

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Twelfth Session
(Thirteenth Lok Sabha)



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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Monday, April 21, 2003/Vaisakha 1, 1925 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

[English]

...(Interruptions)

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE (Calcutta South): Sir, 20,000 people could not file nominations for the Panchayat elections in West Bengal. ...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Mr. Speaker, Sir, irregularities are being committed in West Bengal on large scale. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the issue relating to UP is of a very serious nature ...(Interruptions)

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL (Kanpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a major problem. Crores of weavers are facing starvation. ...(Interruptions)

11.00¹/₂ hrs.

(At this stage, Shri Sudip Bandyopadhyay and some other hon. Members came and stood near the Table.)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I am going to allow your leader to speak. Please go back to your seats.

11.01 hrs.

(At this stage, Shri Sudip Bandyopadhyay and some other hon. Members went back to their seats.)

MR. SPEAKER : I have received a number of notices of Adjournment Motion regarding alleged framing of false charges by Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh against the leader of the Samajwadi Party, Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav and others. These notices have been given by Shri Ramji

Lal Suman, Shrimati Reena Choudhary, Shri Ram Murti Singh Verma, Shri Ram Vilas Paswan, Shri Chandra Nath Singh, Kunwar Akhilesh Singh, Shri Saroj Tufani, Shri Raghuraj Singh Shakya and Shri Dharm Raj Singh Patel. These are the nine notices. I have received on this very important subject.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have said that I would allow Kumari Mamata Banerjee to speak.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Let me read first. Let me bring to the notice of the House the important subjects on which I have received notices.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN (Hajipur): Mr. Speaker Sir, we have given notice for suspension of the Question Hour. ...(Interruptions)

11.03 hrs.

(I) **Re: Alleged Framing of Charges against Leader of Samajwadi Party and others in Uttar Pradesh**

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I have received a notice on truck owners' strike in the country. I have received notices on this from Shri Malaisamy, Shri Radhakrishnan and Shri Suresh Kurup. Then, I have received another notice on the problems being faced by workers in the powerloom industry. The notice has been given by Shri H.D. Deve Gowda. Shri Jaiswal has requested me that he would also like to speak on this issue.

I have received notices from several Members for suspension of Question Hour. The issues are almost the same, so I am not going to repeat the names. The same Members who have given notices for Adjournment Motion have requested for suspension of Question Hour and for giving priority to this subject.

Apart from this, there are two Calling Attention notices and 23 Zero Hour notices. I would like to give an opportunity to the Members to speak on different issues. But before I do that, the leader of the Samajwadi Party,

Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav has expressed a desire to make a few observations on an important issue of Uttar Pradesh and I have permitted him to do so.

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (Sambhal): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I just want to make a request to you. We do not want the House to be adjourned. Although we can get the House adjourned but we would ask our friends, Shri Ramji Lal Suman and other not to do that. I would like to submit before the entire House that about 135-140 cases were filed against me on the night of 13th-14th April by sending several senior IAS officers to several mills, the draft of the cases has been prepared and sent from the office of Chief Minister and the FIR was lodged on the same line. The charge which has been levelled against me is that I have flouted the discretionary powers. I do not want to go further into this matter hence, I am urging upon you that the House may deliberate and decide as to what should be the role of the opposition in a democracy. If any party is in power in Delhi today, it may be in opposition in some other state. Partymen of those who are presently in power at the Centre, are sitting in opposition somewhere else. Opposition always has the uppermost right to criticize the wrong doings of the Government. If an act committed is wrong in its opinion, it has the right to criticise it. The Government bear that criticism and if they rectify it, their image gets a boost. If they try to cover it up, their image gets tarnished. This is the role of the Opposition. Our colleagues exhibited some tapes at which the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh thundered the same day 12th-13th March in Delhi that she was the daughter of a dalit, she would teach a lesson to Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav and the rest of his life would be behind bars and that she would see to it that he is not able to ever come out of the jail throughout his life.

I am not afraid of going to jail. Today, there is not only the question of Uttar Pradesh, Mr. Speaker, Sir, you also had been the Chief Minister. There are several Ex-Chief Ministers and Ex-Prime Ministers present here. If this practice of taking revenge would continue, the spirit of democracy would come to an end. I am giving the example of UP since the year 1980 till date, not a single Chief Minister or the administration or the Governor has been there, regarding which the CAG has not made observations. You please go through the entire text. Cases have been filed against me and thousands of my followers by threatening in this manner with a sense of vengeance. I am showing you that only residents of Allahabad have

protested against filing cases against Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav. When they did not find any person, they filed cases against twelve of our leaders, under the Special Act of 1932, including Shri Dharamraj Patel, MP, two persons Shri Jawahar Singh and Jokhlal have been MLA for two terms and both of them are party chairmen of the party's urban and rural wings and sixty other cases have been filed. Thousands of fake cases are being filed and people are being sent to jail. Managers of several institutions and offices are also among them. In the same way, it has been stated regarding Shri Amar Singh that she would arrest him from every corner of the world and put him behind the bars. If this trend is allowed to continue, no Chief Minister, no Governor and no Prime Minister would be spared after he/she demits his/her duties, cases will be filed against him/her and he/she will be jailed. Conventions are not being followed. Today, democracy is in danger. The House has to decide as to what should be the role of the opposition in democracy. I do not want to dwell much on it. I just want to request you for upholding the conventions. You, are an experienced person. You have been Chief Minister. Mr. Speaker, Sir, I request you to intervene and you, yourself, hon. Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister, Shri Chandrasekhar, Shri Somnath Chatterjee and hon. leader of opposition, Smt. Sonia Gandhiji, Shri Sharad Pawar, Shri Vijay Kumar Malhotra, should decide the matter unanimously. We are not criminals. Although we have never in our life been afraid of going to jail. You can go through my record to find as to how many times I have been sent to jail but we do not like to politicize it. Our colleagues and followers are thinking that putting Mulayam Singh behind the bar would lead to increase in our votes. But today the question is not for votes, the issue is to save democracy and the role of the opposition. So we request the House to deliberate upon the issue and we will follow whatever is decided by all these leaders.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, we seek your intervention. We will suggest our colleagues not to make an uproar nor to get the House adjourned. It is easy for us to get the House adjourned but we want that politicians across the country may think over it seriously. So we request for your intervention. I appeal and request all the leaders of the House that the danger is not small. The question is of determining the role of opposition in democracy. So, we desire you to think seriously and intervene in the matter.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR (Ballia, U.P.): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I visited Uttar Pradesh twice during the last several days and have come back from Lucknow today.

The situation in Uttar Pradesh is not normal. I met the Prime Minister and briefed him that if the conditions prevailing in Uttar Pradesh are not tackled in time, that may lead to civil war. I would not like to say, who is at fault and who is not but we feel very sad and ashamed for the way the government is being run there and the language being used there. Some people handed to me a paper, which I would not like to bring before you. One of the senior police officers named about 150 people and directed that all the concerned Superintendents of Police must frame cases against them and action will be taken against those SPs who will not frame such cases. Is this the way to run the country or build it? I would not like to mention the statements being given. The Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh uses so derogatory language not only against Shri Amar Singh, Shri Mulayam Singh, Shri Akhilesh Singh but also against their parents, their family, their supporters, that I am afraid how long she will be able to enjoy the support of my friend Shri Khurana and Malhotra who talk about cultural nationalism.

I discussed it with the leaders of BJP. Yesterday I also had a talk. Before this I had a talk with the leaders of the Centre and it was unanimously accepted that if immediate action is not taken the condition of Uttar Pradesh will get worse. Mr. Mulayam Singh ji is also not too gentle not to retaliate but I am surprised at the patience, displayed by him and his followers so far and I cannot help congratulating him for that.

150 legal suits to be initiated against Mulayam Singh and that too followed by her explicit assertion that she will incarcerate them. Legal suit is being initiated against Amar Singh. The matter was discussed here till it was in regard to Raja Bhaiya, but now the police are intimidating his family, his wife and even beating his livestock. There is one Shri Jaswant Singh, known to me since his childhood. He is not a member of their party but he is their supporter. Legal suit was filed against him, but the court ordered that the case was not sustainable. Initiating another suit against him, orders were given that he be arrested from, wherever he is found. How long will all these things go? I would like to make a humble submission to Shri Mulayam Singh ji and Leader of the Opposition that I don't know why the people in the ruling party consider themselves to be safe by this alignment. These parties have provided opportunity to these people to advance and we are bearing the brunt. As you sow so shall you reap. The way, Bahujan Samaj Party and its leaders were made to advance was not good. It was said that it was being done for the interest of dalits, but actually it is not in their interest. I think that ill fate being

conjured up for the dalits. There will be a civil war. I do not know the number of the people likely to be killed or murdered in the impending civil war.

My friend Shri Ajit Singh is present here. He knows better that it will not be possible to maintain peace in his area. It does not concern only with a single area. The whole of Uttar Pradesh is sitting on the verge of conflagration. The officers whether IAS or IPS but honest do not like to serve in Uttar Pradesh. The hon'ble Home Minister is not here to tell the number of applications he receives daily from officers in UP requesting for transfer from UP to Delhi. One or more officers daily visit me and request to get him/them relieved from UP. In that state today it is said with a great deal of stress as to who should be entrusted with the task of enquiry.

it is said that no enquiry should be assigned to any Kshatriya, Yadav or a Muslim as they are the supporters of the Mulayam Singh—how the country, the Government can be run in this way? Why the Government of UP keeps silence, why the Central Government keeps mum and why the BJP leaders in Delhi are silent? The BJP leaders in UP are acquainted with the conditions of UP and daily accept the seriousness of the situation. They daily ask for decision to be action. They are daily organising meetings but the decision lies with the Government, but the great peril, originating from the decision, will surely affect the other parts. You must also remember, it has been said here also that Shinde is not a dalit, a true dalit should be sworn in as the Chief Minister in that state. What does all this mean? What would it indicate? You can understand if such language is used more and more, anything can happen in this country but there will be no democracy, no peace and no place for civilized society.

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): Mr. Speaker Sir, first of all, on behalf of our Party, I would like to share the concern and agony expressed by the honourable leader of the Samajwadi Party, Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav, and the former Prime Minister, Shri Chandra Shekhar.

We have been watching the developments of Uttar Pradesh for the last three to four weeks. It is not only causing concern to a particular leader or a particular party but also to the entire system of administration, standing in public life and responsibilities conferred, offered and referred to by the distinguished leaders from time to

time in their constitutional office, be it the Chief Minister or the Governor. After having read the newspaper, it is more shocking to me that the institutional office of the Governor who relinquished his office and also the person are tried to be booked in such a manner.

Sir, what happened during the last few days to senior leaders like Mulayam Singh Yadav and others can happen to any one of us tomorrow. The reign of terror, threatening the Constitutional machinery, violating all sanity, cultural, political and moral understanding of our democratic functioning in the country, especially towards Opposition, is a shocking revelation. Therefore, Sir, I join with agony and anguish, and appeal to you that such kind of things should not only be discouraged, but should also be collectively condemned. We should not encourage this trend.

I recall, Sir, that in this House—with great humility I can say—when I entered in the 13th Lok Sabha, in the process of political persecution, we have landed ourselves to a peculiar situation. Even the name of the former Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi, who is dead, was also brought in the charge-sheet in the second column. I was surprised why this kind of scoring game was going on.

Today, what has happened in Uttar Pradesh—I am sorry, the bell is ringing—is just to hit all those who raise the voice of dissent against the establishment. They misused all kinds of laws in the country. It may happen to him today, it may happen to you also tomorrow. Therefore, Sir, we totally disapprove this method. We condemn it and we hope, wisdom will prevail in Uttar Pradesh administration not to repeat and not to refer this matter any further.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): Mr. Speaker Sir, I fully endorse with all humility and seriousness what is being placed before this august House on the functioning of the parliamentary democracy which our forefathers, who were the constitution-makers, had chosen after a very in-depth study of the systems of governance in the country.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the only thing which strikes us is that the present Chief Minister—if I am not mistaken—is in position for nearly one year and this sudden spate of cases is very proximately instituted after disclosure of some threats. Therefore, there is a question of revenge, not a question of enforcement of any law or legal system or punishing a person for committing an offence.

Sir, this is a clear case of revenge by instituting false cases. Let us take it that the basis for the cases at this hour shows a scant respect for the system of democracy that our Constitution-makers have evolved for us.

Sir, Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav is highly respected; everyone in this House is highly respected. With your experience, not only in this august Chair but also as the hon. Chief Minister of Maharashtra, one of the foremost States in our country, I am sure, in your experience you will be able to guide us as to how we should resolve this, how a policy or politics of revenge should be given up. We should go on. There are so many problems in the country. There are problems of poverty, problems of illiteracy and problems of unemployment. Those should get priority over this question of revengeful attitude in politics.

Therefore, Sir, I leave it to all the leaders to find out a solution. We shall certainly cooperate in any manner that is possible for the purpose of evolving, if necessary, a code of conduct.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN (Hajipur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, today many political parties are in power in various states of the country. One or the other party is either in power or in opposition in states. Same is true about Delhi also. It is not limited to UP only. Chandra Shekhar ji has just put forth his views. Shri Jaswant Singh, member of my party was formerly a Minister and now the Chairman of parliamentary board. He and his family are being harassed like anything. Shri Dhananjaya Singh, another member of my party, also have been put behind the bars. I fail to understand where all these will lead the country to.

The whole matter relates to discretionary fund. The Prime Minister also have a discretionary fund. We write letters to him. He looks at the problems of the people and resolve them through his discretionary quota.

If any other Government assumes power tomorrow and it starts opening up cases against the Hon'ble Prime Minister, then how far will it be proper? Till today, this has been the tradition of this House. Let alone the Hon. Prime Minister, if a Minister gives something beyond his discretionary quota and when other minister comes in his place, he does not go into these things unnecessarily till a question is raised against him in the House. To rake up the past issues like this, I think, it poses danger to

the democracy. I said the other day also, we should learn a lesson from Iraq, whatever is happening in Iraq, the matter is not limited to that only, the activities taking place in our neighbouring countries also we should keep a watch on that also.

Sir, I want to say that only BSP or Mayawati ji is not the only spokesman of dalits and nor is she the only leader of dalits. She is not going to get even two seats outside Uttar Pradesh. In Himachal Pradesh, Scheduled Castes constitute 27 percent of population and her party's candidates have not secured more than 900 or 1000 votes in any of seats. Therefore, we should keep this in mind that her taking up the cudgels in Maharashtra will not prevent Shindeji from emerging as the leader of the dalits, nor she will replace him as the dalit leader. All such talks or thinking is hogwash. We are not concerned about it nor the dalits are so foolish. They know everything. The statement on TV. about Uttar Pradesh, that entire matter is not related to development. Democracy is being made to suffer there in order to wreck vengeance on the political rivals. I want to tell the BJP people that I read the statement of Shri Kalraj Mishra yesterday and I have also read the statement of Rajnath Singhji and I have also gone through the statements made by so many leaders of Delhi, despite that, just in order to hang on to power, with the uncertainty of getting votes in future, they are posing danger to democracy there that way. Malhotraji this is a very dangerous game. Don't try to play with fire. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI ASHOK KUMAR SINGH CHANDEL (Hamirpur, U.P.): What had you been doing till the other day? ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: That is why I left. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: I am sitting here. I will go through the subject. After that I am going to allow Rashid Alvi.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: I am telling it to the BJP people. Jaswant Singh was in the BSP earlier and had been a Minister. If something untoward happens to them, then nobody is likely to come to their rescue. Everyone of us know about the kind of the life, 90 percent MLAs or MPs of her party are leading. So kindly do not give so much protection to such elements.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to say that this matter does not concern any party or does the matter concern the Government. It is rather a matter of principle and the

BJP is supporting the Government there. You cannot get away from this thing tomorrow. Therefore, you need to think over it, they do not have to think more.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Hon. Members have expressed concern about the situation in Uttar Pradesh. Democracy is really in danger there. They are acting with a feeling of revenge. The Allahabad High Court has commented that there is no rule of law there. They are trying to implicate persons in cases which are several years old. Had the court not intervened, perhaps Mulayam Singh ji and Amar Singhji would not have been present in the House. Therefore, it becomes the responsibility of the Central Government to see that the democracy is saved in the country. Together they are trying to trample upon the opposition. This House will not remain a silent spectator to it. We have established democratic set up by sacrificing lakhs of lives. No Government can trample upon the opposition forcibly. And we accept this challenge.

If the tussel continues like this, you are bound to eat the humble pie and public will throw you out. NDA people know what is happening there. Do they have no responsibility? What for the Article 335 is? Breach of constitutional provisions is taking place there to the hilt. The questions are being raised repeatedly:

"Keshav Kahin na jat kya kahiye,
Dekhat Srishti rachna vichitra ati
Samjhi man hi man rahiye."

Therefore, Sir, you should think over it. You are the sentinel and protector of the democracy and also you are the guardian of this House. The House should be aware of the incidents taking place there and the Government should take action so that democracy is strengthened in the country, the opposition is not suppressed and the constitutional propriety is upheld and otherwise such Government should be made to exit for which we have already started the work.

SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI (Bijnor): What is happening in Bihar?

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Democracy took birth in Bihar—"Vaishali jan ka pratipalaka, gan ka adi vidhata, jise khojta desh, oos prajatantra ki mata, ruko pathik, ek shan miti ka sis navao, rajsidhiyon ki samadhi par phool chandate jao. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : We are not discussing about Bihar here.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: When the discussion is going on in the right manner. Why do you spoil it?

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): Sir, we are discussing a very serious issue. I hope that the peace with which the Hon. Member sput forward their views and we listened to them, kindly listen to our views also. We should think over very seriously as to whether action be taken against anyone out of political rivalry? If a Government changes and after its departure, taking action against the people of that Government without any reason, this is not justified and this should not be so. A party is ruling in 14 States of the country at present and in some states, other parties Governments are in place. I agree to the point if it starts happening that whosoever the new Chief Minister be comes, starts taking action against the people of the previous Government, in such circumstances it would be difficult to run the country. It is true and there cannot be two opinions about that. All the big leaders should sit together and formulate a code of conduct or such sort of a thing as Sonia ji had also said that.

[English]

we decide our stand according to the place we sit.

[Translation]

We say one thing when we sit in opposition and we say another thing when we are in the Government. This is not a good thing. Did the Chief Minister of Punjab not indulge in the witch hunting? The day one when he became the Chief Minister of Punjab, he ordered an inquiry against the Ministers and the MLAs of the previous Government. ...*(Interruptions)* I am not preventing you from speaking. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI J.S. BRAR (Faridkot): The former Ministers of Punjab belonging to Akali Dal are in jails and cases have been filed against them. Drawing a parallel of this case with that of Punjab is unjustified.

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: He announced on the very first day that we would arrest the former Chief Minister, Badal Sahib, wherever he might be. He was making a statement of his arrest daily. Why did any member of Congress not speak at that time? At that time also I had said if this practice in adopted. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI J.S. BRAR: There is a Constitution in this country. If Badal Sahib acquired property in all the states,

the Chief Minister of the concerned State would inquire into that, what is wrong in that. ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: He has made such statements twenty times. He also said that he would also arrest all the ministers of BJP. This is wrong in principle. If there is a corruption case against someone, get him arrested or if there is some other matter, then a specific case should be framed against him. Generalising the things and saying that inquiry would be conducted against all people and a total inquiry would be conducted, this is not the way of doing it. This is not the way. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You can speak only when you are given a chance.

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: When he started saying that, I had said that time also and I want to reiterate it that the manner in which he been functioning in Punjab, is not in good taste. He should not have behaved like that. That is wrong in principle too. If the Central Government initiates action against all the members of Opposition, as is being done in Punjab, how they will feel. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI J.S. BRAR: If they loot the country, should an inquiry be not conducted into that. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Brarji, please take you seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY (Miryalguda): Mr. Speaker, Sir, he is trying to divert the attention of the House and dilute the gravity of the issue. You kindly ask him to focus on this issue. If he is talking of Punjab, then we can also talk of so many other things.

MR. SPEAKER: You are right.

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, will such practice would be adopted in the entire county? Hon. Chandra Shekhar ji has rightly said that if this goes on in the country and the country is not run as per the law of the land, do we want a civil war in the country or what do we want, we should think seriously over it. If lathis soaked heavily in oil are glossed and they are asked to take their lathis and go out and repulse and kill

the BJP people. And how far shouting of such slogans is justified. Sir, this should be applicable to one and all uniformly. This should not happen that we decide something for someone and other people are doing what they wish. On the one hand, long swords are being distributed in Delhi and people are being arrested and lodged in jails just for distributing tridents of some inches, on the other. How can both these two things go together. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we are not discussing about Shri Praveen Togadia. We are discussing about the situation in Uttar Pradesh. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I agree to what Somnathji said. I agree with him but I would like to ask him that preventing 20 thousand people from filing nominations with the help of police, by not letting them file nominations and then saying that it is alright—can the democracy run like this?

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hooghly): The Parliament should not be misled like this. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Rupchand Pal, please take your seat.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Please keep silence in the House.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I agree to the suggestion he has given and that is the Hon. Prime Minister should call a meeting of all the big leaders and discuss on this issue as to how a Chief Minister should function in his or her State. If a code of conduct is formulated in this regard, that would be better.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: A number of Members have given their names to speak on this issue, but there is a time

limit I have to go to the Question Hour also. I have given half-an-hour for this subject. Shri Rashid Alvi will be the last speaker on this issue.

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA (Kanakpura): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to make a submission.

MR. SPEAKER: Do you want to speak on this issue?

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA: Yes.

MR. SPEAKER: All right.

SHRI E. AHAMED (Manjeri): Mr. Speaker, Sir, two of my party colleagues have been arrested under the provisions of the National Security Act. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: I am not going to take up any other issue except the issue of cases against Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing should go on record except what Shri Rashid Alvi says.

...(*Interruptions*)*

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: I will not allow discussion on any other issue of the whole country.

[*English*]

That subject is coming up separately before the House.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI RASHID ALVI (Amroha): Mr. Speaker, Sir, as quick attentively....(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI E. AHAMED: Mr. Speaker, Sir, my party colleagues were participating in an anti-war demonstration, but they have been arrested under the provisions of NSA. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: You can raise that issue under some other provision.

*Not recorded.

[Translation]

SHRI RASHID ALVI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, before I start my speech, I would request that just as we have listened to all quite attentively, I must be listened to in the same way. If anybody has to say something he can do so after I conclude.

MR. SPEAKER: If I permit, one can do so.

SHRI RASHID ALVI: Yes, Sir, if you so permit.

MR. SPEAKER: If you give a ruling, it would be difficult for me.

SHRI RASHID ALVI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I see that this is for the first time that what somebody has spoken in a public meeting is being discussed in this House. Mayawati ji said in Maharashtra that a dalit should be the Chief Minister there. Should she say that such and such person should become the Chief Minister?

Paswanji has just wondered whether rallies would be discussed in the House. In your party, speak whatever you want to speak. I never said in the House what Paswanji spoke in his rally. Are you authorized to say anything?

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: I did not refer to the rally.

SHRI RASHID ALVI: Without taking any names you nonetheless spoke of the same. And so far as the politics of revenge in UP is concerned, it is being said that unconstitutional things are taking place there. Shri Mulayam Singhji himself has just said that there is no Chief Minister or Prime Minister who takes a decision after going through the rules. This means that rules have been bent, how does it amount to something unconstitutional? Touching of wounds on your body causes pain. You can see in this House, you are taking of UP only, if anybody talks of West Bengal, the people on the other side rise to say that alleged happenings are not taking place there, if, anything is said about Punjab, the people from Punjab say that it is not the case with Punjab. Uttar Pradesh is not the only state about which you are talking in this way. I have the complete file which the UP Chief Minister has sent to use. I do not want to go in detail because Shri Mulayam Singhji himself has admitted in the House that decisions are not taken as per rules. If you expect the UP Chief Minister Mayawatiji also to work blindly without consulting the rules, it is not possible at least in her case. What the previous

Chief Ministers did, I do not know, but I, on behalf of my party and my Chief Minister, assure the House that nothing illegal would be allowed to happen in Uttar Pradesh. The Government is not going to take a decision to arrest Mulayam Singhji even after his display of feeling of vengeance in the Talkatora Hall with sword in his hand. We have nothing to do with that. I assure this House that nothing will happen in UP out of a feeling of revenge. Everything will be done as per the court's verdict. If the court orders for arrest, arrest will be made and if the court does not order for arrest it will not be made. I think there cannot be anything more democratic than this in India.

India has witnessed so many political arrests—from Smt. Indira Gandhi to Shri Vaiko. Did anyone speak anything? Shri Vaiko is still under arrest. Is this not unconstitutional? Nothing unconstitutional has happened in Uttar Pradesh. Only one thing has happened in the state that for the first time during the last 54 years a dalit's daughter is ruling the state strongly. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: This is true that she is the daughter of a dalit.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RASHID ALVI: I do admit that it pains when one gets injured or hurt. I do not want to stretch the wounds because it will hurt and neither you or I will be able to see the bleeding wounds. I have the file but I do not want to stretch the wounds in this House.

In the end I would like to say this much and assure the Samajwadi Party that nothing unconstitutional would take place in the State. Nothing will be done against the law. You need not be afraid. You can remain there without any fear. Those who are breaking the law or have broken the law, can indeed be afraid. The law will take its course in Uttar Pradesh and whatever will be decided will have the court's consent and nothing will be done without the consent of the court. ...*(Interruptions)*

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH (Maharajganj, UP): Mr. Speaker, Sir, my life is under threat. I have given a notice in this regard. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL (Kanpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is another issue also. Crores of weavers in the whole country have been rendered unemployed or are starving due to excise duty imposed by the Government. There is no provision for them. You give a ruling and allow a discussion on that.

MR. SPEAKER: There were so many Adjournment Motions before me and I cannot allow discussion on every Adjournment motion. But discussion is going on in this House on the Adjournment Motion with regard to Mulayam Singhji.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Askhileshji, you sit down.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajganj, Bihar): I also have given notice for the Zero Hour on the same issue. If it is being discussed, give time to me also.
...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have not refused you. Be in your seat. If you got angry like this, what can I do? If there is another reason for that; please come inside and tell me. See, the matter is that this issue has been discussed well. Hon. members have put forth their views. Shri Rashid Alviji of the BSP has put forth his view here. I don't think this issue needs further discussion, but Khaireji and Prabhunath Singhji are raising their hands repeatedly. I am giving one minute's time to each of you and after concluding this issue I will take up another one. I will certainly give time to Shri Deve Gowdaji. He will speak in the end.

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE (Aurangabad, Maharashtra): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the politics of revenge gives rise to a very critical situation and that is what is happening in Uttar Pradesh. As incharge of Shiv Sena in UP I visited the state on the 17th. I saw there, as I already know, that 137 cases have been filed against Mulayam Singhji. I reminded them that during the regime of Indiraji, Emergency was clamped, then the Janta Party took over and formed their Government and the Janta Party wasted all their time in the affairs relating to Indira Gandhi. And two and half a year later, the Janta Party Government also collapsed. So all this will not do in our country.

Hon. Malhotraji said that a code should be evolved for that in consultation with the leaders of all the parties. One of our Shiv Sainiks of Kanpur was killed under police custody and there have been attacks on many Shiv Sainiks there. When as in-charge of Uttar Pradesh, I visited Ayodhya in order to have a darshan of Ramji, was sit improper for me to chant the name of Ramji? I would tell Mulayam Singhji that FIR was lodged against me also. This is very bad. Being Shiv Sainiks we will tackle it, ...(Interruptions) This relates to the day before yesterday. I am not talking of the Ram Mandir. FIR was

lodged against all the Shiv Sainiks and state in-charges who were with me. We are not going to get intimidated by this. We have to take up many cases for the sake of Hindutva. I have given a notice for the Zero Hour with regard to what they have said about the Hindu Gods and Goddesses. Our friends are bound to side with me, if they do not speak, I will do that because we are here to speak in support of Hindutva. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Uttar Pradesh is our neighbouring state. Each and every incident there is reported to us as we have our relations there. I would like to conclude in two minutes only by associating myself with the facts presented by Hon. Mulayam Singhji and Chandra Shekharji. As regards the things happening in Uttar Pradesh, the people of the country have already started nurturing doubts about the politicians. As a result of the misdeeds of the UP Chief Minister, each and every politician has become suspect in the eyes of the whole country. Moreover, her remarks about the Hindu Gods and Goddesses have also hurt the sentiments of a particular segment of society. Mr. Speaker, Sir, POTA has been enacted for the terrorists who may spread terror in the country. So we take for granted that* so if this law is to be used it should be used against them only.

SHRI RASHID ALVI: Will such things be allowed to be said?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I remove that sentence from the proceedings.

[Translation]

SHRI RASHID ALVI: Will there be a discussion on the cassettes? ...(Interruptions) Impeachment proceedings were initiated against Nixon. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down.

[English]

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA: Hon. Speaker, Sir, the issue which has been raised by our colleague, and the former Defence Minister, Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav is not an issue of any one political party, but it is an issue to be considered by the entire House.

Sir, he was the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh during 1993-94. Afterwards, several Chief Ministers came to power in Uttar Pradesh, including Kumari Mayawati.

*Expunged as order by the Chair.

Subsequently, BJP ruled this State. After a lapse of ten years, the police machinery has been used to destroy her political opponents. Sir, if it is done, the whole system will collapse. I am sorry to say this. We can quote instances after instances of the past which have happened in various States. That is not the issue. After a lapse of 10 years, taking some pretext of the rules framed changes—I do not want to question the merits and demerits—now 140 cases have been filed against Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav, after four or five Chief Ministers have come to power and gone. This clearly shows that this is to destroy Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav, who is her political opponent. There is no iota of suspicion in my mind. I do not want to attribute motives. This matter has to be looked into by the entire House. Enough is enough. We can quote several instances in the past. I would request the Prime Minister that, at least, under his Prime Ministership, this should not be done. Shri Vinay Katiyar has condemned this. He expressed his concern about the whole event. I have read it in the newspapers about filing of 140 cases against Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav.

I would request the Prime Minister to convene a meeting of the senior leaders of all political parties, and evolve a code of conduct. Political parties may come to power and go. Nobody is going to be permanent in that seat. But, at least, we must evolve a code of conduct to save our system, so that the democratic system could survive in this country.

[Translation]

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: Sir, I appeal to all the political parties and would like to submit a few points. I have heard the views of all the hon. Members carefully and I request them to listen to me attentively. There is need to take decision in pursuance of whatever has been discussed here by the leaders of political parties so that we come to know the views of each leader of political parties and what should be done to strengthen democracy in each state. I agree with Shri Malhotraji and subscribe to his views.

If anybody has to say something, he can say so without discriminating between the States be he from U.P., Rajasthan, Punjab or the state of which I belong. We the people in politics have great respect for Mulayam Singhji. There are many leaders who command such respect. Political and ideological differences are common in politics. There may be difference in political outlook, political attitude, but if somebody thinks that he/she is in power and so he/she can banish the opposition from the state, burn it or do away with democracy, it is not possible.

[English]

That is why I want Centre's intervention in this regard, especially in my state also. What is happening there?

[Translation]

I appeal to the leaders of all the political parties and say that in the event of grass-root level elections in any of our states, on 40 per cent seats no party allows any women to file her nomination with the help of the police and the cadre. when an ST woman went to file her nomination papers in Jangipur, district Hoogly, she was paraded naked. ...*(Interruptions)* She was not allowed to fill her nomination. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hoogly): There are false and baseless charges. She can go to any place and prove them. I challenge her. She is misleading the House. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Only Kumari Mamata Banerjee's statement is going on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE (Calcutta South): I am not misleading the House. ...*(Interruptions)* I do have a stand about UP.

[English]

We will apply the same stand for West Bengal. We will apply the same stand for Maharashtra. We will apply the same stand for other states. Here they say something but whenever they are in power, they will do something else. That double standard game should be stopped. That hypocrisy should be stopped. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hoogly): You have beaten the police. You should have been arrested but the West Bengal Government did not do it. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: Sir, what is this? ...*(Interruptions)*

*Not recorded.

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY (Calcutta North West): Sir, how can he say that she should have been arrested? ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Kumari Mamata Banerjee, please complete your statement.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: Sir, why did I raise this issue? They wanted to kill me. ...(*Interruptions*) I was in the hospital. I was about to die. They should have realised this. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

The people in the opposition always do such things. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

I was about to die. They have forgotten all these things. My full body had been choked because of them. So many times they have beaten me. They are raising the personal question. I can also raise so many personal questions. Sir, they are raising their fingers. They changed the name and father's name. ...(*Interruptions*) I can raise so many personal questions....(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: This is another issue. Please sit down. You can raise the issue again during the 'Zero Hour'. I will permit you to speak during the 'Zero Hour'.

...(*Interruptions*)

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: Sir, I did not disturb anyone. ...(*Interruptions*) Please allow me to speak.

MR. SPEAKER: Let her complete her statement.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): Sir, I have been quietly listening to all these things. There must be some limit. We totally deny all these. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY: Sir, he may deny. Let her be allowed to speak. ...(*Interruptions*)

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: Sir, I am giving you all the Press cuttings which appeared in my State's and in the national media. The Press and the Media have written about it. All the documents are there. ...(*Interruptions*) I am telling you that for more than 40 per cent seats, they did not allow us. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI ANIL BASU (Arambagh): They could not get any candidate. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Kumari Mamata Banerjee, you can raise the issue during the 'Zero Hour' again.

...(*Interruptions*)

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: Sir, I request you to allow me to speak. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: I have to go to the Questions now. After the Question Hour, I will permit you.

Q. No. 422. Prof. Ummareddy Venkateswarlu—*Not present.*

[*Translation*]

SHRI SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL (Kanpur): Sir, please give me a chance to speak. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: I will allow you to speak during Zero Hour.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL: Sir, crores of weavers are unemployed and facing starvation. ...(*Interruptions*) You must allow me to speak.

MR. SPEAKER: I will allow you to speak during Zero Hour.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN (Hajipur): Mr. Speaker Sir, what is the ruling in this regard?

[*English*]

What is your ruling on this? You heard every leader, but what is your ruling on this?

MR. SPEAKER: The Members have requested the Prime Minister to hold a meeting on the issue. It is for the Prime Minister to take a decision.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: All the notices have been refused.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: I will certainly allow you.

Dr. Baliram.

11.56 hrs.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Supervision of Experiments on Animals

*422. DR. BALIRAM:
PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU:

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

- (a) the details of the Committee re-constituted for supervision of experiments on animals;
- (b) the guidelines set for good laboratory practices;
- (c) the procedure involved in getting the animal houses registered with the Government under new dispensation alongwith the number of such applications pending clearance;
- (d) the details of deliberations of the meeting held by the said Committee on February 15, 2003;
- (e) whether a conference on alternatives to the use of animals in research and education work has been held at New Delhi recently;
- (f) if so, the details of the issues discussed therein alongwith the outcome thereof;
- (g) whether the Government propose to amend certain laws meant for prevention of cruelty to animals and birds; and
- (h) if so, the details indicating the efforts made by the Government towards prevention of testing on animals and birds in research and education work?

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

Statement

(a) The Committee for the Purpose of Control and Supervision of Experiments on Animals (CPCSEA) was reconstituted on 10th January, 2003, comprising 18

members with Special Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forests as Chairperson, and representatives from the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Department of Biotechnology, Director General, Indian Council of Medical Research, Drug Controller General of India, Heads of premier scientific institutes and representatives from reputed Non-Government Organizations working for Animal Welfare as members. The list of members is appended as Annexure.

(b) CPCSEA has formulated guidelines for laboratory animal facilities, in order to ensure maintenance of quality and safety and humane treatment of animals used in biomedical research and testing of products.

(c) Under rule 5 of the Breeding of and Experiments on Animals (Control and Supervision) Rules, 1998, as amended in 2001, application for registration is to be made in the specified format to the Member-Secretary or any other officer authorised in this regard by the committee, who upon satisfying himself about the facts mentioned in the application, shall register such establishment or breeder. At present, 22 applications for registration are pending for clearance.

(d) CPCSEA in its meeting held on 15th February, 2003, discussed a number of issues. The major ones related to examining the functioning of the Sub-Committee on Large Animals (SCLA), progress of changing over to production of Tissue Culture Anti Rabies Vaccine (TCARV), relaxing the upper age of horses used for the production of Anti Snake Venom Serum (ASVS), drawing up norms for selection of CPCSEA's nominees on Institutional Animals Ethics Committee (IAEC) and for inspection Animal Houses, aspects relating to import of animals for experimentation etc.

(e) and (f) Yes, Sir. The Conference on Alternatives to the Use of Animals in Research and Education focused attention on the concepts of Reduction, Refinement and Replacement in the use of animals in research and education in India. The Conference has resulted in creating greater awareness amongst the Indian Scientific community engaged in experimentation on animals about the global trends in this field.

(g) No, Sir.

(h) Does not arise.

Annexure

List of Members of reconstituted Committee for the Purpose of Control and Supervision of Experiments on Animals (CPCSEA) as on 10.1.2003

1.	Special Secretary, Ministry of Environment & Forests, CGO Complex, Lodhi Road, New Delhi	Chairperson/Member
2.	Nominee, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Nirman Bhawan, New Delhi	Member
3.	Nominee, Department of Biotechnology, CGO Complex, Lodhi Road, New Delhi	Member
4.	Assistant Director General (Animal Sciences), ICAR Department of Agriculture Research & Education, New Delhi	Member
5.	Director, Indian Veterinary Research Institute, Bareilly, Uttar Pradesh	Member
6.	Vice-Chancellor, Tamil Nadu University of Veterinary and Agricultural Sciences (TANUVAS) Or his nominee, Chennai.	Member
7.	Vice-Chancellor, Maharashtra Animal & Fishery Sciences University, Or his nominee, Nagpur	Member
8.	Drug Controller General of India, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Nirman Bhavan, New Delhi	Member
9.	Director General, Indian Council of Medical Research, Ansari Nagar, New Delhi	Member
10.	Director, All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Ansari Nagar, New Delhi	Member
11.	Director, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore	Member
12.	Plant Protection Advisor, Ministry of Agriculture, New Delhi	Member
13.	Joint Secretary (Animal Welfare), Ministry of Environment & Forests, New Delhi	Member

14.	Mr. Balakrishnamurthy Director Indian Institute of Biotechnology and Toxicology (IIBAT), Chennai	Member
15.	Mr K.M. Chako, Dy. Director, Sriram Institute of Industrial Research, New Delhi	Member
16.	Ms. Norma Alvarez, People for Animals, Goa	Member
17.	Ms. Sanobar Bharaucha, Compassion Unlimited Plus Action (CUPA), Bangalore	Member
18.	Director (Animal Welfare), Ministry of Environment & Forests, New Delhi	Member Secretary

[Translation]

DR. BALIRAM : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the reply given by the hon. Minister to my question does not seem to be satisfactory. Smt. Maneka Gandhi was the Chairman of the Committee constituted for supervision of the animal related experiments, but the committee which has now been constituted has a senior IAS officer as its Chairman.

MR. SPEAKER: Ask your question quickly.

[English]

You have to ask the question quickly because there is no time. Please come to the question.

[Translation]

DR. BALIRAM: I want to know whether the politicians do not give more time than the IAS Officers. Why has a politician not been made its Chairman?

[English]

SHRI T.R. BAALU: Sir, previously, Shrimati Maneka Gandhi was holding the portfolio of Animal Welfare. By virtue of her position as Minister, she was possessing the Chairmanship. After demitting of office by her, this was reconstituted. A Special Secretary has been appointed as the Chairman of this particular Board. It is not necessary that the Minister or a political person should be in-charge of that body.

[Translation]

DR. BALIRAM: My second question is whether animal laboratories started by the medicine companies such as Dr. Reddy, Nicholson Pirmal, Ranbaxy, Cipla etc. fulfill the norms presented by the Government. If not, the reasons therefor?

[English]

SHRI T.R. BAALU: Any institution, for that matter, has to constitute an eight-member Ethics Committee wherein scientific persons will be there, NGOs will be there and one of the members from CPCSEA will be there. They are going to constitute this Ethics Committee and it will go into the question of experiments on animals.

Drought Affected States

+
*423. DR. MANDA JAGANNATH:
SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have announced recently additional assistance from National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF) and allocation of foodgrains to drought affected States;

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

(c) the existing norms for allocation of foodgrains and assistance for the said States;

(d) the extent of increase between the earlier and the revised norms State-wise; and

(e) by when it is likely to be released?

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

Statement

(a) to (e) The following are the details of sanction of additional assistance (announced in March, 2003) from the National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF) and the

recent allocations of foodgrains (April to June for other States and February to July in case of Rajasthan):

State	Amount approved subject to adjustment of Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) (Rs. Crore)	Amount released from NCCF after adjustment (Rs. Crore)	Foodgrain allocated for April to June (Lakh MT)
Andhra Pradesh	224.43	109.79	10.00
Chhattisgarh	61.89	45.99	3.00
Gujarat	150.29	—	1.48
Himachal Pradesh	25.67	0.50	—
Karnataka	61.63	18.47	3.00
Kerala	—	—	0.42
Madhya Pradesh	75.99	39.73	4.00
Maharashtra	46.50	—	1.16
Orissa	61.58	—	3.33
Rajasthan	682.35	622.44	21.00
Tamil Nadu	258.44	199.03	3.00
Total	1648.77	1035.95	50.39

The financial allocations are based on prescribed norms of assistance from CRF and NCCF (copy enclosed as Annexure). The additional financial assistance is on account of the continuing requirements of the States, and the question, therefore, of State-wise increase as a result of revision of norms does not arise.

Allocation of foodgrains has been made in case of Rajasthan to ensure coverage of one individual each from every willing rural household in 74 acutely affected Blocks and to a majority of such households, including all willing

BPL families in the remaining Blocks. For other States allocation for the quarter April to June are based on assessment of employment generation carried out by the Area Officers and the Inter-Ministerial Teams sent to these States. These assessments have resulted in additional allocation of 30.56 lakhs MTs to the States over and above what was due as per earlier assessment.

The amounts due after adjustment of Calamity Relief Fund have already been released.

Annexure**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
I. 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 hospitalization 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- $\frac{1}{3}$ % 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 —Rs. 2500 per hectare in area with assured irrigation
	(ii) Perennial crops	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

1	2	3
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
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 — Dugout-Canoe — Catamaran — Nets	The cost of boats will also be determined with reference to approved cost under SGSY
	(b) Input subsidy for fish seed farm	Rs. 2,000 per hectare
7.	Assistance to artisans in handicrafts sectors 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

1	2	3
8.	Assistance for repair/restoration of damaged houses	
(a)	Fully damaged houses	
	(i) Pucca House	Rs. 10,000 per house
	(ii) Kuccha House	Rs. 6,000 per house
(b)	Severely damaged houses	
	(i) Pucca House	Rs. 2,000 per house
	(ii) Kuccha House	Rs. 1,200 per house
(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 & saving life	—do—
14.	Provision for temporary accommodations, 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 areas	—do—
21.	Cost of search and rescue measures	—
22.	Disposal of dead bodies/carcasses	—do—
23.	Training to core multi-disciplinary groups of the State Officers drawn from different cadres—expenditure to be met from CRF	

NCCM—National Centre for Calamity Management

NCCF—National Calamity Contingency Fund

POL—Petrol, Oil and Lubricants

DR. MANDA JAGANNATH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the answer given by the hon. Minister is not convincing. It is contradictory otherwise. In his answer, he says, 'the financial allocations are based on prescribed norms of assistance from CRF and NCCF. The additional financial assistance is on account of the continuing requirements of the States, and the question, therefore, of State-wise increase as a result of revision of norms does not arise.' There is a guideline.

MR. SPEAKER: You put a straight question. There is no time. Otherwise, the Question Hour will be over.

DR. MANDA JAGANNATH: My question is, if the States are not given assistance as per the revised norms, what is the mechanism the Government of India has got to give the additional assistance to the drought-affected States?

SHRI AJIT SINGH: The question seems to be how the norms are set and how the Government follows this. The norms were set by the Eleventh Finance Commission. Because of the severe drought, this year the Government has relaxed many of the norms. The Task Force set up has looked at the norms and, wherever necessary, relaxed some of the norms. For determining how much money each State can be given, a team goes from the Centre and discusses with the State officers. They submit a report here. A Committee of Secretaries looks into it. Then, finally the Task Force decides, based on the report given by the Committee of Secretaries, how much assistance can be given to the State.

DR. MANDA JAGANNATH: My supplementary question is, whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has sought further Central assistance from the National Calamity Contingency Fund to overcome the drought situation and if so, what is the action taken thereon by the Government of India?

12.00 hrs.

SHRI AJIT SINGH: For *rabi* also, because the drought is continuing in several parts of Andhra Pradesh, additional money was allotted. The team, which went there, recommended Rs. 224.43 crore for Andhra Pradesh. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI S. BANGARAPPA: How much have you given for Karnataka? How much have you given for Tamil Nadu? ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI AJIT SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, after the release was given for *khari*, ten States have sent memoranda that they have a drought situation in *rabi* also. A team from here went to all the ten States. They gave their reports and then a Committee of Secretaries met to look into the reports and finally the Task Force allotted money or foodgrains wherever necessary in all those ten States. The details are here. I can give them to hon. Members. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY: As per the forecast report of the India Meteorological Department, in the next season, the rainfall would be below normal. In view of that position, may I know from the hon. Minister whether the Government of India is taking cognizance of the forecast report? If so, I would like to know whether the Government has taken steps to provide drinking water in the drought-prone States and other parts of the country.

SHRI AJIT SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Meteorological Department this year has changed the parameters based upon which they give forecasts. They have given a forecast much earlier than they normally do and the expectation is that the South-West monsoon rainfall could be 96% of long period average (LPA) with a model error of 5% would be sixty per cent below average. But 98 per cent below is of LPA is now considered below normal.

As far as agriculture is concerned, what is more important is how this rainfall is distributed amongst regions and across time. When it rains in July, how much it rains later and in which areas it rains are more important. This forecast only gives us an overall picture. As the hon. Member pointed out, the main concern is about water because we have to know whether the reservoirs would have enough water after the rains.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[Translation]

Recommendations of Inquiry Committees

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

(a) whether his Ministry or its departments are empowered to implement the recommendations of the committees set up to inquire into the coal-mines accidents;

(b) if so, the manner in which the public sector coal companies implemented the recommendations given by the above committees;

(c) whether his Ministry is satisfied with the performance of these coal companies regarding implementation of the recommendations; and

(d) if not, the steps taken to implement the recommendations given by the committees?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SAHIB SINGH VERMA): (a) The Government of India is empowered to appoint court of inquiries in cases of accidents under Section 24 of the Mines Act, 1952. The Directorate General of Mines Safety (DGMS) under the Ministry of Labour is vested with the power to institute prosecution in the court of law against the persons found responsible in the recommendations of the court of inquiry. The Central Government has powers to make regulations under Section 57 of the Mines Act, 1952 on recommendations of the court of inquiry. DGMS also issues circulars advising the management to comply with the recommendations.

(b) On receipt of the recommendations by Coal India Limited these are circulated to the subsidiary companies and necessary measures are taken to implement them. The status of implementation is monitored from time to time through Action Taken Reports from companies.

(c) Mining has been and continues to be a hazardous profession. With a view to prevent accidents safety measures as per the recommendations of court of inquiries are being implemented on continuous basis by the coal companies. However there is always scope for improvement.

(d) Whenever it has been found that the recommendations, circulars and directives of DGMS arising out of the recommendations of the court of inquiry are not being implemented the attention of the coal companies are being drawn for taking action in the matter in the Bi-partite and Tri-partite meetings at the highest level. These violations are also reviewed in the Conferences on safety in mines.

[English]

Development of Tourism

*425. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of tourism circuits set up during the Ninth Plan and proposed for Tenth Plan, State-wise; and

(b) the assistance earmarked by the Government for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) Twenty one travel circuits in the country were identified but no circuit was sanctioned in the Ninth Five Year Plan. A scheme for Integrated Development of Tourist Circuits has been introduced in the Tenth Five Year Plan. Development works have been sanctioned in the following 7 circuits during 2002-2003;

- (i) Vaishali-Bodhgaya-Rajgir-Nalanda-Varanasi
- (ii) Chandigarh-Kullu Manali-Lahaul/Spiti-Leh (Route I & I)
- (iii) Gwalior-Shivpuri-Chanderi-Orcha-Khajuraho-Jhansi-Bhopal-Sanchi and surrounding Buddhist areas-Bhimbetka-Pachmarhi-Kanha-Jabalpur (Bhedaghat)
- (iv) Bombay-Alibagh (Mandva)—Muradjanjira-Ganapatipule-Vijaydurg-Mithibad-Kunkeshwar-Mochetmad-Sindhudurg-Tarkarli-Shiroda-Savantwadi-Amboli-Goa-Coastal Kamataka-Bekal
- (v) Cochin-Kumarakom (Backwaters)—Kottayam-Quilon-Trivandrum (Kovalam)
- (vi) Shillong-Guwahati-Kaziranga-Tezpur-Bhalakpung-Tawant (Arunachal Pradesh)-Majuli-Sibsagar-Kohima
- (vii) Jaipur-Jodhpur-Jaisalmer-Bikaner-Shekhawati-Jaipur.

(b) An allocation of Rs. 885.00 crores for Tenth Five Year Plan has been indicated by the Planning Commission for this scheme.

[Translation]

New Varieties of Rice

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

(a) whether the Indian Agriculture Research Institute (IARI) has developed two new varieties and one hybrid variety of rice; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Indian Agricultural Research Institute has developed two rice varieties namely Pusa Sugandha-2 and Pusa Sugandha-3 and a hybrid Pusa RH-10. Pusa Sugandha-2 and Pusa Sugandha-3 are long slender scented varieties released for cultivation in Punjab, Delhi, Western Uttar Pradesh, Haryana and Uttaranchal. These varieties have an average yield of 3.5 to 4 tons/ha. and matures in about 120-130 days. Hybrid Pusa RH-10 is a superfine scented rice hybrid released for cultivation in Haryana, Delhi, Western Uttar Pradesh and Uttaranchal. It has an yield advantage of 1 to 1.5 tons/hectare over Pusa Basmati-1. It has an average yield of 5 to 5.5 tones/hectare and matures in 120-125 days.

[English]

Conference of State Agriculture Ministers

*427. SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH:
DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the resolution passed during the last Conference of the State Agriculture Ministers;

(b) whether a demand was also raised in the conference that the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) be brought under the administrative control of the Ministry of Agriculture in order to make agriculture policy more conducive to farmers; and

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

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) The resolutions passed in the Conference of the State Agriculture Ministers convened on 11th December, 2002 is given in the enclosed statement.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The suggestions of shifting of the administrative control of NABARD is being examined by the Government.

Statement

Resolutions passed on the occasion of All India Conference of State Agriculture and Cooperation Ministers held on 11th December, 2002 at Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi

After detailed deliberations in the Conference, the following resolutions were passed unanimously:

1. Agriculture credit:

- (i) That Agriculture is a priority sector but the rate of interest for agricultural loan are higher (14%-18%) compared to interest rates in the other sectors of economy. Therefore, steps be taken to reduce the rate of interest in agriculture sector to a reasonable and affordable level. There is urgent need to further simplify the procedure for lending to the farmers to make agriculture credit easily available.
- (ii) That the Reserve Bank of India should take steps to ensure that Commercial Banks achieve the stipulated target of 18% of their net bank credit to agriculture sector. A target of Rs. 7,50,000 crores has been set for agriculture credit to be disbursed during the 10th Five Year Plan. There is an immediate need to chalk out a detailed strategy and plan by the Ministry of Finance and Reserve Bank of India/NABARD in consultation with Ministry of Agriculture to achieve this target.
- (iii) That the rate of interest on re-finance by NABARD should continue to be 3% below the bank rate. Re-finance by NABARD should be increased to attain level of about 50% of the total lending by cooperative credit institutions at least for three years.
- (iv) That in view of the close link of NABARD with the agriculture and cooperatives, it should be brought under the administrative control of Ministry of Agriculture.
- (v) Primary Agriculture Credit Societies (PACS) should be converted into Mini Banks to enable them to mobilize locally available deposits and for deploying it in agriculture sector at the lower rate of interest.
- (vi) That the rehabilitation package which has been recommended to revamp the cooperative credit structure may not be suitable for most of the

States because of lack of financial resources. Therefore, it was felt that the rehabilitation package may urgently be re-examined and implemented immediately.

- (vii) That in view of the weak financial position of a large number of District Central Cooperative Banks, RBI should relax the provisions of section 11 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 (AACCS).

2. Crop Insurance:

- (i) That the premium rates of agriculture insurance should be rationalized as the existing actuarial rates are quite high.
- (ii) That the scheme should not be made compulsory for loanee farmers.
- (iii) That the proposed Agriculture Insurance Company should function under the administrative control of Ministry of Agriculture.
- (iv) That the unit area of insurance should be brought down to the village level and all crops including perennial crop should be covered under the National Agriculture Insurance Scheme (NAIS).

Representation to Workers on Board of Directors

*428. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA:
DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government propose to give workers 25% representation in the Board of Directors in the Company;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and steps taken so far in this regard;
- (c) whether many industrial organisations have opposed this move;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SAHIB SINGH VERMA): (a) and (b) The Government has not taken any decision so far to give workers 25% representation on the Board of Directors in the company.

(c) and (d) Employers' Federation of India, Karnataka Employers' Association. All India Organisation of

Employers and PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry among others have expressed the view that the representation of workers on the Board of Directors would be inappropriate. Some of the main grounds on which they have opposed the representation of workers on the Board of Directors are as follows:

- (i) An arrangement for mutual consultation for enhancing productivity does not require representation of workers on the Board of Management;
- (ii) Participation on the Board requires high level of expertise and skill;
- (iii) The code of corporate governance, as enunciated in the Listing Agreements of Stock Exchanges, requires that at least 50% of the Directors on the Board ought to be independent directors if the company has an Executive Chairman. In all other cases, the number of independent directors should be at least one-third of the total strength of the Board. If the proposed legislation is enacted, then in that event financial stakeholders may not have adequate representation on the Board. This will be not only iniquitous and that will also not represent the rights of the share-holders who are the investors and as much any such amendment as proposed will be iniquitous;
- (iv) The TISCO model which has worked for last 50 years excludes decision-making process as well as matters of confidentiality with regard to business decisions.
- (v) Pending a decision on the recommendations of Second National Commission on Labour, an isolated decision on the issue may not be correct and proper; and
- (vi) The measure is likely to affect investment and employment generation.
- (vii) It would be too early to implement the participative scheme at Board level without creating an enabling environment.
- (viii) There is a stress to bring professionals at the Board level for promoting excellence, and compulsory participation of employees at the Board level irrespective of their qualification and level of understanding would be detrimental to the interest of the company, its employees and the shareholders. No compulsory participation at the Board level should be imposed.

(ix) Keeping in view the role and responsibility of a Director under the Companies Act, the identity of the proposed Board of Management should be kept distinctly separate from the statutory Board of Directors, under the Companies Act.

(e) A view in the matter is yet to be taken.

[*Translation*]

Central Sector Scheme on Hi-Tech Horticulture

*429. SHRI RAMPAL SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to formulate a Central Sector Scheme on Hi-Tech Horticulture;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the funds provided for the purpose; and

(d) by when it is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government has formulated a Central Sector Scheme on Hi-tech Horticulture and Precision Farming for implementation during the Tenth Five Year Plan.

(b) The Scheme envisages the deployment of modern hi-tech applications like micro propagation, hi-tech nurseries, fertigation, high density planting, green food production, hi-tech green houses, hi-tech mechanization, biological control besides Precision Farming technology for improving productivity and quality of horticultural crops with judicious use of resources.

(c) An amount of Rs. 340.00 crores has been tentatively earmarked for the Scheme during the Tenth Five Year Plan.

(d) The Scheme is proposed to be implemented from the year 2003-04.

Salinity Lowering Fertility of Land

*430. PROF. DUKHA BHAGAT:
SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the salinity in the soil has lowered the fertility of land;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the efforts made by the Government to resolve the problem of salinity in soil alongwith the success achieved therein?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) The nature, characteristics and the extent of salinity affects the fertility of the land depending upon the climate, topography, surface hydrology, irrigation and cropping practices, geohydrology, ground water conditions and quality etc.

(b) As per the available estimates, an area of 50.51 lakh ha. in the country is affected by soil salinity. The State-wise distribution of saline soils in the country is given in the statement enclosed.

(c) Indian Council of Agricultural Research has established the Central Soil Salinity Research Institute, Karnal, especially to develop technologies for crop production under saline conditions as well as reclamation of saline soils in India. The Institute alongwith three Regional Stations at Canning Town, West Bengal, Anand, Gujarat and Lucknow, U.P. has developed important location specific research findings for reclamation of saline and alkaline soils as well as crop production technology under saline conditions. The research results are being used in different states for reclamation of saline soils.

A Dutch assisted Project "Haryana Operational Pilot Project for Reclamation of Waterlogged/Saline Soils" was taken up in Haryana (1994—2002). Under the project an area of 2000 ha. has been reclaimed with a total cost of Rs. 21.12 crores.

The Ministry of Rural Development is implementing 11 projects for development of waterlogged and saline waste lands under the Technology Development, Extension and Training (TDET) Scheme for treatment of 14,232 ha. in the States of Haryana, Maharashtra, Punjab, Rajasthan and Orissa at a total project cost of Rs. 35.32 crores.

In addition to this the State Governments, if they so desire, can include activities for reclamation of saline soils under Macro-Management Scheme of Department of Agriculture and Cooperation.

Statement**State-wise Distribution of Estimated Area
under Saline Soil**

(Area in lakh ha.)

S.No.	State	Total
1.	Andhra Pradesh	5.88
2.	Gujarat	12.16
3.	Haryana	5.00
4.	Karnataka	0.99
5.	Kerala	0.67
6.	Madhya Pradesh	0.67
7.	Maharashtra	3.51
8.	Orissa	2.54
9.	Rajasthan	4.24
10.	Tamil Nadu	4.70
11.	Uttar Pradesh	1.95
12.	West Bengal	8.20
Total		50.51

Losses to Airlines

*431. SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:
SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether despite 15% across-the-board fare hike India based airlines are expected to suffer major losses because of cancellation of flights due to war in Iraq;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the total number of flights cancelled;

(c) the total loss suffered so far by Indian-based airlines, particularly Indian Airlines and Air India due to the ensuing Gulf war;

(d) whether Air India and Indian Airlines diverted their flights to other routes to recover these losses; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken or being taken or being taken by the Government to recover the losses? and

(f) the extent of loss suffered by IA and AI due to severe acute respiratory syndrome SARS scare?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) to (e) 15% fare hike has taken place for domestic air travel only. In case of international air travel, Air India has increased the fares by 5-7% and Indian Airlines by 7-18% from April 2003. Besides, Air India has also imposed an additional surcharge of US\$ 5 on account of increase in ATF prices. This increase has been necessitated not only due to Iraq war, but also due to increase in various items of expenditure since the last increase in January 2001.

Due to Iraq war, losses are being incurred on account of increasing price of air turbine fuel (ATF) on one hand, and decreasing demand for air travel on the other. To contain the losses, airlines are cancelling some flights for a limited period. Air India has suspended operation of fourteen flights in the Gulf region for the month of April. Indian Airlines has not suspended any flight. Though at present it is difficult to estimate the total loss due to Iraq war, Air India has incurred an additional expenditure of about Rs. 25 crores on fuel and suffered a loss of revenue of about Rs. 10 crores due to decline in demand in March, 2003. Indian Airlines is likely to suffer a loss of revenue of Rs. 2 crores per week due to drop in traffic.

Air India has not deployed the additional capacity available due to cancellation of flights on other routes for such a limited period as there has been a drop of 11% in the overall load factor and any redeployment on other routes would not be economically viable.

(f) Due to Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS), there is a sharp decline in the demand for air travel in south-east an far-east Asia Region, because of which Air India has cancelled 17 flights in this region. Indian Airlines has not cancelled any flight so far. Though at present it is difficult to estimate the total loss on this account, Air India and Indian Airlines have suffered estimated losses of about Rs. 7.8 crores and Rs. 92 lacs respectively due to SARS.

[English]

Inter-Linking of Rivers

*432. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:
DR. M.V.V.S. MURTHI:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to sign any Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with State Governments for interlinking of rivers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government also held negotiations with neighbouring countries such as Nepal and Bhutan for construction of dams; and

(d) if so, the response of those countries thereto?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI): (a) and (b) With a view to bringing about consensus among States and provide guidance on norms of appraisal and modalities for project funding etc., the Union Government has set up a Task Force on inter-linking of rivers on 13.12.2002. The Task Force has been requested to devise suitable mechanism for bringing about speedy consensus amongst the States. The Task Force is working for achieving the objective of Interlinking of rivers as per the following Milestone Dates/ Time Table.

(i)	Preparation of Action Plan-I, giving an outline of the time schedules for the completion of the feasibility studies, detailed project reports, estimated cost implementation schedule, concrete benefits and advantages of the project, etc.	30.4.2003
(ii)	Preparation of Action Plan-II, giving alternative options for funding and execution of the project as also the suggested methods for cost recovery.	31.7.2003
(iii)	Meeting with the Chief Ministers to deliberate over the project and to elicit their cooperation.	May/June, 2003
(iv)	Completion of Feasibility Studies (already in progress)	31.12.2005
(v)	Completion of Detailed Project Reports. (Preparation of DPRs will start simultaneously since FSs in respect of six river links have already been completed.)	31.1.2006
(vi)	Implementation of the Project (10 years)	31.12.2016

(c) Implementation of water transfer link proposals under Himalayan component of National Perspective require cooperation of Nepal and Bhutan. The Task Force on inter-linking of rivers has also been assigned the task of considering international dimensions that may be involved in some project components.

(d) Does not arise.

Presence of Metals in Vegetables

*433. SHRI KAMAL NATH:
DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that highly contaminated vegetables are available in the markets in Delhi;

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

(c) whether the use of such contaminated vegetables are posing serious health hazards;

(d) if so, whether a study conducted by the experts from the Imperial College of London in coordination with Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI) has revealed the presence of high percentage of lead, zinc and other metals in the vegetables grown in and around the city;

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

(f) the strategy formulated by the Government to ensure availability of safe vegetables in the markets?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir. A report to this effect has appeared in the newspapers recently.

(b) The monitoring study carried out by the All India Coordinated Research Project on Pesticide Residue has recorded that out of about 4100 samples of 31 vegetables, 55 samples were contaminated with pesticide residues, but only 9% of the samples exceeded the maximum residue limit. The pesticide residue of the following insecticide HCH, DDT, Endosulfan, Deltamethrin, Chlorpyrifos, Melathion, Cypermethrin, Fenvelunrate etc. have been recorded.

Some samples of vegetables collected from Peri-Urban areas around Delhi have shown presence of lead, zinc and cadmium above the safe limits. This is found especially from those areas where crops are irrigated with sewage water or industrial effluents. Areas with high vehicular exhaust pollution such as market places also show heavy metal contamination.

(c) Indian Council of Agricultural Research has not conducted specific studies on the adverse effect of contaminants on human health, however, it is the common experience that continuous consumption of unwashed vegetables from such places may cause health related problems in human beings.

(d) Yes, the study conducted by Indian Agricultural Research Institute and Imperial College of London has shown the presence of lead, zinc and cadmium in some samples of vegetables grown in and around Delhi.

(e) In this study, several vegetable samples of palak, okra and cauliflower were collected from the peri-urban areas of Delhi viz. Yamunapusta, Okhla, Ballabgarh, Najafgarh and Alipur and their nearby markets during 2001 and 2002. These were analyzed for the presence of heavy metals. The study has shown that in some of the samples collected from Yamunapusta, Najafgarh and Okhla, the level of contamination with zinc, lead and cadmium was higher than the prescribed tolerance limit. None of the samples had copper above the permissible limit.

The main reasons for heavy metals accumulation in vegetables are irrigation with sewage water and industrial effluents. Aerial deposition from thermal plants and vehicular exhaust are other major sources of heavy metals.

(f) This is only a preliminary study with very limited samples from peri-Urban areas of Delhi and cannot be generalized for larger areas. More detailed studies are needed. However, the accumulation of heavy Metals can be reduced by controlling pollution load in irrigated water, by shifting to non leafy crops in peri-urban agriculture.

Pending Projects and Schemes under Agro-Rural Industries

*434. SHRI C. SREENIVASAN:
SHRI AMBAREESHA:

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

(a) the details of projects and schemes alongwith their estimated cost received by the Government relating to Agro and Rural Industries from various States during each of the last three years and the central aid sought for the purpose, State-wise;

(b) the details of projects and schemes cleared by the Government during the said period, State-wise;

(c) the projects and schemes which are still pending clearance alongwith the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to clear the pending projects/schemes expeditiously?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI SANGH PRIYA GAUTAM): (a) The state-wise details of projects and schemes received during last three years by the Government/Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) are given in the statement enclosed.

(b) Details of such projects cleared during the said period are at Statements II & V.

(c) Details of such projects are enclosed at Statements VI to X.

(d) Monitoring of these projects at the level of Government/KVIC is being done regularly.

Statement I*New Training Centres**Year 2000-2001****50% Central Grant****(Rs. in lakhs)**

Sl. No.	Name of the State	Name of the Institution	Total cost of the Project
1.	Nagaland	Nagaland Khadi & V.I. Board, Kohima (MDTC, Dimapur)	84.75

*New Training Centres**Year 2002-2003***(Rs. in lakhs)**

Sl. No.	Name of the State	Name of the Institution	Total cost of the Project
1.	Himachal Pradesh	Shivalik Khadi Ashram, Una	49.56
2.	Maharashtra	Shirdi Sai Rural Institute, Rahata (Ahmednagar)	440.00
3.	Punjab	Regional Centre for Entrepreneurship Development Chandigarh	90.00
4.	Rajasthan	1. WTC, Galicha, Bikaner, Rajasthan Khadi & V.I. Board, Jaipur	45.70
		2. Indian Institute of Rural Development, Jhalawar (2000-2001)	66.35
5.	Mizoram	Mizoram Khadi & V.I. Board, Zemabawk, Aizwal (1999-2000)	84.33
6.	Chhattisgarh	Multi Disciplinary Training Centre, Bilaspur, Chattisgarh Khadi & V.I. Board, Raipur	40.00
7.	Sikkim	TTI, Namchi, North Eastern Khadi & I. Board, Kolkata	850.00

*PRODIP (Product Development, Design Intervention and Packaging) 2002-03 (Initiated in 2002-2003)****75% Central Grant**

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl.No.	State	Name of the Project	Total Amount
1	2	3	4
1.	Karnataka	Khadi Textile Products range, Karnataka Sarvodaya Sangh, Bangalore	1.94
2.	Andhra Pradesh	Denim Ready Garments Project Wavilal Khadi Gramodyog Pratisthan, Wavilal	1.00
		Cotton Readymade Garments Project Metpalli Khadi Gramodyog Pratistan, Metapalli	1.00
		Silk Readymade Garments Project Guntur Zilla Khadi Gramodyog Pratisthan, Guntur	1.00
		Furniture design, Shayuionaju Timber & Furniture Industries	1.00
3.	Gujarat	Mens Wear Kasturba Sahakari Kantan Mandli Ltd., Gandhi Road, Ahmedabad 380 004	3.15
		Knitted Garments, Khadi Gr. Prayog Samiti, Gandhi Ashram Ahmedabad 380 027	2.05
		Kids Wear. Swami Vivekanand Khadi Gramodyog Trust, 27, Jai Shiv Shakti Society Behind Ghayanda Society, Jivrajpark, Ahmedabad-51	2.97
		New Pattern Shree Khadi Gramya Vikas Seva Mandal, 51, Karma Bhoomi, Mitra Mandal Society, Opp. T.B. Hospital Dist. Surendranagar	2.96
		New Design Shree Janseva Khadi Gr. Trust, Kvadia, 884, Krishna Nagar, Behind Collector Office, Distt. Surendranagar	2.57
		Latest Design in Khadi fabrics Surendranagar Jilla Sarvodaya Vikas Mandal, Ghar Shala Road, Shindhav Nagar, Post. Joravamagar, Surendranagar-363020	2.77

1	2	3	4
		Wrinkle free Shree Yogi Krupa Khadi Gramodyog Vikas Sangh, 22, Laxmi Society Near ST Bus Stand Modasa, Dist. Sabarkantha	4.67
4.	Uttar Pradesh	Improvement of Customer ambiance of sales outlet and better display. Ksheriya Shri Gandhi Ashram, Meerut	3.00
		Product Design (Khadi Garments) Susila Gramodyog Sansthan, Ghaziabad	2.50
		Design and Development of furnishing cloth, Kshetriya Shri Gandhi Ashram, Sharanpur	3.00
		Improvement in Packaging Design and on line production process of Shampoo. Kshetriya Shri Gandhi Ashram, Moradabad	2.50
		Product Design Khadi Garments, Kshetriya Shri Gandhi Ashram, Aligarh	3.00
5.	Kerala	Newer Designs in Cane & Bamboo Saji Agency, Nellikunnam, Kottarakara, Kollam Dist.	1.35
		Simplified Cane products for attraction and curtailment of raw material and labour Smt. Jayakumari, J.K. Cane Industries, Kalavoor, Alleppy.	1.54
		Brazier unit (Intervention of new designs in the Bras) Fabric painting for value addition Kerala Educational Development and Employment Society, KEDES, Thycaud, Trivandrum	2.59
		Production of various types of Khadi clothes Kerala Gandhi Smarak Nidhi	2.80
		Design of new model of VCD player Kerala State Srural Womens Electronics Industrial Cooperative Federation (RUTRONIX)	3.12

*UNDP Project**Year 2000-2001****100% Central Grant****(Rs. in Lakhs)**

Sl.No.	Name of State	Name of Project	Project cost
1	2	3	4
1.	Tamil Nadu	<p>Pottery Cluster: Provision of a number of common facility equipments like kilns, ball mills, pug mills, glazing equipments. Besides this, marketing, and training assistance has been provided. Manamadurai Potters Coop. Society, Manamadurai</p> <p>Beekeeping Cluster: support for honey processing plant and comb foundation mill, bee stock multiplication training and marketing support Kanyakumari Sarvodaya Sangh, Nagercoil</p>	<p>12 lakhs</p> <p>10 lakhs</p>
2.	Karnataka	<p>Bee Keeping Cluster: Support for honey processing plant, bee museum and information center, quality control lab, stock Multiplication, etc. Puthur Bee Keepers Cooperative Society, Puthur</p>	12 lakhs
3.	Andhra Pradesh	<p>Hand Made Paper Cluster: Providing common facility equipments, conversion equipments and training KVI Development Trust, Mehboob Nagar</p>	12 lakhs
4.	Kerala	<p>Pottery Cluster: Common facility equipments, training and marketing support Kumbham Society, Nilambur</p>	10 lakhs
5.	Maharashtra	<p>BeeKeeping Cluster: Upgradation of departmental centre CBRTI, Pune by way of better training, research and laboratory equipments, Training for staff Central Bee Research Training Institute, Pune</p> <p>Hand Made Paper Cluster: Upgradation of HMP Institute by way of better equipments, training, exposure visits. Handmade Paper Institute, Pune</p>	<p>30 lakhs</p> <p>20 lakhs</p>

1	2	3	4
6.	Gujarat	Pottery Cluster: Provision of Common Facility equipments and training for the potters. Sri Sarvodaya Glazed Pottery Cooperative, Pitwai	12 lakhs
7.	Rajasthan	Hand Made Paper Cluster: Providing better equipments and testing facilities at Kumarappa National Handmade Paper Institute (KNHPI) the departmental training and research center for handmade paper at Sangner, Jaipur Kumarappa National Handmade Paper Institute, Sangner	20 lakhs
8.	U.P.	Bee Keeping Cluster: Providing honey processing plant and storage containers as common facility, installation of quality control lab Apis Gramodyog Sansthan, Saharanpur	12 lakhs
	U.P.	Pottery Cluster: Common facility equipments, training and marketing support. Khadi Gramodyog Sewa Sansthan, Chinhat (Lucknow)	12 lakhs
9.	Bihar	Bee Keeping Cluster: Common facilities like honey processing plant, storage equipments, stock multiplication, providing bee boxes etc. Muzaffarpur Zilla KGS, Muzaffarpur	10 lakhs
10.	Chhattisgarh	Pottery cluster; Common facility centres like kiln, pug mill etc. Training, marketing and design support Saathi Samaj Sewa Sansthan, Kondegaon	15 lakhs

*UNDP Project**Year 2001-2002*

Sl.No.	Name of State	Name of Project	Project cost
1	2	3	4
1.	Tamil Nadu	Pottery cluster: Provision of common facility equipments like ball mill, kiln to Chungankadai community through NGO. Pottery Technology and Extension project, Kanyakumari Centre for Social Development.	5 lakhs

1	2	3	4
	Tamil Nadu	Central Pool: Support for upgrading KVIB Bhavan 'Kuralagam' at Chennai. Support activities include computerisation, training etc. KVIB, Bhavan, Chennai, Tamilnadu	5 lakhs
2.	Karnataka	Central Pool: Upgrading NGO Outlet Bangalore, Support for computerization, marketing and training Karnataka Sarvodaya Sangh Federation, Bangalore	5 lakhs
	Karnataka	Pottery cluster: Support for common facility equipments and training. Canara Bank Platinum Jubilee Trust, Kudekebevoor	5 lakhs
3.	Andhra Pradesh	Hand Made Paper Cluster: Providing common facility equipments, conversion equipments, training and marketing support. KVI Development Trust, Mehboobnagar	12 lakhs
4.	Maharashtra	Beekeeping Cluster Support to wild bee hunters (adivasis) by way of gear and collection kits, storage and processing plant to implementing agency Pragati Multipurpose Society, Melghat	12 lakhs
5.	Rajasthan	Pottery Cluster: Providing Common facility equipments at Pokhran, training design and marketing support RUDA, Pokhran, Rajasthan	12 lakhs
6.	Haryana	Hand Made Paper Cluster: Providing conversion equipments as Common Facility, training to entrepreneurs on export etc. Haryana HMPI Association, Kurukshetra	10 lakhs
7.	Himachal Pradesh	Beekeeping Cluster: Providing honey processing plant (HPP) as common facility, storage containers comb foundation mill, training and upgrading bee stock Himachal Khadi Mandal, Kulu	10 lakhs

1	2	3	4
8.	Uttaranchal	Beekeeping Cluster: Providing honey processing plant and Storage containers as common facility, Training to beekeepers, bee stocks upgradation multiplication and distribution. Beekeeping Extension Centre, Haldwani	12 lakhs
9.	U.P.	Pottery Cluster: Common facility equipments, training and marketing support Poorvanchal Gramin Vikas Sansthan, Gorakhpur	10 lakhs
	U.P.	Upgradation of sales outlet at Lucknow run by NGO by providing computers, marketing support, training etc.	5 lakhs
	U.P.	Hand Made Paper Cluster: Common facilities like Conversion equipments, quality control equipments Gramodyog Mandal, Kalpi	10 lakhs
10.	West Bengal	Upgradation of outlet by computerization, training and marketing support Khadi Bhavan, Calcutta	5 lakhs
	West Bengal	Beekeeping Cluster: Providing common facility equipments like processing plant, QC Lab, Comb mill, training and marketing support 24 Parganas bee keepers society, 24 Parganas	12 lakhs
11.	Chattisgarh	Pottery Cluster: Common facility centres like kiln, pug mill etc. Improved wheels, training, marketing and design support Gandhi Sewa Ashram, Ambikapur, Sarguja	10 lakhs
12.	Arunachal Pradesh	Hand Made Paper Cluster: Upgrading traditional process of handmade paper making (daphne paper) Mukto Handmade Paper Coop. Society, Mukto	8 lakhs

*UNDP Project**Year 2002-03*

Sl.No.	Name of State	Name of Project	Project cost
1	2	3	4
1.	Maharashtra	Pottery Cluster: Support to potters in village Yeoti (Yavatmal) by way of common facility equipments. Yeoti Potters Cooperative Society, Yeoti	5 lakhs
	Maharashtra	Pottery Cluster: Provision of pottery common facility equipments village Peth Centre of Science for Villages, Pottery Technology Extension Center, Peth	5 lakhs
	Maharashtra	Handmade Paper Cluster: Provision of Common facility equipments and training at Village Erandol Kagazipura Cooperative Paper Manufacturing Society, Erandol, (Jalgaon)	10 lakhs
2.	Gujarat	Computerisation and training support to and NGO Outlet Khandi Mandir, Ahmedabad	5 lakhs
3.	Himachal Pradesh	Pottery Cluster: Common facility for a pottery settlement in Kangra Kangra Pottery Society, Kangra	5 lakhs
4.	Jammu	Beekeeping Cluster: Providing honey Processing Plant and Storage containers as common facility Gandhi Sewa Sadan, Jammu	10 lakhs
5.	Jharkhand	Providing of computer and training, Chotanagpur KG Sangh, Tiril, Ranchi	5 lakhs
	Jharkhand	Pottery Cluster: Providing Common facility equipments in a pottery settlement Gramodyog Vikas Sansthan, Chaibasa	5 lakhs
	Jharkhand	Pottery Cluster: Providing Common facility equipments in a pottery settlement Paribesh Mukti Sangh, Nimdhi	5 lakhs

1	2	3	4
6.	Orissa	Beekeeping Cluster: Providing common facility like honey processing plant through NGO, honey collected through SHG Women Mayurbhanj	8 lakhs
6.	Orissa	Beekeeping Cluster: Providing common facility like honey processing plant through NGO, honey collected through SHG Women Sarvodaya Samithi, Koraput, Pottery Cluster: Providing common facility equipments to Pottery artisans in Jagatsinghpur VHAI, Jagatsinghpur	8 lakhs
7.	Madhya Pradesh	Rockbee cluster: Honey collection kit, gear to bee collectors (adivasis) and honey processing plant to NGO. Mahatma Gandhi Ashram, Jora, Sheopur	8 lakhs
8.	Assam	Handmade Paper Cluster: Installation of HMP demonstration and training unit using local material District Industries Centre, Jorhat	20 lakhs
	Assam	Pottery Cluster: Providing ball bearing wheels, kilns to potters in Majauli island North East Area Development Society, Salmora	5 lakhs

*Science and Technology**Year 2000-2001****100% Central Grant**

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl.No.	Name of State/UT	Name of Project	Project cost
1	2	3	4
1.	Gujarat	Assessing scope of improvement through manually operated implements Ahmedabad Textile Research Association (ATIRA), Ahmedabad	1.18

1	2	3	4
2.	Karnataka	Utilisation of Honey to develop a flavored beverage Central Food Technological Research Institute, Mysore	3.75
3.	Madhya Pradesh	Role of indigenous Drugs on Rheumatoid arthritis Deendayal Research Institute, Chitrakoot, Satna	2.12
4.	Maharashtra	Improving Quality and storage stability of Neera National Chemical Laboratory, Pune	4.66
5.	Uttaranchal	Glazed Red Clay Pottery Central Building Research Institute, Roorkee	5.00
6.	West Bengal	Technology application for Revitalisation of Traditional Dokra Craft Gram Swaraj Sangh, Bankura, W.B.	4.91
7.	Delhi	Increasing production of Muslin Khadi Indian Institute of Technology, New Delhi	3.51
8.	Manipur	Promotion of Handloom Weaving in Tribal Areas Namalong Khadi & VI Association, Namalong, Tamenglong, HQ Manipur	14.64
		Promotion of Handloom weaving in tribal areas Manipur North Economic Dev. Asso.	5.50
9.	UP	1. Development of sizing process for making quality products in Khadi. 2. Study of quality level of existing Khadi products Northern Indian Textile Research Association, Ghaziabad, UP	10.2

*Science and Technology**Year 2001-02****100% Central Grant**

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl.No.	State/UT	Name of the Project	Project Cost
1	2	3	4
1.	Karnataka	Utilisation of Honey in Bakery Products Central Food Technology Research Institute, Mysore	1.25
2.	Maharashtra	Glazed Red Clay pottery Central Building Research Institute, Roorkee	1.10
		Revamping of JBCRI Wardha Indian Institute of Technology, New Delhi	350.0
		Product design and dev. on cane and bamboo Aproop Nirman, Nagpur	0.50

1	2	3	4
		Improving Quality & extension of shelf life of Neera National Chemical Laboratory, Pune	4.66
		R&D ongoing projects on Honey Bees Central Bee Research & Training Institute, Pune	11.46
		Blending of Woollen Khadi Wool Research Association, Thane	1.16
3.	Rajasthan	Ongoing project on dev. of HMP Kamarappa National Handmade Paper Research Institute, Sanganer	45.67
4.	West Bengal	Studies of extruded food to school and community using cheeper raw material Jadavpur University, Kolkatta.	1.25
		Development of natural dyes and training for cotton and silk fabric Sundarban Khadi & V.I. Society	4.95
6.	Gujarat	Ongoing projects on dev. of Khadi Products Khadi Gramodyog Prayog Samiti, Ahmedabad	19.41
7.	Delhi	Mini testing laboratory under bio manure programme MDTC, Rajghat, New Delhi	2.5
8.	Madhya Pradesh	Role of indigenous Drugs on Rheumatoid Arthritis Deendayal Research Institute, Chitrakoot, Satna	0.97

*Science and Technology**Year 2002-2003*

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl.No.	State/UT	Name of the Project	Project Cost
1	2	3	4
1.	Maharashtra	Projects on Honey & Bee Diseases Central Bee Research & Training Institute, Pune	15.76
		Glazed Pottery products from Red Clay Gramodyog Sangh, Bhadravati	2.50
		Bio manure Test Laboratory Go Vigyan Anusandhan Kendra, Deolapar	2.50
		Revamping of JBCRI Indian Institute of Technology, New Delhi	270.00
		Extension of Shelf life of Neera National Chemical Laboratory, Pune	2.69

1	2	3	4
		Blending of wool Wool Research Association, Thane	1.16
		Cashew nut liquid as Rubber Compound Indian Rubber Manufacturers Research Association, Thane	0.48
		Project on Rock bees Centre of Science for Villages, Wardha	0.53
		Technical backup unit Visvesvaraya National Institute of Technology, Nagpur	18.33
		Technical backup unit Indian Institute of Technology, Mumbai	9.60
2.	Gujarat	Ongoing projects on Development of Khadi Khadi Gramodyog Prayog Samiti, Ahmedabad	5.37
3.	U.P.	Design of Lime Kiln Central Building Research Institute, Roorkee	0.62
		Survey of Medicinal plants in Jharkhand National Botanical Research Institute, Lucknow	5.00
		Technical backup unit Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur	15.00
4.	Karnataka	Technical backup unit Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore	9.70
5.	Kerala	Technical backup unit National Institute of Technology, Calicut	15.40
6.	Andhra Pradesh	Technical backup unit National Institute for Small Industries Extension & Training (NISJET), Hyderabad	9.24
7.	Rajasthan	Technical backup unit College of Technology and Engineering, Udaipur	9.97
8.	Manipur	Development of Mosquito Repellent Agarbatti Hiyanglam Rural Development Association, Manipur	0.81
9.	Arunachal Pradesh	Bio manure Test Laboratory Arunachal Pradesh Seva Sangh, Doimukh	5.00
10.	Assam	Technical backup unit Indian Institute of Technology, Guwahati	11.65
11.	West Bengal	Technical backup unit Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur	17.00
12.	Orissa	Technical backup unit National Institute of Technology, Rourkela	9.83

1	2	3	4
13.	Jharkhand	Technical backup unit Birla Institute of Technology, Mesra, Ranchi	8.25
14.	Uttaranchal	Technical backup unit Indian Institute of Technology, Roorkee	11.57
15.	Delhi	Technical backup unit Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU), Delhi	39.35

*Projects for Modernisation of Sales Outlets**Year 2002-03*

(Rs. in lakhs)

SI.No.	State/UT	Name of the Institutions	Estimated Cost
1	2	3	4
1.	Haryana	(1) Khadi Ashram G.T. Road, Panipat	2.22
		(2) Khadi Gramodyog Mandal Jhansa Road, Kurukshetra	3.98
2.	Himachal Pradesh	(3) Himachal Khadi Ashram, Green Field, Lakkar Bazar, Shimla	13.24
		(4) Himachal Khadi Mandal, Kullu (H.P.)	5.32
3.	New Delhi	(5) Adarsh Gramodyog Samiti, 2554A, Lekhu Nagar, Tri Nagar, New Delhi	2.36
		(6) Bharatiya Khadi Gramodyog Sangh, Northern Zone, G.T. Road, Panipat	3.42
		(7) Khadi Ashram, Delhi	6.78
4.	Karnataka	(8) Adarsh Gramodyog Samiti, Delhi	2.26
		(9) Karnataka Khadi Gramodyog Samyukta Sangh (F), Bengeri, Hubli	2.20
		(10) Azara Silk or Samithi, Nr. Malbar Beedi Factory, Kathripalya, Kolar	3.26
		(11) Karnataka Khadi Gramodyog Samyukta Sangh	7.98
		(12) Karnataka Sarvodaya Sangha	4.56

