act by Govt. of India.

(b) Rs. 171.98 crore has so far been spent by SAIL on upgradation and modernisation of VISL since its take over.

(c) and (d) Since SAIL has decided to focus only on its core activities, and with a view to make VISL viable, SAIL has taken steps to convert VISL into a joint venture with an appropriate partner.

(e) The total accumulated losses of VISL as on 31.3.2001 as Rs. 233.23 crore.

(f) Government have no proposal to modernise and upgrade the plant, though this would be done by SAIL consequent to the formation of the joint venture.

Compensation to Bonded Labour

3324. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAIISI : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has sought fresh directions from the Supreme Court on the issue of payment of compensation to identified and released bonded labour and rehabilitation package;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the latest directions received by NHRC from the Supreme Court of India in regard to payment of compensation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) As per the information received from National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), no fresh directions have been sought from the Supreme Court so far on the issue of payment of compensation to identified and released bonded labourers and rehabilitation package.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Centrally Sponsored Schemes

3325. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH :
SHRI BIKASH CHOWDHURY :
DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME :
SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS :
SHRI NIKHILANANDA SAR :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the salient features of each Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSSs) being implemented for the development of Agriculture in the country;

(b) the criteria for allocating funds under each scheme to States and corresponding Central share; and

(c) the details of proposals received funds released and utilized by each State during the last three years, State-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) and (b) The salient features of Centrally Sponsored Schemes implemented by the Department of Agriculture

and Cooperation alongwith pattern of assistance, i.e. Central and State share, grant and loan, etc., are given in statement-I. Funds to States are allocated/released on the basis of proposals received from States, scope of a scheme in the concerned State, amount lying unspent with the State out of earlier releases made under the Scheme, and overall resource position of the Department.

(c) The details of funds released and utilized by States, State-wise under Centrally Sponsored Schemes during the last three years are given in statement-II.

Statement-I

Salient Features of Centrally Sponsored Schemes under implementation by the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation

1. Macro Management of Agriculture 'Supplementation/ Complementatation of States' Efforts through Work Plan'

Objectives Macro Management scheme will aim at all round development in agriculture through Work Plans prepared by States. These include :

- Reflection of local needs/crop/regions specific/priorities etc.
- Providing flexibility and autonomy to States;
- Optimum utilization of scarce financial resource;
- maximisation of returns;
- removal of regional imbalances.

Salient Features It has been decided to move away from schematic approach to Macro management mode by integrating 27 Centrally Sponsored Schemes (a list is annexed). The previous pattern of rigid uniformly structured Centrally Sponsored Schemes, permitting little or no flexibility, which resulted in large unutilised balances with States has been dispensed with. Integration of Centrally Sponsored Schemes under Macro management approach will enhance the productivity of support programmes and accord greater flexibility to State Governments to develop and pursue activities on the basis of regional priorities. It is, thus, a major step towards achieving decentralization in pursuance of

restoring primacy of States in agricultural development planning. The Central Government will supplement/complement the State Government's efforts through regionally differentiated Work Plans comprising crop/area/target group specific interventions, formulated in an interactive mode and implemented in spirit of partnership with the States.

Pattern of Assistance The outlay of the Work Plan would be shared by the Centre and the States in the ratio of 90:10. In the case of North-Eastern States, however, the entire expenditure will be borne by the Government of India. Central assistance for Work Plans will be in the ratio of 80 by grants and 20% by loans.

List of Centrally Sponsored Schemes

1. Assistance to Coop. weaker Section
2. Assistance to Women Cooperatives
3. Non-overdue Cover Scheme
4. Agri. Credit Stabilisation Fund
5. Special Scheme for SC/ST
6. Integrated Cereal Development Programmes in Rice Based Cropping System Areas
7. Integrated Cereal Development Programmes in Wheat Based Cropping System Areas
8. Integrated Cereal Development Programme in Coarse Cereals Based Cropping System Areas
9. Special Jute Development Programme
10. Sustainable Development of Sugarcane Based Cropping System Area
11. Balanced and Integrated Use of Fertilizer
12. Promotion of Agricultural Mechanization among Small Farmers
13. Integrated Development of Tropical, Arid and Temperate Zone Fruits
14. Production and Supply of Vegetable Seeds
15. Development of Commercial Floriculture
16. Development of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants
17. Development of Roots and Tuber Crops

18. Development of Cocoa and Cashew
 19. Integrated Programmed for Development of Spices
 20. Development of Mushroom
 21. Use of Plastics in Agriculture
 22. Bee-keeping
23. Fish Development Project for Rainfed
24. Schemes for Foundation and Certified Seed Production of Vegetable Crops
 25. Soil Conservation in Catchments of River Valley Projects and Flood Prone Rivers
 26. Reclamation and Development of Alkali Soils
 27. State Land Use Boards.

2. Intensive Cotton Development Programme (ICDP) under Mini-Mission-II of Technology Mission on Cotton

Objectives : To enhance the production, per unit area through (a) technology transfer, (b) supply of quality seeds, (c) elevating IPM activities/ and (d) providing adequate and timely supply of inputs to the farmers.

Salient Features The components under the scheme include: (a) assistance for production of breeder, foundation and certified seed and distribution of certified seed; (b) Field and Integrated Pest Management Demonstrations; (c) Training of farmers and Extension Workers; (d) Distribution of Plant Protection Equipments; water saving devices; Bio-agents and pheromone traps. Assistance is also being provided for the establishment of bio-agents labs and seed delinting plants for adequate availability of bio-agents and quality delinting seed respectively.

Pattern of Assistance 75:25 Centre : State

Grant : 100% Loan : Nil.

3. Oilseeds Production Programme (OPP)

Objectives : The objective of the scheme is to increase the production of oilseeds in the country to achieve self-sufficiency.

Salient Features

The scheme envisages assistance to the States for following components :

- (i) Seed related :- Production and purchase of Breeder seed, production of foundation and certified seed and distribution of certified seeds and minikits, crash programme for production of TL seed of soyabean and Groundnut
- (ii) Demonstration :- Frontline, Block and IPM Demonstration
- (iii) Improved Method of irrigation :- Distribution of sprinklers
- (iv) Distribution of improved farm implements and plant protection equipment including power drawn implements
- (v) Distribution of Rhizobium cultures, Nutrients and Micronutrients, seed treatment chemical, weedicides, gypsum/pyrite, Root Grub Control
- (vi) Development of infrastructure :- Seed storage, threshing floor and irrigation at Government farms
- (vii) Training of Farmers.

Pattern of Assistance

The scheme is being implemented on 75:25 basis as Central and State share respectively. In case of frontline demonstration, minikits distribution and breeder seed production, the assistance is given on 100% basis by Central Government.

Grant 100% Loan : Nil.

4. Accelerated Maize Development Programme (AMDP)

Objectives : The increase maize production and productivity in the country from 10 million tonnes to 11.44 million tonnes and from 1.5 tonnes/hectare to 1.80 tonnes/hectare respectively upto the terminal year of 9th Plan i.e. 2001-2002 (revised).

Salient Features

Main emphasis is being given for transfer of modern crop production technology through the following components;

(a) **Components for which 100% Assistance is given by Central Government**

- Front line Demonstration by ICAR;
- Training of Officers at National and State Level;
- Production of certified seed of Maize;
- Seed Minikit Demonstrations;
- Conference/Seminars/Workshops on Maize Development; and
- Evaluation and Monitoring.

(b) **Components for which 75% assistance is given by Central Government and 25% by State Government**

- Field Demonstrations on improved crop production technology and Integrated Pest Management IPM);
- Training of farmers on crop production technology;
- Incentives for use of certified seeds of hybrids/improved varieties (deleted since 2001-2001 a desired by Planning Commission);
- Incentives for use of improved implements;
- Publicity through electronic media; and
- Contingencies for POL.

The programme (AMDP) is in implementation in all maize potential districts of 26 States viz; Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Jammu and Kashmir, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Orissa, Rajasthan, Punjab, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, Uttaranchal, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.

Pattern of Assistance 100% by GOI for National level components 75:25 basis between GOI and State Governments for State level components.

Grant : 100% Loan : Nil.

5. National Pulses Development Project (NPDP)

Objectives The objective of the scheme is to increase the production of pulses in the country to achieve self-sufficiency.

Salient Features The scheme envisages assistance to the States for following components :

- (i) Seed related :- Purchase of Breeder seed, production of foundation and certified seed, distribution of certified seeds and minikits and crash programme for production of seed of pulses
- (ii) Demonstration :- Frontline, Block and IPM Demonstration
- (iii) Improved Method of irrigation :- Distribution of sprinklers
- (iv) Distribution of improved farm implements and plant production equipment including power drawn implements
- (v) Distribution of Rhizobium cultures, Nutrients and Micro-nutrients, gypsum/pyrite, Nuclear Poly hedrosis Virus (NPV) and seed treatment chemical
- (vi) Training of Farmers.

Pattern of Assistance The scheme is being implemented on 75:25 basis as Central and State share respectively. However, in case of UTs, the Government of India meets the entire expenditure from the funds provided under the scheme including minikit distribution.

Grant : 100% Loan : Nil.

6. Oil Palm Development Programme (OPDP)

Objectives : To promote oil palm cultivation in the country

Components : Area Expansion under Oil Palm and installation of Drip Irrigation System.

Pattern of Assistance : 75:25 between Centre and States

Grant : 100% Loan : Nil.

Salient features of the scheme Oil Palm cultivation assumes significance for augmenting the indigenous availability of edible oil as it is the highest oil yielding perennial crop. The components of the scheme are : Assistance for Planting Material, Assistance for Cultivation Costs, Irrigation, Training, Extension and Publicity, Establishment and Provision for Staff for implementation the project, Development of Seed Gardens, Front line Demonstrations, Leaf Nutrients Analysis Laboratories, Testing of oil palm genotypes under varied environmental conditions, Assistance for diesel pumpsets.

7. Cooperative Marketing, Processing, Storage etc. programmes in cooperatively under/least developed States

Objectives To correct regional imbalances and to provide needed momentum to the pace of development of various programmes of cooperative Agricultural marketing, processing, storage etc., in under/least developed States/UTs by providing financial assistance on liberal terms to augment the income of farmers and weaker sections of the community

Salient Features The scheme provides for distribution of agricultural inputs, development of agro processing including storage, marketing of foodgrains and plantation/horticulture crops, development of weaker and tribal sections, cooperatives, in dairy, poultry and fisheries

Pattern of Assistance National Cooperative Development Co-operation (NCDC) sanctions assistance to cooperative projects/schemes. Funds are not released to State directly.

8. Share Capital participation in Cooperation Sugar Factories

Objectives : The scheme aims at supplementing the resources of State Governments to enable them to contribute to the share capital of cooperative sugar factories so as to expedite the project implementation

Salient Features

Under the scheme, assistance is extended for investment loan for share capital participation in new cooperative sugar mills. term loan assistance to the existing cooperative sugar mills for undertaking modernization, expansion and diversification projects

Pattern of Assistance National Cooperative Development Co-operation (NCDC) sanctions assistance to cooperative projects/schemes. Funds are not released to State directly

9. Share capital participation in growers cooperative spinning mills

Objectives : To help cotton growers to fetch remunerative return for their produce through value addition.

Salient Features The scheme provides for assistance to share capital loan for new mills as well as term loan assistance to undertake expansion and modernization of growers cooperative spinning mills

Pattern of Assistance National Cooperative Development Co-operation (NCDC) sanctions assistance to cooperative projects/schemes. Funds are not released to State directly.

10. Timely Reporting Scheme (TRS)

Objectives : To obtain reliable and timely estimates of area under principal crops in each season with break up of area into irrigated/unirrigated, traditional and high yielding varieties of crops and also land utilization statistics which is used for designing of crop estimation survey by conducting priority Girdwari in 20% selected villages every year. This scheme is implemented in the States that are cadastrally surveyed. In addition TRS provides the sampling frame for crop cutting experiments

Salient Features

Land Record Manual in different States contain instructions on period of crop enumeration and procedure for compilation of crop area at village and successive higher levels. The time schedule is also prepared. The expectation is that crop abstract will become available by the time the final forecast for different crops become due.

Experience has shown that this does not happen and there has been considerable time lag in the availability of reliable and correct statistics of area sown under different crops. This has greatly handicapped planning and policy administration. TRS provide for consolidation of area statistics through advance enumeration of substantial number (20%) of villages selected at random.

Pattern of Assistance Shared between Centre and States on 50:50 Basis.

Grant : 100% Loan : Nil.

11. Establishment of an Agency for Reporting of Agricultural Statistics (EARAS)

Objectives : To generate estimates of area and production of principal crops through surveys in 20% selected villages in every season through special staff. In the sample village crop area is to be reported based on complete enumeration of all fields/survey numbers. Surveys are specially required as no agency in these States is engaged in updating of land use statistics.

Salient Features In the non-land record States, the State agencies do not up date land utilisation record and therefore there has been gap in the data. The scheme provides for setting up a whole time agency to cover a sample of 20% of the villages every year to generate basic land use statistics. In the sample village the crop areas are reported on the basis of complete enumeration. Supervision is in built in the scheme.

Pattern of Assistance On 50:50 Basis between Centre and States

Grant : 100% Loan : Nil.

12. Improvement of Crop Statistics (ICS)

Objectives The objective of this scheme is to bring about improvement in crop statistics by conducting spot supervision of :

- (i) area enumeration,
- (ii) area aggregation, and
- (iii) crop cutting experiments

In 10,000 villages. Supervision is carried out by Central and State equally (5,000 villages by central agency NSSO and 5,000 villages by State machinery).

Salient Features

In India, estimates of area under crops are obtained by the method of complete enumeration based on field to field inspection done by the village revenue agencies in all land record States and the sample surveys in the States where land utilisation record is not maintained. The estimates of yield of principal crops are based on random sampling, crop cutting experiments conducted under the general crop estimates surveys. The whole exercise is of large scale data generation in a decentralized set up hence the quality and timeliness is susceptible to several factors. The scheme is needed to locate, through the joint efforts of the Central and State authorities., lacuna, if any, in the State system of collection of agricultural statistics and suggest measures to effect lasting improvements in this system. The joint effort take the form of sample check on (i) area enumeration, (ii) page totaling of khasara registers (iii) and crop cutting experiments.

Pattern of Assistance On 50:50 Basis between Centre and States

Grant : 100% Loan : Nil.

13. Agricultural Census

Objectives To conduct quinquennial Agricultural Censuses and input Surveys in the country. The Census provides vital information on the structure of agriculture in the country.

Salient Features The Censuses are conducted by utilizing the machinery of the State Governments. Honorarium for field work for data collection is paid to the employees of the State Governments. The salaries of nucleus staff provided at State headquarters for coordination of census operations are borne by Government of India under the scheme. The cost of processing of data is also borne by the Govt. of India.

Pattern of Assistance 100% assistance by the Govt. of India.

Grant : 100% Loan : Nil.

Statement-II

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

(Rs. in Lakhs)

	1998-99		1999-2000		2000-2001	
	Allocation/ Releases	Expenditure	Allocation/ Releases	Expenditure	Allocation/ Releases	Expenditure (Provisional)
1. Andhra Pradesh	6334.92	6327.03	6175.51	5312.24	3914.84	5260.57
2. Arunachal Pradesh	473.63	355.46	475.05	243.63	761.31	794.35
3. Assam	540.19	189.04	386.91	456.97	1099.27	192.67
4. Bihar	352.53	333.02	240.70	179.27	419.59	17.61
5. Goa	233.92	179.23	202.06	60.46	49.12	156.13
6. Gujarat	4533.67	3433.78	4789.31	4575.21	4713.47	3692.61
7. Haryana	1634.97	1520.70	1648.80	1611.23	1833.74	2023.10
8. Himachal Pradesh	1322.19	1264.02	1116.09	1326.06	1338.17	1269.07
9. Jammu and Kashmir	1054.35	939.18	1060.35	1018.90	917.87	434.45
10. Karnataka	8476.45	8915.82	8159.30	6514.77	7180.52	5705.63
11. Kerala	4071.73	2027.87	2571.59	2058.06	3724.72	538.71
12. Madhya Pradesh	7692.98	6436.23	7696.70	8900.25	5506.69	6440.38
13. Maharashtra	12378.62	9883.62	8324.33	8841.11	10633.31	8352.73
14. Manipur	571.95	613.26	984.03	686.41	935.68	716.32
15. Meghalaya	431.65	421.26	598.02	56.22	724.74	293.75
16. Mizoram	961.45	796.16	894.94	740.23	1088.99	1010.77
17. Nagaland	1142.08	1102.11	1223.07	990.76	1489.72	1416.60
18. Orissa	3622.31	3546.21	4594.78	2562.70	1680.81	2664.25
19. Punjab	1295.49	1014.93	1206.84	329.45	849.49	437.53
20. Rajasthan	9268.88	8583.88	8470.36	7346.15	8133.23	8037.73
21. Sikkim	475.81	492.26	541.89	330.36	825.29	755.17
22. Tamil Nadu	5740.11	5737.76	5513.83	4430.36	5665.59	4323.58
23. Tripura	570.09	565.84	951.07	779.39	817.25	1002.11
24. Uttar Pradesh	8322.90	8594.61	7603.00	10122.21	7068.83	7436.80
25. West Bengal	1285.97	959.21	1534.60	1255.56	1537.09	2094.72
26. Uttaranchal					882.00	440.08
27. Chhattisgarh					963.00	Not Reported
Total	82788.84	74232.49	76963.13	70727.96	74754.33	65507.42

12.00 hrs.

[English]

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
(SHRI T.R. BAALU) : I beg to lay on the Table :-

- (1) A copy of the Notification No. S.O. 1148 (E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 21st November, 2001 making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 60 (E) dated the 27th January, 1994 issued under sub-section (2) of section 3 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT - 4637/2001]

- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park, Darjeeling, for the year 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park, Darjeeling, for the year 1999-2000.
- (3) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (2) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT - 4638/2001]

- (4) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the C.P.R. Environmental Education Centre, Chennai, for the year 2000-2001, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the C.P.R. Environmental Education Centre, Chennai, for the year 2000-2001.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT - 4639/2001]

- (5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Centre for Environment Education, Ahmedabad, for the year 2000-2001, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the

working of the Centre for Environment Education, Ahmedabad, for the year 2000-2001.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT - 4640/2001]

[Translation]

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN to lay on the Table :-

- (1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956 :-
- (i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Pawan Hans Helicopters Limited, New Delhi for the year 1997-98.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Pawan Hans Helicopters Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1997-1998, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT - 4641/2001]

[English]

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI ARJUN SETHI) : I beg to lay on the Table :-

A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956 :-

- (1) (i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Water and Power Consultancy Service (India) Limited, New Delhi for the year 2000-2001.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Water and Power Consultancy Service (India) Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2000-2001, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT - 4642/2001]

- (2) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Narmada control Authority, Indore, for the year 2000-2001, along with audited Accounts.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT - 4643/2001]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY) : I beg to lay on the Table :-

- (1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956 :-

- (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Sponge Iron India Limited, Hyderabad, for the year 2000-2001.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Sponge Iron India Limited, Hyderabad, for the year 2000-2001, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT - 4644/2001]

- (b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Manganese Ore (India) Limited, Nagpur, for the year 2000-2001.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Manganese Ore (India) Limited, Nagpur, for the year 2000-2001, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT - 4645/2001]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : I beg to lay on the Table :-

A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 6D of the Employees' Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952 :-

- (i) The Employees' Pension (Fourth Amendment) Scheme, 2001 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 746(E) in Gazette of India dated the 28th September, 2001.
- (ii) The Employees' Pension (Second Amendment) Scheme, 2001 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 747(E) in Gazette of India dated the 28th September, 2001.
- (iii) The Employees' Pension (Third Amendment) Scheme, 2001 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 774(E) in Gazette of India dated the 11th October, 2001.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT - 4646/2001]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : I beg to lay on the Table :-

- (1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956 :-

- (a) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Singareni Collieries Company Limited, Kothagudem, for the year 2000-2001.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Singareni Collieries Company Limited, Kothagudem, for the year 2000-2001, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT - 4647/2001]

- (b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Coal India Limited (Volumes-I and II), Calcutta, for the year 2000-2001.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Coal India Limited (Volumes-I and II), Calcutta, for the year 2000-2001, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT - 4648/2001]

[Translation]

SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV to lay on the Table :-

- (1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956 :-

- (a) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Uttar Pradesh State Agro Industrial Corporation Limited, Lucknow, for the year 1998-1999.
- (ii) Annual Report of Uttar Pradesh State Agro Industrial Corporation Limited, Lucknow, for the year 1998-1999, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT - 4649/2001]

- (b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Punjab Agro Industries

Corporation Limited, Chandigarh, for the year 1999-2000.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Punjab Agro Industries Corporation Limited, Chandigarh, for the year 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

- (2) Two Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT - 4650/2001]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Limited (NAFED), New Delhi, for the year 2000-2001, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Limited (NAFED), New Delhi, for the year 2000-2001.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT - 4651/2001]

- (4) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management, Hyderabad, for the year 2000-2001.
- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management, Hyderabad, for the year 2000-2001, together with Audit Report thereon.
- (iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management, Hyderabad, for the year 2000-2001.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT - 4652/2001]

2.02 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON SUBORDINATE LEGISLATION

Fifth Report

English]

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN (Tirunelveli) : I beg to present the

Fifth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Subordinate Legislation.

12.03 hrs.

BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Thirtieth Report

[English]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS, MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : I beg to present the Thirtieth Report of the Business Advisory Committee.

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I wish to speak about the notice, I could not conclude the other day due to the reasons known to the House, which I again submitted today.
.(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Have you given the notice today ?

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Yes, I gave the notice today also.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : But before that the Minister has to make a Statement.

12.04 hrs.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Supply of Gasohol in the Country*

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK) : Brazil has been producing ethanol from sugarcane molasses and juice for more than 40 years. Similarly, USA has also been producing it from corn-maize. Ethanol thus produced is being blended in petrol to the extent of 20 per cent to 24 per cent in Brazil and is widely used successfully as auto fuel. As per the present Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) specification, ethanol content in petrol is permitted up to five per cent.

Ethanol is produced from renewable source of energy and by using it in Petroleum Industry, the sugar cane cultivation and industrial activity would stimulate higher growth in the primary as well as secondary sectors apart from contributing to cleaner environment. In order to ascertain economic and operational aspects of blending of

*Also placed in Library, See No. LT 4653/2001.

[Shri Ram Naik]

ethanol in petrol in terms of logistics, pricing, environmental impact, etc. in the Indian context, Government had launched three Ethanol-Gasoline Pilot Projects; two in Maharashtra and one in Uttar Pradesh covering over 300 retail outlets, which have been selling five per cent ethanol

field trials being conducted through Pilot Projects, Research and Development studies are also being separately undertaken on various types of vehicles to monitor the impact of using Ethanol-Petrol blends on driveability, fuel economy, vapour locking, etc. R and D studies would be completed by March 2002.

Encouraged by the success of the Pilot Projects, I had convened two meetings, one on 12th November, 2001 with the representatives of the various Ministries and the State Governments of Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh and subsequently on 29th November, 2001 with my colleagues Minister of Agriculture Shri Ajit Singji, Minister of Food, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution, Shri Shanta Kumar, Minister of State for Petroleum and National Gas and Parliamentary Affairs, Shri Santosh Kumar Gangwar, Minister of State for Rural Development, Shri Annasaheb M.K. Patil. Representatives of Governments of Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra along with members of the Task Force also attended the meetings. Various supportive actions from the Union and State Governments with regard to production and use of ethanol were also discussed.

Based on these deliberations Government have taken the following decisions :-

- (i) Sale of Petrol blended with Ethanol @ 5% in the country to be implemented in two phases. During first phase, States of Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Punjab, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh would be covered and during second phase rest of the country.
- (ii) Existing three Pilot Projects to take up blending of Ethanol in Petrol @ 10% after sorting the issues such as modifications of BIS specifications etc.
- (iii) Rs. 4 crores were sanctioned for R and D studies on blending of ethanol in diesel keeping in view of the fact that about 80% of fuel consumed by automobiles in India is diesel. These studies are to be completed within 6 months.

In order to encourage blending of ethanol in petrol, it would be necessary to price it well below the import parity

price of petrol. Sugar industries and distilleries would have to supply ethanol at competitive price.

Further, Government have taken a major decision to amend the Sugar Development Act, 1982 so that production of ethanol and co-generation of power from bagasse would get financial assistance from the Sugar Development Fund. This would give impetus to encourage our efforts in increasing the use of ethanol for blending and for an efficient use of the entire quantity of molasses currently produced. The increased returns to the units concerned would naturally flow back to the agriculturists. With stable and assured payments, the farmers would gain in the process.

I do hope that this decision of blending ethanol in petrol would usher a new era as it will benefit the country and especially sugarcane producing farmers and oil industry. This decision would also help to save valuable foreign exchange as the country is importing nearly 70% of petroleum requirements.

[English]

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : It is a *suo motu* statement. As you know, you cannot seek clarifications on a *suo motu* statement. You can have discussion on this subject in some other form.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : It is a *sou motu* statement. You cannot seek clarifications. You can have some other form of discussion.

(Interruptions)

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU (Srikakulam) : Sir, I want to say one thing. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : If all of you speak at a time, how can I hear you ? Please speak one by one.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Geete, it is a *sou motu* statement. You cannot ask for clarifications.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Hon. Members, you can have discussion on this subject in a different form. It is not like this. Now 'Zero Hour'.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE (Ratnagiri) : Sir, I was the first person who gave notice for the Zero Hour.

Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, the border dispute between Maharashtra and Karnataka is going on for many years. Through you, I would like to bring to the notice of the Government that the Marathi youth of Belgaon Karwad.

..(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Rashid Alvi, I have given the floor to him. Let him conduct the House in an orderly way. You will get the chance later. Let him complete.

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE : Mr. Deputy-Speaker Sir, the border dispute between Maharashtra and Karnataka is going on for many years. Kannad is being forced on Marathi speaking people living in Belgaon Karwad and they are being deprived of the Government Services. These people are agitating democratically for many years. Every year the youth of these area sit on dharna in Deihi when the House is in Session. This year the youths of these area have announced to 'gheraov' the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly since it is in session. All the members of Parliament had met the Prime Minister in this regard. We had demanded the Prime Minister to call the Chief Ministers of Maharashtra and Karnataka regarding this dispute. On our demand hon'ble Prime Minister called a meeting on 2nd of September but unfortunately the Chief Minister of Karnataka expressed his inability to attend that meeting. Therefore, through you, I demand that it is necessary to attend the meeting by both the Chief Ministers in order to solve this issue. For the first time the Prime Minister have agree to call such a meeting. Through you I urge the Government, the Parliamentary Affairs Minister to convey our feelings to the Prime Minister. The meeting which was called by the Prime Minister could not be held. Therefore, the Prime Minister should call the meeting of the Chief Ministers of these two States. The public of that area is suffering for many years. Language is forced on the people of these area and they are being deprived of the Government Services. These people want to come under Maharashtra State. I once again urge the Prime Minister to call the meeting immediately.

[English]

SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI (Tiruchirappalli) : I have been giving notice everyday. . . (Interruptions). You please allow me to speak. . . (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Everyday this kind of situation arises during 'Zero Hour'.

(Interruptions)

SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI : Sir, we need your protection. . . (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : You resume your seat. You will get chance.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur) : Sir, I am also giving notice everyday for the last three weeks. . . (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please resume your seats. Nothing will go on record except the submission of Shri Shivraj Patil.

(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL (Latur) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I very humbly would like to say one thing to you and to the House. Whatever I am going to say is not about any one committing a mistake but it is about how to run the business of the House during unlisted Hours.

Sir, It has been noticed here that after the question hour and Statements a chance is given to the Members to raise important issues. It has been the practice in the house that firstly the main opposition party is given chance to speak and there after other side is given chance.

..(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Hear him first. Do not be impatient like this.

[Transiation]

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL : Sir, so far as the question of notice is concerned, there is no provision of giving notice under this rule. The business, which is done without giving notice is normally called by some members as Zero Hour and by some as unlisted business. It is presumed that the member, who has given notice has the right to speak. Actually the presiding officer has the right to decide as to who is to be called first and who is to be called next. The House should run in this way, otherwise it would be a disregard of the Speaker, Deputy-Speaker, or other Chairman, who are presiding. If such kind of disregard continue, the House would not run smoothly. We would request, but we will not request to you because you do not want to say anything on this subject. Yesterday you were here therefore we don't want to put this responsibility on you. I think that it would be said in the House as to how this work would be done. We are trying to cooperate

*Not Recorded.

[Shri Shivraj V. Patil]

and expect the same from the otherside. Normally we give cooperation and they also give cooperation but sometimes if so happens that they don't cooperate to this the dignity of the House and the Presiding Officer get

...est to the Hon'ble Members of
... such thing should not happen and we feel
that if any direction is given by the chair it will be easy
for us to work smoothly.

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I fully agree to what the Deputy leader of the Congress Party has said that the Speaker should decide as to how to run the business of the House during the Zero Hours in consultation with the leaders of all the parties or decide in the Business Advisory Committee. But I do not agree with him that during the Zero hours only. . . .(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I have given him the floor. Please resume your seat.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RASHID ALVI (Amroha) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, first he should ask for pardon then only he should be permitted. . . .(Interruptions)

[English]

They have no respect for the Chair. They have no respect for the House. They are habituated to this practice. . . .(Interruptions)

[Translation]

• When a ruling is given by the Chair that should be respected. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI PRAKASH MANI TRIPATHI (Deoria) : If the Hon'ble Members of opposition behave in such a way, it will not be good. . . .(Interruptions) Discussion are going on in the House on a very important issue. We wish that the discussion should go on in a very dignified way. . . .(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I have given the floor to Shri Malhotra. Please do not disturb the House. Other Members have also given important notices.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RASHID ALVI : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, five Ministers of this Government have attended the meeting of Vishwa Hindu Parishad. . . .(Interruptions) They do not want that this issue is raised in the House that is why they have disrespected the chair. . . .(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Let Shri Malhotra complete his submission, then I will give the floor to you.