1	2	3	4
		(13) Azara Silk Khadi Gramodyog Samiti Kolar	3.60
		(14) Khadi & Gramodyog Sahakari Utpadak Sangh Ltd., Belgaum	5.44
5.	Andhra Pradesh	(15) Bhagyanagar Khadi Samiti, Hyderabad	3.38
		(16) Guntur Zilla Khadi Gr. Sanstha, Guntur	4.18
6.	Kerala	(17) Changancherry Social Services	7.66
		(18) Palghat Sarvodaya Sangh	2.52
		(19) Khozikode Sarvodaya Sangh	21.70
		(20) Kerala Sarvodaya Sangh	10.08
		(21) Cannanore Sarvodaya Sangh	2.96
		(22) Kerala Khadi and V.I. Association	9.40
		(23) Kerala Khadi & V.I. Association, Trichur	9.36
		(24) Alleppy Sarvodaya Sangh, Alleppy	3.66
		(25) Kerala Gandhi Smarak Nidhi, Trivandrum	1.60
		(26) Kozikode Sarvodaya Sangh, Calicut	20.96
		(27) Kerala Khadi & V.I. Federation, Kochi	1.14
7.	Madurai (Chennai)	(28) Ambasamudram Sarvodaya Sangh	3.02
		(29) Pondicherry Sarvodaya Sangh	7.48
8.	Jharkhand (Bihar)	(30) Chhottanagpur Khadi Gramodyog Santhan, Ranchi	7.14
		(31) Khadi Gramodyog Sangh, Singhbhum, 38 Main Road, Bistupur, Jamshedpur	3.70
		(32) Ranishwar Samagra Vikas Parishad, At P.O. Ranishwar, Dumka-814 148	0.58
9.	Madhya Pradesh	(33) M.B. Khadi Sangh, Lashkar, Gwalior	2.80
10.	Uttar Pradesh	(34) Kshetriya Shri Gandhi Ashram, Lucknow	35.18
11.	Assam	(35) Gram Swaraj Parishad	2.06
12.	Nagaland	(36) Nagaland Khadi and V.I. Sangh, Dhobinala Road, Dimapur	3.60

*Common Facility Centres**Year 2000-2001*

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl.No.	State	Name of the CFC	Cost of the Project
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	Bee Box Manfg. Unit. Wax Unit. Arunachal Pradesh Khadi & V.I. Board, Itanagar. BKI Apiary Unit. HPP	Rs. 25.20
2.	Jharkhand	Bee Box Mag. Unit, Wax Unit Chotanagpur Khadi Gramodyog Sangh, Tiril	Rs. 26.77

*Common Facility Centres**Year 2001-2002*

(Rs. in lakhs)

S.No.	State	Name of the CFC	Cost of the Project
1.	Uttar Pradesh	Rural Engineering Industry Kasth Kala Utthan Samithy Saharanpur	Rs. 121.23
2.	Uttaranchal	Bio Technology Sustained Development of Rural Economy through Bio-Technological inventions, Tehri	Rs. 73.68
3.	H.P.	Bee Honey Processing, Bee Box Manufacturing, Training, Himachal Khadi Mandal, Kullu	Rs. 24.80

*Common Facility Centres**Year 2002-2003*

S.No.	State	Name of the CFC	Cost of the Project
1	2	3	4
1.	Uttaranchal	Bio-Technology Herb's & Agro Industries Durga Nivas, Mall Road, Pauri Garhwal.	amount not mentioned by the prospective implementing agency

1	2	3	4
		Bio-Technology Institute of Himalayan Environmental Research & Education, Masi.	Amount not mentioned by the prospective implementing agency.
		Bio-technology Jagdamba Samity, Bhilganga Block.	Amount not mentioned by the prospective implementing agency.
		To provide honey processing facility and to create infrastructure for honey marketing Appropriate Technology Dehradun.	Rs. 253.64
		Bee Box Manfg. Unit. Wax Unit. Uttaranchal Mount Plana Sansthan, Nainital	Rs. 96.15
		Special Project on Api Culture for Kumaon and Training Commissioner Forest & Rural Development.	Rs. 236.32
2.	Tamil Nadu	Collection of Medicinal Plants & formulations Gandhi Gram Khadi & V.I. Trust, Madurai	Rs. 122.20
3.	Kerala	Collection of Medicinal Plants & formulations. Kerala Sarvodaya Sangh, Calicut	Rs. 159.00
4.	Maharashtra	Cane and Bamboo fine articles Samitra Aud. Sah Sansthan, Asthi, Distt.-Gadchiroli	Rs. 274.00
		Rock Bee Honey collection National Beekeeping Development Center, Wardha.	Rs. 74.00
		Setting up of "KIOSKS" for making Coffee, Tea, Sugar Cane Juice, Fruit Juice, Btata Vada, and Samosas etc. Yusuf Mehroli Centre, Tara, Mumbai	Rs. 8.44

1	2	3	4
5.	Orissa	Ginger oil extraction Orissa Rural Development & Marketing Supply Society, Koraput	Rs. 265.90
		Neera catering, Jaggery making. Lubarsingh Common Facility Centre, Gajapati	Rs. 44.68
		Palm Products Podapada Common Facility Center, Dhekanal.	Rs. 37.50
6.	Karnataka	Queen Rearing and Supply of improved Bee Stock Training. Century Foundation, Bangalore.	Rs. 127.37
7.	M.P.	Aperi Unit & Honey Processing. Akhil Bharitiya Vanvasi Kalyan Ashram, Jaspur.	Rs. 15.50

Statement II**New Training Centres***Year 2000-2001*

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of the State	Name of the Institution	Total Cost of the Project
1.	Nagaland	Nagaland Khadi & V.I. Board, Kohima (MDTC, Dimapur)	84.75
		<i>Year 2001-02</i>	
		Nil	Nil
		<i>Year 2002-03</i>	
		Nil	Nil

Statement III**PRODIP (Product Development, Design Intervention and Packaging
2002-2003**

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl.No.	State	Name of the Project	Total Amount
1	2	3	4
1.	Karnataka	Khadi Textile Products range Karnataka Sarvodaya Sangh, Bangalore	1.94
		Denim Ready Garments Project Wavilal Khadi Gramodyog Pratisthan, Wavilal	1.00
2.	Andhra Pradesh	Cotton Readymade Garments Project Metpalli Khadi Gramodyog Pratistan, Metapalli	1.00
		Silk Readymade Garments Project Guntur Zilla Khadi Gramodyog Pratisthan, Guntur	1.00
		Furniture design, Shayuionaju Timber & Furnitruue Industries	1.00
3.	Gujarat	Mens wear Kasturba Sahakari Kantan Mandli Ltd., Gandhi Road, Ahmedabad-380 004	3.15
		Knitted Garments, Khadi Gr. Prayog Samiti, Gandhi Ashram Ahmedabad-380 027	2.05
		Kids wear Swami Vivekanand Khadi Gramodyog Trust	2.97
		27, Jai Shiv Shakti Society Behind Ghayanda Society, Jivrajpark, Ahmedabad-51	
4.	Uttar Pradesh	Improvement of Customer ambiance of sales outlet and better display. Ksheriya Shri Gandhi Ashram, Meerut.	3.00
		Product Design (Khadi Garments) Susila Gramodyog Sansthan, Ghaziabad	2.50
		Design and Development of furnishing cloth, Kshetriya Shri Gandhi Ashram, Sharanpur	3.00
		Improvement in Packaging Design and online production process of Shampoo. Kshetriya Shri Gandhi Ashram, Moradabad	2.50
		Product Design Khadi Garments Kshetriya Shri Gandhi Ashram, Aligarh	3.00

1	2	3	4
5.	Kerala	Newer Designs in Cane & Bamboo Saji Agency, Nellikunnam, Kottarakara, Kollam Dist.	1.35
		Simplified Cane products for attraction and curtailment of raw material and labour	1.54
		Smt. Jayakumari, J.K. Cane Industries, Kalavoor, Alleppy. Brazier unit (Intervention of new designs in the Bras)	2.59
		Fabric painting for value addition Kerala Educational Development and Employment society, KEDES, Thycaud. Trivandrum	

Statement IV*UNDP Project**Year 2000-01*

(Rs. in Lakhs)

Sl.No.	Name of State	Name of Project	Project cost
1	2	3	4
1.	Tamil Nadu	Pottery Cluster: Provision of a number of common facility equipments like kilns, ball mills, pug mills, glazing equipments. Besides this, marketing, and training assistance has been provided. Manamadurai Potters Coop. Society Manamadurai	12 lakhs
		Beekeeping Cluster: Support for honey processing plant and comb foundation mill, bee stock multiplication training and marketing support. Kanyakumari Sarvodaya Sangh, Nagercoil	10 lakhs
2.	Karnataka	Beekeeping Cluster: Support for honey processing plant, bee museum and information center, quality control lab, stock Multiplication, etc. Puthur Bee Keepers Cooperative Society, Puthur	12 lakhs

1	2	3	4
3.	Andhra Pradesh	Hand Made Paper Cluster: Providing common facility equipments, conversion equipments and training KVI Development Trust, Mehboob Nagar	12 lakhs
4.	Kerala	Pottery Cluster: Common facility equipments, training and marketing support. Kumbham Society, Nilambur	10 lakhs
5.	Maharashtra	Beekeeping Cluster: Upgradation of departmental Centre CBRTI, Pune by way of better training, research and laboratory equipments. Training for staff Central Bee Research Training Institute, Pune	30 lakhs
		Hand Made Paper Cluster: Upgradation of HMP Institute by way of better equipments, training, exposure visits. Handmade Paper Institute, Pune	20 lakhs
6.	Gujarat	Pottery cluster: Provision of Common facility equipments and training for the potters. Sri Sarvodaya Glazed Pottery Cooperative, Pilwai	12 lakhs
7.	Rajasthan	Hand Made Paper Cluster: Providing better equipments and testing facilities at Kumarappa National Handmade Paper Institute (KNHPI) the departmental training and research center for handmade paper at Sangner, Jaipur. Kumparappa National Handmade Paper Institute, Sangner	20 lakhs
8.	Uttar Pradesh	Bee Keeping Cluster: Providing honey processing plant and storage containers as common facility, installation of quality control lab Apis Gramodyog Sanstha, Saharanpur	12 lakhs
	Uttar Pradesh	Pottery Cluster: Common facility equipments, training and marketing support. Khadi Gramodyog Sewa Sansthan, Chinhat (Lucknow)	12 lakhs

1	2	3	4
9.	Bihar	Bee Keeping Cluster: Common facilities like honey processing plant, storage equipments, stock multiplication, providing bee boxes etc. Muzaffarpur Zilla KGS, Muzaffarpur	10 lakhs
10.	Chhattisgarh	Pottery cluster: Common facility centres like kiln, pug mill etc. training, marketing and design support Saathi Samaj Sewa Sansthan, Kondegaon	15 lakhs

*UNDP Project**Year 2001-02*

Sl.No.	Name of State	Name of Project	Project cost
1	2	3	4
1.	Tamil Nadu	Pottery cluster: Provision of common facility equipments like ball mill, kiln to Chungankadai Community through NGO. Pottery Technology and Extension project, Kanyakumari Centre for Social Development	5 lakhs
	Tamil Nadu	Central Pool: Support for upgrading KVIB Bhavan 'Kuralagam' at Chennai. Support activities include computerisation, training etc. KVIB Bhavan, Chennai Tamilnadu	5 lakhs
2.	Karnataka	Central Pool: Upgrading NGO Outlet Bangalore, Support for computerization, marketing and training Karnataka Sarvodya Sangh Federation, Bangalore	5 lakhs
	Karnataka	Pottery cluster: Support for common facility equipments and training. Canara Bank Platinum Jubilee Trust, Kudekebevoor	5 lakhs

1	2	3	4
3.	Andhra Pradesh	Hand Made Paper Cluster: Providing common facility equipments, conversion equipments, training and marketing support. KVI Development Trust, Mehboobnagar	12 lakhs
4.	Maharashtra	Beekeeping Cluster: Support to wild bee hunters (adivasis) by way of gear and collection kits, storage and processing plant to implementing agency Pragati Multipurpose Society, Melghat	12 lakhs
5.	Rajasthan	Pottery Cluster: Providing Common facility equipments at Pokhran, training design and marketing support RUDA, Pokhran, Rajasthan	12 lakhs
6.	Haryana	Hand Made Paper Cluster: Providing conversion equipments as Common Facility, training to entrepreneurs on export etc. Haryana HMPI Association, Kurukshetra	10 lakhs
7.	Himachal Pradesh	Beekeeping Cluster: Providing honey processing plant (HPP) as common facility, storage containers, comb foundation mill, training and upgrading bee stock Himachal Khadi Mandal, Kulu	10 lakhs
8	Uttaranchal	Beekeeping Cluster: Providing honey processing plant and Storage containers as common facility, Training to beekeepers, bee stocks upgradation multiplication and distribution. Beekeeping Extension Centre, Haldwani	12 lakhs
9.	U.P.	Pottery Cluster: Common facility equipments, training and marketing support Poorvanchal Gramin Vikas Sansthan, Gorakhpur	10 lakhs
	Uttar Pradesh	Upgradation of sales outlet at Lucknow run by NGO by providing computers, marketing support, training etc.	5 lakhs
	Uttar Pradesh	Hand Made Paper Cluster: Common facilities like Conversion equipments, quality control equipments Gramodyog Mandal, Kalpi	10 lakhs

1	2	3	4
10.	West Bengal	Upgradation of outlet by computerization, training and marketing support Khadi Bhavan, Calcutta	5 lakhs
	West Bengal	Beekeeping Cluster: Providing common facility equipments like processing plant, QC Lab, Comb mill, training and marketing support 24 Parganas bee keepers society, 24 Parganas	12 lakhs
11.	Chhattisgarh	Pottery Cluster: Common facility centres like kiln, pug mill etc. Improved wheels, training, marketing and design support Gandhi Sewa Ashram, Ambikapur, Sarguja	10 lakhs
12.	Arunachal Pradesh	Hand Made Paper Cluster: Upgrading traditional process of handmade paper making (daphne paper) Mukto Handmade Paper Coop. Society, Mukto	8 lakhs

*UNDP Project**Year 2002-03*

SI.No.	Name of State	Name of Project	Project cost
1	2	3	4
1.	Maharashtra	Pottery Cluster: Support to potters in village Yeoti (Yavatmal) by way of common facility equipments. Yeoti Potters Cooperative Society, Yeoti	5 lakhs
	Maharashtra	Pottery Cluster: Provision of pottery common facility equipments village Peth Centre of Science for Villages, Pottery technology extension center, Peth	5 lakhs
	Maharashtra	Handmade Paper Cluster: Provision of Common facility equipments and training at Village Erandol Kagazipura Cooperative Paper Manufacturing Society, Erandol, (Jalgaon)	10 lakhs

1	2	3	4
2.	Gujarat	Computerisation and training support to an NGO Outlet Khadi Mandir, Ahmedabad	5 lakhs
3.	Himachal Pradesh	Pottery Cluster: Common facility for a pottery settlement in Kangra Kangra Pottery Society, Kangra	5 lakhs
4.	Jammu	Beekeeping Cluster: Providing honey Processing Plant and Storage containers as common facility. Gandhi Sewa Sadan, Jammu	10 lakhs
5.	Jharkhand	Providing of computer and training, Chotanagpur KG Sangh, Tiril, Ranchi	5 lakhs
	Jharkhand	Pottery cluster: Providing Common facility equipments in a pottery settlement Gramodyog Vikas Sansthan, Chaibasa	5 lakhs
	Jharkhand	Pottery Cluster: Providing Common facility equipments in a pottery settlement Paribesh Mukti Sangh, Nimdhi	5 lakhs
6.	Orissa	Beekeeping Cluster: Providing common facility like honey processing plant through NGO; honey collected through SHG Women Mayurbanj	8 lakhs
	Orissa	Beekeeping Cluster: Providing common facility like honey processing plant through NGO, honey collected through SHG Women Sarvodaya Samithi, Koraput, Pottery Cluster: Providing common facility equipments to Pottery artisans in Jagatsinghpur VHAI, Jagatsinghpur	8 lakhs
7.	Madhya Pradesh	Rockbee cluster: Honey collection kit, gear to bee collectors (adivasis) and honey processing plant to NGO. Mahatma Gandhi Ashram, Jora, Sheopur	8 lakhs
8.	Assam	Handmade Paper cluster: Installation of HMP demonstration and training unit using local material District Industries Centre, Jorhat	20 lakhs

1	2	3	4
	Assam	Pottery Cluster: Providing ball bearing wheels, kilns to potters in Majauli island North East Area Development Society, Salmora	5 lakhs

Statement V*Science and Technology*

Year 2000-01

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl.No.	Name of State	Name of the Project	Project cost
1.	Gujarat	Assessing scope of improvement through manually operated implements Ahmedabad Textile Research Association (ATIRA), Ahmedabad	1.18
2.	Karnataka	Utilisation of Honey to develop a flavored beverage Central Food Technological Research Institute, Mysore	3.75
3.	Madhya Pradesh	Role of indigenous Drugs on Rheumatoid arthritis Deendayal Research Institute, Chitrakoot, Satna	2.12
4.	Maharashtra	Improving Quality and storage stability of Neera National Chemical Laboratory, Pune	4.66
5.	Uttaranchal	Glazed Red Clay Pottery Central Building Research Institute, Roorkee	5.00
6.	West Bengal	Technology application for Revitalisation of Traditional Dokra Craft Gram Swaraj Sangh, Bankura, W.B.	4.91
7.	Delhi	Increasing production of Muslin Khadi Indian Institute of Technology, New Delhi	3.51

Science and Technology

Year 2001-02

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl.No.	State/UT	Name of the Project	Project cost
1	2	3	4
1.	Karnataka	Utilization of Honey in Bakery Products Central Food Technology Research Institute, Mysore	1.25
2.	Maharashtra	Glazed Red Clay pottery Central Building Research Institute, Roorkee	1.10

1	2	3	4
		Revamping of JBCRI Wardha Indian Institute of Technology, New Delhi	350.0
		Product design and dev. on cane and bamboo Aproop Nirman, Nagpur.	0.50
		Improving Quality & extension of shelf life of Neera National Chemical Laboratory, Pune	4.66
		R&D on going projects on Honey Bees Central Bee Research & Training Institute, Pune	11.46
		Blending of Woollen Khadi Wool Research Association, Thane	1.16
3.	Rajasthan	Ongoing project on dev. of HMP Kumarappa National Handmade Paper Research Institute, Sanganer	45.67
4.	West Bengal	Studies of extruded food to school and community using cheeper raw material Jadavpur University, Kolkatta	1.25
		Development of natural dyes and training for cotton and silk fabric Sundarban Khadi & V.I. Society	4.95
6.	Gujarat	Ongoing projects on dev. of Khadi Products Khadi Grmaodyog Proyog Samiti, Ahmedabad	19.41
7.	Delhi	Mini testing laboratory under bio manure programme MDTC, Rajghat, New Delhi	2.5
8.	Madhya Pradesh	Role of indigenous Drugs on Rheumatoid Arthritis Deendayal Research Institute. Chitrakoot, Satna	0.97

*Science and Technology**Year 2002-03*

(Rs. in lakhs)

SI.No.	State/UT	Name of the Project	Project cost
1	2	3	4
1.	Maharashtra	Projects on honey & Bee Diseases Central Bee Research & Training Institute, Pune	15.76
		Glazed Pottery products from Red Clay Gramodyog Sangh, Bhadravati	2.50
		Bio manure Test Laboratory Go Vigyan Anusandhan Kendra, Deolapar	2.50
		Revamping of JBCRI Indian Institute of Technology, New Delhi	270.00

1	2	3	4
		Extension of Shelf life of Neera National Chemical Laboratory, Pune	2.69
		Blending of wool Wool Research Association, Thane	1.16
		Cashew nut liquid as Rubber Compound Indian Rubber Manufacturers Research Association, Thane	0.48
		Project on Rock bees Centre of Science for Villages, Wardha	0.53
		Technical backup unit Visvesvaraya National Institute of Technology, Nagpur	18.33
		Technical backup unit Indian Institute of Technology, Mumbai	9.60
2.	Gujarat	Ongoing projects on Development of Khadi Khadi Gramodyog Prayog Samiti, Ahmedabad	5.37
3.	U.P.	Design of Lime kiln Central Building Research Institute, Roorkee	0.62
		Survey of Medicinal plants in Jharkhand National Botanical Research Institute, Lucknow	5.00
		Technical backup unit Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur	15.00
4.	Karnataka	Technical backup unit Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore	9.70
5.	Kerala	Technical backup unit National Institute of Technology, Calicut	15.40
6.	Andhra Pradesh	Technical backup unit National Institute for Small Industries Extension & Training (NISIET), Hyderabad	9.24
7.	Rajasthan	Technical backup unit College of Technology and Engineering, Udaipur	9.97
8.	Manipur	Development of Mosquito Repellent Agarbatti Hiyanglam Rural Development Association, Manipur	0.81
9.	Arunachal Pradesh	Bio manure Test Laboratory Arunachal Pradesh Seva Sangh, Doimukh	5.00
10.	Assam	Technical backup unit Indian Institute of technology, Guwahati	11.65
11.	West Bengal	Technical backup unit Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur	17.00

1	2	3	4
12.	Orissa	Technical backup unit National Institute of Technology, Rourkela	9.83
13.	Jharkhand	Technical backup unit Birla Institute of Technology, Mesra, Ranchi	8.25
14.	Uttaranchal	Technical backup unit Indian Institute of Technology, Roorkee	11.57
15.	Delhi	Technical backup unit Indira Gandhi national Open University (IGNOU), Delhi	39.35

Statement VI
New Training Centres
Year 2002-2003

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl.No.	Name of the State	Name of the Institution	Total cost of the Project	Reasons
1.	Himachal Pradesh	Shivalik Khadi Ashram, Una	49.56	Referred to State Director for comments
2.	Maharashtra	Shirdi Sai Rural Institute, Rahata (Ahmednagar)	440.00	Specific proposal has been called for from the Institute
3.	Punjab	Regional Centre for Entrepreneurship Development Chandigarh	90.00	Referred to State Director for comments
4.	Rajasthan	3 WTC, Galicha, Bikaner, Rajasthan Khadi & V.I. Board, Jaipur	45.70	Referred to State Director for comments.
		4 Indian Institute of Rural Development, Jhalawar (2000-2001)	66.35	Under consideration.
5.	Mizoram	Mizoram Khadi & V.I. Board, Zemabawk, Aizwal (1999-2000)	84.33	Confirmation is to be received from the Board for the sharing of 50 per cent of the cost.
6.	Chhattisgarh	Multi Disciplinary Training Centre, Bilaspur, Chattisgarh Khadi & V.I. Board, Raipur	40.00	Referred to State Director for comments
7.	Sikkim	TTI, Namchi, North Eastern Khadi & I. Board, Kolkatta	850.00	Not agreed since the Institute has been blacklisted.

Statement VII*Proddip Project*

Year 2002-2003

(Rs. in Lakhs)

Sl.No.	State/UT	Name of the Project	Estimated Cost	Reasons for not sanctioning
1.	Kerala	1. Production of various types of Khadi clothes Kerala Gandhi Smarak Nidhi	2.80	Modified Proposal to be submitted
		2. Design of new model of VCD player Kerala State Rural Womens Electronics Industrial Co-operative Federation (RUTRONIX)	3.12	Designer to be empanelled by NID for which proposal to be submitted.
2.	Gujarat	1. New Pattern Shree Khadi Gramya Vikas Seva Mandal, 51, Karma Bhoomi, Mitra Mandal Society, Opp. T.B. Hospital, Dist. Surendranagar	2.96	Deferred for want of presence of designer
		2. New Design Shree Janseva Khadi Gr. Trust, Kvadia, 884, Krishna Nagar, Behind Collector Office, Dist. Surendranagar	2.57	Proposal not in tune with the scheme.
		3. Latest Design in Khadi fabrics Surendranagar Jilla Sarvodaya Vikas Mandal, Ghar Shala Road, Sindhav Nagar, Post. Joravamagar, Surendranagar 363 020	2.77	Deferred for want of presence of designer
		4. Wrinkle free Shree Yogi Krupa Khadi Gramodyog Vikas Sangh, 22, Laxmi Society Near ST Bus Stand Modasa, Dist. Sabarkantha	4.67	Requires more clarification and modification

Statement VIII*Science and Technology*

2000-2001

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl.No.	State/UT	Name of the Project	Estimated Cost	Reasons for not sanctioning
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Manipur	Promotion of Handloom Weaving in Tribal Areas	14.64	Proposal is not Covered under S&T

1	2	3	4	5
		Namalong Khadi & VI Association, Namalong, Tamenglong, HQ Manipur		programme and also the activities of KVIC, as well as ceiling limit of S&T Project.
2.	UP	1. Development of sizing process for making quality products in Khadi.	10.32	Not recommended by Khadi wing & not found suitable. The
		2. Study of quality level of existing Khadi products	10.32	project is more than the ceiling limit of under S&T
		Northern India Textile Research Association Gaziabad-UP		
3.	Manipur	Promotion of Handloom weaving in tribal areas Manipur North Economic Dev. Asso.	5.00	Proposal is not covered under the activities of KVIC

Statement IX*Common Facility Centres**Year 2000-2001*

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl.No.	State	Name of the CFC	Cost of the Project	Reasons for not clearing
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	Bee Box Manfg. Unit. Wax Unit. Arunachal Pradesh Khadi & V.I. Board, Itanagar, BKI Apiary Unit. HPP	Rs. 25.20	The Proposal was not submitted in the prescribed format.
2.	Jharkhand	Bee Box Mag. Unit, Wax Unit. Chotanagpur Khadi Gramodyog Sangh, Tirit.	Rs. 26.77	The Proposal was not submitted in the prescribed format.

*Common Facility Centres**Year 2001-2002*

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl.No.	State	Name of the CFC	Cost of the Project	Reasons for not clearing
1.	Uttar Pradesh	Rural Engineering Industry Kasth Kala Utthan Samithy Saharanpur	Rs. 121.23	Under process the Technical Feasibility and the Opening of DC Handicraft is already received the proposal is under submission before EC & SFC.
2.	Uttaranchal	Bio Technology Sustained Development of Rural Economy through Bio-Technological inventions, Teri.	Rs. 73.68	Proposal rejected as the intended proposal does not fit under KVIC norms as KVIC implements Bio-manure (Organic Manure) and not Bio-Fertilizer.
3.	H.P.	Bee Honey Processing, Bee Box Manufacturing, Training. Himachal Khadi Mandal, Kullu.	Rs. 24.80	Considered under UNDP.

*Common Facility Centres**Year 2002-2003*

Sl.No.	State	Name of the CFC	Cost of the Project	Reasons for not clearing
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Uttaranchal	Bio-Technology. Herb's & Agro Industries Durga Nivas, Mall Road, Pauri Garhwal.	Amount not mentioned by the prospective implementing agency	Not cleared for want of specific details: (1) The agency is very casual in approach as they have not even indicated the financial requirements. (2) Proposal not received in the prescribed format both the implementing agency and

1	2	3	4	5
				the state Office have been advised to formulate the proposal according to norms. Both the implementing agency and the State Office have been reminded vide letter dt. 13.02.03.
	Bio-Technology. Institute of Himalayan Environmental Research & Education, Masi.		Amount Not mentioned by the prospective implementing agency	Not cleared. (1) The agency is very casual in approach as they have not even indicated the financial requirements. (2) Proposal not received in the prescribed format both the implementing agency and the State Office have been advised to formulate the proposal according to norms. Both the implementing agency and the State Office have been reminded vide letter dtd. 13.2.03.
	Bio-technology Jagdamba Samity, Bhilganga Block.		Amount not mentioned by the prospective implementing agency.	Not cleared. (1) The agency is very casual in approach as they have not even indicated the financial requirements. (2) Proposal not received in the prescribed format both the implementing agency and the State office have been advised to formulate the proposal according to norms. Both the implementing agency and the State Office have been reminded vide letter dtd. 13.2.03.
	To provide honey processing facility and to create infrastructure for honey marketing. Appropriate Technology Dehradun.		Rs. 253.64	A letter has been issued on 5-2-2003. to for resubmission of proposal.
	Bee Box Manfg. Unit. Wax Unit. Uttaranchal Mount Plan a Sansthan, Nainital		Rs. 96.15	The Proposal was not submitted in the prescribed format.

1	2	3	4	5
		Special Project on Api-Culture for Kumau and Training Commissioner Forest & Rural Development.	Rs. 236.32	A letter addressed to Shri R.S. Toliya, Principal Secretary and Commissioner (Forest & Rural Development) for information Reply is awaited.
2.	Tamil Nadu	Collection of Medicinal Plants & formulations. Gandhi Gram Khadi & V.I. Trust, Madurai.	Rs. 122.20	Yet to be cleared Discrepancies have been scrutinized. Letter has been issued in this respect Rectified proposal not received.
3.	Kerala	Collection of Medicinal Plants & formulations. Kerala Sarvodaya Sangh, Calicut	Rs. 159.00	Yet to be cleared. Discrepancies have been scrutinized. Letter has been issued in this respect for resubmission on 8.1.03 Rectified proposal not received.
4.	Maharashtra	Cane and Bamboo fine articles Samitra Aud. Sah. Sansthan, Asthi, Dist-Gadchiroli.	Rs. 274.00	Discrepancies have been scrutinized. Letter has been issued in this respect. Rectified proposal not received.
		Rock Bee Honey collection National Beekeeping Development Center, WARDHA.	Rs. 74.00	Recommendation of State Director is awaited
		Setting up of "KIOSKS" for making Coffee, Tea, Sugar Cane Juice, Fruit Juice, Btatavada, and Samosas etc. Yusuf Mehroli Centre, Tara, Mumbai.	Rs. 8.44	Yet to be cleared. Feasibility report is not received. Letter has been issued in this respect. The activity is under "KIOSKS" cannot be linked up with the project meant for food processing as this covers under FPO specification and norms.
5.	Orissa	Ginger oil extraction. Orissa Rural Development & Marketing Supply Society, Korapur.	Rs. 265.90	Not yet cleared. Feasibility is not clear. Letter issued in this respect.
		Neera Catering, Jaggery making Lubarsingh Common Facility Centre, Gajapati.	Rs. 44.68	Clearance from TAC and SFC is awaited.
		Palm Products Podapada Common Facility Center, Dhenkanal.	Rs. 37.50	Under process.

1	2	3	4	5
6.	Karnataka	Queen rearing and Supply of improved Century Foundation, Bangalore.	Rs. 127.37	Letter has been sent on for resubmission of project with modification.
7.	M.P.	Aperi Unit & Honey Processing. Akhil Bharatiya Vanvasi Kalyan Ashram, Jaspur.	Rs. 15.50	The Proposal was not submitted in the prescribed format.

Statement X*Projects for Modernisation of Sales Outlets**Year 2002-03*

(Rs. in lakhs)

SI.No.	State/UT	Name of the institutions	Estimated cost
1	2	3	4
1.	Haryana	(1) Khadi Ashram G.T. Road, Panipat	2.22
		(2) Khadi Gramodyog Mandal Jhansa Road, Kurukshetra	3.98
2.	Himachal Pradesh	(3) Himachal Khadi Ashram, Green Field, Lakkar Bazar, Shimla.	13.24
		(4) Himachal Khadi Mandal, Kullu (H.P.)	5.32
3.	New Delhi	(5) Adarsh Gramdoyog Samiti, 2554 A, Lekhu Nagar, Tri Nagar, New Delhi	2.36
		(6) Bharatiya Khadi Gramodyog Sangh, Northern Zone, G.T. Road, Panipat.	3.42
		(7) Khadi Ashram Delhi	6.78
4.	Karnataka	(8) Adarsh Gramodyog Samiti, Delhi	2.26
		(9) Karnataka Khadi Gramodyog Samyukta Sangh (F), Bengeri, Hubli.	2.20
		(10) Azara Silk or Samithi, Nr. Malbar Beedi Factory, Kathripalya, Kolar	3.26
		(11) Karnataka Khadi Gramodyog Samyukta Sangh.	7.98
		(12) Karnataka Sarvodaya Sangha	4.56
		(13) Azara Silk Khadi Gramodyog Samiti Kolar.	3.60

1	2	3	4
		(14) Khadi & Gramodyog Sahakari Utpadak Sangh Ltd., Belgaum	5.44
5.	Andhra Pradesh	(15) Bhagyanagar Khadi Samiti, Hyderabad	3.38
		(16) Guntur Zilla Khadi Gr. Sanasthan, Guntur	4.18
6.	Kerala	(17) Changancherry Social Services	7.66
		(18) Palghat Sarvodaya Sangh	2.52
		(19) Khozicode Sarvodaya Sangh	21.70
		(20) Kerala Sarvodaya Sangh	10.08
		(21) Cannanore Sarvodaya Sangh	2.96
		(22) Kerala Khadi and V.I. Association	9.40
		(23) Kerala Khadi & V.I. Association, Trichur	9.36
		(24) Alleppy Sarvodaya Sangh, Alleppy	3.66
		(25) Kerala Gandhi Smarak Nidhi, Trivandrum	1.60
		(26) Kozikode Sarvodaya Sangh, Calicut	20.96
		(27) Kerala Khadi & V.I. Federation, Kochi	1.14
7.	Madurai (Chennai)	(28) Ambasamudram Sarvodaya Sangh	3.02
		(29) Pondicherry Sarvodaya Sangh	7.48
8.	Jharkhand (Bihar)	(30) Chhottanagpur Khadi Gramodyog Sansthan, Ranchi.	7.14
		(31) Khadi Gramodyog Sangh, Singhbhum, 38 Main Road, Bistupur, Jamshedpur	3.70
		(32) Ranishwar Samagra Vikas Parishad, at P.O. Ranishwar, Dumka-814 148	0.58
9.	Madhya Pradesh	(33) M.B. Khadi Sangh, Lashkar, Gwalior	2.80
10.	Uttar Pradesh	(34) Kshetriya Shri Gandhi Ashram, Lucknow.	35.18
11.	Assam	(35) Gram Swaraj Parishad	2.06
12.	Nagaland	(36) Nagaland Khadi and V.I. Sangh, Dhobinala Road, Dimapur	3.60

Note—Proposals under consideration of the Government.

*[Translation]***Hike in FDI Limit for Construction of Airports**

*435. SHRI PADAM SEN CHOUDHRY:
DR. ASHOK PATEL:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to allow 100% investment by foreign companies in the construction of airport;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) and (b) As per the Policy on Airport Infrastructure promulgated by the Government in December 1997, the foreign equity participation is permitted upto 74% with automatic approvals, and upto 100% with special permission. Such participation could also be by foreign airport authorities.

(c) Does not arise in view of above.

*[English]***National Dairy Development Board**

*436. SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE:
SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided the issue of share holding pattern between the National Dairy Development Board (NDDDB) and the State Co-operative Milk Federations (SCMF) on their proposed Joint Venture;

(b) if so, whether the Joint Venture proposal provides for SCMF to market their own produce or opt out of the Joint Venture;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the milk production in the country is growing at the rate of 9.5% annually but the marketing is only about 4.5%; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) to (c) No, Sir. A wholly owned company of NDDDB through its subsidiary unit has decided to enter into Joint Ventures with State Cooperative Dairy Federations for the purpose of strengthening the marketing of their liquid milk and identified products under the brand name of the respective Federations. These Joint Ventures are purely voluntary in nature. The pattern of share holding between the mother Dairy Foods Limited and the concerned State Dairy Federation will be in the ratio of 51:49.

(d) and (e) The milk production in the country is growing annually at the rate of 4.2%. The procurement of milk in the Dairy Cooperative Sector is increasing at the rate of 9% per annum whereas the growth in marketing is only 4%. Due to lack of professionalism in milk marketing and stiff competition from other players in the market including private and multinational companies, the milk marketing in cooperative sector is not keeping pace with the growth rate in the procurement.

Decline In Oil Seeds Production

*437. SHRI Y.V. RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether oilseeds production fell by 19% during 2002-03;

(b) if so, the factors responsible for the fall; and

(c) the steps being taken to bring the oilseeds industry out of the slump?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) In accordance with the 3rd Advance Estimates, the production of oilseeds during the current year i.e. 2002-03 is estimated to be 155.7 lakh tonnes against 204.6 lakh tonnes during 2001-02.

(b) The main factor responsible for the shortfall in the production of oilseeds is severe drought conditions prevailing in some of the major oilseeds growing States.

(c) Some of the remedial measures taken and efforts made to increase the indigenous production of oilseeds and hence of edible oils are as under:

(i) A Centrally Sponsored Oilseeds Production Programme is implemented in 28 States covering

408 selected districts to increase the production of oilseeds/edible oils in the country.

- (ii) A Technology Mission on Oilseeds is in place to harness appropriate production, processing and management technology.
- (iii) Intensification of research efforts to increase the productivity of oilseeds.
- (iv) Increasing the areas under non-traditional oilseeds crops, like soyabean and sunflower and exploitation of oilseeds of tree and forest origin.
- (v) Better incentives to producers through fixation of Minimum Support Price (MSP) of major oilseeds.

Gulf War Impact on Tourism

*438. SHRI J.S. BRAR:
SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT:

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

(a) whether there is a decline in foreign tourists due to ongoing gulf war;

(b) if so, whether this war would adversely affect the tourism industry;

(c) if so, the details alongwith present assessment in this regard; and

(d) the strategy formulated by the Government to attract foreign tourists?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) to (c) Foreign tourist arrivals in the month of March 2003 when the gulf war was on is estimated to be around 2.20 lakhs which shows a growth of 1.6% as compared to the tourist arrivals in the month of March 2002. With the revival trend in tourist arrivals with effect from October 2002, the average growth rate for the period October 2002 to February 2003 is estimated to be 15.5%.

(d) The Department of Tourism, Govt. of India has the following short-term and long-term plans to promote tourism thereby attracting foreign tourists:

- * Positioning and maintaining tourism development as a National priority activity;

- * Enhancing and maintaining the competitiveness of India as a tourism destination;

- * Improving India's existing tourism products and expanding these to meet new market requirements;

- * Creation of world class infrastructure;

- * Developing sustained and effective market plans and programmes;

- * Special thrust to rural and small segment tourism;

- * Attention to civilizational issues and issues pertaining to civic administration, good governance and also of social and cultural values; and

- * Development of tourism circuits and tourism-cum-cultural hubs.

Facilities for Evacuees from Gulf

*439. PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Secretary, Civil Aviation has recently visited the Gulf region for on the spot evaluation of the condition of Indians against the backdrop of the Iraq war;

(b) if so, the details of the countries visited and the conditions of the Indians there; and

(c) the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) to (c) In view of the media reports about non-availability of seats for Indians wanting to come to India in the wake of Iraq War, Secretary, Civil Aviation visited Kuwait on 23rd March, 2003. He held discussions with Civil Aviation Authorities of Kuwait and leaders of Indian Community. On the first day of Iraq war, there was some rush for seats in flights going to India. Air India and Indian Airlines undertook some extra flights on commercial basis to clear this initial rush. Secretary, Civil Aviation was assured by Kuwait authorities that Kuwait airspace and airport would not be closed. This information and the decision of Government of India to continue operation of all the India-Kuwait flights by Air India and Indian Airlines were conveyed to the Indian Community. Secretary, Civil Aviation also assured the Indian community that Government of India would take all possible steps to ensure the safe evacuation of Indians living in Kuwait, if it became necessary.

[Translation]

Scheme for Improvement in working of IA

*440. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Airlines has submitted an integrated scheme to promote its business and to bring about improvement in its consumer services; and

(b) if so, the salient features of this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) Indian Airlines continuously takes measures to promote its business and to bring about qualitative and quantitative improvement in its customer related services.

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

Linking of Rivers

*441. SHRI G. PUTTASWAMY GOWDA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have started negotiations with neighbouring countries on linking of rivers;

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

(c) the countries which have opposed this move; and

(d) the reasons for their opposition on the project?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI): (a) With a view to bringing about a consensus among the States and provide guidance on norms of appraisal of individual projects and modalities for project funding, etc., the Union Government has set-up a Task Force on inter-linking of rivers with following terms of reference:

(i) Provide guidance on norms of appraisal of individual projects in respect of economic viability, socio-economic impacts, environmental impacts and preparation of resettlement plans;

(ii) Devise suitable mechanism for bringing about speedy consensus amongst the States;

(iii) Prioritize the different project components for preparation of Detailed Project Reports and implementation;

(iv) Propose suitable organizational structure for implementing the project;

(v) Consider various modalities for project funding; and

(vi) Consider international dimensions that may be involved in some project components.

The Union Government have not started negotiations with the neighbouring countries on inter-linking of rivers.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

[English]

Entry in Jama Masjid

4264. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Management Committee of Jama Masjid has imposed a ban on persons with disabilities to enter the Holy Minar at Jama Masjid;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any complaints have been made in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken thereon.

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) to (e) Information is being collected and would be placed at the Table of the House.

Chemical Coating of Steel/Iron Rods

4265. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether transportation of Iron Rods from Steel Yards to various places normally take a long time causing rusting of these rods;

(b) if so, whether such rusted rods are being used for construction of buildings thereby endangering the building so constructed especially in earthquake prone areas;

(c) if so, whether it can be made mandatory on the part of the factories to paint or coat some chemical to avoid such dangerous situations; and

(d) if so, the preventive measures taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY): (a) Transportation of Steel/Iron rods from Steel Stockyard to various places normally do not take long time and it is not expected that the materials will be rusted.

(b) to (d) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

Fruits and Vegetables Plant of Mother Dairy at Mangolpuri

4266. SHRI A.C. JOS: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of criteria being adopted by Mother Dairy's (fruits and vegetables) plant located at Mangolpuri to acquire fruits and vegetables;

(b) whether the fruits and vegetables of those farmers are acquired who are indulging in under hand deals with the officials in the plant;

(c) if so, whether the Government propose to probe the matter by any agency;

(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) Fruit and Vegetable Unit at Mangolpuri to Mother Dairy Foods Processing Limited procures fruit and vegetables mainly from Farmers/Farmer's Organisation of various States as per the Units requirement/crop plan. Due to logistic reasons, some quantities are procured from Mandis to bridge the shortfall of procurement and marketing demand as and when required.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) to (e) Do not arise in view of (b) above.

[*Translation*]

Development of Animal Husbandry In Maharashtra

4267. SHRI SHIVAJI MANE:
DR. M.P. JAISWAL:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the schemes for development of animal husbandry being undertaken in Maharashtra during the last three years; and

(b) the targets set and achievements made in this regard during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) The Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying is implementing number of Centrally Sponsored Schemes relating to Animal Husbandry in Maharashtra. The details of these schemes and the funds released to Maharashtra during the last three years are enclosed as statement.

Statement

Details of the fund released to Maharashtra during last three years.

(Rs. in lakhs)

Name of the Scheme	Fund released during		
	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
1	2	3	4
National Project on Cattle & Buffalo Breeding	10.48	0.00	0.00
National Ram/Buck Production Programme	18.48	0.00	0.00

1	2	3	4
Assistance to States for Fodder Development	50.85	0.00	0.00
Assistance to States for control of Animal Diseases	53.00	77.00	50.78
Professional Efficiency Development	0.00	0.00	0.00
National Project on Rinderpest Eradication	40.00	20.00	25.00
Modernisation/Improvement of Slaughter Houses/CUC	33.00	60.00	60.00
Integrated Sample Survey for Livestock Production	18.53	12.00	10.40
Livestock Census	2.50	15.00	29.64

[English]

Service Condition under Alliance Airlines

4268. SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 1802 dated March 3, 2003 and state:

(a) whether any advertisement/circular was issued inviting applications for the posts against which 70 officials were taken on deputation from Indian Airlines to Alliance Air;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether any criteria has been laid down for granting deputation;

(d) if not, the procedure adopted for granting deputation to them;

(e) whether approval of the appropriate authority was obtained for granting deputation beyond a period of three years;

(f) if not, the reasons therefor;

(g) whether the employees of Short Haul Operation Department (SHOD) are discriminated against the mainstream employees of Indian Airlines;

(h) if so, the reasons therefor;

(i) whether the Government propose to deputed better qualified employees from other organizations under his Ministry to enhance the performance of Alliance Air; and

(j) if so, the efforts being made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) to (d) Alliance Air is a wholly owned subsidiary of Indian Airlines. The job requirements of employees in Alliance Air is specific in nature. Alliance Air considers first the employees of Indian Airlines for such jobs before taking outsiders. Employees of Indian Airlines are sent on deputation to Alliance Air, keeping in view the job requirements and with the consent of the concerned Departmental heads of Indian Airlines.

(e) and (f) The period of deputation of employees of Indian Airlines to Alliance Air is extended, based on the requirement of Alliance Air and with the consent of the respective Departmental Heads of Indian Airlines.

(g) No, Sir.

(h) Does not arise.

(i) There is no such proposal under consideration of the Government.

(j) Does not arise.

Flights to KBK Districts

4269. SHRI PARSURAM MAJHI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce air services to the KBK districts of Orissa;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of domestic airports/airstrips proposed to be constructed/upgraded for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

EPFO Ties up with Banks

4270. SHRI C. KUPPUSAMI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Employees Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) has tied up with some Banks for disbursement of pension to its members across the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the terms and conditions with which tie-up has been signed with those banks;

(d) whether the post office is also involved in the network of disbursement of pension; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI VIJAY GOEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) has entered into agreements with certain Nationalised Banks and the Andaman and Nicobar State Co-operative Bank. Ltd. on regional basis for disbursement of pension. EPFO has also tied up with HDFC Bank Ltd., ICICI Bank Ltd. and UTI Bank Ltd. on all India basis for disbursement of pension.

(c) As per the agreement, the entire amount due to be disbursed is paid to the Banks in advance between 20th to 25th of the preceding month and the Banks have to credit the pension amounts in the pensioner's accounts before 5th of the month. Service charges are payable to the Nationalised Banks, the Andaman and Nicobar State Co-operative Bank and Post Offices @ 2.5% on total amount disbursed including Pension, Arrears, Commutation and Return of Capital. As regards HDFC Bank Ltd., ICICI Bank Ltd. and UTI Bank Ltd.—service charges @ 1.25% are payable on total amount of monthly pension disbursement and 0.25% on lump sum payments i.e. Arrears, Commutation and Return of Capital.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) As given in (c) above.

Dredging of Damodar River

4271. SHRI SUNIL KHAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Damodar Valley Corporation propose to dredge the silt and sand at the point of Durgapur Barrage in West Bengal;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to protect the bank of Damodar river?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) The operation and maintenance of Durgapur Barrage is the responsibility of the State Government. The State Government of West Bengal has not formulated any proposal to dredge the silt and sand at Durgapur Barrage. The Government of West Bengal, however, has entrusted the work of silt load capacity survey of Durgapur Barrage to River Research Institute, West Bengal.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Central State Agricultural Farms

4272. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Central State Agricultural Farms in the country, location-wise;

(b) the total income of Central State Agricultural Farms of Karnataka State during the last three years;

(c) the reasons for running in losses of these Central State Agricultural Farms; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to increase the income of the farms?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) The State Farms Corporation of India manages eleven Central State Farms in the country at Suratgarh, Sardargarh and Jetsar in Rajasthan, Aralam in Kerala,

Rachur in Karnataka, Hisar in Haryana, Bahraich and Raebareli in Uttar Pradesh, Chengam in Tamil Nadu and Kokilabari and Barpeta in Assam.

(b) The Central State Farm at Raichur in Karnataka incurred net loss of Rs. 194.38 lakhs during 1999-2000, Rs. 210.53 lakhs during 2000-01 and Rs. 140.85 lakhs during 2001-2002.

(c) The reasons for losses include, inter alia, unfavourable weather conditions, inadequate irrigation facilities, growth in staff expenses, low conversion of produce into seeds, long collection period for receivables, shortage of working capital, increase in the interest burden on loans and advances etc.

(d) The steps taken by the State Farms Corporation of India to increase income/reduce losses include inter alia increasing area under high value crops, adopting advanced scientific agricultural practices, streamlining marketing operations, optimizing manpower requirement through implementation of voluntary retirement/separation scheme, reducing unlivable activities etc.

Development of Horticulture and Fisheries in Assam

4273. SHRI M.K. SUBBA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether horticulture and fisheries sector present a rich potential for the development in Assam and other States in the North-East;

(b) if so, whether proposals for Development of Horticulture and fisheries in the region have been received for respective State Governments; and

(c) if so, the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Horticulture and Fisheries have significant development potential in Assam and other North-Eastern States. The Government of India is implementing, since 2001-02, a "Technology Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture in North-Eastern States including Sikkim" for assisting the States in the development of horticulture. Similarly, the Government is also implementing Developmental and Welfare plan Schemes in the Fishery Sector in North-Eastern States including Assam. Under both the schemes financial

assistance is made available to the States on receipt of proposals as per norms of the schemes. Funds have been released to the States against the proposals received from them.

[Translation]

Pasture Land and Fodder for Animals

4274. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is enough pasture land and fodder for the animals available in Jharkhand;

(b) if so, the areas of pasture land and quantity of fodder available at present in the State; and

(c) the per capita availability of fodder for the animals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) Estimate on the availability of pasture land and fodder for the animals in respect of Jharkhand is not available. However, an overall shortage of green and dry fodder is 60% and 20% respectively in the country.

(c) The per capita availability of dry and green fodder for the animals is 4.18 kg and 4.09 kg respectively per day (All India-1997-98).

[English]

Krishi Vigyan Kendra Project

4275. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) project under Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) are being given grants from the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) in respect of the salary of the staff;

(b) if so, whether the employees of KVKs under NGOs have been given revised pay scales and arrears with effect from January 1, 1996; and

(c) if not the reasons therefor?

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) ICAR has adopted revised pay scale for the staff working in ICAR. The staff of KVKS under NGOs are borne in the establishment of the concerned organization, and have the flexibility with regard to the adoption of pay scales for their staff. However, ICAR financial support is limited to ICAR revised pay scales.

Mosques and Shrines under ASI

4276. SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of protected mosques and other Muslim shrines under the Archaeological Survey of India, (ASI), State-wise;

(b) the number of such protected mosques where 'namaz' (prayers) is allowed, State-wise;

(c) whether any arrangement exists for due repairs and maintenance of these ASI-protected mosques and shrines; and

(d) the amount spent on repairs and maintenance of such places during each of the past three years?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) and (b) The State-wise details of protected mosques/muslim shrines under worship is given in the statement-I.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The State-wise expenditure on conservation and maintenance of centrally protected monuments which include protected mosque and shrine during the last three years is given in the enclosed statement-II.

Statement I

Centrally Protected Mosques which are under Worship (State-wise)

Sl.No.	Name of the State	Mosque
1.	Assam	02
2.	Andhra Pradesh	01
3.	Bihar	05
4.	Chhattisgarh	x
5.	Delhi	12
6.	Goa	01
7.	Gujarat	61
8.	Haryana	01
9.	Himachal Pradesh	x
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	01
11.	Jharkhand	01
12.	Karnataka	48
13.	Kerala	x
14.	Maharashtra	12
15.	Madhya Pradesh	08
16.	Orissa	x
17.	Punjab	x
18.	Rajasthan	03
19.	Sikkim	x
20.	Tamil Nadu	x
21.	Uttaranchal	08
22.	Uttar Pradesh	69
23.	West Bengal	04
Total		237

Statement-II

Expenditure Incurred on Centrally Protected Monuments during the last three years (State-wise)

(Rupees in Lakhs)

S.No.	State/Union Territory	2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	136.29	114.39	417.16
2.	Assam	120.18	99.58	89.49
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	5.00	1.80	0.39

1	2	3	4	5
4.	Bihar	134.00	86.48	112.21
5.	Chhattisgarh	—	16.70	5.75
6.	Delhi	219.96	277.14	996.75
7.	Daman & Diu	15.00	23.61	15.69
8.	Goa	39.77	50.61	82.57
9.	Gujarat	100.67	99.59	35.36
10.	Haryana	60.00	91.85	141.00
11.	Himachal Pradesh	80.00	91.11	44.45
12.	Jammu & Kashmir	112.60	145.03	121.23
13.	Jharkhand	—	4.33	8.07
14.	Karnataka	248.13	476.19	1143.68
15.	Kerala	79.50	75.12	18.26
16.	Madhya Pradesh	1.64	250.51	317.31
17.	Maharashtra	153.00	828.49	308.05
18.	Manipur	0.50	1.42	0.27
19.	Meghalaya	2.00	4.94	4.44
20.	Nagaland	3.00	5.67	12.92
21.	Orissa	56.03	114.73	1021.69
22.	Pondicherry (U.T.)	15.00	3.30	1.63
23.	Punjab	23.00	57.92	40.14
24.	Rajasthan	174.69	235.00	240.22
25.	Sikkim	20.00	27.60	32.99
26.	Tamil Nadu	110.80	187.79	233.20
27.	Tripura	5.00	17.05	—
28.	Uttar Pradesh	297.11	385.13	710.64
29.	Uttaranchal	—	36.52	64.13
30.	West Bengal	80.70	146.13	260.18

Subsidy on Export Quality Rice

4277. SHRI G. GANGA REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the farmers are unable to compete in export of quality rice in the international market despite 50% subsidy on inputs for cultivation;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the action proposed to make agriculture cost effective by adopting new technologies?

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

Condition of Steel Plants

4278. SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the income, expenditure, profit and loss of all the public sector steel plants during each of the last five years;

(b) the various outputs of each of the plants during the said period;

(c) which of the steel plants have captive power plants;

(d) PLF of each such plant and power generated and consumed and per unit cost of electricity by each of such plants during the said period;

(e) whether electricity generated by captive plants are sold outside;

(f) if so, the details thereof during the said period, plant-wise;

(g) the number of workers/employees of such plants during each of last ten years, i.e. during post liberalisation period;

(h) the number of workers/employees retrenched, received VRS, normally retired and otherwise relinquished the job and new placements made during the said period, plant-wise;

(i) whether there is any proposal for disinvestment; and

(j) if so, the details thereof including recommendation/suggestion of Disinvestment Commission?

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

Visibility problem at Mumbai Airport

4279. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Mumbai Airport faces visibility problem due to smoke;

(b) if so, whether a number of flights were delayed due to poor visibility during March, 2003;

(c) if so, the details of the flights delayed due to poor visibility caused by smoke during the last one year;

(d) whether the smoke is caused by the burning of garbage, rubber tyres in the slums adjoining the air strip;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the measures taken or proposed to be taken to deal with this problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) During March 2003, 6 departures and 18 arrivals were delayed and 5 flights were diverted due to poor visibility.

(c) No records are generally kept regarding flights delayed due to poor visibility caused by smoke. However, it has been informed that no flights were delayed due to smoke during the last one year except in the month of March, 2003.

(d) and (e) Mumbai airport is surrounded by slums and environmental pollution effects are also there. As such, reasons for smoke could be attributed to burning of garbage, rubber tyres etc.

(f) In the interest of security and safety of aircraft operations, matter has been taken up with the State Government authorities for relocating the slums and remove the encroachments near Mumbai airport.

[Translation]

Kuteshwar Steel Mines

4280. SHRI RAMANAND SINGH: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the number of labourers working in Kuteshwar Steel Mines in Katani district of Madhya Pradesh at present;

(b) the number out of them permanent and temporary respectively;

(c) whether most of the labourers engaged on contract basis are paid very low wages; and

(d) the facilities being provided to these labourers working in the steel mines as per the Labour Act?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY): (a) The manpower of Kuteshwar Limestone Mines as on 1.4.2003 is given as under:

Executives	28
Non-Executives	311
Total	329
Contract Labour	817

(b) The executives and non-executives employed by SAIL are permanent.

(c) All the contract labour are piece rated workers. SAIL has informed that it is ensured that they are paid the minimum wages by the contractor as notified by the Central Government from time to time.

(d) SAIL has informed that facilities as per the various statutes of the Labour Act are being provided to the contract labourers.

Shortage of Godowns

4281. SHRIMATI JAYASHREE BANERJEE:
SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that more than thirty lakh tonnes of foodgrains stored in Government godowns have rotten due to shortage of godowns, mismanagement in maintenance and negligence of officers; and

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

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

(a) No, Sir. No foodgrains have rotten in Government godowns due to shortage of godowns, mismanagement in maintenance and negligence of officers. As is evident from the table given below, sizeable storage accommodation is still available lying vacant un-utilised as on 28.2.2003:

	(in lakh MTs)		
	Covered	CAP*	Total
Capacity	268.4	55.46	323.86
Stock	183.21	16.08	199.29
%age utilisation	68%	29%	62%

(*Cover and Plinth Storage)

Foodgrains are stored in Food Corporation of India (FCI) godowns in scientific manner and preserved by technically trained and qualified quality control staff. Regular and periodic inspections of stocks are carried out by the officers of the FCI and timely prophylactic and curative treatment is carried out for the control of insect pests. However, due to vagaries of weather and natural calamities like unprecedented/incessant rains, cyclones, floods, and spillage, multiple handling in storage, transportation by rail/roads etc. some damage does occur to foodgrains. The quantity of such damage occurred to foodgrains as on 28.2.2003 is 1.42 lakh MTs which is only 0.7% of the total stock holding.

Foodgrains which become unfit for human consumption and declared damaged (rotten) are categorized as Feed-I, Feed-II, Feed-III, Industrial use and fit for dumping etc. depending upon the percentage of sound grains in a particular lot and are disposed off as per laid down procedure of the Government of India for the purpose indicated above.

(b) In view of above, question does not arise.

Office Expenses

4282. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the year-wise expenditure incurred under various heads such as publicity, advertisement, hospitality, catering, opening ceremonies, seminars, conferences, tours (including foreign visits), STD and ISD telephone bills, electricity bills especially the electricity bills of airconditioners and coolers and other office expenses in various departments and undertakings under the ministry during the last three years;

(b) whether the Government propose to launch any drive to cut down the expenditure being incurred under above heads;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) to (d) The information is being collected.

Civil Aviation Scheme for Jammu and Kashmir

4283. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the name and number of civil aviation schemes initiated during the Ninth Five Year Plan in Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) the progress made in these schemes as on date;

(c) whether the work of these schemes is going on as per schedule;

(d) if so, the total expenditure incurred so far on these schemes; and

(e) the amount of funds sanctioned for these schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) Construction of an airport at Kargil, construction of apron at Leh, extension of runway and expansion of terminal building, apron etc. at Jammu airport were taken up during Ninth Five Year Plan in Jammu and Kashmir.

(b) Construction of airport at Kargil, expansion of Terminal building, apron and runway extension on southern side at Jammu airport has already been completed. Construction of civil apron at Leh is likely to be completed in May 2004. Runway extension on northern side at Jammu airport will be taken up, after handing over of Army land to Airports Authority of India (AAI).

(c) Except the work of construction of civil apron at Leh and runway extension on northern side at Jammu airport, all the works are going on as per schedule.

(d) Rs. 64.50 crore have been incurred so far on these schemes.

(e) Rs. 78.67 crore was sanctioned for these schemes.

[English]

Mining Activity

4284. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether illegal mining is rampant in Dera Village in South Delhi;

(b) if so, whether the forest department has sought police protection to check the violation in the area;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV): (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Conservation of Soil in Catchment Areas

4285. SHRI SHRINIWAS PATIL: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by the Government to conserve soil in the catchment areas of dams due to declining storage capacity of dams;

(b) whether any measures to reduce run off of water has been taken in the catchment areas; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (c) The Natural Resources Management Division of Ministry of Agriculture is implementing two schemes namely (i) Soil Conservation for enhancing agricultural productivity of degraded land in the catchments of Rivers Valley Project and Flood Prone Rivers and (ii) Watershed Development Project in Shifting Cultivation in the country with main objectives as under:

- Reduction of runoff from the catchments to reduce peak flow
- Prevention of Soil loss from watershed
- Improve land capability and moisture regime
- Creation of awareness for catchment core

This inter-alia results in conservation of soil in the catchment areas of dams and reducing runoff in the catchment area.

One of the activities under these programmes is construction of water harvesting structures in catchments. This helps farmers is generating rain water resource for life saving irrigation for crops etc. This programme is being implemented in all the States in the country.

Women Beedi Workers

4286. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether ILO's pilot project to solve the problems of women beedi workers is lying pending for implementation;

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

(c) whether the Government have since launched this pilot project;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, by when the pilot project is likely to be launched; and

(f) the benefits likely to be given to women beedi workers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI VIJAY GOEL):

(a) to (f) No such pilot project is lying pending for approval with the Government. The International Labour Organisation (ILO) are running a pilot project "Improving Working Conditions and Employment Opportunity for Women in the Beedi Industry in India" in Vellore (Tamil Nadu), Mangalore (Karnataka) and Sagar (Madhya Pradesh) through Non-Government Organisations (NGOs). The project aims at improvement of working and living conditions of women beedi workers and creating employment and more opportunity in areas where employment in beedi work is decreasing.

[Translation]

Heritage Sites in M.P. and Chhattisgarh

4287. SHRI VISHNUDEO SAI: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number and locations of the cultural heritage centres and other heritage sites identified in Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh;

(b) the arrangements made for their protection and conservation by the Union Government and State Governments;

(c) the amount spent for the purpose during the last two fiscal years;

(d) the details of the proposals sent by the Chhattisgarh Government in this regard; and

(e) the break-up of the proposals approved, rejected and pending out of them?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) There are 47 and 282 centrally protected monuments in the State of Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh respectively under the control of Archaeological Survey of India. List of centrally protected monuments is available in the Lok Sabha Library.

The State Government of Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh have protected 56 and 283 monuments respectively.

(b) Preservation, conservation and maintenance of centrally protected monuments is a continuous process and works are carried out on need basis subject to the availability of manpower and resources. Similarly State Governments are maintaining their monuments as per their norms.

(c) The amount spent during last two years on the centrally protected monument is given in the statement enclosed.

(d) and (e) No such proposal has been received by the Archaeological Survey of India.

Statement

1. Expenditure incurred by Archaeological Survey of India on the monuments in Madhya Pradesh during last two years:

2001-2002	Rs. 2,05,51,700
2002-2003	Rs. 3,44,72,327

2. Expenditure incurred by Department of State Archaeology, Archives and Museums, Government of Madhya Pradesh on the monuments in Madhya Pradesh

Year	State Funding	Central Funding
2001-2002	Rs. 9,83,449	Rs. 416.54 lacs
2002-2003	Rs. 21,42,457	Rs. 407 lacs

3. Expenditure incurred by Archaeological Survey of India on the monuments in Chhattisgarh during last two years

2001-2002	Rs. 16,64,368
2002-2003	Rs. 12,96,736

4. Expenditure incurred by Department of State Archaeology, Archives and Museums, Government of Madhya Pradesh on the monuments in Chhattisgarh.

Year	State Funding
2001-2002	Rs. 19.20 lacs
2002-2003	Rs. 26.78 lacs

The 11th Finance Commission (2000-2001 to 2004-2005) has sanctioned Rs. 2.61 crores for the Integrated Development Plan for conservation and development of important monuments in the State of Chhattisgarh out of which a total expenditure of Rs. 17.56 lacs has been incurred till 31.3.2003.

ESI Facility to Labourers

4288. SHRI RAMSINH RATHWA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of labourers covered under the ESI scheme in each State of the country and their percentage to the labour force in respective States;

(b) the steps taken by the Government to bring more labourers under the said scheme; and

(c) the reasons for not providing ESI facility to all the labourers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI VIJAY GOEL): (a) Out of a total workforce of 40.25 crores, the number of employees covered under the ESI scheme as on 31.3.2002 are 71.59 lakhs, which works out to be 1.78% of the total workforce. State-wise details are given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) A phased programme for implementation of ESI Scheme in new areas is drawn by the Corporation in consultation with the State/UT Governments every year. As per the phased programme for the year 2003-2004, it is proposed to extend the Scheme to 56 new areas to cover 1.09 lakh additional employees.

(c) As per the provisions of ESI Act, the Scheme can be extended only to factories using power and employing 10 or more persons and non-power using factories and certain specified establishments employing 20 or more persons. Further workers upto a wage ceiling of Rs. 6500 per month are only covered under the ESI Scheme. Workers employed in smaller factories and in other categories of establishments as well as those in the unorganised sector are not coverable under the Scheme.

Further, as per the provisions of the ESI Act a composite package of benefits including comprehensive medical care is required to be provided to the workers covered under the ESI Scheme. The responsibility of creating necessary infrastructure for providing medical care in the States/UTs. rests with the concerned State/UT Government. Due to physical and financial constraints, the State/UT Governments have not been able to make necessary arrangements in all the areas for extending the scheme.

Statement**Coverage under ESI Scheme vis-a-vis Workforce**

Sl.No.	State/U.T.	Total No. of Workers	No. of Employees Covered under ESI Scheme	% of ESI Coverage to Total Workforce in the State
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	34865117	502400	1.44
2.	Assam & Meghalaya	10513489	31400	0.30
3.	Bihar	28080004	29850	0.11
4.	Chandigarh	339021	30100	8.88
5.	Chhattisgarh	9685260	29250	0.30
6.	Delhi	4526737	494000	10.91
7.	Goa	522565	73150	14.00
8.	Gujarat	20368797	440350	2.16
9.	Haryana	8382890	349350	4.17
10.	Himachal Pradesh	2991448	39350	1.31
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	3688875	14700	0.40
12.	Jharkhand	10127733	56500	0.56
13.	Karnataka	23521533	628000	2.67
14.	Kerala	10291258	333550	3.24
15.	Madhya Pradesh	25756485	237100	0.92
16.	Maharashtra	42053330	1037550	2.47
17.	Orissa	14272764	114300	0.80
18.	Pondicherry	342101	52300	15.29
19.	Punjab	9141760	371150	4.06
20.	Rajasthan	23781257	248850	1.05
21.	Tamil Nadu	27811647	1063350	3.82
22.	Uttaranchal	3133281	17900	0.97
23.	Uttar Pradesh	54180232	429650	0.79
24.	West Bengal	29503278	535250	1.81

1	2	3	4	5
25.	Sikkim	263320	*	—
26.	Arunachal Pradesh	482206	*	—
27.	Nagaland	849982	*	—
28.	Manipur	1069578	*	—
29.	Mizoram	469597	*	—
30.	Tripura	1158190	*	—
31.	Daman & Diu	72654	*	—
32.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	114121	*	—
33.	Lakshadweep	15349	*	—
34.	Andaman & Nicobar Island	136331	*	—
Total (All-India)		402512190	7159350	1.78

*The ESI Scheme is not in force in these States/UTs.

Source: The figures of the total workforce have been taken from Census Data for 2001 Census.

[English]

Establishment of Veterinary Nuclear Medicine Centre

4289. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Bhabha Atomic Research Centre have decided to establish a Veterinary Nuclear Medicine Centre at the Maharashtra Animal Husbandry and Fisheries Science University at Nagpur;

(b) if so, by when it is likely to be established and the cost involved therein;

(c) whether the said centre will be first of its kind in the Asian continent to develop such a facility at Nagpur; and

(d) the facilities to be provided at the centre and how the expenditure for its operation is to be met?

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

(a) Yes, Sir. The Board of Research in Nuclear Sciences, Department of Atomic Energy, Government of India have

sanctioned a scheme to establish Veterinary Nuclear Medicine Centre at the Department of Medicine, Bombay Veterinary College in Mumbai in November 1999.

(b) The Centre at Mumbai has already been established and from January 2003, the preliminary work to standardise procedures and protocols in animals has been initiated. The centre has been established at a total cost of around Rs. 84,59,273.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Scintigraphy facilities for all domestic animals would be available and the following work will be carried out at the Centre:

- Research on new radio-pharmaceuticals in collaboration with BRIT, BARC, RMC and other such institutes in the country.
- Pharmacodynamics, Pharmacokinetics and some studies on mechanisms of action of new drug molecules. The facilities will be available to National Institutes, Government and Private Research and Development Laboratories, private Pharmaceuticals, other universities etc. The services will be charged.

Wasteful Expenditure on Irrigation Project

4290. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Comptroller and Auditor General (C&AG) in its Report 2 of 2001 (Civil) has brought out non-commission of Lift Irrigation Project (LIP) even after spending Rs. 58.69 lakh as a result of which the purpose of LIP to irrigate fodder and fodder seed farm situated in 200 hectare of land could not be achieved;

(b) if so, whether the Government would look into the matter for wasteful expenditure on the project and take appropriate steps in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) and (c) A sum of Rs. 58.69 lakh was released by the Ministry of Agriculture for commissioning of the Lift Irrigation project at the Central Cattle Breeding Farm, Dhamrod, Gujarat. The work was awarded to Gujarat Water Resources Development Corporation Ltd. (GWRDC). As intimated by the Director of the Farm the work taken in two phases has now been completed in the month of October, 2002, and testing was carried out in Dec., 2002 and February, 2003. Water reached the farm pond. But some major and minor leakages were observed which were also repaired and further testing was carried out during 8.4.2003 to 12.4.2003 at phase-I. The testing of phase-II is still due. Further testing will be carried out from 21.4.2003.

Cultural Policy

4291. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the salient features of the National Cultural Policy;

(b) whether State Governments are consulted in choosing cultural expositions for cultural events in India and abroad; and

(c) if so, the role played by Indian missions abroad in promoting and disseminating Indian culture abroad?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) No formal policy document has been

formulated but policy includes protection and preservation of all protected monuments and all forms of cultural assets and heritage. A number of Academies-Sangeet Natak, Lalit Kala and Sahitya-have been constituted, and there is also a National School of Drama.

(b) and (c) There are more than 50 implementing agencies under the Central Government, all over India, which are consulted while formulating the Cultural Exchange Programme with other countries. The various Zonal Cultural Centres (ZCCs) consult the concerned State Governments for enlisting and execution of cultural events. The Indian Missions abroad monitor the progress of implementation of Cultural Exchange Programme and act as nodal agency for their effective implementation.

In addition, the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) is engaged in promoting greater awareness of India's composite cultural heritage abroad through its 15 Cultural Centres.

National Policy on Cooperatives

4292. SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to refer to the reply given to the Starred Question No. 167 dated August 2, 2001 and state:

(a) if the policy has since been formulated and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the chairman is to be elected from amongst the existing elected directors in the Kendriya Bhandar or from amongst the newly elected directors and delegates;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether as per the MSCS Act, 2000 there is no distinction between the members viz. whether serving or retired but a distinction has been made in the revised bye-laws of the Kendriya Bhandar wherein retired Government servants have not been retained as members of the society;

(e) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;

(f) whether there is any proposal to guarantee the membership rights to retired Government servants; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

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

(a) Yes, Sir. The Central Government has formulated a new National Policy on Co-operatives aimed at the all round development of the co-operatives and their economic viability. The focus of the National Policy is on professionalisation of co-operatives and democratisation of their management to facilitate their development as self-reliant and economically viable organisations providing their members improved access anticipated in various economic spheres, safeguarding them against market imperfections and bestowing on them the advantages of collective action. The Government as a facilitator, will provide necessary support, encouragement and assistance to co-operative societies to ensure that they work as autonomous, self-reliant and viable economic enterprises.

(b) and (c) The Chairman of a Multi State Co-operative Society including Kendriya Bhandar is to be elected from amongst the elected directors of the Board as per the provisions of MSCS Act, 2002 and rules framed thereunder.

(d) and (e) The Multi-State Cooperative Societies Act, 2002 provides for distinction between a member and an associate member. The bye-laws of Kendriya Bhandar provides for making retired Government servants as Associate Members which is in conformity with the provisions of the Act.

(f) No, Sir.

(g) Question does not arise.

Hiring of Private Trucks/Matadors by Mother Dairy's (F&V) Plant

4293. SHRI RANEN BARMAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Mother Dairy's (F&V) Plant at Mangolpuri has been hiring private trucks/matadors which are more than three years old and violating the set rules and norms of the Department of Personnel PG&P not to hire more than three years old vehicle in any of the Government/ Autonomous bodies etc;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to direct Mother Dairy's (F&V) Plant to terminate/suspend tender contract of transporters and ban entry of private trucks/matadors which are more than three years old;

(c) if so, by when it is likely to be done;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the officials working in the said plant are demanding expensive gifts at each of the festivals from the owners of the trucks/matadors which are hired by them; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the action being taken by the Government against the officials of the plant.

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

(a) The Fruit and Vegetable unit of Mother Dairy is hiring private trucks/matadors which are meeting performance and other criteria for hiring such vehicles and also keeping in view the norms set by the regional Transport Authority for commercial vehicles.

(b) to (d) Not applicable in view of (a) above.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Not applicable in view of (e) above.

Supply of Frozen Fruits and Vegetables by Mother Dairy

4294. SHRI DILEEP SANGHANI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the fruits and vegetables supplied to its booths by Mother Dairy's (fruits and vegetables) plant in Delhi are mostly frozen one and not fresh;

(b) if so, whether such fruits and vegetables become stale/musty within few hours of its delivery; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to direct Mother Dairy's plant to supply only fresh fruits and vegetables to its booths?

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

(a) Almost all the vegetables supplied to the booths are fresh only. A very small quantity of frozen peas and mixed vegetables are supplied at the booths. As regards fruits, no frozen fruits are supplied at the booths.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Not applicable in view of (a) and (b) above.

[Translation]

Pradhan Mantri Gramin Payjal Yojana

4295. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of work executed under Pradhan Mantri Gramin Payjal Yojana during the last two years, State-wise and District-wise;

(b) whether handpumps have been installed in the districts of various States under the said scheme; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) Drinking Water is one of the six components of Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yojana

(PMGY), which was being operated by the Ministry of Rural Development (Department of Drinking Water Supply) upto the end of year 2001-02. State-wise details of physical and financial progress as reported by various State Governments during the years 2000-01 and 2001-02 is given in the statement enclosed. Under the component of the Drinking Water, presently only some Additional Central Assistance (ACA) is provided to the State Governments by the Planning Commission to supplement their efforts in Drinking Water Supply Programmes.

(b) and (c) Drinking Water Supply being a State subject, rural water schemes including installation of handpumps under the PMGY are planned and implemented by the concerned State Governments as per their own priorities and requirements. As such the details of the handpumps installed are maintained by the concerned State Government.

Statement

Physical and Financial Progress under PMGY—RDW during 2000-2001

Sl.No.	State/UT	Total allocation for PMGY-RDW (Rs. in lakhs)	Funds Released under PMGY-RDW (Rs. in lakhs)	Expenditure Reported (Rs. in lakhs)	Number of habitations covered (Reported)	Month
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2840.90	2840.90	2840.90	489	(3/2001)
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	2550.00	2550.00	1380.75		
3.	Assam	3301.00	1346.78	168.00		(3/2001)
4.	Bihar	3291.90	2154.37	1499.93		(3/2001)
5.	Chhattisgarh	471.00	471.00	—	—	—
6.	Goa	31.20	5.85	5.85		(3/2001)
7.	Gujarat	2590.85	2590.85	2590.85		(3/2001)
8.	Haryana	471.20	471.20	471.20	12	(3/2001)
9.	Himachal Pradesh	3077.00	3077.00	3077.00	109	(3/2001)
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	2573.70	1286.85	1286.85		(3/2001)
11.	Jharkhand	1016.85	1016.85			

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
12.	Karnataka	1127.00	1127.00	415.95		
13.	Kerala	140000	518.10	518.10		(3/2001)
14.	Madhya Pradesh	1803.55	1803.55	853.27		(3/2001)
15.	Maharashtra	2414.00	2414.00	2414.00	22	(3/2001)
16.	Manipur	728.40	364.20	364.20	47	(3/2001)
17.	Meghalaya	1000.00	1000.00	1000.00	93	(3/2001)
18.	Mizoram	1006.00	1006.00	937.32	159	(3/2001)
19.	Nagaland	1322.00	1322.00	1322.00		(3/2001)
20.	Orissa	2878.25	2478.25	1864.81	3527	(3/2001)
21.	Punjab	1616.00	1616.00	454.72		(3/2001)
22.	Rajasthan	2158.00	2158.00	1319.87	630	(3/2001)
23.	Sikkim	600.00	600.00	600.00	28	(3/2001)
24.	Tamil Nadu	1571.85	1571.85	1571.85	224	(3/2001)
25.	Tripura	1328.00	2033.22	1327.17	995	(3/2001)
26.	Uttar Pradesh	6727.00	6727.00	4110.18	0	(3/2001)
27.	Uttaranchal	188.40	188.40	0.00		(3/2001)
28.	West Bengal	5873.00	5874.00	1258.65		(3/2001)
29.	A&N Islands	15.00	154.00	154.00		
30.	Dadra Nagar Haveli	37.80	37.80	37.80		(3/2001)
31.	Daman & Diu	54.50	54.50	34.50		(3/2001)
32.	Delhi	200.00	200.00	120.00		
33.	Lakshadweep	64.93	64.93	52.90		
34.	Pondicherry	71.55	71.55	71.55	5	(3/2001)
35.	Chandigarh	119.20	119.20	119.20		
Total		56259.03	51315.20	34243.37	6340	

PMGY: Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yojana

RDW : Rural Drinking Water

Physical and Financial Progress under PMGY—RDW during 2001-2002

S.No.	State/UT	Opening Balance as on 1.4.2001* (Rs. in lakhs)	Total allocation for PMGY-RDW (Rs. in lakhs)	Funds Released under PMGY-RDW (Rs. in lakhs)	Total Availability of fund (Rs. in lakhs) (3+5)	Expenditure Reported (Rs. in lakhs)	Number of habitations covered (Reported)	Month
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1.	Andhra Pradesh	0.00	2841.20	2841.20	2841.20	2841.20	—	(3/2002)
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1169.25	1315.00	1315.00	2484.25	1405.24	76.00	(3/2002)
3.	Assam	1178.78	3051.00	1525.50	2704.28	2704.28	164.00	(3/2002)
4.	Bihar	654.44	2457.90	1228.50	1882.94	10.65		(12/2001)
5.	Chhattisgarh	471.00	881.20	440.60	911.60			
6.	Goa	0.00	29.85	29.85	29.85	13.63		(9/2001)
7.	Gujarat	0.00	3265.20	3265.20	3265.20	3209.64	301.00	(3/2002)
8.	Haryana	0.00	471.20	471.20	471.20	471.20	12.00	(12/2001)
9.	Himachal Pradesh	0.00	3650.00	3650.00	3650.00	3650.00	131.00	(3/2002)
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	0.00	7167.00	6967.00	6967.00			
11.	Jharkhand	1016.85	759.20	379.60	1396.45			
12.	Karnataka	711.05	1127.00	1127.00	1838.05	879.31		(12/2001)
13.	Kerala	0.00	3426.00	3426.00	3426.00	94.65		(6/2001)
14.	Madhya Pradesh	950.28	1460.62	1460.62	2410.90	2184.85		(3/2002)
15.	Maharashtra	0.00	3105.07	1552.58	1552.58	1552.58		(3/2002)
16.	Manipur	0.00	1473.15	736.57	736.57	736.57	15.00	(11/2001)
17.	Meghalaya	0.00	954.60	954.60	954.60	954.60	81.00	(3/2002)
18.	Mizoram	68.68	1500.00	1500.00	1568.68	1568.68		(3/2002)
19.	Nagaland	0.00	1923.60	1923.50	1923.60	1466.35		(3/2002)
20.	Orissa	613.44	2003.80	2003.80	2617.24	2241.32		(3/2002)
21.	Punjab	1161.28	1000.50	1000.50	2161.78	1587.87	97.00	(3/2002)
22.	Rajasthan	838.13	1620.00	1620.00	2458.13	2458.13	1093.00	(3/2002)
23.	Sikkim	0.00	978.00	978.00	978.00	859.20	49.00	(1/2002)
24.	Tamil Nadu	0.00	1500.00	1500.00	1500.00	1500.00	248.00	(3/2002)
25.	Tripura	706.05	920.79	920.79	1626.84	1626.84	20.00	(3/2002)
26.	Uttar Pradesh	2616.82	7534.00	7534.00	10150.82	5963.24	6.00	(3/2002)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
27.	Uttaranchal	188.40	781.40	781.40	969.80	434.62		(12/2001)
28.	West Bengal	4615.35	5403.00	5403.00	10018.35	7142.42		(3/2002)
29.	A&N Islands	0.00	215.00	32.00	32.00			
30.	Dadra Nagar Havlei	0.00	51.60		0.00			
31.	Daman & Diu	20.00	53.00	6.92	26.92	6.92		(10/2001)
32.	Delhi	80.00	385.00	—	80.00	—	—	—
33.	Lakshadweep	12.03	69.30	15.50	27.53	27.53	6.00	(2/2002)
34.	Pondicherry	0.00	72.09	32.98	32.98	32.98	0.00	(3/2002)
35.	Chandigarh	0.00	100.00	—	0.00	0.00		(12/2001)
Total		17071.83	63546.27	56623.51	73695.34	47624.50	2299.00	

*Provisional.

[English]

Borewell Schemes in Villages

4296. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to formulate any new borewell schemes for villages in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) Ministry of Water Resources do not propose to formulate any such scheme.

(b) Does not arise.

Quality of Tap Water

4297. SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN SHARAN SINGH: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the quality of tap water in the major cities in the country meets with standards specified in European Council Directives;

(b) if not, the variation in relation to each parameter set in European Council Directives;

(c) the short and long term impact on human health as a result thereof; and

(d) the remedial measures proposed by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (d) Drinking Water Supply being a state subject, it is the responsibility of the State Governments/Urban Local Bodies to provide safe potable drinking water to the population living in urban areas after treating surface/ground water. The water utilities/authorities responsible for providing drinking water are required to adhere to the standards for physical, chemical and bacteriological parameters of drinking water indicated in the Bureau of Indian Standards' specification on Drinking Water as laid down in IS 10500:1991. The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) is the agency at the National Level for setting up of standards for Drinking Water. When the standards prescribed by BIS are strictly adhered to by Water Supply Agencies including Urban Local Bodies there should not be any adverse impact on human health.