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : Sir, kindly tell them to take their seat so that I may take my submission. . . .(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI RASHID ALVI : They should apologise to the House first. Only then they should be allowed to speak during 'Zero Hour'.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : You do not allow even me to speak.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I have given the floor to a senior Member. Let him complete and if you want, I can give the floor to you also.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : First ask them to sit, only then I would be able to speak.

[English]

SHRI RASHID ALVI : Sir, they should first apologise and then they may be allowed to speak. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Alvi, let him complete first.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, it is the Speaker, who decides whom to call first and who should not be called. He can call as per his wish. . . .(Interruptions) What was done that day and what was not if we go into that aspect then unpleasantness may prevail in the House. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI RASHID ALVI : They should first apologise before they are allowed to speak. . . .(Interruptions) whatever happened on that day, they should ask apology for that instead of that they are talking about unpleasantness. . . . (Interruptions) Unless and until they ask for apology they should not be allowed to speak. . . .(Interruptions)

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we will put our point to the Speaker whether only the opposition will raise their issues on all the five days of the week or we will also be allowed to raise our points. . . .(Interruptions) We do not have any objection if it is decided by the Speaker.

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH (Maharajanj, U.P.) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, whatever happened on that day they should ask apology for that. . . .(Interruptions) The statement of the Hon. Member is irresponsible. (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj) : Sir, you have called me to speak. I have to take up my issue. When will I take up my issue ? Since Friday, I have been waiting patiently to take it up. I want to bring a serious matter before the House but the matter is not coming up. . . .(Interruptions) If you ask me to sit down, I will sit down and will not raise it. But Sir, this matter is very important. . . .(Interruptions) Yesterday, I drew the attention of the House in the 'Zero Hour' and today also, I have given notice to raise a matter which is extremely important for the secular foundations of this country. For the last 15 days, several reports are appearing outside the House to defy the Government's directives and the Supreme Court's order and to decide their own design. . . .(Interruptions) Sir, what is this going on ? Should the Opposition not speak ? Why are they standing up now ? . . .(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, we would have to save the secular image of India. These people were trying to tarnish the secular character of India.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : 'Zero Hour' has begun just now. Please take your seat. . . .(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI : Sir, the other day, hon. Home Minister, during the reply to the discussion under Rule 193, made it abundantly clear to the House, took the House into confidence that what happened on the 17th October was not encouraged by the Government. He

assured the House that no untoward incident of this kind shall take place again.

I draw your attention to clauses 3 and 4 of article 75 of the Constitution which says :

"The Council of Ministers shall be collectively responsible to the House of the People (that is, Lok Sabha)

Before a Minister enters upon his office, the President shall administer to him the oaths of office and secrecy according to the forms set out for the purpose in the Third Schedule."

I am not talking about the Third Schedule. If I talk about the Third Schedule, then the conduct of the five Ministers who had been in a dinner party at the residence of an MP in North Avenue in the presence of Shri Ashok Singhal does violate the very oath of secrecy listed in the Third Schedule while it has been clearly stated that they should treat all people equally and in the same manner, and they should not violate it.

Sir, the five Ministers are responsible to Lok Sabha, with all my regards, not to Rajya Sabha. They have to explain their conduct in detail in the House on query of the Members of the Lok Sabha and the Government is collectively responsible.

It has been stated in the leading newspaper of the country *The Hindustan Times*, names of five Ministers. They are, Shri Ved Prakash Goyal, the Minister of Shipping, Shri Shripad Yasso Naik, the Minister of State in the Ministry of Agriculture, Shrimati Jayawanti Mehta, Minister of State in the Ministry of Power, Shri Annasaheb M.K. Patil, the Minister of State in the Ministry Rural Development, and Shri Balasaheb Vikhe Patil, the Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance. It has also mentioned that about half a dozen Members of Parliament were also present, but that is different. As per the report, Shri Ashok Singhal has stated that temple would be built from 12th March onwards. When asked as to what would happen if the Government does not agree to it, it was replied, 'Government or no Government, we shall do it'. This comment was applauded.

We are not attributing motives. But the five Ministers are answerable to the House. The House should know what transpired in that meeting. The Ministers should make it clear, whether they share that perception; and whether they obtained the clearance and permission of the Prime Minister before going to that meeting. It is because the issue is sensitive. On this issue, the Prime Minister has made two categorical announcements. One is that the

[Shri Priyaranjan Dasmunsi]

Supreme Court directions will be binding on everybody as and when it comes; and the second is that before the Supreme Court gives its directive, he would explore the possibilities to find a solution by talking to other groups . . . 12th March. But we do not know, and . . . is talking to. Has the Lok Sabha . . . whom the Prime Minister is having talks ?

Under these circumstances, if five Ministers of the same Council of Ministers headed by Shri Vajpayee, share the perception of Shri Ashok Singhal in another parley and hatch a conspiracy to create a situation after 12th March, then it creates not only apprehension but also threat to the secular fabric of our country.

The House cannot be taken for granted and the House cannot be expected to keep quiet and silent. Therefore, the Ministers should explain their conduct in this House in accordance with the provisions of Constitution of India because they are answerable to Lok Sabha.

While I gave the notice, I purposely sent a copy to hon. Home Minister and hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs so that one of them can come and explain the conduct of the Ministers on an issue, which cannot be wished away and swept away. They are collectively responsible to the House. Since the hon. Prime Minister is abroad, in Japan, it would be the duty of the hon. Home Minister to come to the House and clarify the whole issue at the first available opportunity. But till this date, no official clarification has been made in this House in spite of several news items that have been reported. On the one hand, efforts are on to convince us and the House that nothing will happen. But we still feel since we have reports and information – we may be wrong – to the effect that a section of BJP who identify themselves with VHP and Bajrang Dal, to organise the militant section in a manner to demolish all these efforts. Only yesterday, Shri Karunanidhi, leader of DMK, has made abundantly clear in Chennai that if any attempt is made to construct the temple in the disputed area, then he would oppose it. All kinds of confusion are being created. The Government is not making clear its stand and the conduct of the Ministers.

I demand, Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, that hon. Home Minister must clarify the position in this regard on behalf of the Government. Since the Prime Minister is away, the Government should clarify the position, on behalf of the Prime Minister, about the conduct of these five Ministers who are involved in this issue.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Five Ministers viz Shri Ved Prakash Goyal, Shri Shripad Yasso Naik, Shrimati Jayawanti Mehta, Shri Annasaheb M.K. Patil and Shri Balasaheb Vikhe Patil along with several BJP MPs had a meeting with Shri Ashok Singhal, the Executive President of Vishwa Hindu Parishad at the North Avenue residence of Shri Pradeep Rawat, an honourable Member of this House. The Executive President of Vishwa Hindu Parishad has been repeatedly announcing for a long time that they do not care about the Government and that they will start temple – construction from 12th March. From the meeting it can be inferred that Shri Ashok Singhal and the aforesaid five Ministers have definitely had talks about the proposed construction of the temple in Ayodhya. This is a very serious matter. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this issue is serious also because the Minister of Home Affairs, Shri L.K. Advani has said that he owes his presence in Lok Sabha to the Ayodhya issue. . . .(Interruptions) Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the elections are due in Uttar Pradesh. It is an important issue. The Government is trying to instigate riots. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Sumanji, there are other Members also who are associating in this matter.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Dasmunsi has already raised this matter.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I was submitting that the above mentioned five Ministers had written to the Speaker, Lok Sabha that they were not present there. All the five Ministers are hon. Members of this Lok Sabha. They should clarify whether they were present in the meeting or not ? This is a very serious matter as all those five Ministers were closeted with the Executive President, Shri Ashok Singhal in that meeting. . . .(Interruptions) They should make clarification in the House.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, all the five Ministers should resign.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : One more name is there. Shri Ajoy Chakraborty's notice is there. Let him speak.

(Interruptions)

SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY (Basirhat) : It is a matter of great concern that the five Ministers of the Union Cabinet had assembled in a meeting with the VHP President. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER Shri Ramdas Athawale, please go to your seat.

(Interruptions)

SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY : Sir, it is a matter of great concern to the country and also it is a shameful matter that the five Ministers of the Union Cabinet had assembled in a meeting with the VHP President Shri Ashok Singhal as also with other VHP leaders including some BJP and Shiv Sena Members of Parliament. They hatched a plan. They made a conspiracy. They want to construct a Ram Temple at the disputed site of Babri Masjid violating the order of the Supreme Court. There was a specific direction made by the Apex Court of the country in this regard. They have decided to violate the order of the Supreme Court. It is said that they would build a Ram Temple at the disputed site of Babri Masjid at Ayodhya before 12th March. . . .(Interruptions)

They have taken oath as per the provisions of the Constitution of India. They have violated the provisions of the Indian Constitution. They are answerable to the nation. . . .(Interruptions)

So, I demand that the five Ministers of the Union Cabinet should come before the House and explain their conduct. The hon. Home Minister should come before the House and make a statement whether the report, which has appeared in the *Hindustan Times*, is a fact or not. If it is a fact, it is very much shameful, and it is a shocking news to the entire nation. So, they should come and explain their conduct before the House. It is a calculated violation of the decision of the Supreme Court. . . .(Interruptions) It is a harmful matter. So, I demand that a statement should be made by the five Ministers and they should apologise. . . .(Interruptions) The five Ministers should apologise before the nation for their conduct. . . .(Interruptions) We condemn their act. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I have allowed only those Members who have given the notice.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : Sir, the five Ministers have violated the provisions of the Consultation of India. This is an unprecedented act. The Home Minister should explain about it. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : It is concerning the unity and integrity of the country. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : They own an explanation to the House. They have violated the provisions of the Constitution. . . .(Interruptions)

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, all those five Ministers should give clarification on the floor of the House. . . .(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Kunwar Akhilesh Singh, you are coming to the Well of the House. You know about the consequences. . . .(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RASHID ALVI : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have also given notice.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Where is your notice ?

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The Government wants to respond to it. Do you not want to hear that ?

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, please direct all those five Ministers to present themselves here one by one. . . .(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : We want that the hon. Home Minister should come to the House and explain the conduct of the Ministers. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH : All those five Ministers should either give clarification in the House or tender their resignation. . . .(Interruptions) they are politicizing the matter due to elections in Uttar Pradesh.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

(Interruptions)*

*Not Recorded.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Hon. Members, the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs wants to respond.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Hon. Members, the Government wants to respond.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Will you please resume your seats? I would give a chance to one or two Members to speak.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RASHID ALVI : All the Five Ministers should be dismissed. . . .*(Interruptions)* The Home Minister should come here to make a statement. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Hon. Members, would you please resume your seats?

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SHYAM BIHARI MISHRA (Bilhaur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, they are unable to win in the election, so they are making a noise. . . .*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I would allow one or two Members to speak, and then, he will respond.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL (Kanpur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, such acts are deliberately being indulged in with an eye on the elections in Uttar Pradesh. . . .*(Interruptions)* the five Central Ministers have been indulging in such things by going at that place, information about them has been published. The Government should refute it. They should themselves clarify the matter in the House. Such a serious matter is being taken so lightly. . . .*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs wants to respond.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RASHID ALVI : All the Five Ministers should be dismissed. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : The Home Minister should come. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Hon. Members, please go back to your seats. Listen to the response of the Government.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RASHID ALVI : All the Five Ministers should be dismissed. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs wants to respond.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Hon. Members, would you please resume your seats. There are very important items to be taken up in the 'Zero Hour'.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Rashid Alvi, please go to your seat.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Ramdas Athawale, please go to your seat.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I would give one or two Members a chance to speak.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Advani ji should be called in the House to clarify the matter. Others can not clarify it. . . .*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : There are very important issues to be taken up in the 'Zero Hour'. Shri Dalit Ezhilmalai has given notice on the demolition of Periyar Centre.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs wants to respond. Do you not want to know the response of the Minister?

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Alvi, please go to your seat.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RASHID ALVI : We demand that all the five Ministers should be dismissed. . . .(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : The Minister of Home Affairs should be called. . . .(Interruptions) Where is Advaniji? . . .(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : We cannot have 'Zero Hour' like this.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The House stands adjourned to meet again at 2 o'clock.

12.44 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Fourteen of the Clock.

14.02 hrs.

[English]

The Lok Sabha re-assembled at two minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377* – Laid

MR. SPEAKER : Matters under Rule 377 listed for the day may be treated as laid on the Table of the House.

- (I) **Need for early clearance to laying of concrete cement on National Highway No. 7 in Seoni**

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NARESH TRIPATHEE (Seoni) Mr. Speaker, Sir, the National Highway No.7 passes through Seoni town which is also a district headquarters in Madhya Pradesh. It gets damaged every year in town area which causes a great deal of hardship for the vehicles as well as the residents of that town.

The Ministry for Road Transport and Highways has accepted for consideration the proposal to convert the portion of Highways passing through Seoni town into concrete cement road. I am grateful to the hon. Minister for that. This proposal has been sent by the Chief Engineer, National Highways Satpura Bhawan (Madhya Pradesh).

I request the Government of India to sanction that proposal early in public interest.

- (II) **Need to provide telephone facilities at Fatehpur and Bindki railway stations in Uttar Pradesh**

DR. ASHOK PATEL (Fatehpur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Fatehpur and Bindki road are business centres but the businessmen have to face a lot of difficulties as these place lack telephone facility. They have to travel long distance for availing telephone facility. It results in their loss of time as well as money. The difficulties faced by the businessmen can be removed by providing telephone facility at Fatehpur and Bindki Stations.

Therefore, it is requested that the Government should provide telephone facility at the above mentioned stations to remove the difficulties being faced by the businessmen.

- (III) **Need to provide financial assistance to the Government of Madhya Pradesh for construction of canal on the right side of Rani Awanti Bai Dam**

SHRI RAMANAND SINGH (Satna) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Rani Awanti Bai Dam (Vargi Dam) on the Narmada in Madhya Pradesh is more than 20 years old. But construction of Canal on the right side of this dam is yet to be started. It is proposed to irrigate low irrigated draught prone districts like Satna, Patna and Rewa of Vindhya division from the said canal. The irrigation percentage of these districts is the lowest in Madhya Pradesh which is only three percent in the official record.

So Government of India is requested to grant central assistance to Madhya Pradesh for construction of the canal on the right side of the Vargi Dam.

- (IV) **Need to reconsider the decision to close the Super Bazar**

SHRI BABUBHAI K. KATARA (Dohad) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Super Bazar of Delhi is going to be closed as per Central Government order dated 16 October, 2001. The main Branch of the Super Bazar is at Sankar Market in Cannaught Place. It has about 150 branches at various places in Delhi with about 2200 employees working in them. Closure of Super Bazar will render them unemployed. This Super Bazar which has been running from 1966 caters to the needs of various level consumers with unadulterated quality goods at reasonable rates. Medicines are available 24 hours in Super Bazar. Only genuine medicines are available in this Bazar. The medicine which sells at Rs. 45/- in the market is available for Rs. 35/- in Super Bazar – this is just one example.

[Shri Babubhai K. Katara]

These are about 1000 suppliers of Super Bazar and more than 10,000 employees directly or indirectly attached to it who will be deprived of their livelihood.

About Rs. 20 to 40 crore of these suppliers has been ... and no guarantee has been given ... refund it whereas the Government ... to close it.

Central Government is requested to take proper action to keep Super Bazar operational.

(v) Need to review the decision of enhanced telephone rent being charged in rural areas of Ranchi Parliamentary Constituency

SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY (Ranchi) : Mr. Speaker Sir, the Department of Telephones has sent bills of Rs. 360 at urban telephone rates instead of Rs. 100 for telephones operational in the rural areas of my Parliamentary Constituency Ranchi, which is four times more than the previous bills resulting in resentment among the people. The officials of Department of Telephones say that they will cut their lines if they do not pay their bills. People there are thinking of surrendering their telephones because the farmers of the villages are not in a position to pay telephone bills at the rate of Rs. 360/-. On the one hand this adds to the public sufferings and on the other it tarnishes the Government's image. It should be looked into and action should be taken against the erring officials.

I would like to request the Government to get these bills corrected so that the people may not have to suffer.

(v) Need to take stringent measures to safeguard security interests of the country

[English]

SHRI J.S. BRAR (Faridkot) : We are passing through a very critical and insecure period of our time. Our security and national integrity is in jeopardy. Internal disturbances are on the rise. Terrorists in Jammu and Kashmir are targeting security forces and civilians. Naxals and People War Group are active in South and are terrorising politicians and police personnel. Bodo, Naga, Manipur ultras are active in the North-East with secessionist ambitions. Looting, kidnapping for ransom or otherwise, dacoities, etc. have become the way of life in northern States like Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Haryana, etc.

External threats of aggression have aggravated. Taliban militants are suspected to have fled to PoK. They may sneak into Jammu and Kashmir to boost and support mercenaries in their nefarious activities, which may cause

trouble for State and Central Government. Maoists from Nepal are up to create stir in Bihar, Sikkim and West Bengal. Ordnance depots have been destroyed on regular interval.

Intelligence agencies should be on high alert. I request the Government to wake up from the slumber and pull its socks by providing security of life and property to common man and safeguard national interests and integrity.

(vii) Need for creation of a separate State of Vindhya Pradesh

[Translation]

SHRI SUNDERLAL TIWARI (Rewa) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Madhya Pradesh Legislative Assembly had sent a resolution for creation of a separate Vidhya Pradesh to the Central Government on 10 March, 2000. The Central Government brought a bill for the constitution of Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and Uttranchal States in the Parliament but they left Vindhya Pradesh.

Vidhya Pradesh was constituted in March, 1948, but due to the concept of bigger States, Vindhya Pradesh was merged into Madhya Pradesh in 1956. From this view point also, Vindhya Pradesh comes first in the right to creation of small States. Besides, Vindhya Pradesh is economically self reliant. 40% of the total mineral resources and 70% of the total cement production of Madhya Pradesh is in Vindhya Pradesh. There are four National Parks, six sanctuaries and world famous tourist spots like Khajuraho, Chitrakoot, Orchha and Bandhavgarh.

I request the Government to immediately start the process of creation of Vindhya Pradesh so that it may come into existence soon.

(viii) Need for laying of broad-gauge line between Dungarpur and Ratlam via Banswada in Rajasthan

SHRI TARACHAND BHAGORA (Banswada) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Udaipur, Chittargarh, Dungarpur and Banswada in the Udaipur division of south Rajasthan are important tourist areas besides being tribal dominated. This area has a vast reserve of minerals like zink, lead, rock, phosphate, marble, soapstone etc. This area has lagged believed in development due to non-availability of broad gauge rail line. 80% people here are tribals whose economic condition is very pitiable and serious. The country is heading towards globalization in this 21st century but the people of this area are forced a live even today in the 18th-19th century. Survey of Dungarpur-Ratlam via Banswada rail line has been completed, but work on it has not been started yet

due to non-availability of financial provision. Funds may be provided for doing the said work rapidly so that they could be completed soon. If gauge conversion between Udaipur and Modasa is sanctioned, this area can be linked directly to Mumbai. Kindly make financial provision for this rail line which has already been surveyed and also give approval to the work of gauge conversion between Udaipur and Modasa immediately. Completion of the above work will benefit the tribal people of this area and this will be an important step towards their development.

- (ix) **Need to declare support price of arecanut at Rs. 100/- per kg. particularly in Kerala**

[English]

SHRI T. GOVINDAN (Kasargod) : The price of areca nut has reached the lowest in Kerala. Areca nut is the means of income of large section of farmer community. The price fall of areca nut has created a financial crisis through out the district of Kasargod. Last year, the areca nut growers got Rs. 75/- per kg. Now it is only Rs. 38/-. It was Rs. 160/- per kg. 2 years ago. This serious situation compelled the private traders to withdraw from the market. The only institution to depend on areca nut is the CAMPCO, which is a co-operative institution working at Mangalore. Because of the price fall of the areca nut CAMCO also facing the serious financial crisis. Most of the farmers are unable to repay the loans they have taken from co-operative institutions and other financial institutions. There are tragic reports of suicide of farmers.

In this context, I would like to request the Hon'ble Minister of Commerce to take measure to restore the areca nut price at least to the last year level and check the smuggling of areca nut into the country. I also request the Government to immediately declare a support price of Rs. 100/- per kilo of Arecanut so that the loss may be borne by the Union Government and State Governments as has already been done in Goa. Suitable directions may also be given to Commercial banks and co-operative banks through Reserve Bank of India to convert all short-term loans borrowed by Arecanut growers into medium term loans and medium term loans into long-term loans.

- (x) **Need to grant 100% exemption in income-tax on donations made to Sports Authority of Andhra Pradesh for National Games - 2002 at Hyderabad**

DR. JAGANNATH MANDA (Nagar Kurnool) : The national games for year 2002 are scheduled to be held in Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh. Several new stadium are to be constructed and other infrastructure facilities are to

be put in at an estimated cost of Rs. 150 crore. The State Government has taken in hand construction of out door and indoor stadiums and swimming pool in 16 district head quarters.

The Sports Authority of Andhra Pradesh in undertaking several steps and initiatives to promote sports and games. The State Government has announced a Sports Policy which has been well received by all. In order to speed up these activities the State Government has approached philanthropists, individuals and various other institutions to donate liberally for games. As requested by the State Government, the Government of India should grant 100% income tax exemption on donations from institutions and individuals.

I urge upon the Government to issue orders in this regard at an early date to enable donors to come forward to help the State in conducting the National Games 2002 smoothly.

- (xi) **Need to expedite the installation of proposed Telephone Exchanges in Uttar Pradesh**

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA (Etawah) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to apprise the Ministry of Communications that there is resentment among consumers for delay in starting the proposed new Telephone exchanges. People have been waiting for telephone connection for the last 2-3 years even after depositing their application and demand money, but they have got nothing except assurance. Construction of a number of telephone exchanges is still incomplete. Moreover, telephone connection from my quota also have not been installed even after six months.

So I request the Central Government to complete the construction work of the incomplete and the proposed new telephone exchanges immediately or to provide WILL facility as an alternative arrangement for the benefit of consumers.

- (xii) **Need for early conversion of Achalpur-Murtizapur-Yawatmal narrow-gauge rail line in Maharashtra into broad-gauge**

[English]

SHRI ANANT GUDHE (Amravati) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, even after 52 years of independence, many a railway lines are being operated by the British companies. Department of Railway have approved one more such narrow gauge line between Achalpur-Murtizapur-Yawatmal (Maharashtra) section in 1996.

[Shri Anant Gudhe]

I request the Government to construct broad-gauge line instead of narrow-gauge line and connect it to Amravati Narkhed Railway Section to go to Delhi, Madras, Mumbai. Achalpur to Chanjhar Bazar which

Please construct this railway line into broad-gauge at the earliest.

(xiii) Need to take steps for revival of I.I.S.C.O.

[English]

DR. BIKRAM SARKAR (Panskura) : IISCO is one of the oldest Steel Plants in India. It is also one of the best located integrated steel plants in the country. Its performance till the mid-1960s was even better than that of Tata Steel. It was taken over by the Central Government in 1972. Unfortunately, during the last three decades, the plant was not modernized though several studies and proposals were made.

There are 23,000 workers directly employed by IISCO. Moreover, several other works and factories in and around that area draw sustenance from IISCO. Therefore, a closure of this plant would be a major socio-economic disaster for West Bengal.

The other alternative being revival of IISCO, it could be modernized and turned around by the same method as was applied in the case of Tata Steel.

I would, therefore, urge upon the Government to take urgently all possible steps for revival of IISCO which is so very essential for West Bengal.

(xiv) Need to formulate a comprehensive plan for all round development of Bihar

[Translation]

SHRI NAVAL KISHORE RAI (Sitamarhi) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Bihar is still a backward State. This State is a State of villages but the condition of this State is miserable. In villages only 5.57 per cent household have been provided with electricity connection. Of the total water storage capacity in the State only 37 percent water storage capacity have been created for use. There are less than 50 percent telephone connection in villages. The percentage of telephone consumer is 0.85 percent. While in other States of the country, this is up to 15 percent. People are getting only 6.7 percent employment in the industries. So, the percapita income in this State is also lowest. It is, therefore, necessary for the Government to formulate a

separate policy for the development of this backward State. There is also a need to declare it a backward State.

I request the Central Government to take immediate step in this direction.

(xv) Need more flights on Kolkata-Aizwal route and to introduce Aizawl-Guwahati air service

[English]

SHRI VANLAL ZAWMA (Mizoram) : Mizoram the southern most part of the North Eastern States is facing communication problems till today. The only communication we had is road communication NH-54 from Assam. The other facility is Indian Airlines service from Kolkata thrice a week i.e. Monday, Wednesday and Friday only. Boeing 737 is flying on those days but we have to share the seats with the passengers of Manipur.

I, therefore request, the Minister of Civil Aviation to provide for Kolkata-Aizawl flight on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday in addition to the existing flight.

At the same time, I also kindly request the concerned authority to introduce Aizawl – Guwahati flight at least thrice in a week. Guwahati being the centre of North Eastern States is very important for official purpose and others like medical treatment for patients. It takes at least 15 hrs. from Aizawl – Guwahati by road. I, therefore, kindly request the Ministry of introduce Aizawl – Guwahati Air service for the benefit of the people of Mizoram.

14.04 hrs.

[English]

MANIPUR BUDGET – 2001-2002 – GENERAL DISCUSSION DEMANDS FOR GRANTS – MANIPUR STATE – 2001-2002

MR. SPEAKER : Now, the House will take up item Nos. 12 and 13 together, Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar will speak.

Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar will speak.

Motion moved :

“That the respective sums not exceeding the amounts on Revenue Account and Capital Account shown in the third column of the Order Paper, be granted to the President, out of the Consolidated Fund of the State of Manipur to complete the sums necessary to defray the charges that will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 2002, in respect of the heads of demands entered in the second column thereof against Demands 1 to 47.”

Demands for Grants on account (Manipur) for 2001-2002 submitted to the Vote of Lok Sabha

No. and Name of Demand	Amount of Demands for Grants on Account submitted to the Vote of the House	
	Revenue	Capital
1	3	4
1. State Legislature	6,67,81,000	
2. Council of Ministers	1,98,93,000	
3. Secretariat	17,92,52,000	
4. Land Revenue, Stamps and Registration and District Administration	25,97,47,000	
5. Finance Department	96,83,51,000	33,00,000
6. Transport	1,73,51,000	
7. Police	1,49,66,85,000	2,00,00,000
8. Public Works Department	70,81,48,000	36,62,60,000
9. Information and Publicity	2,07,24,000	
10. Education	2,50,78,35,000	40,00,000
11. Medical, Health and Family Welfare Services	70,60,08,000	10,00,000
12. Municipal Administration Housing and Urban Development	3,73,35,000	15,42,04,000
13. Labour and Employment	3,35,24,000	
14. Development of Tribal and Scheduled Castes	57,49,43,000	
15. Food and Civil Supplies	5,15,28,000	3,00,00,000
16. Co-operation	7,67,16,000	1,000
17. Agriculture	19,00,04,000	1,33,00,000
18. Animal Husbandary and Veterinary including Diary Farming	22,57,87,000	
19. Environment and Forest	17,59,88,000	
20. Community Development and ANP, IRDP and NREP	21,04,15,000	20,00,00,000
21. Commerce and Industries and Weights and Measures Department	14,35,33,000	38,00,000
22. Public Health Engineering	21,24,23,000	42,83,41,000
23. Power	1,14,60,00,000	21,00,04,000
24. Vigilance Department	69,53,000	
25. Youth Affairs and Sports Department	7,99,39,000	1,04,00,000
26. Administration of Justice	6,19,99,000	
27. Election	1,47,33,000	
28. Sales Excise	6,13,06,000	
29. Sales Tax, other Taxes/Duties on Commodities and Services	1,50,50,000	
30. General Economic Services and Planning	13,84,21,000	
31. Fire Protection and Control	3,31,74,000	

1	3	4
32. Jails	4,93,85,000	
33. Home Guards	4,22,35,000	
	76,30,000	
Printing	2,54,05,000	
36. Minor Irrigation	8,98,84,000	10,52,00,000
37. Fisheries	7,78,06,000	1,24,000
38. Panchayat	4,74,99,000	
39. Sericulture	6,95,76,000	46,54,00,000
40. Irrigation and Flood Control Department	26,10,20,000	56,50,50,000
41. Art and Culture	2,80,11,000	4,48,00,000
42. State Academy of Training	51,94,000	
43. Horticulture and Soil Conservation	14,57,83,000	25,00,000
44. Social Welfare	21,55,61,000	
45. Tourism	83,45,000	1,21,06,000
46. Science and Technology	2,47,59,000	
47. Welfare of Minorities and Other Backward Classes	1,73,00,000	
Total	11,55,59,39,000	2,63,97,90,00

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR (Mayiladuturai) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, today, first of all, I would like to convey to the Government our grateful thanks for having delivery on the assurance which are given to us here when the Budget of Manipur was last discussed that the Assembly would be dissolved, and the subsequent assurance given to us that the elections for Manipur would, if possible, be held with the elections to the other States scheduled for the month of February-March. From the newspapers, we gather that this is going to happen. It would be a matter of great reassurance to the people of Manipur, if they were to be told possibly through this debate, if not as soon thereafter as possible, that these elections will, in fact, be held.