[Translation]

Beef Served in Hotels

4298. SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether beef is served in Government hotels;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether this is due to demand by the foreign tourists; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

[English]

Flood Control Scheme of Andaman and Nicobar Islands

4299. SHRI BISHNU PADA RAY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Andaman and Nicobar Administration is implementing a scheme viz., "Flood control including Anti Sea Erosion" under "Minor Irrigation and Flood Control" in the Tenth Five Year Plan; and

(b) if so, the tehsil-wise areas to be covered alongwith the expenditure to be incurred thereon and the timeframe for implementation of scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir, As per information supplied by the Andaman and Nicobar Administration, there is a scheme for Flood Control including Anti Sea Erosion under "Minor Irrigation and Food Control" in the Tenth Five Year Plan. The approximate expenditure to be incurred on the scheme is Rs. 10 crore, which is to be implemented by the Andaman & Nicobar Administration during the Xth Plan (2002-2007). The tehsil-wise areas preliminary identified by the Union territory to be covered in the above scheme are given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

List of Works on Flood Control and Anti Sea Erosion to be taken up during the Xth Five Year Plan (2002-2007)

Sl.No.	Name of Work	Length (in metre Approx.)
1	2	3
I.	ANTI SEA EROSION	
	Port Blair Tehsil	
1.	Construction of sea wall to protect ATR from Chidyatappu to Bednabad (Ph-I)	200
2.	Re-construction of sea wall from Chidyatappu to Bednabad (Ph-1)	200
3.	Re-construction of sea wall from Chaulanga Jetty to Marina Park (Ph-I)	200
4.	Re-construction of sea wall between Chaulanga Jetty Marina Park (Ph-II)	150
5.	Re-constructed of damaged sea wall between Chaulanga Jetty Marina Park (Ph-III)	150
6.	Re-construction of damaged sea wall between Chaulanga Jetty	150
7.	Re-construction of damaged sea wall between Marina Park to Ayyanar Temple (Ph-III)	150

1	2	3
8.	Construction of sea wall from Chidiyatappu to Bednabad (Ph-III)	150
9.	Construction of sea wall Wandoor Jetty towards Wandoor School	150
10.	Construction of sea wall between Corbyn's Cove beach and South Point	100
11.	Construction of sea wall at Little Andaman area	150
Farrarguni Tehsil		
1.	Improvement of sea wall at Dundaspoint area	150
2.	Construction of sea wall to protect land from erosion at Shoal Bay	100
3.	Construction of sea wall Mount Harriet Junction towards North Bay	100
4.	Construction of sea wall at Bamboo flat area	100
5.	Construction of sea wall to protect ATR from erosion at Panighat	100
Rangat Tehsil		
1.	Construction of sea wall to protect ATR from erosion in Middle Andaman	150
2.	Construction of sea wall near Panchawati	150
3.	Construction of sea wall near Uttara Jetty	150
4.	Construction of sea wall in Betapur Fisherman colony in Middle Andaman	150
Mayabunder Tehsil		
1.	Construction of sea wall to protect ATR from land erosion near Yatri Niwas in Betapur No. 1	200
2.	Construction of sea wall behind Hurugan Temple in Mayabunder (Ph-II)	200
3.	Construction of sea wall from old Power House o Forest Check Post	200
Diglipur Tehsil		
1.	Construction of sea wall to protect land in North Andaman SW: C/o sea wall	150
2.	Construction of sea wall different stretches between Aerial Bay towards	100
3.	Construction of sea wall near Fisherman colony Durgapur	100
4.	Construction of sea wall to Durgapur to protect the road from sea erosion	150
5.	Construction of sea wall between Aerial Bay and Kalipur in North Andaman	100
Car Nicobar Tehsil		
1.	Construction of sea wall to protect the land from erosion in Car Nicobar	150
2.	Construction of sea wall at Kakana at Car Nicobar	150

1	2	3
3.	Construction of sea wall near Japanese, Sawai, Tee Top in front of Guest House	150
4.	Construction of sea wall from Tapmine village of Lapathy at Car Nicobar	150
Katchal Area		
1.	Construction of sea wall Kapanga village a Katchal	200
2.	Construction of sea wall at West Bay Katchal	100
3.	Construction of sea wall at Marine in Katchal	200
Nancowry Tehsil		
1.	Construction of sea wall at Champion	100
2.	Construction of sea wall at Kimorta near AHW office	100
3.	Construction of sea wall Tapong village in Nancowry	100
4.	Construction of sea wall at Munak	100
5.	Construction of sea wall at Kakana	100
6.	Construction of sea wall at Hituai in Nancowrie Is.	100
7.	Construction of sea wall at Malacca to Sahas and Champion to Hinunga village Teressa Island	100
New Proposal		
1.	Construction of sea wall to protect from land erosion at Teresa (Near Jetty)	100
	Total	6000
II. Flood Control		
1.	Lining of drains/protection works in major settlements like Diglipur Mayabunder, Rangat Wimberlygunj, Bamboofiat and Campbell Bay	4000m
2.	Construction of spurs to protect the nallah erosion at Rangat and Wimberlygunj area	1000m

[Translation]

Encroaching Monuments

4300. SHRI MANSINH PATEL:
SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY:

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

(a) the details of ancient monuments and places of worship under the control of Archaeological Survey of India presently, location-wise;

(b) whether in many cases the boundary of such sites has been extended by encroaching upon adjoining land and it is being used for other purposes;

(c) if so, the details of such cases;

(d) whether the Government propose to remove the encroachment and to ban misutilisation of such land;

(e) if so by when the decision is likely to be implemented; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) to (f) Information is being collected and would be placed at the table of the House.

[*English*]

Revamp of Sahitya Akademi

4301. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to revamp the Sahitya Akademi;

(b) whether the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA), and Lalit Kala Akademi are also proposed to be re-organised; and

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

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

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

[*Translation*]

Deciphering of Manuscripts

4302. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether due to lack of Table scholars in ancient languages who could decipher thousands of manuscripts available in these languages, several mysteries related to culture remain unexplored;

(b) if so, the efforts made by the Government in this regard;

(c) whether the Government propose to seek assistance from certain institutes or neighbouring countries in the matter;

(d) if so, the details thereto; and

(e) the materials used for writing such manuscripts?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) and (b) Considering the magnitude of

manuscripts collection in the country, a National Mission for Manuscripts has been launched to locate, enumerate, preserve these manuscripts in India and abroad with a view to enhancing their access and conserving them for posterity. As part of this, the Mission also aims to train scholars to learn the scripts, decipher them and undertake research.

(c) and (d) The activities of the Mission are to be carried out in consultation and co-operation from all stakeholders including custodial institutions, State Governments, non-governmental organizations etc.

(e) The manuscripts available in India are reported to be written on diverse kinds of material like birch bark, palm tree, cloth, paper etc.

[*English*]

Floriculture Cultivation

4303. SHRI A. NARENDRA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total area of land under the floriculture cultivation during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the allocation made for the development of floriculture during the said period; and

(c) the steps taken by the Union Government to promote and encourage the floriculture in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) As per available information state-wise area under floriculture for the year 1998-99, 1999-2000, 2000-01 is enclosed Statement.

(b) and (c) The Government of India makes available financial assistance to the states through a Centrally sponsored Scheme on macro management of Agriculture—supplementation/complementation of States' efforts' though work plan". The states, as per their prioritized needs, take up agriculture development programmes including development of floriculture under the scheme. However, no separate allocation for floriculture is made by the Central Government.

The National Horticulture Board (NHB) under its scheme "Development of Commercial Horticulture through

Production and Post-Harvest management provides back-ended capital investment subsidy @ 20% of the total project cost with a maximum limit of Rs. 25 lakhs per project for hi-tech cultivation including floriculture projects. For the North-Eastern/Tribal/Hilly Areas, maximum limit of

subsidy would be Rs. 30.00 lakh per project. Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), Ministry of Commerce, is also supporting floriculture infrastructure development and promotional programmes for export of flowers.

Statement

State-wise area under Floriculture

Sl.No.	State/UT's	Area in ha.		
		1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01
1.	Andhra Pradesh	8357.00	18087.0	15947.0
2.	Assam	—	650.0	350.0
3.	Bihar	86.0	86.0	44.5
4.	Delhi	3450.00	3450.0	4490.0
5.	Haryana	2250.0	2250.0	3200.00
6.	Himachal Pradesh	133.3	133.3	153.7
7.	Jammu & Kashmir	75.0	75.0	56.6
8.	Karnataka	20780.0	20801.0	21527.0
9.	Madhya Pradesh	1956.0	1387.0	3800.0
10.	Maharashtra	4979.0	6600.00	6931.0
11.	Manipur	140.5	157.0	175.00
12.	Nagaland	—	—	320.0
13.	Orissa	175.00	175.0	218.0
14.	Punjab	560.0	560.0	455.0
15.	Rajasthan	2353.0	2353.0	2139.0
16.	Sikkim	—	70.0	70.0
17.	Tamil Nadu	17750.0	18120.0	19000.0
18.	Tripura	25.0	25.0	25.0
19.	Uttaranchal	190.1	190.1	184.3
20.	Uttar Pradesh	160.0	160.0	5790.0
21.	West Bengal	10500.00	13227.0	13431.0
22.	Daman & Diu	5.0	5.0	5.0
23.	Pondicherry	46.0	46.0	135.0
Total		73970.9	88609.4	98447.1

[*Translation*]

Administrative Forest Officers in NGOs

4304. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether most of the retired Class I officers are working as Administrative Forest Officers in most of the Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs);

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether other persons are not able to working NGOs due to lack of complete information;

(d) if so, whether the Government propose to publish a book to provide complete information in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV): (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise, in view to reply to (a) above.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) No, Sir.

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

Agreement between Tanzania and India

4305. SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Tanzania and India have recently entered into an agreement in agriculture sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the terms and conditions of the agreement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (c) A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on cooperation in the field of Agriculture and Allied Sectors was entered into between the Government of India and the United Republic of Tanzania on 16th December, 2002.

The MoU envisages joint activities in the areas of agricultural research, agricultural extension management, horticulture, animal husbandry and fisheries, livestock production and health, watershed development, integrated pest management, agricultural implements and machinery, crop production, food processing, seed development, promotion of joint ventures in agri-business.

The Parties shall promote cooperation within the frame-work of the joint activities through biennial Work Plans.

The MoU also provides for a Joint Agriculture Working Group (JAWG) to monitor the activities carried out in fulfillment of the MoU.

The MoU is initially valid for a period of five years.

[*English*]

VAT Exemption for Khadi Products

4306. SHRI K. MURALEEDHARAN:
PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM:

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

(a) whether Khadi and Village Industries has sought exemption for its products from the Value Added Tax (VAT) and other State Taxes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether certain States like Kerala, Rajasthan etc. have requested for VAT exemption for Khadi products;

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

(e) the response of the Government on each such request?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI SANGH PRIYA GAUTAM): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) has requested the Chief Ministers of all States/UTs for exempting Khadi and Village Industries (KVI) products from State taxes/VAT. Further, KVIC is pursuing with the Empowered Committee of State Finance Ministers, (Monitoring Tax Reforms including VAT), Ministry of Finance, to exempt all KVI products from Value Added Tax (VAT).

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. There is a broad agreement on this amongst States.

(e) Final response to the above request is awaited from the Empowered Committee of State Finance Ministers, (Monitoring Tax Reforms including VAT), Ministry of Finance.

Linking of Rivers

4307. SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to link Godavari, Krishna and Cauvery rivers to resolve the dispute between Tamil Nadu and Karnataka; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) and (b) The dispute regarding sharing of Cauvery water amount the States of Kamataka, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Union Territory of Pondicherry was referred to Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal (CWDT) under the provisions of Inter-State Water Disputes (ISWD) Act 1956 in June 1990 for adjudication. The CWDT has passed an interim order in June 1991, which has been published by the Central Government in the official gazette. National Perspective Plan for transferring water from water surplus basins to water deficit areas was prepared in 1980. National Water Development Agency (NWDA) was established in 1982 as an autonomous society to carryout water balance and other studies and prepare feasibility reports. Under Peninsular Component of National Perspective prepared by Government, interlinking of Mahanadi-Godavari-Krishna-Cauvery rivers is envisaged for optimum utilisation of water resources in these river basins. A total of 9 links have been identified by NWDA out of which feasibility reports for 3 links have been completed and for the rest feasibility reports are planned for completion by 2005.

Agriculture Land as Collateral Security

4308. SHRI K.E. KRISHNAMURTHY: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether some of the provisions of Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act recently passed by the Parliament are detrimental to the interests of certain agro-based industries because there is every likelihood of banks refusing the agricultural land as collateral security;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/to be taken by the Government to safeguard the interests of small entrepreneurs in the light of this controversy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI SANGH PRIYA GAUTAM): (a) and (b) While it is correct that the stringent provisions of Securitisation and reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 are not applicable to any security interest created in agricultural land, the 'agricultural land' would, however continue to be accepted by banks as collateral security and would be subject to realization as per provisions of Civil Procedure Code etc.

(c) To safeguard the interests of small entrepreneurs, the provisions of Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002, extends to loan exceeding a sum of Rs. 1 lakh only.

[Translation]

Assistance to Artists

4309. SHRI RAMDAS RUPALA GAVIT:
SHRI RAM SINGH KASWAN:
YOGI ADITYA NATH:

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

(a) Whether the Government have formulated any scheme to provide financial assistance to those artists who are facing financial hardship;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of artists provided financial assistance under this scheme, till date?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) Yes, Sir. The Department of Culture is operating a scheme titled "Scheme of financial assistance to persons distinguished in letters, Arts and such other walks of life who may be in indigent circumstances and their dependents".

(b) The Scheme provides assistance to artistes and their dependents @Rs. 2000 per month. The details of the scheme are given in the enclosed statement.

(c) The number of beneficiaries under the scheme till date are 633.

Statement

Scheme of Financial Assistance to Persons Distinguished in Letters and Art whose Dependents may be indigent circumstances.

Aged for incapacitated artists are rendered financial support up to a maximum of Rs. 2000 per month through this scheme, details of which are given below. Under this scheme there is also a provision to look after the artists' dependents till a certain age limit and medical aid is provided to them.

Scheme	Financial Assistance to Persons distinguished in Letters and Art whose dependents who are in indigent circumstances.
Objective	To support and sustain old and poor artists.
Applicable to	People (aged 58 or above) distinguished in letters and arts who may be in indigent circumstances and the monthly income of whose does not exceed Rs. 2000 per month.
Financial Assistance	Assistance from the Government may be in the form of monthly allowance. Such allowance is given to artists recommended under the Centre-State/UT quota will be shared by the Centre and States/UT Government concerned in the ratio 3:1. However, the monthly allowance contributed by the Central Government in such cases shall not exceed Rs. 1500 per month, and in cases of those categories under Central quota shall not exceed Rs. 2000 per month.

[English]

**Threat to Traditional Markets of Oil Workers,
Potters and Weavers**

4310. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) has asked State Governments to provide exemption to the Khadi and Village Industries;

(b) if so, the response received by the KVIC from various State Governments in this regard;

(c) whether some of the traditional markets of oil workers, potters and weavers are facing a threat now a days; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps taken by the government to protect this sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI SANGH PRIYA GAUTAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The response is awaited.

(c) and (d) While the impact of liberalization and globalisation on the market scenario is inevitable, the same is being responded by the Sector through policy initiatives which enhances the resilient nature of the Sector as a whole.

Meeting of Indus Water Commission

4311. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOUDHURY:
SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR:
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a meeting of the permanent Indus Water Commission was held at Islamabad in the beginning of February this year;

(b) if so, whether the Indian delegation visited the Baglihar hydro thermal power station;

(c) if so, the objectives of the visit;

(d) the major differences between India and Pakistan on the issue; and

(e) by when the Pak-delegation visit is likely to take place?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) Yes, Sir. The 88th meeting of the

Parnent Indus Commission (PIC) was held at Islamabad during 4th-6th February, 2003.

(b) No, Sir. The tour of inspection of Baglihar Hydroelectric Plant in J&K as discussed in the aforesaid meeting has not been undertaken by the PIC, so far.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) According to Pakistan, the design of the Baglihar Hydroelectric Plant does not conform to the provisions of the Indus Waters Treaty, whereas the Indian view is that the Plant fully conforms to the provisions as specified in the Treaty. During the above mentioned meeting, Pakistan Commissioner insisted to discuss the questions framed by Pakistan on the Baglihar Plant under the provision of the Indus Waters Treaty dealing with settlement of difference sand disputes while the Indian Commissioner suggested to discuss Pakistan's objections on the design of the plant so as to resolve them amicably. The meeting concluded with both sides maintaining their points of view.

(e) The Pakistan delegation is to visit India for the next meeting of PIC before 1st June, 2003.

Complaints regarding Tours

4312. SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE:
SHRI P.R. KHUNTE:
SHRI CHANDRA PRATAP SINGH:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the component authority during 2002 received complaints regarding misappropriation of funds by CAO, Indian Agricultural Statistics Research Institute (IASRI) by performing journeys/tours to Mumbai and drawing TA in excess of entitlement;

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

(c) whether the CAO was involved in irregularities relating to false LTC claims of several IASRI officials; and

(d) if so, the action taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV):
(a) Yes, Sir. T.A. claims were verified and no excess payment was involved.

(b) As given in the statement enclosed. These tours were performed in connection with the medical treatment of the throat cancer of the CAO. The journey was performed as per guidelines in this regard. Concession available for cancer patient was availed of.

(c) No Sir.

(d) Not applicable.

Statement

Details of tours to Bombay performed by the C.A.O., IASRI in connection with his throat cancer treatment during the last three years

Years	Date	Amount Spent
2000-2001	7.9.2000 to 8.9.2000	Rs. 4891
2001-2002	9.9.2001 to 16.9.2001	Rs. 4828
2002-2003	10.9.2002 to 15.9.2002	Rs. 5225
	9.3.2003 o 13.3.2003	Rs. 4661

Production and Consumption of Fish

4313. SHRI PRABODH PANDA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the average annual production and consumption of fish in the country;

(b) the production and consumption of fish recorded during each of the last three years including 2002-2003;

(c) the target fixed for production during 2003-04; and

(d) the name of the State of the highest production of fish?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV):
(a) The average annual production and per capita consumption of fish during last three years is 58.87 lakh tonnes and about 10 kg. respectively.

(b) The production and consumption of fish recorded during each of the last three years 2000-2001, 2001-02

and 2002-03 (anticipated) is as follow:

Years	Per capita	
	Production of fish (lakh tonnes)	Consumption of fish (Kg. per annum)
2000-01	56.56	9.91
2001-02	59.56	10.26
2002-03	60.50	10.24

(c) Production of fish during 2003-2004 has been estimated around at 61.00 lakh tonnes.

(d) The highest fish producing State in the country is West Bengal (Inland + Marine) during last three years.

Minimum Wages to Labourers

4314. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK:
SHRI C.N. SINGH:
SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state the details of Minimum wages fixed by the Government in respect of labourers in the country, skilled, semi-skilled and unskilled category-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI VIJAY GOEL): Under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948 both Central and State Governments fix and revise the minimum wages in respect of scheduled employments under their respective sphere.

A statement indicating the lowest of the minimum wages amongst scheduled employments in each State for unskilled, semi-skilled and skilled categories of workers is enclosed.

Statement

Latest Minimum Wages in different category of workers in various States/UTs

Sl.No.	State/Union Territories	Unskilled	Semi-skilled	Skilled
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	49.08	—	—
2.	Assam	50.00	63.00	65.00
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	39.87	46.59	49.59
4.	Bihar	45.00	68.36	83.01
5.	Chhattisgarh	78.31	82.40	86.69
6.	Goa	62.00	—	—
7.	Gujarat	50.00	—	—
8.	Haryana	82.31	86.55	92.31
9.	Himachal Pradesh	51.00	54.27	57.10
10.	Jharkhand		Not available	
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	45.00	60.00	100.00
12.	Karnataka	51.63	—	—
13.	Kerala	51.21	—	—
14.	Madhya Pradesh	78.77	82.92	87.15

1	2	3	4	5
15.	Maharashtra	65.38	69.23	73.08
16.	Manipur	62.15	68.40	72.50
17.	Meghalaya	50.00	54.00	62.00
18.	Mizoram	84.00	94.00	117.00
19.	Nagaland	45.00	50.00	60.00
20.	Orissa	52.50	62.50	72.50
21.	Punjab	82.65	90.95	100.15
22.	Rajasthan	60.00	64.00	68.00
23.	Sikkim	Minimum Wages Act yet to be extended		
24.	Tamil Nadu	50.00	—	—
25.	Tripura	50.00	56.00	67.00
26.	Uttar Pradesh	53.73	64.12	71.65
27.	Uttarachal	Not available		
28.	West Bengal	58.90	—	—
29.	A&N Islands	70.00	77.00	92.00
30.	Chandigarh	81.56	—	—
31.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	60.00	70.00	80.00
32.	Daman & Diu	50.00	60.00	70.00
33.	Delhi	103.10	109.45	119.40
34.	Lakshadweep	52.00	57.00	62.00
35.	Pondicherry	45.00	65.00	75.00
Central Sphere		54.52	65.94	83.78

Depletion of Mangrove Forest

4315. SHRI RAMJIVAN SINGH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the grave threat to the existence of rare crocodiles and fast depletion of a large area of mangrove forest along the Orissa coast due to the continued intrusion of Bangladeshis and illegal fishing in different creeks; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV): (a) There is no specific report on the threat to existence of rare Crocodiles and fast depletion of a large area of mangrove forest along the Orissa coast due to continued intrusion of Bangladeshis. However, some incidences of illegal fishing alongwith depletion of mangrove forest and threat to salt water Crocodile have been reported by the State Government.

(b) Government of Orissa has undertaken demolition of unauthorized prawn gheries in 5 forest blocks of

Mahanadi and have taken steps to declare the mangrove forests as Reserved Forests in selected blocks of Jagatsinghpur, Kendrapara and Badhrak districts.

Khadi Artisans

4316. SHRI GANTA SREENIVASA RAO: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Khadi artisans in the country, particularly in Andhra Pradesh as on date, State-wise; and

(b) the details of the Welfare measures taken by the Government for these artisans?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI SANGH PRIYA GAUTAM): (a) The number of Khadi artisans State-wise, including Andhra Pradesh, is given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) The Khadi programme is regulated by a set of certification rules, under which provisions have been made for artisans Welfare Fund and Artisans Benefit Fund for the Welfare of spinners and weavers engaged in Khadi Programme, which is applicable for Andhra Pradesh also.

Statement

State-wise Artisans-2001-2002

(Employment in Nos. of persons)

Sl.No.	State/Union Territories	Artisans
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	24945
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	36
3.	Assam	16720
4.	Bihar	136627
5.	Gujarat	23614
6.	Haryana	37403
7.	Himachal Pradesh	11483
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	30795
9.	Karnataka	29444

1	2	3
10.	Kerala	12827
11.	Madhya Pradesh	3824
12.	Maharashtra	10456
13.	Manipur	503
14.	Meghalaya	57
15.	Mizoram	30
16.	Nagaland	581
17.	Orissa	2173
18.	Punjab	11407
19.	Rajasthan	40011
20.	Sikkim	240
21.	Tamil Nadu	29882
22.	Tripura	96
23.	Uttar Pradesh	302253
24.	West Bengal	55701
25.	Chhattisgarh	3097
26.	Jharkhand	4914
27.	Uttaranchal	25187
28.	Delhi	3250
29.	Lakshadweep	—
30.	Pondichery	684
Total		848240

[*Translation*]

Jobat Project in Madhya Pradesh

4317. SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of Jobat Project in Jhabua District of Madhya Pradesh;

(b) the reasons for delay in completion of the project; and

(c) the time by when the project is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) The head works and the canal systems of Jobat Project in Jhabua District of Madhya Pradesh are at various stages of construction.

(b) The reasons for delay in completion of the project can be attributed to delay in land acquisition and resettlement and rehabilitation of the project affected persons besides slow progress in the execution of civil works of dam and canal distribution system.

(c) As per the revised programme the project is likely to be completed by June, 2004.

Index for National Agricultural Production

4318. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the date on which the index for National Agricultural Production (Anawari Report) was fixed alongwith details thereof;

(b) whether there has been any change in it; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) The Annawari method of crop estimation was used during the pre-independence period for assessing the production of crops based on eye-appraisal of the agricultural fields. Under this method, an assessment of 16 annas implied a normal production. An assessment of 12 annas meant the production was 75% of the normal production or that there was a loss of 25% in production.

(b) and (c) The Annawari method of assessment of production was based on subjective judgment and varied from location to location and from crop to crop. Due to the obvious deficiencies of this method, a need was felt for developing a methodology free from bias and subjectivity. Efforts were made by various statisticians and researchers to bring about improvements in the crop forecast system and to develop an objective methodology. These efforts involved crop cutting experiments for measuring yield in randomly selected fields and assessing the total production using statistical techniques. The initial works on such surveys started during 1940s and covered wheat and paddy crops on annual basis. However, gradually these surveys were extended to all the wheat and paddy growing States. A special feature of these

surveys was that these were dovetailed into the existing administrative structure. Subsequently, the scope of these surveys was enlarged to cover other food and commercial crops. Presently, the production estimates of all principal foodgrain and oilseed crops as well as sugarcane, cotton, jute and mesta are prepared on the basis of the results of the crop cutting experiments under the General Crop Estimation Surveys.

[English]

Scope of Processing Unit for carrot Juice and Isabgol

4319. SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have examined the scope of processing units for carrot juice and isabgol cutting in the Banskantha, Patan and Mehsana districts of Gujarat; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Food Processing Industries have requested State Governments to conduct detailed studies, which could assist them in formulating action oriented policies for the development of processed food sector as also for devising action plan & strategies for the development of the sector based on strengths of the region.

Under the Plan Scheme of this Ministry, assistance is available for setting up/expansion/modernisation of fruits and vegetables processing units including those for production of carrot juice in Banskantha, Patan & Mehsana districts of Gujarat, if viable project proposals are received in the Ministry.

Formation of an Advisory Panel for Research Work

4320. DR. V. SAROJA:
SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE:

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

(a) whether the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has recently formed an advisory panel for research;

(b) if so, the composition of this panel;

(c) whether the CPCB aims at developing a scientific database and technologies user friendly tools and methodologies; and

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV): (a) and (b) The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has constituted a Research Advisory Committee (RAC) for guiding and reviewing its research and development activities. The RAC comprises of experts from research institutions like National Environment Engineering Research Institute (NEERI), Nagpur; Indian Toxicological Research Center (ITRC), Lucknow as well as organisations such as Department of Science and Technology (DST); Ministry of Environment and Forests (MOEF) and Confederation of Indian Industries (CII).

(c) and (d) CPCB has taken up a number of Research and Development (R&D) projects to develop data base for technical and scientific information and also for evolving pollution control technologies. This information is regularly published by CPCB in the form of technical reports and manuals.

Review of Bilateral Agreement with Malaysia

4321. SHRI KALVA SRINIVASULU: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to review its decisions pending under Civil Aviation bilateral treaty with the Government of Malaysia in view of the incidents of assault against Indian I.T. Professionals in Kuala Lumpur;

(b) if so, the details of the decision under review; and

(c) the reaction of the Government of Malaysia thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) to (c) In consultation with the Ministry of External Affairs, it has been decided to keep in abeyance the additional traffic rights granted to the designated airlines of Malaysia during the last round of bilateral air services talks between

India and Malaysia held on 22-23 January, 2003, for the time being in view of the incidents of assault against the I.T. Professionals in Kuala Lumpur. Malaysian Airlines has not, so far, filed any plan to utilise the additional traffic rights.

Posting in Group "C" and "D"

4322. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to refer to the reply given to the Unstarred Question No. 3611 dated April 7, 2003 and state:

(a) whether the posts advertised for Group "C" and "D" were permanent; and

(b) if so, the reasons for filing them on ad hoc and temporary basis?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) and (b) The material is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Cold Storages

4323. SHRI V. VETRISELVAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether NCDC provides financial assistance for setting up of cold storages in the cooperative sector;

(b) if so, the details of assistance provided by NCDC during the last three years and as on December 31, 2002;

(c) the number of cold storage set up by this assistance, State-wise;

(d) whether an expert committee set up by his Ministry has recommended to increase the capacity of cold storages in the country; and

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

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

(b) The assistance provided during the last three years is as under:

Year	Assistance provided (Rs. in lakhs)
1999-2000	1137.900
2000-2001	739.551
2001-2002	1675.721
2002-upto 31.12.2002	96.50

(c) Information about Cold Storages set up State-wise as on 31.3.2003 is given in the enclosed statement.

(d) and (e) An Inter-Ministerial Task Force of this Department has made recommendation for the creation of cold storage capacity of 56.00 lakhs MTs and requisite cold chain infrastructure during the 10th Plan period. The National Horticulture Board under the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation has formulated a scheme for creation of 35 lakhs MT cold storage capacity with a capital investment subsidy of Rs. 380.00 crores during the 10th Plan.

Statement

State-wise details of Cold Storages and Financial Assistance sanctioned by NCDC as on 31.3.2003

Sl.No.	State	Projects Assisted		Installed	
		No.	Capacity (in MT)	No.	Capacity (in MT)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1	1000	1	1000
2.	Assam	2	4000	1	1000
3.	Bihar	21	63850	21	63850
4.	Gujarat	3	3200	3	3200
5.	Haryana	4	12000	4	12000
6.	Himachal Pradesh	1	1000	1	1000
7.	J&K	3	3400	3	3400
8.	Jharkhand	1	5000	—	—
9.	Madhya Pradesh	25	95400	23	85400
10.	Karnataka	5	7800	5	7800
11.	Maharashtra	4	7000	2	1000
12.	Nagaland	1	1000	1	1000
13.	Orissa	21	36170	19	28670
14.	Punjab	16	22300	16	22300
15.	Rajasthan	3	60000	3	6000
16.	Tamil Nadu	2	3750	2	3750
17.	Tripura	1	2000	1	2000
18.	Uttar Pradesh	96	287600	95	282600
19.	West Bengal	67	238100	54	226200
20.	Chandigarh	1	1000	1	1000

Production of Bio-Diesel from Non-Edible Crops under KVIC

4324. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any possibility has been explored by the Khadi and Village industries Commission (KVIC) to produce bio-diesel from non-edible crops;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the extent of success achieved in this regard so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI SANGH PRIYA GAUTAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Tiger Census

4325. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that there are no tigers left in the 18 forest divisions in Orissa as per the 2002 tiger census and three out of eight tiger species have already disappeared from Orissa;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government for tiger conservation and to identify adequate forests that could sustain the wildlife population in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV): (a) and (b) There is only one sub-species of tiger found in India, which also occurs in Orissa. The results of 2002 tiger/leopard estimation do not indicate the presence of tigers in 18 Forest Divisions of Orissa. The basic reason for this is the adverse biotic interference in the ecological requirement of the tiger.

(c) The steps taken by the Government of India for tiger conservation are as follows:

- (i) Legal protection has been provided to wild animals including tigers against hunting and commercial exploitation under the provisions of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

- (ii) Financial and technical help is being extended to the States under Centrally Sponsored Schemes for enhancing the capacity and infrastructure to provide effective protection to wild animals.

- (iii) Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has been empowered under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 to apprehend and prosecute wildlife offenders.

- (iv) Ministry of Home Affairs has written to all State Governments to lend a helping hand to the field formations to curb poaching and illegal trade in wildlife.

- (v) A Special Coordination and Enforcement Committee has been set up under the chairmanship of Secretary (Environment and Forests), Government of India for control of poaching and illegal trade in wildlife.

- (vi) In the recent meeting of Indian Board on Wildlife, it was resolved to declare the wildlife and forest as a priority sector and fill up all the vacant posts of the frontline staff immediately and also to provide basic infrastructure necessary for efficient discharge of duties by them.

- (vii) The National Wildlife Action Plan (2002-2016) has identified Action Points along with Priority Projects for strengthening the Protected Area Network.

Increase in Limit of Assistance for OFD Works

4326. COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal from the Government of Rajasthan for increasing the sanction for OFD works from existing Rs. 10,000 to Rs. 12,000 (Rs. 6,000 under CSS and Rs. 6,000) as States share;

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

(c) if so, the time by which the proposal would be cleared and approved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) The Union Government has received a proposal from Government of Rajasthan for increasing the cost norm for construction of water courses in the

Indira Gandhi Nahar Pariyojana from the present norm of Rs. 10,000 pr ha. to Rs. 15,000 per ha.

(b) and (c) The increase in cost norms for OFD works has been proposed as a part of the Restructured Command Area Development and Water Management Programme. The proposal has been approved 'in principle' by the Planning Commission and is under process for approval of the Government.

Productivity of Coconut in Root Wilt Disease Areas

4327. SHRI T. GOVINDAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposal submitted by Kerala Government with the project components of scientific crop management etc., for enhancing productivity of coconut holdings in root wilt diseased areas in the State has been accepted by the Union Government; and

(b) if so, the details thereof including the funds allotted for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) Government of Kerala submitted a project for "Enhancing productivity of coconut holdings in root wilt diseased areas of Kerala" with an outlay of Rs. 576.14 crores for a period of 5 years, which includes adoption of scientific crop management; removal of diseased trees in the border districts of Thiruvananthapuram and Thrissur; supply of seedlings for replanting and creation of awareness etc. The project stipulate Government of India's share of Rs. 181.70 crores. The project was examined in Department of Agriculture & Cooperation. For similar programmes, Government of India has provided Rs. 110.94 crores to Government of Kerala, through Coconut Development Board since its inception. Funds for such project requiring high investment within time frame cannot be provided from the meagre financial allocation available with Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India. Government of Kerala, therefore, has been advised to send the revised project to Planning Commission directly for funding or identified external agency with detailed justification for strategies and components proposed to be implemented, time frame for each activity alongwith techno-economic and financial viability etc.

The Coconut Development Board, in the meanwhile, has sanctioned an additional amount of Rs. 125.00 lakhs

under the component "Management of disease affected gardens" for cutting and removal of additional 50,000 nos. of disease advanced palms in Kerala by providing compensation @ Rs. 250 per palm. The Project Approval Committee of the Coconut Development Board under the Technology Mission on Coconut has also sanctioned a project of Government of Kerala for a total cost of Rs. 3770.00 lakhs for a period of 5 years, for containing root wilt disease in the border districts of Kerala viz., Thiruvananthapuram and Thrissur. The project includes cutting and removal of all diseased trees in the border districts; improving health of the trees in the border areas by adopting better scientific management practices and standardizing population to the optimum level by proper replanting. Out of total amount of Rs. 942.00 lakhs sanctioned towards 25% of the total project cost, an amount of Rs. 188.00 lakhs has been released to Government of Kerala during 2002-2003, for the first year.

[Translation]

External Assistance for Setting up of Agro Based Industries

4328. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of foreign investment proposal for setting up agro based industries in the country, particularly in Rajasthan during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the details of various projects sanctioned and implemented under the new economic reforms programmes during the said period, State-wise; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI SANGH PRIYA GAUTAM): (a) and (b) Statements I & II of State-wise breakup of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) approved for Agro based industries (i.e. sugar, vegetable oils and vanaspati, horticulture, agriculture and floriculture) during 1.1.2000 to 31.12.20002 including Rajasthan are enclosed.

(c) The Government has set up Foreign Investment Implementation Authority (FIIA) with the mandate to provide translation of FDI approvals into implementation, provide a proactive one stop after care service to foreign

investors by helping them obtain necessary approvals, sort out operational problems and maximizing opportunities through a partnership approach. Besides, among other things, in pursuance of Government's commitment to

further facilitate Indian industry to engage unhindered in various activities, Government has permitted, except of a small negative list, access to the automatic route for FDI.

Statement I

Calendar Year-wise Break-up for Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)

Approved by Government

During January 2000 to December 2002 (In the Agro based Industries viz., Sugar Vegetable Oils and Vanaspati, Horticulture, Agriculture and Floriculture)

(Amount in crores)

Sl.No.	State	2000 Jan-Dec		2001 Jan-Dec		2002 Jan-Dec		Total	
		FIN	FDI in Rs.	FIN	FDI in Rs.	FIN	FDI in Rs.	FIN	FDI in Rs.
1.	Andhra Pradesh	6	109.45	2	0.27	9	18.25	17	127.98
2.	Gujarat	2	0.05	1	0.00	0	0.00	3	0.05
3.	Haryana	2	0.11	0	0.00	2	0.05	4	0.17
4.	Karnataka	3	1.28	5	29.34	0	0.00	8	30.62
5.	Kerala	0	0.00	2	0.05	0	0.00	2	0.05
6.	Maharashtra	2	0.80	3	16.20	8	57.26	13	74.26
7.	Punjab	2	2.06	1	6.54	0	0.00	3	8.60
8.	Rajasthan	1	4.20	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	4.20
9.	Tamil Nadu	2	0.00	3	39.84	0	0.00	5	39.84
10.	Uttar Pradesh	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	0.70	1	0.70
11.	Delhi	3	7.00	3	35.82	3	5.75	9	48.57
12.	Goa	1	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	0.00
13.	State Not Indicated	1	0.45	2	0.00	2	0.00	5	0.45
Grand Total		25	125.41	22	128.05	25	82.02	72	335.48

Statement II*Detailed Break-up for Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)**Approved by Government**During January 2000 to December 2002**State Rajasthan**Sector is Sugar or Sector is Vegetable Oils and Vanaspati or Sector is Horticulture or
Sector is Agriculture or Sector is Floriculture*

(Amount in crores)

Sl. No.	Registration no. and Date	Indian Company Name and Address	Foreign Collaborator Name and Address	Foreign Equity (in Rs.)	%age of Foreign Equity
			Country : Malaysia		
1.	211 22/03/2000	Shekhawati Plantation Pvt. Ltd. 10173/15/2M Abdul Aziz Road, Karol Bagh, New Delhi- 110 005	Seven-M- Management Service SDN BHD, Malaysia.	4.20	70.00
		Location: Jaisalmer (Rajasthan) Appr. No. (Date) 211(30.04.2000)	item of manufacture: To Manufacture Jujoba Oil with captive plantation in the Waste Land Areas of Rajasthan and Extraction of Oil by Setting up of Oil Extraction Plant		

Total Financial Cases : 1 Total Foreign Equity in Rs. Crores : 4.20

*[English]***Compensation for Air Crash Victims**

4329. SHRI A. NARENDRA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of compensation paid by Air India and Indian Airlines to victims of the air crashed during 1998 to 2003;

(b) the losses suffered by these companies on account of damage to-planes;

(c) the amount of insurance claim received by these companies alongwith the amount yet to be received; and

(d) the details of the cases lying pending with the tribunals and consumer courts as on April 30, 2000 relating to the persons killed, rendered disabled, financial losses suffered and inconvenience caused to the passengers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) Air India has not paid any compensation during 1998-2003 as there was no accident to Air India aircraft during this period involving loss of life. There were two air crashed with Indian Airlines aircraft during the last 5 years i.e. 1998-99 to 2002-2003 involving loss of lives. The details of the compensation paid are as under:

	Details of aircrash	Compensation paid (Rs. in lacs)
1.	Dornier DO-228 aircraft VT-EJW at kochi on 30th July, 1998	76.87
2.	Boeing B-737 aircraft VT-EGD at Patna on 17th July, 2000	477.16

(b) and (c) The insured value of DO-228 VT-EJW was Rs. 5.000 crores and this has been received by Indian Airlines towards the loss of aircraft.

An amount of Rs. 34.40 crores (total insured value) has been received by Indian Airlines towards the loss of aircraft B-737 VT-EGD.

The amount of compensation to the deceased/injured as and when paid is reimbursed by the insurers on a regular basis.

(d) A list of cases of the air crash victims pending as on 31 March, 2003 in various Courts/Consumer forums is enclosed as Statement. Almost all the pending cases are for claims higher than the legal limits.

Statement

Sl.No.	Pax	Claimant	Case No.	Court	Brief
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Nikunj R. Dhebar	Nisha N. Dhebar & ors	5514/92	CC, AMD	Rs. 2 lac in court, claim-65.132 lac
2.	Shyam Sunder G Lavsi	Kokilaben S. Lavisi & ors.	5500/92	CC, AMD	Rs. 2 lac in court, claim-45 lac
3.	Surendra P. Shah	Jasodaben P. Shah	6885/93	CC, AMD	Rs. 2 lac in court, claim 33.064 lac
4.	Ushaben B Rao (a)	Navnit Lal P. Barot & ors.	1506/93	CC, AMD	Rs. 2.37 lac paid, claim 1.55 crore Maternal
	-do- (b)	Anirudh K. Rao	859/96	CC, AMD	claim 3.75 crore Paternal
5.	Bhawana Ben Patel	Manubhai R. Patel	6082/93	CC, AMD	Rs. 2.01 lac paid, claim 26.65 lac
6.	Rakesh M. Patel	Manubhai R. Patel	6883/93	CC, AMD	Rs. 2 lac in court, claim 22.85 lacs
7.	Ashok D. Agarwal	Ashok D. Agarwal (Self)	5671/92	CC, AMD	Injury Rs. 1.06 lac spent, claim 5 crores
8.	Abha Agarwal	Ashok D. Agarwal	5515/92	CC, AMD	Rs. 2 lac in court, claim 40 lacs
9.	Agarwal Ruhi-(minor)	Ashok D. Agarwal	-do-	CC, AMD	Rs. 1 lac in court
10.	Amit J. Parekh	Chandrika A. Parekh	5499/92	CC, AMD	Rs. 2.01 lac paid, claim 36.55 lacs
11.	Anil Upadhyay	Mumal A. Upadhyay	5196/92	CC, AMD	Rs. 2 lac in court, claim 20.10 lacs
12.	Bhagwat Pd. A. Rao	Anirudh K. Rao	858/96	CC, AMD	Rs. 32.7 lac in court, claim 78.10 lacs
13.	Jaikishan B. Rao	Anirudh K. Rao	860/96	CC, AMD	In court 50,000 paid 50,000 claim 1.77 lacs
14.	Jeet B. Rao	Anirudh K. Rao	861/96	CC, AMD	In court 50,000 paid 50,000 claim 1.27 lacs
15.	Chandrika Soni	Jagdish Soni	6884/93	CC, AMD	Rs. 2 lacs in court, claim 98.18 lacs
16.	Soni-Hiral (minor)	Jagdish Soni	-do-	CC, AMD	Rs. one lac in court
17.	Soni-Kewal (Minor)	Jagdish Soni	-do-	CC, AMD	Rs. one lac in court
18.	Ghanshyam Ambalal Patel	Pushpaben G. Patel & ors.	5498/92	CC, AMD	Rs. 2 lac in court, claim 80.28 lacs
19.	Harish D. Gandhi	Dhiraj Lal S. Gandhi	5509/92	CC, AMD	Rs. 2.16 lac paid, claim 49.20 lacs
20.	Himanshu C. Pujara	Manjari H. Pujara	5511/92	CC, AMD	Rs. 2 lac in court, claim 28.13 lacs
21.	Himanshu Vaidya	Bharti H. Vaidya	5496/92	CC, AMD	Rs. 2.07 lac paid, claim 80.07 lacs

1	2	3	4	5	6
22.	Keshav Sharma	Mrs. Rajkumar Sharma	5491/92	CC, AMD	Rs. 2.01 lac paid, claim 34.07 lacs
23.	Kirti Kothari	Bindu Kothari	5508/92	CC, AMD	Rs. 2 lac in court, claim 48.45 lacs
24.	Kishori S. Gandhi	Subodhchandra D. Gandhi	5507/92	CC, AMD	Rs. 2 lac in court, claim 49.57 lacs
25.	Manoj, B. Kothan	Nirupam M. Kothari	5495/92	CC, AMD	Rs. 2 lac in court, claim 65.67 lacs
26.	Mark Frank Christie	Pearl Christie & Ors.	5512/92	CC, AMD	Rs. 2 lac in court, claim 29.13 lacs
27.	Mukund Bobade	Mitra M. Bodade	5501/92	CC, AMD	Rs. 2.01 lac paid, claim 22.30 lacs
28.	Munshi M.H.M. Shafi	Fatima M. Munshi	5502/92	CC, AMD	Rs. 2 lac in court, claim 40 lacs
29.	N.S. Subramaniam	Chandra Subramaniam	5506/92	CC, AMD	Rs. 2.01 lac paid, claim 18.14 lac
30.	Narendra Jayantilal Patel	Manorma M. Patel & ors	5503/92	CC, AMD	Rs. 2 lac in court, claim 27.40 lac
31.	Naresh Bali	Shashi Bali & ors.	5496/92	CC, AMD	Rs. 2.01 lac paid, claim 17.94 lac
32.	Pratapray D. Gandhi	Chandrika P. Gandhi	5494/92	CC, AMD	Rs. 2 lac in court, claim 47.50 lacs
33.	Ramesh Bhai Panchal	Dahiben R. Panchal	6881/92	CC, AMD	Rs. 2 lac in court, claim higher
34.	Ramshankar H. Jani	Vidyugauri R. Jani	5513/92	CC, AMD	Rs. 2.01 lac paid, claim 21-30 lacs
35.	Randhir Kumar C. Mehta	Bharat R. Mehta	6879/92	CC, AMD	Rs. 2.01 lac paid, claim 21-30 lacs
36.	Ranjit Shivbhai Patel	Jyotsna R. Patel & ors.	5505/92	CC, AMD	Rs. 2 lac in court, claim 23.80 lacs
37.	Sharadchandra B. Patel	Usha S. Patel	5492/92	CC, AMD	Rs. 2 lac in court, claim 56 lacs
38.	Shirish Himmat Lal Shah	Ushaben S. Shah & ors.	5510/92	CC, AMD	Rs. 2 lac in court, claim 27.15 lacs
39.	Sunil Bhagwandas Shah	Rita S. Shah	6880/93	CC, AMD	Rs. 2 lac in court, claim 20 lacs
40.	V. Mukadhan	K. Vardharajan	6886/92	CC, AMD	Rs. 2.01 lac paid, claim 52.74 lacs
41.	Vasant K. Patel	Purnima V. Patel	5493/92	CC, AMD	Rs. 2 lac in court, claim 40.40 lacs
42.	Virendra Takroo	Ratan V. Takroo	5504/92	CC, AMD	Rs. 2.19 lac paid, claim 29.30 lacs
43.	Pradip H. Dalal	Mrs. Tej P. Dalal & Ors.	360/1990	CC-AMD	Rs. 2 lac in court, claim higher
44.	Ashok Thareja	Nirmal Thareja	3391/90	DC, DEL	Rs. 2.01 lac paid, claim 3 lacs ++
45.	Anitabhai Jawarani	Kamla Devi	478/95	CC, IXU	Rs. 9.84 lac in court, claim 1.75 crores
46.	Anandram Jawarani	Kamla Devi	476/95	CC, IXU	Rs. 9.84 lac in court, claim 5.25 crores
47.	Arun V. Joshi	Archana Joshi	475/95	CC, IXU	Rs. 9.84 lac in court, claim 1.10 crores
48.	Deepak Munot	Anjali Munot	477/95	CC, IXU	Rs. 9.84 lac in court, claim 1.10 crores
49.	Nand Lal Dhoot	Kesharabhai Nandlal Dhoot	474/95	CC, IXU	Rs. 9.84 lac in court, claim 1.10 crores
50.	A.J. Spencer	Spencer Family & ors. (Josef)	4882/94	HC, BOM	Claim Higher
51.	Prem Narain	Neelam Prem Narain	4028/94	HC, BOM	Paid 5.025 lacs, higher claim

1	2	3	4	5	6
52.	Rakesh S. Sareen	Poonam Sareen	4826/94	HC, BOM	Paid 5.025 lacs, higher claim
53.	Shilpin Janak Patel	Shilpin Janak Patel (self)	2483/94	HC, BOM	Claim 5,69,53,511
54.	Mr. A.J. Howell	Mrs. Laura Howell Linton	3996/92	HC, BOM	Claim Higher
55.	Mrs. S.S. Howell	Mrs. Laura Howell Linton	-do-	HC, BOM	Claim Higher
56.	Mr. I.R. Mirza	Self	1045/92	CC-AMD	H. claim 2.5 lacs for injury/lmt.
57.	Mr. Tej Raj C. Jain	Jatna Devi T. Jain & ors.	8514/89	HC-AMD	Rs. 2 lacs in court, higher claim
58.	Mr. L.R. Bhandari	Santosh Bhandari & ors.	371/89	HC-AMD	Rs. 2 lacs in court, higher claim
59.	Mr. M. Subhash Hirani	Jay Shree S. Hirani & ors.	8678/89	HC-AMD	Rs. 2 lacs in court, higher claim
60.	Mr. P.M. Bopanna	Mrs. Rani Bopanna	2992/2001	HC, Del	Paid Rs. 7.68 las as per Court and Claim Higher
61.	Mr. B.B. Saha	Mrs. Madhumita Saha	2992/2001	HC, Del	Paid 7.68 lacs + Claim Higher than legal limits

CJ	Civil Judge
HC	High Court
CC	Civil Court
DC	District Court
TL	Time Limitation
AMD	Ahmedabad
BOM	Bombay/Mumbai
DEL	Delhi
Higher Claim	Claim Higher than the Legal Limits

Research on Cows Urine

4330. DR. B.B. RAMAIAH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether plant pathologists have found that cow's urine can serve as an effective natural pesticide;

(b) if so, whether the Government have decided further research in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

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

(a) Yes, Sir. The cow urine has been found effective against some plant pathogens and plant diseases of crops. However, detailed laboratory and field evaluation is required.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Scientists at ICAR Institutes and State Agricultural Universities are conducting various laboratory

and field evaluation by using cow urine and its different preparations to prove its efficacy.

[Translation]

Utilisation of Water Resources

4331. SHRI RAMSHAKAL:
SHRI ARUN KUMAR:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce some new schemes to ensure optimum utilization of water resources for irrigation in the country, especially in rural areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the extent of irrigation capacity created and utilized during the last three years;

(d) the number of major and medium irrigation projects, under construction in the country at present, State-wise; and

(e) the time by which these projects are likely to be completed and the extent to which the irrigation capacity is likely to be increased after the completion of the projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) and (b) With a view to improve the efficacy of the ongoing Command Area Development Programme for optimal utilisation of created irrigation potential, the programme is proposed to be restructured and modified during the Tenth Plan period. Under the restructured Programme, three new components viz., (i) Correction of System deficiencies up to the distributaries; (ii) funds for motivational activities for Water Users' Association and (iii) renovation of minor irrigation tanks under the command of major & medium irrigation projects are proposed to be introduced to bring about efficiency in water conveyance in distributaries upto 150 cusec capacity, minors and outlets; effective water management in farms through Participatory Irrigation Management programme and added thrust on adaptive trials etc.

(c) As per provisional assessment by the Planning Commission, the irrigation capacity created and the capacity put to utilization during the Ninth Five Year Plan (1997-2002) are 9.15 million hectare and 8.20 million hectare respectively.

(d) State-wise break-up of the number of major and medium irrigation projects under construction in the country at present is in the enclosed Statement.

(e) Completion of projects by the respective State Governments depends on the financial allocations made by the States for the projects and the priority assigned to them. On completion of all the ongoing major and medium irrigation projects, additional irrigation potential of about 12.8 million hectare is likely to be created.

Statement

State-wise number of Major and Medium Irrigation Projects under construction during X Plan

Name of State	No. of Projects		
	Major	Medium	Total
1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh	14	12	26
Arunachal Pradesh	—	—	—
Assam	4	5	9

1	2	3	4
Bihar	8	7	15
Jharkhand	7	22	29
Goa	1	—	1
Gujarat	3	18	21
Haryana	5	—	5
Himachal Pradesh	1	2	3
Jammu & Kashmir	—	7	7
Karnataka	15	17	32
Kerala	4	4	8
Madhya Pradesh	16	10	26
Chhattisgarh	3	7	10
Maharashtra	45	94	139
Manipur	2	2	4
Meghalaya	—	1	1
Mizoram	—	—	—
Nagaland	—	1	1
Orissa	10	4	14
Punjab	—	2	2
Rajasthan	5	4	9
Sikkim	—	—	—
Tamil Nadu	1	2	3
Tripura	—	3	3
Uttar Pradesh	9	1	10
Uttaranchal	3	—	3
West Bengal	3	17	20
Total	159	242	401

[English]

Heritage Resources Unprotected

4332. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:
SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:

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

(a) whether the Union Government are aware that heritage resources in different parts of the country are not protected;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to protect these unprotected heritage resources in the country;

(d) whether the Government have formulated a National Policy for the protection of National heritage resources; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) to (e) So far, 3616 ancient monuments and archaeological sites situated in different parts of the country have been protected as of national importance. Protection of ancient monuments and archaeological sites is a continuous process. As per the provisions of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act 1958, monuments and sites are protected on the basis of historical, aesthetic and archaeological importance. Regular archaeological survey is carried out to identify potential heritage sites for central protection.

Delay in Approval of Maintenance Organisation

4333. SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH RAJUKHEDI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of extension given by Director of Airworthiness (DAW), Mumbai to various operators;

(b) whether the Government have received complaints regarding intentional delay in granting approval by certain officers;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the names of companies whose applications are pending with DAW, Mumbai for approval of organisation under category 'C' for renewal/issue purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) Director of Airworthiness (DAW), Mumbai of Directorate General of Civil Aviation has granted approval/extension to the scope of approval for maintenance during the year 2003 to (i) Airworks India, Mumbai for maintenance upto

150 hours/6 months on Gulfstream G100 and maintenance upto 250 hours/1 year on Gulfstream G100 and restoration of sub base approval at Ahmedabad for 100 hours inspection on Dauphin SA 365N helicopter, (ii) Taneja Aerospace for restoration of sub base approval at Pune for 100 hours/180 days inspection on P-68 aircraft, (iii) Yash Air Limited to carry out upto 100 hours/180 days on Cessna 172 aircraft, (iv) Azal India Private Limited for sub base at Jam Nagar for 100 hours/90 days inspection on Bell 412 helicopter, (v) Pawan Hans Helicopters Limited for bench check of engine oil temperature switch installed on Arriel 1C engine, (vi) Deccan Aviation for approval of sub base at Surat for 300 hours inspection on Bell 212 helicopter, (vii) Mesco Aviation for restoration of approval for maintenance of MI-172 helicopter, Hiller HU-12E helicopter and equipment installed on MI-172 helicopter and restoration of approval—battery maintenance, (viii) Bharat Aviation for minor repair and bench check of ATC transponder and repair and testing of DME interrogators, (ix) Indamer for restoration of battery and blower maintenance approval and approval of battery maintenance (Lead Acid), (x) Max Aerospace for cleaning and testing of Honeywell oil cooler part number 160564-1 and repair and bench check of landing light part number 45-0083.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Application has been received on 3rd April, 2003 from M/s. Visaa Airlines for approval in category 'C' for maintenance of DASH 200 aircraft.

Pending Water Supply Projects

4334. SHRI CHINTAMAN WANAGA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of water supply projects pending with the Government for environmental clearance, particularly from the Government of Maharashtra;

(b) whether the schemes for rehabilitation and resettlement of project affected persons is submitted to the Government alongwith proposals; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV): (a) Of the four Water Supply Projects received for environmental clearance, two proposals, namely, Nira

Deoghar Irrigation Project and IV-Mumbai (Middle Vaitarna) Water Supply Project are from the Government of Maharashtra.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The projects were considered by the concerned Environmental Appraisal Committee and Nira Deoghar Irrigation Project has been recommended for environmental clearance. The proposal for IV-Mumbai (Middle Vaitarna) Water Supply Project was not found to be acceptable on account of diversion of 677.9071 hectares of forest land involving more than 2.5 lakh trees.

[Translation]

Tourism Projects of Bihar

4335. SHRI ARUN KUMAR: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of ongoing tourism projects of places of historical and archaeological importance in Champaran, Vaishali, Nalanda and Gaya in Bihar at present;

(b) the number of projects cleared/under consideration of the Government; and

(c) the progress of projects under construction and by when the remaining projects are likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) and (b) During the 9th Plan, 10 projects for financial assistance of Rs. 178.06 lakhs have been sanctioned at Vaishali, Rajgir and Gaya in Bihar. During the year 2002-03, a project for Integrated Development of Vaishali-Nalanda-Rajgir-Bodhgaya-Varanasi Circuit has been sanctioned for financial assistance of Rs. 505.00 lakhs.

(c) All State Governments have been advised to complete projects sanctioned in 9th Five Year Plan during the current financial year.

[English]

Shortage of Seats in N.E.

4336. SHRI KHAGEN DAS: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the average shortage of the seat availability in Agartala-Kolkata and Kolkata-Agartala sectors, giving break up of peak and lean seasons;

(b) whether despite heavy rush on this route and the obligation of the private airlines to operate on this route, Government have not advised private airlines to operate on this route; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to ensure the availability of seats on this route?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) Presently Indian Airlines/Alliance Air are operating 19 services per week between Kolkata-Agartala deploying a total of 1674 seats with different types of aircraft. Apart from scheduled services, as and when there is a demand during holidays and festival seasons, Indian Airlines & Alliance Air operate additional flights to meet the traffic demand.

(b) Government has laid down Route Dispersal Guidelines with a view to achieve better regulation of air transport services taking into account the need for air transport services of different regions of the country including North-East region. It is, however, up to the airlines to provide air services to specific places depending upon the traffic demand and commercial viability subject to compliance of Route Dispersal Guidelines issued by Government.

(c) The total number of seats offered by Indian Airlines/Alliance Air on this sector has increased from 1578 to 1674 per week with effect from 15th April, 2003.

Dues of AAI against AI-IA

4337. SHRI A.P. JITHENDER REDDY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that Indian Airlines (IA) and Air India (AI) owe a huge amount to Airport Authority of India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the quantum of dues owed by AI and IA respectively;

(d) the reasons for the mounting due against IA and AI;

(e) the measures being adopted by the Government to recover these dues;

(f) whether these excessive dues have caused financial crunch for AAI; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The outstanding dues in respect of Indian Airlines (IA) and Air India (AI) are on account of various airport charges viz. Route Navigation Facilities Charges, Terminal Navigational Landing Charges, Landing, Parking and Housing, X-ray Baggage charges and Licence fee.

(c) The outstanding dues as on 31.3.2003 from AI and IA are Rs. 342.72 crore and Rs. 89.88 crore respectively.

(d) IA and AI have not paid their dues due to disputes regarding raising of bills for increased airport charges, licence fee etc.

(e) The matter is being pursued with Indian Airlines and Air India and efforts are also being made to settle the issue through arbitration.

(f) Yes, Sir.

(g) As at (e) above.

[*Translation*]

Laboratories for Quality Control of Pesticides

4338. SHRI RAJO SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of laboratories functioning at various levels for the quality control of pesticides and the number of samples tested by them alongwith the number of samples which were found to be of substandard quality during the last three years;

(b) whether majority of the samples which were found to be of substandard quality after the tests conducted in the laboratories at State Level were later on declared fit for use by the bigger laboratories;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the quality producers have to bear heavy losses due to this;

(e) if so, whether the Government propose to incorporate some legal provisions in the existing Pesticides Act to be used against the irresponsible laboratory men including analysis and pectors; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) There are 45 State Pesticides Testing Laboratories (SPTLs), functioning in 17 States and one Union Territory for quality control testing of pesticides.

Besides, there are two Regional Pesticides Testing Laboratories (RPTLs), established by the Government of India, at Chandigarh and Kanpur, to supplement the resources of States/UTs in monitoring the quality of pesticides. These also test samples, drawn by the Central Insecticide Inspectors.

Further, under the Insecticides Act, the only referral laboratory is the Central Insecticides Laboratory (C.I.L.) where second testing is permissible and the same is being undertaken in respect of the samples failed in the State Pesticides Testing Laboratories (SPTLs) and Regional Pesticides Testing Laboratories (RPTLs). Statement showing the number of samples analysed and found misbranded at these laboratories is enclosed.

(b) and (c) Over the last three years, out of 4560 samples failed at the 1st stage i.e. at State Pesticides Testing Laboratories (SPTLs)/Regional Pesticides Testing Laboratories (RPTLs), 2112 samples were referred to Central Insecticides Laboratory (CIL) for re-testing, out of which 758 were found to be of substandard quality while 1354 samples were declared to be fit for use (Details in Statement)

(d) The Government has received no specific report in this regard. However, actions against producers are taken only as per the provisions of Insecticides Act, 1968.

(e) and (f) Suggestion made by some pesticide associations for taking action against insecticide inspectors for their vexatious acts in under consideration of the Government.

Statement

The Statistics of the Analysis of Pesticide Samples for Quality Control in State Pesticides Testing Laboratories (SPTLs), Regional Pesticides Testing Laboratories (RPTLs) and the Central Insecticides Laboratory (CIL) during 2000-2003

Name of the Laboratory	2000-2001		2001-2002		2002-2003 (Upto Dec., 2002)	
	Sample Analyzed	Sub-Standard	Sample Analyzed	Sub-Standard	Sample Analyzed	Sub-Standard
State Pesticides Testing Laboratories	45,444	1,149	38,130	1,029	30,605	1,128
Regional Pesticides Testing Laboratories	2,139	414	1,924	443	1,783	397
Central Insecticides Laboratory	638	239	813	257	661	262

[English]

Crops Purchased under NAFED

4339. SHRIMATI HEMA GAMANG: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum and the amount of crops purchased by the Government under NAFED in Orissa particularly in Rayageda, Koraput districts during the year 2002-03; and

(b) the details thereof, crop-wise and area-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV):
(a) and (b) NAFED is the Central Nodal Agency for procurement of oilseeds and pulses under the Price Support Scheme of the Government. Since the prices of notified oilseeds and pulses of Fair Average Quality ruled above the Minimum Support Price declared by the Government during 2002-03, no purchase was made by NAFED under the Price Support Scheme in Orissa.

Decision on Interest Rate of EPF

4340. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY:
SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government held meeting with the Finance Ministry before deciding about the rate of EPF interest rate;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether his Ministry has taken a final decision to reduce the rate of EPF interest from April 1, 2003; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI VIJAY GOEL):

(a) No, Sir.

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

(c) No, Sir.

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

Unutilised Funds

4341. SHRI CHANDRA VIJAY SINGH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of unspent financial provisions registered in 2001-2002 under the Taj Protection Mission, Prevention of Pollution of National Rivers and Eco-Development Projects around important Protected Areas in India;

(b) the reasons for unutilization of fund; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to fully utilize the allocated fund?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV): (a) The quantum of unspent financial provisions registered in 2001-2002 under the Taj Protection Mission was nil. whereas, under the Prevention of Pollution of National Rivers and Eco-Development Projects unspent amount was Rs. 35.28 crores and Rs. 6.33 crores respectively.

(b) Budget provided for Prevention of Pollution of National Rivers and Eco-Development Projects were not fully utilised due to delay in submission of Utilisation Certificates by the State Governments and delay in transfer of funds to the newly created States.

(c) The Government of India is monitoring the utilisation of funds and issuing necessary instructions from time to time.

[*Translation*]

Post of Director (Official Language) in ICAR

4342. SHRI SAVSHIBHAI MAKWANA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether post of the Director (Official Language) has been created in the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR);

(b) if so, the details of the office order concerned and recruitment rule;

(c) whether this post has been duly filled;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) the time by which it is likely to be filled up;

(f) whether any officer of technical cadre is functioning on the post of Director (Hindi);

(g) if so, since when;

(h) whether there are any rules of the council providing for an employee serving on two different designations in two offices during the same period of his tenure;

(i) if so, the details thereof;

(j) whether rules have been violated in this regard; and

(k) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) A copy of each of Office Order for creation of Post and Recruitment rules is enclosed in the form of statement.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) The post could not be filled up due to non-finalisation of seniority of Deputy Director (OL). Action to full up has been initiated.

(f) and (g) Pending creation and filling up of the post, services of one Editor (Hindi), IARI, a constituent unit of ICAR, which post is classified in Technical category are utilized for work relating to Hindi by internal arrangement w.e.f. 25.9.1995.

(h) and (i) Entrustment of additional charge of a post to an officer of the Department is permissible under Fundamental Rules 49.

(j) No, sir.

(k) Does not arise.

Statement

Indian Council of Agricultural Research

Krishi Bhavan : New Delhi

F.No. 8(3)/98-Estt. I

Dated the 20th June, 2000

Office Order

The competent authority has been pleased to sanction the creation of one post of Director (Official Language) at the ICAR Hqrs. in the pay scale of Rs. 12000-375-16500 with immediate effect.

This issues in consultation with the Ministry of Finance, Deptt. of Expenditure vide No. 171/E-Coord I Br./2000 and with concurrence of FA, DARE/ICAR vide Dy. No. 992/FA(DARE/ICAR) dated 31.5.2000.

Sd/-

(A.C. Ghosh)

Under Secretary (Admn.)

Distribution:

1. Dr. PPS to DG, ICAR/PS to Secretary, ICAR/PS to FA, DARE/ICAR.
2. Cash I/Audi II/Hindi/Budget/Work Study Sections, ICAR.
3. SO's Guard File/Spare Copies (10).

*Indian Council of Agricultural Research
Krishi Bhavan: New Delhi*

F.No. 8(3)/98-Estt. I Dated the 11th April, 2002

To

The Directors of all the ICAR Institutes/Bureaux/PDs/NRCs.

Sub : Recruitment Rules for the post of Director
(Official Language) at ICAR Hqrs.

Sir,

The recruitment rules for the post of Director (Official Language) at ICAR Hqrs. as approved by the Governing

Recruitment Rules for the Post of Director (OL) at ICAR Headquarters, New Delhi

1. Name of the Post
2. Classification
3. Scale of pay
4. Whether selection post or non-selection post
5. Age limit for direct Recruits
6. Educational & other qualifications required for direct recruits.
7. Whether age and educational qualifications prescribed
8. Period of probation, if any
9. Method of recruitment whether by direct recruitment or by promotion or by deputation/absorption and percentage of the posts to be filled by various methods
10. In case of recruitment by promotion/deputation/

Body in its meeting held at New Delhi on 18.12.2001 and by President, ICAR are hereby notified for the information, guidance and necessary action of all concerned.

Yours faithfully,

Sd/-

Encls : As above.

(A.C. Ghosh)

Under Secretary (Admn.)

Copy to:

1. All Directors/Deputy Secretaries/Secretary, ASRB/Deputy Directors/Under Secretaries/Section Officers under ICAR at Krishi Bhawan/Krishi Anusandhan Bhawan.
2. Sr. PPS to DG, ICAR/SA to Chairman, ASRB/PPS to Secretary, ICAR/PS to FA (DARE/ICAR).
3. Guard File/Spare Copies (5).

Director (Official Language)
Administrative Group 'A'
Rs. 12000-375-16500
Selection by merit

Not applicable

Not applicable
By promotion. Failing which by deputation.

(a) By promotion of Deputy Director (OL) who have completed 5 years regular and

absorption, grades from which promotion/ deputation/absorption is to be made

continuous service in the grade of Rs. 10000-325-15200 under ICAR at its Headquarters and the Institute.

(b) Failing (a) above by transfer on deputation of officers of the Central Govt. who are working on equivalent posts or holding analogous posts in the grade of Rs. 10000-325-15200 and having completed 5 years service.

11. If a DPC exists what is its composition

DG, ICAR or his nominee	Chairman
Chairman, ASRB or his nominee	Member
Secretary, ICAR	Member
An outside expert nominated by DG, ICAR	Member
An officer not lower in status than officers under consideration belonging to SC/ST community nominated by DG, ICAR	Member
Dy. Secretary (Admn.), ICAR or an officer nominated by DG, ICAR	Member Secretary

12. Remarks

[English]

Seminar on Exemptions on KVIC's Products

4343. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH:
SHRI V. VETRISELVAN:
SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL:
DR. M.V.V.S. MURTHI:
SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:

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

(a) whether a three day convention to discuss the issues on Khadi programme, rural employment, role of science and technology and marketing initiative has been organised in the month of March, 2003;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof;

(c) whether Khadi and Village Industries Commission has sought some exemptions for its products; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the response of Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI SANGH PRIYA GAUTAM): (a) Yes, Sir. A three day National Convention on Rural Industrialization was held from 14th-16th March, 2003 at Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi, to discuss the various issues related with the development of Khadi and Village industries, Rural Employment, Role of Science and Technology and Marketing initiatives etc.

(b) The convention has made specific recommendations for the overall development of Khadi and Village Industries Sector. These recommendations are being studied by KVIC to develop into Action Plans for implementation.

(c) and (d) The KVIC has requested the Empowered Committee of State Finance Ministers, (Monitoring Tax Reforms including Value Added Tax-VAT), Ministry of Finance, as well as the State Governments for exempting Khadi and Village Industry products from VAT. The KVIC has also requested the Government of India for exempting central excise on polyvastra with retrospective effect. A final view on both these requests is awaited.

[Translation]

Amount Spent on Agricultural Research

4344. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the amount spent on agricultural research in India is meagre as compared to other developed countries of the World;

(b) if so, whether the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has made a demand for more provision in the budget for agricultural research work;

(c) if so, whether his ministry propose to sanction more funds for research work taking into account the demand of the ICAR; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The funds are allocated by the Ministry of Finance through the Planning Commission.

(d) The Department has been allocated Rs. 5368 crore for X Five Year Plan in comparison to Rs. 3376.95 crore for the IX Five Year Plan which is 58.96% more than the IX Five Year Plan allocation. For the Annual Plan (2003-04) the allocation is Rs. 775 crore which was the same allocation during 2002-03.

Pending Cases of P.F.

4345. SHRI BRAHMA NAND MANDAL: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the EPFO has decided to settle all the disputes relating to Provident Fund within three days of their receipt;

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

(c) whether the Government propose to allot a National Security number to all the Provident Fund Account holders;

(d) if so, the benefits likely to accrue to them;

(e) the number of cases of Provident Fund pending with his Ministry wherein Provident Fund amount has not been fully paid to the concerned employees even after their retirement; and

(f) by when the Government are likely to dispose of the pending cases of the Provident Fund?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI VIJAY GOEL):

(a) and (b) The Employees Provident Fund Organisation has taken up the task of modernization through the project 'Re-inventing EPF India' which will provide, inter-alia, networking of all Provident Fund offices to facilitate settlement of claims within two to three days.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The advantages that would accrue to the members are as under:

- In an employment lifetime a worker is likely to shift or move from one employment to another several times. This trend is likely to increase in the new economic scenario. The unique Social Security Number will facilitate easy and trouble free maintenance of his Provident Fund account with changes in employment.
- The present dependence of the members on the employers for their identification while preferring claims or transacting with the Organisation would be obviated, thus reducing the interface burden on the members. The number would also facilitate "anytime, anywhere" access to their accounts.

(e) and (f) Information is being collected.

[English]

ILS at Dimapur

4346. SHRI K.A. SANGTAM: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to refer to the reply given to the Unstarred Question No. 26, dated July 15, 2002 and state:

(a) the reasons for not yet installing Instrument Landing System (ILS) at Dimapur Airport despite allocation of funds therefor;

(b) whether the Government have worked out any plans for immediate installation of ILS at Dimapur Airport;

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

(d) the action proposed to be taken against the officials responsible for the delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) Works like removal/reduction in the height of obstacles identified in the approach path of runway 12, levelling and grading of ground on which the Instrument Landing system (ILS) is to be installed, are required to be completed before installation of ILS at Dimapur airport.

(b) and (c) Airports Authority of India (AAI) has deposited Rs. 1.84 crore with the State Government for removal of high/low tension powerlines. A sum of Rs. 1.20 crore has also been sanctioned for removal/reduction of height of the identified buildings. The work of levelling and grading of ground is likely to be taken up after the end of Monsoon in September, 2003. ILS has already been purchased and is expected to be installed during 2003-04.

(d) Does not arise.

Dredging of Sharda River

4347. SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that Sharda river in Tarai region of Uttar Pradesh engulfs thousands of acres of land every year;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to provide assistance to the State Government for dredging of the river; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) Sharda river has a tendency to change its course and to erode its bank affecting many villages in the district of Pilibhit.

(b) and (c) As per available information, the State Government of Uttar Pradesh have formulated 9 no. of schemes for preventing the bank erosion due to river Sharda, which were cleared by Technical Advisory Committee of State Flood Control Board. However, no proposal has been submitted by the State Government regarding dredging of the above river.

Pitiable Conditions of Salt Workers

4348. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the pitiable condition of salt workers in the country especially in Gujarat;

(b) if so, whether they are deprived of housing facilities and other facilities like PPF/EPF; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI VIJAY GOEL): (a) to (c) The implementation of the various labour laws for the welfare of labour including labourers employed in the salt industry is the responsibility of the respective State Governments. The Central Government is supplementing efforts of the State Governments including State of Gujarat by extending financial assistance to execute various labour welfare schemes which inter-alia includes labour housing. The Employees' Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952 is applicable, inter-alia to licensed salt industry in which 20 or more persons are employed.

[Translation]

Harassment of Tourists in Bihar

4349. SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of incidents of harassment, fraud and killing of tourists in Bihar;

(b) if so, the number of persons arrested/involved in such incidents during the last two years, till-date; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to prevent recurrence of such incidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) Some cases of crimes against tourists in Bihar have come to the notice of the Department of Tourism.

(b) and (c) Safety and security of tourists is primarily the responsibility of State Governments. The Department

of Tourism does not maintain State-wise information on persons arrested/involved in such cases. However, the Government of Bihar has been advised at the highest level to beef up security at Tourist Places in the State.

[English]

Public Sector Steel Plant

4350. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have made a study to assess the potential of the steel plants which are under public sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether despite modernisation some public sector steel plants have shown dismal result;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps being taken to excel in the field?

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

Problems Faced by Fishermen

4351. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government have recently come out with a fisheries directives which added to the problem of fishermen as it sought to encourage industrial fishing in the exclusive zone, notwithstanding the problem of over capacity and shortage of fish; and

(b) if so, the efforts proposed to be taken by the Government to overcome the above problems?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) The guidelines for deep sea fishing issued by the Government recently aims at regulating fishing operations of all deep sea fishing vessels in the Indian Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). There is no over-capacity in the EEZ. On the contrary scientific advice points to that there is a need to introduce some resource specific fishing vessels in order to optimally exploit the under exploited resources in the region.

(b) Does not arise.

Visit of Tourists to China

4352. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Indian tourists visited China during 2001 and 2002 vis a vis Chinese who visited India during 2002;

(b) the steps taken to persuade Indian Tour Operators to exploit tourism potential of China; and

(c) other steps proposed to explore the tourism potential of both countries?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) As per the latest report published by the World Tourism Organisation, 159361 Indians visited China and 13901 Chinese visited India in the year 2001. Information for the year 2002 is not available.

(b) and (c) A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Tourism Cooperation with People's Republic of China has been signed. China has accorded 'Approved Destination Status' which will enhance inflow of tourists from China. Air service between China and India has already started.

[Translation]

Indoor Pollution

4353. SHRI BHUPENDRASINH SOLANKI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether as per reports of the Indira Gandhi Institute for Development Research and World Health Organisation, about five lakh people in India die annually due to indoor pollution;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to educate people and ensure that they are provided alternatives to smoky kitchens burning firewood, stores etc. which are the reasons for most of such deaths; and

(c) the steps taken towards reduction of dependence on such indoor hazards?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH

JUDEV): (a) According to the report of the Indira Gandhi Institute for Development Research, 4,10,000 to 5,70,000 women and young children die prematurely every year due to indoor air pollution caused by burning of biofuels in poorly ventilated homes. However, no conclusive data is available to establish the co-relationship between the mortality and indoor air pollution.

(b) and (c) The Government through the Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources has taken several steps to prevent and control indoor pollution, which include the following:

- A Centrally sponsored scheme on "National project on Biogas Development" is under implementation to provide alternatives to burning firewood, agricultural residues and cattle dung as fuel.
- Programmes have been undertaken regarding publicity through electronic and print media, organization of one-day women education programmes in several villages every year to generate awareness about the hazards of burning firewood, agricultural wastes and cattle dung in traditional chullahs and benefits of the biogas technology, etc.
- Thermally efficient and low smoke stoves/chullahs have been promoted.

[English]

Management of Solid Waste

4354. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Municipal Corporation, Chandigarh has submitted detailed project report for financial assistance from Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) for Management of Solid Waste;

(b) if so, the total amount of assistance sought by the Municipal Corporation, Chandigarh;

(c) the action taken thereon; and

(d) the total financial assistance provided by the CPCB to different States and Union Territories during each of the last three years, States/Union Territory-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Municipal Corporation, Chandigarh (MCC) sought an amount of Rs. 762.39 lakhs for setting up model facilities to manage municipal solid wastes in accordance with the Municipal Solid Wastes (Management and Handling) Rules, 2000.

(c) Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has considered the proposal on cost sharing basis (50 : 50). During the 1st phase of the project, an amount of Rs. 157.679 lakhs has been sanctioned of which, the 1st installment of Rs. 52.5597 lakhs has been released to Chandigarh Pollution Control Committee. An equal amount of Rs. 157.679 lakhs is to be contributed by the MCC.

(d) During the past three years, financial assistance provided by CPCB towards management of solid waste to the States/Union Territories is as follows:

Year	Amount
2000-2001	Rs. 50.46 lakhs
2001-2002	—
2002-2003	Rs. 100.38 lakhs

Declaring Karnataka as a Disease Free Zone

4355. SHRI R.L. JALAPPA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Karnataka has requested the Union Government to declare Karnataka as a disease free zone to facilitate export of meat and dairy products; and

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

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

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Amendment to Forest Conservation Act, 1980

4356. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to refer to the reply given to parts (e) and (f) of Starred Question

No. 16 on July 23, 2001 regarding Empowerment of States for clearance of projects and state:

(a) whether the Hon'ble Supreme Court has since delivered its judgement in the Public Interest Litigation WP(C) No. 202/95 regarding Amendments to Forest Conservation Act, 1980;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the present status thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV): (a) The public interest litigation WP(C) No. 202/95 mainly concerns with diverse forestry, wildlife and environmental issues prevalent in the country including implementation of various forest, wildlife and environmental Acts. There is no judgement regarding the amendment to the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Services under Airlines

4357. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the aviation companies operating in the civil aviation sector in the country at present;

(b) the terms and conditions for granting licences to these aviation companies;

(c) whether the Government have set up any authority for ensuring proper compliance of the terms and conditions of the contracts and for formulation of policy guidelines;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the directions given to these aviation companies towards providing amenities and safety to the air passengers;

(f) whether the Government monitor these aspects; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) The requisite information is given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) There are two types of licenses—Scheduled Operator's Permit and Non-scheduled Operator's Permit. The terms and conditions for granting these permits are given in the relevant Civil Aviation Requirements (CARs) published by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA).

(c) and (d) DGCA functions as the regulatory body ensuring that the guidelines/terms and conditions as specified in the CARs are followed by the air services operators. Formulation of policy relating to civil aviation comes under the purview of Ministry of Civil Aviation.

(e) to (g) With a view to ensure safety of the passengers and aircraft, Airworthiness standards have been prescribed by DGCA in the relevant CARs. The aspect of safety of air passengers is also looked into while carrying out the safety audit of the operators. In addition all the requirements/recommendations issued by the regulatory authorities of the country of the manufacturers of the aircraft have also been made mandatory by the DGCA.

As regards providing amenities to passengers, it is upto the respective airlines managements.

Statement

Scheduled Operators Permit holder:

1. Jet Airways India Pvt. Ltd.
2. Sahara India Airlines
3. Air India
4. Indian Airlines
5. Alliance Air

Non Scheduled Operators Permit holder:

1. Ace Airways Pvt. Ltd.
2. Aerial Services Pvt. Ltd.
3. Ahmedabad Aviation Academy Ltd.
4. Air Works India Engg. Pvt. Ltd.
5. Asia Aviation Pvt. Ltd.
6. Azal India Pvt. Ltd.

7. Bilakhia Holding Pvt. Ltd.
8. Blue Dart Aviation
9. Century Textiles and Industries Ltd.
10. Deccan Aviation Pvt. Ltd.
11. Dwarka Air Taxi
12. Escorts Ltd.
13. Enbee Aviation Ltd.
14. East India Hotels
15. Govt. of Rajasthan
16. Great Eastern Shipping Company
17. Himalayan Heli Services Pvt. Ltd.
18. Hindustan Institute of Engg. Technology
19. Indian International Airways
20. Indo Pacific Aviation
21. Jagson Airlines
22. J.K. Corp. Ltd.
23. Jindal Strips Ltd.
24. Kudremukh Iron Ore Company Ltd.
25. Taj Air Ltd.
26. Mesco Airlines Ltd.
27. Orient Flying School
28. Pawan Hans Helicopters Ltd.
29. Rajputana Aviation Academy Pvt. Ltd.
30. Raymonds Ltd.
31. RC Aviation India Pvt. Ltd.
32. Reliance Transport & Travels Ltd.
33. Sahara India Airlines
34. Span Air Pvt. Ltd.
35. Saraya Aviation Pvt. Ltd.
36. Taneja Aerospace and Aviation Ltd.
37. Tata Tea Ltd.
38. Trans Bharat Aviation
39. U.B. Air
40. Vidyut Travel Services.

[English]

Diversion of Cereal Crops Areas to Cash Crops

4358. SHRI CHADA SURESH REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have launched any special programme to divert area from cereal crops to high value cash crops for better earning by farmers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to provide assured market and remunerative support prices to perishable commodities to the farmers?

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

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) To protect the interest of the farmers of perishable commodities from distress sale, the Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) is implemented under which a fixed quantity is purchased based on the cost of cultivation and market prices. The losses, if any, are shared equally by the Central and State Governments.

Performance of NABARD/NCDC

4359. SHRI ANANT GUDHE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have recently reviewed the performance of NABARD and NCDC for the last five years;

(b) if so, the details thereof in terms of physical and financial targets set and achieved performance scheme-wise and State-wise in general, particularly in Maharashtra;

(c) the details of projects completed in progress during the last three years in Maharashtra alongwith financial and physical achievements; and

(d) the details of fresh proposals received from the State Government and the action taken thereon, project-wise, alongwith funds likely to be available or released to the Maharashtra State?

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

[Translation]

Cell for Preservation of Archaeological Items

4360. COL. (RETD.) DR. DHANI RAM SHANDIL: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) has constituted a special cell to study the artifacts of archaeological importance found during excavation work for construction of rail route by Metro Rail Corporation in the National Capital Region, Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of the ancient idols, ornaments and other items found in the excavation works so far?

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

(c) Does not arise.

Conversion of Khudia Dam into Major Dam

4361. SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to convert Khudia (Ganiyari) Dam into major dam in Chhattisgarh; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) and (b) Probably, the Hon'ble Member is referring to a completed medium irrigation project constructed in the year 1930 on Maniyari river, a tributary to Shivnath river in Mahanadi basin near village Khudia in Bilaspur district of Chhattisgarh. As reported by the Government of Chhattisgarh the project is providing irrigation to the designated potential during kharif and there is no proposal to convert this project into major dam.

Declining in Cotton Production and Land

4362. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:
SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the cotton production and land under cotton cultivation has constantly declined since 1998-99, till-date;

(b) if so, whether the Government have attempted to ascertain its causes;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor alongwith the remedial measures taken by the Government in this regard; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) The area and production of cotton have varied year to year since 1998-99 to 2001-02 as under:

Year	Area (‘000 Hec.)	Production (‘000 bales of 170 kg. each)
1998-99	9342.4	12287.1
1999-2000	8709.7	11529.6
2000-01	8534.6	9523.8
2001-02	9097.2	10094.1

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The main reasons for variation have been due to attack of disease and pests as well as occurrence of drought in some cotton growing States, which had adversely affected area and production of cotton.

Realising the problems in cotton cultivation, the Government of India launched a Technology Mission on Cotton which became operative from 2000-01 by integrating various aspects in cotton sector through four Mini-Mission viz. Mini-Mission-I on research by Indian Council of Agricultural Research, Mini-Mission-II by Department of Agriculture and Cooperation for increasing production and productivity, Mini-Mission-III on the development of market infrastructure and Mini-Mission-IV on the modernization of ginning factories by the Ministry of Textiles.

Under Mini-Mission-II of Technology Mission on Cotton, the remedial measures includes integrated pest management demonstration-cum-training, distribution of pheromone traps, distribution of bio-agents, supply of seeds of high yielding and disease resistant varieties, surveillance of disease and pests, establishment of bio-agent production units for the control of disease and pests. Besides, assistance is also given under Mini-Mission-II for water saving devices like sprinklers and drip system.

(d) Does not arise.

[*English*]

Promotion of FPI in Tenth Plan

4363. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to promote Food Processing Industries (FPI) during the Tenth Plan;

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

(c) the proposals mooted for the development of FPI in Madhya Pradesh and other States; and

(d) the incentives proposed to be provided by the Government to promote FPI in the States during the said Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM): (a) to (d) The Ministry of Food Processing Industries promotes food processing industries through a combination of policy initiatives and plan schemes. Through its plan schemes the Ministry provides financial assistance to cooperatives, NGOs, public sector undertakings, private sector, R&D institutions, etc. Financial assistance is available by way of grant upto 25% of the cost of plant and machinery and technical civil works subject to a maximum of Rs. 50 lakhs in general areas and 33.33% of the cost of plant and machinery and technical civil works subject to a maximum of Rs. 75 lakhs in difficult areas. Assistance is also extended for the purchase of raw materials from farmers with whom prior agreement is entered into and subject to certain conditions. The Ministry also assists in human resource development, quality assurance and infrastructure development. For the State of Madhya Pradesh 11 (Eleven) projects have been approved for assistance, which include 5 (five) food parks.

[*Translation*]

Misuse of Funds

4364. DR. M.P. JAISWAL:
SHRI SHIVAJI MANE:

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

(a) whether the funds pertaining to Tourism Development Scheme have been misused by certain State Governments/Union Territories;

(b) if so, the names of those States and Union Territories;

(c) the funds allocated to each State Government/Union Territory for the purpose during the last three years;

(d) whether the Government propose to make direct investment for tourism development; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) to (e) Information is being collected and would be placed on the Table of the House.

[*English*]

Religious Places on ASI List

4365. SHRI P.D. ELANGOVA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have included any place of worship in the list of protected monuments of National Importance in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the expenditure incurred for the conservation and maintenance of protected monuments in the country during the last three years, circle-wise and year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) and (b) The details of centrally protected monuments which are under worship under the jurisdiction of Archaeological Survey of India in various States is given in the enclosed Statement-I.

(c) The details of expenditure incurred for the conservation and maintenance of the protected

monuments located in various States during the last three years is given in the enclosed Statement-II.