We had warned during the last debate that appropriating money from Parliament to run economic development programmes in Manipur is one thing. Actually implementing these programmes on the ground in Manipur is quite a different matter.

The experience of the last few months does not suggest that apart from paying themselves their salaries, the Government of Manipur, even under President's Rule is doing anything substantive in regard to either development or welfare.

In this connection, we would like to submit to the Government some proposal for what requires to be done on an extremely urgent basis in Manipur, possibly beginning the work even now, so that an elected Government does not have to begin *de novo* but work upon some progress that would have been registered till then.

The single most important requirement there is roads. Roads fall in two categories, one, a Ring Road, that will link all the district headquarters to the others and second, is rural roads. The very rapid transport of highly perishable horticulture products is imperative there because horticulture is the mainstay of the Manipur economy.

Sir, we have made some calculations and we find that the Ring Road can be constructed linking all the district headquarters over a length of approximately 852 kms. Of this, a large proportion, approximately 378 kms already exists and it is a question of upgrading the quality of those road. We would need to construct only another 189 kms. of new road.

Sir, if this Ring Road is constructed, then the present isolation of each district of Manipur from the other, and the need for everyone from each district to first get to the

State capital before they can get to another district headquarters would be obviated. This would, of course, facilitate administration, it would even more importantly facilitate law and order.

There is a very serious deterioration of law and order in Manipur and I do not believe that it can be tackled simply by sending more and more troops or more and more security personnel into the State. They need to be able to move extremely quickly and, with this in mind, just building 852 kms., of which 139 kms is going to be new construction, is, I think, an expenditure well worth undertaking, without which there is neither going to be administration, nor law and order, nor development, nor welfare in the State of Manipur.

Also, Sir, it is only by linking these different districts together that there will be a sense of togetherness in Manipur. Now that togetherness has been very badly shattered by certain unfortunate actions of the Union Government in the last few months. But if you look at the history of Manipur, it is quite clear that the different communities that live there are fundamentally secular and fundamentally more than willing to live with one another. What they need to be given is the opportunity of interaction so as to get this sense of togetherness strengthened. This is another objective that would be fulfilled by having a Ring Road that exists linking the different districts. This would also promote tourism as well as cultural integration besides promoting the growth and speeding up of economic development.

The investment required in this, in terms of all India funding is so small – it is believed that we could complete it within Rs. 131 crore – that I would urge through Shri Swami, who is present here, the Minister for North-East Development to give this the highest possible priority to the building of this Ring Road at an estimate cost of Rs. 131 crore. Obviously, you will have to recheck these estimates and recheck the quality of the roads that require upgradation and the integrated links that are to be established.

I have with me a map which shows how the different district headquarters in the hill areas would then get connected with one another and then lead into the valley areas. This will promote a sense of integrity in Manipur that has been seriously fractured in the last few months.

I urge this project upon the Government and we in the Congress Party stand ready, at the convenience of the Government, to meet with the Ministry of Home Affairs or the Ministry of North-East Development, I think, both would be involved, in explaining what this project is, so that we

give teeth to the single most important requirement of this State.

The second thing that needs to be given very deep and concentrated attention is horticulture. Horticulture holds the potential of not only making Manipur a very well off State, but promoting development in an equitable manner because the prime beneficiaries of a booming horticulture industry in Manipur would be the poor farmers, the poor labourers. It would really be growth social justice. To get this done, there are a few specific steps that seem, to a layman like me, to be obvious but which, for some reason, have not been implemented by any of the successive Governments in Manipur adequately and which I think, the Union Government is uniquely well-placed to promote at the present juncture. This must be a people oriented development and should be run as far as possible through existing *Panchayats* in the Valley areas and through the traditional tribal bodies in the hill areas.

It would require, I would imagine, five or six basic things, namely, firstly, the creation of a data base; second, the rejuvenation of existing orchards; third horticultural marketing facilities. There is an estimate that of the total production of approximately 1,11,000 metric tonnes of horticulture products in the State, some 30 per cent to 50 per cent is lost because they cannot be transported to the place of either processing or marketing sufficiently quickly. This obviously requires priority attention in a mass horticultural production programme which is linked to the introduction of an effective road network.

Then, we need to give attention to infrastructure projects for horticulture, such as godowns in rural areas, cold storages, rural marketing yards and processing units in all district headquarters. There must also be some diversification. There is a prospect for low volume high value crops, like spices and cashew, particularly, in the Tegnoupal district and the areas surrounding Jiri bam. This whole project can be launched and completed at an expense of less than a crore of rupees and it is sad that we have not looked into this kind of possibly. Then, there must be, of course, the creation of water resources, community tanks and tubewells require immediate attention.

Another interesting suggestion that has come really from the people of Manipur is that there should be a model village in each district, where it is demonstrated as to what are the right kinds of inputs, and what are the right kinds of technical steps to be taken to ensure optimum production. If these kinds of model villages are created in each of the nine districts of Manipur, then the villagers

[Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar]

around would be able to come and see for themselves how this is done and we would see a real increase in economic property and social justice and therefore, peace in that very disturbed area. There seems to be also considerable economic farming being promoted.

that requires urgent attention is the of the area. There are about 500 sq. kms. of wetlands, of fresh water, shallow lakes and adjoining lands in the area, ninety per cent of which are situated in the Central Manipur valley and the rest in other parts of the State. It appears as if it is the Bishnupur district and the Thoubal district that are the ones which have the largest availability of such wetlands. The most well known of these, of course, is the Loktak Lake, which has been designated internationally as one of the six wetlands of international importance. What we need to do is to use that natural resource as to promote fishery, to have effective hydel and lift irrigation systems, to provide a wintering habitat for migratory birds, to have a breeding ground for prized fishes like Pengba, Khabak and other to have an exclusive habitat for the rare and endangered deer species of Manipur, the Sangai, and to effectively do the modulation of flooding and micro-climate buffering.

All this can be done. The lake is shrinking and there is a rapid decline in the habitat area for migratory birds. So, what we need to do is to have immediate lake boundary settlement, the erection of shoreline identification landmarks, the framing of a wetlands policy, possibly through a Loktak Development Authority, and also to have scientific management plans for the lake so that we can pose these to external funding agencies. And we have to give very particular attention to the removal of phoomdi which is a kind of weed, which spreads all across the lake, chokes it up, and which has very sharply reduced the availability of wet area.

There are also, Sir, wetlands of smaller kinds available at Pumlun and Khoikum Lamjao in Thoubal District, as also at Ikap and Khavung in the same district, as well as Loushi Pat and Phumnom Pat. all of these are in Thoubal District.

We can share with the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Ministry of North East Development, if we are invited to do so, our specific ideas on how right at the ground level in terms of practical action, steps can be taken to make the people of Manipur believe that Delhi is actually interested in them, that Delhi actually knows where they live, that Delhi knows the names of its districts, villages and pats, and that Delhi has some ideas about how to promote development. If we continue in the manner in

which it is reflected in the documents before us, where almost everything goes to salaries for Government servants, then any possibility of development is ruled out; and where development is ruled out, there is bound to be insurgency.

We are very fortunate that Manipur has insulated itself from serious insurgency, which is taking place to its North in Nagaland and which had taken place to its South in Mizoram. This achievement needs to be consolidated. The fundamental goodwill which the communities of Manipur have towards each other needs to be consolidated and not exploited as has been happening in recent months. To this end, we are willing to support the Demands for Supplementary Grants that have been brought before us but subject to the hope because we cannot make it a condition to Shri Swami, Shri Arun Shourie and others concerned that they will seriously take our offer of giving our ideas to them so that in respect of a remote, sensitive but extremely important State like Manipur, the Opposition and the Government can join hands in the interest of the welfare of the people.

May I conclude by once again reiterating the very strong demand of the people of Manipur that they be allowed to elect a Government for themselves in the month of February or March along with the elections to the other States going to the polls.

SHRI BAJU BAN RIYAN (Tripura East) : Hon. Speaker, Sir, we are bound to discuss the Manipur Budget as the elected Government in Manipur is defunct now. Actually, it is due to in-fight among the NDA Political parties, who were ruling there up to May.

Sir, I have seen the Budget proposal presented here. In the proposal, the proposed deficit is about Rs. 382.86 crore. If we look at the receipt and other figures, it will be found that the amount has been decreased in almost all the cases. I do not know how, in this way, the development works in Manipur will be taken up, and how the development of Manipur in general will advance.

Sir, it is very unfortunate that we have to discuss this Budget here. There was an elected Government for the last five to six months. The people put their votes to form a new Government. But after the elections, their elected representatives changed floors and political Parties. After election, they have formed a new Government. Before the dissolution of the House, the Government was run by the Samata Party with the help and support of the BJP. But at the time of the 60-Member Assembly election, the BJP's number was very few. But when it was resolved by floor crossing, defying Samata Party, the BJP MLAs wanted to

form a new Government. In this way, we have to discuss the Budget here. The MLAs, the representatives of the people of Manipur, know better what their problem is.

As my predecessor hon. Member has just now mentioned here, their main problem is transportation. Actually, Manipur depends on agriculture and horticulture. Like any other State of North-East, in Manipur also, there is zero industry. All the industries which were set up there, are now non-functional. In this way, they have to depend on horticultural and agricultural crops. Now, all the Departments, whatever we had from outside, are actually non-functioning. The Government employees are not getting their salaries. Now, Manipur is under President's Rule. But the normal function of the Government was not up to the mark during the elected Government. The same position is still going on. Teachers and other staff members are also not getting their salaries every month. So, in this way I am in doubt. Today, we will pass the Manipur Budget for the remaining period, that is, up to April, if the Union Government is able to hold the election earlier or in time after the extension of the President's Rule there, then we should not require this Budget to be passed here. Manipur can pass its Budget there itself. But it is not necessary to be passed in this way.

Manipur needs one food processing industry to make horticultural produce effective. They produce oranges and pin apples. They produce precious valuable horticultural crops but due to lack of marketing facilities, the producers are not getting their actual price for their produce.

Manipur Land Reforms and Land Revenue Act should be amended. Several times, the Manipur Government had tried to amend this. The Act was passed in the year 1960 by this Parliament. Actually, 90 per cent of the hilly land is reserved for the Tribals and those who are living there.

Among the tribals, one main group is the Naga and New Naga group and the other main group is the Kuki Chin group. Though in terms of total population the Naga group and the Kuki group are less than one-third of the total population of this area, they inhabit almost 91 per cent of the hilly areas. The other communities like the Methi and the Muslim Methis are not allowed to get land there. So, this Act should be amended so that the entire Manipur State could be developed in the future.

*SHRI TH. CHAOBA SINGH (Inner Manipur) : Sir, I am taking part in the discussion on the Budget of the tiny State of Manipur. It is a Budget which involves a very small

amount of money. Sir, for the year the plan allocation is only Rs. 375.21 crore for the Centrally sponsored schemes the allocation is Rs. 69.90 crore and for non-plan the amount given is Rs. 1998.46 crore. This meager sum is meant for one year's expenditure for the State of Manipur. Sir, there is a huge gap between the revenue receipt and expenditure. The actual gap at present is Rs. 498.67 crore. This gap is to be bridged. This year's gap is more than that of last year's Rs. 115.99 crore.

Sir, the crucial issue before us is how to fill this gap. Manipur has very limited resources and its income is very meager. But the expenditure always exceeds the income. Why the resource generation is poor in the State? The reason for this is not difficult to seek. Even after 50 years of independence the infrastructure to mobilize resources is not being developed. Due to lack of proper infrastructure resources cannot be tapped in a suitable manner. Resources are rather depleted instead of increasing. Here I would like to cite the example of Meghalaya where during British Raj power projects and coal projects were set up along with a good road network. Such infrastructure is not present in Manipur. After independence proper infrastructure has been developed in parts of Bengal, UP, Bihar and other States so to mobilize resources. Till today there is hardly any standard national highway in Manipur. The traffic on our highways is very less and therefore the income generated from it is very low. In these 50 years no big projects and no mega power projects have been set up in Manipur. All the preceding Governments had neglected the entire North East region including Manipur *vis a vis* infrastructure development is concerned. As of now the Planning Commission has been earmarking funds for the States on the basis of population, area and resources. We have no infrastructure, no good roads, no train traffic and therefore we have tremendous bottlenecks to mobilize resources. Since we have very limited resources the fund earmarked by the Planning Commission is extremely meager.

The income from land revenue is also negligible because it is collected only from the valley which is one tenth of the total geographical area. Land revenue is not collected from the hills which comprises of 90% of the total area of the State. In the valley again we have to minus the Loktak lake and other areas. Hence, the income from land revenue is nothing but a peanut. The income from the forests is also not coming due to the ban imposed by an Apex Court ruling. Again, the lotteries have been completely disallowed. Ways and means to earn income and mobilize resources have been restricted drastically. As a result the income of the State has been reduced to

* English Translation of the speech originally delivered in Manipuri.

[Shri Th. Chaoba Singh]

the minimum. It is the responsibility of the Government to develop and provide adequate infrastructure. In the last 50 years such appropriate infrastructure and system could not be developed in the region. The onus of this failure mainly lies on the Government of India. NDA Government should believe this august House also will agree with me.

This is the main reason for regional disparity and imbalance. North East has been ignored and neglected for years together. We have a very poor resource mobilization mechanism.

The huge chasm between income and expenditure must be bridged by doling out some economic packages as done in the case of some other States. Otherwise it will be an uphill task for the State to overcome such an enormous deficit accumulating year after year. Frankly speaking the allocated small sum of about Rs. 300 crore cannot undertake any development activities.

Sir, as far as employment opportunity is concerned there is hardly any opportunity worth mentioning. It is almost nil. The number of unemployed youths is very high. Our literacy rate is higher than the national literacy rate. The number of educated unemployed in Manipur is now more than 4 lakh. It is an unmanageable figure for a small State with a population of only 22 lakh. Sir, one of the root-cause of insurgency in the State is unemployment. Many bright educated unemployed youths have joined insurgent groups in search of livelihood and solace. In fact unemployment particularly the educated unemployment augment the problem of insurgency.

A large part of our income has been utilized to fight and control insurgency. The amount of money left has become too little to take up any development works. All the plan funds have been diverted to pay the salary of the employees. Still there is shortage of fund and as a result salaries are not paid for three months now.

The Loktak Down Stream Project has not been taken up properly by the present incumbent. It is now in rough weather. It is not being run smoothly. The expenditure incurred upon providing security to the project has been clubbed with the cost of the project. This is a wrong estimation. Because, in other parts of the country the security provision for projects is being dealt with separately and not added to the project costs. Now, they are saying that Loktak Down Stream Project is economically unviable taking into consideration the security expenditure. Sir, this is very unfair. Such projects can generate a lot of

employment and this particular project will certainly be quite beneficial for the State. I urge upon the Union Government to kindly review the situation.

In the present Budget not a single penny has been allocated for the maintenance of Loktak Lake. If this lake is not maintained properly the NHPC Loktak project will fail in no time. Without proper maintenance the Loktak lake will become shallower it will be filled with 'Pumdhis' (floating mass) thereby deteriorating the adjoining environment. This Budget also completely ignores Loktak lake. Therefore, I insist upon the Government of India to take this matter seriously because Loktak is the only life sustaining lake in the State.

Sir, last year the Home Ministry had issued a circular thereby banning the funding of NGOs in Manipur by all the Ministries. It is really unfortunate and it is sending a wrong message. Many NGOs in Bihar, UP and other States have been blacklisted. But only three NGOs of Manipur have been blacklisted. We don't understand the rational behind the ban on funding to the NGOs in Manipur. Sir, many educated youths are working for a number of NGOs. They are doing extremely well. If fund is not provided how can they function? Sir, as a matter of fact some NGOs in the State are rendering very noble and useful service, for instance quite a good number of NGOs are working to prevent AIDS and taking up awareness programmes throughout the nook and corner of the State. The fund allotted by NACO for the State AIDS Control Board and other NGOs in Manipur is also not being released due to the order of the Home Ministry. The step taken up by the Home Ministry is highly objectionable and illogical. How can the Home Ministry impose a blanket ban on other Ministries not to release fund for the NGOs in Manipur. This is discriminatory and obnoxious. When I was the Minister of Food Processing such an order came and I simply ignored it and continued to release fund for the performing organizations and institutions. Likewise other Ministries should not comply with the order of the Home Ministry and act independently. Are other Ministries under the Home Ministry? The answer is a big 'No'. All the Ministries are independent and they have their respective programmes and policies.

Sir, I am concluding.

Ban to provide fund to all the NGOs is a wrong decision. It should be reviewed at the earliest.

Another important issue I want to bring to the notice of the Union Government is that the fund meant for the Centrally sponsored schemes are not available for my State, Manipur. The reason is very simple; the State

Government is not in a position to contribute its mandatory share of 25% or 10%. My humble request is that the Union Government should give cent percent fund for the Centrally sponsored schemes to the poor States like Manipur. Otherwise the poor States will never be able to get the benefit of the Central schemes and projects.

The ground reality is that the State is not getting any fund for NGOs; NEC is not releasing any money and in addition the Government of India has drastically restricted the flow of fund to Manipur. All plan fund has been siphoned off for paying the salaries. Then you imagine the State of affairs in Manipur. It is terrible. The President's Rule is of no use. The State machinery is completely defunct. Therefore, Sir, election should be held at the earliest in the State and a democratically elected Government should be installed. In a democracy there is no substitute for a democratically elected Government. I hope normalcy will be restored in Manipur with the kind cooperation of the Centre.

SHRI HOLKHOMANG HAOKIP (Outer Manipur)

Thank you, Sir, for giving me an opportunity to speak on the Manipur Appropriation Bill, 2001-02. Kindly give me just enough time to speak. I shall be very brief and very fast. That is why I have prepared my speech.

This is a routine business of every Government to pass the Budget, to bring Appropriation Bills, Supplementary Demands and so on. We are not cynical about these constitutional functions of the Government, but what is worrying us most is the deteriorating financial and fiscal health of the nation, particularly of the States, more particularly of small States like Manipur. It is an obvious fact that all the States are facing serious financial crisis, which is a matter of great concern for the nation. Yet, I support the Bill to be passed today.

Manipur is under the Central rule. We all know it. We are very anxious about the initiatives of the Central Government to improve the financial position of Manipur because there is hardly any improvement at all. President's rule in Manipur has now been there more than six months but still the State authority is not even in a position to pay the salaries of the employees. It is indeed a failure on the part of the State authority and the Central Government.

You forget about the developmental activities in the State. The State Administration is on the verge of collapse because of bankruptcy. The coffers of the State are almost empty. When there is no money what can we expect from the Government? There is nothing to expect. This is a very serious matter. The Government of India should take it seriously. Just blaming the earlier Governments for the

financial mismanagement and the bungling will not help us. Certain remedial measures should be taken up at the earliest.

Sir, the situation now in Manipur is that there is no salary for the employees; there are no developmental activities, there is no employment generation and there is no economic growth and there are no funds for the NGOs. There are 197 blacklisted NGOs and 15 of them have nexus with underground organisations. They should not touch them. They have banned all of the NGOs – whether blacklisted or not. This is due to wrong policies.

There is direct or indirect ban on the financial inflow to the State by the Centre on some pretext or the other and this will certainly weaken the State's economy and the financial position. This situation must be reviewed at once. Otherwise, the situation will be out of control. Please remember that the people of Manipur are highly educated and highly sensitive. To prolong the present state of affairs will be quite detrimental to our national interest.

Another issue that I want to highlight in this august House is that despite having enough food-stocks, many people in the country are starving, particularly in the remote areas and interior parts. Rice, fit for consumption by animals only, is given to the North-Eastern States, particularly Manipur. This should be stopped. It is a big irony. In my constituency, the people living in the remote and hill areas are struggling to get one square meal a day. This is the hard fact and this is the ground reality. Even after fifty years of Independence, the people are not having enough food to feed themselves; forget about the amenities and other facilities.

Let us not always blame the State Government. The Centre has a big role, perhaps a bigger role, to look after the well-being of the citizens of this country, particularly of Manipur. When we have abundant foodgrains in our godowns, still we are unable to feed our people. It is a big shame. Something is seriously wrong with the distribution system. Is it a failure of the system or is it a human failure? Whatever it may be, we have failed. We need to improve the system and we have to overcome all the bottlenecks. Otherwise the poor, starving people will never forgive us and the coming generation will spurn upon us.

The poor farmers in the villages and the unfortunate people in the remote areas and hill do not understand inflation, recession, growth-rate, WTO etc. They do not understand it. The only thing that they know is food, clothing, shelter, healthcare, education and employment. Still, we fail to provide them all these basic human needs.

[Shri Holkhomang Haokip]

In the last fifty years, we have made progress in every sphere of life, but still there are miles to go to achieve a satisfactory level.

Build the Tipaimukh Dam and Manipur. Now they say that it is economically not viable and they want to stop everything and they charge us for everything. As my elder colleague Shri Chaoba Singh has said, they are charging us for the project cost that is allocated for the project. It should be charged on the law and order and the aspect of dealing with the insurgency. I urge upon the Central Government to look into the proposal minutely and let us not be guided by bureaucratic myopia and manipulation. Ours is a democracy and the people's aspirations should be respected and promoted.

Finally, the financial health of the State of Manipur is worse now. The Budget Estimate for the year 2001-2002 is for Rs. 2,434.56 crore. After deducting the amount for interest payment and debt services and the Government expenditure, the remaining sum for development works is very meagre. What can you expect from this extremely meagre amount? The total public debt is Rs. 1,368 crore. The current overdraft with the RBI is Rs. 70 crore and the current borrowing capacity is only Rs. 21 crore. Again, there is a huge gap between the revenue expenditure and the revenue receipt. It is a pathetic situation. Keeping this broad scenario in view, it is high time to do something concrete for the State of Manipur.

In order to bring the State economy and finance on the right track, certain economic packages should be doled out in no time. Along with this, some austerity measures must be taken up, like curtailing the Non-Plan expenditure, Government expenditure, reducing the number of Government employees and so on. Practicable VRS should be introduced. Permanent programmes and retrenchment schemes may be introduced to remove excess Government staff. Abrupt removal of staff will not solve the problem. Instead, it could turn out to be a big headache for the Government.

Besides, the Union Finance Minister should experiment with the zero-base budgeting in Manipur. I strongly believe that such an endeavour will certainly revive the tottering Manipur economy and finance. Please consider it seriously. Sir, zero-base budgeting is perhaps the only way out.

Both the sides, the ruling as well as the main opposition party, have brought dissolution to the Manipur State Assembly. Now, they want to hold election very soon. I say that the President's Rule should be extended by one

more year. The ground reality is such that it is still very bad. If the elections are held now, the militants will have the upper hand because it will reserve the achievement of President's Rule, of downsizing, of gradual improvement of financial discipline, and of Government's upper hand over underground activities. After elections, it will encourage horse trading, rampant corruption and jumping from one party to another party. It will give a tremendous boost to the anti-national elements actively working in Manipur. The overall consequence will be people's loss of faith in Indian democracy.

Sir, there are 20 underground organisations in Manipur. We must keep President's Rule there for another year. I still say that President's Rule should be extended for a further period. He said that they are expecting a popular Government. I say that it will be the most unpopular Government. I do not like unpopular Government. Who will be responsible? Will they not be responsible? We are Members of the apex body of the Indian Sub-Continent. Sir, that is why, I say that election should not be held now. The State is not yet ready for election.

SHRI M.V.S. MURTHI (Visakhapatnam) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Manipur is very rich in its culture and heritage. The exponents of Manipuri dance are known all over the world. . . .(Interruptions) Kuchipudi dance is in Andhra Pradesh. Manipuri dance is more popular even than Kuchipudi. It is very unfortunate that the Budget proposals of such an important and vital part of the country are being considered in this House rather than in its own Assembly. There is no alternative to a democratically elected popular Government. In the present system, it has to be restored at the earliest so that the people's mandate alone can rule that State and not some remote control. The President's Rule should be of the shortest tenure as far as possible. It is a very remote State, sensitive and very volatile to any situation. Besides being a small State, there are so many ethnic groups who fight each other. Now, we are experiencing that small States are always volatile to change from this side to that side. The political system is so volatile that over a period, we trust that the Small State is not the solution for a democratic set up. In such small States with 40 to 60 Members, if five Members go from this side to that side, it will change the fate of the Government. So, it is happening. Still, we feel that some small States are needed. I strongly feel that no more small States should be created in this country. If you create more small States, there will be more volatility in the country and there will be more shift every time. . . .(Interruptions)

Sir, what happened to the State of Bihar? It seems they want some more States to be created from out of

Bihar. There is a demand for creation of new States everywhere. But this is not the solution for effective democratic functioning. If we want the democratic functioning to flourish, then there should be large economically viable States.

Sir, there is a deficit of Rs. 380 crore for the State of Manipur. Wherefrom would the Government fill this gap? Even the money allocated for Plan development has been utilised on revenue expenditure account. No State would be a financially healthy State if there was a gap between revenue collection and revenue expenditure. Every State should tighten in belt to keep its revenue receipts and revenue expenditure within its means, otherwise no State would be able to flourish and would go the way the State of Bihar has gone.

Sir a sum of Rs. one crore only has been allocated for Centrally-sponsored schemes for the State of Manipur. Such a meagre amount of money is not enough to sustain the welfare activities of a State as remote as Manipur. As long as this State is under the President's Rule, there should be more allocation of funds for this State so that the State can develop well and turn itself into a model for other States. Also, when a popular Government is installed there, they would be able to continue the developmental activities that get started during the period of its being under the President's Rule.

Sir, tourism is one of the mainstay and best possible means of collecting revenue for the State of Manipur provided we can restore peace and tranquillity in the State. Again, peace and tranquillity cannot be restored unless we can create jobs for the educated unemployed youth of the State. In a total population of 22 lakhs, there are about four lakhs of educated unemployed youth in the State and they are struggling to get a job and in the absence of any work, these educated unemployed youth are resorting to underground activities. Our primary aim should be to concentrate on creation of jobs for these youths. This is very essential.

Sir, along with tourism, the State of Manipur is endowed with abundant natural resources. If these natural resources could be utilised in proper manner, then we can even generate hydel power from it which could in turn be supplied to other deficit States. With improvement in tourism, creation of jobs for the educated unemployed youth and with the ability to generate hydel power by making use of its abundant natural resources, this State of Manipur can well become a self-sufficient State in terms of development.

Sir, with these few words, I support the proposals contained in the Budget for the State of Manipur.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Manipur is a poor and small State, but its historical and geographical importance is not less for the country. It has resources of Rs. 103 crore rupees of which 65 crore rupees are being spent on salary. How can a State develop where only 780 crores of rupees are spent on development every year. After that it also has the burden of paying 10 percent loan. So, a package should be provided to this State. There should be an extension of railway lines. Railway line should be extended from Zeeri dam to Imphal. The N.H. are not in order. Both the N.H. are also out of order. One N.H. from Dimapur to Imphal and other from Zeeri dam to More should be constructed properly. It will be better if these N.Hs. start properly.

Indo Myanmar trade took place, More is located at Indian border. Burma have developed its cities but More remained undeveloped. P.D.S. is also not functioning properly. Shri Chaoba Singh was saying that poor quality wheat is supplied there which is unfit even for animals. P.D.S. should be streamlined. People are not getting salary for three months. Strikes and agitations were being held there. As you are aware that it is a sensitive area. They made some unfavourable agreement with Nagaland which brought disregard to it, consequently many agitations begin to take place. I demand that Manipur should not be neglected being a small State. A sum of Rs. 578 crore was sanctioned for Loktuck Hydro Power but work has not been undertaken. Tirpaymukh Downstream Hydro Power Project has the capacity of 1500 mw. Hydro Power. So the Tipaymukh should be given on bid on priority basis which will benefit the country. Hydro Power is the best. Priority should be given to Hydro Power electricity situated in North-East. . . .(Interruptions) Junior Minister has been directed to sit here and to reply on it. What power does he have, He is assigned concerned the work of laying papers on the table. . . .(Interruptions) Members from Manipur are getting the budget passed. There was pressure and the Minister from Manipur has been asked to remain absent in the House and the Junior Minister has been called to sit here. . . .(Interruptions)

For Manipur, tourism is very important. Protected area permit should be abolished. Deptt. of Home should reply as to why the protected Area Permit is not being abolished, which would help in its development. Government should give specific reply to all these questions.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS, MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATION (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : He is a Minister of State. Don't call him junior.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : He himself was a Junior Minister. He has not had the experience.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : I told that Raghuvansh Babu was also a Junior Minister. Please do not say anything to the persons belonging to your category.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : I can feel the pain of Junior Ministers because they have no work except laying of papers on the Table.

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : I have not as much pain as you have.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Now, the hon. Minister.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, six speakers have taken part in the debate and I am grateful for them.

The initiator of the debate, Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar, said that the Government was fulfilling an assurance. I take it that he would agree to the fact that this Government has always fulfilled the assurances given by it. One of those assurances is on dissolution of the Manipur Assembly. I must assure the entire House, through you, that this Government is keen to take the State to polls at the earliest opportunity. So, there is no need to extend this. Both the Houses have unanimously passed the extension of President's Rule in the State, but the Government is not keen to extend it further and wait till that further period expires.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the total receipts, excluding Public Account, in the year 2001-02 are estimated at Rs. 2203.80 crore. Out of the total receipts the revenue receipts are estimated at Rs. 1220.16 crore compared to Rs. 1281.89 crore of Revised Estimates, 2000-2001. Estimates of State's own tax and non-tax revenue are Rs. 103.25 crore. The revenue expenditure is estimated at Rs. 1245.32 crore and the deficit on the Revenue Account is Rs. 25.16 crore. On capital account, excluding Public Account, receipts are estimated at Rs. 983.64 crore. Expenditure including loans and advances is estimated at Rs. 1100.05 crore, which is lower than the Revised Estimates, 2000-2001. As rightly pointed out by a colleague, the deficit is expected to be

Rs. 498.67 crore. I am not going into the details of these things.

I must tell you that the Government is very much concerned and serious about the development of the entire North-East in general and Manipur in particular. The Government is also serious about implementation of land reforms, VRS and other popular measures. But such popular measures are expected to be taken only by a popular Government. As the Member has rightly pointed out, we do not want to give a message to the country that the State is being governed by remote control.

15.00 hrs.

So, we are very much interested to establish a popular Government in Manipur.

In respect of Centrally-sponsored and Centrally-planned Schemes, provisions have been made on the basis of previous year releases in order to obviate the difficulties of the Department in timely implementation of the schemes.

Sir, in respect of the NEC, a sum of Rs. 5.36 crore has been tentatively provided in the Budget Estimates, 2001-2002 covering the area of Integrated Project for self-sufficiency in Animal Origin Food, Jiri Irrigation Project, roads and bridges, sport and youth activities.

For NSDC schemes, only token provision has been made.

Sir, the House will appreciate that the hon. Finance Minister was in Shillong on the 19th October, 2001 during the Chief Ministers Meeting. The Governor concerned was there in that meeting. The hon. Finance Minister had requested the Governor of Manipur to come with the proposal as to how Manipur problem could be eased and how the Government of India could help them. We are waiting for their proposal. We are also monitoring the situation on day-to-day basis.

Sir, some hon. Member mentioned that there is no power project going on in Manipur. The House would be happy to note that there is already a Heavy Fuel Project at Leimakhong under progress. Its cost is Rs. 129.08 crore. It has been funded considerably from the Central Pool of Resources. It is likely to be commissioned within a month or two.

Similarly, a lot of other schemes are there through the banking etc. I am happy to note that the NGOs are working there in a strong and healthy way. There is no dearth of money as far as the NGOs are concerned. NABARD and CAPART are financing them. A number of banks are also

financing so many schemes including self-employment scheme.

Sir points were raised about the economic viability, development of agriculture, horticulture and agro-processing units in Manipur. Agriculture being a State subject, naturally, the popular Government, when comes, will take all these things.

It is true that about four lakh educated youths are unemployed there. That is why a number of schemes are there through NGOs. We hope the popular Government will take up all these issues. It is for the administrators to take the advantage.

Sir, as far as the salary point is concerned, I must inform the august House that there was a strike by the employees of the State Government of Manipur from 22nd October, 2001 demanding the fulfilment of 16-point charter of demand. But some Departments like Police and Electricity did not join the strike. Now, I am happy to inform the House that an agreement has been reached. After their agreement with the State Government on the 30th November, 2001, the Secretariat employees and the teachers have withdrawn their strike from 3rd December, 2001.

Again, the Joint Administration Council of All Manipur and Trade Union Council of All Manipur Government Employees Organisations have entered into an agreement with the State Government on 10th December, that is today, and have withdrawn their agitation. So, the strike by the employees of the State Government of Manipur has been called off.

Their salaries have been paid upto October, 2001. We are going to pay their salary of November also. Those who were on strike, the salaries will naturally be paid now. The duration of 45 days strike has been taken by them as leave. In this regard an agreement has already reached. So, nobody will be denied of their rights.

With these words, as everybody is supporting this, I would request the House to pass this Manipur Budget.

SHRI TH. CHAOBA SINGH : What about the Lok Tak Downstream Project which is already approved ?

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : Sir, as regards the Lok Tak Project and other infrastructure part, the *Pradhan Mantri Rozgar Yojana* and the *National Highway Yojana* are there. Funds are allocated there.

We have asked the Governor to come here and discuss it with the Planning Commission. These are only

the token provisions which have been made. We will make all the necessary provisions after having consultation with the Planning Commission because the *ad hoc* measures will not work permanently.

MR. SPEAKER : I shall now put the Demands for Grants in respect of Budget (Manipur) for 2001-2002 to the vote of the House.

The question is :

"That the respective sums not exceeding the amounts on Revenue Account and Capital Account shown in the third column of the Order Paper, be granted to the President, out of the Consolidated Fund of the State of Manipur to complete the sums necessary to defray the charges that will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 2002, in respect of the heads of demands entered in the second column thereof against Demand Nos. 1 to 47."

The motion was adopted.

15.06 hrs.

MANIPUR APPROPRIATION BILL*, 2001-2002

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of the State of Manipur for the services of the financial year 2001-2002.

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of the State of Manipur for the services of the financial year 2001-2002."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : I introduce** the Bill.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary Part-II, Section-2, dated 10.12.2001

** Introduced with the Recommendation of the President.

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : I beg to move :

"That the Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of the State of Manipur for the services of the financial year 2001-2002, be taken into

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That the Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of the State of Manipur for the services of the financial year 2001-2002, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. SPEAKER : The House shall now take up clause by clause consideration of the Bill.

The question is :

"That clauses 2 and 3 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 and 3 were added to the Bill.

The Schedule was added to the Bill.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Long Title were added to the Bill.

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : I beg to move :

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

15.08 hrs.

DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

Fourth Ministerial Conference of WTO held at Doha

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : The House shall now take up discussion under Rule 193. Shri Rupchand Pal.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hoogly) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, when on the 11th of September, the World Trade Centre, the Headquarters of Pentagon and the White House were attacked by terrorists, there was an apprehension in the

whole world that following the terrorist attacks, the Conference at Doha, Qatar might not take place at all, and that it may be deferred. But ultimately, the Fourth Ministerial Conference at Doha took place.

The outcome was a great set back for the developing countries and the concerns of the developing countries were thoroughly ignored; and a new agenda – all sorts of new issues – was pushed through by the United States and its allies. The hon. Minister had gone to Doha with a mandate of the Cabinet and the people of this country to oppose the new round of talks to seek a review of the Implementation Issues and for reconsideration of the textile measures to protect Indian interest.

But if you analyse the outcome, India, in spite of a few apparent gains, I repeat, 'apparent gains', had succumbed to the pressure of the developed, powerful economies of the world. The Minister, immediately after agreeing to the final draft, while coming back had said that India had made significant gains. In the statement itself, he says that the Ministerial Declaration contains significant achievements for India. In one of the interviews he had gone to the extent of describing WTO 'Ministerial Conference' as an Olympic game from where India had come back, at least, with two Gold Medals. The first Gold Medal was in respect of the Implementation Issues and the second Gold Medal was that they could defer after a valiant fight the incorporation of, what goes by the name, Singapore Issues; the four new issues in relation to investment and trade, competition and trade, transparency in procurement and trade and lastly, trade facilitation.

If we compare the reaction of the Government of India pertaining to the draft, that is the September Draft Declaration and the Final Declaration, we find that Government had succumbed to the pressure in spite of some apparent gains. I shall come to the apparent gains later on. Even before going to what the Minister had stated about the Draft WTO Doha Ministerial Declaration, may I seek the indulgence of this House to make a mention of the submissions made by a good number of countries belonging to the developing world through a number of NGOs ? I am just mentioning a few observations they have made in the submissions :

"We consider the Draft Declaration as illegitimate and a threat to the development and economic and social viability of developing countries."

They had made certain demands and proposals. In particular, a demand was made for rejection of paragraphs on launching up negotiations on the new issues.

A demand for changes in the methodology in the decision making process has also been made. This can be seen from the reaction of the Minister on 24th October.

15.15 hrs.

[SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA *in the Chair*]

He said that the Draft Declaration is against the interest of the developing countries; the Draft Declaration is biased, discriminatory, and India will never agree to such a Draft Declaration. What happened in Doha that ultimately he came back and said that we have made significant gains? One area is being emphasised I am reading it. It is with regard to TRIPS. It says that in respect of public health, India had made a major gain and of course, it was made through a separate Declaration. There is some euphoria in certain quarters that what we have achieved through the Declaration of the TRIPS Agreement and public health is a major achievement. I do not agree that it is at all a major achievement. As the hon. Minister knows, this Declaration which is considered to be a major achievement had to pass through its tortuous ways, and ultimately Canada, the United States, and Switzerland had their final say.

What was the demand? The demand of the Ministers of developing countries, particularly, Brazil, India and many others, was that in the Health Care Declaration Proposal the words 'nothing in the Agreement shall be used to prevent countries from taking measures to protect public health' should be incorporated. But a handful of rich countries like Switzerland and the United States refused to accept it.

Meanwhile, Canada itself had violated the Patent regime in the backdrop of anthrax and its medicine. The United States temporarily followed suit. How could the patent regime deprive the people of even developed countries in a particular situation of the necessary medicine and public health care? It was proved by countries like Canada and United States. But these very countries did not agree to the proposal of the countries like India which wanted them to add "Nothing in the Agreement shall be used to prevent countries from taking measures to protect public health". Instead of that, what was agreed to is there in the Declaration. They say that we agree that the TRIPS Agreement does not and should not prevent. Is it true? TRIPS has always been preventing them.

They added that to further dilute the situation, this demand has been made by the developing countries. In this situation, we affirm the right of the WTO Members to use to the full, the provisions in the TRIPS Agreement

which provide flexibilities for this purpose. No one can go beyond the parameters of WTO Agreement and it is reiterated here that whatever is said through the separate Declaration, you are bound by WTO Agreement only which is flexible enough. This is about the health care.

About the compulsory licence, they say that each member has a right to determine what constitutes a national emergency or rare circumstances of extreme urgency. It is being understood as public health crisis. What will happen to the usual and normal public health care for a country like India? They are mentioning about extreme emergency epidemics like TB, malaria, HIV, and AIDS.

Sir, thanks to 1970 Act, India had developed a lot in drugs and pharmaceutical sector. It made tremendous progress. The medicines available at affordable prices for the Indian people are far too cheap when you compare them with the prices prevailing in countries like Pakistan, Canada, the United States, and those who have already gone for the product patent regime. The Act of 1970 is a model Act for all the developing countries. We have a very large manufacturing capacity.

There have been a demand for parallel import for least developed countries and least developing countries like Afghanistan and many African countries. India is in a position to supply necessary medicines to them. It is not to be allowed. Whatever is being said in the Declaration is within the parameters of TRIPS Agreement only. Some one says that TRIPS was very rigidly interpreted by some people so you can call it TRIPS-plus. This is the observation made by the European Union Trade Commissioner. It can be called a diplomatic bypass to befool the developing countries like India. Ultimately, as it has happened elsewhere, we were asked to open up. We went for quantitative restrictions and all those things. We brought down subsidies. In certain sections of this House, it has become a passion to say every time that the subsidies for the fertilisers and all these things should be brought down.

What have they done? The European Union has said that international prices of agricultural products, in comparison to Indian prices, are quite low. The main reason for the low prices of agricultural products in USA and OECD countries today is very high subsidy of 200 times to 300 times. Agricultural subsidies continue to multiply in these countries particularly in European Union, Japan, OECD countries in the garb of green-box exemption and income support. Some countries have very cleverly shifted it from production subsidy to processor subsidy.

[Shri Rupchand Pal]

I am giving you certain figures to show how in these countries they have been continuously raising their subsidies, shifting subsidies in different garbs like income support and all the new gold names. In Japan, support subsidies and other mechanism amounts to 30,000 US dollars per farmer. For the European and American farmers it is 30,000 US dollars per farmer. The total subsidy to OECD agricultural producers is to the tune of 362 billion dollars. Are they going to bring down these subsidies? We have made a demand. They said, wait, they would look into it. It is an expression of good intention.

We have said that implementation issues like anti-dumping duties, textiles, agriculture, etc. will have to be taken up first, otherwise we shall oppose. What has happened to these implementation issues? No major implementation issue has at all been taken up for consideration. Rather, they have merged them for a new round of negotiations, of course, in a different name called Trade Negotiations Committee and Work Programme. What do they say? They say about the Work Programme that "we agree that negotiations on outstanding implementation issues shall be an integral part of the Work Programme". And you are bound to accept it. Through the mechanism of Trade Negotiations Committee, this Work Programme which is actually a new trade round with a pro-rich economic agenda which they are trying to push through, will have to be concluded not later than 1st January 1995.

The hon. Minister had stated on 24th October that :

"I am constrained to point out that the draft Ministerial declaration is neither fair nor just.

They are not including my own certain key issues. It was a negation of all that was said by a significant number of developing countries including India."

After coming back to India, he fought valiantly. . . .
(Interruptions) He said that he won two gold medals.
. . . (Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj) : There may be a message from 10, Downing Street routed through.
. . . (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Dasmunsi, please do not interrupt.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : I am just trying to help him.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I know that you are helping everybody. Now, Shri Rupchand Pal, you have taken 20 minutes. Please conclude.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : Now, it is being said that we have been pressurised and we did not know what was to come. Till 13th of November, we fought valiantly and on 14th morning, we had been provided with a draft which we could not but accept. But we were assured then that with the statement of the Chairman, our concerns will be accommodated. After he has accepted, we said that we incorporated explicit consensus. It was the consensus of only 144 countries of the WTO which would be taken before the launching of negotiations. The Indian amendment was incorporated 'explicit'. What does it mean? Immediately after the conclusions at Doha, what was the interpretation of the EU Trade Commissioner? What was the interpretation of the United States? What was the interpretation of the Doha Declaration about the work programme and whether it is a new round or not a new round? They said that we have to decide only the modalities and that everything had been finalised in the Declaration. Still the Minister has said that we have made significant gains. After the fiasco in Seattle and after the incident of 11th September, the whole capitalist world in deep crisis wanted to have the markets of the developing countries. So, they pushed through their agenda and we had no option but to surrender. Why? It is because firstly, we suffered from a grand isolation. We had hardly any strategy. Our negotiating style had not been developed. It is not mature enough to match the offences of the developed countries. We have no think tank worth the name taking into account the inputs from different area like economy, law, agriculture and everything.

Now, after the initial attempts to co-ordinate, whoever had been with us had left us ultimately. Why? This needs introspection. India had been leading the Non-Aligned countries, developed countries, Group of 77 and others. What happened to India? In the post-Pokhran situation, India was not believed by many neighbours and other developing countries because of our continuous surrender to the pressure of the US and its allies. No one believed us and may be of our big brotherly attitude to small countries, neighbours had left us at the right moment. We were alone.

But, how was it that for all these years, we had been coordinating with so many countries? All these friends had left us. It needs some introspection. We have surrendered on certain areas which involve sovereignty of the country.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I am just telling you that you have taken half an hour.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : I will take ten more minutes and conclude.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You have already taken half an hour. So many Members are there to speak and the time allotted is only three hours.

SHRI M.C.H. FARGOK (Pondicherry) : Madam, we congratulate the hon. Minister. But he should have the guts to stand up and say, 'No' here also.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : The new issues are investment and trade. India does not consider them to be trade issues. Still, we have to agree to this. What will happen ultimately ? I would like to have an answer on this. Will you use your veto if there is a pressure on you to agree to the new Singapore issues, like investment, competition, transparency and procurement ? These are the sovereign rights of the country. These issues have to be determined by the domestic policy. What will you do ? There is a question. Will you seek a vote ? There has never been a voting in WTO. The House has to be informed as to what will be your stand in such a situation ? It is because these four Singapore issues are vital to our sovereignty. What has happened to textiles ? Bluntly say, 'No'. What will happen to environment ? In the name of eco-friendly products, our own products will be debarred from entering their markets. How do you propose to compensate these losses that we are visualising ?

On agriculture, they have promised that they will bring down the subsidies. How do you propose to fight the case in the coming two years ? Then, coming to anti-dumping provisions, the U.S. has assured that it would have greater discipline in implementing anti-dumping provisions. In TRIPS cases, it is recognised that future interpretations will incorporate Basmati, Alphonso mangoes and Darjeeling Tea. How do you propose to negotiate ? Then, there is an assurance against biopiracy in products like, neem and turmeric. How do you propose to fight these cases as it emerges after the negotiations at Doha ?

MR. CHAIRMAN : There are a lot of Members to speak.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : Madam, I have not taken much time. I will conclude.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur) : The initiator is generally given a long time to speak.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Thirty-five minutes for the initiator is a fair time.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : We have entered a new phase. The WTO Agreement is being widened and broadened. In every round we have seen new things being incorporated. This time we find the incorporation of these basic and new issues, which involve the sovereignty of the nations. How do you propose to fight them ? How do you propose to organise our friends, and like-minded countries, within a short period so that when we go to meet next time, we have more friends, more common programmes and more power to resist the pressures of developed countries ?

Lastly, you have said that WTO is not rule-based, but it is power-based. China had proved, through its entry, that if you have economic strength, you can bargain from the position of strength. What we need is strength. If India does not have the economic strength to bargain, India will be no where in future.

Mr. Minister, how do you propose to develop the strength of the country ? You should spell it out on the floor of the House at the time when you reply to this debate.

With these words, I conclude.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Next, Dr. Ramkrishna Kusmari to speak.

(Interruptions)

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore) : Madam, I think my name is there.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I am just calling the names as left by the hon. Speaker.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : I think my name is there.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Your name is there. You will be called. Your name is on the List. But, as per the List given by your party, you stand at the third position.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : My name is there. I do not know how it came to the third position. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Why do you say that ? I have got the List signed by your own party Whip. Why are you arguing with me ?

[Translation]

DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSUMARIA (Damoh) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, let him speak first. I will speak afterwards.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : If you want to give up your turn and give it to him, it is up to you. You can give the turn to him.

(Interruptions)

... want to make it clear that we go by the signed List given by your party Whip. Dr. Ramkrishna Kusmaria's name stands as number one. If Shri Swain wants to speak first, and if Dr. Kusmaria is giving up his turn, I have no problem. Shri Swain, you can speak.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : Madam, if you allow me, then, I will speak.

MR. CHAIRMAN : But do not say that we have changed the order. It is your party which has given that order.

(Interruptions)

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : Madam, when the debate was initiated by such a prominent Member like Shri Rupchand Pal, I had a lot of expectations that he would definitely raise some new issues. But he raised the same old issues which were raised time and again in this House. The hon. Minister had already replied to those issues about ten times in this House. He raised the same issues like agriculture, subsidy, quantitative restrictions and drugs. At the same time, he also said so many interesting things.

He said that it is a great setback for the developing countries. . . .(Interruptions) He said that the Doha round was a great setback. He said that in spite of a few apparent gains, India succumbed to the pressures of the powerful countries. He also said that the sovereignty of this nation is at stake.

I would just say one thing. Let us go to the Western media. How did the Western media describe India? The Western media described India as intransigent, obstructionist, deal-broker etc. If we succumbed to their pressures, why did they accuse us like this?

Next, the hon. Member Shri Rupchand Pal said that the hon. Minister fought valiantly. We have also said that he fought valiantly. Now, he says that the hon. Minister fought valiantly and that is why he is happy. But he is very unhappy that we could not accommodate the other small countries and under-developed countries. Is it not a case of juxtaposition? On the one hand, you say that you fight valiantly and, on the other hand, you say that you be very polite to others. These two things are simply not possible.

There was a national mandate behind the hon. Minister asking him to fight. The industry, the trade, all the opposition parties, the ruling party, the NDA partners and everybody wanted the hon. Minister to fight and he fought valiantly. That is the main reason why even countries like Pakistan and others, who also supported us initially, did not support us at the later stage.

What actually had we wanted? We wanted three or four things. Firstly, the protectionists anti-dumping laws and rules which America and Europe use liberally to stop imports from developing countries, are to be liberalised. Secondly, Europe-Japan-America are to phase out their huge farm subsidies. Thirdly, in case of emergency, involving public health, the interest of consumers should override patent rights of pharmaceutical companies. Fourthly, America and Europe will reduce the duties they levy on import of textiles and other labour-intensive manufactured goods from developing countries. Last but not least, the movement of skilled manpower from developing countries to rich countries will be facilitated further. These were the major reasons for which India fought. What have we got?

With regard to implementation, India managed to get its concerns of outstanding implementation issues recorded in the Declaration and made it a part of the Work Programme. This is one of the achievements. With regard to draft patents, National Governments were allowed to disregard patent rights in case of epidemic and in case of emergency concerning health. This is not a blow to India and the underdeveloped countries. This is rather a blow to the USA drug manufacturers. They were very sorry that rather the USA had to succumb to the pressures of the underdeveloped countries. It is not India who succumbed to the pressure of the USA. It is just the reverse.

Shri Rupchand Pal is a Member of the Patents Committee also. He knows as to how we had fought; as to how we had fought to retain this compulsory licence clause there; as to how we had fought in the Committee so that no multinational drug company could enter India; and as to how we had fought to see that the drugs are available to the people of a very affordable price.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR (Mayiladutuari) : Madam, I am on a point of order. As these are the proceedings of a Parliamentary Committee, we are not allowed to refer to them in Parliament, until the report is presented.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : Madam, I have not gone into the details. I have just broadly spoken.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Swain, please do not refer to the Report of the Parliamentary Committee.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : All right, Madam.

It is not simply true that India lost its battle there. It is rather America and Europe who lost the battle concerning their manufacturers. I would like to congratulate the hon. Minister who has achieved such a gain for India. But it might somehow put our drug manufacturers also into difficulty, who by the process of reverse engineering, produce a lot of cheap drugs. They can also export it to other countries. But this might rather put them into trouble, i.e. our drug manufacturers.

My fifth point is regarding agriculture, work programme to review market access, reduction and ultimate phase out of support and subsidy by the rich nations. Anyway a beginning has definitely been made. On that day, the hon. Minister was saying that if we want to give subsidy, we can go up to Rs. 42,000 crore. Do we have that kind of money? Yes, it is very easy to say that as to how go give subsidy at the level the USA gives but is it possible for India to do the same? Do we have that much of money that we can provide subsidy to 70 per cent of the people of India who are agriculturists? It is simply not possible. We should be rather very practical with regard to this. Merely saying so does not lead us anywhere. Rather because of our agreeing to phase out the subsidy, Indian agriculturists are going to have an export market within a very short period.

Regarding environment change, I would like to say that the European Union was brought to the negotiating table but nobody is talking about the expensive standards as yet. India faces the similar standards in multilateral loans and negotiations in this case can only help the Third-World countries where India is also a Member. From environmental angle also, India is also going to gain.

I am putting another question before the House. Should we not look after the environment angle? Is it not going to hamper the future of India? Should we not say so? I would rather say that India should take excessive interest with regard to environment issues otherwise if we do not look after the environmental issues, I would say with the population of India increasing, we would not be able to provide food after a period of 10 or 15 or 20 years.

Now, I come to competition and other issues related to Singapore. India managed to postpone negotiations by two years on what we call 'non-trade issues'. Whether mistakenly or deliberately, Shri Pal did not mention that

there is a clause for explicit consensus. After two years, a Resolution, that is, veto, could only be passed in the Fifth Ministerial Conference if there is any explicit consensus, that is, veto. When veto is there in the hands of India and with the underdeveloped countries, then, how have we lost to Superpower? We have not lost.

With regard to anti-dumping, I would like to say that the USA agrees to review laws that can be manipulated to sort our foreign competition. This round has definitely gone in favour of India and the underdeveloped countries.

With regard to textiles and garments, demand to advance quota has been rejected. I agree that it was rejected. The matter was sent to the WTO panel but I also agree that it is not going to cause much harm to India because the quotas are ending only in 2005. The quotas are for only four years. So, it is not going to give much of a loss to our country.

15.52 hrs.

[DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA *in the Chair*]

Finally, we have made another gain and that is the movement of the skilled manpower from developing countries to rich countries would be facilitated. This is another achievement by our hon. Minister. India has gained substantially and we have really done a very commendable job at Doha.

I have some suggestions to offer in this regard. Through you, Sir, I would like to tell the hon. Minister as to why we were isolated. I think that our style has got to change. Brazil is a very tough negotiation but they are not disliked like us. Nobody tells that they are intransigent or dealmakers. If we really want that other developing and underdeveloped countries should also be with us, then, our style on negotiations must change.

Genuinely multi-disciplinary team of sectoral experts, economists, trade administrators and the lawyers, who would provide sustained intellectual support to both the strategy and specifics of Indian negotiations should be formed. There should be some specialists. I do not agree with the contention that only the bureaucracy would handle it perfectly. There must be some experts. They may come from outside the realm of Government also. There are so many other experts, WTO experts, and economists outside the bureaucracy. They can also be brought and their suggestions could also be taken. They should be taken wherever we have negotiations with other countries. They should be there top give us their inputs.

[Shri Kharabela Swain]

We must keep our bilateral negotiation windows open specifically with the United States of America. The name of the USA might be *pariah* to some people. But it is in our national interest. The USA is the greatest buyer and market for India. So, let us have an open market.

We were fighting valiantly with the WTO. At the time, all small countries were with us in the initial stages. They started bilateral negotiations with other countries. We did not do that. We say that we would just fight it out. We went on fighting and they made a deal. That is why they ultimately succeeded. If we, actually, failed and if it is a setback for all the developing countries, why is it that all other developing countries kept quiet? It is because they gained. They actually gained by making these bilateral arrangements with the USA or the European Union. We must keep our windows open. We must negotiate. The negotiations must be official and also non-official. It could be held at both the levels.

Another point is a bitter truth. We talk about tariff. We always say that the tariff rates should be increased so that no agricultural products or other products could come from other countries. But it is also true that tariff rates in India are now the highest in the world. So, is it not going to dilute our bargaining power because we have imposed so much tariff on anything coming into India? That is why that has also diluted our bargaining power. I appeal to the hon. Minister and the Government that they should also think about it. By simply raising the rates of tariff is not going to help India in future.

We must ensure that the domestic legislations, like the policy about competition, procurement by Government, bio-diversity protection, Patents Act are in place soon. Many hon. Members say, "What is the hurry? Why should we pass such Bills?" I think, because we are not passing such Bills, we are at a disadvantage at the global forum, that is, at the WTO. The other countries are just poking their finger at us and say: "If you are not passing these Bills, you are totally intransigent." This sort of accusation is being made against us. So, we want that sooner these Bills are passed, the better it would be for this country.

About contentious issues like environment, investment competition and labour standards, we will have to think positively. We will have to think about environment. We will also have to think about labour standards. Is it not our duty to do away with the system of child labour in India? Is it not our aim? Should we not do it? If somebody says something about the labour standards and he means it the

child labour, it should be our endeavour and national duty to do away with the system of child labour. That is why, I think, it has given us an opportunity. The WTO has given us an opportunity to do away with this slur on our nation.

Last but not least, India can now forge ahead and co-exist with China. China is a force. After waiting in the queue for 16 years, now, China has made an entry to the WTO. If we combine together with China, I think, there are a lot of common interests between these two countries. We could combine with China and have a bilateral trade agreement with that country. I think, we will have a lot of common interests.

16.00 hrs.

We can have all this profit for India also.

With these words, I compliment the hon. Minister, Shri Maran and Shri Rudy for this. Ultimately, I conclude with these words that WTO is an opportunity and it has given the opportunity to India to become a super power. This is the time when we should improve our quality and we should have our negotiating skills. In that way, in this millennium, under the leadership of hon. Shri Atal Behari Vajpayee, India will become a super power.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : Mr. Chairman Sir, as Shri Rupchand Pal pointed out, in his opening speech at Doha on the 10th of November 2001, the hon. Minister for Commerce and Industry described the Draft Declaration before that Conference as "neither fair nor just". He went on to characterise as "meaningless" the claim made by the champions of the Draft that "the needs and interests of the developing countries have been placed at the heart of the Work Programme."

Earlier, in an interview to C. Rammanohar Reddy of *The Hindu*, the hon. Minister had called the Draft a 'bombshell'. He had said, 'it is a bombshell', which "does not reflect the interests of the developing countries." Now, in his Lok Sabha Statement of 22nd November, the hon. Minister says that he is glad to inform the Members that "we made major strides towards realising our goals" and that "the Ministerial declaration contains significant achievements for India".

This seems an extraordinary turn – around for a Minister who said at the final plenary of the WTO in Doha on the 14th November, "The Declaration fails to reflect India's concerns and demands in a substantive manner." He went on to tell Sukumar Muralidharan of *Frontline*, when he returned to India, "Developing countries, I would say have no role in setting the agenda. A rule-based body is

becoming – it is a transitive verb – a power-based body.” Shri Rupchand Pal quoted this too.

What does the hon. Minister want us to understand? Are we to say that proto-Maran has contradicted to Devteno-Maran? Are we to say that there is a Maran Mark-I and a Maran Mark-II? Are we to say that there is a pre-Deepawali Maran and a post-Deepawali Maran? It is a complete contradiction. It is he who has pointed out in words ring and reverberate in the hearts of every Indian that the Draft Ministerial Declaration is neither just nor fair. He has said it in the following words that reverberate in the hearts of every Indian that there is a “power playing game” going on. He has said, in words that reverberate in the hearts of every single India that we are not being treated as we deserved to be treated.”

Suddenly, this trade terrorism is converted into our having made major strides and secured major achievements. Therefore, the only way of discovering why Shri Maran has changed his mind is to compare the Draft Ministerial Declaration, which he condemned with the Final Declaration, which he has hailed.

When one does compare the Draft with the Final, one finds that, out of the 45 paragraphs in the Draft Declaration, as many as 37 have been retained in the Final Declaration with no change at all.