Statement I

Centrally protected monuments which are under Worship (State-wise)

Sl.No.	Name of the State	Temple	Church	Mosque	Total
1.	Assam	06	X	02	08
2.	Andhra Pradesh	35	X	01	36
3.	Bihar	08	X	05	13
4.	Chhattisgarh	17	X	X	17
5.	Delhi	X	X	12	12
6.	Goa	X	02	01	03
7.	Gujarat	28	X	61	89
8.	Haryana	01	X	01	02
9.	Himachal Pradesh	28	X	X	28
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	17	X	01	18
11.	Jharkhand	01	X	01	02
12.	Karnataka	144	X	48	192
13.	Kerala	10	01	X	11
14.	Maharashtra	100	01	12	113
15.	Madhya Pradesh	26	X	08	34
16.	Orissa	52	X	X	52
17.	Punjab	01	X	X	01
18.	Rajasthan	41	X	03	44
19.	Sikkim	01	X	X	01
20.	Tamil Nadu	76	02	X	78
21.	Uttaranchal	32	01	08	41
22.	Uttar Pradesh	58	04	69	131
23.	West Bengal	19	X	04	23
Total		701	11	237	949

Statement II*Expenditure incurred on Centrally protected monuments during the last three years (State-wise)*

(Rupees in Lakhs)

Sl.No.	State/Union Territory	2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003
1.	Andhra Pradesh	136.29	114.39	417.16
2.	Assam	120.18	99.58	89.49
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	5.00	1.80	0.39
4.	Bihar	134.00	86.48	112.21
5.	Chhattisgarh	—	16.70	5.75
6.	Delhi	219.96	277.14	996.75
7.	Daman & Diu	15.00	23.61	15.69
8.	Goa	39.77	50.61	82.57
9.	Gujarat	100.67	99.59	35.36
10.	Haryana	60.00	91.85	141.00
11.	Himachal Pradesh	80.00	91.11	44.45
12.	Jammu & Kashmir	112.60	145.03	121.23
13.	Jharkhand	—	4.33	8.07
14.	Karnataka	248.13	476.19	1143.68
15.	Kerala	79.50	75.12	18.26
16.	Madhya Pradesh	1.64	250.51	317.31
17.	Maharashtra	153.00	828.49	308.05
18.	Manipur	0.50	1.42	0.27
19.	Meghalaya	2.00	4.94	4.44
20.	Nagaland	3.00	5.67	12.92
21.	Orissa	56.03	114.73	1021.69
22.	Pondicherry (U.T.)	15.00	3.30	1.63
23.	Punjab	23.00	57.92	40.14
24.	Rajasthan	174.69	235.00	240.22
25.	Sikkim	20.00	27.60	32.99
26.	Tamil Nadu	110.80	187.79	233.20
27.	Tripura	5.00	17.05	—
28.	Uttar Pradesh	297.11	385.13	710.64
29.	Uttaranchal	—	36.52	64.13
30.	West Bengal	80.70	146.13	260.18

[Translation]

Vacant Posts under OBC Category

4366. SHRI BAL KRISHNA CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of employees belonging to Other Backward Classes (OBCs) under the categories A, B, C and D working in the departments and undertakings under his Ministry at present, category-wise;

(b) the percentage of reservation provided to the OBCs in the Central Government services;

(c) whether the reservation quota for OBCs has been completely filled up in all the departments and undertakings under his Ministry;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) by when reservation quota for the said classes are likely to be filled up;

(f) whether there is a provision of reservation for the OBCs at the time of their promotion also;

(g) if so, whether the posts reserved for OBCs are filled up by general category candidates in case the candidates belonging to OBC are not available; and

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

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

Linking of Rivers

4367. SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL:
SHRI ADHI SANKAR:
SHRI G.J. JAVIYA:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the names of rivers in Gujarat and Tamil Nadu which have been inter-linked since 2001, till-date;

(b) the expenditure incurred on completion of the work; and

(c) the names of rivers proposed to be inter-linked in the said States during 2003-2004 alongwith estimated cost involved therein?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) National Perspective Plan for transferring water from water surplus basins to water deficit areas was prepared in 1980. National Water Development Agency (NWDA) was established in 1982 as an autonomous society to carryout water balance and other studies and prepare feasibility reports. NWDA has identified 30 links under the National Perspective Plan for preparation of the feasibility reports. Of these Par-Tapi-Narmada Link envisages benefit to Gujarat and Pennar (Somasila)—Cauvery (Grand Anicut) Link, Cauvery (Kattalai)—Vaigai-Gundar Link and Pamba-Achankovil-Vaippar Link envisage benefit to Tamil Nadu. No rivers in Gujarat & Tamil Nadu under National Perspective Plan envisaging interlinking of rivers has been inter-linked since 2001.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No rivers in the said State under National Perspective Plan are proposed to be linked during 2003-2004.

[English]

Conferences of Statistical Societies

4368. SHRI CHANDRA PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Director, IASRI during last three years deputed a large number of Scientists for annual conferences of the 'Indian Society of Agricultural Statistics' and the 'Society of Statistics and Computer Application';

(b) if so, the details of the two conferences for the last three years, date, venue, scientists participated, papers presented and amount spent on registration and tour-bills, year-wise;

(c) whether the Ph.D. Guide of the Director, IASRI was in the selection committee which selected the Director, IASRI; and

(d) the details of committees connected with IASRI in which the Ph.D. Guide of the above Director has served during last three years?

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Details as given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) Yes, Sir. The Ph.D. guide of the present Director, IASRI (Dr. S.D. Sharma) being the retired Director of the IASRI, New Delhi was nominated by the Agricultural Scientists Recruitment Board as one of the expert members of the selection committee for selecting a suitable person to the post of the Director, IASRI, on 29.5.1998.

(d) Dr. M.N. Das Ex-Director, IASRI, New Delhi and Ph.D. guide of Dr. S.D. Sharma (present Director, IASRI) was nominated as one of the members of Research Advisory Committee of IASRI during the period 12.10.1998 to 11.10.2001. His nomination was made by the Council based on his expertise and experience in the field relevant with activities of the Institute.

Statement

Participation of IASRI Scientists during 56th Annual Conference of Indian Society of Agricultural Statistics held at UAS, Dharwad from 18-20 December, 2002

Delivered Dr. D.N. Lal Memorial Lecture Award

Dr. V.K. Bhatia

Participation in the Symposia

Dr. H.V.L. Bathla

Dr. Ranjana Agarwal

Dr. Randhir Singh

Participation in the Paper Reading Session

Study on Growth Pattern in Crosses and Pure Indian Breeds of Goats

S.D. Wahi and Lal Chand

Indian Agricultural Statistics Research Institute, New Delhi-110 012

Robustness of Bootstrap Estimates of Variance of Heritability to Master Samples in Half-sib Analysis

N. Okendro Singh, A.R. Rao, S.D. Wahi and V.P. Singh
Indian Agricultural Statistics Research Institute, New Delhi-110 012

Estimation of Contribution of Input Factors on the Milk Yield using principal Component Analysis Technique

Satya Pal, Bhagwan Dass and M.S. Narang
Indian Agricultural Statistics Research Institute,
New Delhi-110 012

Performance of Rice Yield Forecast Models Based on Several Statistical Techniques using Rainfall Data

Amrender Kumar
Indian Agricultural Statistics Research Institute,
New Delhi-110 012

Bayesian Probability Approach for Crop Yield Forecast—A Case Study for Wheat Crop

Chandrasahas and T. Rai
Indian Agricultural Statistics Research Institute,
New Delhi-110 012

Statistical Modelling for Forewarning Epidemic Outbreak of Powdery Mildew Disease in Mango

V. Ramasubramanian, A.K. Misra* and Om Prakash*
Indian Agricultural Statistics Research Institute,
New Delhi-110 012

Cost Estimation in Inter-cropping System

Jagbir Singh
Indian Agricultural Statistics Research Institute,
New Delhi-110 012

Mechanism of Monitoring and Concurrent Evaluation for National Agricultural Technology Project

S.D. Sharma, Ashok Kumar, R.C. Goyal, P.K. Malhotra and Sudeep
Indian Agricultural Statistics Research Institute,
New Delhi-110 012

A Software for Agricultural Discussion Forum

Ruby S. Kujur, R.C. Goyal, P.K. Malhotra and Sudeep
Indian Agricultural Statistics Research Institute,
New Delhi-110 012

Online Monitoring & Concurrent Evaluation System for National Agricultural Technology Project

S.D. Sharma, Sudeep, R.C. Goyal, P.K. Malhotra and Ashok Kumar
Indian Agricultural Statistics Research Institute,
New Delhi-110 012

Ranked Set Sampling in the Context of Finite Population

U.C. Sud and A.K. Srivastava
Indian Agricultural Statistics Research Institute,
New Delhi-110 012

SVI: Spatial Variability & Interpolation—A Computer Software

Basant Kumar, V.K. Bhatia, Ajay M. Pawar and P.K. Malhotra
 Indian Agricultural Statistics Research Institute,
 New Delhi-110 012

A note on the Study of region of Influence Through Variography

V.K. Bhatia, Basant Kumar and Ajay M. Pawar
 Indian Agricultural Statistics Research Institute,
 New Delhi-110 012

A Survey Based Socio-economic Profile of Sheep Rearing Population of Bikaner District of Rajasthan

J. Jayasankar, V. Geethalakshmi, R.S. Khatri* and J.P. Goyal*
 Central Sheep & Wool Research Institute, Avikanagar-
 304 501
 *Indian Agricultural Statistics Research Institute,
 New Delhi-110 012

Survey on Migratory Sheep of Bikaner District of Rajasthan

V. Geethalakshmi, J. Jaysankar, R.S. Khatri* and J.P. Goyal*
 Central Sheep & Wool Research Institute, Avikanagar-
 304 501
 *Indian Agricultural Statistics Research Institute,
 New Delhi-110 012

Utilization Pattern of Farm Power and Machinery in Karnal District of Haryana

R.C. Dash, N.P.S. Sirohi and K.K. Tyagi*
 Orisa University of Agriculture & Technology,
 Bhubaneswar-751003
 *Indian Agricultural Statistics Research Institute,
 New Delhi-110 012

Participation of IASRI Scientists during 54th Annual Conference of Indian Society of Agricultural Statistics held at NDUAT, Faizabad from 28-30 November, 2000

Participation in the Symposia

Dr. Girish Kumar Jha
Dr. H.V.L. Bathla
Dr. A.K. Srivastava
Dr. Anil Rai
Dr. Randhir Singh

Participation in the Paper Reading Session

Genetic Parameters of Fitness Characters in Jamuna Pari and Black Bengal Goats

Lal Chand, S.D. Wahi and V.K. Bhatia
 I A S R I, New Delhi

Effect of Sample Size and Structure on the Bootstrap Estimate of Variance of Heritability

S.D. Wahi and N. Okendro Singh
 I A S R I, New Delhi

Yield Maximization of a System of Cropping by Optimum Combination of Input Use

Ajit Kaur Bhatia
 I A S R I, New Delhi

Evaluation of Relationship Between Two Rice Varieties

Rajinder Kaur
 I A S R I, New Delhi

A Statistical Investigation on the Long-term Effect of Fertilizers on Productivity of Cereal Crop Sequences

V.K. Sharma and Rajinder Kaur
 I A S R I, New Delhi

Statistical Analysis of Production and Resource Use in Broiler Production

S.P. Bhardwaj, R.K. Pandey and V.K. Mahajan
 I A S R I, New Delhi

Assessment of Performance of Design Strategy

Jagbir Singh and H.V.L. Bathla
 I A S R I, New Delhi

Resampling Procedures in Survey Sampling—An Empirical Study

V.P.N. Singh, Anil Rai and V.K. Jain
 I A S R I, New Delhi

Yield Gap Analysis Using Path Coefficient Technique

Satya Pal, R.M. Sood, T. Rai and A.K. Gupta
 I A S R I, New Delhi

Effect of fertilizer and insecticides & Pesticides on the Yield of Vegetables

A.K. Gupta, A.K. Mogha and Satya Pal
 I A S R I, New Delhi

On Study Relating to Formulating Long-term Mechanization Strategy for Each Agro-Climatic Zone/ State

K.K. Tyagi, S.D. Sharma, A.K. Srivastava and H.V.L. Bathla I A S R I, New Delhi-110 012

Estimation of Feed, Seed and Wastage Ratios for Foodgrains

D.L. Ahuja and K.K. Tyagi
I A S R I, New Delhi-110 012

Participation of IASRI Scientists during 55th Annual Conference of Indian Society of Agricultural Statistics held at CIAE & IISS, Bhopal from 15-17 January, 2002

Participation in the Symposia

Dr. Rajender Parsad

Dr. V.K. Gupta

Dr. V.K. Bhatia

Dr. K.K. Tyagi

Dr. S.D. Sharma

Dr. A.K. Srivastava

Dr. H.V.L. Bathla

Dr. D.L. Ahuja

Participation in the Paper Reading Session

Influence of Fixed Effects on the Estimates of Heritability by Half-Sib Analysis

S.D. Wahi, Lal Chand and A.R. Rao
IASRI, New Delhi-110 012

Simultaneous Selection of Genotypes for Yield and Stability in Crop Improvement Trials

A.R. Rao and V.T. Prabhakaran
I.A.S.R.I., New Delhi-110 012

Estimation of Returns from a Permanent Plot Experiment with 2-crop Sequence

V.K. Sharma and Rajinder Kaur
I.A.S.R.I., New Delhi-110 012

On Designing and Analysis of Experiments under AICRP on Soil Test Crop Response Correlation

Aloke Lahri and D.K. Mehta
I.A.S.R.I., New Delhi-110 012

Robustness of Block Designs for Complete Diallel Crosses against Interchange of a Pair of Crosses

D.K. Panda, Rajender Parsad* and V.K. Sharma*
W T C E R, Bhubaneswar-751 023
*I.A.S.R.I., New Delhi-110 012

On Higher-Associate Class Partially Balanced Incomplete Block Designs

Cini Varghese, V.K. Sharma and Seema Jaggi
I.A.S.R.I., New Delhi-110 012

Non-Proper Block Designs for Balanced Confounded Factorial Experiments

R. Srivastava, Rajender Parsad and V.K. Gupta
I.A.S.R.I., New Delhi-110 012

Intranet Solutions for Research Organization

Sudeep, R.C. Goyal and P.K. Malhotra
I.A.S.R.I., New Delhi-110 012

Nested Block Designs for making Test Treatments control Treatment comparisons

Subrata Kumar Satpati and Rajender Parsad
I.A.S.R.I., New Delhi-110 012

Estimation of Wheat Production in 2020

A.K. Gupta, A.K. Mogha and V.K. Jain
I.A.S.R.I., New Delhi-110 012

Estimation of Contribution on Input Factors on the Milk Yield

Satya Pal, R.M. Sood and A.K. Gupta
IASRI, New Delhi-110012

Estimation of Varietal Yields and Standards of Pepper

Jagbir Singh and V.K. Jain
I.A.S.R.I., New Delhi-110 012

Agro-Techno Status of Farming Community

Satya Pal, Jagbir Singh and M.S. Narang
I.A.S.R.I., New Delhi-110012

On Some Aspects of Proximal Estimators in Repeat Surveys

U.C. Sud, A.K. Srivastava and I.C. Sethi
I.A.S.R.I., New Delhi-110 012

Land Use/Land Cover Statistics and Extent of Floods during 1997-98 for District Rohtak, Haryana using Remote Sensing Satellite Data

Randhir Singh and D.C. Dahiya
I.A.S.R.I., New Delhi-110 012

Details of Scientists attended annual conference of Indian Society of Agricultural Statistics during 1.1.2000 to 31.12.2000

Sl. No.	Name and Designation	Place of visit	Purpose of visit	Duration	Amount spent on registration fee	Amount spent (Rs.)	Mode of Transport
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Dr. S.D. Sharma, Director	Kumarganj, Faizabad	To attend the 54th Annual Conference of the Indian Society of Agricultural Statistics	27.11.2000 to 1.12.2000	600	3,436	By Train/ Road
2.	Dr. V.K. Bhatia, Principal Sci.	Kumarganj, Faizabad	To attend the 54th Annual Conference of the ISAS	28.11.2000 to 30.11.2000	600	1871	By Train
3.	Dr. V.K. Gupta, Head	Kumarganj, Faizabad	To attend the 54th Annual Conference of the Indian Society of Agricultural Statistics	27.11.2000 to 30.11.2000	600	2263	By Train
4.	Dr. P.K. Batra, Principal Scientist	Kumarganj, Faizabad	To attend the 54th Annual Conference of the ISAS	28.1.12000 to 30.11.2000	600	327	By Bus
5.	Smt. Rajinder Kaur Sci. (SG)	Kumarganj, Faizabad	To attend the 54th Annual Conference of the ISAS	28.1.12000 to 30.11.2000	600	2400	By Train
6.	Dr. Rajender Prasad, Senior Scientist	Kumarganj, Faizabad	To attend the 54th Annual Conference of the ISAS	28.11.2000 to 30.11.2000	600	2000	By Train
7.	Smt. Ajit Kaur Bhatia, Scientist (SG)	Kumarganj, Faizabad	To attend the 54th Annual Conference of the ISAS	28.11.2000 to 30.11.2000	600	2000	By Train
8.	Dr. Jagbir Singh, Senior Scientist	Kumarganj, Faizabad	To attend the 54th Annual Conference of the ISAS	27.11.2000 to 30.11.2000	600	2000	By Train
9.	Dr. Anil Rai, Senior Scientist	Kumarganj, Faizabad	To attend the 54th Annual Conference of the ISAS	27.1.2000 to 1.12.2000	600	2291	By Train
10.	Dr. D.L. Ahuja, Principal Scientist	Kumarganj, Faizabad	To attend the 54th annual Conference of the ISAS	28.11.2000 to 30.11.2000	600	2000	By Train
11.	Dr. G.K. Jha, Scientist	Kumarganj, Faizabad	To attend the 54th Annual Conference of the ISAS	28.11.2000 to 30.11.2000	600	2100	By Train

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
12.	Sh. R.S. Khatri, Principal Scientist	Kumargnaj, Faizabad	to attend the 54th Annual Conference of the ISAS	25.11.2000 to 1.12.2000	600	2700	By Train
13.	Dr. K.K. Tyagi, Principal Scientist	Kumargnaj, Faizabad	To attend the 54th Annual Conference of the ISAS	27.11.2000 to 01.12.2000	600	2000	By Train

Details of Scientists attended annual conference of Indian Society of Agricultural Statistics during 1.1.2001 to 31.12.2001

No Conference was held in Year 2001

Details of Scientists attended annual conference of Indian Society of Agricultural Statistics during 1.1.2002 to 31.12.2002

Sl. No.	Name and Designation	Place of visit	Purpose of visit	Duration	Amount spent on registration fee	Amount spent (Rs.)	Mode of Transport
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Dr. S.D. Sharma, Director	Central Institute of Agricultural Engineering and Indian Institute of Soil Science, Bhopal	To attend the 55th Annual Conference of the Indian Society of Agricultural Statistics	14-18 Jan, 2002	600	8139	By Air
2.	Dr. S.D. Sharma, Director	University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad	56th Annual Conference of ISAS	18-20 Dec., 2002	800	18049	By Air
3.	Dr. A.K. Srivastava, Ex-Joint Director	CIAE, Bhopal	To attend the 55th Annual Conference of the ISAS	14-18 Jan, 2002	600	2887	By train
4.	Dr. V.K. Bhatia, Principal Sci.	University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad	56th Annual Conference of ISAS	18-20 Dec., 2002	800	5803	By Train
5.	Dr. V.K. Gupta, Head	CIAE, Bhopal	Convenor of Symposium 55th Annual Conference of the ISAS	14-18 Jan, 2002	600	4068	By train

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
6.	Dr. V.K. Sharma, Principal Scientist	CIAE, Bhopal	Presented a paper in 55th Annual Conference of the ISAS	14-18 Jan., 2002	600	2890	By train
7.	Dr. Alope Lahiri, Senior Scientist	CIAE, Bhopal	Presented a paper in 55th Annual Conference of the ISAS	14-18 Jan, 2002	600	3360	By train
8.	Dr. R. Srivastava, Principal Scientist	CIAE, Bhopal	Presented a paper in 55th Annual Conference of the ISAS	14-18 Jan, 2002	600	3608	By train
9.	Dr. Rajender Prasad, Senior Scientist	CIAE, Bhopal	Presented a paper in 55th Annual Conference of the ISAS	14-18 Jan, 2002	600	3428	By train
10.	Dr. Cini Varghese, Scientist	CIAE, Bhopal	Presented a paper in 55th Annual Conference of the ISAS	14-18 Jan, 2002	600	4000	By train
11.	Dr. S.P. Bhardwaj, Principal Scientist	CIAE, Bhopal	Presented a paper in 55th Annual Conference of the ISAS	14-18 Jan, 2002	600	4000	By train/ Road
12.	Dr. H.V.L. Bathla, Principal Scientist	CIAE, Bhopal	55th Annual Conference of the ISAS	15-17 Jan, 2002	600	2000	By train/ Road
13.	Dr. H.V.L. Bathla, Principal Scientist	University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad	56th Annual Conference of ISAS	18-20 Dec., 2002	800	12637	By Rail and air
14.	Dr. Jagbir Singh, Senior Scientist	CIAE, Bhopal	Presented a paper in 55th Annual Conference of the ISAS	14-18 Jan, 2002	600	3300	By train
15.	Dr. Jagbir Singh, Senior Scientist	University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad	56th Annual Conference of ISAS	18-20 Dec., 2002	800	5788	By Train
16.	Dr. G.K. Jha, Scientist	University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad	56th Annual Conference of ISAS	18-20 Dec., 2002	800	5665	By Train

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
17.	Dr. K.K. Tyagi, Principal Scientist	CIAE, Bhopal	55th Annual Conference of the ISAS	15-17 Jan., 2002	600	2500	By Train
18.	Dr. K.K. Tyagi, Principal Scientist	University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad	56th Annual Conference of ISAS	18-20 Dec., 2002	800	5514	By Train
19.	Dr. Randhir Singh, Principal Scientist	CIAE, Bhopal	55th Annual conference of the ISAS	15-17 Jan, 2002	600	2000	By Train
20.	Dr. Randhir Singh, Principal Scientist	University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad	56th Annual Conference of ISAS	18-20 Dec., 2002	800	5743	By Train
21.	Shri A.K. Gupta, Scientist (SS)	CIAE, Bhopal	55th Annual Conference of the ISAS	14-18 Jan, 2002	600	3000	By Train/ Taxi
22.	Dr. Ranjana Agarwal, Principal Scientist	University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad	56th Annual Conference of ISAS	18-20 Dec., 2002	800	5589	By Train
23.	Sh. S.D. Wahi, Principal Scientist	University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad	56th Annual Conference of ISAS	18-20 De.c., 2002	800	5968	By Train
24.	Dr. R.C. Goyal, Principal Scientist	University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad	56th Annual Conference of ISAS	18-20 Dec., 2002	800	5799	By Train
25.	Sh. Satya Pal, Scientist (SS)	University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad	56th Annual Conference of ISAS	18-20 Dec., 2002	800	5848	By Train
26.	Sh. Amrender Kumar, Scientist	University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad	56th Annual Conference of ISAS	18-20 Dec., 2002	800	5965	By Train
27.	Dr. V. Ramasubramiam, Scientist	University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad	56th Annual Conference of ISAS	18-20 Dec., 2002	800	5778	By Train
28.	Sh. Sudeep, Scientist	University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad	56th Annual Conference of ISAS	18-20 Dec., 2002	800	5632	By Train

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
29.	Dr. U.C. Sud, Principal Scientist	University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad	56th Annual Conference of ISAS	18-20 Dec., 2002	800	5607	By Train
30.	Dr. Chandrahas, Principal Scientist	University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad	56th Annual Conference of ISAS	18-20 Dec., 2002	800	5893	By Train
31.	Dr. Ashok Kumar, Senior Scientist	University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad	56th Annual Conference of ISAS	18-20 Dec., 2002	800	5653	By Train
32.	Sh. Himadri Ghosh, Scientist	CIAE, Bhopal	55th Annual Conference of the ISAS	14-18 Jan, 2002	600	3510	By train/ taxi

*Details of Scientists attended annual conference of Society of Statistics and
Computer Applications during 1.1.2000 to 31.12.2000*

Sl. No.	Name and Designation	Place of visit	Purpose of visit	Duration	Amount spent on registration fee	Amount spent (Rs.)	Mode of Trans- port
1.	Sh. Himadri Ghosh, Scientist	Tamil Nadu	To attend the 3rd Annual Conference of the Society of Statistics, Computer and Application	17.11.2000 to 26.11.2000	500	7559	By Train
2.	Dr. V.K. Gupta, Head	Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore	to attend the 3rd Annual Conference of the Society of Statistics, Computer and Application	19.11.2000 to 23.11.2000	500	17,709	By Air
3.	Dr. Alope Lahiri, Senior Scientist	Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore	To attend the 3rd Annual Conference of the Society of Statistics, Computer and Application	20.11.2000 to 23.11.2000	500	8502	By Train

*Details of Scientists attended annual conference of Society of Statistics and
Computer Applications during 1.1.2001 to 31.12.2001*

Sl. No.	Name and Designation:	Place of visit	Purpose of visit	Duration	Amount spent on registration fee	Amount spent (Rs.)	Mode of Transport
1.	Dr. S.D. Sharma, Director	Saurashtra University, Rajkot	To attend the 4th Annual Conference of the Society of Statistics, Computer and Application	23-26 Nov., 2001	600	9,910	By Air and Road
2.	Sh. Himadri Ghosh, Scientist	Rajkot	To attend the 4th Annual Conference of the Society of Statistics, Computer and Application	24-26 Nov., 2001	600	5000	By Train
3.	Dr. V.K. Sharma, Principal Scientist	Rajkot	To attend the 4th Annual Conference of the Society of Statistics, Computer and Application	24-26 Nov., 2001	600	2500	By Train
4.	Dr. P.K. Batra, Principal Scientist	Rajkot	To attend the 4th Annual Conference of the Society of Statistics, Computer and Application	24-26 Nov. 2001	700	5000	By Train
5.	Dr. Alope Lahiri, Senior Scientist	Rajkot	To attend the 4th Annual Conference of the Society of Statistics, Computer and Application	24-26 Nov., 2001	600	3000	By Train
6.	Dr. Rajender Prasad, Senior Scientist	Rajkot	To attend the 4th Annual Conference of the Society of Statistics, Computer and Application	24-26 Nov., 2001	600	5000	By Train

*Details of Scientists attended annual conference of Society of Statistics and
Computer Applications during 1.1.2002 to 28.2.2003*

Sl. No.	Name and Designation	Place of visit	Purpose of visit	Duration	Amount spent on registration fee	Amount spent (Rs.)	Mode of Transport
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Dr. S.D. Sharma, Director	Maharana Pratap University of Agril. and Tech, Udaipur	To attend the 5th Annual Conference of the Society of Statistics, Computer and Application	17-19 Jan, 2003	600	8187	By Air

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
2.	Sh. Himadri Ghosh, Scientist	Udaipur, Rajasthan	To attend the 5th Annual Conference of the Society of Statistics, Computer and Application	17-19 Jan., 2003	600	3074	By Train
3.	Dr. V.K. Gupta, Head	Maharana Pratap University of Agril. and Tech, Udaipur	To attend the 5th Annual Conference of the Society of Statistics, Computer and Application	17-19 Jan, 2003	600	8033	By Air
4.	Dr. P.K. Batra, Prncipal Scientist	Maharana Pratap University of Agril. and Tech, Udaipur	To attend the 5th Annual Conference of the Society of Statistics, Computer and Application	17-19 Jan., 2003	600	2588	By Train
5.	Dr. Alope Lahiri, Senior Scientist	Maharana Pratap University of Agril. and Tech, Udaipur	To attend the 5th Annual Conference of the Society of Statistics, Computer and Application	17-19 Jan, 2003	600	3264	By Train
6.	Dr. Rajender Prasad, Senior Scientist	Maharana Pratap University of Agril. and Tech, Udaipur	To attend the 5th Annual Conference of the Society of Statistics, Computer and Application	17-19 Jan, 2003	600	2660	By Train
7.	Dr. Krishan Lal, Senior Scientist	Maharana Pratap University of Agril. and Tech, Udaipur	To attend the 5th Annual Conference of the Society of Statistics, Computer and Application	17-19 Jan., 2003	600	2525	By Train

Expenditure on Different Heads

4369. SHRI P.R. KHUNTE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Agricultural Statistics Research Institute has ensured during last three years that its expenditure on different heads are made as per financial rules and Government instructions;

(b) if so, the details of quarterly expenditure (plan and non-plan separately) during last three years on different heads namely, purchase of computer and related equipments, Air Conditioners, other equipments, furniture,

Stationeries, major works, renovations and repairs, HRD and TA; and

(c) the proportions of total expenditure under each head that were increased during the last quarter and in March, during last three years?

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Details are given in the enclosed Statement-I.

(c) Details are given in the enclosed Statement-II.

Statement I**Details of Quarterly Expenditure (Plan and Non Plan Separately) During Last Three Years**

	April-June		July-Sept		Oct-Dec		Jan-March		Plan	Non Plan	Total
	Plan	Non Plan	Plan	Non Plan	Plan	Non Plan	Plan	Non Plan			
2000-01											
Computers	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Air Conditioner	0	0	45369	0	0	0	0	0	45369	0	45369
Other Equipment	0	1450	45260	6990	0	1450	0	1620	45260	11510	56770
Furniture	0	0	0	49280	0	0	0	0	0	49280	49280
Stationery	0	3237	0	48713	0	77043	0	162569	0	291562	291562
Major Works	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Renovation/Repair	0	104600	0	235350	0	677945	0	2464344	0	3482239	3482239
HRD	0	0	19500	0	107500	0	98691		225691	0	225691
TA	101171	47122	0	110139	87787	122603	91047	209	280005	280073	560078
2001-02											
Computers	0	0	0	0	0	0	166800	0	166800	0	166800
Air Conditioner	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11725	0	11725	11725
Other Equipment	8000	11000	17590	0	0	845	37584	0	63174	11845	75019
Furniture	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Stationery	0	60617	0	37503	0	24859	0	251906	0	374885	374885
Major Works	0	0	0	0	0	0	7461000	0	7461000	0	7461000
Renovation/Repair	0	189673	327942	172859	88258	126637	2054876	1305113	2471076	1794282	4265358
HRD	75636	0	27706	0	161416	0	304	0	265062	0	265062
TA	70676	127963	8857	67041	166174	82458	4278	52523	249985	329985	579970
2002-03											
Computers	0	0	0	0	0	0	3174960	0	3174960	0	3174960
Air Conditioner	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Equipment	0	0	0	0	38280	53200	2651682	42041	2689962	95241	2785203
Furniture	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	48079	0	48079	48079
Stationery	0	2400	0	786	0	0	204463	58774	204463	61960	266423
Major Works	0	0	0	0	0	0	986379	0	986379	0	986379
Renovation/Repair	300000	128049	154070	183358	171834	320961	1239605	1367673	1865509	2000041	3865550
HRD	80129	0	51663	0	111420	0	26721	0	269933	0	269933
TA	20532	149289	13900	107140	156699	21308	208859	21055	399990	298792	698782

Statement II

Details of Percentage Quarterly Expenditure (Plan and Non Plan Separately) During Last Three Years with percentage increase in March

	April-June		July-Sept		Oct-Dec		Jan-March		Percentage Increase in Last Quarter		Percentage Increase in March	
	Plan	Non Plan	Plan	Non Plan	Plan	Non Plan	Plan	Non Plan	Plan	Non Plan	Plan	Non Plan
2000-01												
Computers	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Air Conditioner	—	—	100.00	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	-100.00	—
Other Equipment	—	12.60	100.00	60.73	—	12.60	—	14.07	—	-10.93	-100.00	-100.00
Furniture	—	—	—	100.00	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	-100.00
Stationery	—	1.11	—	16.71	—	26.42	—	55.76	—	30.76	—	-80.76
Major Works	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Renovation/Repair	—	3.00	—	6.76	—	19.47	—	70.77	—	45.77	—	358.00
HRD	—	—	8.64	—	47.63	—	43.73	—	18.73	—	-7.06	—
TA	36.13	16.82	—	39.33	31.35	43.76	32.52	0.07	7.52	-24.93	300.00	-99.10
2001-02												
Computers	—	—	—	—	—	—	100.00	—	75.00	—	1100.00	—
Air Conditioner	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	100.00	—	75.00	—	-100.00
Other Equipment	12.66	92.87	27.84	—	—	7.13	59.49	—	34.49	—	-100.00	-100.00
Furniture	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Stationery	—	16.17	—	10.00	—	6.63	—	67.20	—	42.20	—	-94.00
Major Works	—	—	—	—	—	—	100.00	—	75.00	—	-100.00	—
Renovation/Repair	—	10.57	13.27	9.63	3.57	7.06	83.16	72.74	58.16	47.74	414.00	464.00
HRD	28.54	—	10.45	—	60.90	—	0.11	—	-24.89	—	-100.00	—
TA	28.27	38.78	3.54	20.32	66.47	24.99	1.71	15.92	-23.29	-9.08	-99.00	-86.17
2002-03												
Computers	—	—	—	—	—	—	100.00	—	75.00	—	-1100.00	—
Air Conditioner	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Equipment	—	—	—	—	1.42	55.86	98.58	44.14	73.58	19.14	-1082.92	407.00
Furniture	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	100.00	—	75.00	—	1100.00
Stationery	—	3.87	—	1.27	—	—	100.00	94.86	75.00	69.86	-1100.00	-91.00
Major Works	—	—	—	—	—	—	100.00	—	75.00	—	-1100.00	—
Renovation/Repair	16.08	6.40	8.26	9.17	9.21	16.05	66.00	68.38	41.00	43.38	9.57	516.00
HRD	29.68	—	19.14	—	41.28	—	9.90	—	-15.10	—	96.67	—
TA	5.13	49.96	3.48	35.86	39.18	7.13	52.22	7.05	27.22	-17.95	-344.49	-5.15

**Modernisation of Durgapur and Rourkela
Steel Plants**

4370. SHRIMATI REENA CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) has approved a Rs. 136 crore investment in its integrated steel plants at Durgapur and Rourkela;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the expenditure incurred by SAIL in the modernisation of said plants?

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

(b) Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) has approved a new Ladle Furnace in Steel Melting Shop at Durgapur Steel Plant (Rs. 23.33 Crore) and Rebuilding of Coke Oven Battery No. 1 at Rourkela Steel Plant (Rs. 112.39 crore) in March, 2003.

(c) SAIL has incurred expenditure of Rs. 4326 crores and Rs. 3978 crores in the modernisation of Durgapur Steel Plant and Rourkela Steel Plant respectively till March, 2003.

Extension for Acquisition of Fleet

4371. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have extended the Indian Airlines proposal for acquiring the new aircraft for a further period of six months; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) and (b) The proposal received from Indian Airlines Ltd. to acquire new aircraft is under active consideration of the Government. Since the acquisition process is likely to take time, based on the request of Indian Airlines, Government have advised Indian Airlines to approach the Aircraft and Engine Manufacturers to extend the validity of their initial offers for a further period of six months *i.e.* upto 30th September, 2003.

[Translation]

Privatisation of Bhilai Steel Plant

4372. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to privatise the Bhilai Steel Plant a public sector unit; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY): (a) There is no proposal to privatise Bhilai Steel Plant (BSP) of Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) at present.

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

[English]

Delhi Milk Scheme

4373. SHRI RAMCHANDRA PASWAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that no sample of the milk supplied by the private dairies to the Delhi Milk Scheme (DMS) is examined for its purity or otherwise;

(b) if so, whether the Government have made any inquiry into the gross irregularity in DMS in examining the quality of the milk obtain from the private dairies;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) The DMS is not procuring any milk from the private dairies. They are procuring the milk from State Dairy Cooperative Federations and registered Cooperative Societies. The quality of milk supplied by them is thoroughly checked before acceptance.

(b) to (d) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

[Translation]

Permission for Food Products and Beverages

4374. DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the names and types of the food products and beverages permitted by his Ministry for sale/production in the Indian market since start of the financial year 1999 till 30th September, 2002 alongwith the names of the foreign beverages and food companies to which such permission has been given alongwith their terms and conditions;

(b) whether the foreign companies are launching their product into the Indian market directly by bringing them from abroad or producing their products by setting up industries in India alongwith the locations where such industries have been set up; and

(c) if so, the capital amount invested by each of the above companies in India and the number of the Indian/ foreign nationals employed by each company?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM): (a) to (c) Food processing industries are both in the organised and unorganised sector. Processed food items except for alcoholic beverages and items reserved for small scale sector are exempted from the purview of license under the Industries Development & Regulation Act. Further, foreign direct investment upto 100% is allowed under automatic route in processed food items except for alcoholic beverages, items reserved for small scale industries and food retailing. During the period 1999-2000 to 30.9.2002, 1260 Industrial Entrepreneur Memoranda (IEMs) envisaging investment of approx. Rs. 260 crore and employment of 2.4 lakh persons, were filed in various sectors of processed food. As per the prevailing Exim Policy, there is no restriction on import of processed food items and marketing the same. These products will, however, have to conform to various Indian food laws.

[English]

Excise Duty on Agro Products

4375. PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of incentives/subsidy provided by the Government for encouraging consumption of bagasse and agro waste;

(b) whether the Government have imposed 8% of excise duty on agro-based products and reduced import duty on such products by 5%;

(c) if so, whether it is likely to adversely affect the agro-based eco-friendly industry producing fibre boards; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to reduce the excise duty and raise the import duty on such products to rehabilitate the industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI SANGH PRIYA GAUTAM): (a) The Details of incentives/subsidy provided by the Government for encouraging consumption of bagasse and agro waste; are given in the statement enclosed.

(b) to (d) In the current year's budget proposals (2003-04), the central excise duty exemption available for wood free plain or pre-laminated particle or fibreboards, made from sugarcane bagasse or other agro waste was withdrawn. The central excise duty exemption available for the first clearances of upto 3500 MTs of paper and paperboards and articles made therefrom, manufactured from 75% or more of unconventional raw materials was also withdrawn. A central excise duty of 8% with CENVAT credit was imposed on these goods. The withdrawal was on the basis of the accepted principle that while taxation should be moderate, the tax base has to be large so that every sector contributes moderately to the national economy.

The peak rate of customs duty was reduced in this year's budget from 30% to 25% and consequently the general rate of basic customs duty in respect of fibreboards and wood or other ligneous materials, particle boards or similar boards of food or other ligneous materials and paper and paperboards and articles made therefrom, was reduced from 30% to 25%.

Statement*Financial Incentive**Interest Subsidy for Bagasse/Biomass Cogeneration Projects (Commercial Projects)*

S.No.	Schemes	Pressure configuration	Interest Subsidy
Bagasse Co-generation (Commercial Projects)			
1.	Projects by Cooperative/Public/Joint Sector Sugar Mills	40 bar & above	3%
		60 bar & above	4%
		80 bar & above	5%
2.	Project in IPP Mode in Cooperative/Public Sector Sugar Mills	60 bar & above	2%
		80 bar & above	3%
3.	Projects by Private Sector Sugar Mills	60 bar & above	2%
		80 bar & above	3%
Biomass Co-generation			
4.	Commercial Projects	60 bar & above	2%
		80 bar & above	3%

For Bagasse Cogeneration by Cooperative/Public Sector Sugar Mills, the floor rates of interest shall not be lower than 8% otherwise 10% for general category of projects

The maximum amount of interest subsidy to any of the above categories of bagasse and biomass cogeneration project shall be limited to Rs. 4.00 crore and Rs. 2.00 crore respectively.

*Interest subsidy for Biomass Power Projects (Commercial Projects)**Biomass Power*

S.No.	Schemes	Pressure configuration	Interest Subsidy
1.	Commercial Projects (Direct Combustion, including captive power)	60 bar & above	2%
		80 bar & above	3%
2.	Commercial Projects (Atmospheric Gasification including captive power)		2%
3.	MW Scale projects with 100% Producer Gas Engines	Capital Subsidy of Rs. 1.00 Cr./MW	
4.	Advanced Biomass Gasification	Capital Subsidy of Rs. 1.0 Cr./MW	

- Biomass Power Projects in North-Eastern States & Sikkim, additional interest subsidy @2% will be provided subject to floor rates of interest shall not lower than 8% otherwise 10% for general category of projects.
- The maximum amount of subsidy to any Commercial Biomass Power Project (Direct combustion or atmospheric gasification, including captive power) will be limited to Rs. 2.00 crore. The CFA shall be limited to total capacity of 100 MW per State during 10th Plan.
- The maximum amount of subsidy to MW Scale projects with 100% Producer Gas Engines will be limited to Rs. 2.00 crore per project with ceiling of two projects/State and not more than five projects in the 10th Plan.
- The maximum amount of subsidy to Advanced Biomass Gasification projects will be limited to Rs. 8.00 crore/project with a ceiling of one project per State, one each from the three different technology routes, *i.e.* Biomass Integrated Gasification-cum-Gas Turbine Combined Cycle (IGCC), Integrated Pyrolysis Combined Cycle (IPCC), and MW-scale reciprocating engines with very high diesel replacement exceeding 90%.

Development of Port Blair

4376. SHRI A.C. JOS: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether haphazard development of Port Blair is spoiling the natural beauty of Andaman and Nicobar Islands affecting the tourism; and

(b) if so, the preventive steps proposed by the Government in this regard?

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

(b) Does not arise.

Erosion due to Brahmaputra

4377. SHRI M.K. SUBBA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have directed the Brahmaputra Board to take up Rs. 400/- crore scheme

to check erosion by Brahmaputra upstream of Dibrugarh; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to implement the scheme alongwith reasons for delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) and (b) A scheme prepared by State Government of Assam entitled "Protection Rohmaria area from the erosion of Brahmaputra at upstream of Dibrugarh town" with an estimated cost of Rs. 404.72 crore was sent to Central Water Commission (CWC) for examination. The scheme has been examined by CWC and comments sent to the State Government in October, 2002 for compliance.

In this regard, a Team of Technical experts led by Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Water Resources visited Rohmaria area in April, 2002 and recommended to take up 1st Phase of the above scheme namely "Avulsion of Brahmaputra at Dholla Hathighuli" which has been approved by the Government of India at an estimated cost of Rs. 10.47 crore. The scheme is being executed by Brahmaputra Board for which more than 80% of work has been completed. Ministry of Water Resources has released Rs. 7.5 crore for the above work during 2002-03. Further, course of action including the taking up of the scheme prepared by Government of Assam would be chalked out after findings of the model studies by CWPRS, Pune for the whole reach from Hathighuli to Dibrugarh town as well as the effect of the scheme at Hathighuli.

Bungling in Purchase of Carpets

4378. SHRI AMBAREESHA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to refer to the reply given to the Unstarred Question No. 1045 dated July 22, 2002 and state:

(a) whether the enquiry into the bungling in purchase of carpets by Air India from Pennsylvania Woven Carpet Mills (PWCM) has been completed;

(b) if so, the outcome of the inquiry;

(c) whether a Director Level Officer, then heading the New York office of the Air India was found to be involved in the dubious purchase of carpets and other materials resulting in loss to Air India;

(d) if so, whether the same accused officer has been promoted by the Air India and posted in a sensitive position;

(e) if so, the action proposed to be taken against the guilty officer;

(f) whether the Government have recovered the money from the defaulting company; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) It is not possible, at this stage, to indicate the details of the erring officials of Air India and their culpability and also the details of the action proposed to be taken against them.

(e) to (g) After following due procedure and conducting the enquiry by an earlier enquiry committee, the competent authority awarded the punishment of dismissal from service to Shri M.L. Thatte, the then Regional Stores and Purchase Manager, New York as the charges levelled against him were established.

Air India filed a law suit in the New York District Court in February, 1997 for recoveries of money against PWCM and a judgement was given in favour of Air India on 28th April, 1997. However, US Government declared PWCM bankrupt and its assets were taken over by a secured creditor.

Aid to Industries by KVIC

4379. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the detailed activities of Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) in the country, particularly Mumbai alongwith its benefits and scheme available for women and youths of the State;

(b) whether KVIC has planned to concentrate Mumbai for market exploitation; and

(c) if so, the details indicating financial support provided to industries/entrepreneurs/organizations in the State, if any?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI SANGH PRIYA

GAUTAM): (a) The main activities implemented by Khadi and Village Industries Commission in the country including Maharashtra, which provide benefit to women and youth alongwith other category of beneficiaries are as under:-

(i) Development of Khadi—KVIC provides financial assistance to voluntary organization for undertaking production and sales activities under Khadi programme. For this purpose financial assistance under its Interest Subsidy Eligibility Certificate Schemes (ISEC) is provided to NGOs through banking institutions with interest subsidy from the budgetary source. The lion share of employment generated under Khadi programme goes in favour of rural women.

(ii) For the development of village industries a Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP) is being implemented for generating employment in the Rural sector for rural women and youth of the country, including Maharashtra State. Under this scheme, women entrepreneurs are provided 30% margin money for setting up of rural industries project for project costing upto Rs. 10.00 lakhs and 10% of the project cost over and above Rs. 10.00 lakhs upto Rs. 25.00 lakhs. Of 140481 in the country 16805 are located in Maharashtra State. The own contribution of women will be only 5% of the total project cost.

(iii) KVIC also undertakes various training activities, which imparts training in Khadi and Rural Industries to the potential entrepreneurs/artisans in the country including Maharashtra State. In all over the country, there are 42 training centers managed departmentally as well as non-departmentally; one is located are Borivali, Mumbai (Maharashtra). In addition, there are 9 other training centers located in different parts of Maharashtra State.

(iv) KVIC also provides assistance for setting up of sales outlets for the marketing of KVI products in the country both departmentally as well as through implementing agencies. Out of 19 such departmental Khadi Gramodyog Bhavans (sales outlets) one is located at Mumbai. The implementing agencies are also running their own sales outlets in the city of Mumbai. As per KVIC Act, its programmes are implemented in rural areas of the country, comprising in any village and includes the area comprised in any town, the population of which does not exceed 20,000. As such, the scheme is not implemented in Mumbai City.

(b) No specific plan has been made to concentrate on Mumbai for market exploitation of KVI products. However a brand promotional activity has been undertaken in Mumbai for Branded KVI products under Brand name 'Sarvodaya' in a limited way like agarbatti, masala, pickles, honey, soap etc.

(c) Does not arise.

Pollution by Slaughter Houses

4380. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether most of slaughter houses in the country neither comply with Pollution Control Rules or Toxicity levels as per PFA;

(b) if so, whether Animal Rights International have been making representation for compliance since long and directions of the Ministry remains ignored by CPCB;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the details of measures proposed to give counselling and enforcing Pollution Rules and Toxicity in such slaughter houses alongwith action taken/to be taken against the erring slaughter houses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV): (a) Slaughter houses are mainly water polluting units and also cause nuisance by way of foul smell due to improper handling. Many slaughter houses, operated by local bodies, do not take adequate pollution control measures.

(b) to (d) Representations have been received from the Animal Rights International. To control pollution from slaughter houses, the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has initiated various measures which inter-alia include:

- Publication of comprehensive document on pollution control requirements in slaughter houses;
- Organising workshops with Municipal Bodies and State Pollution Control Boards ((SPCBs) for implementation of required measures;
- Directions to the State Pollution Control Boards and Pollution Control Committees (PCCs) to take action against defaulting slaughter houses for violation of pollution control norms.

River Encroachments

4381. SHRI Y.V. RAO: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Yamuna River has been moving away from Delhi due to various river encroachments; and

(b) if so, by when the encroachments would be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) No, Sir. In Delhi, River Yamuna flows between the two marginal embankments *i.e.* Left Margin embankment and Right Margin embankment. The river channel meanders between these boundaries. The meandering of river is a natural phenomenon.

(b) Does not arise.

Conservation of Monuments in Nagpur Division

4382. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received a proposal from the Government of Maharashtra for conservation and maintenance of historical buildings and monuments of Nagpur Division;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount demanded by the State Government for the purpose;

(d) whether the Government have sanctioned the said amount; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) to (e) Does not arise.

Elephant Projects

4383. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of 18 days' torture to a captured elephant in Chhattisgarh region during recent past;

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

(c) the action taken to avoid recurrence of such incidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV): (a) to (c) The Central Government is aware of the recent reports in the newspapers regarding the death of a wild elephant which was captured by the Chhattisgarh Forest Department on 6th February 2002 and which subsequently died on 24th February during training on account of alleged torture. The Central Government has constituted a Committee of Experts to inquire into the matter and suggest steps to be taken to avoid occurrence of incidents which may lead to the death of an elephant on account of torture.

[*Translation*]

Livestock Animal Husbandry Centres and Dairies

4384. SHRI DANVE RAOSAHEB PATIL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of livestock in the country;

(b) the number of animal husbandry centres and dairies functioning in the country; and

(c) the amount spent on livestock in the country annually?

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

(a) As per the 1997 livestock census the total livestock population in the country was 492 million (Provisional).

(b) Some of the important Animal Husbandry centers under AH Departments in the country are given in the enclosed statement.

There are 688 dairy plants in the country registered under the Milk and Milk Products Order 1992.

(c) The year-wise expenditure by Government of India under various Animal Husbandry and Dairy Development schemes/Programmes during the Ninth Plan was as given below:

Year	Expenditure (Rs. crores)
1997-98	124.08
1998-99	77.00
1999-00	113.71
2000-01	124.69
2001-02	152.66

Statement

Some of the important Animal Husbandry Centres under AH department in the country are as follows

Animal Husbandry Centres	Numbers in the country
Veterinary hospitals/polyclinics	7872
Veterinary dispensaries	18845
Veterinary aid centres/ mobile dispensaries	28195
Semen production centres	116
Frozen semen banks	127
Number of artificial insemination centers	34960
Number of Cattle Breeding Farms	155
Number of Buffaloes breeding Farms	29
Number of Bull semen stations	67

[*English*]

Flights from Hyderabad

4385. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have introduced some new air services during the last one year from Hyderabad Airport to different destinations both national and international;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of requests pending with the Government for introducing new services to and fro Hyderabad Airport at present; and

(d) the detailed plan chalked out by the Government for starting new services to and fro Hyderabad Airport?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) and (b) During the year 2002, Air India introduced a thrice weekly flight on Jakarta-Hyderabad sector, a weekly flight on Delhi-Hyderabad sector and a twice weekly flight on Hyderabad-Mumbai-Riyadh and return sector. In addition to this, Air India introduced seamless transfer connections between Hyderabad and Newark/Frankfurt through its four flights a week service on Newark-Mumbai-Hyderabad and return sector and a weekly flight on Frankfurt-Delhi-Hyderabad sector. From May, 2002, Sahara Airlines have introduced a daily service on Kolkata-Hyderabad-Bangalore and return sector. During 2002, Hyderabad was granted as a new point of call to the designated airlines of Singapore and Qatar, and accordingly, Silk Air have started four flights a week service on Singapore-Hyderabad-Singapore sector and the Qatar Airways have started a thrice weekly service on Doha-Hyderabad-Doha sector.

(c) At present, requests from Kuwait and U.K. are pending with the Government, for granting Hyderabad as a new point of call.

(d) Grant of new point of call in India for foreign airlines, is decided during bilateral talks between the two countries, keeping in view the traffic demands, tourism potential and commercial interests of our national carriers, on the principles of reciprocity and balance of benefits. As regards new domestic air services to/from Hyderabad, Government has laid down route dispersal guidelines, as per which airlines are free to provide services to any place depending upon the traffic demand and the commercial viability.

Salary of Contract Employees

4386. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to increase the salary of contract employees by 25%;

(b) if so, the decision taken by the Government in the matter; and

(c) the date on which it is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI VIJAY GOEL): (a) and (b) There is no such proposal under consideration nor any decision has been taken by the Government.

(c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Production of Steel by SAIL

4387. SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:
SHRI C.N. SINGH:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the total production of steel by the Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) during 2002-2003;

(b) whether burden of loans of the SAIL has decreased during the said period;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the total loans burden of the SAIL as on March 31, 2003;

(e) the steps being taken to reduce the same; and

(f) by when it is likely to be paid?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY): (a) The total salable steel production by Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) during 2002-03 was 10.35 million tonnes.

(b) to (d) Yes, Sir. As on 31.03.2002, the total outstanding borrowings were Rs. 14012 crs, which was reduced to about Rs. 13300 crs. as on 31.03.2003.

(e) SAIL has been taking steps on continuous basis to reduce outstanding loans which include:

- Business restructuring envisaging divestment of non-core assets.
- Intensive cost control.
- Control on capital expenditure.
- Market oriented product-mix, reinforcing sales and marketing efforts, resulting in better sales realization.

- Prudent funds Management.
- Timely repayment of loans.
- Replacing high cost loans with low cost ones.

(f) Borrowings of SAIL consist of various components like Working Capital Loans from Banks, Bonds, Term Loans, Foreign Loans, Public Deposits, SDF Loans, Housing Loans etc. which have different maturity/repayment dates and this is an ongoing process in a dynamic organisation.

[English]

Unsold Stock of Fruits and Vegetables In Mother Dairy Booths

4388. SHRI DILEEP SANGHANI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether unsold fruits and vegetables lying in Mother Dairy's (fruits and vegetables) booths are not taken back by the plant;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the allottee of the booth has to bear the cost of the unsold stocks; and

(d) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to protect the financial interest of the allottee of the booth from such losses?

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

(a) The unsold fruit and vegetables at the booths are not taken back by the Fruit and Vegetable Unit.

(b) The Concessionaires at the booths are supplied fruit and vegetables as per their demand, which are raised by them through indent. According to the commercial agreement entered into by the Concessionaires with the Fruit and Vegetable Unit ownership of the Fruit and Vegetable becomes that of the Concessionaires after these are delivered to them at the booths.

(c) Handling losses at the booths are built in the margin, the Concessionaires earnings being the difference between the price at which they are supplied fruits and vegetables and their selling price to the consumers. Also, the Concessionaires are allowed to sell their left over produce, if any, at a marked down price.

(d) Not applicable in view of (c) above.

[Translation]

Protection of Rail Lines and Railway Passengers

4389. PROF. RITA VERMA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by his Ministry and the Directorate General of Mines Safety for protection of rail lines and railway passengers from the dangers of underground fire in coal mines in Jharia coalfields;

(b) the reasons for framing rules by the Directorate for not undertaking coal mining activities around and under the railway lines;

(c) the details in assisting railway and coal companies for the protection of rail lines and railway passengers from these dangers;

(d) whether the Bharat Coking Coal Limited was warned against the danger of underground fire to Dhanbad Patherdih rail line; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI VIJAY GOEL):

(a) The Directorate General of Mines Safety (DGMS) had issued directions to the managements of Rajapur, Lodna, Bagdigi and Bararee Collieries situated close to Dhanbad-Patherdih railway line for its protection. These directions were given from time to time for taking precautionary measures against the dangers of underground fire. They were asked to take immediate action for stabilization and blanketing of the underground fires in their mines.

(b) The Coal Mine Regulations, 1957 framed under the Mines Act, 1952 are administered by DGMS. The mine managements are required to comply with these regulations, which have provisions for restrictions on mining activity around and under railway lines to guard against danger to railways from instability due to mining operations.

(c) The protection of railway lines is ensured by DGMS by providing for working beneath and within 45 meters of the railway acquired land only after receiving the No Objection Certificate from the Chief Mining Advisor, Railway Board. In case of working beneath railway

acquired land permission is granted after joint inquiry meeting with railways and the mine management in which the effect of working on the stability of the railway acquired land is duly ensured.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) The DGMS have issued directives to the management of Bharat Coking Coal Limited from time to time against danger from fire in close proximity of Dhanbad-Patherdih Railway line. This matter was also raised during bipartite and tripartite corporate level meetings with BCCL.

Construction of Ponds and Reservoirs

4390. SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated any plan for construction and protection of reservoirs and ponds keeping in view the depleting water table in rural areas; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) and (b) The Central Government is responsible for laying down policy guidelines and programmes for the development and regulation of country's water resources. Irrigation being a State subject, the responsibility of planning, investigation, funding alongwith priority, execution, operation and maintenance of irrigation projects, including protection of reservoirs considering the local situation primarily rests with the concerned State Governments themselves.

Middlemen Involved in PMRY

4391. SHRI SHIVAJI MANE:
SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO:

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

(a) whether the work relating to the Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY) is being carried out through middlemen;

(b) if so, whether any enquiry has been conducted by the Government in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the number of middlemen detected during the investigations and the action taken by the Government in this regard over the last two years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI SANGH PRIYA GAUTAM): (a) to (d) Guidelines of the Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY) do not contemplate any role for the middlemen. Central Government has not conducted any enquiry in this regard.

[English]

Comprehensive Social Security Scheme

4392. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the existing social security legislations such as Employment Provident Fund and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, Employees State Insurance Act, Maternity Benefit Act, Workmen's Compensation Act and Payment of Gratuity Act are very cumbersome for the entrepreneurs of small scale units to understand and comply with;

(b) if so, the steps Government propose to take to formulate a comprehensive Social Security Scheme for one insurance cover to each worker; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI VIJAY GOEL): (a) to (c) The simplification and rationalisation of labour laws is an ongoing process. Whenever problems are encountered in implementation of the Acts/laws, appropriate action is taken by the Government to rectify/amend the said Acts.

Planning for Second Green Revolution

4393. SHRI GUTHA SUKENDER REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India is planning to envisage second green revolution to feed the growing population; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken to double the farm productivity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) There is no specific scheme to launch a second green revolution in the country. However, Government is implementing a number of Centrally Sponsored Schemes for increasing the production of cereal crops for meeting the requirement of growing population.

Demand of Forest Dependent People

4394. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have finalised a list of "Forest-dependent" people in different States of the country;

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

(c) the criteria adopted for inclusion of any section of people in the list;

(d) whether a large number of people are traditionally dependent on forests for their livelihood; and

(e) if so, the manner in which the Government propose to reconcile their demands and protection of forest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV): (a) No sir. However, according to State of Forest Report, 1999 of Forest Survey of India, there are 1,70,379 villages having forests as a land use.

(b) Details of Statewise number of villages are enclosed as statement.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Yes Sir.

(e) The National Forest Policy, 1988 envisages the people's involvement in development and protection of forests. Through the mechanism of Joint Forest Management the local people living in and around the forests are actively involved in protection, conservation and management of forests for environmental needs and meeting their needs of forest produce.

Statement

Sl.No.	State/UT	Total number of villages	Villages having forest		
			Number	Forest Area (ha)	Population
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	26,586	5,080	2,566,842	10,674,334
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	3,649	(1,321)	NA	(273019)
3.	Assam	24,685	2,140	219,322	1,490,401
4.	Bihar	67,513	17,044	2,502,137	11,,205,120
5.	Goa	360	138	88,358	232,613
6.	Gujarat	18,028	4,732	1,354,765	3,178,244
7.	Haryana	6,759	90	7,967	127,678
8.	Himachal Pradesh	16,997	5,994	991,644	1,526,347
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	6,477	(2,670)	NA	(2,255,431)
10.	Karnataka	27,066	7,130	2,738,414	9,309,720
11.	Kerala	1,384	317	903,599	4,482,951

1	2	3	4	5	6
12.	Madhya Pradesh	71,526	29,294	6,715,840	19,953,453
13.	Maharashtra	40,412	15,694	3,165,387	19,043,898
14.	Manipur	2,182	(1,850)	NA	(715,738)
15.	Meghalaya	5,484	(3,927)	NA	(1,007,830)
16.	Mizoram	698	(683)	NA	(323,293)
17.	Nagaland	1,216	669	490,554	531,285
18.	Orissa	46,989	29,302	1,779,953	15,934,768
19.	Punjab	12,428	133	30,031	144,057
20.	Rajasthan	37,889	7,144	2,109,981	6,780,697
21.	Sikkim	447	(305)	NA	(248,693)
22.	Tamil Nadu	15,822	1,405	1,919,961	3,113,298
23.	Tripura	855	644	567,041	1,594,837
24.	Uttar Pradesh	112,803	23,900	3,374,665	23,954,868
25.	West Bengal	37,910	8,571	614,682	8,399,279
26.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	504	153	35,485	118,961
27.	Chandigarh	25	9	185	20,418
28.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	71	59	20,702	95,479
29.	Daman & Diu	24	6	507	27,148
30.	Delhi	199	5	283	13,605
31.	Lakshadweep	23	0	0	0
32.	Pondicherry	263	0	0	0
Total		587,274	170,379	32,198,305	146,777,463

Note: Figures in brackets are the estimates of Forest Survey of India.

Case against Director (Commercial) of AI

4395. DR. MANDA JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Director (Commercial), Air India is facing vigilance enquiry in carpet purchase scam;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have received the inquiry report from the vigilance department of Air India in this regard;

(d) if so, whether certain other inquiries are also pending against the said officer; and

(e) if so, the details indicating the present status of each of the inquiries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Allegations of Irregularities in the earlier enquiry into the non-supply of carpets to Air India are being investigated, on a reference from Central Vigilance Commission (CVC).

(c) Yes, Sir. The report is being examined in the Ministry.

(d) and (e) CVC has invited the comments of this Ministry on two other inquiries sent by Air India Limited to CVC. The comments/observations of this Ministry in these cases will be sent shortly to CVC.

Fishing Harbours in Orissa

4396. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO:
SHRI ANANTA NAYAK:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some fishing harbours are under construction in Orissa;

(b) if so, the details and latest position thereof, location-wise;

(c) the funds allocated for the purpose so far; and

(d) the amount of central assistance extended for the said harbours?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV):
(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. One fishing harbour at Dhamra stage-II in Bhadrak District of Orissa is under construction. Development of the fishing harbour envisaged construction of Landing Quay, Auction Hall, Gear Shed, barracks, Hard Surface/Paved Area, Revetment Carddle Repair Workshop, Dredging, Electricity and Water supply etc. The overall project work of about 80% has been completed.

(c) and (d) Against total cost of Rs. 640 lakhs for the project, Central assistance at 50% amounting to Rs. 320 lakhs has already been released to the State.

[*Translation*]

Employment to Technical Trained Youth

4397. YOGI ADITYA NATH:
SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMI:
SHRI RAM SINGH KASWAN:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to formulate a scheme to give guarantee of employment to the youths who have received technical training;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the said scheme is likely to be launched?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI VIJAY GOEL):
(a) There is no proposal under consideration of Ministry of Labour to formulate such a scheme.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Officials Involved in Negligence of Duties

4398. SHRI VISHNUDEO SAI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the responsibility is fixed on the I.F.S. officers to check illegal felling of trees and encroachment on forest land;

(b) if so, the number of Divisional Forest Officers and Forest Conservators against whom charges have been framed for negligence of duty, State-wise;

(c) the details of action taken against those who were found guilty during the last three years, State-wise; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV): (a) All the officials working in the Forest Department including the Indian Forest Service Officers (IFS) are responsible for taking appropriate action to implement the provisions of Indian Forest Act which interalia includes provisions to take steps to prevent and control felling of trees and encroachment on forest land.

(b) to (d) The information is being collected from the State Governments.

[*English*]

Reconstitution of CBT

4399. SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Board of Trustees of the Employees Provident Fund Organisation has been reconstituted;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the names of members of the board;

(c) whether any meeting of the reconstituted board has held since then; and

(d) if so, the details and the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI VIJAY GOEL):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A copy of the Notification is enclosed as Statement.

(c) A meeting of the reconstituted Central Board of Trustees of the Employees Provident Fund was held on 28th of March, 2003.

(d) A number of issues including investment pattern, Employees Provident Fund Housing Fund, Employees Provident Fund Amnesty Scheme and certain administrative issues were discussed during the meeting, and decisions taken thereon.

Statement

[Part II, Section 3 (ii)]

The Gazette of India: Extraordinary

Ministry of Labour

Notification

New Delhi, the 13th March, 2003

S.O. 295 (E).—In exercise of the powers conferred by subsection (1) of Section 5-A of the Employees Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952 (19 of 1952) the Central Government hereby appoints, with effect from the date of publication of this notification in the Gazette of India, the following persons to the Central Board of Trustees constituted under the said Act, in place of persons appointed vide notification of the Government of India in the Ministry of Labour S.O. 321 (E) dated the 9th April, 1997 published in the Part II Section 3 (ii) of the Gazette of India Extraordinary dated 10th April 1997 namely:-

CHAIRMAN

(a) Appointed under clause (a) of sub-section (1) of section 5-A.

1. Minister for Labour, Government of India, New Delhi.

VICE-CHAIRMAN

(b) Appointed under clause (a) of sub-section (1) of section 5-A.

2. Minister of State for Labour, Government of India, New Delhi.

MEMBERS

(c) Representatives of the Central Government under clause (b) of sub-section (1) of section 5-A.

3. Secretary to the Government of India.
Ministry of Labour
Shram Shakti Bhawan,
New Delhi-110 001.

4. Additional Secretary to the Government of India
Ministry of Labour
Shram Shakti Bhawan,
New Delhi-110 001.

5. Representative from the Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance.

6. Joint Secretary of the Government of India,
Ministry of Labour (Social Security Division),
Shram Shakti Bhawan,
New-Delhi-110 001.

7. Financial Advisor
Ministry of Labour,
Shram Shakti Bhawan,
New Delhi-110 001.

(d) Representatives of State Governments under clause (c) of sub-section (1) of section 5A.

State Government Representatives

8. Secretary of the Government of Andhra Pradesh
Labour & Employment Department,
Hyderabad-500 002.

9. Secretary to the Government of Delhi
Labour Department,
Delhi

10. Secretary to the Government of Bihar
Department of Labour & Employment,
New Secretariat,
Patna-800 015.

11. Secretary to the Government of Gujarat
Labour & Employment Department,
Gandhi Nagar,
Ahmedabad.
12. Commissioner & Secretary to the Government
of Haryana
Haryana Civil Secretariat,
Chandigarh-160 001.
13. Secretary to the Government of Karnataka
Labour Department,
M.S. Building,
Bangalore-560 001.
14. Secretary to the Government of Jharkhand
Labour Department,
Ranchi.
15. Secretary to the Government of Madhya Pradesh
Labour Department,
Bhopal-462 004.
16. Secretary to the Government of Maharashtra
Industry, Labour & Energy Department,
Mumbai-462 032.
17. Secretary to the Government of Uttaranchal
Labour & Employment Department,
Dehradun, Uttaranchal.
18. Secretary to the Government of Chhattisgarh
Labour & Employment Department,
Raipur.
19. Commissioner & Secretary to the Government
of Rajasthan
Labour & Employment Department,
Jaipur-302 001.
20. Secretary to the Government of Tamil Nadu
Labour & Employment Department,
Chennai.
21. Secretary to the Government of Uttar Pradesh
Labour Department,
"Bapoo Bhawan",
Lucknow-226 001.
22. Secretary to the Government of West Bengal
Labour Department,
Writers Building,
Kolkata-700 0011.
- (e) Representatives of employers under clause (d)
of sub-section (1) of section 5A.
23. Shri Ram Tameja
Employer Federation of India
24. Shri J.P. Chaudhary
All India Organization of Employers.
25. Shri Ravi Vig
PHD Chambers of Commerce and Industry.
26. Shri P. Rajendran
Confederation of Indian Industry
27. Shri R.K. Somani
ASSOCHAM
28. Shri V.P. Chopra
FASII
29. Shri Virender Uppal
Apparel Export Promotion Council
30. Shri Subir Raha
Chairman, SCOPE
31. To be notified later.
32. To be notified later.
- (f) Representatives of employees under clause (e)
of sub-section (1) of Section 5A.
33. Shri Hansmukh Bhai Dave
Bhartiya Mazdoor Sangha
34. Shri A. Venkataram
Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh
35. Shri B.N. Rai
Bhartiya Mazdoor Sangh
36. Shri G. Sanjeeva Reddy
Indian National Trade Union Congress (INTUC)
37. Shri Ashok Singh
INTUC
38. Shri Nirmal Ghosh
INTUC
39. Shri A.D. Nagpal
Hind Mazdoor Sabha
40. Shri Sankar Saha
United Trade Union Congress (LS)
41. To be notified later.
42. To be notified later.
- (g) Appointed under clause (aa) of sub-section (1)
of section 5A.
43. Central Provident Fund Commissioner-Ex officio
Member
Employees' Provident Fund Organisation
Head Office, Bhavishya Nidhi Bhawan
14-Bhikaji Cama Place
New Delhi-100 066.

Restructuring of BCAS

4400. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:
SHRI KAMAL NATH:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government is reviewing aviation security and is examining a proposal for restructuring the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS) in order to make it more effective;

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

(c) whether the threat perception to the aviation sector has further increased during the past few months;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the extent to which restructuring of the security system is expected to check the breach of security?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) and (b) As a part of the ongoing process of strengthening of aviation security, a proposal for restructuring the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS) has been prepared and the proposal is still at a nascent stage.

(c) to (e) Threat perception is constantly monitored by the Intelligence and Security Agencies of the country and appropriate measures are taken for strengthening Aviation Security.

The restructuring proposal aims at achieving increased monitoring, inspection and survey of security arrangements.

Termination of Contracts by NDDB

4401. SHRI KAMAL NATH:
SHRI NARESH PUGLIA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) has terminated contracts with several Cooperative Milk Marketing Federations recently;

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

(c) the likely impact on NDDB due to the termination of contracts with milk Federations; and

(d) the outstanding dues against the Milk Federations to NDDB and the steps taken to recover such dues?

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

(a) The State Milk Marketing Federations have executed loan and grant agreements with the NDDB for funding the Operation Flood and subsequently under perspective 2010. So far no such agreement has been terminated with any of the State Milk Marketing Federations.

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

(d) The loan recoveries from the State Milk Marketing Federations are being made as per the terms and conditions laid down in the loan and grant agreement.

Linking of Rivers

4402. SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the task force set up on river linking projects has suggested mobilisation of resources through ICICI, IDBI and IFCI and also through infrastructure bonds;

(b) if so, whether the estimated outlay for mega project would translate into 25% of current GDP and double the forex reserves; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Percentage of Skilled Labourers

4403. DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA:
SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the percentage of skilled workers in countries like France, Germany, America, Japan, China,

South Korea are high as compared to their percentage in India;

(b) if so, the percentage of skilled workers out of the entire working class available in each of the above countries including India; and

(c) the target set to increase the number (percentage) of skilled workers in India during the Tenth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI VIJAY GOEL): (a) and (b) Proportions of vocationally trained workers among the youth in labour force for selected developed and developing countries including India are given in the Statement enclosed.

(c) Employment strategy in the Tenth Plan focuses 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 skilled, emphasis will be placed on skill development.

Statement

*Proportion of Vocationally Trained among the youth in Labour Force—International Comparison**

Country	Age Group	Vocationally trained (Percent of those in labour force)
1	2	3
India (1999-2000)	20-24	5.35**
Developing Countries		
Botswana	20-24	22.42
Colombia (1998)	20-29	28.06
Mauritius (1995)	20-24	36.08
Mexico (1998)	20-24	27.58
Developed Countries		
Australia (1998)	20-24	64.11
Canada (1998)	20-24	78.11

1	2	3
France (1997)	20-24	68.57
Germany (1998)	20-24	75.33
Israel (1998)	18-24	81.23
Italy (1997)	20-24	43.88
Japan (1997)	15-24	80.39
Korea Republic (1998)	20-24	95.86
New Zealand (1997)	20-24	63.03
Russian Federation (1998)	20-24	86.89
Singapore (1998)	20-24	66.24
United Kingdom (1998)	20-24	68.46

Note: Vocationally trained persons are defined here as those having education level 3 or 5 as per ISCED clarifications which classifies the population across and level of education starting with level X i.e., no education and the highest level being level 7 which is post graduate level specialisation in a field. Levels 4 and 8 are not used. Level 3 of education: General education continues to be an important constituent of the programmes, but separate subject presentation and more specialisation and found at this level. Also to be classified; under Level 3 are programmes consisting of subject matter mainly with a specific vocational emphasis of apprenticeship programmes, with an entrance requirement of eight fully years of education, or a combination of basic education and vocational experience that demonstrates the ability to handle the subject matter of that level; Level 5 of education; Programmes of this type are usually "practical" in orientation in that they are designed to prepare students for particular vocational fields in which they can qualify as high level technicians, teachers, nurses, production supervisors etc. It may be noted, however, that in developing countries, economically productive skills are acquired not only in training/education institution but also through the family. Only the formal institute/school vocationally trained are shown above.

*Only those who have received formal vocational training are shown as trained in this table. To the extent that training and skills in India are acquired through informal methods, including training in the family, the Indian figures are understand.

**Estimates are based on NSSO Report No. 458 on Results of 55th round (1999-2000) survey on Employment and Unemployment.

Chambal Basin Project

4404. SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA:
SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH RAJUKHEDI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Madhya Pradesh Government has sent a draft proposal to the Union Government regarding reclamation of the Chambal basin; and

(b) if so, the action taken thereon and by when the proposed project is likely to be granted clearance?

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

(a) The project outline of "A Gender Aware Watershed Approach for Ravine Reclamation in Chambal Basin" was received from Government of Madhya Pradesh seeking the World Bank assistance.

(b) The Ministry of agriculture has completed its examination of the proposal. It requires concurrence of the Planning Commission and the Department of Economic Affairs before the project could be forwarded to the World Bank for their consideration.

[English]

Air Connection for Punjab

4405. SHRI J.S. BRAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to connect prominent cities of Punjab like Ludhiana, Jalandhar and Patiala by air in near future;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Government has laid down Route Dispersal Guidelines with a view to achieve better regulation of air transport services taking into account the need for air transport services of different regions of the country including North-East region. It is, however, up to the airlines to provide air services to specific places depending upon the traffic demand and commercial viability subject to compliance of Route Dispersal guidelines issued by Government.

[Translation]

Non-Payment of Minimum Wages in Dolomite Mines

4406. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the non-payment of statutory minimum wages to the labourers by the management of the Dolomite Mines of Dhoviyabhata near Bilaspur in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, whether the owners of these mines have not implemented even the agreements entered into with the union of labourers; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to implement the statutory provisions relating to wages and service conditions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI VIJAY GOEL):

(a) to (c) The information with regard to payment of minimum wages to the workers of Dolomite Mines of Dhoviyabhata near Bilaspur, Madhya Pradesh is being collected and the Question will be replied in due course.

[English]

Performance of Government Airlines

4407. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA:
SHRI C. SREENIVASAN:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to review the performance of Indian Airlines, Air India and Pawan Hans;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Central Government have set up any Task Force for this purpose; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) and (b) The physical and financial performance of all the Public Sector Undertakings including Air India, Indian Airlines and Pawan Hans Helicopters Limited are regularly reviewed by the Ministry, as an on going process, and appropriate corrective follow-up action is taken on the basis of these reviews.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Role of Machine Power in Agriculture

4408. SHRI V. VETRISELVAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether due to declining share of use of animal power, the role of machine power in the field of agriculture has increased;

(b) if so, the present use of animal as well as machine power in agriculture; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to help the farmers in making optimum use of the machine power?

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Although no specific study in this regard has been conducted, the available data indicate that of the total estimated farm power of 1.231 kW per hectare in 2001-02, the share of animal power was at 9.89% as against 83.62% that of mechanical and electrical sources of power.

(c) Energy efficient and matching equipment have been developed to optimize the machine power. They are being demonstrated among farmers by the ICAR and by the State Governments. Farm Machinery Training and Testing Institutes of the Government are also imparting training in the proper and optimal use of machine power for various beneficiaries including farmers.

Funds to States under CADP

4409. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK:
SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the allocation made to various State Governments for implementing Command Area Development Programme (CADP) during each year of the Ninth Plan;

(b) the works executed in the States under CADP in the said plan, year-wise; and

(c) the amount spent by Orissa Government and other States in implementing centrally sponsored schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) Under the Centrally Sponsored Command Area Development Programme State-wise allocation of budget is not being made as funds under the scheme are reimbursed to the State Governments on 5:-50 expenditure basis in accordance with physical and financial progress. The year-wise Central Assistance released to the State Governments during IX Plan is given in the enclosed statement-I.

(b) The year-wise progress of works on core CAD activities executed under the scheme in various States during IX plan is given in the enclosed Statement-II (a) to (d).

(c) The amount of Central Assistance reimbursed to Govt. of Orissa and other States during IX plan under the Centrally Sponsored Command Area Development Programme against expenditure made on CAD activities has been given in enclosed statement-I.

Statement-I

State-wise and Year-wise Central Assistance Released to States under the Command Area Development Programme During IX Plan

(Rs. in Lakh)

S.No.	State	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	Total For Ninth Plan
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	3839.57	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3839.57
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.00	0.00	10.00	3.75	34.75	48.50
3.	Assam	124.00	0.00	0.00	33.45	35.00	192.45

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
4.	Bihar	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	300.00	300.00
5.	Chhattisgarh*	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	46.32	46.32
6.	Goa	20.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	20.00
7.	Gujarat	97.11	324.19	650.00	18.67	0.00	1089.97
8.	Haryana	1118.85	1295.63	841.74	503.02	2321.79	6081.03
9.	Himachal Pradesh	73.07	52.90	15.81	68.17	155.95	365.90
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	189.90	233.99	248.99	165.19	171.22	1009.29
11.	Jharkhand*	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
12.	Karnataka	437.87	668.00	885.37	1863.73	3423.84	7278.81
13.	Kerala	200.00	806.04	788.11	745.62	507.94	3047.71
14.	Madhya Pradesh	6.25	245.99	167.20	123.41	15.86	558.71
15.	Maharashtra	298.30	1719.15	660.60	461.14	744.72	3883.91
16.	Manipur	86.91	132.33	128.05	113.09	0.00	460.38
17.	Meghalaya	0.00	0.00	18.40	0.00	0.00	18.40
18.	Mizoram	0.00	0.00	0.00	5.00	6.88	11.88
19.	Nagaland	0.00	6.43	15.00	0.00	133.16	154.59
20.	Orissa	231.47	774.40	365.28	1035.92	504.76	2911.83
21.	Punjab	0.00	500.00	3352.06	2133.49	0.00	5985.55
22.	Rajasthan	2226.65	3834.87	2700.00	1592.19	2654.66	13008.37
23.	Sikkim	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5.50	5.50
24.	Tamil Nadu	552.46	2507.27	2336.74	1677.38	1336.14	8409.99
25.	Tripura	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
26.	Uttar Pradesh	3057.83	3959.24	2804.92	3247.32	2274.19	15343.50
27.	Uttaranchal*	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
28.	West Bengal	90.00	275.00	306.73	424.77	0.00	1096.50
Total		12650.24	17335.43	16295.00	14215.31	14672.68	75168.66

*Newly created States.

Statement-II (a)**State-wise Progress of Construction of Field Channels During Ninth Plan**

							Unit (000'ha)
S.No.	State	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	Total For Ninth Plan
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2.15	3.34	5.54	2.07	2.53	15.63
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.00	0.00	0.09	0.08	0.85	1.02
3.	Assam	0.44	0.83	0.00	0.05	0.63	1.95
4.	Bihar	0.00	0.54	0.47	3.81	10.02	14.84
5.	Chhattisgarh*	—	—	—	0.00	1.47	1.47
6.	Gujarat	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.04	0.00	0.04
7.	Haryana	7.24	20.60	5.73	2.85	1.49	37.91
8.	Himachal Pradesh	28.21	23.65	25.11	18.03	21.71	116.71
9.	Goa	1.41	0.00	0.30	1.64	1.64	4.99
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	6.97	5.39	3.36	3.47	3.26	22.45
11.	Jharkhand*	—	—	—	0.00	0.00	0.00
12.	Karnataka	11.03	10.35	13.04	28.90	9.89	73.21
13.	Kerala	7.89	7.12	2.59	2.86	0.00	20.46
14.	Madhya Pradesh	4.23	10.86	10.84	4.95	4.51	35.39
15.	Maharashtra	25.23	27.67	22.63	28.36	6.89	110.78
16.	Manipur	3.33	4.48	2.87	2.08	1.08	13.84
17.	Meghalaya	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.12	0.13
18.	Mizoram	—	—	—	0.00	0.12	0.12
19.	Nagaland	0.00	0.05	0.16	0.03	1.72	1.96
20.	Orissa	7.00	12.89	9.11	9.51	11.43	49.95
21.	Punjab	0.00	0.00	40.37	67.03	115.31	222.71
22.	Rajasthan	54.25	65.95	49.09	40.82	41.62	251.73
23.	Sikkim	—	—	—	0.00	0.09	0.09
24.	Tamil Nadu	46.61	53.82	53.89	25.08	41.86	221.26
25.	Tripura	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
26.	Uttaranchal*	—	—	—	—	0.00	0.00
27.	Uttar Pradesh	112.20	71.54	115.49	134.64	127.18	561.05
28.	West Bengal	0.82	3.36	4.57	6.56	7.02	22.33
Total		319.01	322.44	365.25	382.85	412.44	1801.99

*Newly created States.

Statement-II (b)**State-wise Progress of Construction of Field Drains During Ninth Plan**

							Unit (000'ha)
S.No.	State	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	Total For Ninth Plan
1.	Andhra Pradesh	0	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0.15	0.03	0.55	0.729
3.	Assam	0.52	0	0.00	0.00	0.25	0.77
4.	Bihar	0	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0
5.	Chhattisgarh*	—	—	—	0.00	0.00	0
6.	Gujarat	0	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0
7.	Haryana	0	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.00	0
8.	Himachal Pradesh	0	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.02
9.	Goa	0.43	0	0.15	0.45	0.71	1.74
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	2.27	2.45	0.96	0.46	0.51	6.65
11.	Jharkhand*	—	—	—	0.00	0.00	0
12.	Karnataka	0.25	2.82	3.04	3.38	0.72	10.212
13.	Kerala	16.37	32.54	21.23	18.46	0.00	88.6
14.	Madhya Pradesh	0	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0
15.	Maharashtra	0	13.27	22.63	28.36	35.83	100.093
16.	Manipur	0.07	0.08	0.57	0.44	0.25	1.41
17.	Meghalaya	0	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0
18.	Mizoram	—	—	—	0.00	0.09	0.09
19.	Nagaland	0	0.06	0.12	0.05	1.77	2
20.	Orissa	5.06	3.96	1.75	2.98	4.50	18.25
21.	Punjab	0	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0
22.	Rajasthan	2.78	9.76	1.81	1.93	2.48	18.7608
23.	Sikkim	—	—	—	0.00	0.07	0.07
24.	Tamil Nadu	0	0	0.00	0.19	0.0	0.19
25.	Tripura	0	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
26.	Uttaranchal*	—	—	—	—	0.00	0
27.	Uttar Pradesh	453.71km	0	13.14	58.40	30.17	101.71 +453.71km
28.	West Bengal	0	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0
Total		27.75 +453.71 Km	64.96	65.55	115.14	77.90	351.295 +453.71km

*Newly created States.

Statement-II (c)**State-wise Progress of Warabandi During Ninth Plan**

							Unit (000'ha)
S.No.	State	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	Total For Ninth Plan
1.	Andhra Pradesh	4.8	10.24	6.18	12.62	8.89	42.73
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0	0
3.	Assam	0.86	0	0	0	0.63	1.49
4.	Bihar	0	0	0	0	3.03	3.03
5.	Chhattisgarh*	0	0	0	0	0.628	0.628
6.	Gujarat	0	1.44	1.5	0	0	2.94
7.	Haryana	5.87	8.38	3.336	0	0	17.586
8.	Himachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0	0
9.	Goa	2.38	0	0.25	1.645	1.92	6.195
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	45.64	90.69	22.08	31.102	1.4	190.912
11.	Jharkhand*	—	—	—	0	0	0
12.	Karnataka	16.29	8.2	8.428	6.88	1.01	40.808
13.	Kerala	9.11	20.28	5.743	1.68	0	36.813
14.	Madhya Pradesh	0.17	1.18	0	0	0	1.35
15.	Maharashtra	21.24	8.69	0.248	0	0	30.178
16.	Manipur	0.57	0.16	1.05	0	0.55	2.33
17.	Meghalaya	0	0	0	2.8	0	2.8
18.	Mizoram	0	0	0	0	0.02	0.02
19.	Nagaland	0	0	0.16	0.26	1.74	2.16
20.	Orissa	15	13.4	6.83	1.857	5.968	43.055
21.	Punjab	0	0	0	8.33	0	8.33
22.	Rajasthan	54.25	0	0	0	0	54.25
23.	Sikkim	0	0	0	0	0.08	0.08
24.	Tamil Nadu	75.91	81.82	75.656	56.524	100.42	390.33
25.	Tripura	0	0	0	0	0	0
26.	Uttaranchal*	0	0	0	0	0	0
27.	Uttar Pradesh	176.26	89.29	121.58	136.727	135.6	659.457
28.	West Bengal	0	0	0	0	0.18	0.18
Total		428.35	333.77	253.041	260.425	262.066	1537.65

*Newly created States.