Sir, 37 out of 45 paragraphs of the Draft Declaration are there with no change in the Final Declaration. Only eight of the 45 paragraphs have been amended, and another seven paragraphs have been added. When we look at the eight amended paragraphs, we find that three of them, namely paragraphs 9, 10 and 16 of the Draft Declaration, relate not to us but to the least developed countries and to the new entrants. So, out of eight, those three do not really concern us. In one of them, paragraph 31 of the Draft Declaration, there is a very minor revision. It says, in the Final Declaration, that it is not the General Council but a Working Group of the General Council which will consider questions of trade and transfer of technology. It is a minor procedural change.

There are four remaining paragraphs of the eight, which have been amended. I refer to paragraphs 6, 8, 20 and 27 of the Draft Declaration, which have been amended, but blatantly **against** our interest. The amendment does not serve us. It **harms** us. Let me explain why because this is very important to understand. The changes that have been made are only in eight paragraphs, half of those changes are against us and, therefore, I have to explain why. Take the following key sentence from the original paragraph 6. I want the Minister to explain to me why he

agreed to this sentence being dropped. It says: “We agree to ensure that measures taken to address such concerns – health, safety, environment protection – shall not be used for protectionist purposes.” It is one of the few really excellent sentences in the Draft Declaration, and Shri Maran agreed that this sentence be dropped.

Then, I turn his attention to paragraph 8 of the Draft Declaration, which contained an excellent sentence for us, which for some reason inexplicable, Shri Maran has agreed to being dropped from the Final Declaration. It is the sentence that reads – please listen carefully – It says: “The ILO provides the appropriate forum for a substantive dialogue on various aspects of this issue, namely core-labour standards.” This is the sentence behind which all our social concerns lie and this is the sentence that Thiru Maran has removed like removing an umbrella in the middle of a cyclone. Why did he agree to this sentence being dropped? What is wrong with this sentence? What is offensive about this sentence? Why did Thiru Maran agree that this excellent sentence in the Draft Declaration, one of the few excellent sentences in the Draft Declaration, be dropped? And Shri Kharabela Swain expects me to believe that it was the Americans who buckled under Thiru Maran's pressure, whereas Thiru Maran succeed in standing up to American pressure.

The third sentence is in paragraph 20. In the Draft Declaration, there was a reference to a possible multilateral framework. In other words, there was no agreement on the multilateral framework. Maybe, perhaps, “possible” multilateral framework’ was the phraseology in paragraph 20 of the Draft Declaration, and this has now changed, and this is in the area of trade facilitation, to “recognising the case” for such a framework. If you say, ‘recognise the case for a multilateral framework’, then what remains of the argument that you are putting forward that this has nothing to do with trade? At least in the draft, when the word ‘possible’ was used, you could have got out of an impossible situation. But by agreeing to this change in language, Thiru Maran has put us firmly in the quagmire. There is no way in which we can escape.

And the fourth sentence that he has allowed to be changed is that in paragraph 27, various phrases and sentences have been added in the Final Declaration, which have the effect of reinforcing the argument of the developed countries in favour of trade-related environment measures. I want Shri Kharabela Swain to listen to this carefully. They could be and they will be, used as protectionist measures. We have no objection to the protection of our environment. We do object to the Americans or anybody else telling us

[Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar]

what our environmental standards should be, and then interpreting our adherence to those environmental standards as not being in compliance with their requirements and announcing that it is not; and thus preventing our going into that country. Understand what the issue is not environmental protection. It is environmental standards as a non-tariff barrier against the exports of developing countries. Shri Murasoli Maran has let us down there.

As regards the seven additional paragraphs that have been either extensively re-written or added, I will be dealing with them subject-wise when we come to it.

The next thing I want to do, Mr. Chairman, is compare this very well hidden document with the Final Declaration. After the official meeting in Singapore and the bold stand that Thiru Murasoli Maran started taking in various public forums, the representative of India in Geneva brought, in the General Council, to the attention of his colleagues the various concerns that India had, and then followed this up with very specific drafting suggestions. It is a document bearing No. WT/GC/W/460, dated the 6th November, 2001, three days before Shri Murasoli Maran reached Doha. This document had been issued by the Permanent Mission of India in Geneva, and it contains, to the best of my count, 38 drafting suggestions to the Draft Ministerial Declaration. Now when I say 38, there are not 38 entries. Some of the entries have more than one amendment. So, I tried to count them all. Now, 38 drafting suggestions have been made by India. Thirty-six were summarily rejected. This is our standing. This is a super power's negotiating ability. Shockingly, the biggest developing country in the world, India, a country whom I have had the honour of representing in numerous trade forums including GATT which was listened to with the utmost respect, has now dropped so far in international esteem. That, out of 38 drafting amendments, 36 are just brushed aside by the international community. And we have the gall to arrive in this House, in the highest forum of India's democracy, and say we have come back with significant gains, major achievements and huge strides. Sir, none of the remaining two was fully accepted, but partially accepted. What was it? Please measure the strength of Indian diplomacy. We had proposed with regard to regional trade arrangements where the Secretariat had said that these regional trade arrangements have a unique role to play. India said, "No, change 'unique' to 'important'". My heartiest congratulations to the Minister, Shri Murasoli Maran. The word 'unique' was changed to 'important' It is the only achievement he had

in Doha. The second one is that there was to be a sentence we asked to be deleted in the section on trade and environment. They agreed to delete that sentence which was against us, but insisted in exchange that another sentence which was in favour of us should also be deleted. What sort of a diplomatic achievement is this?

I also want to compare the hon. Minister's Statement with the Final Ministerial Declaration. I am talking about the Minister's Statement made here in the House on the 22nd November. I want to compare that with what appears in the Final Ministerial Declaration, in comparison to the Draft Ministerial Declaration, which he so correctly described in Doha as being unjust and unfair. The Statement is here before me. In paragraph 3, on the 22nd November, Thiru Murasoli Maran informed this House :

"The recognition of asymmetries for the first time was a major gain."

This is not for the first time that it has happened. Special and differential treatment for developing countries has been an integral concept of GATT, ever since its evaluation. In the time of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, we succeeded in persuading our fellow members of GATT that there should be a separate part, Part IV of GATT, meant only for special and differential treatment. We have had a recognition of asymmetries not merely in words but in legal form in GATT for the last 34 years and the Commerce Minister of India comes to this House of Parliament and tell us that this is the first time that there has been any recognition of asymmetries!

Let us see, what is more; what was it that Thiru Maran's Ministerial colleagues refused to accept at Doha. Now, I am comparing his speech with the Final Declaration. Thiru Maran, in his opening speech, made approximately five or six excellent and valid suggestions in the deep Indian national interest. He brought out the concept of the development deficit. It is in his speech – the development deficit. We had urged in that 6th November document that I was referring to that there should be a reference to the development deficit. Where is the reference to the development deficit in the Final Declaration? Your Ministerial colleagues, Mr. Minister, extending from the North Pole to the South Pole and from the Pacific to the Atlantic, refused to support you in recognising the concept of a development deficit.

They also refused to support you on a suggestion :

"Trade liberalisation has yet to benefit many poor people, particularly in the developing countries."

It is a self-evident truth. It is the most important truth for India. It is a matter of high commendation that Thiru Maran should have brought this to the attention of the international community. It is also a matter of deep condemnation that he failed to carry his Ministerial colleagues, a majority of whom are from developing countries, in getting this phrase into the final agreement.

It is extraordinary that his Ministerial colleagues at Doha did not accept :

"More needs to be done so that all can benefit fully and equitably from the system."

His colleagues refused to accept that the multilateral trading system needs to be : "...shared more broadly and in a fairer manner."; or even as Thiru Maran said : "To underscore the importance of the development dimension of international trade." The phrase does not exist in the Final Declaration. It is really sad that all these phrases actually exist in the Draft Seattle Text without square brackets. This means, without dissension, at Seattle, all these phrases have been agreed. The Indian delegation pulled out these phrases from the Seattle Draft Text. They placed them before the Ministerial Conference and the Ministerial Conference refused to go along with Thiru Maran that all these need reflected in the Final Declaration and we call this a 'major achievement'!

Let me now adjourn to another sentence in Thiru Maran's statement of the 22nd November before us.

He has said : "India had strongly opposed the linkage of core labour standards with trade. The Declaration reaffirms that ILO is the appropriate forum to address the core labour standards." I do not know which Declaration Shri Maran is talking about. Maybe, he has a secret Declaration with him. But he has circulated a Ministerial Declaration with his Statement. I have read it. I am not absolutely sure that Shri Maran has read it because I do not know where he has succeeded in getting this Statement from. On the contrary, as I have already pointed out, Doha deleted from paragraph 8 of the Draft Declaration, the sentence "The ILO provides the appropriate forum for a substantive dialogue on various aspects of this issue." I have a suspicion that they had written the Statement before they went to Doha and that they forgot that the sentence that they had referred to had been dropped at Doha. Otherwise it is inexplicable that a sentence which does not exist in the Final Declaration is brought before this Parliament and is claimed to exist. How can be possible do this to us? Please note what Doha has done there in the Ministerial Declaration. In Doha, the Ministers "take note of the work underway in ILO on social dimensions

of globalisation." This is there in paragraph 8 of the Final Declaration. He translates this weak, inappropriate, unimportant sentence into the claim before this House that India had strongly opposed the linkage of core labour standards with trade and that the Declaration reaffirms that ILO is the appropriate forum to address the core labour standards.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Mani Shankar, please wind up.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : Wind up, Sir! I have hardly started.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL (Latur) : Sir, we in the Business Advisory Committee, had decided that these are very important issues and there should not be time constraint, specially for the Member who have studied and who are making very good contribution.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I know that, but the allotted time is only three hours and there are other names also from the Congress side.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL : We can extend the time.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I only said 'wind up please'.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL : Sir, my submission is that if it is necessary, we can extend the time.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : Sir, in that case, I should also have been given some more time.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : You should have been on our side. Then you would have had Shri Shivraj Patil to defend you. There you have nobody to defend you. So, you are at loss. Come over here.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the most shocking sentence in the whole of Shri Maran's statement is the one which I am about to read out. I had read it out to him when we had a debate on Shri Sunil Khan's Private Member's Resolution on the same subject. But because not everybody was here then, let me read out that sentence again. "The key concerns of India in agriculture have been adequately safeguarded in the Declaration." This is the Union Minister of Commerce and Industry, Government of India talking on behalf of all the Treasury Benches and making the outrageous claim that all the interests of India in agriculture have been adequately safeguarded in this Declaration. Sir, contrast this with what the Minister himself said at Doha in his opening statement. He made three key demands of the developed countries : (1) 'Elimination of large scale domestic support to agriculture in development'; (2) 'Elimination of other trade distorting subsidies'; (3) 'Removal of all unfair barriers facing farm exports of

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developing countries'. These three key demands are totally in conformity with the interests of the Indian kisans and the Indian khet mazdoors. My heart swells as an Indian – notwithstanding the fact that Shri Maran is with the party – that we did have at least one Minister on the Benches who could go out to an audience and tell the truth that this is our minimum demand.

But, Sir, what has happened? We had a section on agriculture in the Draft Declaration. The section on agriculture in the Final Declaration is – word by word, comma by comma, full-stop by full-stop – exactly the same as it was in the Draft. When he goes, he says that all this is needed to make it adequate for us. When they refuse to accept a single word of what he says, he comes back and says whatever they give us earlier is adequate. What a Janus-faced foreign trade policy?

At Doha he said that we will not be held hostage to unreasonable demand. This was in the context of agriculture. And yet, the same para is there, the same words are there, the same punctuation is there. We are still being held hostage to exactly the same unreasonable demands. But the hon. Minister has forgotten it.

I really want to know from where has Thiru Maran suddenly got his southern comfort. Instead of smugly belief that our interests in agriculture are adequately safeguarded, we need to recognise in this House, but most particularly on the Treasury Benches, that the pre and post Doha scene on agriculture remains exactly the same. All those phrases from which he is today trying to draw solace were already agreed in the draft Declaration before he went to Doha – phrases like comprehensive negotiations, substantial improvement in market access, phasing out of export subsidies, substantial reduction in domestic subsidy, special and differential treatment for developing countries. If the Maran of pre-14th November was so angered by the draft on agriculture as to threaten to wreck Doha, what happened on 14th November to so thoroughly assuage him? Nothing. The hon. Minister has claimed both in this House on the occasion of the debate on Shri Sunil Khan's Resolution and in the other House in the debate on his Statement there, that he had prevailed on the developed countries at Doha to phase out farm subsidies. He said it here; he said it there. We have just had his *Shagird* Shri Kharabela Swain tell us that is a great achievement that farm subsidies are being phased out because these powerful, developed countries have had to bend in front of the *Sohrab*; those *Rustoms* are now defeated.

Thiru Maran has even quoted the *Asian Wall Street Journal* in support of this claim. The fact is that the developed countries have covered their so-called commitment with the phrase "without pre-judging the outcome of the negotiations". So, without pre-judging the outcome of the negotiations, they kept all their cards with them and are playing it at close to their chest and they are asking you to be a dummy in this bridge game and to reveal all your cards for them to see.

Sir, I do not want to charge the hon. Minister with misleading us in this context; but specifically I want to draw his attention to the fact that the phase-out of all forms of subsidy is not in the final Declaration.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar, you have already taken 30 minutes. How much time do you still want to take?

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : Sir, I need another half-an-hour more.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You have already taken half-an-hour.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : Yes, Sir. I need another half-an-hour and I think our Party would be willing to let me have that time. Thank you.

Sir, specifically, they have only agreed in a very round-about way to phasing out export subsidies. We cannot mix up domestic subsidies with export subsidies because out of the total OECD support to agriculture which amounts to 326 billion dollars, only a small, tiny fraction is constituted by export subsidies.

So, even if they phase out all export subsidies – Sir, I do not believe for a moment that they will – we are still going to be landed with hundreds of billions of dollars being legitimated support under the Final Declaration at Doha. Sir, OECD domestic subsidies in countries where only two per cent to three per cent of the GDP comes out of agriculture and where only two per cent to six per cent of employment is in agriculture, account for over 80 per cent of global domestic subsidies to agriculture. I owe this figure to Thiru Maran's intervention in the Rajya Sabha. I got it from him. The US' domestic support alone at 128 billion dollars is greater than the total value of Indian agricultural output, which is far below it at 90 billion dollars. Sir, our product-specific subsidies are negative, our total subsidies are far below the permissible levels and we have no resources, as Thiru Kharabela Swain pointed out, to help our kisans to the extent that the WTO allows us to go. So, in these circumstances, we have to find a level-playing field for our agricultural exports to compete with their domestic production or their agricultural exports.

Now, pre-Deepavali, Thiru Maran knew all this, which is why he was fuming when he went to Doha. Post-Deepavali the same Thiru Maran seems to be suffering from amnesia of a motivated kind. It is forgotten. If the Government will not recognise the truth of the failure at Doha, how can we expect them to take corrective measures to protect our *kisans* and our *khet mazdoors*, or how can we have any credibility in WTO forums? Sir, even if the hon. Minister is welcome to fool some of the media some of the time, but he cannot fool all of this Parliament all of the time.

As regards the section on agriculture in the decision on implementation, apart from taking note, that is what he does, of three reports of the Committee on Agriculture and urging restraint on Members resorting to the green box, and the same old tired clichés about food security and rural development, there is no development of any significance at Doha which matters to the Indian *kisan* and the Indian *khet mazdoor*. What Thiru Maran appears to have forgotten when he is boasting about what they have done on food security is that at Marrakech itself, Shri Pranab Mukherjee, who was then our Minister of Commerce, ensured that consumer subsidies are not computed in the aggregate measure of support. So, there has never been a threat to our food security from the WTO. Whatever Thiru Maran's colleagues may have said when they were on this side of the House and we were on that side, I argued with them then that there was no threat to our food security. The fact is that the only threat to our food security in India comes from the Minister, Shri Shanta Kumar. He is the biggest threat to food security in India. As for rural development, I want to know what is this threat that Thiru Maran perceives from the WTO and what measures he has taken to counter it. Has he obtained one *khota paisa* at Doha for rural development? How does he expect that the rural poor will feed themselves by eating his words? These are all completely false claims and we do not expect a Minister of the intellectual standing of Thiru Murasoli Maran, a man whom I highly respect for the loud voice he raised at the beginning in Doha, to come to us and not only lead us up the garden path, but worst still, lead himself and his Government up the same garden path.

Is it not extraordinary that the Minister's Statement of 22nd November skips any reference to textile and clothing? What is the Minister trying to highlight? At Doha, the Minister said: "Sensitive industries including small-scale industries sustaining a large labour force are being destroyed." That is what the Minister said.

But nothing happened at Doha to stem this destruction. This is why neither textiles, nor clothing nor small

industries has been referred to by the Minister in his own statement. He hopes that we would forget what he has forgotten. I am afraid, we do not forget. We cannot forget that at Doha, in the Doha Declaration there is not one single word in all those 52 paragraphs about textiles, clothing or any other specific industrial product of export interest to India. Here, I would like to mention steel which according to newspaper reports today is going to be banned for import by the United States from India. All that we have is this high sounding decision on implementation. I want the hon. Minister to explain, what provisions of the section in the decision on textile and clothing gives him any cause for satisfaction? It is because it is from him that I learned – when I listened to him in various forums here in India – that he was deeply dissatisfied with the way in which our ability, not only India's but the developing countries as whole, to export textile and clothing is being dealt with by the WTO. What I want him to do is to honestly admit that we gained nothing of substance. We cannot complain to him. Who gained was the so called 'small suppliers' of textiles. That is a category that does not include India. There are some crumbs thrown to them. Why?

Sir, I want Shri Swain to listen to this very carefully. They have done it in order to divide the Group of 77. We started out as a Group of developing countries. Then they got it changed saying that some countries are more developed than us in that Group; then they said that there are some less developed countries than us in that Group; then they said that there are some small economies; then they said that there are some ocean-bound economies; then they said that there are some ice-bound economies and now they have introduced the concept of small economies. They engaged in treating us like *booty kabab*. We have Shri Swain, who comes over here and tells us that Shri Maran stood up to the Americans and the Americans have succumbed to Shri Maran. What kind of perception of foreign policy is this?

Sir, in his statement, matching this remark on agriculture is the extraordinary remark, "in services, the movement for natural persons has been given primary focus". This is the remark of Shri Maran.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude now. The total time of your party is over now.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : Sir, I am trying to conclude.

Sir, Thiru Maran says, "in services, the movement for natural persons has been given primary focus". I hope, you would forgive me for describing this statement as rubbish. It is not there. Unless the hon. Minister clarifies

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this satisfactorily, I am afraid, we might have to move a privilege motion against him for misleading the House in this matter. Will the hon. Minister, in his reply quote a single word or a single phrase from the Doha Declaration documents that substantiates the claim that he has made?

Sir, I quote from that document. It says :

"We," that is the Ministers at Doha.

"recognise the work already undertaken and the large number of proposal submitted on the movement of natural persons."

That is all that the Doha Declaration says. Now compare what it say with what he claims it says. Where does it say that the movement for natural persons has been given primary focus?

Sir, indeed even the hon. Minister, whose speech at Doha otherwise was outstanding, failed to refer to the movement of natural persons in their generality in his opening speech at Doha. He restricted himself to the movement of professionals? Why? Why did he restrict himself to the movement of professionals? Is the Government of India interested only in IIT and IIM graduates? Does the hon. Minister not know that there are millions of ordinary labourers, *mehanaat kast mazdoors* who are desperately seeking to go abroad for employment? The fact is that, be it professionals or labourers, the hon. Minister has been able to bring nothing back from Doha beyond the pitifully little that was already there in the draft that he himself denounced.

We cannot let the hon. Minister get away with misleading the House in this manner. He then makes a remark about a matter on which Shri Kharabela Swain is exactly as well informed as I am and as Shri Rupchand Pal is, and as Thiru Murasoli Maran ought to be, because all of us are members of the Joint Committee on Patents and we have been doing nothing but breaking our heads on this for the last one and a half years. What Thiru Maran says is,

"A separate landmark declaration on TRIPS and public health is a major achievement in which India played a key role. It recognises the affordability and availability of medicines as a universal right."

First, would the hon. Minister please explain to the House why there is a separate declaration on TRIPS and public health instead of incorporating these paragraphs in

the main body of the declaration? Second, will the Minister confirm to us that not one comma of the original TRIPS agreement has been changed or can be changed? Our onerous obligations in TRIPS remain today exactly what they were before he went to Doha. The only defence that we get from these documents is an increase in our comfort levels, to interpret these provisions liberally. But, not a word can be changed, not a comma. It is just an increase in the comfort levels. In any case, as Shri Rupchand Pal has pointed out, flexibility applies only to pandemics. It does not apply to everyday maintenance of the public health system which we in India have built up behind the protective walls of Indiraji's Patents Act of 1970.

I was the Private Secretary to the Minister's predecessor and was sitting in the officials gallery in 1970 when Parliament passed that Patents Act. That Patents Act has given India the single most significant and satisfactory public health system of any developing power. That is what is not there. That is what your own colleague, your Minister of Health has repeatedly stated. I believe that it is a gravely misleading view to claim that the concept of affordability has been included in the declaration. It is not. This is a vital matter because the World Health Organisation has long recognised that medicines must be affordable whereas WTO refuses to go beyond the expression 'reasonable'. Nowhere in the declaration of TRIPS and public health does the word 'affordable' appear. Then, on what basis does the Minister make his absurdly hyperbolic claim that 'affordability' has been recognised as a 'universal right'? Indeed, nowhere in the main text or annexes to the declaration does the expression 'universal right' appear.

This House has the right to get honest and truthful statements from the Government. Privilege is involved. We demand a full and truthful clarification of the hon. Minister's patently inaccurate and misleading claim in this regard. I request him not to quote *The Economist* in his defence as he did in the Rajya Sabha because the only reference to prices of medicines in the declaration is in the sentence, 'we also recognise the concerns about its effect on prices.' There is no reference to affordability. There is no reference even to reasonable prices. All that the Ministers have recognised is that there are some concerns about the effect of patents on prices.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Aiyar, please conclude now.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : I will bow to you and not complete my speech. But please allow me to finish the portion relating to public health.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please cooperate with the Chair.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : Please be a little kind and let me finish it on public health.

While reiterating our commitment to TRIPS agreement this phrase applies twice in this declaration that *Thiru Maran* has said.

The Ministers including himself have reiterated all their commitments. We are told that this is a landmark, this is a miracle . . . (Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV (Alwar) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, let it be decided that you will also give us the same time period as is being taken by this hon. Member. He has been speaking for more than an hour and when it comes to our turn to speak you threaten us to be brief.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Yadavji, please take your seat.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : I congratulate the hon. Minister on fooling *The Economist*. But I protest at his attempt to fool this House.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar, please conclude now.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : I am, Sir not being permitted to complete my speech.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Members are objecting. You have already taken too much time.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : Sir, I am not being permitted to complete my speech.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I am only requesting you to conclude.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL : Mr. Chairman, Sir, let us take the sense of the House and extend the time, if it is necessary. This subject is very important.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I know.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL : If we do not discuss WTO; if we do not discuss GATT; and if we do not discuss Doha Declaration, what do we discuss? . . . (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : He has already spoken for 45 minutes.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL : True. But the issue is big, as big as the world is.

MR. CHAIRMAN : But there are other Members also waiting for their turns to speak.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL : Let us decide it and extend the time if it is necessary. . . (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : The Business Advisory Committee had allotted three hours for this discussion.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL : Let them have the time. This is a very big issue.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I have only requested him to conclude.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL : That is right. I can understand your difficulty.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar, please finish your speech as early as possible.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have to attend so many marriage parties today and I have also to speak here. He has already taken more than an hour. . . (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Yadav ji, Please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : Sir, I would like to concentrate the absolutely last para of my intervention on the hon. Minister's idle boast than on the four Singapore issues : "a decision regarding any negotiation would be based on explicit consensus."

First, Sir, the concept of an "explicit consensus" was not an innovation at Doha. It has been there since the Second Ministerial Meeting in Singapore.

Second, whatever the hon. Minister might claim, the fact is that the so-called Singapore issues have been definitively and unavoidably brought on to the WTO Agenda because our delegation at Doha was so incompetent as to allow the expression "possible agreement" in the Draft Declaration to be changed into "recognising the case for a multilateral framework" in respect of three of the four Singapore issues : trade-related investment; trade-related competition policy; and trade-related Government procurement.

[Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar]

Sir, a similar thing I have talked about already. Thiru Maran has already recognised the case for trade facilitation. The argument over whether WTO's remit extends to these non-trade areas is

This House cannot let the hon. Minister get away with pretending that he won a point, the fact is that the developed countries have bullied even Thiru Maran to surrender.

The extent of our failure is best measured against the statements which Thiru Maran himself made at Doha.

I refer to para nine of the hon. Minister's opening speech where he flagged all the relevant questions, none of which has been answered.

I refer to para 13 of his Doha speech where he said, "WTO is for multilateral trading only." Is that the situation today? He said, "roadmap already chartered by the Uruguay Round should be the future work programme." He is absolutely right. But has the rest of the world agreed? No.

Having failed to win his argument in Doha, the hon. Minister is now trying to pretend that : 1) there is no more talk; and 2) there must be explicit consensus.

In the Rajya Sabha, the hon. Minister stated that the Uruguay Round was the last round because WTO is a permanent forum for negotiations. We agree with him. He is entirely right. There is no scope for a new round because we have got a permanent forum. But in that case, will the hon. Minister explain why he told the correspondent C. Ram Mohan Reddy at Doha on 10th November – it is reproduced in The Hindu on the following day also – that "a new round of trade talks at the WTO is not necessary, it is evil."

These were his words. He said, "It is not necessary; it is evil." Now, he says that there is no new round. He cannot have a new round, since there is a permanent forum.

Fooling everyone else is politics, but fooling himself is, I am afraid, an evil. . . .(Interruptions) Are you on this side now? . . .(Interruptions) I am just about to finish. . . .(Interruptions)

With regard to 'explicit consensus', the first point is that there can be no negotiations on modalities that are not related to negotiations on substantive issues. It is just sophistry to pretend that there is going to be modalities

on negotiations. Secondly, if Thiru Maran could not wreck Doha by walking out, with what credibility will India be able to maintain its opposition to a new round at the next meeting? By failing to fulfil its empty threats at Doha, Indian diplomacy has been crippled totally in the WTO. Thirdly, either the threat should not have been made or it should have been carried out. By dithering, Thiru Maran has reduced Indian trade diplomacy to impotent posturing empty rhetoric and ritual grandstanding. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, I am calling the next hon. Member.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR (Mayiladuturai) : Sir, all is not lost. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : This is too much.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : WTO is still a democratic body where we can, by getting a majority vote, succeed in getting what we want to do. But to turn those numbers to our advantage, you have to synergize foreign policy with foreign economic policy.

Sir, I have with me, Bush – Vajpayee Joint Declaration on the day before Thiru Maran's speech at Doha. There was not one word on the WTO and there was not one word on Doha. While Shri Vajpayee was pledging himself to joining the Americans in isolating Osama bin Laden, his trade representative in Doha is mobilising everybody together to isolate Thiru Maran at Doha. Is this the way in which foreign policy has become the hand-made? Then, I have Shri Vajpayee's speech at the United Nations. . . .(Interruptions) Thiru Maran is fighting the battle of his life for the poorest farmer, the poorest worker, for small industries that are closing down, for textile industries, for textile workers. And this man is setting himself up to fight for the cause of the poorest Indians; what does Shri Vajpayee do? In the whole of his speech, there are not even one hundred words, dealing with WTO; and what he does is poetry and mixing his metaphors. He says that they have not given us a cheque that bounced. And then he says why should we give them a blank cheque? It is they who should be giving us the blank cheque. It is this kind of mixing up of metaphors. This kind of resorting to poetry is not statesmanship. We have to synergize foreign policy with foreign economic policy and we should have a rejuvenated Non-Aligned Movement backing the Group of 77 or any other body dealing with economic issues. It is only through such synergies that we will be able to use the WTO's democratic norms to secure for ourselves that equity and that justice of which Thiru Maran spoke, when he was there. But short of that, I am afraid, Sir, it will not be helpful. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Prof. Ummareddy Venkateswarlu.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : Such independence, courage and synergy will come only when the NDA Government ceases to exist.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I have called the name of another hon. Member. Please conclude.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : Our deep and grateful thanks to Thiru Maran.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar, please cooperate with the Chair and conclude.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : He has brought that day much, much closer. Thank you, Sir. . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : I merely want to say that I do not subscribe to his conspiracy theory and hallucination.

PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU (Tenali) : Mr. Chairman, very-very valid points have been put forth by the initiator, as well as the other speakers from both the sides, on a very important issue about the Doha Conference and the participation of the Indian team. Indian Delegation headed by the hon. Minister of Commerce, Shri Murasoli Maran, I feel has got the best possible outcome in the circumstances that prevailed in Doha. There are no two opinions as far as the outcome is concerned. I am particularly happy that for the first time the Indian Delegation, as a negotiating team headed by Shri Maran, withstood the pressures from the developed countries during that period of five days between 9th and 13th – under unavoidable circumstances, having been extended by one more day up to 14th. A lot of tensions were prevailing. The entire globe was looking at Doha discussions thinking whether the discussions will be ended with a meaningful declaration, whether at all there will be a declaration or it will just end like a Seattle conference. So, at that particular point of time we must congratulate the very strategic plan that had been evolved by the Indian Delegation to withstand the pressures that had been mounted by the developed countries.