Statement-II (d)**State-wise Progress of Land Levelling and Shaping During Ninth Plan**

							Unit (000'ha)
S.No.	State	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	Total For Ninth Plan
1.	Andhra Pradesh	3.89	4.3	5	0	0	13.19
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0.05	0	0.05
3.	Assam	0	0	0	0	0	0
4.	Bihar	0	0	0	0	0	0
5.	Chhattisgarh*	0	0	0	0	0	0
6.	Gujarat	0.01	0.04	0.004	0	0	0.054
7.	Haryana	0.03	0	0	0	0	0.03
8.	Himachal Pradesh	0.47	0	0	0	0	0.47
9.	Goa	0	0	0	0	0	0
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	2.27	1.26	0.25	0.17	0.41	4.365
11.	Jharkhand*	0	0	0	0	0	0
12.	Karnataka	0	5.41	15.432	11.568	10.73	43.14
13.	Kerala	0.23	0.12	0.082	0.112	0	0.544
14.	Madhya Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0	0
15.	Maharashtra	0	0	0	0	0	0
16.	Manipur	0.35	0.15	0	0	0	0.5
17.	Meghalaya	0	0	0	0	0	0
18.	Mizoram	0	0	0	0	0.13	0.13
19.	Nagaland	0	0	0	0	0	0
20.	Orissa	0	0	0	0	0	0
21.	Punjab	0	0	0	0	0	0
22.	Rajasthan	3.98	11.28	1.807	1.934	2.27	21.271
23.	Sikkim	0	0	0	0	0	0
24.	Tamil Nadu	0	0	0	0	0	0
25.	Tripura	0	0	0	0	0	0
26.	Uttaranchal*	0	0	0	0	0	0
27.	Uttar Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0	0
28.	West Bengal	0	0	0	0	0.023	0.023
Total		11.23	22.56	22.58	13.834	13.563	83.767

*Newly created States.

[*Translation*]

Illegal Excavation in Jharkhand

4410. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the reported illegal excavation continuing on a large scale at the land of forest department in Govindpur under Bokaro district in Jharkhand State;

(b) if so, whether the Government have conducted any inquiry into the above matter or taken up this matter with the Jharkhand Government; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV): (a) Yes Sir. The State Forest Department, Jharkhand has reported illegal excavation over 123.45 ha. of forest land in Bokaro District of Jharkhand State.

(b) and (c) Plot-wise and Village-wise joint survey by State Forest Department and Central Coal Field Ltd. has been done. Case have been registered against officials of Central Coal Field Ltd. responsible for violation of Forest Conservation Act and the excavation activity has been stopped.

[*English*]

Meeting of World Water Forum

4411. DR. M.V.V.S. MURTHI:
SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL:
SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Third World Water Forum (WWF) Meeting was held recently;

(b) if so, whether any Government delegation or NGOs attended the meeting;

(c) if so, the details of suggestions/recommendations made during the meeting;

(d) whether the world water infrastructures especially those in developing countries are in a dire need for

renewal, expansion and upgradation to meet the present and future needs for all; and

(e) if so, the response of the Union Government alongwith steps taken by the Government during the Ninth Plan and proposed for Tenth Plan?

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

(b) Representative of 167 countries as well as participants from UN agencies, intergovernmental organizations (IGOs) and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), academia, business and industry, youth organizations and media outlets etc. attended the Third World Water Forum Meeting held from 16th to 23rd March, 2003 at Kyoto, Osaka and Shiga, Japan. Shri Arjun Charan Sethi, Union Minister for Water Resources, led Indian delegation, which participated in the conference.

(c) During the conference, two Ministerial Declarations were adopted. The Irrigation Ministers meet adopted recommendations on 'Water, Food and Agriculture' on 21 March, 2003 at Shiga, Japan. The Ministers-in charge of Water Resources held discussions during 22-23 March, 2003 at Kyoto on five major theme namely Safe Drinking Water and Sanitation, Water for Food and Rural Development, Water Pollution Prevention and Ecosystem Conservation, Disaster Mitigation and Risk Management and Water Resources Management and Benefit Sharing. Ministerial Declarations adopted during the conference are given in the enclosed Statements-I & II respectively.

(d) Irrigation Ministers Conference held on 21st March, 2003 at Shiga, Japan recommended to pursue efforts to develop water resources in a sustainable manner while improving the operation, maintenance and rehabilitation of irrigation schemes. Ministerial Conference held on 23rd March, 2003 at Kyoto, Japan recommended, among other things, to arrange demand-driven management including participatory irrigation management, rehabilitation and modernization of existing water facilities, water-harvesting, water saving/drought-resistant crop varieties, water storage and dissemination of agricultural best practices.

(e) Through the concerned efforts of Central and State Governments, an irrigation potential of 99.76 million hectare (provisional) is expected to have been created by the end of 9th Five Year Plan with the construction of major, medium and minor irrigation projects. These

projects provide 177 BCM of storage of rainwater. Another 207.7 BCM of storage is likely to be created through ongoing and proposed projects. Tanks and ponds have also been constructed to harness the water resources of the country. Water being a State Subject, water resources schemes including the schemes to overcome the shortage of water resources are formulated, planned, executed and funded by the concerned State Governments. To help the State Governments in their efforts to harness the water from natural resources and accelerate creation of irrigation potential by early completion of ongoing schemes, Government of India has launched Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) since 1996-97 to provide central loan assistance. During the period from 1996-97 to 2001-2002 (9th Five Year Plan) an amount of Rs. 8480.0288 crore has been released as CLA under AIBP and an amount of Rs. 3061.7026 crore has been released during 2002-2003 i.e. 10th Five Year Plan for major/medium/minor irrigation schemes in various States.

Government of India is also promoting rain water harvesting through Watershed Management Programme, artificial recharge of ground water and roof-top rain water harvesting under the sector reform project of Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme under the Ministry of Rural Development for which technical and financial assistance is provided to the State Governments and other implementing agencies. Central Ground Water Board has taken up a Central sector scheme on "Studies of Recharge of Ground Water" on pilot basis, under which 174 schemes have been approved in various parts of the country during Ninth Five Year Plan. The scheme has been proposed to be extended during the Tenth Five Year Plan with an outlay of Rs. 150 Crore. As a long term measure, National perspective Plan for Water Resources Development has been formulated which envisages inter-linking of rivers by transferring of water from surplus basins/areas to water deficit basins/areas.

Water Resources Consolidation Project (WRCP) with World Bank Assistance was in progress during the Ninth Five Year Plan in the States of Haryana, Tamil Nadu and Orissa and World Bank aided Andhra Pradesh Irrigation Project (Phase-II) has also been taken up during the 9th Plan. Uttar Pradesh Water Sector Restructuring Project, Rajasthan Water Sector Restructuring Project, with World Bank Assistance and K.C. Canal Modernisation Project, Andhra Pradesh with Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) have also been taken up in the 10th Five Year Plan for modernisation/renovation of selected irrigation projects.

Irrigated area can be increased through timely renovation and modernization of the irrigation and drainage systems, including reclamation of waterlogged and salinised irrigated lands. The Planning Commission in its mid-term review of the Ninth Five year Plan expressed the views that these options need be considered especially in the context of the present resources constraints. As per assessment of the Planning Commission about 21 m.ha of irrigated area from major and medium projects from pre-independent period and those completed 25 years ago require renovation/upgradation/restoration. During the 9th and 10th Plan period 502 & 490 projects respectively are under execution [including Major and Medium, Extension, Renovation & Modernisation (ERM) projects].

Statement-I

Ministerial Recommendation

Adopted by the Ministerial Meeting on
Water for Food and Agriculture

Third World Water Forum

Otsu, Shiga Prefecture, Japan, 21 March, 2003

We, Ministers responsible for water for food and agriculture and the representatives of international organizations assembled at the Ministerial Meeting on Water for Food and Agriculture in Otsu, Shiga Prefecture, Japan on 21 March, 2003, at the invitation of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Japan and the Food and Agriculture Organizations of the United Nations.

We assert herein our common recognition to implement the recommendations adopted at the World Food Summit in Rome, the declaration of the First World Water Forum in Morocco, and the ministerial declaration of the Second World Water Forum in the Hague, and the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg.

We recognize that water is essential for broad-based agriculture and rural development in order to meet the Millennium Development Goals to improve food security and poverty alleviation.

Three challenges

(Food security and poverty alleviation)

1. To improve the development and management of water for agriculture to meet the growing and changing demand for food, alleviate poverty and sustain economic growth.

(Sustainable water use)

2. To balance the use and development of water with the available water resources; to preserve water quality in order to achieve sustainable patterns of water use through integrated approaches linking water management with the conservation and sustenance of ecosystems; and to maintain the integrity of land and water systems upon which agricultural production depends.

(Partnership)

3. To enhance the cooperation and partnership of all stakeholders in all aspects of agriculture water use, development and management; to increase access to water resources; to improve the productivity of rainfed and irrigated farming systems; and to equitably share benefits and risks.

Basic recognition

4. We recall that in the latter half of the 20th century, significant public and private investment in agriculture water development has resulted in much needed productivity gains and has narrowed food security gaps and has contributed to poverty alleviation.
5. We recognize that agricultural production and its water uses are influenced by agro-climatic zones that have resulted in a diverse array of agricultural practice and agricultural economy in the World.
6. We recognize that agricultural water is not only vital for food production, but also provides a broad spectrum of services related to society, culture and the environment. It is instrumental in improving economic and social benefits to vulnerable people, particularly women and children. These multiple roles and values of agricultural water must be recognized, evaluated and taken into account for the development and management of water resources.
7. We recognize that the development and management of agricultural water resources needs to take into account a variety of other uses, including water supply for urban and rural communities, industry, hydroelectric power generation, navigation, recreation, tourism and fisheries, and conserving ecosystems.
8. We note that in some regions agricultural water demand and use exceed the long term rates of

resource replenishment and may require the development of alternative water sources, while looking for innovative means and appropriate actions to achieve sustainable water resource management. In other regions, water resource availability offers scope of further development.

9. We emphasize that achieving the objectives of food security and poverty alleviation for an increasing world population will require the mobilization of all sources of financing and increased investment in water-related infrastructure, research and development in order to sustain productivity gains and create new opportunities for the sustainable development and integrated management of water resources.

Plan of concrete actions

10. We continue to pursue efforts to develop water resources in as sustainable manner while improving the operation, maintenance and rehabilitation of Irrigation schemes.
11. We reaffirm our determination and commitment for progressive modernization and improvement of agricultural water use effecting transition of emphasis from supply-to demand-driven agricultural water management.
12. We are determined to increase substantially agricultural water productivity through participatory approaches, appropriate regulations and cost-recovery mechanisms, development and dissemination of research findings, capacity-building and institutional reforms, which are adapted to local climatic, environmental and socio-economic conditions.
13. We will promote improved governance of agricultural water use through integrated water resources management including non-agricultural water use. This process should be efficient and equitable. It would involve the active participation of all user groups, including women and the poor in local water resources settings.
14. We will give due consideration to the environmental aspects in respect of agricultural water use, and seek to maintain productive ecosystems through progressive and innovative approaches to sustainable use of water. An important tool in this process would be environmental impact assessment.

15. We will undertake research and development, including traditional knowledge, to improve the management and availability of limited water resources in water-scarce areas, through improved crops and development of new and non-conventional sources of water for agriculture.
16. We will continue to make efforts to foster international cooperation and partnerships between and among developed and developing countries, through financial and technical assistance and knowledge, and to encourage private sector involvement in agricultural water development and management.

Statement-II

The 3rd World Water Forum

Ministerial Declaration

**---Message from the Lake Biwa and
Yodo River Basin---**

23 March, 2003

We, the Ministers and Heads of Delegation, assembled in Kyoto, Japan on 22-23 March, 2003, on the occasion of the 3rd World Water Forum. Building upon the outcomes of the Monterey Conference on Financing for Development, the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD), and the United Nations Secretary General's Water, Energy, Health, Agriculture and Biodiversity (WEHAB) initiative as well as other water-related events, we assert our common resolve to implement the appropriate recommendations in order to achieve the internationally agreed targets and goals including the United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

Taking note of the thematic and regional statements and recommendations from the 3rd World Water Forum, we declare the following:

[General Policy]

1. Water is a driving force for sustainable development including environmental integrity, and the eradication of poverty and hunger, indispensable for human health and welfare. Prioritizing water issues in an urgent global requirement. Each country has the primary responsibility to act. The international community as well as international and regional organizations should support this. Empowerment of local authorities and communities should be promoted by governments with due regard to the poor and gender.
2. Whilst efforts being undertaken so far on water resources development and management should be continued and strengthened, we recognize that good governance, capacity building and financing are of the utmost importance to succeed in our efforts. In this context, we will promote integrated water resources management.
3. In managing water, we should ensure good governance with a stronger focus on household and neighbourhood community-based approaches by addressing equity in sharing benefits, with due regard to pro-poor and gender perspectives in water policies. We should further promote the participation of all stakeholders, and ensure transparency and accountability in allocations.
4. We are committed, in the long term, to fortify the capacity of the people and institutions with technical and other assistance from the international community. This must include, among others, their ability to measure and monitor performance, to share innovative approaches, best practices, information, knowledge and experiences relevant to local conditions.
5. Addressing the financial needs is a task for all of us. We must act to create an environment conducive to facilitating investment. We should identify priorities on water issues and reflect them accordingly in our national development plans/sustainable development strategies including Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs). Funds should be raised by adopting cost recovery approaches which suit local climatic, environmental and social conditions and the Opolluter-pays' principle, with due consideration to the poor. All sources of financing, both public and private, national and international, must be mobilized and used in the most efficient and effective way. We take note of the report of the World Panel on Financing Water Infrastructure.
6. We should explore the full range of financing arrangements including private sector participation in line with our national policies and priorities. We will identify and develop new mechanisms of public-private partnerships for the different actors involved, while ensuring the necessary public control and legal frameworks to protect the public interests, with a particular emphasis on protecting the interests of the poor.
7. As water situations differ from region to region, we will support established regional and sub-regional efforts such as the vision of the African Ministerial Conference on Water (AMCOW) to facilitate the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and the Central American Integration System (SICA), and the implementation of the program of action in favour of Least Developed Countries (LDCs). Recognizing the uniquely fragile nature of water resources in small island developing states, we

support specific programs of collaboration such as the Caribbean Pacific Joint Program for Action on Water and Climate in Small Island Countries.

8. We reaffirm the necessity for countries to better coordinate monitoring and assessment systems at local, basin and national levels, with development of relevant national indicators where appropriate. We call upon the United Nations, inter alia through the Commission on Sustainable Development, to take a leading role and cooperate with other organizations involved in the water sector to work in a transparent and cooperative way. We welcome the willingness of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development and other organizations to periodically inform the international community of aid activities in water-related areas. Ways to track progress on water issues may be usefully explored on the basis of existing facilities and relying upon information from countries and relevant UN agencies, regional development banks and other stakeholders, including civil society organizations.
9. We welcome the proposal to establish a new network of websites to follow up the Portfolio of Water Actions that will publicize actions planned and taken on water-related issues by countries and international organizations in order to share information and promote cooperation.

[Water Resources Management and Benefit Sharing]

10. As we aim to develop integrated water resources management and water efficiency plans by 2005, we will assist developing countries, particularly the least developed countries, and countries with economies in transition, by providing tools and further required assistance. In this context, among others, we encourage regional development banks to take a facilitating role. To this end, we invite all stakeholders, including private donors and civil society organizations, concerned to participate in this process.
11. Recognizing that cooperation between riparian States on transboundary and/or boundary watercourses contributes to sustainable water management and mutual benefits, we encourage all those states to promote such cooperation.
12. We will further encourage scientific research on predicting and monitoring the global water cycle, including the effect of climate change, and develop information systems that will enable the sharing of such valuable data worldwide.
13. We will promote measures for reducing losses from distribution systems and other water demand management measures as a cost-effective way of meeting demand.

14. We will endeavour to develop and deploy non-conventional water resources by promoting innovative and environmentally sound technologies, such as the desalination of sea water, water recycling and water harvesting.
15. We recognizing the role of hydropower as one of the renewable and clean energy sources, and that its potential should be realized in an environmentally sustainable and socially equitable manner.

[Safe Drinking Water and Sanitation]

16. Achieving the target established in the MDGs to halve the proportion of people without access to safe drinking water by 2015 and that established in the Plan of Implementation of the WSSD to halve the proportion of people without access to basic sanitation by 2015 requires an enormous amount of investment in water supply and sanitation. We call on each country to develop strategies to achieve these objectives. We will redouble our collective efforts to mobilize financial and technical resources, both public and private.
17. We will address water supply and sanitation in urban and rural areas in ways suitable for the respective local conditions and management capacities, with a view to achieving short-term improvement of water and sanitation services as well as cost-effective infrastructure investments and sound management and maintenance over time. In so doing, we will enhance poor people's access to safe drinking water and sanitation.
18. While basic hygiene practices starting from hand washing at the household level should be encouraged, intensified efforts should also be launched to promote technical breakthroughs, especially the development and practical applications of efficient and low-cost technologies tailored to daily life for the provision of safe drinking water and basic sanitation. We encourage studies for innovative technologies to be locally owned.

[Water for Food and Rural Development]

19. Water is essential for broad based agricultural production and rural development in order to improve food security and eradicate poverty. It should continuously contribute to a variety of roles including food production, economic growth and environmental sustainability. We are concerned with increasing pressure on the limited fresh water resources and on the environment.

Nothing that a diverse array of agricultural practices and agricultural economies has evolved in the world, we should make every effort to reduce unsustainable water management and improve the efficiency of agricultural water use.

20. Through effective and equitable water use and management, and extending irrigation in areas of need, we will promote neighbourhood community based development, which should result in income-generating activities and opportunities and contribute to poverty eradication in rural areas.
21. We encourage innovative and strategic investment, research and development and international cooperation for the progressive improvement of agricultural water management, by such means as demand-driven management including participatory irrigation management, rehabilitation and modernization of existing water facilities, water-harvesting, water-saving/drought-resistant crop varieties, water storage and dissemination of agricultural best practices.
22. Inland fisheries being a major source of food, freshwater fish production should be addressed through intensified efforts to improve water quality and quantity in rivers and protection of restoration of breeding areas.

[Water Pollution Prevention and Ecosystem Conservation]

23. We recognize the need to intensify water pollution prevention in order to reduce hazards to health and the environment and to protect ecosystems, including control of invasive species. We recognize traditional water knowledge and will promote the awareness of positive and negative impacts of human activities on watersheds for the entire water cycle through public information and education, including for children, in order to avoid pollution and unsustainable use of water resources.
24. To ensure a sustainable water supply of good quality, we should protect and use in a sustainable manner the ecosystems that naturally capture, filter, store, and release water, such as rivers, wetlands, forests, and soils.
25. We urge countries to review and, when necessary, to establish appropriate legislative frameworks for the protection and sustainable use of water resources and for water pollution prevention.
26. In view of the rapid degradation of watersheds and forests, we will concentrate our efforts to combat deforestation, desertification and land

degradation through programs to promote greening, sustainable forest management, the restoration of degraded lands and wetlands, and the conservation of biodiversity.

[Disaster Mitigation and Risk Management]

27. The growing severity of the impacts of floods and droughts highlights the need for a comprehensive approach that includes strengthened structural measures such as reservoirs and dikes and also non-structural measures such as land-use regulation and guidance, disaster forecasting and warning systems and national risk management systems, in harmony with the environment and different water uses, including inland waterway navigation.
28. We will cooperate to minimize damage caused by disasters through enhancing the sharing and exchange, where appropriate, of data, information, knowledge and experiences at the international level. We encourage the continuation of collaboration between scientists, water managers, and relevant stakeholders to reduce vulnerability and make the best prediction and forecasting tools available to water managers.
29. Finally, we thank the Government and people of Japan for hosting this Ministerial Conference and the Forum.

Quality Norms for Indian Traditional Products

4412. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to formulate stringent quality norms on the lines of internationally accepted codex standards for Indian Traditional products like Pickles and Murabbas;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM): (a) and (b) Formulation of quality norms for food products including Indian traditional products like Pickles and Murabbas is a continuous process. Government of India have taken steps to formulate quality norms of food products to that of internationally accepted Codex standards to the extent possible.

(c) Does not arise.

Modernisation of SAIL

4413. SHRI SUNIL KHAN: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) is going to be fully modernised;

(b) if so, the total amount to be incurred thereon;

(c) whether-Durgapur Steel Plant (DSP) will be provided some funds for the product from semi-finished to finished product;

(d) if so, whether DSP will achieve fully profitable sector as a result thereof;

(e) whether some funds will be allowed for purchasing A.O.D. to Alloy Steel Plant, Durgapur; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY): (a) and (b) The modernisation of three plants of SAIL, viz. Durgapur Steel Plant (DSP), Rourkela Steel Plant (RSP) and Bokaro Steel Plant (BSL) has already been completed. At present, there is no plan for modernizing other Plants/Units of SAIL.

(c) and (d) Proposal for installation of new Finishing Mill at Durgapur Steel Plant at an estimated cost of Rs. 350 crore for conversion of its product from semi-finished to finished is still at the planning stage. DSP is already making cash profit while efforts are being made to achieve net profit. With installation of finishing facilities, profitability is expected to improve further.

(e) and (f) At present, it is not planned to install an A.O.D. in Alloy Steel Plant, as the viability of such an investment has yet to be established.

[*Translation*]

Hunting of Siberian Herons

4414. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether hunters of Kashmir Valley are hunting hundreds of Siberian herons (*bagulas*) in the world famous Wullar lake and Hegaam sanctuary; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to check hunting of these migratory birds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV): (a) No, Sir. No such case has been noticed by the State Government during the year 2002-2003.

(b) Does not arise.

Declaration of Tropical Forest Research Centre As Forest University

4415. SHRIMATI JAYASHREE BANERJEE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to declare the Tropical Forest Research Centre situated in Jabalpur (Neemkheda), Madhya Pradesh as a Forest University; and

(b) if so, by when the declaration is likely to be made and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Forest Research Institute, Dehradun has already been declared as a "Deemed University" and there is no necessity to declare any more at present.

Welfare Scheme for Child Labour

4416. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated any new welfare scheme for the welfare of child labour working in various industries of the country;

(b) if so, whether the Government have decided to set up a National Commission on Child Labour to ameliorate the socio-economic condition of the child labour;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI VIJAY GOEL): (a) The Ministry of Labour has been implementing Scheme of National Child Labour Projects (NCLPs) since 1988 for elimination of child labour from hazardous occupations and processes. Under the Scheme, so far, presently 100 NCLPs are operational in various child labour endemic districts of 13 States in the country for coverage of 2.11 lakh children. The Scheme provides for rehabilitation of children withdrawn from work through rehabilitation centres/special schools by providing non-formal/formal education, vocational training, health check up, stipend and nutrition. So far, about 1.7 lakh children from these special schools have been mainstreamed into formal education system.

The Ministry has also been running a Scheme of Grant-in-aid to Non-Governmental Organizations/Voluntary Organisations for running of action oriented projects for rehabilitation of child labour in non-NCLP districts.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Government has taken a series of steps to address the problem of child labour in the country. A National Policy on Child Labour was announced by the Government in 1987 which envisages strict enforcement of child labour related laws, convergence of services for the benefit of parents of child labour in order to improve their economic conditions and launching of projects in areas of high concentration of child labour. Under the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986 the employment of children is prohibited in occupations/processes listed in the schedule to the Act. The employment conditions of children in other occupations and processes are regulated under the Act. Apart from legal measures, Government has taken steps for withdrawal and rehabilitation of child labour working in hazardous occupations as mentioned in (a) above.

[English]

Water Management

4417. SHRI A. NARENDRA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are providing financial assistance to State Governments to encourage farmers to ensure their involvement in better water management under the Centrally Sponsored Command Area Development Programme;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the per hectare grant-in-aid provided by the Union Government to each State Government?

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

(b) Under the CAD Programme, a provision has been made for payment of a one time functional grant to

Action taken in regard to violators is given below:

I. Action taken by DGMS

	2000	2001	2002
	1	2	3
Warning Issued	01	06	03
Prosecution Launched	99	74	19

farmers' associations at the rate of Rs. 500 per hectare, out of which Rs. 50 per ha is contributed by the farmers' association and Rs. 450 per ha is provided by the Union/ State Governments.

(c) The Grant-in-aid provided by the Union Government to each State is Rs. 225 per hectare.

Accidents in Coal Mines

4418. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of coal mine accidents which took place in the country during the last three years, year-wise, coal mines-wise;

(b) the persons died and injured in these accidents during the said period; and

(c) the number of cases of violation of safety rules and the action taken by the Government against defaulters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI VIJAY GOEL): (a) and (b) The company-wise details of coal mine accidents and persons died/injured in these accidents during the last three years are enclosed, as statement.

(c) The number of cases in which safety rules were violated is given below:

Year	No. of cases where safety rules were violated
2000	111
2001	91
2002	76

	1	2	3
Misadventure-No Action	05	15	03
Other Action taken	00	02	05
II. Action taken by Management			
Suspended from Duty	36	43	17
Debarred from Promotion	03	01	00
Demoted	06	05	02
Transferred	00	01	00
Increment Withheld	14	31	14
Service Terminated	10	02	01
Warned by Management	10	17	13
Disciplinary Action	00	01	02
Deceased-No Action	51	29	71

(Figures are number of persons. Data for the year 2002 are provisional).

Statement

Company wise details of Accidents and Persons Involved Therein for Last Three Years

Name of Colliery	Accident details											
	Fatal						Seriously injured					
	2000		2001		2002		2000		2001		2002	
	Accident	Persons killed	Accident	Persons killed	Accident	Persons killed	Accident	Persons injured	Accident	Persons injured	Accident	Persons injured
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Bharat Coking Coal Limited	15	19	14	42	09	11	82	87	68	73	36	72
Central Coalfields Limited	12	16	05	05	11	11	35	44	17	26	18	21
Eastern Coalfields Limited	15	16	19	20	10	12	197	205	199	210	142	157
Mahanadi Coalfields Limited	02	02	04	04	03	03	17	18	11	11	16	16
Northern Coalfields Limited	06	06	04	04	01	01	10	11	16	16	07	07

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
North East Coalfields Limited	01	01	0	00	0	—	01	01	0	00	0	00
South East Coalfields Limited	15	16	14	15	13	16	107	115	118	118	87	100
Western Coalfields Limited	14	24	11	16	15	15	98	101	97	109	49	51
Singareni Collieries Company Limited	27	34	25	25	15	24	85	91	105	117	99	109
Indian Iron & Steel Company Ltd.	0	00	02	02	0	00	07	07	09	10	04	04
Neyveli Lignite Corporation Limited	03	03	05	05	01	01	02	02	06	07	08	09
Tata Iron & Steel Company Limited	04	04	01	02	03	03	14	16	10	16	06	06
Other	03	03	02	02	01	01	06	08	06	06	02	02
Total	117	144	106	142	82	98	661	706	662	719	474	554

(Figures for the years 2001 and 2002 are provisional)

Salinity in Ground Water

4419. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have constituted expert Committee to examine all new developmental projects, urban townships along with coastal region to conserve ground water resources in the wake of increased salinity due to over extraction;

(b) if so, the number of such Committees set up by the Government during the last three years and the areas along the coastal zone proposed to be examined by these Committees, State-wise;

(c) whether any time frame has been fixed in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(a) Ministry of Water Resources has not set up any Committee to examine new developmental projects, urban townships along with coastal region to conserve ground water resources in the wake of increased salinity due to over extraction;

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

New Golden Rice Variety

4420. DR. B.B. RAMAIAH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any vitamin 'A' enriched new Golden rice variety has been developed to prevent blindness;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken to popularise the variety?

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

(a) The vitamin 'A' enriched golden rice variety in Indica rices suitable for growing in Indian conditions has not yet been developed.

(b) As stated above, the golden rice in Indica background has not yet been developed. However, earlier Vitamin 'A' enriched golden rice has been developed by Prof. Ingo Potrykus of Switzerland in collaboration with Prof. Peter Beyer of Germany through genetic engineering in the background of Japonica rice, i.e. Taipei 309. The transfer of golden rice trait, i.e. beta-carotene biosynthetic genes to Indian rice varieties has been initiated at Directorate of Rice Research, Hyderabad and other centres such as Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore and University of Delhi, South Campus.

(c) As the golden rice with Beta-Carotene rice endosperm has not yet been developed in Indica background, the question of its popularization at this stage does not arise.

Eradication of Unemployment

4421. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:
SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:
DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA:
SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of unemployed persons in the country in beginning of the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(b) whether the Government have assessed the achievement made during the Ninth Five Year Plan period regarding eradication of unemployment;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government have also assessed the issue of unemployment in the country before finalizing the Tenth Five Year Plan;

(e) if so, the projections of unemployed youths in the country in the beginning of the Tenth Five Year Plan; and

(f) the target fixed for eradicating unemployment during the Tenth Five Year Plan period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI VIJAY GOEL):

(a) Estimates of employment and unemployment are obtained through quinquennial labour force surveys conducted by National Sample Survey Organisation. As per these surveys, estimated number of unemployed persons in the country on current daily status basis in 1993-94 and 1999-2000 was of the order of 20.13 million and 26.58 million respectively.

(b) and (c) The Planning Commission has projected annual employment growth on Usual Principal and Subsidiary Status (UPSS) basis at 2.44% during the Ninth Plan (1997-02) period. As per the estimates available from labour force surveys, employment had grown at the rate of approximately 0.98% per annum during 1994-2000.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) The Special Group headed by Dr. S.P. Gupta, Member, Planning Commission on targeting 10 million employment opportunities per year during 10th Plan period, has estimated that the number of unemployed persons on current daily status basis during 2001-2002 was of the order of 34.85 million.

(f) The Special Group has estimated that the number of unemployed persons will come down to approximately 21.15 million by the end of the 10th Plan.

[Translation]

Training to farmers for setting up of agro-based units

4422. SHRI ARUN KUMAR: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the arrangements made by the Government to impart training to the farmers of the country including Bihar for setting up agriculture based industries and to enable them to get higher prices for their agro-products alongwith the places where such arrangements have been made State-wise; and

(b) the progress made by the farmers in this regard alongwith the number of agro-based units set up by them as a result thereof, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI SANGH PRIYA GAUTAM): (a) The State-wise details of training centres

set up by the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) in the country, for entrepreneurs including the Bihar are given in the enclosed statement-I.

(b) The State-wise progress made in imparting training in agro based industries and setting up of agro based units in the country, including Bihar, during 2001-02 is given in the enclosed statement-II and III.

Statement-I

TRAINING CENTRES OF KVIC (WEST ZONE)

Multi Disciplinary Training Centres.

1. Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Institute of Rural Technology and Management.,
Khadi and Village Industries Commission
Post: Trymbak Vidyamandir
Nasik-422 213 (Maharashtra)
2. C.B. Kora Institute of Village Industries,
Khadi and Village Industries Commission
Shimpoli Road, Borivli (West)
Mumbai-400 092. (Maharashtra)
3. Multi Disciplinary Training Centre
Khadi and V.I. Commission,
Agar Road, Dahanu, Dist: Thane-401 601.

Industry Directorate's TRG. Centre

1. Central Bee-Research & Training Institute
Khadi and Village Industries Commission
1153, Ganesh Khind Road,
Pune-411 016 (Maharashtra)
2. G.R. Valunekar Institute of Leather Tech.
Khadi and Village Industries Commission
Post: Gopuri, Dist: Wardha-442 001.
3. Institute of Renewable Energy
Khadi and Village Industries Commission,
Post: Trymbak Vidyamandir
Nasik-422 213 (Maharashtra).

Board's Training Centres

1. Hand Made Paper Institute
K.B. Joshi Road,
Pune-411 005 (Maharashtra).

Non-Departmental Training Centres

1. Kastruba Mahila Khadi Gramodyog Vidyalaya
Gandhi National Memorial Society
Agakhan Place, PUNE-411 006.

2. Regional Pottery Training Centre
Gramodaya Sangh, Post: Bhadrawati
Dist: Chandrapur-442 902.
3. Rural Food Industry Training Institute
Siksha Mandal Premises
Near Sewagram Railway Station,
Dist. Wardha-442 001.

TRAINING CENTRES OF KVIC (SOUTH ZONE)

Multi Disciplinary Training Centres.

1. Multi Disciplinary Training Centre
Khadi and Village Industries Commission
Post: Nadathara,
Dist: Trichur-680 751 (Kerala)
2. Multi Disciplinary Training Centre
Khadi and Village Industries Commission
Doorvaninagar,
Bangalore-560 016. (Karnataka)

Industry Directorate's TRG. Centre

1. Central Village Pottery Institute
Khadi and Village Industries Commission
Khanapur, Dist: Belgaum-591 302
(Karnataka)
2. Central Palmgur & Palm Products Institute
Khadi and Village Industries Commission,
No. 44, Kumarappapuram,
Post: Madhavaram Milk Colony,
Chennai-600 051 (Tamil Nadu).

Board's Training Centres

1. A.P. Khadi and V.I. Board.
Khadi Gramodyog Mahavidyalaya,
Rajendra Nagar,
Hyderabad-500 030 (Andhra Pradesh)

Non-Departmental Training Centres

1. Khadi Gramodyog Vidyalaya
(Textile Chemistry)
Karnataka Khadi Gramodyog Samayukta
Sangh, Post: Bengari, Hubli-580 -023
Dist: Dharwad (Karnataka).
2. Khadi Gramodyog Vidyalaya
Tamil Nadu Sarvodaya Sangh,
Post: Veerapandi, Tirupur,
Pin-641 605 (Tamil Nadu)
3. Dr. J.C. Kumarappa Institute of Rural
Technology and Development
Gandhi Niketan Ashram,
Post: T. Kallupatti Dist: Madurai
Pin: 626 702 (Tamil Nadu)

4. Khadi Gramodyog Vidyalaya
Chenganechery Social Service Society
Post: Mallapally (West)
Dist: Patnanamthitta- 689 585 (Kerala)
5. Khadi Gramodyog Vidyalaya
Gandhi Smarak Gram Seva Kendram
Post: Nanthiattukunnam, North Paravur
Dist: Ernakulam-683 513 (Kerala)

TRAINING CENTRES OF KVIC (NORTH ZONE)

Multi Disciplinary Training Centres.

1. Multi Disciplinary Training Centre
Khadi and Village Industries Commission
Gandhi Darshan, Rajghat,
New Delhi-110 002

Non-Departmental Training Centres

1. Khadi Gramodyog Vidyalaya
Khadi Ashram, Post: Dhanana
Dist: Ambala-134 201 (Haryana)
Khadi Gramodyog Vidyalaya
Rajasthan Khadi Sangh,
Post: Shivdaspura, Jaipur-303 903

TRAINING CENTRES OF KVIC (CENTRAL ZONE)

Multi Disciplinary Training Centres.

1. Multi Disciplinary Training Centre
Khadi and Village Industries Commission
P.B. No. 27, Haldwani,
Dist: Nainital-263 139 (Uttaranchal)
2. Multi Disciplinary Training Centre
Khadi and Village Industries Commission
Gen. Mahadev Singh Road,
Dehradun-248 001 (Uttaranchal)

Board's Training Centres

1. Shri T.S. Gokhale Khadi and V.I.
Training and Research Institute,
M.P. Khadi and V.I. Board,
Post: Vijaynagar, Near ITI Hostel
Indore-452 010 (Madhya Pradesh)

Non-Departmental Training Centres

1. Khadi Gramodyog Vidyalaya
Kshetriya Shri Gandhi Ashram
Post: Sevapuri, Dist: Varanasi-221 403.

2. Khadi Gramodyog Vidyalaya
Kshetriya Shri Gandhi Ashram
Post: Patranga,
Dist: Barabanki-225 408

3. Khadi Gramodyog Vidyalaya
Post: Surapur, Akbarpur, Ariya
Dist: Ambedkar Nagar-224 112

4. Samagra Vikas Parishad
Woollen Hosiery Training Centre
Near Navin Galla Mandi,
Sitapur Road, Lucknow-226 020

5. Jaiprakash Naryan Centre for Rural Technology
Jaiprakash Nagar,
Dist: Ballia (Uttar Pradesh)

6. Deendayal Research Institute,
Siyaram Kutter, Chitrakoot,
Dist: Satna-485 331.
(Madhya Pradesh)

7. Thakkarbapa K.G. Vidyalaya
Chotanagpur Khadi Gramo. Sansthan
Sarvodaya Ashram, At & Post: Tiril,
Ranchi-834 004, (Jharkhand)

TRAINING CENTRES OF KVIC (EAST ZONE)

Multi Disciplinary Training Centres.

1. Multi Disciplinary Training Centre
Khadi and Village Industries Commission
Udyogpuri, Post: Khandagiri,
Bhubaneswar-751 030 (Orissa)

2. Multi Disciplinary Training Centre
Khadi and Village Industries Commission
Abhoy Ashram Campus,
Post: Birati
Kolkata-700 051. (West Bengal)

3. Dr. Rajendra Prasad Multi Disciplinary Training
Centre,
Khadi and Village Industries Commission
Sekhpura, Patna-800 014 (Bihar).

Non-Departmental Training Centres

1. Sambalpur Silk and Gramodyog Samiti
National Rural Resource Education and
Training Centre,
At: Kharumunda Post Tainsar,
Dist: Deogarh-768 119 (Orissa)

2. Khadi Gramodyog Vidyalaya
Gramin Nirman Mandal,
Sarvodaya Ashram
Post: Sokhodeora
Dist: Nawada-805 106 (Bihar)
3. Carcass Recovery Training Centre
Paschim Bengal Khadi Kendra
Village: Chandmari, Post: Gayeshpur
Dist: Nadia-741 234 (W.B.)
4. Intensive Khadi & Rural Development Centre
Kirnahar, Dist: Birbhum-731 302
(West Bengal)
5. Thakkarbapa Khadi Gramodyog Vidyalaya
Chotanagpur Khadi Gramodyog Sansthan
Sarvodaya Ashram, At Post: Tiril
Ranchi-834 004 (Jharkhand)

TRAINING CENTRES OF KVIC (NORTH EASTERN ZONE)

Non-Departmental Training Centres

1. Khadi Gramodyog Vidyalaya
Tampur Anchalik Gramdan Sangh,
Post: Kumarikatta
Dist: Nalbari-781 360 (Assam).
2. Multi Disciplinary Training Centre
Arunachal Pradesh Seva Sangh
Doimukh-791 112 (Arunachal Pradesh)

Board's Training Centres

1. Multi Disciplinary Training Centre
Mizoram Khadi & V.I. Board
At Post: Zernabawk, Aizwal (Mizoram).

C:/RBK/TRAINING CENTRES OF KVIC. doc

Statement II

State-wise progress in training under Agro based industry

S. No.	Name of the Industry	BKI	FBI	Fibre	FVPI	MPI	PCPI	Palmgur	VOI	Total
1.	Andhra Pradesh	—	—	—	8	—	—	59	—	67
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	—	5	—	—	—	—	—	7	12
3.	Assam	16	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	16
4.	Bihar	25	—	13	—	—	20	—	—	58
5.	Jharkhand	12	—	—	—	5	—	—	—	17
6.	Karnataka	—	—	—	21	—	—	—	—	21
7.	Kerala	—	18	254	18	—	93	—	—	383
8.	Madhya Pradesh	—	20	—	20	20	39	—	—	99
9.	Maharashtra	891	—	94	94	—	226	72	57	1434
10.	Mizoram	—	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	8
11.	New Delhi	172	—	400	—	—	650	9	7	1238
12.	Orissa	—	—	—	20	—	35	—	9	64
13.	Tamil Nadu	—	—	—	—	—	65	145	—	210
14.	Uttar Pradesh	5	—	—	—	—	37	—	—	42
15.	Uttaranchal	67	—	—	5	—	22	—	13	107
16.	West Bengal	—	—	59	33	—	—	—	—	92
Total		1188	51	820	219	25	1187	285	93	3868

1. BKI = Beekeeping Activities

2. FBI = Forest Based Activities

3. FVPI = Fruit Vegetable Processing.

4. PCPI = Processing of Cereals & Pulses

5. VOI = Village Oil Industry.

Statement III*Statewise Progress is Made in Setting up of Agro Based Industrial Units (2001-02)*

(Fig. in Numbers)

Sr. No.	States/UTs	Agro Based Industrial Units
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	249
2.	Assam	49
3.	Bihar	18
4.	Goa	72
5.	Gujarat	29
6.	Haryana	135
7.	Himachal Pradesh	121
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	152
9.	Karnataka	398
10.	Kerala	253
11.	Madhya Pradesh	229
12.	Maharashtra	603
13.	Manipur	1
14.	Meghalaya	31
15.	Mizoram	4
16.	Nagaland	29
17.	Orissa	164
18.	Punjab	241
19.	Rajasthan	502
20.	Tamil Nadu	235
21.	Tripura	6
22.	Uttar Pradesh	448
23.	West Bengal	1265
24.	Chhattisgarh	29
25.	Jharkhand	44

1	2	3
26.	Uttaranchal	80
27.	Andaman & Nicobar	12
28.	Chandigarh	51
29.	Delhi	16
30.	Pondicherry	1
Grand Total		5467

Dry Farming in Tribal Areas

4423. SHRI MANSINH PATEL:
SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by the Government to popularize dry farming in the country, particularly in tribal areas;

(b) if so, the details therefor;

(c) the works undertaken by the Government in South Gujarat in this regard alongwith the achievements made; and

(d) the assistance and facilities being contemplated by the Government to be provided in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) To promote farming in rainfed areas in the country, the restructured National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas (NWDPA) is being implemented under Macro Management Mode in all 28 States and 2 UTs. This covers tribal areas also. Under the Macro Management Mode the States decide the priority to be given to this Project as well as the specific watersheds to be covered under the Project. The restructured Project lays high emphasis on the participation of watershed beneficiaries. Besides, intensive capacity building programme is also taken up to improve the scheme oriented skills of the watershed beneficiaries.

Details of Physical and Financial achievement of the NWDPA in VIII and IX Plan are enclosed as statement-I and II.

(c) District-wise details of work done in tribal districts of South Gujarat under NWDPA during VIIIth and IXth Plan are given in the enclosed statement-III.

(d) Statement-IV showing planned coverage of NWDPRRA during the Xth Plan in South Gujarat Tribal Districts is enclosed.

Statement-I

*Physical and Financial Status of NWDPRRA
Implemented During VIII Five Year Plan Period*

S.No.	Name of the State/UT	Area developed (in ha.)	Expenditure (Rs. in lakhs)
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	176939	5115.777
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1970	100.424
3.	Assam	70221	1582.364
4.	Bihar	23189	581.480
5.	Goa	2100	26.502
6.	Gujarat	292579	5557.930
7.	Haryana	20272	491.060
8.	Himachal Pradesh	34309	1057.730
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	14044	409.932
10.	Karnataka	485109	10139.475
11.	Kerala	88276	2992.381
12.	Madhya Pradesh	660202	12942.173
13.	Maharashtra	879886	16518.110
14.	Manipur	8682	348.900
15.	Meghalaya	2877	134.030
16.	Mizoram	18198	828.400
17.	Nagaland	14510	636.900
18.	Orissa	297000	6845.950
19.	Punjab	18035	467.200
20.	Rajasthan	547931	14627.430
21.	Sikkim	7626	362.690
22.	Tamil Nadu	172657	3848.668
23.	Tripura	7694	247.360
24.	Uttar Pradesh	303683	8802.440

1	2	3	4
25.	West Bengal	73436	1941.793
26.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	84	2.602
27.	Daman & Diu	0	0.000
28.	Andaman Nicobar Island	1735	83.520
Total		4223244	96693.221

Statement II

*Physical and Financial Status of NWDPRRA
Implemented During IX Plan Period*

(1997-98 to 2001-02)

S.No.	Name of the State/UT	Area Developed (in ha.)	Expenditure (Rs. in lakhs)
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	118433	2695.195
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	3423	166.571
3.	Assam	17597	515.818
4.	Bihar	10905	282.237
5.	Chhattisgarh	40022	1399.890
6.	Goa	4120	109.576
7.	Gujarat	249968	5961.630
8.	Haryana	23052	530.170
9.	Himachal Pradesh	21629	1071.717
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	4044	73.046
11.	Jharkhand	0	49.315
12.	Karnataka	281621	9369.140
13.	Kerala	70478	2569.244
14.	Madhya Pradesh	334350	8270.700
15.	Maharashtra	281256	8940.000
16.	Manipur	15838	820.000
17.	Meghalaya	15460	814.530
18.	Mizoram	44475	2236.000
19.	Nagaland	39142	2255.000

1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
20.	Orissa	81504	2924.210	26.	Uttar Pradesh	241927	9011.620
21.	Punjab	4531	206.600	27.	Uttaranchal	30904	1196.030
22.	Rajasthan	483578	17873.620	28.	West Bengal	70116	2025.680
23.	Sikkim	18794	895.890	29.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0	0.573
24.	Tamil Nadu	226645	7392.356	30.	Andaman & Nicobar Island	2814	147.783
25.	Tripura	29736	1276.490	Total		2766362	91080.631

Statement III*District-wise Achievement made during VIIIth & IXth Plan Under NWDPR in Tribal Districts of South Gujarat*

Sr.No.	Name of District	VIIIth Plan Achievement		IXth Plan Achievement	
		Physical (in ha.)	Financial (Rs. in lakhs)	Physical (in ha.)	Financial (Rs. in lakhs)
1.	Bharuch	10,887	112.72	10,161	161.15
2.	Surat	7,798	92.43	9,373	89.41
3.	Valsad	4,625	42.08	5,074	45.53
4.	Dangs	157	1.17	102	4.08
Total		23,467	248.40	24,710	300.17

Statement IV*Planned Coverage of NWDPR during Xth Plan in South Gujarat Tribal Districts*

Sr.No.	Name of District	No. of Micro Watershed	Area to be treated (in ha.)	Estimated cost (Rs. in lakhs)
1.	Narmada	8	4000	180.00
2.	Navsari	4	2000	90.00
3.	Surat	12	6000	270.00
4.	Dangs	2	1000	45.00
5.	Bharuch	14	7000	315.00
6.	Valsad	4	2000	90.00
Total of South Gujarat		44	22000	990.00

Cultivation of Soyabean and Sunflower

4424. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the area under the cultivation of soyabean and sunflower is increasing constantly in Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan;

(b) if so, whether the improved seeds of soyabean developed through research are available whereas the improved seeds of sunflower are not available;

(c) if so, the quantity of soyabean and sunflower being produced in the two States at present;

(d) whether the Government have any scheme to increase the production; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

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

(a) In case of soyabean, the area is showing almost increasing trend in Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan, whereas under sunflower the area is decreasing in both the States due to drought conditions prevailing since 1999-2000.

(b) Soyabean and sunflower improved seed varieties developed/released for the State of Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan are as under:

Crop	Variety
Madhya Pradesh	
Soyabean	NRC-37 (Ahilya), JS90-41, JS93-05, MAUS 47, MAUS 61-2
Sunflower	MLSFH-47 (AH-II-34, Sideshwar (LS 11), AASFH-11 (H), KBSH-44
Rajasthan	
Soyabean	NRC (Ahilya 4), JS-93-05, MAUS 47, MAUS 61-2
Sunflower	SUNGENE-85 (H), PAC-36 (H), PAC-1091 (H), AASFH-11 (H), KBSH-44

(c) The quantity of soyabean and sunflower produced in the two States during 2001-02 is as under:

Crop	Quantity in Lakh tonnes
Madhya Pradesh	
Soyabean	36.24
Sunflower	0.01
Rajasthan	
Soyabean	7.16
Sunflower	Nil

(d) and (e) A Centrally Sponsored Oilseeds Production Programme (OPP) is under implementation in both the States to increase the production of all 9 cultivable oilseed crops including soyabean and sunflower. Under the scheme, financial assistance by way of subsidies on various inputs is given to the farmers in order to motivate them to take up the cultivation of oilseeds including soyabean and sunflower on large scale.

Supply of Milk by DMS

4425. SHRI RAMDAS RUPALA GAVIT:
SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of milk being supplied at present by the Delhi Milk Scheme (DMS) in Delhi;

(b) whether the quantity supplied by the D.M.S. is sufficient to meet the requirement of Delhi;

(c) if not, the measures taken by the Government to enhance the production of milk and also modernise the technique of the D.M.S.; and

(d) the funds proposed to be allocated for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV):
(a) DMS at present is selling about 2 lakhs litres of milk per day.

(b) The quantity of milk supplied by DMS is about 7% of the milk requirement of Delhi.

(c) and (d) The installed capacity of DMS is 5 lakh litres of milk per day. However, due to market competition, DMS is selling only 2 lakh litres of milk per day.

*[English]***Joint Venture for Ground Handling**

4426. SHRI K.E. KRISHNAMURTHY:
SHRIMATI REENA CHOUDHARY:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up a separate public sector undertaking for ground handling services at the airports across the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether foreign equity is also proposed to be invited in setting up of these PSUs; and

(d) if so, the quantum thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) to (c) On account of security considerations and in order to streamline the policy on ground handling services so as to achieve world class standards and also to minimize the number of agencies performing ground handling operations at airports, the Government has taken a decision to suitably revise the Airports Authority of India (General Management, Entry for Ground Handling Services) Regulation, 2000 and to provide a system by 1st July, 2003, wherein only Air India Limited, Indian Airlines Limited and Airports Authority of India will form separate companies, having a minimum of 51 per cent share holding either directly or through their subsidiaries in the joint venture with an international operator or foreign airlines, subject to security clearance from the Government. Such joint venture company shall induct state-of-the-art technology, equipment of world-class standards.

(d) No Specific percentage has been fixed. However, no foreign airline will be permitted to have dominant share or management control. No 'self-handling' by any of the airlines or their subsidiaries or agencies will be allowed. Pending formation of separate companies, Air India and Indian Airlines will directly provide ground handling services beyond 30 June 2003.

Ban on Migration of Indian Labourers

4427. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have imposed a ban on the migration of Indian labourers to other countries;

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

(c) the time by when the said ban is likely to be lifted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI VIJAY GOEL):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Although there is no ban on migration of Indian labourers to any country, migration of Indian workers to Iraq was temporarily suspended in view of the conflict.

(c) The temporary suspension will be reviewed as and when the situation improves and stable administration is restored in Iraq.

Integrated Development of Floriculture

4428. SHRI SAVSHIBHAI MAKWANA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether integrated development of floriculture a central scheme is under implementation in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the kind of flowers being grown and promoted in the State;

(d) whether flowers are also being exported from the State; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) A central scheme on Development of Floriculture was implemented in the country, during 9th Plan, including Gujarat. However, since October 2000 the scheme has been subsumed in the Centrally Sponsored scheme on macro management of Agriculture-supplementation/complementation of states' efforts through work plans. The programmes of the scheme can now be pursued by the state through work plans. The programmes of the scheme can now be pursued by the state through work plans. Under this scheme the state has greater flexibility to priorities its needs.

(c) to (e) The flowers such as roses, jasmine, marigold, gladiolus, carnation, gerbera and lilly etc. are

commercially grown and promoted in the State. Besides their use in the State, these flowers are also being transported to other big cities/urban areas including the city of Mumbai. However, details of State-wise export of flowers to other countries are not available.

Contract Farming for Production of Oilseeds

4429. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by the Government to encourage contract farming for production of oilseeds; and

(b) the details of assistance provided by the Union Government to State Governments?

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

(a) and (b) The concept of the contract farming for production of oilseeds is at initial stages.

[Translation]

Exploitation of Workers Abroad

4430. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether some foreign companies and their agents while offering appointments to the Indian engineers, doctors and technical employees abroad sign contracts offering pay, allowances and other facilities which are subsequently not implemented;

(b) if so, whether his Ministry is formulating any scheme/programme to stop the exploitation of such employees working abroad and to ensure that terms and conditions of the service as signed in the contract are fully complied with; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI VIJAY GOEL):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A Bill to amend the Emigration Act, 1983, has been introduced in the Lok Sabha on 21.11.2002 to provide for establishment of a Central Manpower Export Promotion Council and an Indian Overseas Workers' Welfare Fund.

(c) The proposed Council will promote employment opportunities for emigrants; projection of manpower services, collection of statistics and information relating to employment opportunities and matters connected therewith; collection and maintenance of statistics and information in respect of persons seeking employment; liaison with other export promotion agencies; recommendations to the Central Government about the standards and guidelines for overseas employment; and administration of India Overseas Workers' Welfare Fund.

Review of Projects for Child Labour

4431. SHRI RAMSINH RATHWA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have recently reviewed the implementation of special projects for child labour in various States;

(b) if so, the details of the implementation of the projects and the outcome thereof, State-wise;

(c) the details of the incidence of grave violation of law relating to employment of child labour in hazardous industries brought to the notice of the Government during the last one year, State-wise; and

(d) the details of the fresh steps proposed to effect qualitative changes in the welfare schemes aimed at improving the condition of the child labour in view of the past experience of the last two years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI VIJAY GOEL):

(a) and (b) The Government of India has been implementing two schemes for the benefit of children withdrawn from work namely the Scheme of National Child Labour Projects (NCLPs) and the Scheme of Grants-in-aid to Voluntary Organisations.

The Projects are continuously monitored through receipt of periodical reports and returns and reviews at the Centre, State and District levels. A Central Monitoring Committee, under the Chairmanship of Labour Secretary, has also been set up for the overall supervision, monitoring and evaluation of the NCLPs. The working of child labour projects was reviewed in a National Conference on Child Labour held in January 2001. Large scale Evaluation of selected NCLPs has also been taken up. Completed Evaluations have shown that the magnitude of the child labour problem can be considerably reduced through the rehabilitation measures by the projects.

(c) During the last one year, as per the information available, 88,887 inspections were carried out during which 3528 violations of the provisions of the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986 were detected.

(d) The new strategy proposed to be adopted during the Tenth Plan aims at bringing about qualitative changes in the scheme for the elimination of child labour. The details are as follows:

- Policy and programmes for elimination of child labour would be continued in a more focused, integrated and convergent manner.
- The National Child Labour Projects (NCLPs) would be expanded to cover 150 child labour endemic districts.
- Child Labour efforts would be linked with the scheme of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (Education For All) of Ministry of Human Resource Development to attempt to ensure that children in the age group of 5-8 years get directly linked to schools and the older children are mainstreamed to the formal education system through the rehabilitation centres of NCLPs.
- Efforts will be made to strengthen the formal education mechanism in the child labour endemic areas in the country both in terms of quality and numbers in such a manner as to provide an attractive schooling system to the child labour force and its parents so that motivational levels of both the parents and such children are high and sending these children to school becomes an attractive proposition.
- It is also proposed to engage master vocational trainer for each NCLP for training of vocational teachers of the NCLP schools in order to lay emphasis on vocational training.
- Convergence with the ongoing schemes of the Dept. of Education, Rural Development, Health

and Women & Child Development would be critical for the ultimate attainment of the objective of elimination of child labour in a time bound manner.

- A provision to attach a Medical Doctor for every 20 schools to take care of the primary health needs of the children has also been provided.

The problem of child labour requires to be dealt through sustained efforts over a period of time. Government is committed to the goal of eradication of child labour in all its forms. Considering the nature and magnitude of the problem a gradual and sequential approach has been adopted to withdraw and rehabilitate child labour beginning with the children working in hazardous occupations.

[English]

Beach Tourism

4432. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of inadequate infrastructure facilities at Mandvi (Kutch) in Gujarat affecting the tourism in the State;

(b) if so, whether the Government have any plan to promote beach tourism/desert tourism in Gujarat; and

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith funds allocated to the State Government for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) to (c) Development and promotion of tourist infrastructure is the responsibility of the State Government. However, in order to help create infrastructure facilities for promotion of tourism including beach tourism/desert tourism at Mandvi (Kutch) in Gujarat, the following projects have been sanctioned by the Department of Tourism, Government of India:

Year	Name of the project	Amount sanctioned (Rs. in lakhs)
1998-99	Dwelling units at Kutch Mandvi	30.00
1999-2000	Infrastructure development of Kutch Mandvi	23.36
2001-2002	High Mast Light at Mandvi, Kutch	14.50

Government of Gujarat has informed that a budgetary provision of Rs. 4.00 crores has been made for development of the Beach at Kutch.

Tax on Khadi

4433. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are contemplating of levying tax on Khadi;

(b) if so, whether any study has been made of its impact on market;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether any study has been undertaken to estimate the production capacity and demand of Khadi in the country;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the details of the amount of subsidy being provided to Khadi producers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI SANGH PRIYA GAUTAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e) While no specific scientific study has been undertaken on this subject, the production capacity and the demand for Khadi for the year 2003-04 are estimated at Rs. 565.00 crores and Rs. 705.00 crores, respectively.

(f) The amount of subsidy in the form of sales rebate and interest subsidy on bank loans provided to Khadi producers are given below:-

(Rs. in crores)

Sl.No.	Items	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02
1.	Khadi Sales Rebate	140.70	90.51	70.04
2.	Interest Subsidy on Bank Finance	29.87	20.40	37.10
	Total	170.57	110.91	107.14

Mango Yield

4434. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether 10% of the world's mango yield is contributed by Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, whether the severe drought that hit the mango producing areas of Andhra Pradesh and other States has taken its toll;

(c) if so, the average annual mango yield in Andhra Pradesh and other States;

(d) the estimated percentages fall in mango yield this year; and

(e) the details of financial assistance provided to the States due to drought?

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

(a) Yes, Sir. With a production of 24.50 lakh tonnes, Andhra Pradesh contributed about 10 percent of world production of mangoes during 2000-01.

(b) No report has been received about severe drought conditions in mango producing areas of Andhra Pradesh and other parts of the country during 2002-03.

(c) and (d) The average annual mango yield in different mango producing States for the year 2002-03 has not been assessed.

(e) The details of financial assistance provided to the States due to drought are given in the enclosed statement.

Statement-I

Assistance provided under Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) and Natural Calamities Contingency Fund (NCCF) to the States due to occurrence of drought.

(Rs. in crore)

State	Central share of CRF released for 2002-03	Assistance from NCCF
Andhra Pradesh	163.77	123.51
Chhattisgarh	22.72	127.51
Gujarat	133.46	—
Haryana	67.23	—
Himachal Pradesh	35.96	14.35
J&K	28.86	—
Jharkhand	—	—
Karnataka	61.66	207.65
Kerala	55.60	—
Madhya Pradesh	51.78	171.66
Maharashtra	129.99	20.00
Orissa	90.52	5.29
Punjab	101.47	—
Rajasthan	171.16#	789.78
Tamil Nadu	84.87	332.09
Uttaranchal	13.38	—
Uttar Pradesh	120.95	310.06
West Bengal	83.60	—
Total	1416.98	2101.90

#In addition, advance release of 25% of Central share of CRF for 2003-04 amounting to Rs. 44.93 crores.

Mechanism for Fixing M.S.P.

4435. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH:
SHRI ANANT GUDHE:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering a proposal to bring about changes in the mechanism for fixing the Minimum Support Price (MSP) giving more weightage of market price of commodities rather than cost of cultivation;

(b) if so, the details of the proposals under consideration and implications thereof;

(c) the details of suggestions for modification in the current mechanism received from the State Governments in general and Maharashtra in particular;

(d) the details of final decision taken in the matter alongwith the present status of implementations of revised MSP mechanism;

(e) whether the Commission for agricultural costs and prices has suggested that the MSP should be declared before the sowing seasons; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) As regards the mechanism of fixing Minimum Support Price (MSP), the Commission of Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) has in the past received a few suggestions from State Governments including Maharashtra. The Maharashtra State Government has suggested that certain modifications need to be made in the imputation of costs such as interest on working capital, rental value of land, transport and marketing charges, profit, valuation of family labour, and insurance cost in the computation of cost by CACP. The State Government of Maharashtra has also suggested fixation of separate MSPs for almost all the crops for which their yields are lower and costs higher than in other States.

(d) The suggestions of the State Governments were discussed at the National Workshop on Cost of Cultivation of Principal Crops held on 21st February, 2002. At the Workshop it was pointed out that in calculating agricultural costs of production, certain input costs have to be imputed and in such a situation there can be differences in the methods followed for imputation. As for the mechanism of MSP fixation, there is no change in status.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) All efforts are made to announce the Minimum Support Price (MSP) at the earliest.

Creation of Indian Council of Veterinary Research

4436. SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Public Representatives had submitted a memorandum to the Union Government for establishment of Indian Council of Veterinary Research (ICVR) independent from Indian Council for Agricultural Research (ICAR);

(b) if so, whether it was also recommended by Standing Committee on Agriculture which was subsequently agreed by the Planning Commission in principle.

(c) if so, whether this was also endorsed by the State Ministers of Animal Husbandry in a meeting held in 1996;

(d) if so, whether the Government propose to create ICVR and establish separate veterinary universities;

(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) Yes, Sir.

(d) to (f) The proposal to create Indian Council of Veterinary Research was examined in the Ministry at the level of Agriculture Minister and it was accepted that complete separation of veterinary and fisheries research systems from Indian Council of Agricultural Research may not be required in view of the propagation of integrated intensive farming approach, which calls for integration of agriculture, livestock and fisheries sectors. Therefore, it has been decided not to create separate Indian Council of Veterinary Research at this stage. Establishment of separate Veterinary universities are made by the State Governments and four such universities have so far been established in the States.

[Translation]

Subsidy for Rural Industries

4437. SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have fixed any subsidy for the rural industries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether such rural industries can also be started through voluntary organizations with loans or grants provided by the Department/Government; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI SANGH PRIYA GAUTAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government of India extends subsidy to Rural Industries as under:-

(i) Interest Subsidy for availing finance from the banks for promoting Khadi and polyvastra. Under this, Interest Subsidy Eligibility Certificates are issued to implementing agencies against which they avail of funds from banking institutions. The agencies are to pay only 4% interest and the difference of 4% and actual lending rate is being provided as subsidy by Government.

(ii) Subsidy in the form of sales rebate for the benefit of khadi and ployvastra. For promoting khadi and ployvastra sales, for enhancing the market avenues, rebate on sales is provided from time to time.

(iii) Margin Money assistance for setting up of rural industries upto 25 percent of project costing upto Rs. 10.00 lakhs (30 percent in the case of weaker section) and 10 percent over and above Rs. 10 lakhs upto Rs. 25 lakhs.

(c) and (d) As far as Khadi programme is concerned, the same is implemented by the voluntary organizations and assistance is provided to them based on agreed programmes. While rebate is provided based on target agreed for sales against which actual sales effected, the interest subsidy eligibility certificate is provided to the institutions, after making assessment of their fund requirement, to avail of funds from banks. As far as margin money is concerned, the voluntary agencies can prepare project reports and submit to the branches of Public Sector Scheduled Commercial Banks for considering funding with the margin money component.

*[English]***Ground Handling by IA and AI**

4438. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA:
SHRI C. KUPPUSAMI:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to entrust the ground handling services at all the airports in the country exclusively to Indian Airlines, Air India and Airports Authority of India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by these agencies to meet additional responsibilities;

(d) whether the manpower requirement would be met from the existing staff of these agencies; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) and (b) On account of security considerations and in order to streamline the policy on ground handling services so as to achieve world class standards and to minimize the number of agencies performing ground handling operations at airports, the Government has taken a decision to suitably revise the Airports Authority of India (General Management, Entry for Ground Handling Services) Regulation, 2000 and to provide a system by 1st July, 2003, wherein only Air India Limited, Indian Airlines Limited and Airports Authority of India will form separate companies, having a minimum of 51 per cent share holding either directly or through their subsidiaries in the joint venture with an international operator or foreign airlines, subject to security clearance from the Government. No 'self-handling' by any of the airlines or their subsidiaries or agencies will be allowed. Pending formation of separate companies, Air India and Indian Airlines will directly provide ground handling services beyond 30 June, 2003.

(c) Formation of subsidiary/joint venture companies will enable Indian Airlines, Air India and Airports Authority of India to meet additional responsibilities.

(d) Decision with regard to requirement of manpower, if any, will be decided by concerned subsidiary/joint venture companies at an appropriate time.

(e) Does not arise.

*[Translation]***Airport at Ajmer**

4439. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up an Airport in Ajmer which is a hub of international tourism;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for rejecting the site selected near Sradhana whereas action was about to be taken to acquire that land;

(d) the criteria for selecting a new site near Kayad;

(e) the action being taken by the Government to implement the proposal of setting the airport in Kayad; and

(f) the reasons for not starting construction by acquiring the land for the purpose by the Union Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) and (b) There is a proposal to set up an airport at Ajmer in Rajasthan to fulfil the air travelling needs of tourists and other visitors.

(c) The site near Sradhana was rejected due to existing hills and constraints in future expansion of the proposed airport.

(d) The new site near Kayad has been found suitable for development of a new airport and also for its future expansion.

(e) Airports Authority of India (AAI) has requested State Government of Rajasthan to acquire 1300 acres of land free of cost and free from all encumbrances.

(f) The State Government of Rajasthan have expressed inability to bear the cost of land required by AAI due to financial constraints and also the drought

situation in the State. Planning Commission had not accepted the proposal of setting up of an airport at Ajmer on grounds that the new airport will remain commercially unviable. The airport may not become viable without substantial support from the State Government in the form of land and other infrastructure facilities like approach roads, water, power etc.

Strengthening of Airport Security

4440. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has demanded for strengthening of security arrangements for the Indian airports in view of the increased threat of terrorist attacks; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) and (b) Strengthening of aviation security is an ongoing process. As a part of this, the following measures have been taken, inter-alia, to strengthen security at the airports in order to prevent hijackings and other unlawful interference with civil aviation operations:-

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

Polluting Thermal Power Stations

4441. SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether thermal power stations are spreading high amount of pollution in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the measures taken by the Government to check the pollution being caused by thermal power stations;

(d) whether pollution checking instruments have been installed at all the thermal power stations; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV): (a) and (b) Out of 83 thermal power plants in the country, 48 plants are complying with emission standards and 52 are complying with ash pond effluent standards. According to information available, 31 power plants are yet to comply with emission standards and 27 plants are not complying with ash pond effluent standards. 4 power plants are presently closed.

(c) The measures taken to check pollution from thermal power plants include use of beneficiated coal, augmentation of the existing electrostatic precipitators (ESP) in a time bound manner and promoting utilization of fly ash.

(d) and (e) Presently 48 power plants have provided pollution control facilities to comply with emission standards. The reasons for delay in installation of pollution control equipments include financial constraints, space availability and need to supply continuous power.

[English]

Rehabilitation of Villages on the Borders of Wildlife Sanctuaries

4442. SHRI SHRINIWAS PATIL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the steps Government propose to take to rehabilitate villages situated on borders of various wildlife sanctuaries;

(b) whether the Government have noticed the damage to crops and human life caused by wildlife in various parts of the country;

(c) if so, the remedial steps taken by the Government; and

(d) whether fencing of wildlife sanctuaries has been proposed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV): (a) The Government of India encourages and supports voluntary relocation of only those villages as are situated inside the national parks and sanctuaries.

(b) to (d) Yes, Sir. In order to mitigate the problem of crop damage and loss of human life caused by wild animals in various parts of the country the Government of India provides technical and financial assistance to State governments under Centrally Sponsored Schemes, namely, Project Elephant, Project Tiger and Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries. Proposals for erecting electric fencing over limited stretches of boundaries of national parks and sanctuaries as and where required have been received from time-to-time under these schemes.

Sale of Production

4443. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken steps to help farmers to avoid distress sale of their produces;

(b) if so, the details of steps with regard to paddy, wheat, coconut, sugarcane, tobacco, pineapple, cashew, pepper, rubber, coffee and tea;

(c) whether the Government have taken steps to encourage organic manure for agriculture;

(d) if so, the details thereof during the last three years;

(e) whether this has increased production; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

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

(a) In order to help farmers to avoid distress sale of their produces, the Government takes several measures which include announcement of Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) each season of major agricultural commodities, undertaking price support operations of major agricultural commodities by the designated Central Nodal Agencies under the MSP Scheme and using instruments of trade to encourage exports and discourage imports of agricultural commodities etc.

(b) The Government extends price support for the procurement of paddy and wheat through the Food Corporation of India (FCI), the State Governments and their agencies. All the foodgrains (wheat and paddy) conforming to the prescribed specifications offered for sale at a specified centres are bought by the public procuring agencies. A wide network of purchase centres are opened

throughout the country. In addition to encouraging decentralised procurement, the Government has also taken up procurement operations in some of non-traditional States to extend the benefits of MSP to the farmers. In order to closely monitor, the price support operations, Special Control Rooms are set up in the FCI at its headquarters and regional offices and in the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution. Any report of distress sale is forwarded to the concerned State Government to take immediate remedial measures.

In order to ensure remunerative prices to the coconut growers for their produce, the Government fixes Minimum Support Price (MSP) every year for milling copra and ball copra and undertakes price support operations through the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation (NAFED) when the prices fall below the support level.

The Government is also implementing the Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) in order to protect the growers of horticultural commodities, like pineapple, from making distress sale in the event of bumper crops during the peak arrival period when prices tend to fall below the economic levels. The MIS is implemented for a particular commodity on the request of the State Government (s) which are ready to bear 50% of the losses (25% in the case of North-Eastern States), if any, in its implementation.

The Government fixes each year the Statutory Minimum Prices (SMP) of sugarcane payable by the sugar factories to the sugarcane growers.

The Government has taken a number of steps to help the tea growers which include increasing basic custom duty on import of tea from 70% to 100%, launching of a communication campaign to promote Indian tea, establishment of price stabilisation fund for providing relief to the growers of the plantation commodities such as tea, coffee, rubber and tobacco etc.

Concerned with the problems of coffee growers, the Government has taken a series of initiatives which include providing 5% interest relief to small coffee growers (having holdings upto 100 hectares) and 3% interest relief to large growers (above 10 hectares) on working capital loans taken by them from financial institutions, increasing import duty on coffee from 70% to 100, restructuring/ rescheduling of loans taken by coffee growers etc.

The Government has taken several measures to help the rubber farmers and these include market intervention operations through State Trading Corporation (STC), fixing and notifying the minimum prices of rubber, promoting

diversified use of natural rubber for increasing its consumption in the country, monitoring the import of natural rubber, etc.

Similarly, the Government has taken necessary steps to help the pepper growers and these include supporting growers to improve the quality of pepper through post harvest training, setting up of processing units and improving infrastructure, etc.

The prices of tobacco (VFC) in auctions have been ruling well above the MSPs in the current season. These are higher than those realised in the 2001-02 season.

(c) and (d) With a view to propagate the concept of Integrated Plant Nutrient Supply System, Government encourages the use of organic manures such as rural and urban compost, vermicompost, biogas slurry and bio fertilisers etc. along with chemical fertilizers for sustainable agricultural development and productivity. This concept is being popularized by the extension agencies of the State Governments through training and education of the farmers. To augment the supply of non-chemical form of plant nutrients, Government has been implementing a scheme on Development and Use of Bio-fertilisers under which bio-fertilisers production units were set up in different States. A sum of Rs. 330.00 lakhs was released to different State Governments during the last three years for setting up of bio-fertiliser units.

Under the scheme of Balanced & Integrated Use of Fertilizers, financial support is provided for setting up of compost plants by the Municipal Corporations so as to connect city waste into useful organic manure. Funds amounting to Rs. 399.52 lakhs were released to different States during the last three years for setting up 9 compost plants.

(e) and (f) The balance and integrated use of organic manures and chemical fertilisers improve the crop productivity and soil health. However, the increase in production and productivity cannot be attributed to any single factor.

[Translation]

Employment Generation through Khadi

4444. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:
SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI:

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

(a) whether Khadi is gaining popularity abroad and its export has increased;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to provide jobs to more people through Khadi industries indicating the additional number of the people provided jobs in Khadi industries during the year 2001-02 as compared to the year 2000-01; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI SANGH PRIYA GAUTAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) In order to meet financial needs of Khadi sector, interest subsidy is provided. Further, to boost the sales of Khadi products sales, rebate to the Khadi products is being extended and the number of days of rebate on Khadi products has been extended from 90 days to 108 days during 2002-03. The Government has also taken various steps to strengthen the Khadi sector by improving its quality, appearance etc. by involving agencies like NID, NIFT and other NGOs engaged in Research and Development like Ruda, Dastkar etc. Action for producing finer variety of Khadi fabrics crease resistant Khadi etc. has been initiated. Renovation of sales points and aggressive publicity has been taken up to promote Khadi programme and sustained employment. During the year 2001-02, under Khadi programme, employment opportunities were provided to 8.48 lakh persons as compared to 9.58 lakh persons during the year 2000-01. The main reasons for shortfall is the general recession in the market of textiles, change in taste of consumers, more pre-dominance of Readymade Garments, less availability of funds from the banks under Interest Subsidy Eligibility Certificate Scheme etc.

[English]

Irrigation Projects Under AIBP in Orissa

4445. SHRI PARSURAM MAJHI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the execution of any irrigation project has been proposed for the KBK districts in Orissa under the Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme during Ninth Plan;

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

(c) the progress made on these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) and (b) 6 major/medium irrigation projects namely Upper Indravati, Upper Kolab, Tittagarh, Lower Indra, Lower Suktel and Potteru and 39 Surface Minor irrigation schemes of KBK districts of Orissa were included under the Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) during Ninth Plan. An amount of Rs. 252.685 crore had been released to these projects as Central Loan Assistance under AIBP during Ninth Plan.

(c) An irrigation potential of 22.924 thousand hectares has been created under AIBP through 6 major/medium projects during Ninth Plan.

Filling up of Vacant Posts

4446. SHRI P.D. ELANGO VAN: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have strictly followed the reservation policy in providing jobs in the Government Departments and Autonomous Institutions as well as Attached Offices coming under his Ministry particularly in the Gazetted jobs or Class I and Class II employments;

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

(c) whether the Government find it difficult to fill up the reserved posts designated for the purpose belonging to SC/ST and OBC; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps taken by the Government to fill up such vacant posts in Government and public sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY): (a) and (b) Insofar as the Secretariat of the Ministry of Steel is concerned, Government have strictly followed the reservation policy in filling vacancies reserved for the Scheduled Castes, the Scheduled Tribes and the Other Backward Classes. Details of the incumbents in position in Group 'A' and Group 'B' posts (Gazetted) in the Ministry of Steel as on date are given below:

Classification of posts	No. in position	SC	ST	OBC
Group 'A'	36	6	1	—
Group 'B'	24	2	1	—

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Insofar as the other organisations under the Ministry of Steel are concerned, the requisite information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha.

[*Translation*]

Central Assistance for Cold Storages

4447. DR. BALIRAM: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Uttar Pradesh has been deprived of Central assistance for cold storages and other schemes for the last one year;

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

(c) by when it is likely to be released?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (c) No, Sir. The Government of India, through National Horticulture Board (NHB), is providing financial assistance for establishment of cold storages in the country including Uttar Pradesh. NHB through its scheme, "Capital Investment Subsidy scheme for Construction/Expansion/Modernisation of Cold Storages and Storages for Horticulture Produce" has sanctioned 41 cold storage projects with the eligible back-ended capital investment subsidy of Rs. 11.25 crores in the State of Uttar Pradesh during the year 2002-03. The Scheme is demand based.

Also, under other Centrally Sponsored Schemes of the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, an allocation of Rs. 93.37 crores has been made for the State of Uttar Pradesh for the year 2002-03. Out of this, Rs. 89.99 crores (approx.) has been released to the State during the year 2002-2003. As on 1.4.2002, an amount of Rs. 24.29 crores was lying as unspent balance with the State.

Vacant Posts Under OBC Category

4448. SHRI BAL KRISHNA CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of employees belonging to Other Backward Classes (OBC) under category A,B,C and D in the departments and undertakings under his Ministry at present, category-wise;

(b) the percentage of reservation provided to the OBCs in the Union Government services;

(c) whether the reservation quota of OBCs has been completely filled up in the departments and undertakings under his Ministry;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) by when the reservation quota for the said classes is likely to be filled up;

(f) whether there is a provision of reservation for the OBCs at the time of their promotion also;

(g) if so, whether the posts reserved for OBCs are filled up by general category candidates in case the candidates belonging to OBC are not available; and

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

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) to (h) Information is being collected and would be placed on the Table of the House.

[English]

Traffic Development Project

4449. SHRI BISHNU PADA RAY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Territory Administration of Andman and Nicobar Islands have constituted a task force on development strategy to project traffic demand by 2025;

(b) if so, whether there is any proposal to engage Tata or Fergusson Consultancies to prepare project report;

(c) whether a scheme relating to development strategy to project the traffic demand upto the year 2025 formulated by the Union Territory Administration of Andman and Nicobar Islands is receiving consideration of the Planning Commission;

(d) if so, by when the Commission is likely to clear the above scheme; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) to

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

[Translation]

Welfare of Fishermen

4450. SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL:
SHRI ADHI SANKAR:
SHRI G.J. JAVIYA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have announced some schemes for the welfare of fishermen in Gujarat and Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the expenditure incurred for the development of fishermen since 2000 till date, year-wise;

(d) the amount proposed to be allocated for the purpose during 2003-2004;

(e) whether the Government have received letters of demand/suggestions from the two State Governments and various associations/unions of the fishermen since 2001, till date;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) the action taken thereon alongwith the outcome thereof; and

(h) the details of the demands that have been fulfilled and the way they have been accomplished?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Yes Sir, the Government of India has approved continuation of the Centrally Sponsored National Scheme of Welfare of Fishermen in the 10th Plan in all the States/UTs including Gujarat and Tamil Nadu.

(b) The scheme envisages to provide economic security, better living conditions and thereby to enhance the productivity and income of fishers, it has 3 components viz Group Accident Insurance, Saving-cum-relief and development of model fishermen villages comprising of construction of houses, community halls and installation of tubewells for drinking water.

(c) The Central assistance extended under various developmental and welfare schemes for the benefit of fishermen since 2000 till March 31, 2003 is as under:

Year	Amount (Rs. in lakh)
2000-01	6124
2001-02	5636
2002-03	4085

(d) The Budget provision in 2003-04 for these programmes in the fishery sector is Rs. 5200 lakh.

(e) to (h) In view of the demands received from the State Governments and other organisations pertaining to the fishery sector, Central assistance has been released under various schemes and programmes implemented by the Government. The Central assistance of Rs. 1077 lakh and Rs. 2775 lakh has been extended to the Government of Gujarat and Tamil Nadu respectively during the last three years (2000-01 to 2002-03) to implement various programmes for the benefit of fishers.

[English]

Employment Statistics in Organised Sector

4451. SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the latest employment position of organised sector Government of India, State Governments, Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs), Quasi Government, Autonomous Bodies and Private Sector,

(b) placements, retrenchment, normal retirement, death in service and otherwise relinquishment of jobs during each of last three years of each of the sectors mentioned above;

(c) whether there is backlog in preparing employment statistics;

(d) if so, the steps being taken to collate and update employment information;

(e) whether there is mandatory provision for submission and collection of employment relate statistics;

(f) if so, whether the provisions are adhered to strictly; and

(g) if not, the steps being taken to enact stringent law and necessary rules?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI VIJAY GOEL): (a) and (b) As per the information collected through Employment Market Information (EMI) Programme of Directorate General of Employment and Training, estimated employment in the organised sector (public and private) as on March, 1999, 2000 and 2001, Details are given in the Statement enclosed. Sector wise information on placement, retrenchment, normal retirement, death in service and otherwise relinquishment of jobs is not maintained. However, overall employment in the organised sector has declined from 281.13 lakh in 1999 to 277.89 lakh in 2001.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Employment statistics of the organised sector are collected under the provisions of Employment Exchanges (Compulsory Notification of Vacancies) Act, 1959.

(f) and (g) Various provisions of the Act on collection of employment statistics are implemented by the respective State/Union Territory Governments. Violations of the provisions, if any, are also dealt by them as per the provisions in the Act.

Statement

Employment in Organised Sector.

	(In lakh)		
Organised Sector	1999	2000	2001
Central Government	33.13	32.73	32.61
State Government	74.58	74.60	74.25
Total Government	107.71	107.33	106.86
Quasi Govt. (Central)	34.72	34.13	32.91
Quasi Govt. (State)	29.14	29.12	29.01
Local Bodies	22.59	22.55	22.61
Total of Quasi Govt. & Local Bodies	86.45	85.80	84.53
Total Public Sector	194.15	193.14	191.38
Private Sector	86.98	86.46	86.52
Total	281.13	279.60	277.89

*[Translation]***Production of Onion in Bihar**

4452. SHRI RAJO SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of annual production of onion in tonnes in Bihar during the last three years;
- (b) the total area under cultivation in the State; and
- (c) the quantity of onion exported by the State during each of the last three years?

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

(a) The estimated production of onion in Bihar during the agricultural years (July-June) 1999-2000, 2000-01 and 2001-02 was 212.3 thousands tonnes, 140.8 thousand tonnes and 134.4 thousand tonnes respectively. The figures for 1999-2000 include Jharkhand, while those for 2000-01 and 2001-02 exclude Jharkhand.

(b) The area under onion cultivation in Bihar during the agricultural years (July-June) 1999-2000, 2000-01 and 2001-02 was 20.0 thousand hectares, 13.8 thousand hectares and 14.9 thousand hectares respectively. The figures for 1999-2000 include Jharkhand, while those for 2000-01 and 2001-02 exclude Jharkhand.

(c) The Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT), Ministry of Commerce & Industry do not maintain figures of exports from individual States. However, the total exports of 'fresh or chilled onion' from the country during the financial years (April-March) 1999-2000, 2000-01 and 2001-02 were 260.5 thousand tonnes, 343.3 thousand tonnes and 441.8 thousand tonnes respectively.

*[English]***Megha Caterers on Lowest Quotation**

4453. SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to refer to the reply given to the Unstarred Question No. 5798 dated given in Lok Sabha on August 30, 2001 and state:

- (a) whether 'Megha Caterers' was appointed on lowest quotation basis after inviting tenders;
- (b) if so, the details of three tenders and their rates and reasons why the same contractor is allowed to continue instead of going for fresh quotations every year;
- (c) whether almost the entire requirement of men and material for running the Hostel Mess has been provided by IASRI; 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 tenders were invited during 1998-99 and on the basis of lowest rates, contract was awarded to M/s Megha Caterers. The contract was extended for a further period of one year based on the satisfactory performance of the contractor recommended by a committee of officers. However, during 2000-2001 fresh tenders were invited in which 4 firms quoted their rates and the rate of M/s Megha Caterers was lowest as per details of tenders given in the enclosed statement and hence the contract was awarded to the same firm again.

(c) No Sir.

(d) Not Applicable.

Statement**Comparative Statement August, 1998**

Service	M/s K.K. Caterers, 11/201 Dev Nagar, N. Delhi	M/s Nitesh Caterers, T-595/A, Baljit Nagar, N. Delhi	M/s Megha Caterers, B-17, West Patel Nagar, N. Delhi.
1	2	3	4
Morning Tea	Rs. 2.50 per head	Rs. 2.50 per head	Rs. 2.00 per head
Evening Tea	Rs. 2.50 per head	Rs. 2.50 per head	Rs. 2.00 per head

1	2	3	4
Coffee	Not quoted	Rs. 6.00 per head	Not quoted
Breakfast	Rs. 25.00 per head	Rs. 25.00 per head	Rs. 20.00 per head
Lunch	Rs. 35.00 per head	Rs. 40.00 per head	Rs. 30.00 per head
Dinner	Rs. 35.00 per head	Rs. 40.00 per head	Rs. 30.00 per head
Sessional Tea with Biscuits	Not quoted	Not quoted	Rs. 6.00 per head

Comparative Statement August, 2000

Service	M/s Nitesh Caterers T- 595/A, Baljit Ngr., N.D.	M/s Anand Tent House,, K-113, West Patel Ngr, N. Delhi.	M/s Megha Caterers B-17, West Patel Ngr, N. Delhi.	M/s K.K. Caterer 11/201, Dev Nagar, Karol Bagh, N.D.
Bed Tea	Rs. 2.50	Rs. 2.50	Rs. 2.50	Rs. 2.50
Break fast (2 eggs omlete/4 bread Butter with comflower)	Rs. 25.00	Rs 20.00	Rs. 20.00	Rs. 25.00
Sessional tea using tea dip pouches (morning & Evening) with Biscuits	Rs. 2.50+2.50	Rs.10.00	Rs. 6.00+6.00	Rs. 10.00
Evening Tea	Rs. 2.50	Rs. 2.50	Rs. 2.00	Rs. 2.50
Lunch (2 vegetables, 1 dal, 1 dahi, 1 salad, 1 papad, rice, chapati, 1 fruit/sweet)	Rs. 40.00	Rs. 35.00	Rs. 30.00	Rs. 35.00
Dinner (2 vegetables, 1 dal, 1 dahi, 1 salad, 1 papad, rice, chapati, 1 fruit/sweet)	Rs. 40.00	Rs. 35.00	Rs. 30.00	Rs. 35.00

Information System for Agricultural Experiments

4454. SHRI CHANDRA PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the 'Design of Experiments' Division of Indian Agriculture Statistics Research Institute has built up an information system for agricultural field experiments;

(b) if so, the details of different database components and period of conduct of the most recent experiment covered;

(c) the number of experiments devoted to crop and animal categories, cereals, horticulture, tuber, oilseeds, flowers and vegetables, sugarcane, fisheries, livestock and poultry;

(d) whether the plant breeding experiments and experiments dealing with bio-assay, biometry were conducted using any standard designs; and

(e) if so, the details of such experiments and designs used thereof?

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Information on Agricultural Field Experiments has been divided into following eight well-defined data base components,

- (i) Identification.
- (ii) Objective.
- (iii) Basal conditions.
- (iv) Treatments.
- (v) Design.
- (vi) General information.
- (vii) Plot-wise data.
- (viii) Results.

The most recent experiments in the system have been conducted during the year 2000.

(c) The information system caters to agricultural field experiments on annual crops (excluding purely varietal trials) only. The number of experiments devoted to various crops and animal categories are as given below.

Commodity	No. of Expts.
1	2
Cereals	8000
Horticulture	—
Vegetables & Tubers	1073
Oilseeds	3599
Flowers	—

1	2
Sugarcane	1205
Fisheries	—
Livestock	—
Poultry	—

(d) Not known Sir, Agricultural Field Experiment Information System does not contain details of such experiments.

(e) Not Applicable.

Modernisation of Irrigation Projects

4455. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of proposals for modernisation of irrigation projects submitted by various State Governments to the Union Government during the last three years;

(b) whether the Government have cleared the proposals;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to clear the remaining proposals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (c) During the last three years various State Governments have submitted 11 number (7 major and 4 medium) proposals for modernization of irrigation projects to the Union Government. Out of these 11 proposals, 6 projects (5 major and 1 medium) have been techno-economically accepted by the Advisory Committee of Ministry of Water Resources subject to compliance of certain observations. State-wise details of these proposals are given in the *statement* enclosed.

(d) The clearance of the projects depends upon the promptness with which the State Governments arrange to provide compliance to the observations of the Central appraising agencies.

Statement

(As on 31.3.2003)

Sl. No.	Name of Project	State	Major/ Medium	Date of Receipt	Estimated cost Rs. in crore	Category
1.	Mahanadi Reservoir Project	Chhattisgarh	Major	07/2001	566.88	B
2.	Mod. of Ahji canal	Jammu & Kashmir	Medium	04/2000	7.96	A
3.	Mod. of Lar canal (Budgam)	Jammu & Kashmir	Medium	04/2000	6.63	A
4.	Drainage development (Phase-I) in Mahanadi delta stage-I & II	Orissa	Major	02/2000	227.75	A
5.	Raising of Lining of Bhakra Main Canal	Punjab	Major	03/2002	26.69	A
6.	Raising of Lining /Bank of Srihind Feeder	Punjab	Medium	05/2001	13.75	A
7.	Punjab Irrigation Project (Lining of Channels) under RIDF Fund	Punjab	Medium	02/2000	49.02	B
8.	Rajasthan Water Sector Restructuring Project	Rajasthan	Major	01/2001	745.59	B
9.	Improving Water Management in existing Sarda Canal System	Uttar Pradesh	Major	07/2001	102.41	B
10.	Mod of Lachura Dam	Uttar Pradesh	Major	04/2002	94.18	B
11.	Uttar Pradesh Water Sector Restructuring Project	Uttar Pradesh	Major	04/2001	663.41 (Provisional)	D

Category:

- A. Under Correspondence.
- B. Put up to Advisory Committee & Accepted Subject to Observations.
- D. Pending with Planning Commission for Investment Clearance.

Exemption From EPFO

4456. SHRIMATI REENA CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of Public Sector Undertakings have sought exemption from the Employees Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO);

(b) if so, the details of undertakings which have sought exemption in this regard; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI VIJAY GOEL):

(a) Applications have been received from a number of Public Sector Undertakings for grant of exemption from the provisions of the Employees' Provident Fund Scheme, 1952.

(b) There are 115 establishments which have sought exemption from the provisions of Employees' Provident Fund Scheme, 1952.

(c) These proposals for grant of exemption are at various stages of consideration.

VRS in IA

4457. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have approved a new Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) for non-operating employees in the Indian Airlines (IA);

(b) if so, the salient features of the new VRS;

(c) the number of employees expected to avail of the new VRS; and

(d) the funds required for making payments under the new VRS?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) to (d) The Board of Directors of Indian Airlines has approved a revised Voluntary Retirement Scheme on 27.3.2003. The proposed scheme of Indian Airlines is under consideration of the Government.

Projects of ANIIDCO

4458. SHRI A.C. JOS: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Andaman and Nicobar Islands Integration Development Corporation (ANIIDCO) has been set up for the economic development of Andaman and Nicobar Islands;

(b) the number of projects that have been set up by ANIIDCO so far through joint venture or by extending loan in different sectors; and

(c) the total cost of such projects indicating the employment generated thereby and targeted future plans in this regard, sector-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI VIJAY GOEL):

(a) to (c) Ministry of Labour does not maintain such information. The same will be collected from Andaman and Nicobar Islands Integration Development Corporation and made available.

Linking of Brahmaputra with National Rivers

4459. SHRI M.K. SUBBA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to link Brahmaputra with other national rivers; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) and (b) National Perspective Plan for transferring water from water surplus basins to water deficit area was prepared in 1980. National Water Development Agency (NWDA) was established in 1982 as an autonomous society to carryout water balance and other studies and prepare feasibility reports. Under Himalayan Component of National Perspective, interlinking of Manas and Sankosh, both tributaries of Brahmaputra, with Tista and Ganga known as Manas-Sankosh-Tista-Ganga link is envisaged. As per pre-feasibility studies carried out by NWDA, Manas-Sankosh-Tista-Ganga link envisages irrigation benefits to the States of Assam, West Bengal and Bihar besides hydro-power benefits and navigation facilities between Manas and Mahananda barrage.

Affairs of Crown Express

4460. SHRI AMBAREESHA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to refer to the reply given to the Unstarred Question No. 5079 dated December 21, 2000 and state:

(a) whether the Crown Express has again requested the Union Government for permission to start the airlines in the country;

(b) if so, whether the company has fulfilled all the requirements/conditions now; and

(c) if so, the details of the Chairman and Board of Directors of the Company?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

NGO's Involved in Environmental Protection

4461. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of schemes to encourage NGOs participation in environmental awareness;

(b) the details about the participation of NGOs of Mumbai for the last three years including the details of projects and finance made available to them;

(c) the terms, conditions and qualification fixed to get qualified; and

(d) the valuation of such projects undertaken in Mumbai?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV): (a) Environment Education, Awareness and Training scheme of the Ministry encourages participation of NGOs in creation of environmental awareness. The scheme has the following programmes:

- National Environment Awareness Campaign.
- National Green Corps.
- Mass Awareness Campaign.
- Seminars/Symposia/Workshops/Conferences.
- Professional Societies and Institutions.
- Publication of resource material related to environment.

(b) Details are given in the statement enclosed.

(c) Institutions/organisations/registered voluntary professional organisation/trust having proven credential and experience in environmental field and recognized under the Societies Registration Act for minimum three years and raising audited accounts are eligible for seeking financial assistance from the Ministry.

(d) Monitoring of the activities conducted by the various organisations is done on random basis by the officials of the Ministry as well as the Regional Resource Agencies.

Statement*List of NGOs from Mumbai who received financial assistance during 2000-2003*

Sl.No.	Name of NGO	Project	Grant (in Rs.)	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5
1.	NEEM Foundation, 67-A, Vitthalnagar Society, road # 12, JUHU Scheme, Mumbai-400 049.	NEEM-2002 World NEEM Conference 27th-30th Nov., 2002	60,000	Grant yet to be released
2.	Micro-biologist Society, Budhwar Peth, Bhumi Tower, Karad,	Publication of proceedings of an international conference on Bio-technology in agriculture, industry and environment held on 28th-30th Dec, 2001.	40,000	Grant yet to be released

1	2	3	4	5
3.	Chembur Sarvankash Shikshan Sanstha Raamkrishna Chemburkar Marg, Chembur Naka, Mumbai.	Under NEAC	*5,000	2000-01
4.	Centre for Cultural Relations Shanti Niketan off. 327, Near Bld. No. 10, Hari Mandir Road, GTB Nagar, Koliwada, Mumbai-37	Under NEAC	5,000	2000-01
5.	Himali Samajik Pratishthan Irani Chawl No. 3/501 Railway Gate No. 6, Whiwri, Mumbai	Under NEAC	5,000	2000-01
6.	K.J. Somiya Medical College & Research Centre Somaiya Ayurvihar Complex Eastern Highway, Sion, Mumbai	Under NEAC	5,000	2000-01
7.	Centre For Cultural Relations Shanti Niketna, Office 327, Near Building No. 10, Hari Mandir Road, Gtb Nagar, Koliwada, Mumbai	Under NEAC	6,000	2001-02
8.	Yuvak Biradani (Bharat) Hazarimal Somani Marg, Near Capital Cinema Mumbai	Under NEAC	5,000	2001-02
9.	Centre For Cultural Relations, Shantiniketan Office 327 Hari Manohar Road GTB Nagar, Koliwada, Mumbai	Under NEAC	9000	2002-03
10.	S K S Chakshu Foundation 308 Nirman Kendra Dr. E Moses Road Near Famous Studio Mahalaxmi, Mumbai	Under NEAC	5400	2002-03
11.	Yuvak Biradani Hazarimal Somani Marg, Near Capital Cinema Opp- C S T (V.T.) Mumbai	Under NEAC	5400	2002-03

Subsidy for Slaughter Houses

4462. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Planning Commission has reduced allocation of funds for subsidising slaughter houses in Tenth Plan; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the incentives being given to Meat and Poultry processing units?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Food Processing Industries is implementing Plan Scheme for providing financial assistance for development of food processing industries including meat and poultry processing and modernization of slaughter houses. There is no separate allocation of funds for subsidizing slaughter houses either in the 9th Plan or 10th Plan. The plan scheme for setting up/modernisation/technology upgradation of units under which financial assistance at

25% of the cost of capital equipments and technical civil works upto Rs. 50 lakhs in general areas and 33.33% upto Rs. 75 lakhs in difficult areas is given by way of grant, which is available for setting up of Poultry & Meat processing units also.

Eco-Tourism

4463. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to make changes in Forest Conservation Act by which non-protected areas of forest and wildlife divisions can be developed for eco-tourism;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons thereto;

(c) whether the Maharashtra Government has sent any proposal to the Union Government in this regard; and

(d) if so, by when the proposal is likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) and (b) The Union Ministry of Environment and Forests has informed that the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 is a regulatory Act and not a prohibitory Act. Non-protected areas of forests and wildlife can be developed for eco-tourism subject to clearances under the Act and other relevant Acts and rules.

(c) and (d) The Ministry of Tourism has not received any request from the State Government of Maharashtra for amendment of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for development of non-protected areas of forests and wildlife for eco-tourism.

Acquisition of Tughlaqabad

4464. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the entire village of Tughlaqabad is being acquired by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) rendering about 50,000 people homeless;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the programme of rehabilitation of the displaced?

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

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

Employment Exchange

4465. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWASI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to open more Employment Exchanges in the country including Andhra Pradesh in the coming years;

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

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken or being taken by the Government for easy registration of job seekers in the States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI VIJAY GOEL):

(a) and (b) Employment exchanges function under the administrative and financial control of the respective State/ Union Territory (UT) Governments. Decision regarding opening of new employment exchanges is taken by the respective State/U.T. Government depending on the local requirements.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) State/U.T. Governments are undertaking computerization of the working of employment exchanges which will further improve the registration placement and other activities of the employment exchanges.

Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited

4466. SHRI VILAS MUTTEWAR: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (RINL) have finalized a road map to exploit the locational advantage to the automobiles fastener, engineering, electrode and other industry hubs in the country to enhance the production of steel and to cater to the requirements of all these sectors;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the present installed capacity of RINL and the extent to which the demand of finished steel is being met by it;

(d) the present demand and supply position of RINL as on date;

(e) whether RINL propose to enhance its capacity to meet the increasing demand of steel both in the domestic and in the export market; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) In view of (a) does not arise.

(c) The rated capacity of Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd. (RINL) is 3.0 million tonnes of liquid steel and 2.656 million tonnes of saleable steel. Against this RINL produced 3.357 million tonnes of liquid steel and 3.056 million tonnes of saleable steel during the financial year 2002-03 thereby meeting approximately 25% of the demand for the range of long products being manufactured by RINL (figures are provisional and unaudited).

(d) In India the total demand for the range of long steel products produced by RINL is 12 million tonnes. Besides RINL, SAIL, TISCO and other secondary producers also cater to this demand. During the year 2002-03 RINL supplied 3.056 million tonnes of long products. (figures are provisional and unaudited).

(e) and (f) At present no specific plans for enhancing capacity of the plant are under the consideration of the Government.

Distribution of Genetically Modified Food Among the School Children

4467. DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the genetically modified food have negative impact on human beings;

(b) if so, whether the Government are aware that GM Star Link corn imported from USA was distributed among the school children in the country;

(c) if so, the details in this regard and the number of such incidences in the country during the last three years; and

(d) the action taken against the organizations/ individuals responsible for such imports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV): (a) All genetically modified food are tested for toxicity and allergenicity prior to its approval for human consumption.

(b) The Government has not received any report regarding distribution of GM Star Link Corn imported from USA among the school children in the country. However, in the absence of any certification from the US regulatory agency to the effect that the Corn Soya Blend (CSB) imported by CARE and CRS through USAID, does not contain GM Starlink corn, the Genetic Engineering Approval Committee (GEAC) recently refused the proposal for import of CSB into the country.

(c) and (d) Does not arise.

Pilferage of Fruits and Vegetables

4468. SHRI DILEEP SANGHANI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Mother Dairy's (fruits and vegetables plant at Mangolpuri has been hiring private trucks/matadors for delivery of fruits and vegetables to its various booths;

(b) if so, whether the owners/drivers and helpers of the vehicles are pilferaging most of the fruits and vegetables and the booths are not supplied proper quantity as demanded them;

(c) if so, the details of such incidents which have come to the notice of the plant during the last three years; and

(d) the action taken against them during the said period?

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

(b) No, Sir. The booths are generally supplied quantities as per the demand raised by the concessionaires.

(c) and (d) Not applicable in view of (b) above.

Security of Monuments

4469. SHRI Y.V. RAO: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether CISF is likely to take over security of the historical monuments;

(b) if so, the details of the monuments that will be provided security cover by CISF; and

(c) whether CISF has sufficient manpower and know how to deal with the security of such monuments?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) and (b) The CISF is looking after the security at Taj Mahal, Agra with effect from 1st May, 2002 and Red Fort, Delhi with effect from 8th April, 2003.

(c) Whenever it is agreed with Ministry of Home Affairs that security of a particular historical monument should be entrusted to CISF, the same is organized on a case to case basis.

Inspection and Improvement of Game Sanctuaries

4470. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government sends teams of officers to inspect and improve various game sanctuaries in the country;

(b) if so, the number of teams who have visited the game sanctuaries during the last three years;

(c) the details and findings of such teams; and

(d) the steps the Government propose to take for further improvement of such sanctuaries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV): (a) to (c) The management planning and its implementation for improvement of sanctuaries is carried out by the respective State/UT governments. The inspection is carried out by the concerned State officials. The Government of India reviews the progress from time-to-time and suggests measures for improvement of sanctuaries.

(d) The steps taken to further improve national parks/sanctuaries include:

1. A National Wildlife Action Plan 2002-2016 has been prepared and adopted under the chairmanship of the Prime Minister wherein wildlife priority areas and projects have been identified for implementation.

2. The Wild Life (Protection) Act 1972 has been amended making it more stringent.

River Erosion

4471. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have identified the rivers which are causing damage to agricultural lands as well as residential areas in Orissa due to erosion every year;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action plan initiated, if any, to save those areas from erosion and to check the river erosion in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) and (b) Flood control including erosion caused by rivers being a State subject, the responsibility of planning, funding, executing and operating these schemes primarily rests with the concerned State Government. The assistance rendered by the Central Government is technical, catalytic and promotional in nature.

(c) However, Government of India has proposed a Centrally Sponsored Scheme, namely, "Critical anti erosion works in coastal and other than Ganga Basin States" including Orissa with a Central share of Rs. 30 crore which interalia includes Rs. 10 crore for anti river erosion works. A scheme to be identified by the Government of Orissa would be included in the above Centrally Sponsored Scheme for which the matter has been taken up with the State Government.

Interconnectivity of National Zoological Parks

4472. SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:
SHRI C.N. 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 the Government are planning to connect them by networking;

(e) if so, by when these are likely to be inter-connected;

(f) the number of foreign/domestic tourists visited these parks and sanctuaries during the year 2000, 2001 and 2002; and

(g) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to increase the tourist inflow?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV): (a) State-wise list of National Parks and Sanctuaries is enclosed as Statement. The zoo at Delhi is named as National Zoological Park.

(b) The information is not collected and collated in the Ministry.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. Due to fragmentation of wildlife habitat it is not possible to achieve their country wide networking.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) The national parks and wildlife sanctuaries are under the administrative control of State governments. The details on number of tourists visiting national parks and wildlife sanctuaries is not collected and collated at the level of Central Government.

(g) Under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes like Project Tiger and Development of national parks and sanctuaries, Government of India provides technical and financial support for development of Interpretation Centres and eco-tourism in national parks and sanctuaries.

Statement

State-wise List of National Parks and Sanctuaries

S.No.	Name of the State	National Parks	Sanctuaries
1	2	3	4
1.	Andaman	9	96
2.	Andhra Pradesh	4	22
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	2	11
4.	Assam	5	15
5.	Bihar	1	11
6.	Chandigarh	0	2
7.	Chhattisgarh	3	10

1	2	3	4
8.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	—	1
9.	Daman & Diu	0	1
10.	Delhi	0	1
11.	Goa	1	6
12.	Gujarat	4	21
13.	Haryana	1	9
14.	Himachal Pradesh	2	32
15.	Jammu & Kashmir	4	16
16.	Jharkhand	1	10
17.	Karnataka	5	21
18.	Kerala	3	12
19.	Lakshadweep	—	1
20.	Madhya Pradesh	9	25
21.	Maharashtra	5	33
22.	Manipur	1	5
23.	Meghalaya	2	3
24.	Mizoram	2	6
25.	Nagaland	1	3
26.	Orissa	2	18
27.	Punjab	0	10
28.	Rajasthan	4	24
29.	Sikkim	1	6
30.	Tamil Nadu	5	20
31.	Tripura	0	4
32.	Uttar Pradesh	1	23
33.	Uttaranchal	6	6
34.	West Bengal	5	15
Total		89	499

Conservation of Water Resources

4473. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:
SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY:
SHRI BHASKARRAO PATIL:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have formulated strategies to conserve water reserves in the country;

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

(c) whether the State Governments and Union Territories have been directed to conserve water reserves in their respective States/UTs; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) and (b) Water being a State subject, schemes are planned, formulated, implemented and funded by the State Governments out of their own resources and as per their own priorities. It is primarily the responsibility of the concerned State Government to inter-alia conserve the water reserves.

Through the concerted efforts of State Governments, a large number of major and medium projects providing 177 BCM of storage capacity have been created. Another 207.77 BCM of storage is likely to be created through ongoing and proposed projects. To help the State Governments in their efforts to complete ongoing schemes early, Government of India has launched Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) Since 1996-97. Under the Programme, financial assistance in the form of Central loan is being extended to State Governments.

(c) and (d) National Water Resources Council, under the Chairmanship of the Prime Minister of India, has adopted the National Water Policy-2002 which also stipulates conservation of water. The relevant provisions of the policy are as under:

"Efficiency of utilisation in all the diverse uses of water should be optimised and an awareness of water as a scarce resource should be fostered. Conservation consciousness should be promoted through education, regulation, incentives and disincentives."

"The resources should be conserved and the availability augmented by maximising retention, eliminating pollution and minimising losses. For this, measures like selective linings in the conveyance system, modernization and rehabilitation of existing systems including tanks, recycling and re-use of treated effluents and adoption of traditional techniques like mulching or pitcher irrigation and new techniques like drip and sprinkler may be promoted, wherever feasible."

The National Water Policy has been sent to all the State Governments/Union Territories for implementation. The policy also directs that each State shall formulate its own State Water Policy backed with an operational Action Plan in a time bound manner say in two years to achieve the desired objectives of the Policy.

[*Translation*]

Room Tariffs

4474. DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA:
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI:

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

(a) whether the room tariffs in Indian hotels is higher in comparison to hotels in foreign countries such as Dubai, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand and Sri Lanka;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the difference of tariffs in Indian and foreign hotels;

(d) whether tax component in tariffs is higher in India than that of foreign countries; and

(e) if so, the percentage of tax levied in foreign countries and in India?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) to (c) Hotels in India are not more expensive than comparable hotels in other neighbouring countries such as Thailand, Malaysia etc. Although the published tariff in some Indian 5-star deluxe hotels is perceived to be high, in actual practice the realised rate is much lower than the published tariff because of the discount policy of the hotels.

The Government of India, Department of Tourism, however, does not regulate the room tariff of hotels. It is determined by market forces.

(d) and (e) The tax on room tariff in neighbouring countries, varies between 0% in China to 9.91% in Indonesia.

With effect from 1st June, 2003, Expenditure Tax on room tariff of hotels has been withdrawn. Luxury Tax charged by the State Government on room tariff varies between 0% to 25%.

[English]

Performance of Khadi Gramodyog

4475. SHRI J.S. BRAR: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Khadi Gramodyog branches functioning in the country indicating their financial performance during 2000-01, 2001-02 and 2002-03, States and Union Territory-wise;

(b) the areas where these branches are earning profits and where these are running into losses;

(c) the steps being taken to popularize use of khadi by common men and women;

(d) whether the Government propose to make khadi compulsory for school children dresses up to VIII standard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI SANGH PRIYA GAUTAM): (a) The requisite details for the years 1999-00, 2000-01 and 2001-02 are given in the enclosed

statement-I. Information in respect of the year 2002-03 is under compilation.

(b) The profit/loss statement of these sales branches are given in the enclosed statement-II.

(c) The following important steps have been taken to popularize the use of Khadi:-

- (i) Tie-up arrangement with National Institute of Design (NID), Ahmedabad and National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT) for design development has been established. Action has been initiated for product design and packaging to impress upon the consumers.
 - (ii) Stiff and soft finishing process of khadi cloth has been launched on pilot basis with the help of Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), New Delhi, which is expected to enhance the popularity of khadi textiles.
 - (iii) An exclusive garments for women namely "Khubsoorat Khadi" has been designed and marketed.
 - (iv) Availing expertise to NGOs like Dastakar Andhra and Rural Development Agency (RUDA) Rajasthan to improve the quality as well as imparting training to khadi artisans with an intention to attract more consumers.
 - (v) In order to attract the potential consumers by improving the quality of Khadi products sliver plants in different parts of the country were set up so that quality slivers could be supplied.
- (d) No, Sir.
- (e) Does not arise.

Statement I

Sale Performance of Khadi Gramodyog Branches (Bhawans) During Last Three Years

(Rs. in lakhs)

S.No.	Bhawans	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02
1	2	3	4	5
A.	North Zone			
1.	KGB, New Delhi	937.05	1545.28	1370.80
2.	Gramshilpa, New Delhi	128.56	163.26	202.79

1	2	3	4	5
B.	South Zone			
3.	KGB, Ernakulam	239.94	274.12	306.91
4.	KGB, Bangalore	168.52	132.99	100.30
C.	East Zone			
5.	KGB, Patna	97.54	51.26	42.18
6.	KGB, Kolkata	256.12	311.86	281.04
7.	Gramshilpa, Darjeeling	1.97	2.31	2.83
8.	KGB, Bhubaneswar	2.51	3.12	4.07
9.	C.V. Bhubaneswar	72.39	125.45	46.12
10.	KGB, Siliguri	8.98	13.37	2.91
D.	West Zone			
11.	KGB, Ahmedabad	182.70	72.78	57.98
12.	KGB, Mumbai	77.23	101.36	49.36
13.	KGB, Goa	29.92	32.11	32.55
14.	KGB, Silvassa	2.08	2.09	4.85
E.	Central Zone			
15.	KGB, BR. Bhopal	100.59	87.26	68.72
16.	KGB, JC. Bhopal	10.79	9.90	9.11
17.	KGB, Dehradun	11.12	5.66	4.78
F.	North Eastern Zone			
19.	KGB, Shillong	10.32	14.26	7.98
20.	KGB, Agartala	6.40	13.57	10.53

Statement II*Profit/Loss Performance of Khadi Gramodyog Branches (Bhawans) During Last Three years*

(Rs. in lakhs)

S.No.	Bhawans	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02
1	2	3	4	5
A.	North Zone			
1.	KGB, New Delhi	(-) 40.76	29.96	30.04
2.	Gramshilpa, New Delhi	(-) 20.94	(-) 10.52	(-) 7.55

1	2	3	4	5
B. South Zone				
3.	KGB, Ernakulam	0.75	1.26	2.07
4.	KGB, Bangalore	(-) 9.75	(-) 13.54	(-) 14.63
C. East Zone				
5.	KGB, Patna	(-) 19.12	9-) 16.50	(-) 15.20
6.	KGB, Kolkata	(-) 29.98	(-) 32.18	(-) 28.73
7.	Gramshilpa, Darjeeling	(-) 1.97	(-) 2.06	(-) 2.34
8.	KGB, Bhubaneswar	(-) 2.58	(-) 2.69	(-) 3.52
9.	C.V. Bhubaneswar	(-) 2.86	(-) 3.38	(-) 9.17
10.	KGB, Siliguri	(-) 1.87	(-) 0.52	(-) 0.88
D. West Zone				
11.	KGB, Ahmedabad	(-) 5.76	(-) 15.24	(-) 13.86
12.	KGB, Mumbai	(-) 5.84	9-) 7.87	(-) 15.48
13.	KGB, Goa	0.03	0.03	0.06
14.	KGB, Silvassa	0.20	0.02	0.10
E. Central Zone				
15.	KGB, BR. Bhopal	(-) 12.92	(-) 17.43	(-) 15.44
16.	KGB, JC. Bhopal	(-) 4.00	(-) 3.39	(-) 4.06
17.	KGB, Dehradun	(-) 4.17	(-) 4.92	(-) 5.58
F. North Eastern Zone				
19.	KGB, Shillong	(-) 1.49	(-) 0.46	(-) 0.65
20.	KGB, Agartala	0.32	0.11	(-) 0.20

(-) = Loss making Bhavans.

[Translation]

Modernisation of Airports in M.P. and Chhattisgarh

4476. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the projects launched in Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh during the last three years to modernise the airports and air services;

(b) whether the works on these projects are going on as per the schedule; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) Airports Authority of India (AAI) has completed the construction of car park and allied works at Indore Airport in February, 2002 at a cost of Rs. 1.92 crores. Works relating to construction of new terminal building and allied works at Jabalpur Airport at a cost of Rs. 7.46 crores and for strengthening and extension of runway from 6000 ft. to 7500 ft. and associated works at Khajuraho Airport at a cost of Rs. 21.78 crores are in progress and are

likely to be completed in May, 2003 and September, 2003 respectively. Requisitions have already been sent to the concerned State Governments for acquiring the required land for the schemes relating to extension of runway at Indore Airport from 7500 ft. to 9000 ft., Bhopal Airport from 6700 ft. to 7500 ft. and Raipur Airport from 6000 ft. to 7500 ft.

At present, Madhya Pradesh is connected by Alliance Air with a daily flight on Delhi-Bhopal-Indore-Mumbai and return sector and a thrice weekly flight on Delhi-Agra-Khajuraho-Varanasi and return sector and by Jet Airways with a twice daily flight on Mumbai-Indore-Mumbai sector, a daily flight each on Mumbai-Bhopal Mumbai, Delhi-Indore-Bhopal-Delhi (effective from 16.4.2003) and Delhi-Varanasi-Khajuraho and return sectors.

Chhattisgarh is, at present, connected by Alliance Air with a six flights a week service on Delhi-Nagpur-Raipur and return sector and a weekly flight on Delhi-Raipur-Nagpur-Delhi sector. Indian Airlines is operating a thrice weekly flight on Mumbai-Raipur-Bhubaneswar-Mumbai sector, the frequency of which is being increased to a daily flight w.e.f. 16.4.2003.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

[*English*]

Revolving Fund Projects of I.A.S.R.I.

4477. KUMARI BHAVANA PUNDLIKRAO GAWALI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the revolving fund project of Indian Agricultural Statistics Research Institute (IASRI) has generated profit by March, 2003;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of deviations from original project proposal and following one/two/three week (s) trainings schedule during last three years, year-wise number of trainings, average number of participants per training, profit obtained by March 2003 for three training categories;

(d) whether the above 21 days' training is recognized by Education Division of ICAR for the purpose to career advancement of scientists; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

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

(a) Yes, Sir. Revolving fund Scheme at IASRI has generated profit by March, 2003.

(b) Details are given in the statement.

(c) Details are given in the statement enclosed.

(d) No, Sir. It has not been recognized by Education Division of ICAR for the purpose of career advancement of Scientists.

(e) Not applicable.

Statement

The table below shows the profits generated over last five years:

S.No.	Year	Profit Generated (Rs.)
1.	1998-99	55,185
2.	1999-00	3,34,574
3.	2000-01	3,43,448
4.	2001-02	4,04,078
5.	2002-03	6,61,286
Total		17,98,571

There is no deviation from the approved project proposal. Approved project proposal does not specify the number of trainings for one/two/three weeks but the total number training weeks in a year have been indicated. As such the trainings have been as per the approval and the schedules for last three years are given below:

The training schedule for the year 2000-2001

S.No.	Training Program	Period
1.	MS-Office-97 (I)	03.04.2000 to 08.04.2000
2.	MS-Office-97 (II)	10.04.2000 to 15.04.2000
3.	MS-Office-97 (II)	08.05.2000 to 13.05.2000
4.	Visual Basic	22.05.2000 to 03.06.2000
5.	Web Programming & Internet Technologies	19.06.2000 to 01.07.2000
6.	Building MIS using Visual Basic & Access	10.07.2000 to 22.07.2000
7.	MS-Office-2000 (I)	31.07.2000 to 05.08.2000
8.	MS-Office-2000 (II)	07.08.2000 to 12.08.2000
9.	SPSS	21.08.2000 to 26.08.2000
10.	Web Programming & Internet Technologies	09.10.2000 to 21.10.2000
11.	RDBMS and MS-ACCESS	30.10.2000 to 04.11.2000
12.	MS-Office-2000 (I)	13.11.2000 to 18.11.2000
13.	MS-Office-2000 (II)	20.11.2000 to 25.11.2000
14.	Java Programming	04.12.2000 to 16.12.2000
15.	MS-Office-2000	18.12.2000 to 23.12.2000
16.	Web Designing	26.02.2001 to 03.03.2001
17.	Vishal Basic	12.03.2001 to 24.03.2001
18.	MS-Office-2000 (I)	26.03.2001 to 31.03. 2001

The training schedule for the year 2001-2002

S.No.	Topic	Period
1	2	3
1.	Web Programming & Internet Technologies	16.04.2001 to 28.04. 2001
2.	SPSS	30.04.2001 to 05.05.2001
3.	Oracle-Application Development	14.05.2001 to 26.05.2001
4.	Java Programming & Internet Technologies	28.05.2001 to 09.06.2001
5.	MS-Office-2000 (I)	11.06. 2001 to 16.06.2001
6.	MS-Office-2000 (II)	18.06.2001 to 23.06.2001
7.	MS-Office-2000 (I&II)	25.06..2001 to 07.07.2001
8.	Visual Basic Programming	16.07.2001 to 28.07.2001

1	2	3
9.	MS-Office-2000 (I)	30.07.2001 to 04.08.2001
10.	MS-Office-2000 (II)	13.08.2001 to 18.08.2001
11.	Web Programming & Internet Technologies	20.08.2001 to 01.09.2001
12.	MS-Office-2000 (I)	10.09.2001 to 15.09.2001
13.	SPSS	24.09.2001 to 29.09.2001
14.	Web Designing	15.10.2001 to 20.10.2001
15.	JAVA Programming	29.10.2001 to 09.11.2001
16.	DBMS concepts and MS-Access	19.11.2001 to 24.11.2001
17.	MS-Office-2000 (I)	10.12.2001 to 15.12.2001
18.	MS-Office-2000 (II)	17.12.2001 to 21.12.2001
19.	Web Designing	07.01.2002 to 12.01.2002
20.	C++	21.01.2002 to 2.02.2002
21.	DBMS concepts and MS-Access	11.02.2002 to 16.02.2002
22.	MS-Office-2000 (I & II)	18.02.2002 to 02.03.2002
23.	MS-Office-2000 (I & II)	11.03.2002 to 23.03.2002

The training schedule for the year 2002-2003

S.No.	Topic	Period
1	2	3
1.	Visual Basic	1.4.02 to 13.04.02
2.	DBMS Concepts & Access 2000	15.4.02 to 20.4.02
3.	MS. Office (Basic)	29.4.02 to 4.5.02
4.	Linux (I) & (II)	13.5.02 to 25.5.02
5.	SPSS	27.5.02 to 1.6.02
6.	Oracle	10.6.02 to 22.6.02
7.	Web Programming	24.6.02 to 6.7.02
8.	MS. Office & SPSS	8.7.02 to 17.7.02
9.	MS. Office (I)	29.7.02 to 03.8.02
10.	MS. Office (II)	05.08.02 to 10.8.02
11.	Visual Basic	19.8.02 to 31.8.02
12.	DBMS Concepts & Access 2000	2.9.02 to 7.9.02

1	2	3
13.	Linux (I) & (II)	16.09.02 to 28.09.02
14.	MS. Office (Basic)	30.09.02 to 05.10.02
15.	Web Programming	21.10.02 to 02.11.02
16.	MS. Office (I) & (II)	11.11.02 to 23.11.02
17.	Web Technologies	10.12.02 to 30.12.02
18.	MS. Office 2000 (I & II)	06.01.03 to 18.01.03
19.	Visual Basic	20.01.03 to 01.02.03
20.	Ms. Office 2000 & SPSS	13.02.03 to 05.02.03
21.	Web Designing	24.03.03 to 29.03.03

However, other details for the last three years are given below:

S. No.	Year	Category	Number of Trainings held	Average number of Participants per training	Profit Obtained (Rs.)
1.	2000-01	One week	12	11.17	3,43,448
		Two weeks	6	7.83	
2.	2001-02	One week	14	6.36	4,04,078
		Two weeks	9	6.44	
3.	2002-03	One week	9	9.33	6,61,286
		Two weeks	8*	6.12	
		Three weeks	2	13.5	

*The actual number of trainings proposed were 10 but there was no response for 2 training programs.

Consumption of Fertilizers

4478. SHRI V. VETRISILVAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether consequent to decontrol of phosphatic and potassic fertilizers, the prices of these fertilizers rose sharply resulting in a sharp fall in their consumption;

(b) if so, the extent to which the consumption of these fertilizers has declined;

(c) whether the Government have introduced a separate concession scheme to stimulate the consumption of these fertilizers;

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the amount of concession provided to farmers during the last three years in each State; and

(e) the extent to which the consumption of these fertilizers have been stimulated?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV):
(a) Consequent to decontrol of phosphatic and potassic (P&K) fertilisers on 25-8-1992, the prices of these fertilizers rose considerably resulting into sharp decline in their consumption in 1992-93.

(b) The consumption of Di-Ammonium Phosphate (DAP), Muriate of Potash (MOP), Single Super Phosphate (SSP) and Complexes declined by 10.3%, 42.7%, 36.6% and 5.4% respectively in 1992-93 over their consumption level in 1991-92.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The Government indicates the Maximum Retail Prices (MRP) for decontrolled fertilisers like Di-Ammonium Phosphate (DAP), Muriate of Potash (MOP) and Complex Fertilisers. In case of Single Super Phosphate (SSP), indicative MRPs are fixed by the respective State Governments. To enable sale of these fertilizers at the prices announced by the Government, concession is paid under the Scheme of Concession on sale of decontrolled P&K fertilisers. The benefit of subsidised prices of fertilizers is available to all farmers in all parts of the country.

(e) After a substantial increase in amount of concession for P&K fertilizers on 6.7.96 and 1.4.97, the consumption of DAP, MoP, SSP and Complexes increased considerably by 48.2%, 44.3%, 21.3% and 5.5% respectively in 1997-98, over their consumption in 1996-97. Thereafter, except in 2000-01 and 2002-03 the consumption increased consistently. In 2000-01 and 2002-03 the consumption of most of the fertilizers declined due to severe drought in most parts of the Country.

Rehabilitation of Affected Persons

4479. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to sponsor a central scheme to provide rehabilitation to the people who are displaced due to execution of Irrigation Projects in the country; and

(b) if so, the time by when the scheme would be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) The Government does not have any proposal to sponsor any Central Scheme to provide rehabilitation to the people who are displaced due to execution of irrigation projects in the country. However, the Ministry of Rural Development is processing a draft Project Affected Families (Resettlement and Rehabilitation) Bill, 2002 on Affected Persons/Families for Projects displacing 1000 or more families which inter-alia includes resettlement and rehabilitation of people displaced due to construction of irrigation projects in the country.

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Production of Foodgrains/Fruits

4480. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have set a target for production of foodgrains and fruits in the country particularly in Jharkhand during the Tenth Five Year Plan;

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

(c) the extent of investment proposed to be made by the Government for the purpose particularly in Jharkhand State; and

(d) the steps being by the Government to achieve the said target?

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.

[English]

Death of Olive Ridley Sea Turtles

4481. DR. M.V.V.S. MURTHI:
SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:

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

(a) whether the Central Empowered Committee has submitted its report on the death of Olive Ridley Sea Turtles along Orissa coast;

(b) if so, the details of suggestions and recommendations made by the Committee; and

(c) the action taken by the Government on the said Committee?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV): (a) to (c) The Central Empowered Committee constituted by the Supreme Court of India have given directions to the State Government of Orissa on Application

Number 46 regarding measures to be undertaken for protection and safeguarding of turtles. These directions include, inter alia, the following:

1. To strictly enforce the judgment of Orissa High Court dated 14th May 1998 in the CEL-WWF case.
2. Establishment of permanent camps at Devi river mouth and Rushikulaya mouth.
3. Fisheries Department to suspend licenses of fishing boats not using Turtle Excluder Devise.
4. State government to provide the infrastructure required for protection of turtles and safe custody of seized boats/trawlers.
5. All gill net boats operating within 5 kms of the three nesting sites to be banned for three months (date of issue of interim directions: 7-3-03).

Harvesting of Rain Water

4482. SHRI SUNIL KHAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to contemplate any comprehensive plan for harvesting of rain water in the country;

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

(c) the estimated per hectare-expenses for installing water-harvesting system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Water Resources has prepared a Centrally Sponsored Scheme on "Artificial Recharge of Ground Water and Rain Water Harvesting" at an estimated cost of Rs. 3000 crore with funding pattern of 90:10 between the Centre and beneficiaries for implementation during X Five Year Plan and referred it to the Planning Commission for their 'in principle' approval. State-wise details of artificial recharge structures contemplated under the scheme are given in enclosed *statement*.

(c) The cost of water harvesting structures varies from place to place depending upon local geology, including type and size of the structure and other parameters.

Statement

Details of artificial recharge structures contemplated under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme on "Artificial Recharge of Ground Water and Rain Water Harvesting"

S.No.	Name of State/ Union Territory	No. of recharge structures
1.	Andhra Pradesh	570
2.	Bihar & Jharkhand	665
3.	Chhattisgarh	2120
4.	Gujarat	3160
5.	Haryana	12100
6.	Himachal Pradesh	1175
7.	Jammu & Kashmir	400
8.	Karnataka	3200
9.	Kerala	2000
10.	Madhya Pradesh	700
11.	Maharashtra	850
12.	North-Eastern States	3040
13.	Orissa	120
14.	Punjab	14400
15.	Rajasthan	5000
16.	Sikkim	10500
17.	Tamil Nadu	2500
18.	Uttar Pradesh & Uttaranchal	1690
19.	West Bengal	350
20.	NCT of Delhi	15015
21.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	1565
22.	Lakshadweep	200
23.	Chandigarh	500
24.	Daman & Diu	100
25.	Pondicherry	40
26.	Coastal Region	30
Total		81990

[*Translation*]

Increase in Cargo

4483. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the target set and actual increase registered in air cargo handling at major airports during each of the last three years;

(b) the reasons for the decline therein;

(c) the targets set in this regard for the next five years;

(d) the steps being taken to expand and strengthen basic services to deal with the increasing air cargo; and

(e) the amount of investment required to strengthen these services over the next five years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) During the last three years, at metro airports the target set were 491.71 in 2000-01, 526.78 in 2001-02 and 564.36 in 2002-03 (in thousand Metric Tonnes). The target achieved during these years are 491.71, 488.34 and 549.43 (upto February 2003) in thousand Metric Tonnes respectively.

(b) The decline for the year 2001-2002 is due to the after effects of attack on World Trade Centre on 11.9.2001.

(c) The target set for the next five years from 2003-04 to 2007-08 are 604.63, 647.79, 694.05, 743.61 and 796.75 (in thousand Metric Tonnes) respectively.

(d) The steps taken for modernisation of cargo handling facilities at the airports are that at Mumbai, the State-of-the-art centre for perishable cargo has been constructed for processing of perishable cargo. At Delhi, works regarding expansion of Import ago Terminal, installation of second Elevated Transfer Vehicle (ETV) with stacker system and creation of an area for handling of courier/express bags have been completed. At Chennai, Integrated Cargo Terminal for handling of export cargo with provision of modern ETV has been constructed. At Kolkata there are plans for construction of Integrated Cargo Terminal for import and export cargo and state-of-the-art centre for perishable cargo. Besides there are plans for provision of Electronic Data Interchange (EDI),

connectivity through internet for on-line cargo transaction between AAI and its trade partners and implementation of Automatic Data Capturing System namely Bar Code System in the cargo handling activities.

(e) AAI has proposal to invest Rs. 99.16 crore to strengthen the infrastructure at four metro airports.

[*English*]

Pneumonia Test at Airport

4484. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether in the wake of reports of unknown form of pneumonia spreading in some Asian countries and Canada the Ministry had issued directions to all the airports in the country to conduct medical tests on all the passengers entering in India; and

(b) if so, the details of the contingency plan prepared by the Ministry in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Suitable instructions have been issued in consultation with Ministry of Health and Ministry of Home Affairs to all airlines to sanitize all aircrafts coming from affected countries. Director General of Health Services (DGHS) has positioned doctors at Health Counters set up at 12 international and 9 Customs airports in India. Health Forms have been made available to Airlines and in immigration areas of above Airports to be filled in by all persons disembarking in India to screen symptoms of suspected/probable Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) cases. As per contingency plan, all the suspected cases are to be transported to designated local hospitals for suitable action. Masks have been supplied at the 5 major airports for the immigration staff performing duty at the Arrival side. Further, World Health Organisation recommended cases definition has been adopted for India and circulated to all concerned organisations. National Institute of Communicable Diseases, Delhi and National Institute of Virology, Pune have been identified as the nodal agencies for investigation of any suspected/probable case. India Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has obtained the required primers for preparing reagents to diagnose the viruses believed to be causing SARS. Media is being kept informed on the efforts made by the

Government to prevent SARS entering the country and to create public awareness.

Incentive to Produce Organic Cotton

4485. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:
SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to give incentive to the farmers to produce organic cotton;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether some State Governments have requested the Union Government for introduction of Organic Cotton Crop Insurance Scheme;

(d) if so, the response of the Union Government thereto; and

(e) by when a final decision is likely to be taken in the matter?

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

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir. The cotton crop is already covered under the National Agricultural Insurance Scheme.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Defaulting Factory Owners

4486. SHRI ARUN KUMAR: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the factory owners of Bihar against whom cases have been filed for not remitting their prescribed share as per rule into the PF; and

(b) the action taken against the defaulting owners?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI VIJAY GOEL):

(a) Some of the establishments have defaulted in the payment of statutory Provident Fund dues throughout the country. The number of establishments who have defaulted for an amount of Rs. 10 lakhs or more is 18, as on March 31, 2002, for the State of Bihar.

(b) Whenever any default is detected, actions under the Sections 7A, 8F, 8B to 8G, 14(1)(A), 14(B) and 7Q of Employees Provident Fund and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952, under Section 406/409 of IPC and under Section 110 of CrPC, are taken against defaulters.

Decline in Cow Milk Production

4487. SHRI MANSINH PATEL:
SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether cow milk production is declining each year;

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

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

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

(a) No Sir. The cow milk production is increasing each year.

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

Scheme for Bidi Workers

4488. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated any scheme to provide housing facility to the bidi workers in the same manner as same hospitals are being run to provide medical assistance to them;

(b) if so, the places in Madhya Pradesh where housing schemes have been approved;

(c) the number of housing units to be constructed at such places and the amount of the housing loan to be provided to the bidi workers;

(d) whether the percentage of interest rate to be charged from the bidi workers would be less or more as compared to the interest rates charged by the banks;

(e) if so, whether the housing units are to be constructed through housing board; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI VIJAY GOEL):
(a) Yes, Sir. Government is implementing an Integrated Housing Scheme for Bidi Workers. Under this Scheme a subsidy at a rate of Rs. 20,000/- per worker, or 50% of actual cost of construction per tenement, whichever is less, is provided.

(b) and (c) The places in Madhya Pradesh where housing schemes have been approved for bidi workers along with number of housing units are given in the enclosed *statement*. Under the Scheme, no loan is provided to the bidi workers by the Central Government.

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

(e) and (f) Under the Integrated Housing Scheme, the houses can be constructed either by the workers themselves, or through a Cooperative Group Housing Society formed by the workers, or by the State Government through an agency nominated by the State Government like State Housing Board.

Statement

Housing Units approved in Madhya Pradesh for bidi workers:

S.No.	Name of Place	No. of housing units sanctioned
1	2	3
1.	Pandya Khedi (Ujjain)	100
2.	Jawra (Ratlam)	100
3.	Gwalior	180
4.	Raghogarh (Guna)	400
5.	Katni	63

1	2	3
6.	Balaghat	07
7.	Damoh	13
8.	Sagar	21
9.	Satna	04
10.	Jabalpur	06
11.	Rewa	03
12.	Indore	01
13.	Gadarwara (Narsinghpur)	01
Total		899

[English]

Fisheries Training and Extension Unit

4489. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of fisheries training and extension units sanctioned since 1998 all over the country and the amount released to various States in this regard, State-wise and year-wise;

(b) whether the Government of Karnataka has requested for such units in the State; and

(c) if so, the number of units sanctioned?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV):
(a) Under the Central Sector Scheme on Fisheries Training and Extension, a total of 37 Training and Extension Units have so far been established in the country since 1998. The State-wise and year-wise details of amount released to various States under this scheme are given in the enclosed *statement*.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) A total of three fish farmers training centre and one awareness centre have been sanctioned to Karnataka State under the scheme.

Statement

Funds released to the States/UTs under Central Sector Scheme on Fisheries Training & Extension Scheme from 1998-99 to 2002-2003

S. No.	State/Union Territory	Funds released (Rs. in lakh)				
		1998-99	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003
1.	Andhra Pradesh	—	2.57	2.00	3.16	
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	3.33	—	—	—	1.72
3.	Assam	—	—	—	—	—
4.	Bihar	—	—	3.00	—	—
5.	Goa	—	—	—	—	—
6.	Gujarat	0.93	—	—	—	—
7.	Haryana	—	—	16.20	8.00	—
8.	Himachal Pradesh	0.50	17.50	—	—	21.33
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	2.80	15.20	12.72	6.96	3.93
10.	Karnataka	0.76	—	17.42	12.50	12.00
11.	Kerala	1.61	—	16.00	—	10.00
12.	Madhya Pradesh	—	—	11.14	—	1.27
13.	Maharashtra	—	—	—	—	14.16
14.	Manipur	—	5.10	—	—	—
15.	Meghalaya	3.42	1.95	—	—	—
16.	Mizoram	—	—	—	—	—
17.	Nagaland	3.33	9.15	18.26	19.19	12.00
18.	Orissa	1.71	—	—	—	—
19.	Punjab	4.02	—	—	16.00	—
20.	Rajasthan	—	12.10	—	—	—
21.	Tamil Nadu	—	—	—	20.00	34.21
22.	Tripura	—	9.00	—	9.00	19.28
23.	Uttar Pradesh	0.25	—	12.55	—	25.66
24.	West Bengal	1.12	17.25	—	—	—
25.	A & Nicobar Island	0.35	—	—	—	—
26.	Daman & Diu	—	—	—	—	—
27.	Sikkim	—	—	2.90	—	4.00
28.	Jharkhand	—	—	—	10.56	—
29.	Chhattisgarh	—	—	—	27.28	—

*[Translation]***Supreme Court Judgement on Ground Water Level**

4490. SHRI SHIVAJI MANE:
SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Supreme Court has pronounced any judgement in regard to ground water-level; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) and (b) The Supreme Court of India vide their Order dated 10.12.1996 in I.A. No. 32 in W.P.(C) No. 4677 of 1985 had taken cognizance of falling ground water level in some parts of the country and directed the Central Government in the Ministry of Environment and Forests to constitute the Central Ground Water Board as an Authority under Section 3(3) of Environment (Protection) Act. 1986 for the purpose of regulation and control ground water management and development. In pursuance of the order of the Honorable Court, the Central Ground Water Board has been constituted as an Authority vide Ministry of Environment and Forest's Notification dated 14.01.1997.

**Scheme for Making Cultivation on
Small Holdings Beneficial**

4491. SHRI RAMSINH RATHWA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to formulate any scheme to make the cultivation on small holdings beneficial;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the results achieved so far after the implementation of the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (c) There is no proposal to formulate a separate scheme for making the farming on small land holdings beneficial. However, various schemes are implemented by the Government to increase the production and productivity and farmers having small holdings also draw benefit from these Schemes.

*[English]***Plan for Cash Crops Farmers**

4492. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware about the problems of cotton and sugarcane farmers;

(b) if so, whether the Government are considering any plan to stabilize the condition of cash drop farmers and industries during the Tenth Plan; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

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

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

VRS in Rourkela Steel Plant

4493. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) is under implementation in Rourkela Steel Plant;

(b) if so, the number of employees opted for VRS during the last three years;

(c) whether all the benefits have been extended to the employees under the schemes;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps being taken by the Government to overcome problems of employees of the plant?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY): (a) Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) 2002-03 was in operation from 1.12.2002 till 31.3.2003. As on date, no VRS is under operation in Rourkela Steel Plant (RSP).

(b) The number of employees of RSP who have opted for VRS during the last three years is as under:

Year	No. opted for VRS
2000-01	No VR Scheme was in operation
2001-02	1251
2002-03	748
Total	1999

(c) The benefits admissible to the employees under the VR Scheme and as per the extant rules of SAIL have been extended to the employees under the VR Scheme.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

12.01 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKMUDEO NARAYAN YADAV): Sir, on behalf of Shri Ajit Singh, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the statement (Hindi and English versions) explaining reasons for not laying the Annual Report and Audited Accounts of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research for the year 2001-2002 within the stipulated period of nine months after the close of the accounting year.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7334/2003]

[English]

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table-

(1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:-

(i) Review by the Government of the working of the National Projects Construction Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002.

(ii) Annual Report of the National Projects Construction Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002, 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 7335/2003]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table-

(1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:-

(i) Review by the Government of the working of the Bharat Refractories Limited, Bokaro Steel City, for the year 2001-2002.

(ii) Annual Report of the Bharat Refractories Limited, Bokaro Steel City, for the year 2001-2002, 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 7336/2003]

(3) A copy of the following Papers (Hindi and English versions):-

(i) Memorandum of Understanding between the Manganese Ore (India) Limited and the Ministry of Steel for the year 2003-2004.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7337/2003]

(ii) Memorandum of Understanding between the National Mineral Development Corporation Limited and the Ministry of Steel for the year 2003-2004.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7338/2003]

(iii) Memorandum of Understanding between the Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited and the Ministry of Steel for the year 2003-2004.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7339/2003]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV):
Sir, I beg to lay on the Table—

(1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (6) of section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955:—

- (i) S.O. 246(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 28th February, 2003 regarding fixation of price of Urea, Zincated Urea and Anhydrous Ammonia with effect from 28th February, 2003.
- (ii) S.O. 285(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 12th March, 2003 regarding fixation of price of Urea, Zincated Urea and Anhydrous Ammonia with effect from 12th March, 2003.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7340/2003]

- (2)
- (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Cooperative Union of India, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002.
 - (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the National Cooperative Union of India, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002, together with Audit Report thereon.
 - (iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Cooperative Union of India, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002.

(3) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (2) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7341/2003]

(4) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:—

- (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Gujarat State Seeds Corporation Limited, Gandhinagar, for the year 2001-2002.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Gujarat State Seeds Corporation Limited, Gandhinagar, for the year 2001-2002, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

(5) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (4) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7342/2003]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJBHAI CHIKHALIA): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table—

(1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:—

- (a) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Punjab Ashok Hotel Company Limited, Chandigarh, for the year 2000-2001.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Punjab Ashok Hotel Company Limited, Chandigarh, for the year 2000-2001, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7343/2003]

- (b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Donyi Polo Ashok Hotel Corporation Limited, Itanagar, for the year 2000-2001.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Donyi Polo Ashok Hotel Corporation Limited, Itanagar, for the year 2000-2001, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General Thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7344/2003]

- (c) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Assam Ashok Hotel Corporation Limited, Guwahati, for the year 2001-2002.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Assam Ashok Hotel Corporation Limited, Guwahati, for the year 2001-2002, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7345/2003]

(d) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Madhya Pradesh Ashok Hotel Corporation Limited, Bhopal, for the year 2001-2002.

(ii) Annual Report of the Madhya Pradesh Ashok Hotel Corporation Limited, Bhopal for the year 2001-2002, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 7346/2003]

(e) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Utkal Ashok Hotel Corporation Limited, Puri, for the year 2001-2002.

(ii) Annual Report of the Utkal Ashok Hotel Corporation Limited, Puri, for the year 2001-2002, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 7347/2003]

(f) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Pondicherry Ashok Hotel Corporation Limited, Pondicherry, for the year 2001-2002.

(ii) Annual Report of the Pondicherry Ashok Hotel Corporation Limited, Pondicherry, for the year 2001-2002, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 7348/2003]

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): Sir, on behalf of Shri Dilip Singh Judev, 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 Andaman and Nicobar Islands Forest and Planation Development Corporation Limited, Port Blair, for the year 2001-2002.

(ii) Annual Report of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands Forest and Plantation Development Corporation Limited, Port Blair, for the year 2001-2002, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 7349/2003]

(2)- (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the C.P.R. Environmental Education Centre, Chennai, for the year 2001-2002, 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 2001-2002.

(3) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (2) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 7350/2003]

(4) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Centre for Environment Education, Ahmedabad, for the year 2001-2002, 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 2001-2002.

(5) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (4) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 7351/2003]

(6) A copy of the Environment (Protection) Fourth Amendment Rules, 2002 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 849(E) in Gazette of India dated the 30th December, 2002 under section 26 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 7352/2003]

(7) A copy of the Notification No. S.O. 99 (E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 28th January, 2003 making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 93(E) dated the 29th January, 1998.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 7353/2003]

12.03 hrs.

**MESSAGE FROM RAJYA SABHA AND BILL
AS PASSED BY RAJYA SABHA**

[English]

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Sir, I have to report the following message received from the Secretary-General of Rajya Sabha:-

"In accordance with the provisions of rule 111 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to enclose a copy of the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) Bill, 2003 which has been passed by the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 9th April, 2003."

2. Sir, I lay on the Table the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) Bill, 2003, as passed by Rajya Sabha on the 9th April, 2003.

12.04 hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

**Thirty-ninth, Fortieth, Forty-first, Forty-second,
Forty-third and Forty-fourth Reports**

[English]

SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY (Narasaraopet): Sir, I beg to present a copy each of the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Finance:

- (1) Thirty-Ninth Report on Demands for Grants (2003-2004) of the Ministry of Finance & Company Affairs (Departments of Economic Affairs and Expenditure);
- (2) Fortieth Report on Demands for Grants (2003-2004) of the Ministry of Finance & Company Affairs (Department of Revenue);
- (3) Forty-first Report on Demands for Grants (2003-2004) of the Ministry of Finance & Company Affairs (Department of Company Affairs);

(4) Forty-second Report on Demands for Grants (2003-2004) of the Ministry of Disinvestment;

(5) Forty-third Report on Demands for Grants (2003-2004) of the Ministry of Planning; and

(6) Forty-fourth Report on Demands for Grants (2003-2004) of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.

12.05 hrs.

**BANKING REGULATION (AMENDMENT)
BILL, 2003***

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): Sir, on behalf of Shri Jaswant Singh, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Banking Regulation Act, 1949.

MR. SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Banking Regulation Act, 1949."

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan is opposing the introduction of the Bill. He can speak now. Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi is also opposing it. He can speak after Shri Radhakrishnan.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): Sir, I rise to bring to the attention of the House a very important matter concerning the consumers of Kerala. There has been a strike by the operators of trucks for the last ten days. The strike is still continuing in spite of the fact that there have been talks held about ending their strike. But it did not actually take place. Now the cost of materials and of essential goods has risen three to four times, especially in the vegetable market. The cost of the vegetables has gone up four to six times and the common man finds it very difficult to purchase anything from the market, especially from the vegetable market. All these goods have to be transported to Kerala from Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and other neighbouring States. The strike is still continuing and in this situation it has become very difficult for the people of Kerala to buy the goods. The Chief Minister of Kerala has said that he would look into the matter. But, so far, nothing has been done. ...*(Interruptions)*

*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2, dated 21.4.2003.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): Sir, the hon. Member is speaking on some other issue. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I agree with you.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Sir, the prices are still going up. The State Government is not in a position to control the situation.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Radhakrishnan, you cannot go into the merits of the Bill right now because the Bill has not been introduced.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Sir, that is why I have given a notice for adjournment motion. I request the Central Government to rise to the occasion and end the strike to help the people.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN (Hajipur): Mr. Speaker Sir, my privilege motion is against the Home Minister of Gujarat. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: It shall be seen after the information is received.

SHRI RASHID ALVI (Amroha): Mr. Speaker, I have given as notice to speak on Gujarat issue during Zero Hour ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Radhakrishnan, do you want to oppose the introduction of the Bill?

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Sir, he is talking about the truckers' strike.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): Mr. Speaker, Sir, ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Radhakrishnan, he is supporting you. Please sit down.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Sir, I thought that the 'Zero Hour' will take place immediately after the Papers were laid on the Table. If it is introduction of the Bill, I have a very serious objection.

MR. SPEAKER: You cannot go into the merits. Normally you have to say whether you oppose it or not. You are not entitled to speak.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Normally, after the papers were laid on the Table, the 'Zero Hour' takes place. The legislative business starts afterwards. I have not committed any mistake.

MR. SPEAKER: I have asked you to complete.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: I may be given an opportunity to raise an important objection with regard to the legislative business.

MR. SPEAKER: During the discussion, you will be given an opportunity.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: It has to be raised at this time when the Bill is introduced as per the rules of procedure. I have a right. It is my right to raise an objection. I may be heard before the Bill is introduced.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): Shri Radhakrishnan, the hon. Speaker will give you time. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to oppose the introduction of this Bill. This Bill seeks to amend a particular Section, Section 12 of the Banking Regulation Act. The Bill says in the Statement of Objects and Reasons that:

"With a view to encouraging foreign banks to set up their subsidiaries and attracting foreign investors, it has become necessary to remove the said restriction on voting rights of a person holding shares in a banking company. It is, therefore, proposed to omit sub-section (2) of section 12 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949."

Sir, many in the House might have missed the implication of this Bill. As the Bill will go to the Standing Committee, I am not going to argue now at this stage. Earlier, there was a restriction on the foreign banking operations even to open the branches. That restriction has been removed. Several foreign banks are operating in the country like the Bank of Tokyo, the Bank of Paris, the Bank of America, the Hong Kong and Shanghai Bank, the ABN Amro Bank etc. So many foreign banks are there.

Would the hon. Minister state to the House as to who prevented these foreign banks to bring the investment? This clause is a very dangerous clause to provide the banks which are operating in India with their own investments. Those banks' right to vote after ten per

cent will be abolished to encourage foreign banking subsidiaries. This means that they will be encouraged. Instead of bringing the investment, they will take the share of their own investment from our own country in these banks. This is an indirect way of abolishing the private banks of the country in the shadow of the foreign banking organisations under the plea that the investment will come.

The investment will come to the foreign banks. What is the investment of American Express Bank in India? How much investment they brought? What is the investment of Bank of Tokyo? How much is the investment of Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation? So many foreign banks are there. Now, the small banks, like Federal Bank in Kerala and other banks which are regional banks or private banks, have a right under the Banking Regulations Act to vote on certain conditions. Now, the Government is reviewing that condition and allowing the foreign banking organisation to make inroads in the names of subsidiaries. It is dangerous. Therefore, though it is in the Union List of the Constitution, the very object is opposed to the Constitution so far as right to do business in the country, right to conduct all the other things in the country is concerned. Therefore, I feel that it is an indirect aggression on the private banking organisation to take away their rights totally and to allow foreign banking organisation to rule as they like. Therefore, from Congress Party, we strongly oppose the Bill at the stage of introduction.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Sir, I have also given notice. I strongly oppose the introduction of this Bill on three grounds. We all know that the Banking Regulation Act was passed as early as in 1949 with a specific purpose. The Banking Regulation Act was passed with the specific purpose of doing some social activities. In the preamble to the Act, there is a specific provision that the banks cannot.

MR. SPEAKER: Are you opposing it under the Constitution?

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Yes.

MR. SPEAKER: Tell me the article number.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Sir, it is against the Fundamental Right of doing business in the country. I have a right to do some business in the country. That is being restrained. This Bill is encroaching upon my Fundamental Right. That is my question. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: He is opposing under article 19.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: This is an act is curtail the Fundamental Right of a citizen to do some business. Licenses are being given to multinational companies saying 'come along, do business here' instead of the private enterprises which are doing business in the country for long. So, I cannot agree with the proposal. As pointed out by Shri Dasmunsi, how much of foreign investment is coming in India?

MR. SPEAKER: Yes can oppose the Bill when it comes up for discussion.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: There were amendments made to the Banking Regulation Act previously for attracting foreign capital. What is the position? Why a blanket provision is being brought? Why are the licences given to multinational companies to do business in the country at the risk of private business enterprises of India? So, I strongly oppose it as it is beyond the purview of our legislative competence.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon. Member from Kerala, Shri Radhakrishnan has put his point. Hon. Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi, of course, always makes very impassioned pleas.

MR. SPEAKER: He is very sincere to his job.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: I take seriously whatever he has said, but at the stage of introduction of a piece of legislation, it is crystal clear that the only objection that is tenable is the legislative competence of the House. Now, this is well known that it is within the legislative competence of the House to legislate on this issue. The second aspect that a number of Members raised and particularly hon. Shri Dasmunsi went into the merits of the legislation saying this, that and other things. I wish to assure the hon. Member that this is an enabling provision for permitting the foreign banks to set up subsidiaries which they at the present moment cannot and that the RBI shall issue every suitable instruction and guideline so that a balanced parity is maintained between our private banking and foreign banking. So, on these grounds, I think, the hon. Member should clearly not oppose introduction of the bill.

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH (Maharajanj, U.P.): Mr. Speaker Sir, people working in powerloom in the entire country are resentful, agitated. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Banking Regulation Act, 1949."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now, we will take up 'Zero Hour'. I give the floor to Shri Shriprakash Jaiswal.

[Translation]

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL (Kanpur): Mr. Speaker Sir, a discussion was held in Lok Sabha with your permission about three weeks back on people operating small power looms. ...*(Interruptions)*

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE (Calcutta South): Sir, I was to speak first ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I am going to permit you after him, Since the Minister is here and he wants a reply from the Minister and, I have called his name.

[Translation]

I am going to permit you after him.

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL: Sir, this discussion was held with your permission....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN (Hajipur): Sir, I have given a notice for a privilege motion. ...*(Interruptions)* Sir, some people have alleged that the Government of Gujarat is interrogating Christians at my behest. It is totally wrong. I have given a notice for privilege motion. You have

proceedings of the House, the questions are with you. They want to pass on the buck to me taking a member's name. ...*(Interruptions)* I have given notice for privilege motion.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Your matter is under my consideration.

[Translation]

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL: Sir, kindly summon hon. Finance Minister. It will be decided today only.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER; Shri Jaiswal, you must request the Minister to remain in the House.

[Translation]

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (Chandigarh): Sir, hon. Minister has left the House, how will the House go on like this. He should have remained present.

[English]

Sir, this is a contempt of the House.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Jaiswal ji, it cannot be decided, today. I knew it, that is what even I was observing. I will to summon him.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Mr. Speaker, Sir, allegations are being levelled against patriots in Rajasthan. Democracy is being openly murdered in Rajasthan.

MR. SPEAKER: I told you that I am about to give your permission.

[English]

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY (Calcutta North West): Sir, now, you may call Kumari Mamata Banerjee ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I have sent a message, so you can go on Shri Jaiswal.

[Translation]

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL: Sir, I wish that hon. Finance Minister would have come here and discussion would have been held before him. Sir, approximately three weeks back, a discussion was held here with your permission. Excise duty has been imposed on small powerloom and handloom operators and small readymade garment manufacturers with effect from 1st April. While earlier they never had to pay excise duty to the Government, they used to pay excise duty on the cotton they purchased from the powerloom and the mills manufacturing cotton yarn used to pay excise duty to the Government. But last time when the budget was presented then excise duty was imposed on the small powerloom owners who used to pay it on the cotton through the mills and instead of 8.5 percent it was made 11 per cent. Similarly, exemption upto Rs. One crore was given to the readymade garment manufacturers. Only the garment manufacturers producing more than Rs. One crore were covered under the tax range. But excise duty was imposed even on the small powerloom owners and readymade garment manufacturers during the last budget. I wish to submit that what is the need to impose excise duty again on the powerloom owners or readymade garment manufacturers while they are already paying excise duty at the stage of purchasing cotton yarn, from the mills, It is a direct reflection on the policy of the Government that it is under pressure of the multinationals and the multi-millionaires of the country producing yarn that excise duty has been imposed on small powerloom owners and garment manufacturers. It is my request to the Government that if there was a need to increase excise duty then it could have been increased on cotton from 8 to 11 per cent.

[English]

DR. NITISH SENGUPTA (Contai): Sir, this issue cannot be discussed because neither the Textiles Minister nor the Finance Minister is present in the House. When nobody is there, how can this topic be discussed? ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Sir, this is a very important issue.

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY: Sir, we will also take part in this discussion. Where is the Minister? Please allow Kumari Mamata Banerjee to Speak.

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE (Aurangabad, Maharashtra): Sir, hon. Minister is not here. It is a question of three crore people.

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL: Sir, similarly the Government could have collected more revenue by increasing the excise duty on readymade garment manufacturers. The Government has given a severe blow to the small craftsmen and small scale industries owners this is not correct. Government is not able to provide employment to the people. Government does not have such an infrastructure that a multinational could open an industry in the country to provide employment to people. Crore of people are engaged in these industries but this Government wants to render them unemployed. The weavers have struck work throughout the country for the last three weeks as a result thereof and so have the readymade garment manufacturers. It is a great misfortune that the Government have not taken any decision in this regard so far while members of all the political parties had raised this issue in the House and had tried to pressurise the Government to roll back this excise duty. Weavers are becoming victims of starvation. We have lakhs of weavers in Kanpur and all the loom are lying closed weavers are starving here. Readymade garment manufacturers are facing similar lot. All kinds of trades have been paralysed but the Government does not take any decision. Through you, we urge the Government that in view of unanimity of the House on this issue, it should take an immediate decision and withdraw the excise duty imposed. Earlier the exemption was on production upto Rs. One crore that exemption has been withdrawn. It should be reinstated. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hoogly): We all support him, Sir.

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Sir, we associate with the hon. Member on this issue.

MR. SPEAKER: I have received notice from Shri Shivraj V. Patil on the same issue and I permit him to speak.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: Sir, allow a full discussion on this. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Sir, this question has been raised in the House on earlier occasions as well. The Government is ignoring it. The Government should have withdrawn excise duty on readymade garments and handloom. There has been no positive response of the Government. It is a very serious issue. The Finance Minister should have been present in the House. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHANKAR PRASAD JAISWAL (Varanasi): Sir, the small scale industries are very perturbed from this excise duty. We also feel the same ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: Sir, this is a separate issue. Please allow me.

MR. SPEAKER: After this issue is over, I will permit you.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: We want to speak on this issue also.

MR. SPEAKER: This issue will not go on for more than five minutes.

[Translation]

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL (Latur): Sir, this issue is very serious and it was raised in the House on earlier occasion as well and is being raised even today. When discussion on Finance Bill will be held in the House this issue will also be discussed.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You are absolutely right.

[Translation]

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Sir, after the number of agriculture labourers the number of labourers working in the textile mills, handloom and powerloom mills is the highest. If you wish to provide employment to maximum number then these industries like handloom and powerloom should continue functioning. Keeping these things in mind the cloth manufactured from powerloom and handloom must be exempted from tax. It is necessary to think on these issues. I feel that these industries date back to the time when all other industries of our country

were not even born and our people know that work. It will not be worthwhile to full our coffer like this by rendering those people unemployed. That is why it is my request that discussion on this issue should be held before the introduction of Finance Bill in the House. This is because after the bringing of Finance Bill in the House nothing can be done even if desired. That is why it is better if any decision on the Finance Bill is taken. Hon. Minister of Finance could have called us or discussion on this issue, but he is not present in the House. If he is not here then he can be asked to discuss it with Member interested in this issue so as to take out some solution and the people are not rendered jobless and the ancient industries may not waste away. This is my only request ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You all know that this issue was discussed in the House long time back. I had given half an hour to this discussion during Zero Hour. Minister of Finance is aware of the sentiments of the House. Nothing is now left to discuss on this issue. It can be taken up during the discussion on Finance Bill.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I have not concluded yet, please listen to me. As suggested by Shivraj Patil ji this issue should come up for discussion through some other instrument. I want to bring this issue for discussion with everyone sitting here. I will bring this topic for discussion seeing the convenience of Finance Minister. What is your opinion in this regard, you may submit only that. Now, I am allowing Kumari Mamata Banerjee to speak.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA (Delhi Sadar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, this issue was raised by Patil Saheb just now. Earlier the ruling party had also raised it. Either it is an issue of VAT or of readymade garments. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: It is not necessary to discuss it now. We shall take it later on. It will not be of any use to discuss it now, since the Minister is not here.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, the Finance Minister should have come forward. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY: Sir, now please allow our Bengal issue to be raised. ...*(Interruptions)*. This matter can be discussed in detail, later on ...*(Interruptions)* Ours is a very important issue ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: I will allow you to speak, when discussion on this issue will be held.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now Kumari Mamta Banerjee.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Khaire ji, please take your seat. When this issue will be discussed I will allow you to speak.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Speaker, we have raised this question which has been raised by Jaiswal ji on earlier occasions as well.

MR. SPEAKER: I am aware of it.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: It is a very serious issue. It is the biggest source of employment after agriculture ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You can speak, during discussion on this issue.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: Mr. Speaker Sir, it is my request that it may not be made party issue since it is question of sentiments of Members. ...*(Interruptions)* I raised this issue in my party ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, the Finance Minister should have been have ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Probably, he is busy in the other House.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, please summon Finance Minister here. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Khurana ji, you please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I feel that everyone is unanimous on this issue. When discussion on this issue will take place you all can speak at that time. Now, I have allowed Kumari Mamata Banerjee.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I have permitted Mamtaji. Please take your seat and let her speak.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the trader's federation did not let them speak. ...*(Interruptions)* it left them out. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, please give just half a minute's time.

MR. SPEAKER: Sumanji, do you want that other subjects should not be raised here. Even half a minutes time will not be given to you. Right now, I have 23 subjects before me and I want to take up all these subjects and these subjects will take one minute each.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

12.31 hrs.

(ii) **Re: Threat to Parliamentary Democratic System in the country particularly in West Bengal.**

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE (Calcutta South): Sir, I would like to raise the Bengal issue. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Kumari Mamata, please cooperate with me. I am going to ask them to keep quiet because this is not the way in which 'Zero Hour' can be conducted. There are 23 important subjects to be raised during 'Zero Hour'. Let me take one after the other.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not talk in the House. Please keep quiet. Please keep silence inside the House.

...*(Interruptions)*

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: Each and every subject will be allowed to be raised here.

SHRI RAJ BABBAR (Agra): Mr. Speaker, Sir, these people set powerlooms on fire then how can they let 7000 powerlooms run? What relation do they have with Bhiwandi?

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

[*English*]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): Sir, Shri Madan Lal Khurana should sit with us I know, that he is not comfortable there. ...*(Interruptions)*

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: We will sit here and discuss about Shri Madan Lal Khurana. Please take your seat and let me listen to the subject raised by Mamtaji.

[*English*]

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: Sir, Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi is also from Bengal. He knows everything. When they are fighting against the CPM, as they said in Bengal, they should fight out this issue and support us. I appeal to the Opposition Party here, including the NDA allies.

Candidates for more than 20,000 seats are not allowed to contest the Panchayat elections which will be held on 11th of May. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hoogly): Who has not allowed? ...*(Interruptions)*

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: The State Government along with the CPM cadres did not allow the Scheduled Caste *mahila*, the Scheduled Tribe *mahila*, the minorities and other to file the nominations. Not only am I saying this, but other party members like the Left Front partners are also complaining about this. In response to that, the West Bengal Chief Minister confessed saying that, "Yes, I appeal to my workers, my cadres." ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: It is absolutely false. He has never said like that. He only stated that if there is any such case, bring it to my notice. This is what he said. ...*(Interruptions)*

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: If they go to the police station, they could see that the CPM cadres are running the police station. We have got democratic rights. Out of 58,000 panchayat seats in 20,000 seats, people are not allowed to file the nominations and they are made to pay penalty. Rs. 1 lakh from each family is taken as penalty. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR (Barrackpore): Sir, I want to know whether this issue can be discussed here. ...*(Interruptions)*

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: Sir, it is not a matter pertaining to the State. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR: Sir, if you allow her, you have to allow us also. ...*(Interruptions)*

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: The Scheduled Castes, the Scheduled Tribes are not being allowed to contest the elections. This is against our Constitution and it is atrocity. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR: Sir, you have to allow us also. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I will allow one of the Members of your Party to speak.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Sir, many allegations have been made on the Floor of the House. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: If you do not disturb her, then I will allow one member from your party to speak. But every minute you are disturbing her and I may not be in a position to allow you. If you do not disturb, then I will allow one Member to speak to refute the charges.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: If you want to speak, I will allow you to speak. Then, I am not going to permit you to speak now.

...(Interruptions)

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: Sir, it is totally against democracy. People do not have democratic rights and fundamental rights; they cannot contest the elections. They are saying that we were not able to put up our candidates. If it is true, then why do they not allow the candidates to file nominations and contest elections?

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR: We are not to provide the candidates for them. ...(Interruptions)

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: For 20,000 seats, which also include our *Zila Parishad, Panchayat Samiti* and *Gram Sabha*, nominations could not be filed. ...(Interruptions) Those were winning seat. It is most unfortunate. So, I appeal to the Central Government to intervene. ...(Interruptions) This is the position. A parallel economy is running in the State. Parallel administration is going on there. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: In one sentence I deny and repudiate all that she has said. ...(Interruptions)

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: The situation is just right for invoking article 356 in the State. I would request the Central Government to come out with a Statement. As per Article 356, the Central Government should intervene and direct the State Government to maintain a safe and sound democracy in the State. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Let them do it. We challenge you to invoke Article 356. ...(Interruptions) They are instigating the people ...(Interruptions)

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: To save the democracy and humanity, the Central Government should intervene and direct the State Government. ...(Interruptions) It is a jungle *raj* in the State. There is no democracy in the State.

[Translation]

Sir, Whether in a democratic set up, democracy will not function and Hitterism will prevail? Has democracy lost its importance ...(Interruptions)

[English]

It is not a State matter. It is a Central matter. All sorts of Constitutional violations are taking place there. They are killing the people. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR: Sir, please allow me to speak.

MR. SPEAKER: I have told you, if you will not disturb her I will allow you to speak. But you are continuously disturbing her.

...(Interruptions)

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: Red terrorism is there. They are killing people. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Somnath Chatterjee has refuted the charges made by her. He has said that whatever she has said is not true and it has gone on record.

[Translation]

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: If anyone goes for contesting, he/she is penalised, his/her house is set on fire, supply of drinking water is denied to him/her. ...(Interruptions) Women are misbehaved ...(Interruptions)

[English]

It is a matter of shame. The Government should come out with a statement. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shrimati Chikhalia, would you like to say something on this?

...(Interruptions)

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR: Kindly allow me to speak, Sir ...(Interruptions)

SHRI ANIL BASU (Arambagh): Sir, the leader of Opposition, a Trinamool Congress MP, in Hooghly Zila Parishad has reportedly stated in the electronic media that there is no terror and these things are happening only because of infighting in the Trinamool Congress ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have asked the Minister to reply to your point. Please go to your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You have made your point.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI ANIL BASU: A Trinamool Congress MP has made a statement that it is not a question of terror ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Mamata ji, you have made your point. I am interested in knowing what the Government has to say on this. Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You have also made your point. Shri Bandyopadhyay, you have given me a notice, so you are allowed to speak.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have received a notice on this issue only from Shri Bandyopadhyay, so only he will speak.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI ANIL BASU: Sir, kindly allow me. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Basu, I have permitted you and you have spoken also. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY: Sir, it is a question regarding protecting the parliamentary and democratic system in the State.

MR. SPEAKER: Let me protect it in the House first.

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY: Sir, Kumari Mamata Banerjee has raised a basic question in the House. The Panchayat elections are going to be held on 11th of May in the State of West Bengal. The Trinamool Congress and the BJP have formed a front there. The Left Parties and the Congress Party are on the other side.

Now, what should be a proper election? The proper elections should be that for each and every seat, the

candidates would put up their nominations and there will be a free and fair election. But what happened in West Bengal only God knows. In this particular year, 20,000 candidates have failed to submit their nomination papers which is about 40 per cent. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Why do you not tell their names? The Chief Minister had also asked the names of the candidates who could not file their nominations. They could not provide the names. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY: Sir, it is our allegation that the parliamentary system. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Sir, every time when there are elections in the State, they talk of imposing article 356. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY: Our allegation is that the parliamentary system is totally under threat. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR: Sir, in every election they could not find the candidates. In my area, out of two tiers, they could not find candidates for one tier. But they are alleging that they are not allowed to file the nominations. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY: Sir, we demand that in the 20,000 seats where election process is taking place. ...*(Interruptions)*. Sir, they are talking about Zila Parishad but our allegation is mainly regarding Gram Panchayat elections. Sir, we demand that the Central Government should send a team to the areas where elections are to be held. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Let the other issues also be discussed in the House.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY: Sir, I would request that the last date for filing the nominations should be extended to give them a chance to file their nominations. I hope that this red terrorism would be ended in the interest of parliamentary democracy.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, the hon. Member, Kumari Mamata Banerjee took my name at the outset saying that I am from West Bengal and I am also here. Sir, I fully share the concern expressed by Kumari Mamata Banerjee. But I would also tell you that as far as the State of West Bengal is concerned, the whole world knows that the ruling establishment and the Opposition Parties, whether it is the Congress in the earlier days or now the Congress and the Trinamool Congress, we all are fighting and scoring points sometimes for the right cause and sometimes, maybe, for the wrong cause. ...*(Interruptions)*. Why are you laughing? Let me submit.

Sir, as regards the reported incidents which are taking place in the State of West Bengal, and which have been narrated by Kumari Mamata Banerjee also, I do share her concern. I do associate myself with her concern. But I would like to say that the entire problem would have been resolved with the enthusiasm of the masses to provide an alternative to the ruling establishment with a secular democratic front. We did that experiment during the last Assembly elections by deserting the BJP. Still I would appeal to Kumari Mamata Banerjee that the aspirations of the people of West Bengal could well be fulfilled once again if she deserts BJP and joins hands with us for providing a genuine democratic alternative.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: We are with BJP but you are supporting CPI(M) *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: I feel in the State of West Bengal the only solution is a secular alternative *...(Interruptions)*. We cannot remotely join hands with BJP in the State of West Bengal.

That is our stand. I fought against them even before she was born. *...(Interruptions)* Our struggle against the Left Front rule in West Bengal is known to all. *...(Interruptions)* But we do not want to strengthen the BJP in the State. *...(Interruptions)* That is very clear. We cannot remotely join hands with the BJP. *...(Interruptions)* We are opposed to them. We cannot remotely join hands with the BJP. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, now the hon. Minister.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Sir, if the hon. Minister makes a commitment on behalf of the Government here, then I would have to speak....*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: How do I know about that before she speaks?

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Sir, sometimes we have obliging Ministers when questions are raised in the 'Zero Hour'. But they hardly rise when the entire House raise the question about the problems being faced by the powerloom industry and the readymade garments industry. Not a single Minister then stood up to respond to that. Where were they? How could they keep quiet then? *...(Interruptions)* Sir, we are here for a long time and we know how these things happen. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Let me first hear as to what she wants to say.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI ANIL BASU: Sir, kindly allow me to speak *...(Interruptions)* Sir, I would just like to reiterate what the leader of the Opposition in the Hoogly Zila Parishad had said. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY: Sir, sitting MPs are opposing them in a manner that you cannot imagine. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please let me listen to him.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI ANIL BASU: Sir, the leader of the Opposition in the Hoogly Zila Parishad, Shri Shailen Singh has openly stated in the electronic media that all these things are happening because of infighting in the Trinamool Congress and also because of the worthless leadership. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Now let me listen to what the hon. Minister has to say.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have heard you enough and I have given you enough chance to speak. Please sit down now.

Nothing, except what the hon. Minister is saying, would go on record.

*...(Interruptions)**

[*Translation*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJBHAI CHIKHALIA): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would bring. What has been said by hon. Mamataji and Shri Bandhopadhyay to the notice of the concerned Minister and will talk to him in this regard *...(Interruptions)*

[*English*]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATERJEE: Sir, I could not understand what she has said. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I will tell you what she has said.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Sir, kindly help us to understand.

MR. SPEAKER: I will tell you what she has said. My interest is to keep the House calm and quiet. She has said that she would take every issue raised to the concerned Minister.

*Not recorded.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Sir, there is no Minister for Panchayats in Delhi ...*(Interruptions)* There is no Central Minister to deal with this subject.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJBHAI CHIKHALIA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I will talk on this subject with hon. Home Minister ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Prime Minister can take up this issue.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJBHAI CHIKHALIA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I will talk to both Home Minister and Minister of Law in this regard. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Prime Minister and the hon. Home Minister can look into it.

...*(Interruptions)*

12.48 hrs.

(At this stage, Shri Sudip Bandyopadhyay came and stood near the Table.)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Bandyopadhyay, what has happened to you today?

12.48- $\frac{1}{4}$ hrs.

(At this stage, Shri Sudip Bandyopadhyay went back to his seat.)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: What is the right of the Home Minister on this ...*(Interruptions)* Sir, this is an unconstitutional interference in the affairs of the State. He has no right. I request the Minister not to spoil her career. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV (Parbhani): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the people all across the Marathwada region demonstrated, raised slogans and agitated on April 12,

2003 when the Minister of State in the Ministry of Railways inaugurated the new Nanded division. The people of Marathwara are demanding since 1965 that Nanded division which is in South-Central railway should be brought in Central Railway. The Marathwara region is Marathi speaking and the people of Nanded division belong to Marathwara and Maharashtra the whole region is in Central Railway Division having its Headquarters in Mumbai. The Nanded division, has to be taken out from South Central Railway to Central Railway. The people of Marathwara over the last several decades have been demanding that the railway lines which are in Marathwara region should be transferred from South Central Railway to Central Railway as South Central Railway has been totally neglecting the Marathwara region during the last 50 years. On the other hand, linguistic difficulties and employment problem are also being experienced. Mumbai, the HQ of the Central Railway is also the capital of our State. The injustice being caused to the people of the Marathwara region for the last 50 years may flare up the feelings of people of Marathwara any time, which may make the law and order situation in the region critical.