16.56 hrs.

[DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH *in the Chair*]

While almost all the rest of the developing countries had buckled out the issue, it is the Indian Delegation which had provided leadership at that point of time. This is where, I emphasise once again that, the Indian Delegation deserves to be congratulated. This has made all of us proud of the performance of the Indian team. I fully endorse the

view that India's core interests have been taken care of and evidently made certain gains. I have deliberately used the word, 'certain gains' because I would not say, rather venture to say, that it could gain totally for everything. So, I am particularly happy that there is a very firm commitment in the Doha Ministerial Declaration to phase out export subsidies and effect substantial reductions in other trade distorting subsidies, while fully taking into account the food security concerns of developing countries. We have also been able to mainstream the special and differential treatment in favour of developing countries including the principle of non-reciprocity from the developing countries for the concessions given by the developed countries into all negotiations. It is also satisfying that while some implementation issues have been resolved, there is a firm commitment to resolve the rest of issues as an integral part of the Work Programme of WTO and as a part of the single undertaking.

Sir, nothing could be more appropriate than Shri Murasoli Maran's description of WTO as a necessary inevitable evil. As the Founder Member of GATT and subsequently as the Founder Member of the WTO, we have to put up with that and we have to convert all the challenges into opportunities. There is no other go. In the given circumstances, the Indian Delegation has emerged as a successful winner in the battle that was fought.

17.00 hrs.

While GATT is a multilateral trade agreement, WTO provides an institutional mechanism to carry out the mandate given by GATT. As an institutional mechanism, WTO is a multilateral trade arrangement, which is supposed to operate on the principle of maximising the gains for all its 142 members. It is not supposed to be a zero-sum game and it is intended to be a win-win situation for all the member countries.

However, what had happened at Doha in reality is that a zero-sum game was sought to be played by the powerful developed countries like the European Union, the USA, Australia, Canada, Japan, New Zealand, etc. So, it will continue to be a necessary evil till our country too, is able to acquire a dominant share in the global trade. Right now, our share in the global trade is 0.6 per cent which does not give us adequate leverage to assert ourselves and to be heard in a global trade situation in the WTO system. But the vehement posture put up by the Indian Delegation led by the Minister of Commerce, Shri Murasoli Maran to protect the long-term interests of developing and least developed countries is commendable and this team needs to be congratulated.

[Prof. Ummareddy Venkateswarlu]

Doha Conference cannot be seen in isolation. It is to be seen as yet another step in the evolving mechanism of WTO orchestrated international trade. When India signed the Marrakech Declaration in 1994, we became party to the agreements. There is a kind of inherent flaw in the whole arrangement as is contained in the agreements both in terms of conceptual and practical implications. To State an example, adequate study has not been done before signing the TRIPS Agreement, as a result, we have come to face serious anomalies in the implementations of TRIPS Agreement, which is being seen as a monster by the developing countries. But, having agreed to be a party to it, we, now, can only try to undo the damage that flows out of the TRIPS Agreement. As on now, we are not a position to defend and exercise our rights based on traditional knowledge and geographical indicators as in the case of Basmati rice, Darjeeling tea, etc. The success and the credibility of WTO system will go a great extent depend on the flexibilities that could be built into the system and the respect for claims of developing countries that could be made possible.

Sir, if we look at the Doha Ministerial Conference as another step in the evolution of multilateral trade arrangement, it will be useful and helpful to analyse the Doha meeting from that perspective.

Doha need to be analysed from the point of view of our concerns. We have been opposing a new round to trade negotiations till the implementation issues are addressed to. There are a wide-ranging issues under the implementation concerns including the high level of subsidies in the developed countries, anti-dumping duties, countervailing measures, inadequacies in the TRIPS Agreement, minimum access to the products of developing and least developing countries etc.

Sir, it is a different matter that trade has come to be seen and described as 'development' at Doha at which the developed countries made a determined bid to launch a new round of negotiations in the form of Doha Development Declaration. Though we agree that the benefits of trade will contribute to the overall economic development and benefit various sections of the society, trade cannot be an adequate replacement for development.

The Doha Declaration has three components, namely, negotiating agenda for the new WTO round, about forty implementation concerns of the developing countries and the political statement dealing with patents and public health.

The whole exercise of negotiations at the Doha Conference was marked by the efforts of the developed nations to push their own agenda and the determined bid of developing block led by India to have their own concerns addressed to. In the end, the Doha Declaration, in my view, was a compromise between these two positions. From India's point of view, our Delegation led by Shri Murasoli Maran could prevent the launching of a new round of negotiations straightway. Our Delegation also sought an assurance that negotiations on the Singapore issues namely, investment, competition policies, transparency in Government procurement and trade facilitation will only be taken up after an explicit consensus on the modalities and negotiations at the next Ministerial Conference. I am aware that it was not an easy task to have made it possible for our delegation. To the extent possible, Indian Delegation has asserted itself at the Doha Conference to the extent of being seen as an obstructionist which even stood the risk of isolation. On this account, I would like to wholeheartedly compliment our Delegation and particularly Shri Murasoli Maran for having done a tremendous job which in my view is the best possible in the given circumstances.

The Doha Declaration also sought to address about forty implementation concerns. Though, most of them relate to the best endeavour clause, it is no mean achievement because implementation concerns have been mainstreamed at the WTO, which was our main concern and objective. The other major implementation concerns will be addressed to in the next round of negotiations.

The political statement of TRIPS and public health empowering the developing countries to enable licensed production of patented drugs in case of a health emergency is also significant in the sense that this enables the suspension of patent rights to meet the demands of public health. I am of the opinion that this is also a demonstration of the possible flexibilities under WTO system which is being seen as rigid and non-transparent.

With regard to anti-dumping duties also, it was agreed that such duties will not be resorted to by an importing country against an exporting country and on the same commodity at least for 365 days of having last sorted out that matter under Dispute Settlement Understanding.

But, on the important issue of textile quotas, we could not get any concession from the developed countries and particularly the USA at the Doha Conference. But, I understand that right now, we are not in a position to fully avail the permitted quotas and some reform measures are required to be initiated, so as to be in a position to avail the increased quotas. In any case, these issues are

included in the Work Programme to be taken up in the next Ministerial Conference.

Sir, more than our achievements or failures at the Doha Conference, what is more important is with reference to what we are going to do during the next two years and further till 2005 by when the negotiations on the next round of trade negotiations are to be concluded. Economists have been expressing a view that a new round of trade negotiations in itself may not be at variance with our national interests. The Singapore issues basically talk about linking the trade with investment, procurement practices of the Government and trade facilitation.

With regard to investment, multilateral negotiations for an agreement on investment are already under way. The Central Government has already proposed to introduce a competition Bill in the Lok Sabha. Scaling down of import duties is already on our agenda.

What is required to be done by the Government from now onwards is to undertake a detailed study of the implications of all these proposals and to identify our position with a view to protect the interest of farmers and industrialists including small scale entrepreneurs etc. Most of the problems being faced by our agriculturists and other sectors of the economy under the WTO regime are because of the inadequate appreciation of the implications by our delegations during the Uruguay Round and before signing the Marrakesh Declaration. We cannot afford to be caught on the wrong foot once again. Whatever euphemisms were used from at the Doha Conference, the new round of trade negotiations is knocking at our door and the time clock has already started ticking. We have to make a comprehensive review of our experience with the WTO regime all these years and accordingly define our position while addressing the next round of trade negotiations. Our main concern and objective shall be to ensure a level playing field for our farmers and industrialists.

We can safely expect the developed countries to try to browbeat and force us into accepting a new agenda of their terms. But, Sir, our country is placed in a very peculiar situation. As a leading member of the developing countries, we are expected to provide leadership to the developing block, create confidence in them and assert in such a manner that everybody stands to gain under the WTO regime. But the experience so far, as highlighted at Doha, has been that the developed countries would try their best to prevent formation of an alliance among developing and Least Developed Countries. Guided by the Doha experience, we have to see that a formidable alliance of developing and LDCs is built up in preparation to the next

Ministerial Conference. I am glad that Shri Maran has already talked about such an alliance notwithstanding the inherent problems.

In essence, the next 4-5 years are going to be very crucial for our country, in so far as protecting the interests of our farmers, industrialists, technical personnel, geographical indications etc., is concerned.

Sir, another issue that I would like to highlight is the growing concern over marginalisation of national Parliaments with regard to international trade agreement. Though our Executive is supposed to conduct the negotiations as per the briefs provided by the Parliament, the reality is proving to be somewhat different. Given the way the representatives of developed countries seek to cajole and bamboozle their counterparts from developing countries at the negotiating table under various committees of WTO, there is a possibility of the sovereignty of Parliament being undermined. I feel that there is a strong case for more active parliamentary oversight in such negotiations. Under these circumstances, I would hence like to suggest that a Joint Parliamentary Committee be constituted on a permanent basis with representatives of all the parties on WTO issues to enable continued and more active involvement of Parliamentarians.

I would like to bring to the notice of the House that though the trade representative of USA becomes party to various agreements at the WTO, the American Congress has the ultimate right to oppose and reject them, if the agreements were not to their liking. I am not sure if the position is similar in our context. I would, hence, feel that there is a need for a Parliamentary Committee to be set up to oversee and provide necessary guidance to the whole exercise of negotiations on behalf of our country.

Coming back to Doha, Shri Murasoli Maran has described as 'nuclear bomb' the assurance of 'explicit consensus' before the commencement of next round of negotiations as given by the Chairman of the Doha Conference.

The nuclear bomb is something, which we cannot use, but can only flaunt for its potential use. At Doha, we almost came close to toppling the Conference by preventing a Declaration. But we stopped short of doing it because we could not have really done so. So, in my view, Doha Conference marks a new round of challenges to be effectively addressed to by our country, if we want to protect our farmers, industrialists, the technical man-power, our traditional knowledge base and the related issues. The need of the hour is to launch a comprehensive and

[Prof. Ummareddy Venkateswarlu]

transparent preparatory exercise. There is a need for forming a domestic coalition, cutting across party lines, to form an alliance to defend our . . . Let this day mark the beginning of

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, in 1999 there was a Ministerial level conference in seattle city of America under the auspices of the World Trade Organisation. That conference ended without yielding any results. The Conference virtually failed. After that there was another Ministerial level conference in Doha, the Capital of Quattar-an Arabian country from 9th November 2001 to 14th November, 2001.

It is a different question as to what India achieved at that conference and what has been the role of India. However, the ruling party made a big propagandas out of it. Our colleague was just telling that India emerged as a victor from Doha conference. We have with us the statement of the hon. Minister. It is mentioned even therein that we succeeded greatly in achieving our goals.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, there are three major aspects inherent in the world Trade Organisation. One is trade related intellectual property rights 'TRIP' the second is multilateral trade agreement GATT and the third is trade agreement concerning Service sector as enshrined in GATT. We all are aware that India is a founder member of the World Trade Organisation and her role in the WTO should be of a leader. We are free to say anything, but the fact remains that the role of India in WTO has been nothing else but of a yesman. The Doha Conference in which it is being claimed to have achieved tangible success is nothing but merely a bundle of promises and assurances. Action and resolve are seen nowhere. The achievements which India claims to have made in this conference is that it foiled the intent of the developed countries. The fact is however, that it has opened the channel for the developed countries to realise their motive two years hereafter. India will be bound to share the decisions of the Ministerial level conference of WTO that will be held after two years.

The government should not be under any illusion that it will be prepared to abide by the decisions of the Ministerial level meeting to be held after two years.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the agenda of the Doha conference did also include the point that the decisions of the past must be implemented. There was no discussion in this

regard, nor any decisions were taken whatsoever. Particularly the European countries did not accept the decisions of the WTO. The Senior Minister is not present here. . . .(Interruptions). Of course, Rudy ji is present who is my old acquaintance. . . .(Interruptions) I know his ability more than you do, so I do not need emphasising that. Sir, I must mention that the points of discussion at Doha Conference were very limited. I would like to submit with all humility that unless the profit and loss that comes out of Doha Conference is well assessed by India, nothing will come out. Unless we have concrete discussion on what did we achieve after signing the WTO agreement. . . .(Interruptions)

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA (Mandsaur) : We have gained more.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN : It will be clear as to what we have gained. In the statement of the hon. Minister it was also mentioned that the major concern of India was that the declaration must provide protection for our agriculture sector. But farmers are in a very poor condition. The effective measures needed for improving the condition of farmers of our country were not taken. Excess production of foodgrains by Indian farmers has caused a crisis. The production cost in the agriculture sector is constantly increasing. The position is that the support price of wheat has been increased 15 times since 1971 and the production cost has also increased 15 times. Nobody will deny this fact. The chemical fertiliser to cheaper in the international market whereas it is costly in India. All the countries of the world are giving a major share of the cost being incurred on agricultural production by their farmers as subsidy. The subsidy in European countries is 56 per cent, in Japan it is 40 per cent while in America it is 29 per cent. In our country subsidy is not given directly, it is eaten up by middlemen. Only to say that interests of farmers would be protected will not do. The farmers of India should clearly see as to what sort of action is being taken by the Government to improve their condition.

Sir, when we are deliberating upon the outcome of the Doha conference we must consider about India's position in regard to trade related WTO agreement. In 1990 India's share in the international trade was 0.5% and now after ten years it is 0.67 per cent. Our international trade has increased by only 0.17 per cent over the last ten years. We will have to wait for the coming 20 years till it reaches to one percent. Nowadays we are deeply impressed by the policy of liberalization. There is much talk of the foreign capital investment. Capital investment has increased in our country but this increase is more visible in the fields like telecommunication, computer, transport, fuel, chemical,

textile etc. India will not get anything unless it decides its priorities. Sir, when a question was raised in the House as to how much foreign investment has been made in the field of irrigation, the reply was that the details in this regard were not available. . . .(Interruptions) Irrigation is the most important aspect of cultivation. In India nearly 80 per cent people are dependent on agriculture. Unless there is adequate facility of irrigation, how can India be self-reliant. How can the condition be improved ?

Sir, after agriculture, textiles is the second largest employment providing sector. Nearly three and a half crore people are working in this sector for the last three years. So many persons are engaged in this sector but the condition of textile industry has worsened during the last three years. In 1998 the share of textile export was 38 per cent vis a vis total export of the country which has now scaled down to 35 per cent. Textile mills are closed, workers are being retrenched and the Government does not pay any attention to this second largest employment sector of the country. By March, 2001 import restrictions on all the goods were removed in India. This was done in keeping with the WTO agreement but I would like to tell Shri Maran Saheb that textile are still being imported in America and European countries by way of quota system. These countries are putting restrictions by way of imposing quota system. What was the compulsion of India in this regard ? I think this thing should have also been discussed at Doha conference.

Sir the population of India has rapidly increased over the last few years. We have enough hands to work and there is a shortage of the capital. Whether it is some international forum or any other forum unless we take decision to ban or discourage this practice and adopt the labour intensive technique, it will not deliver any good to our country. We have to be mindful of our losses and gains consequent upon signing the WTO agreement and have to patiently think if it has gone against our interest.

If we do not ponder over the questions of climate, environment ecology problem of 'unemployment', problem of health and agriculture etc. from a practical angle, then I think, there cannot be a bigger mistake than this and this is what I had wanted to submit. . . .(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Here impartial and there with the opposition.

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT (Shajapur) : The comments that have been made against the Chair, be expunged from the record of the proceedings.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I will not form part of the proceedings.

(English)

DR. BIKRAM SARKAR (Panskura) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank the hon. Minister, Shri Murasoli Maran, for having taken the trouble of initiating discussions much before the Doha Ministerial Conference started. My party also got a letter of invitation requesting us to join the discussions. We could not come because of other compulsions. But we made our views known to him. I must compliment Shri Maran and his team of Ministers and officials for having done the best out of the worst situation so far as Doha Ministerial Conference is concerned.

With the kind of atmosphere that was there before the WTO Doha Conference, it has been given very succinctly in one of the articles written by Shri Chandra Kant Patel in the *Economic Times* of 1st November, 2001. The timing soon after the 11th September, 2001 made the things far more difficult. As a matter of fact, it was very clear that the developed countries had been trying their best to make use of this opportunity for a new trade round in the backdrop of terrorism. It has been said in that article :

"...as a result of the growing awareness that the Uruguay Round has been a singular disaster for their economics.

Many developing countries fear that inclusion of new issues – such as Government procurement, competition policy, investment, trade and environment, trade facilitation and industrial tariffs – would further curtail their options to design economic and social policies. It is also becoming evident that the provision of WTO sanctioned cover to the multinational corporate sector to expand its economic space is a zero-sum game."

This is the backdrop against which the performance of India has to be judged in the Doha Conference.

I would draw your kind attention to para 12 of the Ministerial Declaration on the high priority given to the Resolution on implementation-related issues and concerns'. I must say that this is a major gain because the world attention has been drawn to the fact that the whole world has to pay attention to the developing nations. They cannot be neglected.

The Commonwealth Secretary-General, Don Mckinnon, has called for greater attention to the needs and concerns of developing countries in trade negotiations, as Ministers gathered in Doha or the World Trade Organisation meeting that commenced on 8/9 November.

*Not recorded.

[Dr. Bikram Sarkar]

Now, I would like to quote briefly a portion of para 12. This is about the 'Work Programme' :

"Decision on Implementation-Related Issues and number of implementation

we agreed that negotiations on outstanding implementation issues shall be an integral part of the Work Programme we are establishing, and that agreements reached at an early stage in these negotiations shall be treated in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 47."

According to me, this is a major gain.

The next point is about the linkage of core labour standards with trade. This has been very ably opposed.

It has also been said that the Declaration reaffirms that 'ILO is the appropriate forum to address the core labour standards'. This refers to para 8 of the Ministerial Declaration. It says :

"We reaffirm our declaration made at the Singapore Ministerial Conference regarding internationally recognised core labour standards. We take note of work underway in the International Labour Organisation on the social dimension of globalisation."

Sir, moving from there, let us come to the agricultural negotiations, which is linked up with the issue of food security and rural development. These are para 13 and para 2.1 – I am just referring to it and not quoting it – and they manifest that there is a concern and it has been accepted and recognised by the WTO. In the Services, the movement of natural persons has also been recognised.

One of the important issues was about the public health and I refer to para 4 and para 7 where it has been stated :

"4. TRIPS Agreement does not and should not prevent Members from taking measures to protect public health. Accordingly, while reiterating our commitment to the TRIPS Agreement, we affirm that the Agreement can and should be interpreted and implemented in a manner supportive of WTO Members' right to protect public health and in particular, to promote access to medicines for all.

7. We also agree that the least-developed country Members will not be obliged with respect to pharmaceutical products, to implement or apply Sections 5 and 7 of Part II."

These are ample illustrations where our Ministerial team in the Doha Conference made their best I would just take one or two minutes saying that in para 2, page 2 of the hon. Minister's Statement, there is a reference about Uruguay Round, which says :

"WTO rules and Multilateral Environment Agreements, process for regular information. . . . As is known, India is already a signatory to most of these MEAs and I would like to assure the Members that these negotiations would not widen the environmental window in trade."

We would like to have more elaboration on this.

Sir, I have got two suggestions. One is, as I said in the beginning, we feel that the hon. Minister, as the leader of the team, has done his best. It is a question of continuing things and the kind of world scenario that was available at that time, he did the best. So, for these matters, we should have a joint committee of Members to go into. This would be of great importance. Second is that such meetings can be held from time to time to take the suggestions into consideration.

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN (Tirunelveli) : Hon. Chairman, Sir, thank you very much for giving me this opportunity to participate in the discussion on the Statement made by the hon. Minister for Commerce on the Doha Conference.

In the first instance, I would like to say that there was clarity of thought, there was no clarity of expression, there was no clarity of response at Doha. The hon. Minister himself, while participating at Doha Conference, has said that WTO has ignored poor. One of the Union Ministers of Agriculture has said that it is anti-farmer.

Sir, when WTO is criticised for ignoring poor, then the poor agriculturists, labourers, and common man will not be benefited by this WTO Agreement at all. I would like to stress on one more point that the rich nations, according to the hon. Minister, are pressurising the developing nations under the WTO umbrella.

Sir, the major economic powers like US, the European Union and Japan were dictating the agenda to WTO. When the big countries are dictating terms and their agenda on the developing countries like India, will an ordinary farmer or on ordinary citizen be benefited by this WTO? The Minister may know because he comes from Tamil Nadu that we are not able to remedy the situation which has arisen in relation to the small tea growers in Nilgiris because of this WTO Agreement. We are not able to alleviate the problems faced by the agriculturists. We are

also constrained and forced to even think about lifting the subsidies. We are also constrained and forced to move against the farmers. Though WTO was established in 1994, it has not done anything to the common man and to the ordinary farmer. Especially the developing nations like our country are not able to compete with the developed countries and the rich countries. I do not know whether it will be advantageous for India to get a response at WTO in future. At Seattle, there was a setback. After that, at Doha, the hon. Minister has said that it is successful. He is not able to place before the Parliament to what extent he has succeeded, and how we are going to gain in the future generations if we pursue this WTO.

Sir, the consistent attitude of our Party is to pull out of WTO in respect of farmers because on all occasions when this matter came up for discussion, we reiterated our stand that WTO would not be helpful to the farmers and to the small agriculturists.

Then, Sir, I take up the implementation issues – TRIPS. I would like to know whether it is in consonance with the demand of our country. Everything is on paper. When we read, we think that India may grow to a strong country in the world. If I imagine like that, there should be a substance in this paper. I read the Statement made by the hon. Minister on that day itself and it has stated that the declaration reaffirms that ILO is an appropriate forum. We have to recognise ILO, which is the United Nation's forum. We recognised the United Nations. We recognised WTO from 1994. To what extent have we gained benefit on the economic front ?

Then, Sir, I do not want to repeat because my friend, Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar has said in his own way, but there have been so many references about the Minister and I do not want to repeat them. I would like to know whether the Minister has moved in the right direction on the economic front. While participating in the Conference, was he able to protect our country's interest, protect the interest of our intellectuals, and protect our nation's future ? That is in doubt.

Then, it says that the key concerns of India in regard to agriculture have been adequately safeguarded in the Declaration. Had they been safeguarded, I would not have come here to speak on this subject because our Party's grievance and the grievance of the agriculturists are that the interests of the agriculturists have not been safeguarded. There is a separate landmark declaration on TRIPS. . . . *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude.

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT : Please obey the Chair because you are a Member of the Panel of Chairmen.

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN : All right, I will obey. I have to obey. In one sentence, I will conclude. This statement is not in the interest of the country; this is not in the interest of the common man; and this is not in the interest of the future generation. Thank you.

[Translation]

DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA (Damoh) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

I thank the Minister of Commerce hon'ble Murasoli Maran for leading the delegation, that turned the failure of Seattle into success, and for achieving a unique success by defeating the conspiracy of the developed countries of the European Union by leading around 142 developing countries and providing a base to them and thereby securing an honourable position for India and establishing its prestige in the W.T.O.

Sir, the extent of success he has achieved in defeating the talks of the new round will pave the way for new avenues of development for the developing countries and as a result, the medicines would be available to the poor at cheaper rates. He has included TRIPS in his agenda. Likewise he has also included in his agenda the fact that there are vast potentialities to improve the agriculture of our country and to ameliorate the condition of farmers. At present unemployment is the biggest problem of our country. The people of the country who are confronting these problems are likely to get opportunities of employment after the said agreement is reached.

Sir, adequate emphasis has been laid on the aspects of development in these talks. Measures have also been included for rural development and discouraging the import by promoting indigenous production and by ensuring foodgrains security which would definitely add a big chapter in the development of our country. Simultaneously the people engaged in manufacturing low-priced drugs in our country, will also get an opportunity for development and the poor people of our country would be able to get the drugs at cheap rates.

I would like to remind you that when initial round of talks was stated and its outcome in the form of Dunkle Draft came before us, at that time also. The Dunkle Draft met with fierce opposition in the entire house. At that time the Dunkle Draft was adopted without any discussion due to which the people had to face a lot of difficulties.

[Dr. Ramkrishna Kusmaria]

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the then Minister of Agriculture Shri Balram Jakhar had said that the Union Government would not accept any proposals because the same was against the interest of the country. Jakhar Sahib had said that the Government would not bow to any foreign pressure. But at that time the Government succumbed to the foreign pressure and three rounds of talks were held continuously but without any success but in this fourth round of talks, the way our Minister Shri Murasoli Maran has boldly advocated the stand of India and that of the developing countries, that it has led to the emergence of a new situation in the entire world.

I thank Shri Maran Sahib that he has done a very commendable job and added to the prestige of the country. I thank him once again and with these words I conclude.

[English]

SHRI PRABODH PANDA (Midnapore) : Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Sir. I am very much constrained for time yet I would request you to give me sufficient time so that I could express my views.

Just on the eve of the Doha Conference, a good number of delegations from different political parties and NGOs had a meeting with the hon. Prime Minister in Delhi. The hon. Prime Minister said in the meeting that we would not succumb but as it appears in the print media, the proceedings of the Doha Conference tell a different story altogether.

The hon. Minister Shri Murasoli Maran, in his Statement in this august House, claimed that we made major strides towards realising our goals and the Ministerial Declaration contained significant achievements for India. He also proclaimed the achievements in some areas like agriculture, recognition of asymmetries, Singapore issue, TRIPS, public health and so on and so forth. I would not like to go into all those issues here.

Many things have been said here, mostly by the hon. initiator of this debate Shri Rupchand Pal and by another hon. Member of this House Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar. I would not go into all those aspects but I would like to confine to some areas like agriculture.

In this august House, an hon. Member from the Treasury Benches told that our country India did not succumb but what has happened is the reverse. It is not believable. Who will believe it? He claims that the USA and other developed countries have succumbed to India. Do we believe it?

So far as agriculture is concerned, India lifted the quantitative restrictions ahead of the prescribed time and that has caused havoc to our agriculture. It is known to all. The hon. Minister failed to register our right to insist on imposition of quantitative restrictions during negotiations on agriculture. This is, I think, the most miserable setback for the developing countries in respect of the question of agriculture subsidies.

It is known to everyone that developed nations spend \$300 billion, that is, five times the total official aid that agriculture in developing countries receives. India could not harp on differential treatment clauses and could do nothing to safeguard the interest of its farmers. On the contrary, the objective of the negotiations has been limited to substantial improvement in market access for countries exporting agricultural products. Is it not succumbing to the pressure of the developed countries?

The Doha Declaration has not set any time frame for phasing out subsidies on exports. Not only that, it is seen that during our negotiations, we did not even stress on the non-implementation of the programme of the developed countries. We have implemented quantitative restrictions ahead of them, but we did not stress on the implementation of quantitative restrictions by developed countries. Is it not succumbing to the pressure of the developed countries? Not only that, during the negotiations, we have not been successful to register the strength and aspirations of the Indian people, mainly the farmers of India.

Sir, as there is time constraint, I would like to say that in the end of his Statement, the hon. Minister has told that this is only the beginning. But his proclamation is so high that it does not mean the beginning. I say, yes, it is the beginning. But beginning from zero. What we achieved is nothing but merely a zero. To start a good race, zero is not a bad thing. So, I think he should realise the aspirations of the peasants of our country and he should think that India is having a very large market. It is said that India is a country of poor people. But India is not a poor country. We are, of course, having great potentialities and if we fight to protect the interests of our nation, then so many developing countries can come together. There should have been a United Front in the WTO itself. Our country has failed to do this.

I would conclude by saying that in the Doha Declaration, the Indian Delegation, headed by our hon. Minister, Sri Murasoli Maran, has, in fact, surrendered to the pressure of the developed nations and did not protect the interests of our country and of our farmers in general.

[*Translation*]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhanjharpur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Conference of the W.T.O. was held in Doha and today we are having a discussion on that Conference. It is not only a national issue but on the international platform, the role of India. . . . (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN : It is six O'clock. If the members agree, the time allotted for this subject can be extended till completion of the subject.

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA : Time may be extended for this subject but the discussions should take place tomorrow.

18.00 hrs.

[*English*]

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : Mr. Chairman, Sir, we would request that you give as much time as is necessary to deal with this extremely complicated and technical subject. It is not easy to be able to explain one's argument. Sir, may we request that you please extend the time of the House and give whatever time it takes to end the debate today ?

SHRI PRAKASH YASHWANT AMBEDKAR (Akola) : Sir, I would request that the time of the House be extended till the debate is completed.

[*Translation*]

MR. CHAIRMAN : B.A.C. had allotted three hours for this subject and that time is over.

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA : The time may be extended but it should be fixed for tomorrow so that the discussion is completed.

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : Sir, I submit that we can conclude the debate today itself.

SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM (Thanjavur) : Sir, you extend the time of the House but let us conclude the debate today.

[*Translation*]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Seven-Eight Members have yet to speak. If the House agree, the time of the House is extended till the discussion is completed.

SEVERAL HON'BLE MEMBERS : All right.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : I was stating that our hon'ble Minister very sincerely attempted to explain the role of India at the international forum in Doha keeping in view the larger interests of the country which need to be appreciated. I know the hon'ble Minister personally. Mr. Chairman, Sir, you, I and he have been together since 1996. It appeared initially that India was adamant for protecting the interests of the farmers and financial interests of the country. The hon'ble Minister very deftly advocated the cause of the developing countries. I would not like to question his loyalty. Shri Mani Shankarji was hitting with all his might. I would like to remind him that when everything was concluded in between 1991 to 1994 then, what is the point now to create the noise. GATT agreement was signed then.