So, I, through you request the hon. Minister for Railways that Nanded division which has been placed in South Central Railway should be transferred to Central railway. I also appeal the government through the House that it may immediately pay its attention toward this and take measures, keeping in view the heavy demand and rage of the people for Marathwara, to transfer railway lines of Marathwada region to Central Railway.

SHRI SHIVAJI MANE (Hingoli): I also support him on this subject. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri H.D. Deve Gowda, your notice about the transporter's strike has been received for the 'Zero Hour'.

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA (Kanakpura): Actually, I wanted to raise the issue of weavers.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, we also have given calling attention notice.

MR. SPEAKER: Four Hon'ble Member including Shri Deve Gowda have also given their notice on the same subject.

[English]

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA: Sir, you have already permitted Shri Shivraj Patil and others to raise the issue pertaining to the powerloom sector. That is why I did not want to waste the time of this House.

Yesterday I was in Karnataka. Bijapur is a district known for the powerloom and handloom industries. More than ten thousand people belonging to the weavers bureau have tried to blame me that you people have only fought against the imposition of the additional tax on urea and that you have not done enough for the cause of the weavers. But the fact of the matter is that the Prime Minister had asked the Finance Minister to act according to his conscience and while replying to the debate on the General Budget the Finance Minister announced in this very House that he was going to withdraw it because his conscience dictated him to do so on the advice of the Prime Minister.

For more than 21 days, the workers of the powerloom industry have been on strike not only in Karnataka, but in the whole country. After agriculture, the second largest workforce depends on the handloom and the powerloom industry. They account for more than ten crore people in the whole country. In Karnataka alone, more than thirty lakh people have been struggling for the last 21 days. The allegation made by the weavers bureau is that we are only fighting for the cause of the farmers and we do not want to pick up the issue of weavers and I have been unnecessarily blamed for that. That is why I came to your Chamber and gave a notice of Adjournment Motion today. I do not want to pick up a quarrel with anybody. I only appeal to the hon. Members of this House. Let the Finance Minister come to the House tomorrow because the Finance Bill is going to be taken up only by the end of this Session.

More than ten crore people who depend on this sector have no job today. The weavers have been asked to go home because the powerloom sector has been closed totally. I humbly appeal to the Finance Minister to come to the House tomorrow and announce some relief to this section of the people. Please do not wait till the Finance Bill is taken up for discussion. I make this appeal with folded hands to the government, the Finance Minister and the Prime Minister also let them take care of the second largest workforce who are in the handloom and the Powerloom industries. This is all I want to submit.

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH (Maharajganj, U.P.): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Government of India have fixed minimum wage at Rs. 50 per day. Recently His Excellency the President, while addressing the House said that minimum wage is Rs. 50 in the whole country and its implementation is also being ensured. We would like to inform you that this direction of the Government of India is being violated in Uttar Pradesh, the largest state of the country. I would like to say through the House that diploma holding engineers in the Uttar Pradesh Mandi Parishad which comes under the Ministry of Agriculture, are being paid daily wages of Rs. 35 a day. Not only diploma holding engineers but all the daily wage employees are also being paid wages @ Rs. 35 per day. What more exploitation, more injustice can be there. The educated youth, as well as the hard working class is being exploited.

Sir, through you, I ask the Government of India to immediately take stern action against those who are paying daily wages at the rate of Rs. 35 per day in the Uttar Pradesh Mandi Parishad.

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA (Mumbai North-East): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I tried to draw the attention of the Government towards transporter's strike. For the last few days in whole country. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: There are 4-5 notices on this subject.

SHRI RASHID ALVI (Amroha) My notice is not on this subject but on a different subject.

MR. SPEAKER: I am not permitting all of you to speak but I would like to draw your attention towards the fact that I have talked with hon. Minister on this subject and tomorrow he is about to make his statement on it.

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards 5-7 more important demands out of which one is regarding the disposal of 15 year old vehicles.

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: People are demanding resignation of Khanduri Sahib, first of all he should be asked to resign.

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: You have been asking for the resignation of the Government since the very first day, but you have had to wait for five years this and you will to wait for the next five years also.

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: It is only a wishful dream.

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Regarding 15 years old trucks, hon'ble Minister of Transport should clarify the things with the Ministry of Environment but the Central Government along with State Government has to find some way out in respect of other 2-3 subjects. 5th, 7th and 8th demands in respect of reforms.

MR. SPEAKER: These will be clarified when the hon. Minister will give his statement.

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: It is my request that it should be discussed here whenever it is possible so that some solution could be found out.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister will give his statement about the transporter's strike.

MR. SPEAKER: Have you given a notice on this issue?

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the situation arising due to the strike of transporters is serious.

[English]

SHRI K. MALAISAMY (Ramanathapuram): Sir, I have given a notice on all-India transporter's strike.

MR. SPEAKER: I have seen your notice and on this, the Minister is going to make a statement tomorrow. At that time, I can say what can be done about it.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, when will the hon. Minister give his statement. Hon. Minister will give his statement on the issue of transporter's strike tomorrow. Why is it so?

MR. SPEAKER: Before coming to the House I have discussed this issue.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL (Latur): Sir, the transporters' strike is causing concern to all of us. We are going to

give a notice of the Calling Attention Motion. If the Minister gives a statement in reply, at least four Members can put questions. Otherwise, it is not allowed to ask for clarifications in this House. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we have given a notice of Calling Attention Motion as this issue. Which should be taken up.

[English]

SHRI K. MALAISAMY: Sir, there has been an incalculable damage and irreparable loss due to the transporters' strike. On an average, there is a loss of about Rs. 30,000 crore per day. The magnitude of the issue is so much and the Minister is saying that he is negotiating with the lorry owners and truckers. The point is, the Government should be pretty serious to settle the issue. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): Sir, I have also given a notice on this matter.

MR. SPEAKER; Shri Radhakrishnan, only on your notice, I have requested the Minister to make a statement and he is going to make a statement tomorrow.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI K. MALAISAMY: Merely saying that negotiations are going on is not enough. The Prime Minister must take cognizance of this and the matter should be settled. The Minister should come and say about the progress made in the negotiations. There should be some progress in the matter. He should tell about the steps that he is going to take. ...*(Interruptions)*

13.00 hrs.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, Congress Government of Rajasthan has given ...*(Interruptions)* a blow to the religious rights of the majority by imposing a ban on Trishul Shiksha. The shape and size of Trishul has to be determined by religious heads. Politicians and the Government has nothing to say in it. ...*(Interruptions)*. Our gods and goddesses always made use of Trishul and at the same time it imbibes spiritual sentiments and devotion. A number of religious congregations were held in Rajasthan and other parts of the country but they did not cause any tension and no communal disharmony occurred.

...(Interruptions). But Shri Ashok Gahlot ...(Interruptions) led Government of Rajasthan at the instance of Smt. Sonia Gandhi has put Shri Pravin Togadia, General Secretary of VHP behind the bars in the name of democracy. ...(Interruptions) Thus the sentiments of the majority are being neglected. ...(Interruptions). Today his life is in danger. Noone is allowed to meet him. The situation prevailing in Rajasthan is much worse than the situation prevailed during emergency. ...(Interruptions)

Hon'ble Sir, is it a sin to be a Hindu...(Interruptions) I would like to say through you that this Government should tell the state Government of Rajasthan not to play with the religious sentiments of the people. This is being done satisfactorily with an intention to catch votes and to give undue benefit to the minorities. I request you that Shri Pravin Togadia should be released immediately....(Interruptions) I may be allowed to continue ...(Interruptions) Shri Pravin Togadia should be released immediately and the Government of Rajasthan which is dishonouring the democracy and religious sentiments of the majority must be stopped.

[English]

SHRI E. AHAMED (Manjeri): Hon. Speaker, Sir, I come back to the issue of the truckers striker. ...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: 'Trishul Shiksha' being given by VHP and Bajrang Dal, should be imparted in a normal way it will not cause any tension. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI E. AHAMED: I just would like to draw your kind attention of the House to the seriousness of the issue. ...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI TARACHAND BHAGORA (Banswara): Mr. Speaker, Sir, what they have said, is going to incite disharmony in Rajasthan ...(Interruptions) Rajasthan is the most peaceful state of the country which is facing poverty. People worship cows. ...(Interruptions), cow is being propagated but there is scarcity of fodder and water or cows in Rajasthan. ...(Interruptions) Though they are not paying their attention towards this problem. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat. Shri Aditya Nath is about to speak after you. Please continue after him.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI TARACHAND BHAGORA: It is not in the interest of the country to disturb the peace of the country. ...(Interruptions)

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the patriots are being booked for treason and under section 121 of IPC ...(Interruptions) this section is imposed on traitors. If a person who says that Pakistan should stop terrorist activities and speaks against jahadies, will be changed under section 121 of the IPC. ...(Interruptions).

[English]

SHRI E. AHAMED: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am very sorry. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Only Shri E. Ahamed's speech will go on record and nothing else will go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: I have given you lot of chances. Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI E. AHAMED: I would like to bring to the notice of the House the same matter raised by Shri Kirti Somaiya and hon. Shri Shivraj V. Patil here, that is about truckers strike. They have taken the people for ransom. This is anti-national. It has affected every sphere of life. The people of Kerala—which is dependent on other States for items like vegetables—are put to great hardship. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: This issue is already over. I asked another hon. Member not to speak on this issue.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You can speak when the Minister makes the statement.

...(Interruptions)

*Not recorded.

SHRI E. AHAMED: It has become difficult for the common man to meet both the ends meet. If the Government keeps on just talking and talking, then why are you having all these laws? Why are you not taking any action to protect the interest of the people? The Government cannot function like that, soft peddling the matter. It is a very serious issue. The people are agitated. The Government should arrange vehicles for the movement of vegetables and other essential commodities. I hope the Minister will come today itself and will make the statement and will take the House and the Members into confidence.

[Translation]

SHRI RASHID ALVI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw yours and the Government's kind attention towards the news published on the front page of the Hindustan Times—"Pandya Killing's Muslims get midnight knocks." This news is in detail, but I would not like to waste the time of the House. After an horrible communal riots in Ahmedabad the situation has deteriorated to the extent that in the name of this murder Muslim youths are being arrested and tortured for 15 days in jails. They are in fear and panic. It is not my words but the 'Hindustan Times' says so. They feared POTA and fake encounters. I would like to draw the attention of the Government to look into this matter and directions should be given to the State Government in this regard. If such a situation prevails in the country, it will give lease to communalism. There should not be any place for communalism and casteism in the country. Today, there is a need to strengthen the country. If the small political parties do such acts for this petty political gains and divisive feelings broach are spread among the Hindus and Muslims and Muslim youths of the age group of 25 and 27 years are arrested then it will not be proper.

A father whose son remained in jail for 15 days was asked to surrender his other son to get his one son released who was already in jail. Now the old man is bringing his second son. What type of Government is it in that state and how the justice is being done? Pandeya's father has given his categorical statement very clearly. I do not want to repeat them, but that is also very relevant. I would only request through you that the Government should intervene in this matter.

[English]

SHRI E. AHAMED: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is a very serious matter. So, I request you to please ask the

Government to make a statement on this issue. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I know that what he raised is a very serious matter.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI E. AHAMED: Sir, you may please direct the Government to make a statement on this issue. This is a very serious matter. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER Sir, it is being published on the front page by H.T.

[English]

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the CBI is seized of the case and they should be given a free hand to proceed in the case. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Ahamed, please cooperate with the Chair. Please take your seat now.

...*(Interruptions)*

DR. V. SAROJA (Rasipuram): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to raise a very important national issue in this august House. The Union Minister without Portfolio Shri Murasoli Maran is undergoing treatment in USA*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, such things should not go on record.

MR. SPEAKER: I do not think this matter should be raised in the House. I will not be able to take this on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: The Members are supposed not to raise such matters in the House.

[Translation]

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT (Shajapur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, this should not be allowed. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: That is why it has not been taken on record. Please take your seat.

*Not recorded.

[Translation]

YOGI ADITYA NATH (Gorakhpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw your attention to the unconstitutional acts of the Congress regime in Rajasthan. The present Congress government of Rajasthan is indulging in the acts which are totally anti-Hindu and against the constitution. These 'Trishul'—the Main symbol of Hindu faith has been banned and alongwith that. ...*(Interruptions)* the International General Secretary of the Vishwa Hindu Parishad—Shri Praveen Bhai Togodia has been arrested. ...*(Interruptions)*.

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, I strongly contradict this. The Government of Rajasthan has not banned any religious symbol. It is not correct. They are trying to provoke others....*(Interruptions)* Sir, Togadia is a threat to the Hon. Prime Minister. Why are they talking like this?

[Translation]

YOGI ADITYA NATH: On one hand the Congress party is in a way encouraging the anti-national activities being carried out by the Lashker-a-Taiyba and the ISI in Jammu & Kashmir while on the other hand the Congress government of Rajasthan is pursuing anti-Hindu and anti-national policies by registering the cases of treason against the Hindu-workers who are devoted nationalists. This is the most unfortunate deed being done by the Congress Govt. of Rajasthan which must be condemned in one voice. On one hand the congress is supporting the ISI the terrorists of Laksher-a-Taiyba and on the other nationalists are being arrested on the charges of treason and thereby the Congress is exhibiting its slave mentality. The banning of 'Trishul' and the arrest of Praveen Bhai Togadia by the Cong. Govt. of Rajasthan must be condemned through this House. Thanks.

SHRI TARACHAND BHAGORA: They are creating violence there. ...*(Interruptions)*. There is no place for violence in Hindu religion whereas these people are indulging into acts of violence. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Sir, the Chief Minister of UP, Mayawatiji, has recently made some statement and spoke some unpleasant things about Hindu deities. I would like to say that we have been hurt by what has been said about Hindus and I would like to add that the Hindu community and the Shiv Sena will not tolerate this. The situation in UP has already worsened

due to the trend of which hunting. There is no development work taking place in the stage. In spite of all these things the Bhartiya Janta Party is giving support to the UP Government. I would like to say to this Govt. as also to the Members sitting here that we have come to the power in the name of lord Rama. I had gone to Ayodhya. The FIR was lodged even against me and I was prohibited to chant the name of lord Rama. I was prohibited to chant the name of lord Rama and the one who said much ill about the Hindu deities even to the extent of using the words like 'Dog' and 'Cat' is ruling the state. The Shiv Sena would never tolerate all that has been said against the Hindu-deities. I would like to call upon the present govt. to take severe action for whatever has been said by the UP Chief Minister against the Hindu deities. ...*(Interruptions)* I do not say that POTA should be exercised against her, but I must say that strong action should be taken.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet again at 2 p.m.

13.14 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch
till Fourteen of the Clock*

14.06 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch
at six minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.*

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair]

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

- (i) **Need to re-start Mining Operation at Kynamite Mine at Dahegaon in Bhandara district, Maharashtra.**

[Translation]

SHRI NAMDEO HARBAJI DIWATHE (Chimur): Sir, 25 years ago the work was started in the Kynamite mine at Dahegaon in my constituency Churu. The staff of geological survey of India were working and the people of the areas got job opportunities. But that mine is closed for the last ten to twelve years which has rendered the people of this areas jobless. The workers had even

[Shri Namdeo Harbaji Diwathe]

launched agitations, but the work in that mine has not been started so far. So there is a need to restart mining operation at Kynamite mine.

Therefore, I would like to request the Govt. to restart mining operation at Kynamite mine at Dahegaon.

- (ii) **Need to open a Central School at Bulsar, Gujarat.**

[Translation]

SHRI MANIBHAI RAMJIBHAI CHAUDHRI (Bulsar): Sir, although the expansion of education in the country during the last four years has been appreciated, yet there are many places in the country where the number of schools is very less. The Harijan Adivasi dominated Bulsar district located in Gujarat state is also affected by this problem. There is not even a single English/Hindi medium school in the above district whereas there are many Central Government offices in this district like Excise Water Mgmt., Income Tax etc. and the employees working in these offices have been sent from various states who find it very difficult to impart education to their wards through Hindi/English medium. Consequently, some employees are forced to provide education to their wards in their own Home State/district. But the low paid employees who are unable to foot the expressed of two establishment, are forced to shelve the education of their wards. Keeping in view the interruption in providing quality education to their wards by the low paid employees and the local people, the social workers and people's representatives from the above district have been repeatedly requesting the Government to open a Central School in the said district.

As such, I urge the Union Human Resource Minister to open a central school in Bulsar eight from this very session on top priority basis.

- (iii) **Need to formulate special plan for providing relief to the people affected by drought in Malwa region of Madhya Pradesh.**

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT (Shajapur): Sir, the Ujjain and Indore divisions of western region of Madhya Pradesh, which is known as Malwa region has been continuously reeling under drought for the last three years and water level has gone much down due to which most of the tubewells have gone dry in this region. The farmers are in trouble due to the drought situation. The people and the cattle are finding it very difficult to get drinking water. Therefore, I urge upon the Government to formulate

a special action plan for this region to provide relief to the people. It is also requested to waive off the interest on loans taken by the farmers and relief works should be started and fodder for cattle should be arranged.

- (iv) **Need for Construction of a by-pass between Ramgarh Chowk and National Highway No. 80 via Ashok. Dham at Lakhisarai in Bihar under 'Pradhan Mantri Sadak Yojna'.**

SHRI RAJO SINGH (Begusarai): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the people in the Lakhisarai district under my Begusarai Parliamentary Constituency are facing a lot of difficulties. Everyday the road accident takes place due to lack of by-pass road. If the Government connects Ramgarh Chowk with National Highway No. 80 via Ashok Dham under 'Pradhan Mantri Sadak Yojana.' A large number of besiding in many nearby backward villages having more than one thousand population would be benefited. I therefore, want to draw attention of the Government through this House, that the Government should start construction of this road after granting necessary approval under the above yojana.

- (v) **Need to provide financial assistance to the Government of U.P. for desilting of Varuna river in Phulpur Parliamentary constituency.**

SHRI DHARM RAJ SINGH PATEL (Phulpur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Varuna river passes through Maihan village upto Varanasi via Bhodohi in the Phulpur Parliamentary constituency. In this constituency about 100 villages remain affected with the problem of water logging during the rainy season and thereafter till the month of February. The outflow of varuna river in the above constituency has been obstructed due to depositing of silt and weeds in the river bed. In view of this, thousand acres of land remain uncultivated. The farmers and labourers can not lead normal life during the rainy days. The farmers and labourers suffer economically in the absence of cultivation. The villagers even find it difficult to arrange for education, health and marriages of their children. Uttar Pradesh Government has abandoned the survey work midway. The work is not progressing for want of money. I, therefore, demand from the Government of India to conduct survey of the Varuna river at an early date and arrange for funds for desilting of the river bed through NABARD or the World Bank so that the farmers and labourers could do their farming and they could be saved from starvation.

(vi) Need to improve telephone services in Bihar particularly in rural areas.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajganj, Bihar): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, since the time the Sanchar Nigam Limited assigned its work to BSNL, the Cable supply to the rural areas in the country has been discontinued which has hampered to a great extent, the expansion of telecommunication facilities in the rural areas. In most of the areas towers for mobile services are being erected which is praise worthy but the possibilities of such installation leading to provision of telecommunication facilities in rural areas through these centers are very remote and the mobil services are not working smoothly in backward areas of the country like UP and Bihar which get very low or no power supply because of this mobile fail to get charged under the circumstances. Jamanpura Bazar of Ekma Block, Kaon Bhagwanpur Bazar of Pannapur Bazar, Madhar Bazar of Bhagwanpur Haat Block, Burjawan Jalalpur or Rajanpures Bazar of Daraonda Block, Kinnathu bazar of Maharajganj Block, Dumara bazar and areas adjacent to it of Nabiganj Block is completely deprived of telecommunication facilities. The inhabitants of these areas have deposited money for telephone connections long time ago, as there is no telephone exchange near them so it is not being possible to provide them a telephone connection. So, I am drawing the attention of the Government to set up a new exchange and to ensure smooth cable supply in the backward district like Chhapra and Siwan.

(vii) Need to clear the proposal of Tamil Nadu Government for setting up Hydrel project in Kollimalai Hills in Rasipuram constituency of the State.

[English]

DR. V. SAROJA (Rasipuram): Sir, the Government of Tamil Nadu has sent a proposal to the Government of India in November, 2002 for the 1 X 20 MW Hydrel Project in Kollimalai hills in Rasipuram Parliamentary constituency in Tamil Nadu. The project costs about Rs. 60 crore and has been jointly initiated by tourism, Tribal Development and Electricity Board of Tamil Nadu Government. The project will cater not only to the population of more than ten lakhs but also to thousands of tiny and small industries located in Namakkal district. Though the Ministry of Environment and Forests has been requested many times to clear the project, the Ministry has not cleared the same so far. I urge upon the Government to clear the project without any further delay.

(viii) Need to look into the problems of the employees of Chandigarh Union Territory Administration transferred to Municipal Corporation, Chandigarh.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (Chandigarh): Sir, a persistent demand of the employees of Chandigarh Union Territory Administration transferred *en bloc* to the Municipal Corporation has been that they be given the status of deemed deputation. In 1998, the Government of India also conveyed its decision to the UT Administration to allow these transferred employees to be on deemed deputation for such time as may be necessary till they are permanently absorbed in the Corporation. It was also stated that the grant of 'deemed deputation status' would imply retention of their lien with the Chandigarh Administration without deputation allowance. On 15th December, 1997, the Home Minister also made a statement to this effect in answer to an unstarred question.

However, Memo dated 11th February, 2003, from the Secretary, Local Government, Chandigarh Administration to the Commissioner, Municipal Corporation is wholly contrary to the assurance held out so far. The chance of giving option to the employees to go back to the UT Administration has been made subject to their accepting a situation where they agree to being rendered surplus and face inevitable retrenchment.

Circulation of a proforma by the administration incorporating an undertaking by transferred employee that if he is found surplus in the Chandigarh Administration based on the availability of post and seniority, he will be liable to be retrenched, has caused deep anxiety and concern among the employees.

I urge the Government to take immediate steps to confer the promised deemed deputation status on the employees and withdraw the option proforma in the present form.

(ix) Need to expedite construction of Meloot Railway Overbridge in Tellicherry, Kerala.

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM (Badagara): Sir, the construction work of Meloot Railway overbridge in Tellicherry within Palghat Railway Division was started nearly two years ago, but it is yet to be completed. The inordinate delay in completing the overbridge is causing great inconvenience to the people of Tellicherry. The level crossing is in the heart of the city and the delay in completing the work is creating traffic bottlenecks every

[Prof. A.K. Premajam]
day, especially during the peak hours. There is no justification for the undue delay in completing the work. Under these circumstance, I urge upon the hon. Railway Minister to examine the matter and give necessary directions to the Divisional Authorities to complete the work at the earliest.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Now, the House will take up Legislative Business.

DR. NITISH SENGUPTA (Contai) Sir, I had given a notice under rule 377.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I am sorry, it is not there.

DR. NITISH SENGUPTA: I was communicated that it would come up on the 21st.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: It is not for today; maybe, for tomorrow.

14.18 hrs.

BANKING SERVICE COMMISSION (REPEAL) BILL, 2002

Amendments made by Rajya Sabha

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Let us now take up item No. 12—Shri Anandrao Adsul to move the motion for consideration on behalf of Shri Jaswant Singh.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): Sir, on behalf of Shri Jaswant Singh, I beg to move:

"That the following amendments made by Rajya Sabha in the Bill to repeal the Banking Service Commission Act, 1984, be taken into consideration:—

ENACTING FORMULA

1. That at page 1, line 1, for the word "Fifty-third" the word "Fifty-fourth" be *substituted*.

CLAUSE-1 SHORT TITLE

2. That at page 1, line 3, for the figure "2002" the figure "2003" be *substituted*."

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the following amendments made by Rajya Sabha in the Bill to repeal the Banking Service Commission Act, 1984, be taken into consideration:—

ENACTING FORMULA

1. That at page 1, line 1, for the word "Fifty-third" the word "Fifty-fourth" be *substituted*.

CLAUSE-1 SHORT TITLE

2. That at page 1, line 3, for the figure "2002" the figure "2003" be *substituted*."

The motion was adopted.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: We shall now take up the amendments made by the Rajya Sabha.

The question is:

"ENACTING FORMULA

That at page 1, line 1, for the word "Fifty-third" the word "Fifty-fourth" be *substituted*. (1)

CLAUSE-1 SHORT TITLE

That at page 1, line 3, for the figure "2002" the figure "2003" be *substituted*."

The motion was adopted.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The hon. Minister may now move that the amendments made by the Rajya Sabha be agreed to.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): Sir, I beg to move:

"The amendments made by the Rajya Sabha be agreed to."

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the amendments made by the Rajya Sabha be agreed to."

The motion was adopted.

14.22 hrs.

**DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (RAILWAYS),
2003-04**

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The House will now take up discussion and voting on the Demands for Grants in respect of the Budget (Railways) for the year 2003-2004. Hon. Members present in the House whose cut motions to the Demands for Grants in respect of the Budget (Railways) for the year 2003-2004 have been circulated may, if they desire to move their cut motions, send slips to the Table within 15 minutes indicating the serial numbers of the cut motions they would like to move. Those cut motions only will be treated as moved.

A list showing the serial numbers of cut motions treated as moved will be put up on the Notice Board shortly thereafter. In case any Member finds any discrepancy in the list, he may kindly bring it to the notice of the Officer at the Table immediately.

Motion moved:

"That the respective sums not exceeding the amounts shown in the fourth column of the Order Paper be granted to the President of India out of the Consolidated Fund of India, to complete the sums necessary to defray the charges that will come in the course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 2004, in respect of the heads of demands entered in the second column thereof against Demand Nos. 1 to 16."

LOK SABHA

Demands of Grants (Railways) for 2003-04 submitted to the Vote of the Lok Sabha.

(Vide List of Business for.....)

No. of Demand	Name of Demand	Amount of Demand for Grants on Account voted by the House on 6.3.2003 (Rs.)	Amount of Demand for Grants submitted to the Vote of the House (Rs.)
1	2	3	
1.	Railway Board	11,35,10,000	56,75,52,000
2.,	Miscellaneous Expenditure (General)	39,04,23,000	195,21,15,000
3.	General Superintendence and Services on Railways	284,73,33,000	1423,66,67,000
4.	Repairs and Maintenance of Permanent Way and Works	546,91,08,000	2734,55,38,000
5.	Repairs and Maintenance of Motive Power	300,55,52,000	1502,77,83,000
6.	Repairs and Maintenance of Carriages and Wagons	563,98,08,000	2819,90,38,000
7.	Repairs and Maintenance of Plant and Equipment.	306,62,68,00	1533,13,42,000
8.	Operating Expenses—Rolling Stock and Equipment.	482,85,30,000	2414,26,53,000
9.	Operating Expenses—Traffic	2204,94,40,000	4744,72,02,000

1	2	3	
10.	Operating Expenses—Fuel	1332,94,74,000	6664,78,72,000
11.	Staff Welfare and Amenities	225,69,26,000	1128,46,33,000
12.	Miscellaneous Working Expenses	274,89,62,000	1374,48,12,000
13.	Provident Fund, Pension and Other Retirement Benefits	1091,76,41,000	5458,82,04,000
14.	Appropriation to Funds	1618,33,33,000	8091,66,67,000
15.	Dividend to General Revenues, Repayment of loans Taken from General Revenues and Amortization of Over-Capitalisation	3,85,33,000	2976,30,67,000
16.	Assets—Acquisition, Construction and Replacement Revenue	5,00,00,000	25,00,00,000
	<i>Other Expenditure</i>		
	Capital	3062,76,80,000	15313,83,98,000
	Railway Funds	538,96,67,000	2694,83,33,000
	Railway Safety Fund	72,16,66,000	360,83,34,000
	Special Railway Safety Fund	458,22,67,000	2291,13,33,000
	Total	13425,62,21,000	63805,15,23,000

SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA (Kolar): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to initiate the discussion on behalf of the Congress Party.

There is a comprehensive network of Railways in our country and a healthy network of Railways is a pointer towards progressive development of the country. The Railways play a significant role in the industrial and economic development of the country. While it goes without saying that even after sincere efforts by successive Governments, the distribution of the network still remains lopsided. The areas in the North-Eastern sector and the South India and parts of India have to give a new thrust for the development of the Railways.

The maintenance of punctuality and safety of the passengers require more attention. There is a need to ensure Women Police Protection Force in all the compartments reserved for women in the trains especially during the travel in the night.

The conversion from narrow gauge to meter gauge and from meter gauge to broad gauge should be

expedited within a time-bound programme. There are a number of railway bridges in the country which are more than 70 to 80 years old or even 100 years old. The Railways should pay special attention to strengthen such bridges before it is too late. We have seen that earlier because of this, in so many occasions, when proper care was not taken for these age-old bridges, accidents took place and derailments happened and many casualties took place.

There is a need to ensure special welfare schemes for the benefit of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes in the Railway employment. The Metro Railway Project for Bangalore and other cities should be completed as early as possible. Special seats should be reserved for physically handicapped persons in the suburban, mail, express and passenger trains. Goods transportation should be efficient and prompt so that it can withstand competition from the road transport.

I think, Shri Nitish Kumar is very particular about the farming sector. Earlier, he was also heading the

Agriculture Ministry. He knows the problems of the farmers also. I think, he will take care of this and he will give priority to passenger amenities.

Then, the most important thing is transportation of farming sector goods. You know that the producers of vegetables and fruits need to be taken care of very well. So, you should see how you can transport their goods and make it more convenient for them. Even cold storage should be put at a distance of about 500 kilometres so that there is no difficulty in carrying goods of farming sector to distant places in the country. I think, it will be more useful for the farming sector and juice producers.

Another important aspect is construction of coaches. On the earlier occasion, I had requested the hon. Minister, Shri Nitish Kumar to do something in the matter. Right from its inception 50 years ago, BEML unit is constructed for construction of coaches, and regularly order for 500 coaches was given to it. In the last three or four years, it has stopped, and it is only given to Rail Coach Factory, Kapurthala. About 5,000 workers are there. The overall production is only for feeding those people and this company is running into losses instead of earning profit. They have skilled labours. There is no other work for those people. Construction of coaches is on the top priority. I raised this matter on the last occasion also. I hope, the hon. Minister will appreciate that BEML has contributed a lot for the last 50 years. The Government should take care of it as it is equally important. When Shri Jaffer Sharief was participating in the discussion on the last occasion, he also urged upon the hon. Minister to give orders for coaches to BEML.

Now, I come to the projects which are pending in Karnataka. One is Hassan-Mangalore project. Then, there is project of doubling from White Field in Bangalore to Jalarpet junction. I would request that these projects and also the other projects which are pending, should be taken up at the earliest. About one project in my constituency, when I met the hon. Minister, he had assured me that he had directed the Director (Works) to take up this immediately. Since the part work is over, if the remaining work is not completed, the earlier work will be of no use. Already Rs. 80 crore have been spent and another Rs. 70 crore are needed to complete this project. Then, the South will be connected to the North-East up to Guwahati from Chennai. This is to be taken up. We have been waiting for this sum of Rs. 70 crore for the last four years, and Rs. 80 crore already spent would be of no use if we do not complete this work. I think, the Minister has appreciated it and he himself studied the project. He had told that he had directed the concerned

officer, but till today, no instruction has gone to the General Manager, Southern Region, Chennai. I approached him and he told me that he had not received any instruction. May I request the hon. Minister to kindly again instruct the concerned officer to take up this work because he himself is concerned about it? I have placed before the House important priority issues and this needs to be taken care of.

Then, there is another point about Kopergaon railway station where pilgrims come to pay a visit to the Shrine of Shirdi Sai Baba, Sir, the trains coming from the Southern States like Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Kerala and Andhra Pradesh and going towards Manmad and beyond should be given a stop at Kopergaon which is a very important religious and pilgrimage centre and each train should be given a minimum quota of six berths. The Karnataka Express from New Delhi and Bangalore should be given a quota of ten berths for this station. Kopergaon station should be made as a model station by the Railways. I would request the hon. Minister to take personal care of this particular issue. I am, myself, frequently visiting the Shrine. Last time, when I was there, I saw passengers taking so much of trouble.

I assured them and I gave a representation to the hon. Minister stating that this is one of the important places. I think that the hon. Minister will take care of this matter.

Sir, these are the prime issues which I wanted to place before the august House, and I support the Demands for Grants (Railways) for 2003-2004.

CUT MOTIONS

SHRI PRABODH PANDA (Midnapore): I beg to move:

THAT THE DEMAND UNDER THE HEAD RAILWAY BOARD (PAGES 01.01.01—01.02.01) BE REDUCED BY RS. 100

Need to lease out Railway lands to the hawkers all over the country. (1)

Need to issue concessional seasonal tickets to the people below poverty line (BPL). (2)

Need to rehabilitate all Railway hawkers evicted from various Railway stations under S.E. Railway. (3)

Need to extend platform of Midnapore Railway station, SE Railway. (4)

Need to construct sub-way between platform No. 2 and 1 at Midnapore station. S.E. Railway. (5)

[Shri Prabodh Panda]

Need to increase special quota of MPs and MLAs in Sleeper Class from four to eight in 2815/2816 Puri-New Delhi Express. (6)

Need to construct a second Railway bridge on the river Cossy between Midnapore and Gokulpur-station. (7)

Need to extend train No. 5712 New Jalpaiguri-Asansole Express upto Kharagpur via Midnapore station. (8)

Need to issue Hawker license to the hawkers at Railway Stations. (9)

Need to provide stoppage of 8475/8476 New Delhi-Puri Neelanchal Express at Contai Road of S.E. Railway. (10)

Need to provide stoppage of 2821/2822 Hawrah-Bhubaneswar Dhauli Express at Contai Road of S.E. Railway. (11)

Need to construct sub-way between platform No. 6 and 3 at Kharagpur Railway station. (12)

Need to achieve the target of wagon procurement by the Railways during the current financial year. (13)

Need to allocate funds on time to check the delays in the implementation of railway projects. (14)

Need to change the departure time of 2816 New Delhi-Puri Express at New Delhi Railway Station to 0800 hrs., instead of 0630 hrs. (15)

Need to change the name of "Contai road" Railway station as "BELDA" Railway station, S.E. Railway. (16)

Need to complete laying the new Railway line between Digha and Tamlum. (17)

Need to increase member of computerized reservation counters at Kharagpur station. (18)

Need to increase the number of computerized reservation counters at Midnapore station. (19)

Need to introduce Kharagpur-New Jalpaiguri Express train via Bankura. (20)

Need to engage a patients special coach in all Chennai and Kerala bound Mail and Express trains. (21)

Need to reduce second class sleeper railway passenger fare. (22)

Need to provide a new train between Midnapore and Jhargram Railway Station. (23)

THAT THE DEMAND UNDER THE HEAD REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE OF PERMANENT WAY AND WORKS (PAGES 04.01.01-04.03.01) BE REDUCED BY RS. 100.

SHRI PRABODH PANDA:

Need to modernize Contai Road station and Dantan station in S.E. Railway. (24)

THAT THE DEMAND UNDER THE HEAD STAFF WELFARE AND AMENITIES (PAGES 11.01.01-11.03.01) BE REDUCED BY RS. 100.

SHRI PRABODH PANDA:

Need to increase passenger amenities at all railway stations of Kharagpur Division. (25)

THAT THE DEMAND UNDER THE HEAD ASSETS-ACQUISITION, CONSTRUCTION AND REPLACEMENT (PAGES 04.01.01-04.03.01) BE REDUCED BY RS. 100.

SHRI PRABODH PANDA:

Need to start construction of the sanctioned over-bridge on the Rail line near Mindapoure Station. (26)

Need to expedite the construction of Railway Over-bridge near Puri Gate at IIT, Kharagpur, (27)

THAT THE DEMAND UNDER THE HEAD RAILWAY BOARD (PAGES 01.01.01-01.02.01) BE REDUCED BY RS. 100.

Need to introduce Howrah-Mumbai Express train Kharagpur, Midnapore, Bankura and Purulia. (28)

Need to provide a stoppage of Cuttak bound trains at Contai Road Station and Dantan Station. (29)

Need to reduced the freight charges on salt and other essential commodities. (30)

Need to provide passengers amenities at Midnapore, Kharagpur, Girimaidan, Khemasuli, Cossye Halt, Contai Road, Dantan, Hijli Railway Station. (31)

Need to proper maintenance of all the railway station of West Bengal. (32)

Need to increase the current allotment of funds for road over-bridge at Ramgamati of Midnapore Station. (33)

Need to introduce additional trains between Kharagpur and Tata Nagar Railway Stations. (34)

Need to construct a platform at Cossy halt station between Midnapore and Kharagpur station. (35)

Need to modernize the Railway workshop of Kharagpur. (36)

Need to use the vacant railway land for constructive purpose. (37)

THAT THE DEMAND UNDER THE HEAD REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE OF PERMANENT WAY AND WORKS (PAGES 04.01.01-04.03.01) BE REDUCED BY RS. 100.

Need to declare Khemasuli as a full fledged station under Kharagpur Division. (38)

THAT THE DEMAND UNDER THE HEAD ASSETS-ACQUISITION, CONSTRUCTION AND REPLACEMENT (PAGES 16.01.01-16.04.04) BE REDUCED BY RS. 100.

SHRI PRABODH PANDA:

Need to increase current allocation of funds from Rs. 25 crore to Rs. 100 crore to construct Bankura-Damodar Valley Railway line in S.E. Railways. (39)

Need to increase current allotment of funds from Rs. 15 crore to Rs. 50 crore to complete Tamluk-Digha Railway line. (40)

Need to increase current allotment of funds for doubling Panskura-Haldia railway line. (41)

Need to increase allotment of funds from Rs. 10 lakh to Rs. 50 lakh for the extension of platforms at Midnapore Railway station for running 24/26-coach trains. (42)

Need to increase allotment of funds from Rs. 10 lakh to Rs. 3 crore to construct Road over-bridge in lieu of level crossing at Contai Road. (43)

Need to increase current allotment of funds from Rs. 10 lakh to Rs. 4 crore to construct Road, over-bridge at Jhargra. (44)

Need to construct Foot bridge on both side of Cossye bridge in between Kharagpur and Midnapore of Kharagpur Division, of S.E. Railways. (45)

Need to lay double railway line between Kharagpur and Midnapore, via Girimaidan of S.E. Railway. (46)

Need to establish Computerized Reservation Counter at Contai Road, S.E. Railways. (47)

Need to construct third line between Panskura and Kharagpur Railway Stations of S.E. Railway. (48)

Need to construct third Railway line between Kharagpur an Balasore, S.E. Railway. (49)

Need to increase allotment of funds from Rs. 50 lakh to Rs. 2 crore to construct road over-bridge in lieu of level crossing at Balichak. (50)

Need to increase allotment of funds from Rs. 10 lakh to Rs. 3 crore to construct Road Over-bridge at Kharida under Kharagpur Division. (51)

Need to increase allotment of funds from Rs. 60 lakh to Rs. 2.50 crore to construct Road Over-bridge at Rangamati in lieu of level crossing at South end of Midnapur. (52)

Need to increase allotment of funds by Rs. 2 lakh to construct road Over-bridge in lieu of level crossing (Puri Gate) at IIT Kharagpur. (53)

Need to increase allotment of funds for setting up new Electric Loco Shed by conversion of 100 loco diesel loco shed at Kharagpur. (54)

Need to increase allotment of funds for the water treatment Plant at Kharagpur. (55)

Need to construct a shed on the platform of Cossye halt station in S.E. Railway. (56)

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hooghly): I beg to move:

THAT THE DEMAND UNDER THE HEAD RAILWAY BOARD PAGES 01.01.01-01.02.01) BE REDUCED TO RE. 1.

Failure to ensure safety to the railway passengers. (122)

[Shri Rupchand Pal]

Failure to check of railway accidents. (123)

Failure to provide adequate number of trains in the Howrah Division of Eastern Railway. (124)

Failure to provide affordable fare for travel. (125)

Failure to complete the long pending railway projects of West Bengal viz Disha-Janluk, Eklakhi-Balurghat, Bud Budge-Nankhana. (126)

THAT THE DEMAND UNDER THE HEAD RAILWAY BOARD (PAGES 01.01.01-01.02.01) BE REDUCED BY RS. 100.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL:

Need to provide halt at Hathigola (Ohamiakhali) between Belmuri and Shibaichandi in Howrah-Bardhaman chordline. (127)

Need to construct a new railway station at Khunigachi between Bhadreswar and Baidyabati in Howrah-Bandel section of Howrah Division of Eastern Railway. (128)

Need to run Rajdhani Express from Howrah to Delhi via Gaya on all the days of the week. (129)

Need to increase the number of trains in the Hosrah-Bandel-Bardhaman, Howrah-Katwa, Howrah-Tarakeshwar, Bandel-Naihati sections of Eastern Railway. (130)

Need to extent Kolkata Metro railway from Dum-Dum to Barrackpore and Dum-Dum to Salt lake upto Kolkata Airport via Rajarhat and to Ramrajatola in Howrah on the other side of Ganges. (131)

THAT THE DEMAND UNDER THE HEAD REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE OF PERMANENT-WAY AND WORKS (PAGES 04.01.01-04.03.01) BE REDUCED BY RS. 100.

Need to lay proper drainage system to solve water logging at Bagarpara subway and platform subway at Bandel Jn. In Howrah Division of Eastern Railway. (137)

Need to provide proper drainage system at the subway of Hooghly, Chinura, Chandnagar, Matikundu, Bhadaiswar, Sirampur Railway stations. (138)

Need to repair or rebuild Jubilee Bridge between Garifa (24 Paraganas) and Hooghly Ghat (Hooghly),

Bandel-Naihati branchline in Eastern Railway urgently. (139)

Need to remodel Bandel Station, Chinsoora Chandanagar, Hooghly and some other station in the Bandel Howrah and Howrah-Bardhaman chord. (140)

THAT THE DEMAND UNDER THE HEAD ASSETS-ACQUISITION, CONSTRUCTION AND REPLACEMENT (PAGES 16.01.01-16.04.04.) BE REDUCED TO RE. 1.

Failure to complete renewal of tracks throughout the country. (141)

THAT THE DEMAND UNDER THE HEAD ASSETS-ACQUISITION, CONSTRUCTION AND REPLACEMENT (PAGES 16.01.01-16.04.04) BE REDUCED BY RS. 100.

Need to construct foot overbridge at Bandel station in Howrah Division of Eastern Railway. (142)

Need to construct link between Howrah Bardhaman Chord and Tarakeswar branchline somewhere between Nalikul and Kamaskundu. (143)

Need to arrange computerized reservation in all the major stations on the Howrah-Bandel-Bardhaman and Howrah-Bardhaman chordline. (144)

Need to construct a new level crossing at Chandanpur near the Chandpur Railway Station on the Howrah-Bardhaman chordline. (145)

Need to complete construction of double line between Sheoraphuly and Tarakeswar. (146)

Need to lay double line in Bandel-Katwa section. (147)

Need to replace obsolete rakes and wagons urgently. (148)

Need to improve passengers amenities at Bandel, Chinsura, Hooghly, Chandanagar, Bhadreswar, Mankundu, Adi Saptagram, Mogra, Jalandu, Tribeni, Bansbejia, Kuntighat, Sheoraphuly, Tarakeswar, Haripal, Singur, Nalikul, Kamarkundu, Howrah Sealdah, Naihati Hooghly Ghat, Belmuri, Shibaichandi, Gurap, Balarambati in Howrah Division of Eastern Railway. (149)

SHRI ANIL BASU (Arambagh): I beg to move:

THAT THE DEMAND UNDER THE HEAD RAILWAY BOARD (PAGES 01.01.01-01.02.01) BE REDUCED BY RS. 100.

Need to provide funds for early construction of Tarakeswar-Bishnupur-via Arambagh Railway line of Eastern Railway. (132)

Need to provide funds for early completion Sheoraphuly-Tarakeswar double line of Eastern Railway. (133)

Need to introduce new E.M.U. Rakes in suburban and chord section of Howrah Division of Eastern Railway. (134)

Need to run 2301 Kolkata Rajdhani Express on Sunday from Howrah and Friday from New Delhi. (135)

Need to construct R.O.B. at Kamarkundu under Howrah Division of eastern Railway. (136)

Need for early completion of double line of Bardel-Katwa section under Howrah Division, Eastern Railway. (150)

SHRI RAJO SINGH (Begusarai): I beg to move:

THAT THE DEMAND UNDER THE HEAD RAILWAY BOARD (PAGES 01.01.01-01.02.01) BE REDUCED TO RS. 100.

Need for developing Shekhpura-Railway Station as a model Railway Station in Bihar. (236)

Need for providing a halt of trains at Mankatha Railway Station under Gegusarai constituency. (237)

Need to provide basic facilities at Karouta-Pather halt. (238)

Need to provide a halt in the industrial area of Begusarai, Bihar. (239)

Need to complete the construction work of platform at Shekhpura Station. (240)

THAT THE DEMAND UNDER THE HEAD MISCELLANEOUS WORKING EXPENSES (PAGES 12.01.01—12.03.01) BE REDUCED BY RS. 100

SHRI RAJO SINGH:

Need for arrangement of Catering facility in all trains running in Bihar. (241)

Need for deployment of Railway Protection force at Shekhpura Station with a view to ensure proper security there. (242)

Need for providing catering arrangements at Shekhpura Station. (243)

THAT THE DEMAND UNDER THE HEAD ASSETS-ACQUISITION, CONSTRUCTION AND REPLACEMENT (PAGES 16.01.01-16.04.04) BE REDUCED TO RE. 100.

Need to set up Computerised Reservation system at all the Railway Stations in Bihar. (247)

Need to electrify Sirari Railway Station. (248)

Need for providing medical facility to passengers in all trains. (249)

Need to start an inter-city train between Patna and Shekhpura. (250)

THAT THE DEMAND UNDER THE HEAD RAILWAY BOARD (PAGES 01.01.01-01.02.01) BE REDUCED TO RE. 1.

Failure to formulate a policy to utilise railway land along the railway tracks profitably. (298)

THAT THE DEMAND UNDER THE HEAD RAILWAY BOARD (PAGES 01.01.01-01.02.01) BE REDUCED TO RE. 100.

SHRI RAJO SINGH:

Need to provide Rajdhani and Shatabdi Express trains from Begusarai. (299)

Need to develop Begusarai railway station as a model station. (300)

Need to take concrete steps to check pilferage in the railways. (301)

Need to check accidents taking place on railway crossing everyday. (302)

Need to make ex-gratia payment by the Government to the next of kins of those killed in rail accidents. (303)

Need to take concrete steps to build additional over bridge on railway crossing at Begusarai. (304)

Need to provide additional computerised railway reservation counter at the Begusarai railway station. (305)

Need to provide water coolers at the Begusarai railway station for the passengers. (306)

Need to construct additional over head sheds to connect the platforms at the Begusarai railway station. (307)

Need for proper cleanliness and maintenance of the Begusarai railway station. (308)

Need to stop the menace of Hizras in the Delhi bound trains from Bihar. (309)

Need to start a direct train between New Delhi and Begusarai like Sampurna Kranti Express. (310)

[Shri Rajo Singh]

Need to provide covered parking and other facilities at Begusarai railway station and platforms. (311)

Need to improve and upgrade the building at Begusarai railway station. (312)

Need to attach more Second class bogies to all Express trains in Bihar. (313)

Need to complete the doubling of railway line from Gaya to Patna expeditiously. (314)

Need to reduce the passenger fares and freight rates of essential commodities. (315)

Need to introduce Jan Shatabdi express from Begusarai to Howrah. (316)

Need to set up a fully equipped railway Hospital at Begusarai with special treatment for kidney transplantation, heart surgery and cancer detection and treatment. (317)

Need to provide passenger amenities at all the stations under Begusarai Division. (318)

Need to introduce a new fast passenger train from Begusarai to Patna. (319)

Need to construct special cold storage facilities and godowns at Begusarai railway station for the farmers with the help of State Government. (320)

Need to reduce the fare for second class from Patna to New Delhi. (321)

[Translation]

SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMI (Jaunpur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am grateful to you for allowing me to speak on the Railway Appropriation Bill. Our esteemed friend who was just expressing his views, has quite naturally raised certain questions which were already being considered by Railway department. The initiative taken by hon'ble Minister for assessing the durability of railway bridges and to make them durable is certainly praiseworthy. Alongwith this the measures taken to strengthen the track and preventing derailments is also equally important in itself. Not only this, but he implemented a system for preventing derailments and accidents which is being praised by the scientists of the country as well as of the world. After the implementation of this system the recurrence of rail accidents and derailments has reduced and those that have occurred after introduction of the system are attributable more to technical shortcoming than human errors.

Sir, regarding benefiting the farmers, our friend who has just spoken, raised a very important point that arrangements should be made to carry the agricultural produce of our farmers to the market in time. It is totally right. The railways have a prominent role to play in carrying their produce to the market in time. Our hon'ble Prime Minister has suggested to promote other sectors of agriculture instead of conventional one. It becomes necessary to promote truck farming and floriculture instead of conventional farming of growing foodgrains. The railway should provide loading facilities for carrying these agro products to market in time and to make such farming practice more effective. Till date, Railways has no such facilities to carry fruits, vegetable and flowers to the market in time. Railways does not possess containers and other facilities required for carrying these items to market in time. Railways need to provide those facilities.

Sir, I can say that efforts made in the budget to remove the shortcomings of the railways are being applauded by almost all organisation in the country, especially the trading organisations described it as a good budget. Some of our friends expressed their doubts about the merits of the railways budget. Shri P.R. Dasmunshi, who is not present in the House at this time, while making their comments on the railway budget said that it is right that passenger fares have not been hiked in the budget, but supplementary budget will be brought to hike the fares. Although he was discussing the efficiency of Railways. Yet being a member of opposition he had to point out some shortcomings. So they said that fares would be raised through a supplementary budget. Contrary to his doubts the fares have not been hiked even in supplementary budget. The supplementary budget tried to seek other sources for raising revenue. The efforts are made to explore other sources of income instead of depending merely on freight charges and passengers fares. It has resulted in evident increasing in the income of railways.

Sir, the biggest challenges before the railways are announcement relating to expansion of railway lines and gauge conversion alongwith this. There is need to construct some new bridges at several places. For completing all these works railways certainly require funds, which can be had through the budget only, but I thanks hon'ble Prime Minister who has accepted the challenge of mobilizing funds through internal sources and continuously making efforts to meet the challenge.

Sir, perhaps, the last budget provided so many trains to connect each and every corner of India, as were never provided before. Thus there are too many trains and a number of them have to be discontinued due to lack of sufficient number of passengers on them. I know that a

Shatabdi Express was introduced between Delhi-Bareilly, but it failed to get the required number of passengers and after suffering losses for several months, was discontinued. Now it is not the time when there are few trains or few coaches but more passengers. There are so many trains on the tracks now where we feel the shortage of passengers. Even in this Budget 50 trains have been announced for connecting important places. There are some other important schemes also. Khanna Committee suggested security measures and asked for ensuring recurring for this he suggested a fund which has been created by hon. Minister. It seems clearly that a security fund created with a corpus of 17 thousand crore rupees, will continuously, take care of security measures. Alongwith this efforts being made in the Railway Development Plan announced by Prime Minister to make railway more competitive are also being applauded.

Sir, certain announcements were made in the budget of last year and that of year before last but they are not being implemented in due proportion and expeditiously. I don't know, whether, the hon'ble Minister may be knowing. A number of schemes were announced earlier but those have not been implemented at all. I would like to tell about my Parliamentary constituency. In my constituency an overbridge was sanctioned at Jafferabad-Uttarhatiya under Northern Railway which was to be constructed on the National highway No. 56. This was announced in the last budget but work has not progressed and no achievement seems to have been made in this regard so far. I would like to request the hon'ble Minister to fix priorities for translating into action the schemes announced in the budget. Top priority should be accorded to complete the scheme announced in the earlier budgets and work on other announcements should be taken up subsequently. It is very necessary. There is an old rail line connecting my constituency with other constituencies namely Jaunpur-Aundihar line which was in lime light during the freedom struggle and a demand was being made for its gauge conversion for years. The hon'ble minister has said nothing about gauge conversion but he has sanctioned a D.M.U. train on the said line. I have been told that the said line needs strengthening and track renewal to run the DMU train sanctioned on this section. Strengthening and renewal of the said line will entail an expenditure of rupees eleven crores and gauge conversion rupees sixty crore. I feel that it will be better to spend Rs. 60 crore on gauge conversion than in spending Rs. 11 crore on strengthening and renewal. There is little logic in spending Rs. 11 crore on strengthening only. It doesn't sound wise. I urge upon the hon'ble minister to

kindly go for gauge conversion instead of strengthening and the funds required for this be mobilised from all possible sources so as to benefit the people.

Sir, I would like to say something about electrification also. There are a number of railway lines on which work has come to a standstill due to non-electrification thereof. The schemes for electrification thereof were announced in the last budget but the pace of work pertaining to electrification thereof is very slow and it should be accelerated. The 'Golden Quadrilateral Scheme' envisaged to connect the entire country by trains is very important and this is for the first time that such an important and ambitious step has been taken, be it the question of connecting the country by roads or rail or rivers, it is certainly an important steps. The hon'ble Prime Minister, the Minister of Railway and the Minister of Irrigation all deserve our thanks for this. This is for the first time they have taken the initiative to connect various parts of the country with each other in order to utilise the resources of the country. The Railway is playing an important role in it. I would like to say that earlier a meagre amount was being provided for passenger amenities in the Rail budgets. By making a provision of Rs. 205 crore in this budget the Railway Minister has atleast taken an initiative in providing amenities/facilities to passengers citizens and railway employees and to provide facilities in coaches lack of which was being felt by the public. But still the facilities available to the passengers in trains are much less than what they ought to get. Therefore, attention should be paid towards this. It is a different issue whether fare should be raised or not, but it is extremely necessary to provide amenities to the passengers. In order to protect the railway property efforts have been made to strengthen the R.P.F. but there is a difficulty which is being faced by the railway Ministers and the passengers for long is that the responsibility of safety of the rail passengers and their luggage always remains in the hands of the states. Several times difficulties are experienced due to absence of co-ordination between the Ministry of Railways and the State Governments as a result of which safety of luggage of rail passengers is not ensured. The Government must think over as to how this system can be improved. As railways has its own force for safety to its property similarly there should also be a unit for safety of the rail passengers and their luggage or co-ordination should be maintained with the state Governments in this regard otherwise at this juncture when there is insurgency in all parts of the country how the safety of the passengers can be ensured. Though there is R.P.F. for safety of the railway property but the Government should think over the question of safety of the passengers. Till

[Shri Chinmayanand Swami]

arrangements are not made in this regard the rail passengers cannot feel themselves safe.

Sir, besides this I would like to make one more request. The hon'ble Minister of Railways deserves thanks for taking initiative for availability of drinking water in coaches. But the drinking water which is being supplied in trains is not safe for drinking. At some point of time a question was raised here in the House that there are a number of companies which are selling potable water in the name of mineral water which is not safe for drinking. It is very necessary that safe drinking water is supplied. Safe drinking water should be made available at platforms as well as in trains. Similarly the lavatories in coaches are not clean. It is often seen that they are dirty. Platforms and coaches are not clean. Initiative should be taken to ensure cleanliness on platforms and trains.

I would like to thank the hon'ble Minister of railways that he has cared for handicapped persons, aged persons and journalists and made due provisions for them to avail while travelling in the Trains. And besides that, it seldom happens that the train fares are lowered otherwise it is a common perception that fares are hiked on a regular basis. But this is for the first time that the Minister of Railways has lowered the passenger fares which in itself is an achievement. We have seen that such things have been done at other occasions too. When I was elected to this House for the first time, I recall, soaring prices used to be the main issue of elections which has now vanished from the scene. Perhaps for this very reason they have formulated their plans in such a way that people could get better facilities at reasonable and convenient rates without effecting any hike in their prices. The Railways are also playing a constructive role in that.

Our country is not moving ahead in respect of tourism. We have two types of tourism—one involving foreign tourists and the other involving domestic tourists. The domestic tourism solely depends on the railways. Hence, it is imperative for the Railways to identify potential tourist spots and places of pilgrimage and ensure rail services to those places. The Kashmir valley also is going to be filled with the whistling of trains and this will be the maiden experience of the people there. Earlier we used to say that we would put Udhampur and the valley on the route map of the Railways, but it remained a dream for the Kashmir people, the rail never reached there. But today, the Minister of Railways and the Prime Minister deserve our sincere thanks that the possibility of the railways reaching the valley is not very far, it is on the threshold now. So the various ongoing ambitions projects

of the railways are certainly commendable. But, alongwith this, I would also say that the projects which are undertaken should also be completed in time.

These days the situation regarding rail passengers and freight charges is changing. The number of passengers is reducing. Why is it happening? The railways should care for that. If, despite better facilities and security arrangements the number of people, travelling in trains today is less than the number of passengers during previous years, it causes concern. Why is it so? Freight charge is another question today in the backdrop of the traders, strike. If road transport comes to a halt, it has a direct bearing on the well being of the market. The railways should take up this challenge. The challenge thrown by the traders' strike would have been tackled quite easily had the railways made proper arrangements for the transportation of fruits, vegetables and milk etc. I hope the railways would take an initiative in this regard which will not only benefit the farmers but also help control the market rate of things and the people will get essential commodities in time.

With these few words, I would like to submit that I support this appropriation bill in order to help the Railways move ahead with the same pace and in the same manner as they are moving further today and I also hope that under the able leadership of the hon. Minister of Railways and the hon. Prime Minister the railways will keep on continuous progress and become the symbol of the cultural life line of the country.

[English]

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM (Badagara): Thank you, very much Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, for this opportunity.

As everybody is aware, the Indian Railways is the symbol of the concept of unity in diversity. It is actually a tool of national integration. We are very proud that it is the largest railway network under a single management in the world.

Now, with 63,000 route kilometres and befitting expansion of all lines, the Indian Railways is a very vast network. There is no doubt about it. But when we analyse the progress made by the Indian Railways network through the ages, since its inception 150 years ago, the major portion or existing network has been constructed by the British, and the increase during the post-Independence is very minimal, at time, very low.

Here, we have to analyse the progress in relation to the expectation and the requirements. Everyday the number of passengers is actually increasing. Regarding increase in the passengers, and the passenger amenities etc., the Indian Railways has not come up to their expectations.

Of course, it is true that some efforts had made by the hon. Minister Shri Nitish Kumar to rationalise different aspects of progress in the Railway network. Regarding freight services, passenger services, projects and safety, he had made an attempt to rationalise the entire process. According to his Status Paper published in 1998 regarding the passenger fares, the philosophy is expressed in the following terms:

"Appropriate tariff for each segment commensurate with level of service provided and the ability to pay for the same have to be evolved."

Of course, it is a very ideal condition if it is implemented.

But when we look into the fare increase, the hon. Minister can claim that there was no increase in the Budget for the year 2003-2004. But during the previous year, the high rise was there in the passenger traffic rate. That burden had actually fallen on the ordinary passengers and not on the special class, to the high society because the reduction was made in the rate of *Rajdhani Express* and *Shatabdi Express* etc., whereas in the second-class fares, in the smaller trains, the fare was actually hiked.

Sir, this year is declared as the Customers' Satisfaction Year by the Railways. Regarding projects, not many new projects have come up during this Financial Year. Regarding the project perspective also, there is a philosophy expressed in the Budget of 2002-03 wherein the hon. Railways Minister had stated:

"I have decided to allot funds for the plan-heads new lines, doubling, gauge conversion, electrification etc., for projects in different States based on a clear and transparent formula, so that the available resources are distributed in a manner which can be considered fair and just."

Of course, the philosophy is fair and just.

The hon. Minister had further stated:

"...For this purpose, I have considered three major criteria, viz., the area of the State, the population

and the throw-forward of projects in States. Weightage given to these three criteria is in the ratio of 15 per cent, 15 per cent and 70 per cent respectively."

Actually, this philosophy is very much appreciated on principle. But as far as my State of Kerala is concerned, this philosophy has actually put our State into great disadvantage. As regards size, ours is a very small State. Regarding population size also, ours is a very progressive State in implementing Family Welfare Programmes. Our population has been controlled. But as far as this particular criterion is concerned, we are put to a great disadvantage. I am sure that the hon. Railway Minister will agree with me in this regard.

Another thing is throw-forward projects. Because of the financial constraints, which the State is undergoing, they are not able to put forward many projects where the funding would be mainly done by the State Government. Due to all these conditions, our State of Kerala is put to a great disadvantage.

Sir, if we just go into the allotment for the last three years, we find that it is actually coming down. Instead of increasing, it is actually coming down.

In 2001-2002, the allotment was Rs. 286.67 crore. In 2002-03, Kerala received only Rs. 208.88 crore. That means, a reduction of nearly Rs. 80 crore is there in the allotment. This year, 2003-04, it has further come down to Rs. 127 crore which means that there is again a reduction of Rs. 80 crore.

So, this is the situation as far as the funding in relation to the State of Kerala is concerned. Naturally, with such reduction of funds, we will not be able to complete the on-going projects in a time-bound manner.

Similarly, constitution of ROBs, installation of interlocking system, manning unmanned level-crossings etc., require a lot of funds. For doubling the Shoranur-Mangalore line, the required amount is Rs. 106 crore but the allotted amount is only Rs. 55 crore. For Calicut-Shoranur-Kuttippuram line the required amount is Rs. 73 crore but only Rs. 33 crore has been granted. Similarly, for electrification, Rs. 81.64 crore is required but only Rs. 22 crore has been given. That means, most of the projects have to be finished within two to three years time, will be lagging and we will not be able to complete those projects in a time-bound manner.

Sir, regarding the new trains allotted, I am indeed grateful to the hon. Minister for granting one new train

[Prof. A.K. Premajam]

and extension of three trains, especially, the extension of the Ernakulam-Calicut Inter-City Express to Kannur, as promised by the hon. Minister. Here, in this connection, I would like to make a request. Hyderabad-Eranakulam train is extended to Trivendrum. But there are a lot of passengers coming from Malabar side also. So, some arrangement—either a compartment which can be de-shunted from Shoranur or an extension of the entire thing to Malabar area—will be much appreciated.

Sir, regarding the MPLAD funds, I would like to specially mention that the Railways at the bureaucratic level is still having the British colonial hangover. Some of these rules have to be amended in the changed circumstances. When the hon. Minister is thinking in terms of improving the infrastructure facilities and improving the passenger amenities, there are certain amenities which are not actually passenger related amenities, but they are closely related to the Railway. For example in my constituency Badagara, I had already allotted Rs. 60 lakh from the MPLAD funds for two projects, on an average Rs. 30 lakh per project. This had been done two years ago. But they are still pending implementation because of an answer being awaited from the Railway authorities. The position is that one under-bridge at Patiat Mukhali to the North of Badagara is proposed by me, and actually it is not a passenger amenity because this under-bridge is to be used by village pedestrians from three villages to get to the national highways. They have to cross the double line now, if they have to get to the National Highway in the existing system. As this an essential requirement for the development of that area, I have allotted Rs. 30 lakh two years back. The Committee of MPLADS had already okayed the project from their side. But the Ministry of Railways is saying that according to the existing rules, the State Government and the *Gram Panchayat* have to shell out money. How can a *Gram Panchayat* allot Rs. 30 lakh for one project? They are under great economic strain. So, the money is pending there and this money is kept for this project alone. The Ministry of Railways has not given a positive reply. I have written to the Railway Board. I have raised this matter on earlier occasions also, when I was participating in the discussions on the Railway Budget.

Another project is for a foot over-bridge at Tellicherry, to the south of the Railway Station. It is not, in any way, connected with the Railway Station. It is actually over a level crossing which had been closed in lieu of a fly-over. For this also, I have allotted Rs. 30 lakh two years ago. In the name of passenger amenities, this is being negated. Actually, this is not a passenger amenity. The

passengers coming from the platform will not be using this foot over-bridge. This foot over-bridge is for ordinary pedestrians who had to come from the Coorg Road to the bus stand and other places.

I would request the hon. Minister to examine this matter and sanction this at the earliest so that I can get the two project implemented which will be connected with the railways.

Another point is the one which I mentioned today during the submissions under Rule 377. So, I will not repeat that.

There is another over-bridge at Badagara, Ontham over-bridge. It was started in 1994 and it is yet to be completed. The road alignment is already made. The railway portion, that is, the bridge portion over the railway track is to be completed. Several over-bridges are in different stages of completion and there is delay in completing the bridge portion. The National Highway portion is completed; the road alignment is completed. In most cases, the bridge portion which is just above the railway track is to be completed; whatever may be the technical problems, I would request the hon. Minister to see that directions are given to the authorities concerned to expedite the matter.

Another request which I had been repeatedly making in this august House is regarding Tellicherry-Nanjangode railway line. Actually this railway line will help augmenting the requirements of tourism projects because from Tellicherry, there is only bus service available now, to Karnataka region. If this railway line comes up, this will be very encouraging to the tourism development programme and other activities which will also help people belonging to the entire Malabar region, to reach Karnataka and come back, in a very convenient manner.

I earnestly request that this will be given a great consideration by the hon. Minister at least in the next Budget.

There are many more points to be brought to the notice. But for want of time, I thank the hon. Deputy-Speaker for the opportunity given. I also thank the hon. Minister for the services he has already rendered to our State. I anticipate that more funds will be allotted to the State of Kerala and also that he would give some good consideration for the northern part of Kerala, that is, Malabar.

[Translation]

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA (Mumbai North East): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am on my legs to make my submission to the hon. Minister of Railways only on one issue. You all are aware that a bomb blast took place in a train in Mulund, Mumbai. I am thankful to the Ministry of Railways that the Minister of Railways sent all the officers the same night and got the arrangements made within 25 minutes to send the injured and the dead to hospital immediately and also made ex-gratia payments to them the same day. Next day, the Minister of State for Railways Shri Bandaru Dattatreya ji also visited the site.

15.00 hrs.

I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister towards one thing. Hon. Minister of state Shri Bandaru Dattatreya ji came to Mumbai. There were 82 such persons who had suffered the loss of one thing or the other. Out of them 60 persons are such as have been rendered deaf. There is a provision of claim tribunal in the Railways which can settle claims ranging from Rs. 38 thousand to Rs. 3,60,000. But the people have to submit their claims there. There is a claim officer for their assistance. I have all the details of such persons. I have got information regarding each and every case. There are cases in which the young husband has died leaving behind his wife and child just three months of age. There are many other cases in which persons have already paid hospital bills of Rs. 40 thousand 50 thousand or even one lakh. The condition of Mumbai branch of the Railway claim Tribunal is such that it has one thousand pending cases. If only 29 claims are submitted, then too, their turn will come after two years. By then where will these poor people go? They have even mortgaged their houses for their treatment. About 90 percent of them were travelling in the second class. Earlier also you have provided assistance on humanitarian ground. Last year when the Rajdhani Express met with an accident, the hon. Minister of Railways appointed a special judge and the two passengers who belonged to Mumbai and who died in that accident, have got their claims of Rs. 4 lakh. All the claims have been disbursed in a span of just four months. This is a great achievement. You must do the same this time also for Mumbai and appoint a special judge so that all the affected persons could get compensation within three or four months. On the other hand, the Railways are not going to incur any revenue loss by doing so. The Railways give some portion of the passenger fares collected through sale of tickets to General Insurance Corporation as insurance premium.

This provision was made in 1993. During the last 10 years the Railways have deposited Rs. 114 crores as premium and only Rs. 83 crores have been settled through claims. The Railways will incur no loss of revenue and the insurance company also will incur no loss. The dependents of the deceased and the injured persons receiving treatment in the hospital will get assistance on humanitarian grounds. So this is my humble request that a special judge should be appointed and besides, a special cell comprising of two or four persons may also be appointed in the office of the Railway claims officer. I believe the hon. Minister of Railways will pay heed to my request.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we are discussing Railways Demands for Grants, 2003-2004. Hon. Minister of Railways has constituted a Special Railway Safety amount of fund with the amount of Rs. 17 thousand crore. A sum of Rs. 1400 crore has been spent during 2002-2003. but I assume that desired results have not yielded thereby. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Government is not run by figures, rather it sustain on the basis of faith and confidence of the people. The most important thing is that what do the people feel. I would like to tell hon'ble Shri Nitish Kumar ji that people are losing their confidence in railway journey, rail accident or other is reported in the newspaper that causes panic and the sense of insecurity among the people. Every year about 385 people are killed due to rail accidents. Out of which 148 people are killed due to train collision, 51 derailment and 31 people are killed due to unmanned railway crossing. The most important thing is that after accident an inquiry committee is constituted which makes delay in submitting its report and action to be taken is also delayed. A committee under the Chairmanship of G.C. Garg to conduct enquiry a rail accident in 1988 according to my knowledge the Committee have not submitted its report till January, 2003, during this year. Likewise, C.M. Ray Committee was constituted in August, 1999 to enquire into Gaisil rail accident in which 285 people were killed. The Committee made 21 recommendations out of which 19 recommendations were accepted. I mean to say that efforts be made in this direction that whenever a Committee is appointed to enquire a rail accident that enquiry must be completed without any delay and the action be ensured against the guilty personnel so as to create a impression among the people to this effect that such kind of accidents would not recur and action will be taken against errant personnel. General Managers and Divisional Managers are held responsible for these accidents. As far as financial powers are concerned, the

[Shri Ramji Lal Suman]

amount of ten thousand crore rupees has been increased. But it will do nothing. I am of the opinion that until and unless a system to ensure accountability is devised, better results would not come out.

Sir, a Committee under the Chairmanship of Justice Shakil Ahmed was appointed to inquire into the Sarai-Banjara rail accident occurred in December, 2000. The Committee has not submitted its report so far. Shri Nitish Kumarji, I request to streamline the enquiry process so that report in this matter can be submitted expeditiously. So far as people are concerned they should immediately feel after the accident that the Government have taken stern action and such accidents would not occur in future. But there is a need to adopt effective measures to achieve this objective.

He compared the number of rail accidents to those occurred in 1960 and stated that the number of accidents has come down. I think that in the present context, it is no way justified to compare rail accident occurred in 1960. If rail accident are assessed on the basis of 1960 then the expenditure incur on the operation of the railways be also considered. It should also be considered as to how far this expenditure has increased.

As far as railway operation is concerned, it has been politicised to a certain extent. There is a need to ponder over it. Deliberation is required before introducing new trains. It was decided to introduce Janshatabadi in the last budget. I would like to tell average number of passengers travelling daily by Janshatabdi. 23 passengers travelled by Janshatabdi, Tata-Ranchi 92 by Ahmedabad-Bhuj Janshatabdi. 160 by Howrah Malada Janshatabdi, 190 by Lucknow-Varanasi Janshatabdi, 160 by Habibganj-Bhopal Janshatabdi and 180 passengers travel by Patna-Katihar Janshatabdi, that is, this train is completely running in loss. I would like to say that a discussion be held before introducing a new train so as to ensure that it should not prove loss making. In the white paper issued by the Ministry of Railways it has been stated that accident free train journey is not possible. Hon'ble Minister of Railways delivered a speech on Jan, 3 2003 in Mumbai while he visited there to celebrate 150th year of railways. In that speech he assured that the railways will be made accident free in the next 5 years. Thus there is a contradiction between white paper issued by the government and Minister's speech. There is a need to think over it.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Railway station have become epicenters of criminals. A statement of General Manager, old Delhi Railway station has published

wherein he himself accepted that the criminals in large number are find at Delhi railway station. Therefore, there is a need to keep tabs on these criminals.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Railway Department introduce additional for the processions, rallies and programmes organised by the various political parties. Necessary formalities are required to be completed in this regard. Recently, a party had organised a so called 'Pardaphas Rally' in Lucknow on 14th April. It has been reported in the Hindustan Times' that Railway department had provided them trains without completing formalities. The manner in which railway officers were intimidated is in no way appreciable. Though it is his department, he is the Minister of the deptt. and all in all but no body has right to humiliate officers. I am of the view that formalities are required to be fulfilled for providing additional trains to such rallies.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Railways and P.W.D. of concerned state contribute funds equally, that is 50-50 percent required for the construction of a bridge. It seems to me that most of the State Governments do not cooperate in this matter. Therefore, co-operation of State Governments is necessary for constructing railway bridges. In the absence of such cooperation bridges can not be constructed. I would like to submit that Railway department should hold a meeting with the concerned Minister of the State Governments and thereafter appropriate action be taken by the Department to construct bridges where these are needed.

15.12 hrs.

[SHRI P.H. PANDIAN *In the Chair*]

Mr. Chairman, Sir, Hon'ble Minister of Railways recently inaugurated Agra Division on 4th April. I would like to request him that consequent upon the creation of the division staff has not been transferred there properly. Old staff should be posted there and this division be extended. Moreover Agra Division be extended upto Tundla Firozabad-Shikohabad, Jaipur-Bandikui and Faridabad and then it will emerge in its real shape. Firozabad railway station does not have computerised reservation facility which is essential there. In the absence of waiting room at Firozabad passengers have to face a lot of difficulties. Therefore, there is a need to provide waiting room there.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, stoppage be provided at Tundla for Prayagraj Express and Shatabadi trains. It is on

account of Shri Mulayam Singh ji, all the facilities have been provided there. I request that stoppage be provided at Firozabad. Besides, trains passing via Agra like Hawra-Jodhpur Express do not reservation facility. Agra is an important station where tourists arrive and considerable revenue is generated from there. Therefore, reservation quotas should be increased. Agra-Atnapur rail line is to be doubled. It should be completed at the earliest. Jalesar railway station should be developed immediately on the priority basis for the purpose of loading and unloading of goods.

Lastly, I would like to submit that there is a dire need to construct overbridge at Shikohabad. People travel from Shikohabad to Bateswar, the birth place of hon'ble Prime Minister and also a historical place. It is a hours long journey. Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav has been MLA from this constituency and later on he become Chief Minister. A large number of pilgrims visit there. But there is no overbridge due to which it has become hours long journey. I have raised this issue in the House also. But the Minister of Railways said in his reply that he is ready to construct an overbridge there provided State Government co-operate them. I would be grateful to you if a overbridge is constructed at Shikohabad by doing correspondence with State Government. Gomati, Varanasi, Jodhpur, Hawra and other deluxe trains should be stopped at Shikohabad.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, this is what I have to request. I hope that, Minister of Railways will be kind enough to sort-out all these problems which I have mentioned in my speech.

[English]

DR. A.D.K. JAYASEELAN (Tiruchendur): Mr. Chairman Sir, at the outset I must congratulate the Minister for Railways. I must accept the fact that in recent times Tamil Nadu has been benefited by the present Ministers. In my constituency also we have had the privilege of getting Tirukkural Express from Kanyakumari to Delhi and the extension of Kudal Express. Still, we have some more requirements. We really appreciate that Shri A.K. Moorthy is doing wonderfully well. He is going from place to place and he came to Tiruchendur also to open the computerised booking office. He promised that broad gauge will be introduced in the coming year.

Tirunelveli to Tiruchendur is only 61 kms. The major work has been completed there and bridges have also been built. You have to change only the rails.

Unfortunately, it is going at a snail's pace. Sometimes, because of pressures, the Minister is allotting money to other jobs. We feel very sorry for it. Tirunelveli to Tiruchendur is a very important line in our country. There is a Murugan temple there. Every month lakhs and lakhs of pilgrims come there. If you come there, you will be definitely blessed. People visit the Kartikeyan Temple at Tiruchendur. Further, there is a place called Alimuganeri where hundreds and thousands of people are engaged in salt manufacturing. There is one Darangadhara Chemical Works. They use the Railways for transporting soda ash. By way of this transportation the Railways can earn a minimum of Rs. 1 crore. Commercially it is really viable. It will connect this place with every nook and corner of the country from where a large number of pilgrims are coming. They find it very difficult in the present set up. They come up to Tirunelveli and from there they have to catch some other mode of transport like bus or taxi.

Actually my people asked me to lead an agitation to attract the attention of the Minister towards this issue. But, I said the Ministers are wonderful people and they know what is good. I also assured my people that our Minister will do this job for them. Therefore, I invite the Minister to come to Tiruchendur and he will be definitely blessed.

There are one or two small points that I have to make. In the Kanyakumari line there is one place called Valliyur where the platform is so low that two persons recently fell down and died. Immediately people rushed to me and questioned me about it. I am answerable to them. That way, you are also answerable to them. Valliyur Railway Station is situated between Tirunelveli and Kanyakumari.

Some parts of Tamil Nadu have been annexed with Kerala side. There is a demand that Kanyakumari area must be included in or annexed to the Madurai Zone. This is very important.

The people of Kerala are really very shrewd. I must appreciate them. They make full use of the amount. If Rs. 100 crore is allotted to them, they make use of Rs. 90 crore and give only Rs. 10 crore or something like that. So, we are at the mercy of the people there. So, please try to include the areas of Kanyakumari and Tirunelveli with Madurai zone. ... (Interruptions) Pudukottai area is also important but the most important area is Tirunelveli-Tiruchendur. There are so many schemes but this is the most important area. I hope it will be done.

[Dr. A.D.K. Jayaseelan]

There is another proposal regarding a new train from Kanyakumari to Kashi a pilgrim centre. Kashi and Kanyakumari. Kanyakumari is a part of my constituency. Everyday, more than 25,000 people come there. It is one of the most important places being a tourist spot. Geographically also, it is important. There is the confluence of three seas. We are spending crores of rupees on Kashmir. Why can we not spend some amount on Kanyakumari which is a pilgrim centre apart from a tourist spot? It is a sacred place. Please give importance to this area also. I hope they will do it. As we have got very wonderful Ministers here, I am confident that they will do it.

[Translation]

PROF. S.P. SINGH BAGHEL (Jalesar): Mr. Chairman, Sir, these hon'ble Members could not participate in the debate, their written speeches be included therein.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: If you are willing to lay your written speech, it is all right.

DR. B.B. RAMAIAH (Eluru): Sir, I must first congratulate the hon. Railway Minister for presenting a very good Budget this year without increasing the taxes either in freight or passenger fares and also increasing the goods traffic to the maximum extent.

I would like to suggest to him some ways of increasing the facilities to the passengers and also increasing the goods traffic in order to make it more economical and profitable. Today, railways have to compete with road transport. After increasing the road transport facilities, they have become a big competition and they have to provide with more facilities which are required in the existing conditions of our country.

An important item which is required to be more economical in future operations is making it uniguage everywhere which you are doing now. If you have meter gauge and broad gauge, you may have transit problems. Please make it uniguage as fast as possible so that the whole country will be able to operate very efficiently. I know that one of the largest Railway operations is our Indian Railways.

Another point is unit type of energy. Somewhere you are having electrification and at some places, you have diesel operations. It is always economical to make the

entire area operate under electrification and reduce two types of engines. Earlier, we had steam engines. That was most inefficient operation and diesel is much more better than that. But today, electrification is much better from economic point of view and also taking into account efficiency and profitability aspects.

The next point which I would like to make is about more utilisation of the workshops that are available with the railways both for manufacture of wagons and coaches. We have to meet not only our requirements but also international requirements. We may take up work outside India for erection and operation of railways as we have people with enough experience and knowledge in our country. This is one point on which we should be able to expand and take care of our neighbouring countries which require a lot of facilities.

Next point is about safety fund. This year, we have put a cess as regards safety purpose. In a number of places, we find that flyovers are required. but the condition is that there should be 50 per cent contribution from the State Government which it is unable to do. We find that substantial amount of railway safety fund is unutilised because the State Governments are unable to contribute to that extent. I would suggest to make it a nominal contribution from the State Governments. We find a number of cases where the State Government's contribution is 10 per cent or so like taking up rural development schemes, drinking water schemes and other things. Likewise, you may reduce the contribution of the State Government from 50 per cent to 15 per cent so that we may probably utilise our safety funds fully and also utilise the services of the flyovers which have become absolutely necessary in a number of places.

I am sure that you will take this into consideration, try to help and increase the faster utilisation of the flyovers and to man the railway gates. A number of accidents are happening because there are no manned gates. Manned gates are also very limited. Since we are having this Safety Fund, every year we should increase the number of manned gates so that we can prevent the accidents and we can also increase the performance and efficiency.

Let me come to diesel engines. We have imported some engines at very high cost, whereas this country can produce some of these engines. Even if you have one engine, you can improve upon it. That is what Japan

has done. You need not import second one. You can improve on that. We can produce large quantities for our own requirements and we can supply them to other countries also. I think these are the important items, which we have to take into consideration.

We have to make use of container traffic. Shipping Department and Ports are using container traffic. People are using the containers. We should also handle as much containers as possible.

Coming to our own State, hon. Minister Shri Dattatreya was in my area. We found that *Godavari Pushkaram*, where we have to handle large number of population, we have to provide special trains to meet the demands in these areas. We had sent an excellent proposal. We have to review that proposal again.

Bhadrachalam-Kovvur covers substantial reduction of distance and it would be more economical. If we review it again, there will be a lot of development in that area in terms of industrial development and agricultural development. That would be more useful. From Nidadavole to Vijayawada, via Bhimavaram, the rail traffic is increasing. There we should need electrification. We have made this demand a number of times. We shall have to take up this very important item.

You have introduced a number of trains. They are passing via Andhra Pradesh, but they are not specifically for Andhra Pradesh. You should also introduce trains for Andhra Pradesh. The most important thing is that, the timings of the trains that pass through Andhra Pradesh are not suitable for the passengers. I had suggested a number of proposals for this. I hope the Railway Minister will take this into consideration.

In Hyderabad, we found that metro traffic is increasing. We have to take up this issue as early as possible. The same is the case in other big cities. Pollution problem is increasing more and more and the metro traffic is also increasing. Only through metro, the Railway can help the people.

Our people have suggested for construction of number of bridges. We will send you the local requirements specifically for various purposes. There are no urinals in a number of trains. It is said that these trains are meant for short distance, so they do not require urinals. But, now the number of hours of journey has increased to five hours and six hours. There, urinals

become a problem. Anything less than two hours is okay. Otherwise, you have to provide urinals.

In a number of stations, the level of platform is very low. A number of hon. Members spoke about this. We have to raise the levels of platform so that passengers do not find it difficult to get in and get down.

These are the most important items. I will send you a number of other suggestions. I hope you will take care of them.

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA (Kanakpura): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I do not want to take much time of this House. I want to mention one or two points only today.

Yesterday, I was in Northern Karnataka, which area you tried to help by shifting the zone. The credit for that should go to the Railway Minister and Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee. The people are urging the Government to hand over the areas which have already been notified, from Bellary to Toranagal. These are the two areas which have already been notified. But the areas have not been handed over. They tried to impress upon me that I should bring it to the notice of the hon. Railway Minister. I am honestly doing that job. Please see to it that you fulfil whatever commitment you have made.

I would like to draw your attention to Bellary-Toranagal. Hubli division should be handed over. The other thing is that in Bijapur three religious heads were on an indefinite hunger strike yesterday. I have persuaded them. In Bijapur to Gadag area and whatever remaining area where gauge conversion is to be done, the allocation is hardly Rs. 10 crore. The amount required is Rs. 180 crore. An indefinite hunger strike has started and about 4000 people have gathered there. There is law and order problem. I went there for a different purpose. They forced me to visit that area and persuaded me to stress the Government particularly on this issue. This amount of Rs. 10 crore is only a meagre amount. I do not want to say anything beyond that. It requires another 18 years at this rate of progress to complete.

Another one is where the Prime Minister laid the foundation stone during 1998, when this controversy was in the Hubli zone. At that time, the Prime Minister laid the foundation stone for Hubli-Ankola line. There also the hon. Minister has provided Rs. 10 crore. It requires about Rs. 950 crore. I do not know when it is going to be completed. The Prime Minister had laid the foundation stone. Hence at least during his tenure let there be some

[Shri H.D. Devegowda]

substantial progress. That is all I want to say. He is going to hold office for the next one and a half years. I do not mention here the other works which were sanctioned and included in the Pink Book during my period. Where the money is going to be spent, how the money is going to be spent, I am not going to look at it with a parochial angle. I do not want to say anything about the number of works which you have sanctioned during my period and how the works are limping.