The hon'ble Minister represented India at the international fora. But 'Jab barsa nahi Krishi Sukhan' i.e. crops damage in absence of rain. It has been more than nine years when GATT Agreement was signed and WTO came into existence in 1991. At that time under the first phase of globalization and liberalization was started, and it was then that interests of farmers and poor people of developing countries should have been reviewed. What has come in declaration of WTO is before the House. Mani Shankarji excuse me, it was a historical mistake. It is the outcome of the action taken by your Government during 1991-1994. The Government should have been adamant for protecting the interests of the country but it was not so and an historical mistake was committed. A wrong path has been adopted. Now what is the use of saying that all the countries of Third world will unite and change the attitude of international forum. I would like to tell what is the status of countries of Third World in World Trade Organization is very clear in this declaration. The hon'ble Minister has performed his duty. India, being a member of drafting committee of Ministerial conference, he said on 14th November that :-

[*English*]

"The Doha Ministerial Conference will not, in any way harm us. On the contrary, we have substantial gain."

[*Translation*]

In the statement given in the House, it has been stated further :-

[*English*]

"And the Ministerial Declaration contained significant achievement for India."

[Translation]

Further it has been emphasized strongly :-

[English]

"The concern of India is in agriculture having been adequately safeguarded in the Declaration."

It has been stated clearly in the declaration made in Doha on 14th that agriculture has been adequately safeguarded. I would like to know how it has been safeguarded. Para-13 of the Declaration, mentions agriculture. Experts have expressed their views in this regard. As I have read it out :-

[English]

"The key concerns of India in agriculture have been adequately safeguarded in the Declaration."

[Translation]

Further it has been written in the draft of the Declaration :-

[English]

"...we commit ourselves to comprehensive negotiations aimed at; substantial improvements in market access; reduction of, with a view to phase out, all forms of export subsidies; and substantial reductions in trade-distorting domestic support."

[Translation]

I come from farmer community and with my little knowledge I am unable to understand the meaning of Trade distorting domestic support which has been mentioned in it. The hon'ble Minister should clarify whether it refers to Minimum Support Price (MSP). It has been stated that interests of farmers have been safeguarded in Doha Declaration and therefore this should be clarified by the hon'ble Minister. It should be clarified that India will get market or become market for other countries of the World – What will be its outcome? I would like to know whether European countries and united states are ready to withdraw farm subsidy or export subsidy? If it is so, then what differences do European Union and USA have between them? India is being asked to reduce Trade Distorting Domestic support. The Developed countries are asking poor and developing countries to reduce or withdraw trade distorting domestic support. Suppose the Minimum support price of wheat was determined Rs. 610 per quintal for the last Kharif Crop. Whether now it will be reduced to Rs.

300 per quintal. It means the market price of wheat will be fixed at Rs. 610 per quintal and MSP at Rs. 300 per quintal. In the same way during last season paddy was procured at Rs. 530 per quintal and the special grade was at Rs. 560 per quintal, whether it will be reduced to Rs. 400 per quintal. The hon'ble Minister should tell as to what is to be done in this regard and what will be its outcome? It has been stated that it will be corrected during Fifth Ministerial Conference to be held in 2005. Agenda for it will be fixed in January, 2002 and by March 2003 all the related work will be completed to enable smooth functioning. I would like that hon'ble Minister should get more power from the Parliament and this country so that measures may be taken to protect larger interests. This declaration has been prepared very carefully on the one hand – Trade Distorting Domestic Support has been mentioned and on the other hand Export subsidy has been mentioned. Whether 250 to 300 percent subsidy on schemes will be reduced? This declaration has been prepared very carefully and cleverly, so I wish that hon'ble Minister should get more power to resolve this matter. It is not an issue to be debated at party level but concerns the interests of the country. India has to lead the developing countries and decide its role in this regard. I would like to say that India should tell to what extent trade is being distorted by providing domestic support to it.

What is cause of their concern if farmers are being given subsidy in India. To what extent India is distorting trade by providing domestic support. What India will gain by taking such measures. Multinational grain companies are waiting for a chance and these will make arrangements for storage, procurement etc. the recent developments in the country are resulting in Mansant and Kargil. What is their interests in it, as they are taking great interest in this matter. Now multinational companies tend to take everything in their own hands. Whether it is being done under pressure. We have to see how decision can be taken for protecting interests of India, to what extent India will get special and differential treatment in this regard. Food security is essential for India. The need for fertilizer security has been felt after the Doha Declaration. Today our food security is in danger. Whether India has planned to negotiate it effectively. What is being done for the mandate in this regard. Whether other countries have been contacted or some measures are being taken to safeguard the interests of our economy. What is the outcome? Under mounting pressure the hon'ble Minister should accept it as previous Government committed this mistake during 1991-94. Now you can try to improve the situation. In present situation the hon'ble Minister should become more soft and accept it as a line has already been drawn in this regard.

Maran Saheb you had said

[English]

The second draft is worst than the first.

[Translation]

And about the second round, you had said.

[English]

We have no say in the setting of the agenda.

[Translation]

What has not happened despite its opposition. The Singapore issue, Trade and Investment, Trade and competition.

[English]

Transparency in Government procurement and its trade facilitation

[Translation]

got place in the draft delaration on which Rupchand Pal ji has just discussed. I do not want to discuss on the same. I feel that the Hon. Minister is feeling much relief. There is lot of time as 2005 is very far. We can have much negotiations during this period. Until 2003 many issues would have been resolved by the Committee and the agenda would become more clear. But it is my request that we have to be a bit careful in this regard. As we could not achieve breakthrough in six years. So we have to be careful this time around.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, we have to be prepared for the next round right from the beginning of the new year. We have to raise our voice on the matter of seeds as the monopoly on seeds would lend escalation in their prices. We should give priority to the discussions on the issue after the Doha Ministerial Committee since the Trade Negotiation Committee to be constituted for the purpose will start functioning from January, 2002 and will finish its work in 2003. Then if you want to do something, you cannot do so after 2005.

So, we have to be careful about it. There should be food securing in our country. The subsidy provided by the developed countries will ruin farmers of our country and it can spell doom for their crops. What has been the outcome after lifting quantitative restrictions by the WTO ? While our Government fix minimum support price for the produce at Rs. 610, the prices of the same produce in the international market range from Rs. 400 to 450 per quintal. Where does our farmer stand in competition ? Therefore,

this question is also very important for us. Quantitative restrictions were lifted in a hurry w.e.f. 1 April, 2001. There are so many special provisions regarding quantitative restrictions. We should be ready for them. If we, want to save our country, we are prepared to implement them. Therefore, the Hon. Minister should also ponder over this issue.

We say that we have won on the public health front. Do the poor farmers suffer from AIDS ? Those People are suffering from AIDS who are not hard working and are embracing modern culture. I want to know as to what is the percentage of the poor farmers and the poor who needs medicines for disease like AIDS. I would like to request that most of the hard working people do not believe in it and I hope that this disease should not surface in the country in the name of medicine.

While concluding my speech, I would like to request the hon. Minister to take active participation in the coming discussions.

[English]

SHRI PRAKASH YASHWANT AMBEDKAR (Akola) :
Mr. Chairman, Sir, thank you for giving me this opportunity.

Being in Parliament for the last ten years, I find that this is the first time that GATT and related matters are being discussed. I have witnessed in this House that whenever this issue was referred to, there was almost always a subcommittee of Parliament appointed to study and refer and matter back to Parliament. Today, we are quarrelling over what is going to be the effect. But, let us first admit that when the discussions started in 1991, we had parallel issues running in this country which were related to Ayodhya. Whenever any important issue related to discussion on GATT came up at international level, this House was drawn into a situation where it could not function due to Ayodhya issue. I do not need to refer to the names of the organisations which raised that issue and the members of the international delegation that went on the task during that period.

What we are doing now is, we are speaking in terms of what is going to be the consequences. I have been listening to the debate and I have been witnessing some of the aspects of international diplomacy that has taken place. Some of the things have been analysed. The Minister made a pious declaration during his initial speeches that he has not been able to carry out till the end.

I was in the Durban Conference for more than 20 days. It was in connection with an international event where an

[Shri Prakash Yashwant Ambedkar]

issue related to caste, whether it should be included in the declaration or not, was being discussed. I had an meeting with nearly 79 representatives from 163 countries. Initially 59 countries were concerned about caste. Some of the Brazilian countries and EU countries were concerned over a different aspect of caste. Therefore, they had said that they had some areas on which we could work. What I found in those deliberations was that those countries which were ready to support us on this issue turned around the next day.

When we asked as to what happened, they said, "Look, this is an international diplomacy; we have got some concessions from the Indian Government; and we have got some commitments from the Indian Government."

So, I would like to ask the hon. Minister that to keep the issue of caste out of the Durban Conference, are we being blackmailed and are we giving the commitments to such an extent that it is affecting the Indian economy as such?

The second issue which I would like to raise is this. My colleagues have already gone into greater details of it. If the Fifth Round of the Ministerial Conference takes place and the issues like investments, environment and procurement by the States are taken up there, and if there is some form of an agreement on these issues, whether this Parliament loses its economic sovereignty over the country.

Sir, procurement by the States is one of the major issues where we control the agricultural prices in this country. If this mechanism is taken away, it will mean that we will be throwing our farmers into the lots of those buyers who have no morality and who do not follow any morality. I would like to have a specific answer from the Government on these issues.

The third issue which I would like to raise is this. We are saying that we are fighting a losing battle. I do agree with him that we are fighting a losing battle because we have lost whatever we could gain in the initial rounds between 1991 and 1995. It is because there were countries which, in those periods, went into for referendums. Through these referendums, they got whatever concessions they wanted.

18.22 hrs.

[SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV *in the Chair*]

But I do know that we have one aspect in our hand. It is the 'growing market' in this country. The world, as we

see it, is in recession. In the international arena, there is a period of boom when a new generation starts functioning in the Western countries. Today, there is recession because the population has not grown. The new generation has not started its life which, as some of the economists predict, is to start after seven years. So, we have a period of seven years where we, as a country, can project that there is going to be a new buyer class.

Today, we have 22 million middle-class people which in an economic terms is the saturated class. We have nearly about 37 per cent of the total population living below poverty line. If we take a conscience decision in this country to bring, at least, five per cent of that 37 per cent below poverty line people into the middle-class side, we will be having a new growing consumer class of nearly 10 crore. This class can be a trading class. This class can be a meeting class for their next Ministerial Conference.

So, this is not going to be an isolated issue. It has to be a correlated issue towards the Foreign Policy and economic development of our country. So, unless we project that we are bringing in a new buyer class in this country. I am sure, whatever concessions they are asking for in Agriculture and Textiles will be granted because the Western world, other European countries and American continent need the buyer-class for their production and survival.

Lastly, I want to know this. As I have said, I had been in this diplomacy for quite a long time. There is one feeling that has gone across the world and amongst the diplomats also. It is that we are using systems to destroy our own society. We have gone on a path of liberalisation and we have gone on a path of globalisation. When we have taken the path of liberalisation, we have given a word that we will open up our economy. When we said that we would open up our economy, it does not mean that we finish off the Government sector, which is already there, or the public sector, which is already there. We are now finishing off the public sector, which has conveyed to the other parts of the world that we are going against a section of our society. Privatisation and public sector being privatised means that you are on the verge of destroying the reservation system, which is there in the country.

All these are co-related issues. If you do not come out of this phase, then, I firmly believe that you cannot do anything. It is because Switzerland was the Government, which was ready to sponsor the Resolution on Castes. But there was one call from the Americans and then, they withdrew. When we found out as to why did the Americans call them up, we were given explanations, which I would

not like to state in this House because they are matters of confidentiality. But I would hope that the Government would protect the economic sovereignty and we should not give a feeling that we are destroying a society and that we are taking away the rights of some of the people.

I do hope that the Minister will address these issues when he replies.

[*Translation*]

DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV (Alwar) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, a long discussion is going on the Doha Conference. I am thankful to the hon. Minister and the Government of India because as many as Speakers spoke so far, they did make a mention in their speeches as to what India has achieved from the above Conference. This is a very good thing that their attitude was positive as no one has said that India has lost something by the participation of the Hon. Minister. Some has said that India achieved less and some said that India achieved more. But everyone said that the attitude of the Government of India has been positive. It is fact that the Seattle Conference which preceded the Doha conference could not reach a consensus. At the Uruguay Conference, Shri Pranab Mukherjee of the Congress regime participated. I, myself did not attend the WTO conference nor have of the knowledge of commence. But I watched a discussion on the television and came to know the opinion of experts while the delegation of the Government of India and the Hon. Minister were readying themselves for the Doha Conference. And the experts had started giving their opinions on the television. And all these were of the view like India gave in at the Uruguay Conference when Shri Pranab Mukherjee was the Commerce Minister, perhaps this time around also India could give in. The developed countries took the decisions at their sweet will. Perhaps this time around they thought that the same thing would be repeated. India's Minister would come here and would sign the decisions silently. Whether we are sitting in the ruling party or in the opposition, when the question of India's dignity arises, we are the citizens of India first and the members of parties afterwards. It was possible for Shri Maran that he could have persuaded a journalist to write in his favour. But no Minister could have persuaded the journalists of the entire world. The press of the entire world broke for the first time this time around that the stand of India's Minister had been strong enough and he put forth his views forcefully. The developed countries of the world wanted to dominate over the developing countries and wanted them to surrender. the developed countries also wanted this Conference to be cancelled. But the hon.

Minister Shri Maran defended the developing countries and the manner in which he put forth the views of developing countries wisely and firmly was appreciated by all newspapers and T.V. channels and he made it a success. This time around it was just the reversal of earlier position. The developing countries forced and developed countries to give in before them. This one breakthrough is atleast appreciable.

Our one colleague was just talking about what happens in the Olympic games. Players of various countries take part in different games and who stands first bags the gold medal and everybody expresses happiness over it. This time we got the opportunity to lead the developing countries and each developing country considered India as its leader. The developed countries were also made to realize that this time around the Minister of India would not succumb to their pressure, rather he was in a position to make them surrender.

Sir, the speakers who spoke before me discussed about what India achieved. I also read and heard discussions. I read here some portion of what has been written in the press. 'The success of the Doha Ministerial Conference is being viewed as a significant achievement for the world trade'. This is not said by the Minister. The Press and its correspondents have written it. The press agencies have written that the Seattle World Trade Organisation's conference failed to take off new round of talks two years earlier. India has achieved a lot till the last date of the Conference by plending strongly its interests and that of the developing countries. India and the developing countries will continue to get cheap medicines and agriculture equipments despite strict patent laws. In other words, Indian pharmaceutical companies can manufacture medicines on the same pattern legally in case of emergency. However, they will have to adopt any other process for manufacturing medicines. The western pharmaceutical companies opposed it till the end. These companies were opposing it as India was going to be benefited from it.

Likewise the countries which were asking India to reduce subsidy, they were also compelled to think about themselves. They gave an assurance that they would consider about it. The words which were used by the American TV channel in the praise of our Hon. Minister, that is a matter of provide for us. Every TV channel gave this news that there was no point on the agenda on which our hon. Minister was made to cut a sorry figures. Despite this fact, our colleagues were repeating the same thing.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, it has been said here that the country is facing the punishment due to their some wrong

[Dr. Jaswant Singh Yadav]

deeds. And Shri Maran has tried to bring it back on the track. It takes a lot of time to undo the wrong of other. We can say it certainly that the manner in which the Hon. Minister has added to the prestige of our country, he certainly deserves our appreciation. It is fact that we have to pay more attention towards it, hon'ble Minister will have to take firm stand because, in reality, farming is a source of livelihood not a means of trade for the farmers of our country.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, farming is a means of trade for the farmers of America and other developed countries because they have one thousands, two thousand and four thousand Bighas of land.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, please conclude.

DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV : Mr. Chairman, Sir, our party has got half an hour of time.

MR. CHAIRMAN : There are some other Members of your party to speak.

DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV : Mr. Chairman, Sir, we can expect something from hon'ble Minister because he has putforth his stand very firmly there. The farmers of our country need protection. Farming is a trade for the farmers of those countries whereas it is a livelihood for our farmers. Whatever the farmer produces in his fields he educates his wards and marry them off by selling his yields. To protect such farmers, a fight should definitely be fought on any fora.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar is not present here. I want to read out many things for him. I was reading in a piece somewhere that how the hon'ble Minister had to discuss for 36 long hours for making the conference a success. The way he putforth his views and convinced the developed countries by holding day night discussion with them is really plaudable. It has been published in the newspapers. . . . (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Hon'ble Member, why are you inviting interruptions in your speech.

DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank the hon'ble Prime Minister from the core of my heart. I thank him and Shri Murasoli Maran for saving the country by undoing your deeds. During your tenure, the WTO was synonymous with scare among farmers. Some farmers committed suicide due to its fear because you people have hatched a conspiracy to exploit the farmers. Hon'ble

Minister has freed them from it and the NDA Government and the hon'ble Minister has said that no one can harm the farmers as long as this Government is at the helm. The farmers of India are safe.

With these words, I conclude my speech.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, Doha Conference is much talked about and much hyped event. We have also encouraged Maran Saheb while sending him so that he should go to Doha and take firm stand. There is much celebration here and those who are in the Government are patting their backs that they have won the battle.

Sir, look at the clause 52 of the final declaration of Ministerial level, which I have gone through.

Most unfavourable thing is written in the very first clause. It has been said there that the WTO is facilitating economic growth for all and trade has been expanded and employment is being generated. It has begun with such a big false. They are claiming it as a great achievement. Hon'ble Minister had taken tough stand on the issue of textiles but it has yielded nothing, this is my impression. No real benefit has accrued, they have got something to say only. What was the outcome thereof ? There has been a total failure on the issue of textiles. The quantitative restrictions were lifted. America did not budge from its stand while India, Pakistan and many other such countries tried to convince but they could not do anything as America was unmoved. It has been proved that America, European countries and developed countries are having hegemony. The Government is congratulating itself. The same is happening in Britain, America and other developed countries. They have succeeded in getting whatever they have wanted. Who is true out of these two. They are also patting their backs. A representative of America had come here. He has threatened us with consequences if we try to manipulate it. Such a threat was given by an American. This is the way, American hegemony is continuing.

Reduction in subsidies was talked about but they are not ready for it and they are not reducing the subsidies. They are providing subsidies worth 35,000 crore dollars. The total value of trade being done by the developing countries is only 17,000 crore dollars. They had agreed upon reducing the subsidies phase wise as per the agreement. But nothing has been done so far, they have not stopped subsidies. All the restrictions are only for us. He has failed on the issue of textiles, he was not given a hearing. America took a firm stand that it will not scrap the quota before 1995.

On the issue of TRIPS, they had claimed that monopoly in patent of drugs for the treatment of diseases which take form of epidemic, will not be there. Hepatitis is rampant in our country. One ample of its injection costs Rs. 1200 because as per patent laws of our country a product is patented but as per patent laws of America a procedure is patente. In our country a patent for drugs expires after 5 to 7 years but as per their laws a patent will remain for a period of 20 years that means injections for Hepatitis B which is manufactured in Cuba will cost Rs. 1200 which is beyond reach of a poor people. They say that we have got concession in medicines for the treatment of diseases which could take for of epidemic but what we witness is that the prices of medicines are fifty times higher in Pakistan, Bangladesh, America and Britain. The drugs which costs here at Re. 1 in our country, it costs Rs. 20 there. If such a situation arises in India then the poor will find themselves in great difficulty.

We have gathered that the Basmati has been patented there and a legal battle is being fought. Our herbs like turmeric, tulsī, neem, chirauta, Harar-Bahera are being patented. Japan has patented Kari, which we generally consume in villages.

Thus the poors of our country are under threat from patent under intellectual property rights. About seeds it has been said that it will be imported perhaps these seeds will be terminator seeds. In old days, farmers used to borrow seeds for sowing from their neighbours. But now they will have to purchase new seeds every year. Therefore, I want to say to the hon'ble Minister that this will not protect the farmers.

During the last meeting it was said that environment would not be included in its agenda and the same will be discussed in the year 2003. I want to say that even environment is also under threat from the World Trade Organisation. They say, it is a necessary evil. There is an old a dage, "*Evil makes a man devil*". No protection is given under its regime. We constitute one sixth part of this world, we should have putfourth our points there with firmness. We should have told to quit the organisation if our points are not considered. Everybody knows that no organisation of this world can be a success without us. The developed countries depend on developing countries for foodgrains, therefore they cannot overlook our interests. Mentally they are with the WTO therefore they say that quitting it will not be good for us. You are aware that earlier China was not its member, now it has taken the membership whereas it has extensive trade. You can see in Chandni Chowk area of Delhi, it is dumped with Chinese goods. An idol of Lord Ganesh made in China can be purchased for Rs. 50

whereas the same kind of an idol made in Maharashtra can be had for Rs. 500, because it has been made here. Similarly Chandelier made here is available for Rs. 1000 whereas the same kind of Chandlier made in China is being sold here at Rs. 200. Therefore, India will have to stand on its own feet and make itself strengthen and it should assert that we constitute one sixth of the world and therefore our stand should be considered. No organisation can function without us and we should make this point clear to all.

Mani Shankarji was telling that the Prime Minister has not even mentioned about it. But we have information that the Prime Minister told Maranji to act moderately otherwise there could be a mess. They may not be knowing that a person venture beyond it's tether on extraneous strength. If extraneous strength is weak then what the representative, sent by us, will be able to do there. We have also heard that you have delivered a speech there and those people felt that India is very strict. When we come to know about the Prime Minister that he has asked you to be moderate in this regard then what a Cabinet Minister can do there all alone. This is a question of country's interest and it should be answered.

Regarding Antidumping it was told that law is being made. They are saying that by this we have been benefited a lot. But how the competition prevailing in the field of agriculture and Textile industry could be bridged up by anti dumping. A mention has been made about 'TRIP'. In that there is also a provision of competition. In this situation how the farmer of India can face such competition. Let us know about the laws you are going to make to face such situation. Something has been said about Investment measures. We have shortage of capital and how we are going to meet this shortage please explain about this also. It has been said that there will be exchange of modern services in 'GATT'. But here in India we have the people of traditional service such as Doctors, Advocates, labourers, what would happen to them kindly explain about this also. Whatever little relief we have got is in the field of medicines and in subsidy. They have been told that the subsidy is being reduced in phased manner. When there is mention in the WTO agreement that subsidy be reduced, then why the European countries are not reducing it. That is why all the developing countries should unite which constitute 1/3rd of total strength of the organisation. The Hon'ble Minister should tell what progress has been made in regard to uniting all developing countries. So far as Trade is concerned whether we have got any assistance from the Embassies of Ministry of External Affairs? On visiting those Embassies. We find that the people of Embassies live their life comfortably and they don't have any concern

[Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh]

about the interests of India, whereas it is their duty to make efforts to unite them all. It was the dream of India to lead the third group of countries one group is no more and the second group is still existing but America and the European countries are having hold on it and are exploiting and dictating the developing countries. They are trapping and scaring these developing countries. Therefore, we should try to analyse all these 4-5 issues. Now we should prepare ourselves for the conference to be held in the year 2002. At least now the developing countries must unite. We have to prepare the issues to be raised in the conference of 2003. If we show our weakness and laxity in this regard then the country would have face its consequences. . . .

(Interruptions) Under the regime of Bhartiya Janta Party, the multinationals, Black marketers and profitters are flourishing whereas the poor farmers are suffering a lot. The way we are trying to mobilise for the public opinion against terrorism. Similarly all of us must unite for this issue also. In my opinion should be WTO wound up. In order to fight against capitalism we have to unite ourselves. We should unite against the countries who are dictating. It has been said that the Press has lauded our efforts. In 'India Today' magazine it has been written 'Paya kam, khoya Jayada' (Received less lost much). In this magazine it is further written "Hindustan ka Sangharsh Sapat Samarpan" i.e. total surrender. By reading all these news who will say that the press of India has praised them. Are these their achievements? The Minister should clarify this also.

With these words I conclude.

SHRIMATI RENU KUMARI (Khagaria) : Sir, the discussion regarding WTO conference held in Doha is going on in the House. I would like to inform the House that Shri Pranav Mukherjee was the first leader to sign the WTO agreement. No one knows better than Shri Mukherjee as to he had to tolerate at what the time of signing the agreement. He was the representative of Sovereign Government of independent India but he had to tolerate humiliation. He had mentioned all these things in his speeches also today I want to congratulate the Minister of Commerce Shri Murasoli Maran that he led the developing countries nicely. He wrote a letter to the Ministers of Commerce of the developing countries. That is a historical letter and a mile stone. He fought and struggled against the supremacy of WTO. But our opposition member are complaining against him.

Sir, since the Congress party had supported WTO and signed the agreement, India's economic position is worsening. Patent law was referred to and it is true that

Patent companies have patented Neem, Haldi and many other things in our country. By this only multinational companies have been fitted. It is their policy that the things which are not favourable to them they do not agree to them. As a result of this India has suffered a great loss and the Patent Law is like a slow poison which has been hollowing our country.

Sir, we have suffered a lot in the field of Agriculture. America is giving subsidy to the farmers in the name of protective subsidy. It has given a subsidy of Rupees 90,000 crores to agriculture. In India the farmers are not getting subsidy on manure, seeds, Electricity etc. Due to this India will not be able to compete with America in next 10-20 years. that is why India should also make a law like America. It gives subsidy by cheque in the name of protective subsidy. Similar law should also be made in India, so that the farmers of our country can also get subsidy. We had promoted World Trade Organisation so that the employment opportunities in the country could be increased but it is a fact that unemployment could not be removed. From the intention and terms of WTO, India has suffered a lot in the field of trade, Industry and Agriculture. Today most of our Industries, are on the verge of closure and we are passing through recession. Under such conditions while following the terms of WTO it is our responsibility to protect, and promote our industries and provide new technology to them so that our industries may be promoted.

Sir, what decision has been taken for improving the Intellectual Property Price Agreement in which the main issue regarding setting aside patents of medicines at the time of Public Health crisis and emergency is important. What progress has been made in this regard? I also want to know the discussion took place in the case of Patent Law?

Sir, in the last. I am thankful to Hon'ble Maran Saheb who played an important role for India in the Doha Conference. Further, I also want to say one more thing that besides looking after the international agreements. It is the responsibility of the Government to look after the interests of the country. I believe that in future also the Government will play an effective role keeping in mind the interest of the country as it has done in WTO.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, the hon. Minister to reply.

(Interruptions)

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN : Sir, what is this? I could not follow. . . . *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Just wait a minute.

[Translation]

The time allotted for the subject has expired. The time was extended by an hour at 6 p.m. That time is over, and now it is seven o'clock.

[English]

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (Mavelikara) : The time has been extended by one hour. . . . (Interruptions)
Only one or two hon. Members are there to speak from out side. . . . (Interruptions)

SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH (Aurangabad, Bihar) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I just want to find out how many minutes I have been allowed to speak. . . . (Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Each one of you may speak for two minutes.

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Sir, I make an appeal to you. It is a subject which is free from all political controversies. It is a subject pertaining to the nation. We agreed in the Business Advisory Committee that this discussion should continue as long as we can complete the speeches and the hon. Minister should reply tonight itself. . . . (Interruptions) All right, it is to be concluded the same day. Therefore, I feel that if the hon. Members want to speak, let them continue with it. We are also learning many new points. What is wrong in it?

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Dasmunsi ji, you are the Chief Whip of the Opposition and also a member of the BAC. You are aware that in the meeting of the Business Advisory Committee, three hour's time was allotted for the subject. After that the duration was further increased by an hour with the consent of the House. Four hours have already been devoted to the subject. From your side, Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar has presented his views in detail.

19.00 hrs.

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : With all respects to you, I would correct your wisdom. The BAC had decided that it would be start at 3 o'clock and would conclude at 6 o'clock. Then if we need time, we can extend. . . . (Interruptions) That has been discussed in the BAC.

SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH : We are not very desperate to speak. These are subject which need a lot of attention and a lot of time. . . . (Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : A number of points have been raised and we don't need to repeat them. I will not allow anybody to repeat what has already been said. Only new points should be made.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : There is no need of repetition. If you have a new point, you can raise it.

(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH : Yes, Sir. The Doha Ministerial Conference is being hailed as a major success. Almost all major Delegations who had participated in it appeared to have got what they wanted. How is that possible when so many countries held very different views? The London based newspaper, *The Financial Times*, for example, has clearly stated that the only country which came away with nothing from the Doha Declaration was India. One can always be wiser in the future and the fact remains that the entire world is caught in his historic current on globalisation. As a nation, we have to see beyond our political divide. Therefore, we have to come together and get the better of this historic current. The WTO agreement itself was to a large extent one-sided. Since there is a constraint of time, I would come straight to the subject, which are four in number.

I would start with the environment. The Minister had stated that he gave a little into environment in order gain a little in the field of agriculture. Let us see as to how we fared in the field of environment. The European Union has in its post-Doha assessment claimed that the Declaration affirms the right of members to take measures that they consider appropriate in their national context in the interest of health, safety and environment. In other words, the members will play an important role in global control of environment-related issues. Is this what we were looking for at Doha? Regardless of what the hon. Minister may claim it is just what he was trying to avoid. It may be a gain for the European Union but I see it as a major loss for ourselves. We had hoped to avoid mainstreaming of environment but it is just what has happened. I fear this will raise market access barriers and we cannot be very satisfied with it.

[Shrimati Shyama Singh]

Secondly, I come to agriculture. This is a topic and subject which nobody in this august house has dwelt upon except Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar, my senior colleague, who was not able to complete the whole of it. We are told that we lost out on environment because we have gained on agriculture. Let us look at agriculture. Even prior to the Doha agreement it was in fact a part of the earlier Marrakech agreement to have negotiations on agriculture. In fact, the concept that the vulnerable developing countries like India should have special treatment relating to food security, and we permitted to have an incentive structure, was part of the agreement. It was also axiomatic that the developing countries whose levels of subsidy should constitute serious trade barriers for other countries needed to phase out their subsidy structure is not a new achievement.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You need not read.

SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH : Please allow me to speak this, Sir. If you just ruffle a person with time, then, you cannot speak what you want to speak, and if you want to speak without convictin, I am sorry it does not convey the meaning. We are told that we lost out in environment, we made up in agriculture. And this was achieved by refusing to approve the draft presented at the Ministerial as it led to changes that are to our benefit. The Minister may kindly enlighten us on our gains for I feel that we have lost our instead. The proposed draft had a provision for phasing out farm export subsidies that were hurtful to us for we were unable to export out farm produce to Europe and the USA. Our core concerns were the flooding of our markets by agricultural commodities and the imposition of the standards of labour, investment and environment of the industrialised nations on our exports.

Regarding international markets, I do not know if these concerns have been taken care of in this Declaration. Would the hon. Minister kindly clarify ?

We have some concerns. The first relates to discussions at the next meeting to be held in two years' time. The Declaration mentions negotiations but it does not indicate any timeframe for the reduction of agricultural subsidies by the European Union. What is the assurance that these negotiations will be taken up within two years and will lead to reduction in the subsidies even while our own subsidies remain intact ?

MR. CHAIRMAN : Madam, you can quote only but you are reading it line by line.

(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH : Now, I am just speaking about textiles. On textiles, there is a major setback. Far from front-loading and increasing quotas for countries like India, there has not even been any movement on the peak tariffs.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You can lay it on the Table.

SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH : Sir, I am the last speaker. . .**

MR. CHAIRMAN : This is not fair.

SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH : The hon. Minister must listen.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You do not understand what you are saying.

*(Interruptions)***

MR. CHAIRMAN : You do not understand what you have said.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : It is very bad. You cannot question the Chair.

SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH : I am sorry.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Do you want to estalish a new precedent in the House ?

SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH : No, Sir. You give us time. That is the point. . . *(Interruptions)*

On textiles, there is a major setback. Far from front-loading and increasing quotas for countries like India, there has not even been any movement on the peak tariffs. On anti-dumping, there is more expression of intent and the words are platitudes. How can we say that we have made progress on implementation issues ? What is worse is that we have modified our earlier stand and allowed negotiations to go forward without a prior resolution of these issues connected with textiles, anti-dumping and subsidies.

I will hurriedly come to the last point on software. Our next concern is about something that is our largest export item, namely, software worth Rs. 30,000 crore annually. It seems that the United States insist that the Indian firms using software personnel for short periods should be paid as much as theirs. It also proposes to restrict their number,

**Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

perhaps, due to the slow-down of their economy post-11th September. How does the Minister ensure that this is taken care of?

Finally, there are four points on which I would like him to answer. First, we failed, in spite of delcaration, that we will have a 'round' for the post-Doha process to become a reality. Semantics will not alter the truth.

Second, we have earlier decided that implementation issues must be resolved prior to any fresh negotiations. This includes a whole basket of issues emerging from the Uruguay round of talks. We failed in this endeavour because far from a prior resolution, they are now part of the dynamics of the new negotiating process.

Third, on some key issues of immediate relevance to us like textiles, subsidies and anti-dumping, we have not got anywhere.

Fourth, we failed to kill labour and environment from getting mainstream subsequently, after two years, in the negotiating process.

From an overall perspective, our commercial diplomacy is weak. Our foreign policy and economic policies are not hand in hand.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I am objecting to your reading a speech.

(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH : I am hurriedly going through it.

MR. CHAIRMAN : It should not be taken as a precedent.

(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH : Fine, Sir. I sit down.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, Shri Ramesh Chennithala.

(Interruptions)

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : She was finishing her last point. . . .*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

She was on the verge of concluding.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You have spoken a lot.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now please conclude.

SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH : These are the points from which he could have beenfited. . . .*(Interruptions)*

I would request the hon. Minister that a new Parliamentary Committee should be constituted on the WTO. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (Mavelikara) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the trade is the key engine for growth. The Governments across the world have increasingly recognised the need for a new global trade rules. Recently, China has entered the WTO as a new Member. China, of course, is going to play a very major role in the global economic scenario.

Sir, in the emerging global trade order, India has to focus on specific problems. Our share in the global trade is very meagre, that is, 0.7 per cent. With this share, we cannot expect miracles. Of course, we have to strengthen ourselves. In the changing world scenario, India has to play a very positive role to fight for the justice.

Of course, the hon. Minister of Commerce and Industry, Shri Murasoli Maran has tried his level best to achieve this goal. I have no doubt about it but at the same time, we have to see certain very important aspects of this. He mentioned that this is a necessary evil. Sir, 142 countries are in the WTO. The global trade regulatory bodies are always ignoring the interests of the developing countries. The major economic powers like the European the US and Japan are dicating the agenda to the WTO.

We are always raising these issues in all the Ministeial Conferences. Manipulation and arm-twisting by the economically strong nations is not a healthy practice. WTO must provide equal treatment to all the members. Of course, we are always trying to get that. If we look at the scenario which has emerged in Doha, you would find that the developing countries were not united. They were not at all collectively raising their voice against this discrimination. Every developing country was interested in pushing its own agenda. Sir, India relied exessively on the developing countries on critical issues. the countries across Asia, Africa, Caribbean, and Latin American countries had promised support on main issues, but at last, India was isolated, their support was not there, and they were pushing their own agenda. When they got something, they backed out. There was no common agenda. There was no common thinking and support for each other.

[Shri Ramesh Chennithala]

Sir, here is a pint. I would like to mention a point that India always stood for the developing countries. We tried to unite the developing countries. Here we failed. What are the reasons for this failure? We would like to know whether a proper exercise has been done or not and also whether proper homework has been done or not. What is the situation that has emerged there? A Group of Like-minded countries (LMG) tend to be a Group of Unlike-minded countries at the end of the Conference. What is the reason? Why did it happen? India was banking on LMG countries to bargain for an earlier than scheduled end to the quota system of textile exports to the US. Finally, Pakistan also walked out. India was kept in isolation. We cut a sorry figure. We would like to know whether our strategy had failed. What were the reasons for all other LMG countries showing an aversion to our stand on these very important issues?

We should not cry for the spilt milk. What are our future plans? That is the most important thing. The developing countries constitute three fourths of the WTO members. We cannot walk-out from the WTO. We cannot ignore the role of the WTO. Even in the US, some people are against the WTO saying that the new role of the WTO is against the US. Even the developing countries are also accusing the WTO. That means, they are playing a key role in the global trade. So, Sir, we have to set up our priorities. What are our priorities? We would like to know whether in the coming round, we can agree for a common agenda, which is agreed by all the developing countries. Whether we agree or not, we are going to have another round of discussion, and in that discussion, whether India can prepare a common agenda with the total agreement of all the developing countries.

Sir, the developing countries must agree for the market access negotiation, which could cut tariff and trade-distorted subsidies, particularly in agriculture and textiles.

Second is, negotiations on services could enable developing countries to increase export of services and skills. Greater competition can be invited in some service sectors. Keeping in view of the situation in India.

Third is a trade round could tackle the remaining obstacles to manufacturing aspects of developing countries. We may not agree to the proposal which will only help to increase the gap between the rich and poor. I agree with the hon. Minister of Commerce and Industry, Shri Murasoli Maran. He tried his level best. It is because of some faulty strategy, we failed in certain aspects, but we achieved certain things. I am only realistic in my

approach. I am not saying that we have completely failed. . . .(Interruptions) I am concluding.

We achieved something but greater efforts are needed for pursuing our goals. Our efforts should be to reduce the gap between the rich and the poor. Traditionally we are arguing the cause of the developing countries. We are always championing the cause of the poor. So, we shall continue to do that. We have to raise these issues in the International Trade Forums. Greater efforts may be undertaken by India for just and equitable trade rules so as to eliminate arm-twisting of economic powers, exploitation of rich nations and discriminatory approach of the developed world. By uniting the poor and developing countries by an extensive discussion and by formulating a common agenda, which will help the poor countries to develop, I think, in this way, in the coming round of discussion, India has to play a very crucial and effective role so as to get more and more benefits out of the WTO agreements.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : But we cannot get out of WTO.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Can you get out of WTO?

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please take your seat.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Is there any country in the world which has got out of WTO?

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh was very vocal. He said, 'You get out of the WTO'. . . .(Interruptions) That is why, I am just reminding.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Without my permission, Shri Kharabela Swain, what are you doing?

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : No, please take your seat.

[Translation]

SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE (Malegaon) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak. The House is discussing the issue of World Trade Organisation. I support the views put forth by our excellent Speaker. Shri Raghuvanshji. Sir, with regard to the World Trade Organisation, the hon. Minister has done a good job and his intentions are noble. But having noble intentions alone does not suffice, we need to look at the obstructions that may come in our way. The first hurdle is that it should strike in our mind. The hon. Minister has cleared that. The second hurdle is to practice one's avowed

precept. In this regard, I want to say that even though the lion is the king of the jungle, yet, he always treads his path cautiously. The hon. Minister should likewise tread cautiously* . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : He has used an unparliamentary expression.

MR. CHAIRMAN : All unparliamentary expression will be expunged from the record.

SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE : He thought that 35 per cent people of India live below the poverty line and he has to collect the revenue from the rest 25 per cent people. It was thought out by the USA. Thus, the first hurdle was crossed. But the practical aspects should also be considered. What is the condition of the farmers? The condition of power, of food grains, of irrigation, of trade should also be kept in mind along with the facts whether farmers are getting reasonable prices or not and whether co-operative organisations are properly functioning or not? The third hurdle is that of fame. All great men that India has produced were great thinkers. Be they saints or hermits, Mahatma Gandhi or Nehru, they all were visionaries and were the best in the world. India is not weak, irrespective of what the world thinks of it. It is this strength which needs to be organised. This is my submission.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank all hon. Members for participating in this important debate. We have heard criticisms: constructive and otherwise also.

I would like to congratulate my brother hon. Member Thiru Mani Shankar Aiyar for his comments. We all know he belongs to a different league, he is a former Indian Foreign Service Officer and a former diplomat. We all know that diplomats alone have the right and privilege of uttering falsehoods and twisting words and facts. I would say that he has proved his mettle today. It is not only that but I would give ten out of ten for his eloquence and at the same time I would also give ten out of ten for this twisting capacity and misinterpreting everything.

I was hurt when he said that our position, that is, India's position was impotent posturing. At least, he did accept that there was some 'posturing'. I am very sorry but I am really hurt. He has hurt the entire nation because I was not a single individual who went there but I

represented our one billion people and our Government. If this is impotent posturing, how would he describe the stand taken at the Uruguay Round Agreement? . . .(Interruptions) Would he describe it as mere 'impotency' – pure and simple? I am very sorry; I do not want to create such kinds of exchanges and accusations.

Here are some international agreements I would agree with Shri Ramesh Chennithala in the sense that at least in these kinds of matters there should be some commonality and some appreciation. Therefore, I would go into all the points one by one in a faster way.

The first is implementation-related issues and concerns. We have been urging that these concerns should first be addressed for the past three years. The hon. Prime Minister, while addressing the United Nations has stated this very clearly. The United Nations indeed is not a place for talking about the WTO. I do not know what he talked to President Bush; probably, Shri Aiyar might be knowing it! The hon. Prime Minister has stated it very clearly: 'In the Uruguay Round, we were given a cheque that bounced. We will not be prepared for receiving a post-dated cheque.' This formed the foundation of our stand.

First, the developed countries refused to accept the implementation-related concerns and issues. They closed their eyes to it. They merrily misused and misinterpreted all the provisions of the Uruguay Round. I do not find fault with the previous Government. They signed it in good faith but the Western world misinterpreted it to their own benefit. Therefore, along with the so-called LMG countries, India played a key role in packaging them and categorising them. So, what happened is this. If you just look at the Declaration, you would find the 'Work Programme'. Under this Declaration there is no word like 'Round'. It is all semantics, whether you call it 'Round' or 'Development Round'. Under the heading 'Work Programme', the first issue at paragraph 12 is implementation-related issues and concerns. So, what I would say is that some issues have been addressed at Doha, some issues would go for negotiations and some would be addressed by the concerned committees. Therefore, the Trade Negotiating Committee would decide them and further action would be taken by the end of 2002. This is an acknowledgement, accreditation and a future roadmap for resolution of implementation concerns and issues. It is a victory or a major accomplishment. I do not want to go into all the details.

The hon. lady Members and others said that we have not got anything in textiles.

You can see in this Declaration that there were five issues relating to textiles. Three issues have been

*Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

[Shri Murasoli Maran]

accepted; only two issues have not been accepted – not accepted means, they have not been rejected. These issues relate to growth on growth. They have agreed to some growth and then on growth, they have given us some factor to permit our quota. So, that has not been rejected. Now it will go to the Council for Trade in Goods and it will make recommendations to the General Council by 31st July, 2002 for appropriate action. So, it is over and above the Agreement on Textiles and Clothing (ATC). I would only say that we have not lost anything at all. We wanted some additionality; it has been postponed. I do not want to go into the facts because it will hurt us. As one Professor of Research and Information System for non-aligned and other developing countries says :

“India has not lost out on the textile issue as such because Indian companies are not in a shape that can use access to market to our advantage. There is a danger that lifting of quota restrictions would be used mostly by the other South-East Asian countries.” Therefore, this issue relates to implementation issues; it does not relate to ATC at all.”

Now, what is the opinion of other countries? Implementation issues you all rejected. This is not an achievement according to hon. Member, Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar. Here, Pascal Lami, the European Commissioner for Trade says: “EU has played its full part in helping to pull together a valuable implementation package” – it is valuable to Pascal Lami, not to hon. Shri Aiyar – “which the developing countries rightly made such a priority. They have forced this issued on to the agenda and though you must asks them, I am sure, they have far exceeded their expectations.” These are the words of Pascal Lami. Then, the European Union has made an assessment of the result and published a memo dated 14th November, 2001. Here, I want to quote under the heading ‘implementation’ :

“The European Union recognised from the outside that a new Trade Round could only be launched” – this is a pre-condition – “if there were demonstrable progress on implementation issues raised by a group of developing countries” – that is, India and the like-minded group – “the progress has now been made on the decisions reached at Doha and indeed before Doha, they have resolved a number of problems.”

That is why I say, here we have achieved something significant.

Then, regarding TRIPS and public health, here is a major achievement for India and developing countries

because this is a unique Declaration, a landmark Declaration, we know. I do not want to quote how the Westernised world is looting the developing countries. Just I want to quote the Nobel Laureate, Prof. Stiglitz, who was formerly in World Bank. He says: Stiglitz likens free trade WTO style to the opium war, as it allows MNCs to fleece people in poor countries by charging usurious prices for branded medicines and other services. We know how AIDS is taking a heavy toll. At the end of 2000, it is only only an African disease, it is in India also. At the end of 2,000, 3.86 million Indians are living with HIV and AIDS. Every hour, almost 600 persons are getting infected by the deadly HIV virus and more than sixty children are dying because of this disease in the world. The poor Africans and others could not get the medicine. Therefore, we have got a separate Declaration. People may ask, why. This is because of public pressure. India, along with Brazil and 55 African countries, pressed that they should do this because here is a time to show that WTO also has a human face. So, they were compelled to agree to this. What is the TRIPS Agreement? Now, they wanted to say only during health crisis, you can use all these kinds of problems.

No, now the crisis has been substituted by ‘health problems’. They wanted to show only HIV, AIDS. No, HIV AIDS alone will not do. That is why we have added it because India was one member in the Drafting Committee that besides HIV AIDS, tuberculosis, Malaria and other epidemics by mentioned. They did not want to use the word ‘epidemics’. They wanted to use the word ‘pandemic’ which means from continent to continent. We argued that India is a sub-continent. What happens here? There may be an epidemic there in South India – in Tamil Nadu or in Kerala – but it may not be there in the North-Eastern India. Therefore, at our insistence these words were included.

Not only that – hon. Member Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar wanted to know as to where are the prices of the medicines. Here, in paragraph 4, it is said : “To promote access to medicine for all”. It is there. What is it? It is because we have to negotiate this. We are not re-writing the TRIPS. We got, with a great effort, some flexibilities, some explanations and some clarifications. Here, I would read : “TRIPS agreement does not and should not prevent members from taking measures to protect public health”. That means the sovereign Government has got the right. Not only that – while reiterating our commitment to the TRIPS agreement we affirmed that the agreement can and should be interpreted and implemented in a manner supportive of WTO’s members’ right to protect public health.

Here, I want to make two distinctions. This agreement can be interpreted in support of citizens’ life. If means

it is a signal of the national Government, the sovereign Government that you can use it and 'should be interpreted in such a manner' means, it is a signal to the dispute settlement body in Geneva. So, here is a major thing. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : Please allow me for a minute. There was a general amendment for using the word 'shall' in place of 'should'.

SHRI MURASOHI MARAN : I will tell you. There was not an amendment. We suggested that the word 'shall' should be used.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : There was a suggestion.

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN : No, countries like United States of America objected to it. I spoke in the Committee of the Hall in the WTO. I said why are you objecting for the word 'shall'. They said it is a legalistic word in the United States of America. I said in Ten Commandments it is said 'Thou shall not see; Thou shall not do it' etc. Do you mean to say Moses was a great lawyer?

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : Okay, you tried and you did it.

SHRI MURASHOLI MARAN : Yes. But we could not succeed. But, we consulted many people. They said that this will do – 'does not prevent and should not prevent'. Therefore, these flexibilities are there. Each country can see it. How is to determine an emergency or an extreme urgency? Who will determine it? According to this Declaration, the national Governments, the sovereign Governments can determine whether there is an emergency or there is an extreme urgency for getting cheaper generic medicine. Of course, there is one loophole, loophole in the sense the one which we could not achieve.

For example, suppose a country has no specific thing; not India as we are pioneers in producing generic medicines, what would happen if a poor country, an African country cannot produce, cannot have the capacity? Then, this matter has been referred to the General Council and expeditious solution will be coming forth before the end of 2002. This is a landmark decision. You may ask how was it possible, who said so and all those things.

Here is a paper of Brazil. It says : "Brazil claims drug patents' victory." That is the headline. You see how patriotic they are. Inside it they say – "Developing countries like Brazil and India . . ." They say it is with India's efforts also. They acknowledge. But I am sorry to say that we do not acknowledge it.

This is another Brazil paper. It says – "Brazil hails victory over drug patents". But inside it is said Brazil and India will now have all those things. Brazil acknowledges us; but we do not acknowledge.

There is another thing. Here is the *Asian Wall Street Journal*. I quote from it : "Most significantly for India the developed countries also agreed to elevate the rights to poor countries seeking cheap medicines above the rights of international drug companies seeking to protect their patents." So, the *Asian Wall Street Journal* could recognize it; but I am sorry the learned Member, hon. Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar could not recognize it.

Here is *The Economist*, a much respected magazine. Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar knows it very well. I just want to quote from it – "First they, they means the developing countries, scored a coup"; they used the word 'coup' "with a declaration that intellectual property rules should not stop poor countries gaining access to cheap medicines."

This is the sentence I am reading from *The Economist*. Further, they say :

"In a sign of their increasing clout, poor countries win a clear victory over the drug-markers."

We have got a victory over the multinationals, the drug-makers. As one activist admitted :

"Two years ago you, would never have got anything like this through WTO."

We got it because all the developing countries were together. It was a proposal based on a proposal by India. Brazil and other more than 55 African countries.

Recently, the French Minister of State, Mr. Huwart had come to address the World Economic Forum. He says :

"This Declaration is considered by the entire world as one of the great successes to come out of Doha."

These are not my words, but the words of a French Minister. Then, I would like to point out this to the hon. Member, Shri Rup Chand Pal. Here is *Economic and Political Weekly*. We know, it is one of the most progressive weeklies in India. It says :

"The most tangible gain has been on TRIPS. The existing provisions have been clarified – they are not re-written – to give greater precedence to public health."

Now, A national Government can determine without being challenged in a WTO Disputes Settlement Forum,

[Shri Murasoli Maran]

when a public health emergency has arisen and patent rights need to be suspended. Epidemics suffice to suspend patent rights; pandemics are not required. This is the clarification. What I have stated, they have put it very simply in a very dignified manner. Tuberculosis and Malaria are explicitly recognised as epidemics. That might warrant suspension of patent rights and not just HIV AIDS. These are the words they have used.

Then, also related is geographical indication, CBD, Convention on Biodiversity, protection of traditional knowledge and folklore and other new developments. These are all in paragraphs 18 and 19. So, a short time-table has been fixed because wine and spirit have been given higher protection, but not our Basmati rice, not our Darjeeling tea, not our Alphonso mango. Now, for considering all these things, a short time-table has been fixed. The TRIPS Council has been asked to address this issue on a matter of priority and submit a report to the Trade Negotiating Committee by the end of 2002 for appropriate action. So, the work programme on TRIPS review has been on the mainstream. Therefore, the Committee on TRIPS is totally loaded with all these problems. The time has almost been spent. We do not want to waste the time. All these issues will be considered.

Regarding geographic indications, I want to make it very clear. Here is a statement of European Union's Agriculture Commissioner, Mr. Fischler. He had issued a statement on 14th November, 2001 because Europeans also supported our move for geographic indication it says :

"Another positive aspect of the deal is that we will now negotiate on geographical indications with a view to protecting quality products ranging from Indian Basmati rice to Italian Parmigiano – I do not know how to pronounce it – cheese from being pirated by other WTO countries."

Is it not a significant gain? I think, this is a significant gain.

Somebody said, we have yielded to 'labour'. I am very sorry. We wanted to take away the entire paragraph because it has been settled once and for all at Singapore, that is, the labour standards belong to ILO. It comes under the domain of ILO, WTO has nothing to do with it. But we gained. What is the sentence that has been removed? It says :

"The ILO provides the appropriate forum for a substantive dialogue on various aspects of this issue."

Why did we object to it? It is because if you say substantive dialogue, they will say unsubstantive dialogues will be taken over by WTO. They are clever enough. Therefore, if you have any doubt, I would again quote *The Economist*. What did they say? It is not Indian opinion or the opinion of Government of India. It says :

"For developing countries, the lack of any commitments in the area of trade and labour is another victory."

So, Shri Rupchand Pal was appreciative.

Sir, then I would come to the issue of agriculture. I have answered a question only recently on this. But again I would like to say as to what we have got on this account. We already have started the negotiations on agriculture. AOA – the Agreement on Agriculture came into effect on 1.1.1995. This is the sixth year. The negotiation has started since 2000. Negotiations are going on. What does the EU say in this regard? They say that it is an open-ended negotiation. There is no end to it. There are no words saying that this negotiation should end by such and such year. So, we would not close the negotiations. They are increasing the export subsidy. The Indian agriculturists cannot compete with them because the EU and other countries are keeping their prices low by giving subsidy. But we have got a mandate that is much more favourable than article 20. Here, I would like to quote. It says, '...with a view to phasing out all forms of export subsidy will be undertaken'. Here is a mandate for those countries who give subsidy. What have we gained?

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : We have got only assurance.

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN : Whatever it is. But we have to negotiate. This is only a paragraph as like it is there in the Budget speech. The Budget speech is read out and then the demands are considered. This is just like a Budget speech. We would have to negotiate. What have we got? I would again quote. It says, 'to effectively take into account all the development needs including food security and rural development probably may lead to a development box. Special and differential treatment for developing countries shall be an integral part of all the elements.' The developing countries would get a special and differential treatment. Special and a differential treatment means, fewer discipline and longer time for transformation or change. You may ask as to where is the time for it? It again says, the modalities for further commitment including provision for special and differential treatment shall be not later than 31 March, 2003. Of course, the entire thing is supposed to come to an end by the year 2005. So, here the time limit has been fixed. This is also a big achievement.

Sir, then comes the Singapore issue. This was the bone of contention. We discussed it for 36 hours non-stop. What did they say? Actually there was a climax to the whole thing. After 35 hours and 45 minutes of deliberations they introduced a draft and the meeting ended. We were taken aback. We were shocked. That is why we had to say, 'no, India could not take part in the consensus'. But what was the next stage? It came to a stand still. Then, the Chairman extended the period of discussion by another 18 hours. People were coming to us for arriving at a compromise. But we could not agree. We said that all the four Singapore issues could not be taken up for negotiations just now. A Working Group is studying it. Let the Working Group complete its study and give its report and then, if necessary, we may consider this in the next Ministerial Conference. Then the Chairman came up with a compromise. I would like to quote the statement of the Chairman. He said, 'I would like to note that some delegates have requested clarifications concerning paragraphs 20, 23, 26 and 27 of the Draft Declaration. Let me say with respect to the reference of explicit consensus being needed in these paragraphs for a decision to be taken at the 5th Session of the Ministerial Conference. My understanding is that at that Session, that is in the next Ministerial Conference. My understanding is that at that Session, that is in the next Ministerial Conference, a decision would indeed be needed to be taken by explicit consensus before the negotiations on trade and investment, trade and competition and trade also on transparency in Government procurement and trade facilitation proceeds'. Previously we got an explicit consensus only on two issues but now we have got an explicit consensus on two more. The Chairman further noted and I quote, 'This would also give each member the right to take a position on modalities when a proven negotiation after the 5th Session of the Ministerial Conference until that member is prepared to join in explicit consensus'.

Sir, this is a great victory. I would again quote to Shri Pal what has been written in *The Political and Economic Weekly*. It says, "Such negotiations can take place only according to the modalities arrived at through explicit consensus among all members." In other words. . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : It does not mean that the Members of Parliament will have to agree to whatever is written in *The Political and Economic Weekly* or *The Economist*.

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN : Therefore, let us not have any doubt. Why should we raise doubts about our stand? It is not my stand! It is India's stand; it is your stand; it is everybody's stand.

In other words, negotiations on these issues can be stalled by simple expedient of refusing to agree on the modalities of negotiations. So, not only for negotiations, for modalities too consensus is necessary.

I would now like to quote from *The Guardian*. *The Guardian* is a much-respected paper in the United Kingdom. Actually this newspaper cutting was sent to me by hon. Member of Parliament Shri Ahmed who was in London at that time. I would only quote a few words. It says, "But the most dramatic demonstration of the new power of the developing countries come on the last day when India succeeded in leading a rebellion against the EU's insistence on widening Doha Round."

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL (Lature) : Will you please yield for a while?

We understand your difficulties. We understand what has been the achievement. But we do not understand as to why certificates given by others are being quoted on the floor of the House. We would like to know as to what is actually achieved, based on the facts. You convince us based on the information which is available with you, not on the basis of certificates given by others.

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN : Sometimes people do not trust us. That is why I have to give certification. If you do not believe us, at least believe somebody who is there not in the country.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL : We would like to believe you rather than others.

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN : Thank you. Then, that criticism was not at all necessary.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL : Please tell us what you want to. Do not read out those things.

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would close my argument.

Doha is behind as now. What we need is some kind of a development coalition, as Shri Chennithala said.

Probably Shri Chennithala would be interested in rubber. So, while ban on import duty on free natural rubber and advance licence continues, they will now get natural rubber from domestic sources through STC, with STC getting the deemed export benefit of Rs. 3.50 per kilogram. To keep track of imports, Kolkatta and Visakhapatnam are made the only ports through which imported rubber can come into India. Then it has been made mandatory for

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natural rubber importers to register themselves with Rubber Board. The imports are coming without any standards. Specific BI Standard on quality of domestic rubber will be made applicable to imported rubber also. Sorry for that degression.

Sir, Doha is behind us. Today we are here and tomorrow somebody else may come. But we should have some kind of a consensus. What is the use of building a developing alliance with other countries? First let us create a development alliance inside this House. Let all parties cooperate together.

When the Cabinet Committee on WTO decided about the mandate to be given to us, hon. Prime Minister asked us to keep the country's flag flying. When there was a crisis in Doha, I telephoned him. He asked me to be firm. We stood firm and we kept the flag flying high. Therefore, I would say that we should cooperate with each other cutting across party lines. Negotiations will start soon and they will come to an end by 2005. I seek your cooperation.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : Has any self-critical review been made about style of negotiations, about *modus operandi*, about preparations for the negotiations?

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN : Yes, I consulted all the parties.

Actually, what did I represent? I represented the stakeholders' view of India. Who are the state holders? They are: Members of Parliament; our polity; our business and our agriculture. We did our duty. We should all see that India succeeds.

Therefore, I want your cooperation. Let us all cooperate and get success for India in the coming years. We have

got still five more years, probably. Uruguay Round took eight years; Tokyo Round took six years and this will go in for 10 years. Therefore, let us all work together.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : Mr. Minister, would you accept the suggestion of Shrimati Shyama Singh that we have a Parliamentary Committee on WTO.

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN : In fact, there is already a Joint Parliamentary Committee on WTO.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : There is no such Committee. There is one Joint Parliamentary Consultative Committee dealing with it.

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN : No. There is a separate Committee on WTO consisting of Members from Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : I think, Mr. Minister, you are referring to the Standing Committee on Commerce.

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN : No, that is a different Committee. On WTO alone, we have a Joint Parliamentary Committee of which, subject to correction, Shri Sikandar Bhakt is the Chairman.

SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH (Aurangabad, Bihar) : Thank you.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, the House stands adjourned to meet again at 11 a.m. tomorrow, the 11th December, 2001.

19.51 hours

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Tuesday, December 11, 2001/
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