It is not the question of blaming anybody but the factual position is for Hassan-Mangalore how much have you provided? It started about fifteen years back. After all, I was there for hardly ten months and I cannot take the credit for myself. For Hassan-Bangalore it is about Rs. 400 crore. At least this year the hon. Minister has provided Rs. 25 crore. Earlier, it was Rs. 10 crore, Rs. 15 crore, like that. My earnest appeal to the Minister is that for Hubli-Ankola and even for Munirabad and Mehboob Nagar, you have provided Rs. 10 crore. Everywhere you have paid Rs. 5 crore or 10 crore only to satisfy the people because it is the election year and you do not want to displease anybody. I do not want to make any sweeping remarks. The fact is that substantial money has not been provided at least for this Hubli-Gadag. Due to this, a serious situation has developed because three religious heads are going on an indefinite hunger. I requested them to discontinue but they were not in a mood to oblige. I do not want any law and order problem to be created there. The hon. Minister may take credit for himself by allocating at least Rs. 25 crore or Rs. 30 crore this year and see that the hunger strike is discontinued. That is all I want to say. I do not want to make any comment on the allocation of funds. The hon. Railway Minister has tried to mobilise more funds this time by creating the Rail Vikas Nigam. I do not know how he is going to mobilise that but it is a laudable idea.

The Prime Minister has given clearance for this proposal. The Finance Minister also, in his Budget speech, has mentioned about mobilising the required money to complete some of the ongoing projects and also some fresh projects which the Minister has sanctioned. Some of the projects are very essential; whether they are in Bihar or Uttar Pradesh is not the issue. But these projects are very much essential for the development of the country.

I would like to say that the Minister has made an attempt to mobilise the resources, but at the same time I would like to urge that Karnataka should not be given a raw deal. That is all I want to say. I do not want to say anything beyond this because the hon. Minister has

made some earnest efforts to satisfy everybody. So, I sincerely request the Minister to provide some additional funds by mobilising them through the *Rail Vikas Nigam* to at least the three projects which I have mentioned, namely Hubli-Ankola, Bijapur-Gadag where hunger strike is going on and Hassan-Mangalore to be completed.

SHRI K. MALAISAMY (Ramanathapuram): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am extremely happy indeed today to participate in this debate under your chairmanship of this House, particularly because you make relaxed and feel at home. But that does not mean that I would take advantage of your presiding over the House. I would like to be as brief as possible and conclude my remarks as quickly as possible.

Sir, I would like to join with other colleagues who have come out with enough pat and praise on Shri Nitish Kumar and his team for presenting a passenger-friendly and freight sector friendly budget. It is a matter of gratification and supreme satisfaction to note that there are several highlights of the Railway Budget, namely, there has been no hike in the passenger fares, there has been increase in the frequency of trains, number of trains have been extended, a number of new trains have been introduced. Discounts have been offered. This year has been declared as the 'Consumer Satisfaction Year'. The Railway Minister has also rationalised the fare structure and freight rates. He has also given concessions to certain category of patients. He has also reduced the age limit to avail the concession given to senior citizens. There are thus good highlights in this Budget and it is really a matter of great satisfaction. This is on the one side. Coming to the other side, there are certain critical areas also. We know that any coin will have two sides. Similarly, any issue will have both plus and minus points. In the same way, any budget will have both plus and minus points. When I highlighted the plus points, there are certain minus points also about which a competent Minister like Shri Nitish Kumar can clarify during his reply. I have got certain genuine doubts on certain areas.

For example, the Minister has said that there is no increase either in passenger fares or freight rates. Last year, the Minister tried to set right the imbalance in the freight and fare structure by increasing taxes with a view to compensate the losses. Now, since there is no increase in the fare and freight structure, the accrual happens to be much less. The improvement he has made is only 10.8 per cent as against 36.4 per cent of last year. According to me, the increase in the revenue made by him last year was around 36 per cent and now he could show only 10 per cent. So, there is a steep fall in the revenue. Will it not mean that the Minister has to depend more on outside finance or borrowings instead of generating his own resources?

Then coming to another point on which I would very much like to get a clarification is that there has been a reduction of passengers to the extent of 2.8 per cent. I am not able to understand that in the light of the increase in population, in the light of increase in prosperity and wealth, etc. how they can afford to reduce the Railway passengers. This point may be explained during the reply of the hon. Minister.

Then coming to another aspect on employment, I am not at all against growth of employment. I am one for it. I always plead for the potentiality of employment, but in Railways how can they afford to go to the extent of recruiting 20,000 new employees, plus 3,500 RPF personnel. On the whole, about 24,000 employees they are going to recruit. That means, there is going to be a heavy financial commitment. Will it not run in contrast to their earlier policy of downsizing their Department? When they are trying to downsize the manpower how can they think of going for higher manpower? This is another point on which I need to be clarified.

I need clarification on one more point. They have created seven zones and eight divisions. Will it not cost unnecessary or put additional strain on their financial exchequer?

One more point is that 30 per cent of their freight traffic is being taken away by road transport. What are they going to do on that?

But my core point is, different about which I have been harping on several times, during the tenure of Kumari Mamata Banerjee as Railway Minister and during your tenure, that there is a wide regional imbalance as far as Railways is concerned and I have made out my case so strong on so many occasions. This shows how Tamil Nadu has been notably and grossly neglected and discriminated against. Sir, you know, the Southern Railway consists of five States and it has got long M.G. kilometre length of 2,570 kms., all five States put together. But Tamil Nadu alone is having 2,137 km. length. What does it mean? As against 2,570 kms., in the entire Southern Railway, Tamil Nadu alone is having 2,137 kms. That means 85 per cent of the meter gauge is still in Tamil Nadu, whereas 70 per cent of the meter gauge throughout India has been already converted into broad gauge. But in T.N. 70 per cent or 80 per cent of meter gauge is yet to be converted into broad gauge. Is it not a big regional imbalance?

The hon. Minister may try to say that it is done according to the guidelines, viz there is a weightage for

population, weightage for area, and weightage for throw-forward of existing projects. The guidelines may be all right. But does he remember that the Standing Committee on Railways has given a recommendation that while giving this kind of priority you must not only go with all those things, but you must take care of the backwardness of the area and the possibility of generating revenue. These are the two criteria, which the Standing Committee has laid down. But nothing has been done for T.N. Normally, the hon. Minister may try to say that this is not his legacy. This 2,137 kms. M.G. is not done overnight. This has been done over a period of time. But this injustice for T.N. has been continuing.

Unfortunately, T.N. did not have a Railway Minister for a long period. Luckily, this time, they have given a Railway Minister of State, Shri Moorthy. He is very young, quite active, and goes here and there. But what can he do? He has not been given enough finance. He goes there and does some thing like increasing the frequency, extension of trains. I mean, he shows his presence felt by doing something. I want to know whether anything has been done substantially for T.N. For example, you look upon Rameshwaram to Madurai; then Trichy to Manamadurai. This is the most important broad-gauge conversion. I need not repeat this again and again. As rightly said by many people, Rameshwaram is not only a national-level pilgrim centre, but also an international pilgrim centre. If I mention Rameshwaram in United States, everybody will know it. That kind of importance is given to Rameshwaram. Not only that, the President of India, Shri Abdul Kalam, His Excellency is hailing from Rameshwaram. What more importance can one cite?*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Those words are expunged.

SHRI K. MALAISAMY: The Chairman may also recommend B.G. Conversion up to Rameshwaram as done for Tirunelveli. Rameshwaram has got real impact for Tirunelveli also. In addition to that, your Sethusamundaram Project near Rameshwaram will also warrant B.G. Conversion.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Since it is expunged, the Minister need not think that he need not lay broad-gauge to Rameshwaram. You lay broad-gauge to Rameshwaram. I have expunged the name, not the request.

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): I shall respond to his point.

SHRI K. MALAISAMY: A few weeks back, Shri A.K. Moorthy came to Paramakudi and Manamadurai and there

*Expunged as ordered by the chair.

[Shri K. Malaisamy]

was a huge crowd demanding to the effect that what are you going to do with the Rameshwaram project. this broad gauge conversion. He was really in a fix and a number of our MPs were there. At that time what he replied was that 'I will strongly recommend to the Railway Minister and see that in two or three years this Railway broad-gauge conversion will be done.' This is the open announcement made. Taking strength of the Railway Minister he has given the assurance. This is the core project. I need not dilate very much on that. Out of 10 projects. this Rameshwaram project is a very very important project. I need a positive assurance from Railway Minister. The sum and substance of my presentation is going to revolve round on this important project. This is one important aspect.

Then, out of the 10 projects of broad-gauge conversion, the total money required is Rs. 2,362 crore. For the last four or five years, you have given Rs. 261 crore which comes to only 10 per cent. How many years will this take? The Minister may have some financial constraints. You may say that I am in want of finance. It is up to you to generate the required finance. Some great injustice has been done which resulted in the regional imbalance. Are you not going to set right at some stage or other? This is the point. I have been repeatedly telling besides the entire team of Tamil Nadu came and met you; Sir and Shri A.K. Moorthyji. We have been trying our best. We do not know how to get it done. In spite of our best efforts, we are not able to manage you! You are able to manage so many things. Can you not manage this Rameshwaram project?

Let me come to one more aspect. In the case of allocation of funds, the total money allocated is Rs. 2888 crore for Projects, out of which Rs. 800 crore goes to North East, Jharkhand, etc. So, from the remaining amount of Rs. 2,115 crore, 40 per cent goes to Madhya Pradesh, U.P., A.P. and Karnataka, not Bihar. So, what is left for other States?

To sum up, for the ingoing new lines in Tamil Nadu, the requirement is Rs. 1,852 crore; for broad-gauge conversion, the requirement is Rs. 1,810 crore; and for doubling, the requirement is Rs. 135 crore. So, the total money required for Tamil Nadu is Rs. 3,798.37 crore. You are giving only Rs. 350 crore on an average as against the requirement of roughly Rs. 3,800 crore. As per the present allocation of funds this will take another 15 years to complete.

Now, I need a commitment from the hon. Railway Minister, Shri Nitish Kumar as to whether he can increase

this money to a great extent by doing it with retrospective effect. All the neglects, discriminations and injustice done to Tamil Nadu can be compensated by giving double or triple the quantum of money which you are giving on an average.

I would again like to remind the hon. Railway Minister that Tamil Nadu is very much in need of bigger projects. I would request the hon. Railway Minister to kindly think over as to how the existing and on-going projects, particularly Madurai to Rameshwaram and Tiruchi to Manamadurai can be completed within a time-frame. These are the two projects which are very much essential for the South.

With these few words, I conclude.

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I whole heartedly support the demands for grants placed by hon. Minister of Railways. The entire country has praised the rail budget presented by hon. Minister as there is no hike in the passenger fares and freight charges and many facilities have been provided.

I would like to draw the attention of hon. Minister towards some points. Rajasthan is the largest State and whatever railway network exists there, is less than as compared to the other parts of the country. I would like to request, through you, hon. Minister of Railway that special attention should be paid towards the projects which are under consideration or have already been cleared. Rajasthan is a border State and 700 km. territory of our country is adjoining Pakistan border. I am grateful to Ministry of Defence to cooperate in the matter of converting meter gauge into broad gauge and constructing rail line in the border State. And I hope that railways would complete this project as early as possible. I express my gratitude to hon. Minister for connecting Patna to the Ajmer by train but this train is weekly. If the frequencies of this train is increased then I would be grateful to him. I would like to draw the attention of hon. Railway Minister to the fact that Mahavir ji station, a famous pilgrimage place of Jainism in Rajasthan falls on this route. Therefore, there is a need to provide stoppage at this station. I would like to draw the attention of the hon'ble Railway Minister to this fact that as to why the train running between Patna and Ajmer does not stop at big stations like Kanpur. Hon'ble Minister of Railways is present here. He had visited Secunderabad Hyderabad. Earlier Ajmer-Kachhiguda rail line was a meter gauge it is still meter gauge, Minakshi train runs upto Pune on

this track. Consequently the passengers have to face a lot of difficulties to reach Andhra Pradesh as they have to take broad gauge train from Pune. Therefore I would like to request that gauge conversion be take much time so why that time a broad gauge line be constructed between Hyderabad and Ahmedabad via Surat. A small stretch of broad gauge is required to link Hyderabad with Ajmer because broad gauge is already exists on this route upto Ajmer. If a train is introduced between Hyderabad and Ajmer then lakhs of pilgrims visiting to Ajmer Sharif can go upto Pushkar also. Therefore I would like to request to the hon'ble Minister that a broad gauge rail line be laid between Andhra Pradesh and Ajmer. The project for connecting Ajmer to Pushkar has been approved and it is a matter of glad that Rajasthan Government has provided land for the project, though the compensation has been paid to them. However, the issue of compensation has resolved after a long time. Therefore, I request hon. Minister to provide a bit more funds for this purpose.

Udaipur is a big tourist spot and divisional Headquarters of South Rajasthan. Mewar has its historical importance but even today meter gauge exists between Ajmer, Bhilwara, Chittor, Udaipur although and Mewar. Though broad gauge has been approved for these places. Some time Rs. 20 crore, sometime Rs. 25 crores and some time 30 crores are sanctioned for this project, this way it will take many years. So Mr. Chairman, Sir, I request hon'ble Railways Minister that keeping in view the special importance of the historical places like Chittor, Udaipur and Agucha mines in Rajasthan there is a need to construct broad gauge there.

Earlier there was a meter gauge between Ajmer and Agra. I am very much obliged to you for providing funds for gauge conversion between Bandikui, Bharatpur and Agra Fort. I would be grateful to you if this work is completed expeditiously because lakhs of passengers travel from Agra Fort to Ajmer and Ahmedabad. Earlier the train named Agra Fort was very popular which has been discontinued due to gauge conversion. Therefore, I request to the hon. Minister to get completed the remaining stretch between Bandikui, Bharatpur and Agra Fort at war footing level.

He has announced a new train between Jaipur, Ajmer and Udaipur and I hope that it will be introduced immediately if Shatabdi Express running between New Delhi and Ajmer is provided with two minutes stoppage at Kishangarh which is the largest marble mandi near Ajmer it will be convenient for marble traders to a great

extent. The marble traders are ready to make upto the losses, if any, suffered by the Railways on account of this stoppage.

Ashram Express is running between Delhi and Ahmedabad passing through Beawer, a city with the population of one lakh and thousands people of this city are serving in the army. I will be very much obliged to you if two minutes stoppage is provided to this train at Beawer. I have already requested to him in this regard.

Sir, Ajmer is known as rail city. The hon. Railway Minister. himself visited Ajmer, he inspected the Loco-carriage Factory, which has completed 125 years of its foundation and also gave away prizes to the employees there on the occasion of completing 125 years of its establishment. And he also gave them awards ...(*Interruptions*). He had announced there that the activities of the factory and job opportunities would be increased. He had also got some projects prepared, perhaps they might be under consideration of the Railway Ministry. No other undertaking has been established in Ajmer following the Rail Factories. I request him that importance of local and carriage factories be maintained there, activities of the both factories be increased, more and more vacancies be created in them and more and more people get employment there. The hon. Railway Minister is sitting here and I am expressing my heart-felt feelings to him. People expressed acute resentment in Ajmer following reorganisation of railway zones there. Now Jaipur has become the headquarters of the North-West zone. Somehow I managed to pacify the people.

16.00 hrs.

(SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA *in the Chair*)

Earlier accounts Headquarters of the Western Railway was in Ajmer, now following the reorganisation, it has been shifted to Mumbai. Thousands of employees have got their houses constructed in Ajmer and their children are studying there and the parents of these children are on the verge of retirement and if at this stage they are transferred to Mumbai, how they will feel. I had made a submission to the Hon. Minister in this regard and he was kind enough that they would not be transferred there upto one year. I would like to request through you that the Traffic Accounts and competition Headquarters of the Western Railway should remain in Ajmer. Now this is the age of computer, work can be carried out smoothly from anywhere. As an office at Tuglakabad comes under the Western Railway, similarly that should also remain in Ajmer itself.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: What you have said, is accepted.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: I would be grateful to you if you recommend, that the Accounts Office of the Western Railway should remain in Ajmer. More over, Ajmer is a city of the Khawajah Sahib and the Pushkar is a historical city.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali): The Malpuwa of Pushkar are very tasty.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Therefore, I request you that it would be better if the Accounts office of the North-Western Railway remains in Ajmer.

Madam, similarly, the computer reservation facility should be provided at the Beawar and Kishangarh railway stations. You have already issued orders for Beawar but the computer centre has not been set up so far. Kishangarh is also of the biggest mandis, there should also be a computer centre. Similarly, Nasirabad is also the largest containment area which comes under my parliamentary constituency. There is also no computer centre. Now this area comes under the Ajmer division on transfers of the employees following the creation of new division. The employees who belong to Ajmer originally should be posted in Ajmer itself. And the employees who are from outside and if they are willing for transfer, then they should be transferred there. People are approaching me daily in this connection and they are requesting me to do something. Therefore, it is my request to you that the employees who are originally from Ajmer, should not be transferred from there.

Likewise, the frequency of the Rajdhani Express which runs between Delhi and Ahmedabad should be increased. It should run on five days instead of three days in a week. This train is economically viable and generating good revenue. This should be taken into account. I have one more request that infrastructural facility is not available at the Ajmer railway station. Delhi-Ahmedabad Mail with 23 bogies and Ashram Mail with 24 bogies depart from the main platform but arrive at the second platform due to which people have to cross the over bridge. Other platforms are also not in good condition. Even the facility of tin-shade is not available there. There is broad-gauge facility at the platforms three and four. Drinking water facility is not available there. When I come to Delhi from there, people complain to me about these things then I face a very awkward situation and I feel humiliation. I request you to kindly provide all

these amenities there for the convenience of the people as the elections are due the corner in Rajasthan.

I want to say furthermore, about the DRUCC and ZRUCC. I do not know as to when their meetings are held. The Members of Parliament should be called in these meetings by virtue of *ex-official*. Neither I want to be a Member of these Committees nor I want to put burden of any kind, but when they hold their meetings, we should be called to attend these meetings so that we can also know about the action being taken in such meetings. It is happening that one can get works done on the behalf of the Hon. Railway Minister or the Minister of State, in the Railway Ministry. Nobody pleads in Parliament as strongly as I plea. A news item to this effect was published in the newspaper, a cutting of which I have already sent to the Hon. Railway Minister. Moreover, half of Ajmer city is dotted with railway colonies which are half developed and roads there are also in a very bad condition. These colonies also face the problems of drinking water and electricity. Therefore, I request to the Railway Ministry to pay attention to the railway staff quarters so that the railway staff quarters living there put in their best during their duty.

Madam Chairman finally I would like to request that I shall be grateful, if Jammu-Jaipur Pooja Express extended is upto Ajmer. I am thankful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali): Madam Chairman, I am in favour of passing the supplementary demands of Railways amounting to Rs. 63805 crore, 15 lakh and 23 thousand placed by the hon. Minister of Railways. Hon. Members are demanding for laying of new railway lines, introducing of new trains, strengthening railway security etc. in this. Sufficient funds should be given in the budgetary support. Railway Development Scheme fund was constituted. Besides, there is Railway safety fund for which Rs. 17 thousand crore have been earmarked. At the time of passing of the Railway Budget, I was informed that hon. Prime Minister and hon. Minister of Finance had given assurance to provide economic package for development of Railways. I would like to know the status of that package. We can hold discussion and take decision on this issue when we are informed about all this. Railway safety should be given priority. we had felt in the previous Budget that the Railway Passangers are not safe while travelling in the rail. What is the reason of it? Apprehension was expressed that the percentage of Railway Passangers had gone down? Railway connects the entire country.

Therefore, all this should be cleared as crores of people travel by the rail, goods are transported and Railways are facing competition with the road transport with regard to transportation of goods. That is why we all are in favour of a substantial Budgetary Support.

Madam Chairman, there is a question of connecting Vaishali with rail Budd circuit. I have raised this matter many a times. but discussion was not held on it. This matter was referred to the expanded board. This matter was passed there but people are anxious that when the process in this regard would be initiated, when the foundation stone would be laid and when the work would be undertaken on this project. The people of the country are agree about it that when this work would be completed. When would the work of Hajipur-Vaishali-Sugauli railway track get started? Shri Malaisamy was saying that the Rameshwaram Project should get completed, Tamilnadu is being neglected, priority is not being given to the project. Similarly, when would priority be given to the Budd circuit programme of Bihar. Bihar is also being neglected like Tamilnadu. In his last Budget speech, hon. Minister of Railways had announced that 6 tourists spots including Budd circuit of the country would be given the status of International tourist spots: For the information of the House, I would like to tell that world's biggest Buddha stupa which is thousand of years old is in Vaishali-Kesaria. Research and excavation work is going on there.

Madam Chairman, he started the Saptakranti train, people were very happy. But I would tell how the discrimination is being committed. Madam, this train, starting from Muzaffarpur stops direct at Motihari while my constituency falls in between where there are Kabanpura, Kanti, Nariyar, Motipur, Mahual railway stations. I mean to say that this train stops at Motihari and then Narkatiaganj but leaves my constituency. I do not know what is the reason behind it. It should atleast stop at one place.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajganj, Bihar): Kanti is not in your constituency.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Kanti is not in my constituency. There are three Assembly constituencies—Kanti Assembly constituency, Motipur-Baruad constituency and Sahebganj—in my constituency why does this train not stop in Vaishali constituency after starting from Muzaffarpur. If stoppage is provided to the train at one of the places, it would be better. Many people are making demand for this. There is a sugar mill in Motipur and it is a very important place. Speed of the

train is lowered there even then people can entrain and detrain.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: It is necessary.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: People ask why does the train starting from Muzaffarpur, stops at Motihari. He is in power and we belong to the opposition, that is why Sapt-Kranti does not stop there. If the railways' function is carried out like this, how shall we face the people and what we will tell them that why does the train not stop at this station?

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Hon. Minister shall have to see it.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: That is why he should think over this.

One Bandra train goes to Mumbai, but it does not stop also there. Intercity goes to Patna but the people of Kanti, are deprived of this facility while there is a Thermal Power Station, block head office in Kanti and the people of that area are demanding to introduce a train on the line of this intercity so as to reach Patna. I have done correspondence in this matter. On being asked question, a vague reply is always given. What should we tell the people. Therefore he should look into the matter of providing stoppage to this train. It fulfils all requirements. If we see annually, lots of tickets are sold at Motihari and at Motipur and Kanti too. These are the areas of high population. Therefore stoppage be provided to Saptkranti and Bandra train at Motipur and Intercity at Kanti. People are raising these demands. I have done correspondence also. ...(*Interruptions*)

Madam Chairman, there should be a rail bridge between Balmiki Nagar and Gorakhpur, but these people have closed it. The entire forest on 1500 acres of land has got devastated due to water. People say a lot with regard to environment, but a rail bridge could not be constructed there. There was a dense forest there. For the first time I travelled by Saptkranti from Balmiki Nagar to attend a conference. ...(*Interruptions*) Shri Prabhunath Singh was appointed the President of Discipline Committee in the Samata Party. He expelled an NCA from the Party without any reason. As the Minister belongs to his party, he does not discharge his responsibility properly.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: He is speaking on the Railway Budget or on Samata Party.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Does the Minister not belong to Samata Party. I will speak with regard to everything.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Please conclude now.

...(Interruptions)

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: How can he expel us. He shall have to open gates for that. Where would the people go if stamped occurs. There is a village Mohammedpur Balmi Motipur and Mahual, connecting with NH. Three-four PWD roads pass through that area. ...*(Interruptions)* This is our subject. It should not be mingled with party politics. This is a public issue and people have hope that their demand would be catered. The said village is at distance of four Kilometers from Motipur and Mahual. There are three PWD roads, from Motipur to Basrar-Deoria, Motipur to Sahibganj and Motipur to Saraiyya and an NH Junction. There is a demand to make halt there. Hon. Minister of Railways should get it investigated from all point of view whether or not rail halt can be provided there like other places. People of village Muhammadpur Balmi are making demands for this halt.

We used to go to Patna on Friday and come back on Sunday by Rajdhani train. Now I have heard that only Rajdhani train going to Guwahati would go to Patna. It would start from here at 2.00 PM and would reach Patna at 2.00 AM. These are odd timings for travelling by this train as, how would the people catch this train and where will they go after alighting from the train. This would be taken care of. I have heard that timings should be considered in all the trains going to Guwahati via Patna. I was travelling in the Sampurna Kranti train. There was a long queue for the General bogie in which common people travel. Seeing this big queue I asked is there rally of any party, I was told that this is for boarding the train. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Rest of the things would be stated by Prabhunath ji.. He is next speaker and belongs to Bihar. He would speak with regard to Bihar also.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Why he will speak, whatever he wants he gets it done without any discussion. It is we who have to make hue and cry. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: I do not know how it is that he does not demand anything but gets it done? ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Whatever he wants, gets it done. And we have to just discuss. We are really in opposition and are just to speak. They are in ruling party, whatever they want, that is done.

...*(Interruptions)* More bogies for General public should be attached to Sampurna Kranti Express. Our farmers and labourers go by train, some for working in fields and other for working in factories and they are greatly exploited. They are either illiterate or less educated. Though they travel by passenger train yet they are charged fare of Express Train. There should be monitoring to protect them from such kind of exploitation. The Government have approved on overbridge at Motipur but when will it be approved for Ekaragumati, Jigghigumati and Aamgolagumati. Whenever I go there I find two kilometer long queue I have to travel twice from Hazipur to Muzzafarpur and whenever I go I have to cross railway line. Heavy traffic on NH-77 creates great inconvenience.

In the end, I would like to say that as the technology is developing very fast and new trains are being introduced, we are dreaming a day when we will be reaching from Delhi to Kolkata, Chennai and Mumbai within 10-12 hours. Once I had raised an issue regarding expenditure being incurred on technological upgradation. My submission is that Rajdhani Express trains connecting all the four metros, namely Delhi, Kolkata, Chennai and Mumbai should be introduced whereby we can reach our destination within 10-12 hours. Possibilities for introducing such trains should be explored.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: And that should be extended upto Patna also.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Patna on Kolkata route.

Madam, my place is Pataliputra the capital of India during ancient period. The location of that place is such that if he wants to go to Kolkata, he will have to go via Patna. Gaya is an international tourist spot and Muzzafarpur is an important city. No train can run without touching Bihar. Therefore, we want quick access to all the three corners of our country. I want bullet trains at the speed of 400 kms an hour to run in our country on the lines of Japan.

Madam, with these words I conclude while urging the hon. Minister to pay attention to the issues relating the Hazipur and Vaishali raised by me and the take action accordingly.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajanji, Bihar): Madam, Chairman, I rise to speak in support of Demands for grants. I would not like to make lengthy speech on it as many Members have expressed their views on Budget. Treasury Benches as well as the opposition have

praised it, even public has praised it. It was not praised without any reason, there were solid reasons behind it. There was no hike in passenger fares and freight rates, fare for patients was lowered, facilities were provided to journalists and concession in rail fare was given to aged persons, besides, conversion of metre-gauge into broad gauge lines, doubling of single lines, introduction of new trains etc., whatever promised has been done. Those were the main reasons why the Budget was so much praised.

Madam Chairman, from administrative angle also hon. Minister of Railways and the Budget have been applauded. Till recently, we used to hear that people used to throw parties in hotels to get appointment in railways Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singhji knows it. Jobs were being sold earlier in railways like Badam and Chironjee. But the Condition is entirely changed today. These days appointments are made purely on the basis of merit in competitive examination conducted by the railways. Earlier brilliant, capable and educated youth who qualified the test but with poor background never used to get appointment in railways. But, these days, brilliant and laborious youth, irrespective of their economic background, qualify the test and get employment in railways. Nitish ji deserves congratulation for this Shri Nitish ji has taken administrative steps to ensure transparency in recruitment and also to ensure that appointments are on the basis of merit and the results are positive.

Madam, cases of train accidents have increased in recent past. A train accident, which occurred in Bihar was politicised. Politics was played over the number of those who died. Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad knows it well. My submission is that there is a need to pay attention to safety of passengers in trains. Though CRPF personnel are deployed in trains yet real responsibility lies with the State Governments and they do not take the cases of theft in trains seriously. I would urge the hon. Minister of Railways to ponder over it seriously and the posting incharge and the other police personnel at all railway police posts should be made by the Ministry of Railways so that the cases of theft and other crimes in trains can be checked. If railway is entrusted the responsibility of checking these incidents then the Ministry of Railways and the State Governments will not try to pass the buck on each other and the public will face no problem.

Madam, I want to discuss two three issues related to my constituency, but I do not know where hon. Minister has gone?

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Hon. Minister is coming soon. The Minister of State in the Ministry of Railways is present

in the House. You may raise your issue, he is noting down.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Hon. Minister of Railways has come, as I was waiting for him. I would like to tell about 2-3 minor problems of my constituency. I do agree with the points raised by Raghuvansh Babu. He said that Howrah Rajdhani will run via Gaya and if Guwahati Rajdhani follows the same route, it will cause great inconvenience to us. I would urge hon. Minister to increase the frequency of Patna Rajdhani from two days a week to six days a week which will benefit the commuters immensely. I am sure Raghuvansh Babu will support my views.

Madam, Sampurna Kranti is a very good grain. What he has told about that line is cent percent all right. But there is one problem in it that it shakes heavily while moving on the tracks and disturbs the passengers asleep during night. Moreover, catering arrangements are also not good. We travel by Rajdhani and by this trains as well. This train causes great inconvenience. Therefore, I urge him to get this train checked by his engineers so that it provides as comfortable journey as Rajdhani Express. It should have similar facilities. I have three demands for my constituency. He is aware of them and he has taken initiative in that regard. Mashrak-Maharajganj line has been facing problem for the last several years. A survey was conducted in this regard. A file is pending in Planning Commission since long. Planning Commission want to know how Railway Ministry will manage resources? I have received a letter from hon. Minister of Railways stating that they have applied for formal sanction. By formal, we understand that he would just sign the file and sanction funds. I would like to tell hon. Minister that the way Planning Commissions interfering in development works it hampers the process of development. The hon. Minister is a person with strong will power, so I would like him to pay attention to it. I had also requested hon. Prime Minister in this regard that he should ask the Planning Commission to complete the process. The date for foundation should be fixed after completing all the formalities and foundation should laid.

Madam, I would like to tell you about two more small problems. Form the local sources, I have come to know that he purposes to shift the railway yard in Chapra. Some want to transfer it towards Chapra court (Kacheri) on the plea that railway land is available there while some want that it be shifted to Revealganj where also railways have lands. Probably officials are looking into the matter. In this connection my request is that the yard

[Shri Prabhunath Singh]

be shifted towards Revealganj after making proper studies as more passengers and traders would be benefited thereby. Similarly, Siwan has also a problem that no trader wants to take the delivery of goods. If he sees the income of railway, he would find out that the income of railway have declined there. Its main reason is that the profession of extracting money forcibly is flourishing there. Railways have huge tracts in Maharajganj, they do not have to ask it from Bihar Government or spend more money on it. Now that Maharajganj rail line is ready for inauguration hence I would like to suggest that Siwan rail yard be shifted to Maharajganj. After constructing the yard, the traders from Maharajganj district as well as commissioner be provided rail facilities so that their trade could go on smoothly. Raghuvansh babu mentioned about bridge. I have read in the newspapers that bridges on all the railway crossings between Chhapra, Sonapur and Siwan have been sanctioned, but work on them are yet to start. If there is any problem with the State Government, it should be resolved through correspondence or dialogue and keeping in view the comfort of passengers, work should start at once. I would like to tell this to Raghuvansh babu. It would have been better if I was told as to when he is going there with my friend Raghuvanshji so that his problem could also be resolved.

With these words I conclude.

DR. MAHENDRA SINGH PAL (Nainital): Madam Chairman, Uttaranchal is a new State and the budget provides no train to this State.

All have welcomed the rail budget presented by hon'ble Railway Minister Shri Nitish Kumar. We also support his demands. I have expressed it through both writing and personally to hon'ble Railway Minister and speaking in the House that railways have an important role in the development of Uttaranchal and it should be so. It has definitely immense possibilities for cultural tourism. Uttaranchal has a number of cultural places from Badrinath Dham to Nanakmatha, Hemkund etc. Railway facility could make Uttaranchal a leading State of the country in terms of tourism. The Chief Minister of Uttaranchal Shri Narain Dutt Tiwari is making efforts in this direction but the people of the State are disappointed as this budget mentions no new trains for Uttaranchal. I request hon'ble Railway Minister to introduce new trains in Uttaranchal.

The Jawans from Uttaranchal have played an important role in wars such as Kargil. The people of Uttaranchal are demanding for a long time that a train

between Kathgodam and Jammu be introduced. Some coaches were provided but they were later cancelled which is causing great inconvenience to jawans and the religious minded people heading for Jammu and Punjab in their movement. If a train between Kathgodam and Jammu is started, it would prove to be very convenient for the people of Uttaranchal, Jawans and the tourism. Similarly there should be a Shatabdi express between Delhi and Kathgodam regularly. If train network is spread all over Uttaranchal, it will give boost to tourism and the development process there. Similarly the train between Mumbai and Bareilly be extended up Kathgodam. Thus Uttaranchal would be linked to India. The approval for converting the metre gauge line between Lalkuan and Lucknow via Kichcha into broad gauge has been given. The work on it should start as the Government have a clear cut policy to convert all metre gauge lines into broad gauge. Survey has already been conducted in this matter and approval has been accorded therefore, work on this project should be started. The survey for rail line between Dehradun and Nanakmatha Tanakpur has also been finished and now work on it should be started. The biggest problem is that Uttaranchal is divided it into North Zone and East Zone. Entire Uttaranchal should be brought under one railway zone by making a separate railway zone in Uttaranchal. It is very important to form a separate railway zone in Uttaranchal and its design should be laid down properly.

I have another suggestion. The land of Haldwani railway station in Nainital district has been encroached by a number of persons. The whole area is under occupation of several people. I would like to say that the people illegally occupying railway land should be resettled at another place and the railways which is suffering loss on this account ought to get back its property.

With these words, I once again express my gratitude to Railway Minister and support the supplementary demands. These supplementary grants are necessary for the development of railways. I hope that he would keep in mind all these aspects to boost the development of railways in Uttaranchal. I once again express my gratitude to all of you.

[English]

SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO (Jagatsinghpur): Thank you, Madam.

At the outset, let me put on record our thanks to the hon. Railway Minister and his colleagues because after a long time, Orissa has been gifted with a Zone. We waited

for more than 50 years for a Zone—actually it is not for a Zone, but for shifting the South Eastern Railway Headquarters from Kolkata to Bhubaneswar. This did not happen.

However, the present Minister Shri Nitish Kumar made it functional from the 1st of April 2003. We are grateful to him. Though truncated, still we are not unhappy. While we are grateful and thankful to him, we have a demand. We have made it very clear that three more divisions are necessary in East Coast Railway Zone—one is at Baleshwar, the second at Rourkela and the third at Raigada. These three divisions should be operated as quickly as possible so as to make proper coordination and make the Zones more profitable.

We are also grateful to him because the Rajdhani Express is being diverted via Adra-Kharagpur to Bhubaneswar and not via Howrah. When we requested his predecessor-Minister, many technical problems were stated. But as soon as Shri Nitish Kumar took over charge, all those technical reasons evaporated; and now, it is running via Adra-Kharagpur route which is shorter by 300 kms. Although it is shorter by 300 kms. fare has not been lowered. This is to be taken into consideration. We are grateful and thankful to him that he has provided another Rajdhani Express from Delhi to Bhubaneswar. He has also promised that this would run four times a week.

While expressing our thanks, through you, Madam, we want to say that Orissa, as is its wont and as has happened to other sectors, is lagging far behind in railway development.

So far as route length is concerned, Orissa is at the lowest rung among the 15 major States. As against the national average of 19.3 Kms of route length per thousand square kilometres, Orissa has got about 14.83 Kms of Railway route length. Orissa, Karnataka and Madhya Pradesh are the three States which are having less route length per thousand square kilometres. Therefore, special attention, which has not been given hitherto, should be given to these three States for construction of new railway lines.

Madam, though provisions are made in the Budget, you will be surprised to know that in the middle of the year, funds have been diverted to other projects. I shall give you some examples where though provisions were made for construction of new lines yet funds were diverted to other projects outside the State. In 2000-01 Rs. 5.20 crore provided for Daitari Banspani were re-appropriated

for other projects. Out of Rs. 14.50 crore provided for Khurda Road and Bolangir, Rs. 11.70 crore were diverted to other projects. In 2001-02, Rs. 5 crore were provided for Haridaspur-Paradip but Rs. 2.48 crore were diverted to other projects. Again, Rs. 14.54 crore were provided for Haridaspur-Paradip and Rs. 3 crore were diverted to other projects.

I would request the hon. Minister to see that whatever money is provided in the Budget should be utilised for the same purpose. Previously, money was said to have been provided through BOLT but not a single coin had come for investment in those areas. In the *Railway Vikas Nigam*, the hon. Minister has provided Rs. 75 crore for Daitari Banspani and Rs. 15 crore for Haridaspur-Paradip. I would request him to see that the entire money of 123 crore of rupees for new line construction is spent only for the purpose it has been provided. Out of Rs. 730 crore provided in the Budget of *Railway Vikas Nigam*, only Rs. 90 crore has been allocated to the State of Orissa. My request is that in the middle of the year the money should not be diverted to other States.

Talcher-Bimlagarh Railway-line has been surveyed several times. It was surveyed last in 2000-01 and the rate of return on this line was declared to be as 10.16 per cent. Though the rate of return on this line is so high, it has not yet been taken up for construction. I would request that steps should be taken to expedite inclusion of Talcher-Bimlagarh as the new railway-line.

I, now, come to gauge conversion. About seven thousand Kms of metre-gauge and narrow-gauge have been converted to broad-gauge. During the Ninth Plan alone about 2103 Kms have been converted to broad-gauge.

But not a single kilometre has yet been converted into broad gauge in Orissa. There are only two narrow gauge lines in Orissa, namely, Nawapara to Gunpur, which is about 90 kilometres, and another is Rupsa to Bangiriposi, which is about 89 kilometres. Out of that, 45 kilometres of Nawapara to Gunpur sector lies in Andhra Pradesh but the entire 179 kilometres should have been converted long before, but it has not been done. This year 2003-04 only Rs. 25 crore have been kept for Gauge Conversion in Orissa. It is inadequate. Whatever money had been kept for this, that had also been taken away. During 2000-01, Rs. 5.01 crore were kept for Rupsa and Bangiriposi line but immediately after the Budget was passed, some orders were sent from the Railway Board saying not to go ahead with the work. This has happened in the past. This thing should not recur. My earnest

[Shri Trilochan Kanungo]

request is that during the Tenth Five Year Plan, the work relating to the conversion of these two narrow gauge lines to broad gauge lines should be completed.

Last but not least, my request is that the Samta Express which is running between Vizag and Nizamuddin, is now running three days a week. I would request that it should be made six days a week so that people of western Orissa could benefit by this train.

With these words, I thank the Railway Minister. I would again request him to see that whatever money has been allocated both for new line construction and gauge conversion should be spent during 2003-04 so that the new Railway lines are constructed and the conversion work is also completed.

SHRI KHAGEN DAS (Tripura West): Sir, at the outset, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Railway Minister that I come from a region which is the most backward region in respect of communication even after 55 years of Independence. It is true that some good things are there in the Budget. But some urgent issues are not addressed. So, I express my resentment.

In my opinion, the Railway Budget 2003-04 is an electoral gimmick. It would fail to provide desired impetus to modernisation and expansion of Railway network as also in making it more efficient. The Budget is an attempt to camouflage the shortcomings and failures of the Ministry of Railways. It is also an attempt to meet the aspirations of the people by some sweet words.

The Railways should not be interpreted or confused as a means of communication alone. It is, in fact, much more and greater than that. The Railways is the symbol of our national integration. Unfortunately, this aspect has not been taken care of in the past 55 years of Independence. It is unfortunate that almost all the Ministers could not come out from their narrow regional or State or constituency outlook to take an impartial and national outlook for providing the desired benefit of this most important mode of communication to far flung areas of the country.

Had such actions been taken on time, many of our present day problems relating to national integration would not have arisen at all. I would now like to cite one glaring example of regional disparity in regard to the Railways. In the North-Eastern States the railway line is less than one kilometre per 100 square kilometres which is less than half of the national average. As many as seven State Capitals, namely, Agartala, Aizwal, Imphal, Shillong, Kohima, Guwahati and Gangtok are not yet connected with railway lines.

Railway tracks were laid by the Britishers for their narrow colonial interests. But it has been observed that by investment of small amount of money and by using conventional technology, the Britishers could build up a network of railway track of 30,000 kilometres within a span of about 55 years. But unfortunately, after Independence during the same span of time the Indian Railways could not even achieve its target. Even in comparison to road network, railway network has remained very poor.

Madam, there are a few issues that needs to be urgently addressed, namely, modernisation, improvement of infrastructure, replacement of old bridges and tracks, ageing coaches, outdated signalling systems and telecommunication systems. But all these aspects have been neglected for decades now. It is unfortunate that most of the railway bridges, tacks and other infrastructures that were laid some 100 years ago have neither been replaced nor modernised. Lives of these infrastructures have expired long back and now these have become a major cause for train accidents.

Madam, I would like to give a few figures to reflect on the status of the railway bridges in the country. The total number of railway bridges are 1,19,948. According to newspaper reports, 44 per cent of these bridges are more than 100 years old and 70 per cent of them are above 60 years old. I would like to know from our dynamic and experienced hon. Railway Minister, firstly, as to how long he would treat these bridges safe for running of trains, and secondly as to what is the status of replacement of the bridges that have been declared dangerous by the Khanna Committee.

Madam, I would also like to mention that in about 1,600 stations the signalling systems are not only very old but also are obsolete. There has hardly been any significant allotment of funds, in keeping with the requirement, for this purpose of modernisation and replacement of railway bridges. Even the funds allocated for track renewal have come down in this year's Budget from Rs. 3401 crore to Rs. 2605 crore. This is a very unjustified announcement.

Some hon. Members have mentioned about a number of trains that have been announced and are running; but almost without passengers. Now a days, it is often told by the Railway Ministry—this is also applicable in our case—about commercial viability. One of the projects has been shelved because there was no business. The Central Government is doing business with the northeastern

region. The Railway Ministry talks about commercial viability, containing of wasteful expenditure, attaining of break-even point, generation or mobilisation of resources for modernisation and expansion etc. Such arguments are put forward to us whenever we demand extension of railway line or expansion of railway line or introduction of new railway line in the backward areas.

But what do we see from the action of the Railway Ministry? A number of new trains are announced by almost all the Ministers every year connecting relatively developed regions. I am not opposing it. But such trains are announced on political considerations without conducting proper survey. Subsequently, many of the trains have to be withdrawn. It appears from the Railway Minister's announcements that he has not learnt any lesson from the past.

Coming to the northeastern region, I would like to draw the attention of the Minister to the following demands for his consideration and for taking immediate steps. Firstly, there is a demand for the introduction of a pair of well maintained express trains between Manu and Lumding so that the people of south Assam and Tripura are meaningfully benefited. Secondly, huge demands for goods trains from many stations are pending. Rolling stocks that are attached to the goods trains are in dilapidated condition. No commodity can reach the destination in the northeastern region without partially or fully damaged. So, it is demanded from our good friend—he is the most experienced person and it is due to him that some of our extension work is going on, though slowly—to provide better quality of rolling stock for goods trains and increase the number of rolling stock.

Lumding to Silchar BG line is progressing at a snail's pace because funds are inadequate. Adequate fund is to be provided for this project. BG conversion from Badarpur to Manu is to be sanctioned with adequate fund. Immediate finalisation and issue of work order for three long tunnels in Manu-Agartala sector is to be done.

It is astonishing to know the way of working of the Railway Ministry. We have been writing letters to the Minister of Railways, to the General Manager, NF Railway and to the Chairman of the Railway Board. We get regular replies from the Minister and also from the General Manager, NF Railway. But we get no response from the Chairman of the Railway Board. Is he above the Railway Minister? I repeat the charge.

17.00 hrs.

Is he above the Minister? Is he above the House? He is neglecting the Members.

The sixth point is declaration of target for the completion of railway projects from Manu to Agartala. It has to be declared immediately.

Lastly, I would request the hon. Railway Minister to take up the issue of railway line connection between Agartala in India and Akhaura in Bangladesh with the appropriate authority or their counterpart.

SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY (Chidambaram): I congratulate our hon. Railway Minister for his excellent Budget. The Opposition has called it an election Budget. I do not know whether they would present such a Budget only for elections. He has taken care of the all-round interests of the people of India, particularly the backward States which cry for railway facilities.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV (Silchar): Except my area.

SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY: He will take care of your area also. On the last 16th, when the hon. Railway Ministers of State visited my constituency, on behalf of people I placed a demand that Chennai-Villupuram Express should be extended to Virudhachalam, my constituency and also a big junction, as it stops at 1030 hours at Villupuram and wastes about five hours there.

I have three requests to make to the hon. Minister. Firstly, in my constituency Chidambaram, there is Annamalai University at Annamalai Nagar on the one side and the Chidambaram town on the other side. There is a crying need for a railway bridge which is pending for decades. In fact, all steps were taken and it had come to the stage of tendering. But suddenly, change of Government took place and that project had been stopped. There were many requests from the people of my constituency and also from Annamalai University as people face an ordeal everyday at the level-crossing. They have to wait for more than two hours to cross that particular place. So, I request the hon. Minister to kindly take up this project which is at the stage of tendering and the other formalities have been done. I request him to complete it within 31st March of next year.

17.03 hrs.

(DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH *in the Chair*)

Secondly, I have placed a request for a new line from Kancheepuram to Tindivanam via Vandavasi which is 76 kilometres. Vandavasi is a business centre. But it has been neglected for decades. There should be a railway line through that place as Vandavasi is a historical place where people are mostly businessmen. I made a request to the hon. Minister in 1999. Your predecessor sanctioned that project and ordered for a survey saying that it should be completed before the 31st March, 2001. I have been writing scores of letters to the hon. Minister. I am yet to get a positive reply on that point. I request our hon. Railway Minister to kindly sanction this line immediately and order for a survey at least now.

Thirdly, Shri O.V. Alagesan of Congress Party was the Railway Minister in the early 1950s.

Only now, after a gap more than of 45 years, the people of Tamil Nadu have been blessed with an MoS for Railways. Naturally, people of Tamil Nadu look up to him for every need of Railway facilities. He has been doing a highly laudable work for the last nearly eight to nine months to the best of his ability. The people of Tamil Nadu and other neighbouring States appreciate him for his good work.

I request our hon. Railway Minister that from the total budget of about Rs. 44,000 crore, the state of Tamil Nadu be given at least Rs. 2,000 crore for completing the on-going projects. For the Southern Railway, for five States put together, Rs. 10,000 crore must be given. I request the hon. Railway Minister that to complete the on-going projects and for the construction of one or two lines that I have requested, at least Rs. 2,000 crore can be provided in this financial year for the people of Tamil Nadu. Every one of the hon. Members from Tamil Nadu has covered all the demands for my State. So, I confine myself to these two or three demands.

I again appreciate the Hon. Railway Minister for his excellent Budget and his team of two colleagues. Hence I support the Demands for Grants.

[Translation]

PROF. S.P. SINGH BAGHEL (Jalesar): Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you, I would like to pay my gratitude to the hon'ble Minister of Railways. When I was the member of 12th Lok Sabha, Shri Nitish Kumar was the Railway

Minister and had come to Agra to lay foundation stone of the office of D.R.M. At that time during my speech, I had expressed an apprehension that foundation stones are laid for a number of projects but only some of them are inaugurated. I am happy that Shri Nitishji visits Agra this month only to inaugurate D.R.M. office. I would like to discuss with hon'ble Railway Minister the basic railway problems in my Parliamentary constituency Jalesar. Tundla junction is a very important railway station in my constituency. Though Tundla Municipality has a population of half lakh but Agra is adjacent to it. Geographically Agra is situated on Delhi-Mumbai route but passengers from Agra have to come to Tundla station to further proceed to any of the stations at Delhi-Howrah railway line. Therefore, Tundla should not be considered as a lone city but in conjunction with Agra city having a population of 25 lakh. Earlier Tundla was one of the tehsils of Agra. Tundla is situated at a distance of 22 kms. from Agra. Purshotam Express and Neelanchal Express pass from there but they do not stop there. There is Shivdham Express, Prayagraj Express runs between Allahabad and Delhi. People of my parliamentary constituency often visit Allahabad as High Court is situated there. That train stops there only on its forward journey. It does not stop there in its return journey. No Rajdhani Express stops there. Tundla should not be connected only with Agra rather at a distance of 12-14 kms. from Tundla, Etah district starts from Rajavali crossing and from there at a distance of 22 kms Govindpur village of district Hathras is situated near Khandauli. Agra is only at a distance of 22 ms. from there. It is situated in Firozabad district and Firozabad city adjoins it.

I would like to make a special request regarding Neelanchal Express. It is predominantly a Jain area and Hon'ble Chairman knows that Shikhar ji' is situated there. Jain pilgrims go there. Neelanchal Express has a direct route to Shikharji and it reaches there at the time which is appropriate for the pilgrims to move up to the Shrine and to come back after having 'Darshan'. The population of Jains in Agra is two-four lakh. Tundla, Avagarh and Barhan are also Jain dominated areas. People are aware that a grand Jain temple is situated in Firozabad which is only 14 kms away from Tundla. Jainis are living in Abagarh, Etmampur and Jalesar also and they have great faith in "Shikhar ji". I have talked to Railway officers in this regard. They have said that there is no technical problem in it. Often they have to stop the trains without any stoppage. Some trains which pass before this train have to be stopped at Tundla. If this train is provided a halt there, it would benefit the people especially the followers of Jainism.

Delhi-Lucknow Shatabdi Express halts at Etawah and Aligarh. My request is that Tundla is a junction and if this train is given a stoppage for one minute, it would benefit the 42 MLAs who often have to go to Lucknow from Agra. This station is situated at such an appropriate place that 42 MLA can catch the train from here and come back here from Lucknow to go to their respective constituencies. Besides, 9 members of Parliament would also be benefited by it. All 42 MLAs and MPs have given me a representation in this regard which I have placed on the table. Therefore, we will feel obliged if Shatabdi Express is given a halt there for a minute.

There is a railway level crossing near the Cabins in eastern and Western sides of Tundla. The road at eastern railway crossing ends at a distance of 22 km. At Yamuna river people from approx. 100 villages use this crossing. There is a turn at the angle of 90° after this railway level crossing. The traffic remains jammed there upto 1 km. I have been told that the hon'ble Court has issued orders that no level crossing should be closed for more than 10 minutes. However, this railway crossing remain closed for two hours. It is due to this reason that during elections we sometime postpone our campaign in this area. It is also difficult for the patients to wait for 2 hours at crossing. Considering this situation, the Railways should construct either an overbridge or an under bridge as per its convenience.

Sir, Barhan is a railway station. There is a railway line from Barhan to Etah. This line was laid when Shri Rohan Lal Chaturvedi was the Railway Minister and the member of Lok Sabha. Probably he had inaugurated this railway line. Since then only one train is running on it—Tundla-Barhan-Etah. It has been 25 years during which only that train has been running on it. My request is that a railway bus or a new train should be introduced from there. Etmadpur is the Headquarter of our Legislative Assembly and Tehsil also. A police station is also situated there. Awadh Express does not have any stoppage there. People catch it from Tundla. It arrives at Tundla at 11.40 p.m. Station is in Etmadpur from where the train passes but people have to catch it from Tundla, 7 k.m. away from Etmadpur. In its return journey, it reaches Tundla at 3.40 a.m. It is very inconvenient for ladies, businessmen and old people to get down at 3.40 A.M. at Tundla and then to cover 7 km's distance to reach Etmadpur. The train takes 1 hours 35 minutes to reach Tundla from Agra. When it runs so slowly then two more minutes can be added in its scheduled time. Then it would be 1 hour 37 minutes. At a distance of 28 kms., there is a town Kasganj at Barhen-Etah railway line. Metergauge line is

there is Kasganj. If the 28 km stretch between Etah and Kalaganj is connected, it will connect the entire Agra, Bareilly and Bandayun divisions and lakhs of passengers would be benefited. It is just a stretch of 28 kms. I am not demanding a long railway line. Railway line is already existing upto Etah and Kasganj is a Tehsil of Etah district. Metergauge railway line is there in Kasganj. If 28 km stretch between Etah and Kasganj is connected, we would be connected with Kanpur, Lucknow, Bareilly, Sambhal and several other districts. My request is that this railway line should be laid.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is a well known fact that no other place in our country is as important as Agra from tourist point of view. D.M.R. office has been opened there. Tamil Nadu Express has been provided with a halt. Hon'ble Minister during his visit to Agra had assured that Rajdhani would be given a halt at Agra. I want to know which Rajdhani would be given stoppage there. My request is that all the three Rajdhani Express trains should be given halt there. It is a considerable point that if a person from Chennai wants to see Agra, and travels by Rajdhani, first he has to come to Delhi and then change the train for Agra covering a distance of 200 kms. though Rajdhani Express passes through Agra. It is not that people come to Delhi only. Most of the people who come to see Tajmahal in Agra have to come to Delhi. Tourists from various parts of the South India come to see Agra but they have to come to Delhi first. Several foreign tourists coming via Mumbai and Chennai by Rajdhani have to come to Delhi then travel by taxi to reach Agra. In this way they have to spend extra money for to and fro journey between Delhi and Agra. Therefore, I again request to provide a stoppage to Chennai Rajdhani at Agra. It will benefit the passengers from South India.

Sir, a train is running from Agra fort to Marudhar and Jodhpur Howrah. No seats are reserved in Jodhpur-Howrah from Agra. Please make the provision for reservation in Jodhpur-Howrah. The politicians have to board Awadh Express to reach Lucknow. Therefore reservation quota in Awadh Express should be increased.

Sir, there was a locoshed in Tundla. Since steam engine no longer operate and it was lying idle, it was dismantled. But the machine which was used to dismantle that shed worked in such a way that 25 persons were crushed to death. At that time Shri Divgijay Singh was the Railway Minister. He made some announcements regarding relief to the next of kin of the victims. Rs. 15000 was immediately provided to the families for the last rites of the victims. I received a letter from the hon'ble

[Prof. S.P. Singh Baghel]

Railway Minister confirming the receipt of my representation. Next of kin of the each dead would be provided an assistance of Rs. two lakhs. Rs. 15000 have already been provided and the rest Rs. 1.85 lakh would be distributed later. Three years have passed and that remaining amount of Rs. 1.85 lakh is yet to be disbursed to the next of kin of the victims. I met a woman relative of the dead in Nagla Chinkur who told me that they have not received the cheque for remaining amount. I was present at the cremation of the victims and even now I keep in touch with them. That area falls in my constituency. When I meet them, I do not know what to say. Three years have gone by and families of the dead are yet to get compensation amount. Please make a note of it and immediate measures be taken to provide compensation amount to the affected families. Perhaps the procedure is to get a certificate from ADM for amount upto Rs. one lakh and for amount beyond that they have to get a certificate from either Civil Court or District Judge. They have all the certificates and paper work is complete but compensation is yet to be paid to them. As soon as I had received the letter from the hon'ble Railway Minister regarding payment of Rs. Two lakh compensation, I had sent the copy of that letter to the affected families, but the payment is yet to be made. I am being put in a false position, I request you to pay that amount immediately.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, second important matter is that during British Raj, two pipes were laid in Nagla Chainkur which were used to provide water for running coal engine. Those pipes are now dead. That is a thoroughfare of my village. I recommended allocation of funds from MPs fund for construction of road of the village. The population of the village is 1400. For villages having population of at least 1000, roads are constructed under 'Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana', even then I recommended allocation of funds for the village under MP Local Area Development Scheme. Money was sanctioned, cheque for Rs. 13 lakh was drawn, but when work on the road started, some railway personnel came there and objected to the work saying railway pipelines exist there and so roads can't be constructed. Those pipelines are dead and carry no water because steam engine based on coal do no longer run. Locoshed has been dismantled, even then railway officials object and are not allowing road construction there. If that pipe line is not taken out in the next 200 years, will road construction have to wait till then? I request that the interference of Railways there be stopped forthwith, no objection be raised over construction of road over pipelines in Nagla Chainkur, so that the village is linked with roads without delay.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to conclude by pointing out a couple of more things. People would greatly benefit if Etawa-Mainpuri railway line is extended upto Etah-Muri and Mahananda Express should halt at Barhan junction and Muri Express and Sangam Express should be given stoppages at Jalesar road station. The remaining amount of Rs. 1.85 lakh should be paid to the next of kin of the 25 victims without delay. If there is any statutory obstacle in the payment of compensation that may be told so that I can help in removing those obstacles. With these words, I conclude, by thanking you for giving me the opportunity to speak on Appropriation Bill for the Railways.

SHRIMATI JAYASHREE BANERJEE (Jabalpur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for allowing me to speak. I support the Bill and thank the hon'ble Minister for doing some good work for Jabalpur. But the Jabalpur Gondia gauge conversion project, which is under Chief Engineer, Construction, Bilaspur, should be given under Jabalpur West Central Railway Zone. More than 85 percent of the area under work falls in Jabalpur, therefore the project should be under Jabalpur Zone. Similarly, Lalitpur Singrauli railway line work should also be given to Jabalpur Zone, because Allahabad is far away. This work may be handed over to Jabalpur Zone.

The survey work of Jabalpur-Damoh new rail line has already been completed. It was termed as Super trunk line. It should be done as such. The survey work between Jabalpur-Bilaspur (via Nandla-Mangeli) new rail line has been completed. Works on that should be started without delay. It is the demand of the local people. When hon'ble Minister visited the area he had assured that rest of the work would be undertaken without delay. I demand that the remaining work should be completed on priority basis. Mahakaushal Express between Jabalpur Jammu Tawi via Amritsar should be extended or any other appropriate arrangement be made. Train No. 2411 i.e. Gondwana Express, between Jabalpur and Nizamuddin, should be run with full racks. It is so crowded that people don't get seats, and we are accused of occupying seats in First Class AC. This move will benefit people greatly. Mahamaya Express from Nagpur should be run via Jabalpur. The track between Katni and Singrauli is of C Grade, it should be converted into B grade. There is single line on river Sher between Itarsi-Jabalpur, it should be converted into double line. Madan Mahal station should be given the status of a terminal. Raipur Delhi Rajdhani Express runs via Nagpur in South, they can be run via Katni. Thus, this Rajdhani should be run via Katni. The people of Angona would benefit greatly if Ganga-Kaveri

Express is given a two minute stoppage there. Some of the trains here do not have Pantry cars. It is absent in Singrauli-Kolkata train also which causes difficulties to the passengers. Arrangement of food is same as it was before, i.e. of low quality. Though allotments are periodically made, but new caterers do not get any chance. This aspect may also be attended to. New caterers ought to be appointed. Even though they fulfill all the formalities, they are not called even for interview. I do not know whether norms, that have been laid down for it are being adhered to or not. Secondly, there is the issue of appointments. There is large number of jobless people. If some appointments are made through railways, it will help in providing jobs to the people and check the unemployment.

Sir, I again thank you for allowing me time to speak on the Bill. I thank you and support the Bill.

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): Sir, I have not the privilege of having the hon. Cabinet Minister. I wonder sometimes, what is the good of all this discussion that we have on Railways or on many of the issues because this has become a great ritual. Hardly any notice is taken, hardly any action is taken and like a ritual, all the hon. Members from different sides of the House express their great agony and anguish on behalf of the people in their areas for their justified demands and complaints and nothing is happening.

Even a new culture has developed in the Indian Railways. I wish the Minister was here. He is in the corridor. However, everything is happening from corridor these days. Sir, even we are not getting replies. I am not getting replies to my important letters. They are too busy in publishing advertisements, full-page advertisements, recognizing the dynamic leadership of the Prime Minister and publishing their own photographs. Regarding other matters, we hardly see any movement of these railway people. We have reached the nadir of the system of security and protection of the railway passengers. There are the largest number of accidents. You see the wonderful maintenance! Passengers come last in order of priority. Their amenities are a matter of luxury. What is this largest public undertaking for?

Sir, I know you are very anxious to regulate the time. There is hardly any future for the Indian Railways. I would not take much time. I want to mention as to why I have taken your kind permission to speak is this. It is because of two very tragic incidents. Sir, I represent a

constituency, a very important place in India which is Santi Niketan, Bolpur. I am sure you are aware of it. I do not know whether you have gone there or not. If you have not gone there, I invite you please do come and see for yourself. Eastern Railway comes under Zone-V of the Indian Railways. It is the most neglected part. Sir, during the regime of Shri Jaffer Sharief, I persuaded him and ultimately doubling of a railway line from Khana junction to Sainthia Junction. I believe it is about 35-37 kilometres. It was sanctioned in 1994. I was given the great honour of laying the foundation stone for the commencement of the work. I find great happiness when I go and see my plaque still existing with my name there. Sir, it has been done in 1994. We have already taken 9 years. I have written to the hon. Minister that before we reach the end of the decade, can I see the end of the railway doubling work? Even half the amount was not spent. Sometimes one lakh, sometimes one crore, sometimes five crore. When I have written to him, he does not even bother to acknowledge my letter. I feel upset. He has his trouble with his Defence Minister. What can I do? Why should I not get the reply to my letters? Let him fight. I am happy that after you are following another regime. At least we saw the deliverance of the Indian Railways from all sorts of tensions. But what is happening? Therefore, Sir, in your presence I am sending him a letter so that he cannot deny later on that he has not got it. There is one letter I am sending. Therefore, I would like to know from the hon. Minister if he condescends to reply on this what is his plan, if any, for the development of Sahibganj section where Santi Niketan is. Sir, I have been repeatedly requesting for a train because a large number of people from Rampurhat and Sahibganj have to come to Kolkata to Burdwan etc. for the purpose of their livelihood. One Inter-city Express is given which does not serve anybody's purpose. I have requested for Jan Shatabdi to be utilised here, it has not been given. When will this doubling be over completely? Sir, even I can walk faster than that with my heavy body. But the railways do not move at all.

Sir, yesterday some tragedy took place. That is why, I am coming here today to trouble all the hon. Members and the hon. Minister. The next station from Bolpur towards Sainthia is Rrantik railway station. I had written umpteen number of times—Rrantik station is the nearest to Santi Niketan. Bolpur station is far away from Santi Niketan—for upgrading this station and for providing some facilities for the passengers. A large number of passengers get into the train. There is a train called 'Vishwa Bharati passenger'. Yesterday this tragedy took place. I was there. A well known lawyer from Kolkata High Court, 72 years

[Shri Somnath Chatterjee]

of age, a cardiac patient, was coming back to Kolkata from Rrantik railway station. He went there with his wife, daughter and son. He asked the railway people in the platform-his wife told me-as to whether the AC Chair Car compartment would come. They were mentioned a place. Ultimately, the Chair Car compartment came about six or seven compartments later. This cardiac patient had to run all the way. There was only one-minute stoppage there. He, his wife, and his daughter could get into the train but not his son. And that old gentleman was exhausted because he had to hurriedly go to his compartment. He was absolutely upset because his son was left behind when the train started. Sir, what would one expect to do when his son was left behind? He tried to stop the train by pulling the alarm chain. I was told that so many people tried this but this train did not stop. The report was that it does not work. Sir, not only in this train but also in so many other trains, the alarm chain is not working. Who bothers? He died before he reached the next station, which is Bolpur railway station. Probably he was still gasping for breath. Everybody tried to shout for the Station Master. He came and brought the gentleman down from the compartment. There was no arrangement for any doctor, any ambulance at or near the station. It is such an important station. Thousands of passengers get into the train there. It has become a very important tourist attraction. Apart from that, there are people who have cultural affiliation to Santi Niketan, Viswa Bharati, a place about which we are all proud of. His daughter said: "Please tell the hon. Railway Minister that this fate does not happen to anybody else in this nation. I have lost my father permanently. There could not be any death certificate. There was no doctor in the station. The station authority had to call the police to hand over the body and there had to be *post-mortem*." I happened to be there and tried to assist his family. I am telling the hon. Railway Minister with all my affection for him, which I believe is known, to please look after the passengers as the priority.

Yesterday I was coming in Ganadevata Express from Bolpur to Kolkata in AC Chair Car. As soon as I opened the table in front of my seat it fell on my lap. It was all broken. Hardly I intervened but I have been really move. He was a 40-year old friend of mine. We have been working in Kolkata High Court together for years. I am little emotionally affected. I cannot forget what his daughter told me yesterday. She said: "Please see that nobody has the same fate as my father." He was returning to Kolkata hale and hearty. No doubt he had some old case of cardiac problem.

What is happening in important trains, where thousands of passengers are travelling? Everybody knows about the Viswa Bharati train. It is one of the most crowded trains. It is a train leaving Rampura hat for Kolkata in the morning.

So many people are travelling. Even the alarm chain is not functioning. The train cannot be stopped even in case of any misadventure as it had happened here. Therefore, I am requesting the hon. Minister I feel that I have to invite him. Please come to Shanti Niketan. I will give you red carpet welcome which you deserve. If necessary, at my cost, I shall publish the arrival of my good friend, Shri Nitish Kumar. Please see for yourself the trouble that is being faced.

As I said, before you came, there was a new culture in the Railways. Even I thought that, at least, I would get a response, an acknowledgment to my letters. Now-a-days, I am not getting it from the Railways. I have written two letters to him recently. One is about the doubling and the other is about the horrible complaint that I am receiving about Bolpur railway station.

As you know, during *Ponchisey Boishakh*, Gurudev's Birthday, thousands and thousands of people are going there. Then, during *Basant Utsav* Holi time, thousands of people are going there. During *Nav Varsh*, so many people, all the year round, are going there. It should be converted into an ideal station. How many times do I have to write? How many times do I have to implore for getting a little more facility? This is not my personal demand. It is for the entire loop section. This is a very important segment of Eastern Railway. Shri Nitish Kumar, I know you have your problems, but you have to please give priority. You think of that family today. The daughter is crying and wailing. She said, please go. I said 'I will take it up and bring it to the notice of the hon. Minister.' I am sure he will give his best consideration. Their father cannot be revived. He cannot come back to this world any more, but their satisfaction is that proper attention and care in being given. Therefore, I am requesting that this doubling must be finished quickly and not at the snail's pace. Nine years have already gone. Half of it or probably a little more than that has been done. It started in October, 1994. The foundation-stone was laid in October, 1994. Today we are in the year, 2003. Almost half of they year has gone. How long will it take? I would like to know this from the hon. Minister with all humility. I have no quarrel with him, but I have a quarrel with the attitude of the Railways, the administration as a whole towards the problems of the common people and the passengers. The *bona fide* passengers have suffered.

Even in the AC chair car, the people are standing there. Excess passengers come in. We all know how this happens. Yesterday in the compartment, there were three judges of the Calcutta High Court, and therefore, nobody was allowed to come in. This is not the way to run the railway system. I have fullest consideration for the staff of the Railways. There are sincere railway staff members. They work very hard. I mentioned one railway staff, who was very helpful yesterday because the family told me. I have given his name. It is not for any special favour for him, but I felt it was my duty because the family mentioned his name that so and so was very helpful to them. I have mentioned his name in the letter. But misguiding a senior citizen of this country about the location, where the compartment will come and halt, is a very serious incident. It was complete callousness.

Secondly, the train cannot be stopped even in case of emergency. That was most grievous type of negligence. Somebody must suffer. Therefore, I appeal to the hon. Minister to consider this. He is already doing. Although he has completely reorganised the Division, the Zone, as a result of which his predecessor is not travelling in train, he is trying to do some good work. I hope with his compassion, with his consideration and with his capacity, he will see that Sahib Ganj loop section is given proper attention.

In the presence of everybody, I extend a most cordial invitation to the hon. Minister to visit my place.

[Translation]

SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE (Bilaspur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I extend my thanks to the hon. Minister, Hon. Prime Minister, hon. Minister of Railways as also all State Ministers collectively who inaugurated the Bilaspur Railway Zone and started many new trains in Bilaspur and also made provision for many stoppages. I would like to say a few things with regard to the Starting of trains for facilitating the Passengers. Bilaspur is a capital and the capital of Chhattisgarh is Raipur. Superfast Express and Rajdhani Express train run from Bilaspur to Raipur and officers and other employees take monthly ticket for travelling in these trains otherwise the number of passengers in the train is very less due to which the Railways has no earning. I request that monthly tickets may be issued to traders, officers and officials travelling in large number to Chhattisgarh so that the Railways could have some income and the State may avail the facility. The Express train from Bilaspur to Chirmiri should be extended further. I would also like to say is that the Survey work of new railway line from Bilaspur to Mangla-

Jabalpur-Mungeli has been done. It may be linked with the Jabalpur-Vasanspur road which would lessen a distance of fifty Kms and would also be a source of income to the railways through freight of dolomite and other minerals in that area. Development of Bilaspur into new railway zone would solve the problem of livelihood of the people and recruitment in jobs would also be made. Therefore, a new Railway Recruitment Board may kindly be constituted in Bilaspur. In the past, local trains were given a halt Walgehna, a station under district Bilaspur, but they are no more being given any halt there. They may kindly be given stoppage so that the people there could be facilitated. With these words, I extend my thanks for giving the opportunity to speak on the Railway Budget.

[English]

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV (Silchar): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am a bit off-track. My speech was more or less made in your pattern but it I speak now in that pattern, the hon. Minister would think that I am following you. So, I have to go to the branch line instead of taking the main line!

I come from an area known as Barak Valley, which is also connected with Manipur and Tripura. As the hon. Member from Tripura has very rightly said, this area is very much neglected. Time and again, I have met the hon. Minister of Railways and the hon. Minister of Finance. I have met the hon. Prime Minister about a month ago and requested that the Railways should be helped with more funds so that some lifelines and some special facilities could be given to the North-East.

During the period of the United Front Government, Shri H.D. Deve Gowda and Shri Ram Vilas Paswan gave us a gauge conversion project from Lumding to Silchar. I spoke at length during the last Budget and expected that something would be done but unfortunately justice could not be done by the hon. Minister. I do not blame him because I know he tried his best to get some funds from the non-lapsable fund. I was told by the PMO that the hon. Minister tried but it was not considered favourably. But after that I was shocked to see that a huge amount was given for some special lines in the Kashmir Valley.

They called it some mega railway line project. Then also, I thought that something would be done. But nothing has been done about this particular broad gauge line. Now, I do not know whether the hon. Minister of Railways has the time to go through our speeches; or his personal staff or the Members of the Railway Board can draw his

[Shri Santosh Mohan Dev]

attention to them. Considering that this type of Budget allocation continues, it will take fifteen years to complete this line. What I requested and what I am again requesting the hon. Minister is that if he cannot do it, why has he withdrawn the metre gauge line from Lumding to Guwahati? You let the train come from Guwahati by metre gauge as it was coming in the past. The trains-shipment at Lumding itself is a time-consuming thing. There is a big gang of people who take away all the goods from this train because they are unloaded and kept in some place and then again loaded. Of course, you can say that for those who are losing, they are getting the compensation. But at whose expense that it is done? It is at the expense of the national exchequer that you are giving the money. I have no complaint that you are not compensating. But why should it be so?

I would request that you form a small Committee to go into this aspect to know how long will it take to complete this project if the funds are allocated at this rate. In Parliament you say that you are constrained of funds. Your General Manager goes and says that he would be competing this in four or five years' time. When I say in my public speeches that it would take more time, the people say that the General Manager had come and told them that it would be completed in five years' time. Has he got an Aladdin's lamp that he would be completing in five years' time a project of Rs. 1,500 crore with a yearly allocation of Rs. 60 crore? It is absolutely not so.

The conditions of the compartments are horrible. The people of Tripura tell me that I have been elected from their side and this is the position. There is leakage of water in the compartments in the train going to Dharmanagar. People carry some plastic sheets with them to keep them on the roof of the train so that they are safe inside from the water. They carry water bottle for going to the toilet because there is no water in the toilets.

I am not saying-but Shri Somnath Chatterjee has got the authority to say as he is a fatherly figure of this House-that you are spending money with advertisement and other things. But it is a fact. Shri Nitish Kumar, it is a fact. It is not befitting you.

I want to mention one more thing. Why should your officers reply to my letters? The replies are not written in full. I am also an ex-Minister. When I receive letters from your officers I tear them out and throw them out. I am not supposed to get a reply from a Joint Secretary or a Member of the Railway Board for a letter which I wrote

to you. If you do not have the time, do not write. But why should an MP's letter be replied to by the officers? It is a new culture that has been started by the NDA Government. It is not only you but many of the Ministers do it. The staff say: "The Minister is out of station; I have been advised to write to you".

I may mention that a Member of Parliament represents seven to eight lakh people in the constituency. We are not to be treated shabbily like this. We should get the reply from the hon. Minister. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Shri Santosh Mohan Dev, let me clarify. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: No, let me conclude. I will not interrupt you. If you interrupt me, my flow goes. It is like a train; if interrupted, my flow goes and the speed will be less. Whatever you want to say, you say later.

In fact, you are a good friend of mine. What I am worried is that if you reply a letter, you would know what reply you are giving and it would be in your mind. It is an advantage for a Member of Parliament. When you reply to me, you know that Santosh Mohan Dev wanted this; you could not do it and when you get a chance, it would come to your mind. But if an officer replies, that is not in your mind. Once you reply, we are more than sure that you have tried to do some justice. That is what I am saying. I say that you should ask your officers to put up the file to me so that you could go through them and see the position.

The other day I met you in your chamber. You told some officer or some Personal Secretary

[Translation]

Please See to it.

[English]

I did not like it. I did not take your cup of tea. I came out of your office. As a Minister I have never dealt with Members like this. If a Member comes to me, I would give full respect to him and say, not through PA,

[Translation]

Brother, I would see to it.

[English]

This is how we are expected to be treated from the Ministers.

The second thing is that you have declared some railway divisions. You have derailed Kumari Mamata Banerjee. It does not matter. I am not bothered. She is now with the BJP. Let her be there. A railway division in Badarpur is a long felt demand. At one time Shri Jaffer Sharief and then Shri Ram Vilas Paswan said that the railway division cannot be given because there was serious objection from the Finance Department. We accepted it. Now, he has given it, but at that time, he was saying that some upgradation would be done by the Railways in Badarpur area because it was quite an important junction. I will request you to look into it. I will also request you to look into the allocation. Every time, I write to you. There is movement of cement. There is also movement of other goods. Since I write to you every now and then, sometimes officers feel that Sontosh Mohan Dev is getting something from the business people.

Recently, tea gardens and fair price shops were without rice. I rang up Chairman of FCI in Delhi. He said that there was no wagon. What is this? Apart from that, if the foodgrain does not go at a particular time, the quota, that is given, lapses. That is the rule. Now, I congratulate the Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, Shri Sharad Yadav, who is your colleague from Bihar, because he has given enough consideration to that and has given instruction that if there is some backlog in the allocation of wagons, the quota should not lapse, and it was improved. Thereby, we can tell people that it is done. It will not earn good name to me; it will earn a good name to you. We have got small papers from people. They have congratulated the Railway Ministry and you for doing it. Thereby, it has improved. Now, essential commodities like cement etc. and essential commodities like rice, wheat and sugar are not items of luxury in our part of the country; they are items of daily need.

Today, I am standing here and saying. Have they brought to your notice that Lumding-Silchar line was closed for 20 days recently? You do not know. You are the Minister. but they do not bother to inform you. Why was it closed? It was closed not because of landslide; it was closed because of terrorist activities. On the terrorist activities, some Press people asked the hon. Prime Minister recently 'You are starting a railway line in this area. What will be the situation?' He replied 'We are

competent to face the terrorists. Once I construct the railway line, the rail will run.' It is good. Why? It is our lifeline. In spite of everything, it is our lifeline. Since one attack took place on some railway train, it was stopped. First, there was no movement of the train and then no night movement was there of the train.

If I ring up your General Manager, he is in a meeting. Previously, General Managers of Railways used to ring back. Now, some ex-servicemen or ex-Army men are there. He is a top Army man. He does not bother about Members and to speak to Members. It is very unfortunate. ...*(interruptions)* They are sitting there. I do not want to say that once he was browbeaten, the next time he rang me up and said that he was not as bad as I thought. I said that I had not complained about him. I had complained about the General Manager. I asked him whether he was the General Manager because I had not seen him.

It is courtesy that when you come to my area, you send your programme to me and I will be there to receive you with a bouquet. If you inform me that you are coming, I will be the first man to go and receive you and talk to you. I know that you cannot go to every MLA and every MP. We will go ourselves to you when we discuss. Programmes are never sent to us. It is an erosion in the system. I do not blame you. Your Railway Board should think of it. Change in the members of Railway Board is as frequent as change of Ministers here and there in the Mayawati Government. Every six months, there is a new Railway Board Member in some position or the other. That should be taken care of.

Now, I have said. What Shri Somnath Chatterjee has said is very relevant. Shanti Niketan is Guru Rabindranath Tagore's place. I switched on my television the other day. I was very happy to see hundred and thousands of people sitting, and everything from dance to drama going on there. I was telling Shri Somnath Chatterjee that most of the doctors and Ministers tell me that the best place now to stay is Santi Niketan, minus the MPs from there. It is a good destination for people from Kolkata to go and stay. Considering this, I am supporting and I know that in some areas you have done it. You have done it in Darjeeling; improved the toy trains in such a way that the tourists do like it. Do take care of that station and do it in a nice way so that more attraction is there.

I read in newspapers that you are considering installing telephone lines in fast moving trains and long-

[Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev]

distance trains. This is a very good idea, thereby, this hazard which has happened could have been overlooked if there is a telephone connection-even in some compartments, or with guards-instead of those alarms which are stolen away by others and it could have been saved.

Last but not least, I will again appeal to you that you are a Minister from Eastern India so I consider you a Minister from North-Eastern India. So, considering that, please consider my conversion line as your own line, and it will convey a very good message to our area. I congratulate you that you have recently gone to Rangya and opened a Division. It was a long-standing demand that you have fulfilled.

You have also declared that some jobs will be given in Railways. If that is the case, it is a very good thing. It should be given because now there is a stalemate though Prime Minister is saying that he is appointing 2 lakh or 10 lakh people, yet these are all through Rural Employment Programmes. But, Railways, Telephones and other industries should also be open to public for employment. Every house has got 4-5 unemployed but qualified boys. This has become a hazard. Everyday if you meet 100 people, and out of them 50-60 people-boys and girls-will be the ones who are very much educated and looking for a job. With these words I --in spite of my having some constraints-fully support your Budget; I want this Budget should be passed; and I want peace in your mind.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: No special favour for his support.

SHRI P.S. GADHAVI (Kutch): Thank you very much, Sir. I rise to support the Appropriation Railway Bill presented by the hon. Minister. First of all I congratulate the hon. Railway Minister for presenting a White Paper on the safety as he had promised to submit, before the House. Sir, I also congratulate the hon. Railway Minister for giving us an opportunity of submitting the case of the Small-Scale Salt Manufacturers.

Sir, Small-Scale Salt Manufacturers are suffering because of the unprecedented hike, to the tune of 135 per cent hike-on the edible salt-in the railway freight. It is because of this hike that more than 30 per cent of the Small-Scale Salt units are compelled to close their units. More than 1 lakh labourers who were engaged with this-most of them are unskilled labourers-became jobless. It is our long-standing demand, and hon. Minister gave us

a special hearing, and I would request the hon. Minister to consider and review this railway freight hike.

I also congratulate the hon. Minister for taking many mega Railway projects. One of the mega projects is in my constituency, that is, Gauge conversion between Samkhiyali to Palanpur, which will shorten the distance between Delhi and Kandla.

Kandla port is a very important port for the Capital as well as for the whole of North India including Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Himachal Pradesh, etc.

I would like to make one request to the hon. Minister that there are so many people-more than 5 lakh people-from Kutch-my constituency-who stay in Mumbai. There is a long-standing demand for having one more express train between Bhuj and Mumbai.

18.00 hrs.

Therefore, I would request the hon. Minister to fulfil this demand because it is a long-standing demand.

There was one Inter-City train between Gandhidham and Vadodara, which was cancelled. Due to this, many local people are facing difficulties. Therefore, I would request the hon. Minister to reintroduce the Inter-City train between Bhuj and Vadodara, which will help many of our people.

The hon. Minister has given us many trains, and he has also increased the frequency of the trains between Delhi and Bhuj. I would request the Minister that the frequency of the train between Bareilly-Delhi and Bhuj should also be increased. In addition, a three-tier A.C. sleeper coach may be added to this train. Now that Bhuj is having many trains, there is a demand for upgradation of the Bhuj Railway Station.

Many parts of Gujarat are facing famine for the third time continuously. There is acute shortage of grass, and transportation of grass is to be done by the Railway. Our Gujarat Government submitted proposals to the hon. Minister and many hon. Members of Parliament have also requested that for transportation of grass, additional rakes may kindly be provided.

Finally, I would request the hon. Minister that the frequency of the train between Delhi and Bhuj may kindly be increased.

With these words, I support this Bill.

[*Translation*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Four hon. Members are yet to speak, with the consent of the House time of proceedings is extended till the passage of demands and the Bill.

*SHRI K.K. KALIAPPAN (Gobichettipalayam): Hon. Chairman Sir, the constituency I represent in this august House do not have railway line that would greatly benefit a vast stretch of hill tracks. At the outset I would like to remind the Railway Minister about an announcement made 11 years ago by the then Railway Minister that a new railway line would be laid between Satyamangalam and Chamarajanagar. Had the scheme been taken up it would have brought Satyamangalam and Gobichettipalayam in the railway map with a link up to Erode and Palani. With deep anguish I participate in this discussion on Demands for Grants for Railways to remind the Railway Minister of the promise made. The scheme which was announced with fanfare is yet to see the light of the day and it is still lying on paper. All the representatives of the people from my place have always been taking up with the Centre to take up this project. I have also raised it on the floor of this august House. I have also taken up this demand with the Railway Minister. But we do not find a mention in this year's Railway Budget about the laying of this new railway line. Not even a token allocation has been made. I urge upon the Union Government to take up this long pending project for it would benefit Scheduled Tribes and poor people living in remote villages and downtrodden living below poverty line in the hilly tracks of that vast region that lies between Tamil Nadu and Karnataka. Satyamangalam-Chamarajanagar rail route will bring about economic prosperity to that region. Hence I urge upon the Railway Minister to look into it. After all it is an announcement made in this august House and the solemn promise must be fulfilled. In all these years you have been spending crores of rupees on several projects but this project pertaining to my constituency has been ignored. You may kindly note that this may give rise to cast overrun in the long run. Hence it is necessary to take up this project at the earliest. At least in the next Budget you may kindly include this project. I urge upon you to give priority to this much delayed project. It calls for priority because it would benefit an economically backward region with abundant natural wealth. I am referring to the Thalavadi region in that hill tract with hundreds of remote villages spread over there.

Only in Tamil Nadu we find more of metre gauge railway lines still in operation. It is more than a decade now that we have taken up gauge conversion in a big way. Why is it that Tamil Nadu has been ignored? Why have you allowed many sections in the Southern Railways especially in Tamil Nadu to remain as metre gauge sections? Only when gauge conversion is completed there, we can have direct link to the remaining parts of the country. Only then we can introduce new trains that would benefit both the Railways and the passengers. It would be helpful, beneficial, lucrative and profitable to both the Government and the public.

As early as in 1987 when our founder leader Dr. Purthi Thalavar was the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Chennai Metro Rail project was conceived at a cost of 87 crore rupees. But the project is yet to be completed and it would require more than 500 crore of rupees now. Only a portion of it has been completed. Considering the vastly expanding horizontal growth of the metropolitan city Chennai, the Chennai Metro Rail project must be taken up with a new vigour. The metro rail projects of Kolkata and Delhi are getting priority when Chennai is ignored. The present Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Dr. Puratchi Thalaivi has made it clear that the Government of Tamil Nadu would be extending all possible cooperation to the Centre to complete the Chennai Metro Rail project. Even after this announcement there is not much of progress and the project continues to remain pending and incomplete.

Two days back we read in papers about our Prime Minister's announcement that linking of Kashmir with Kanyakumari would get utmost priority by way of laying highways at a fast pace. It is true that Kanyakumari needs to be linked with several parts of the country with better transport facilities. Even the railway service needs to be augmented. Considering the importance of Kanyakumari both as a pilgrim centre and tourist center more trains would be run between Chennai and Kanyakumari like long distance Shatabdi trains.

Though the number of rail accidents are coming down when compared to the number of trains that are being operated we need to have better safety management. Most of the accidents occur near unmanned level crossings. A massive project must be drawn up to overcome this lacunae and automatic gates must be provided in those level crossings involving the local administration in those areas. Yercad express train originates from Erode in my constituency. The train lacks many amenities. There is no first class compartment in

*Original in Tamil.

[Shri K.K. Kaliappan]

that train in spite of repeated requests from the travelling public. I have also taken up this with the Railway authorities but to no avail. I depend on railway trains to go to Chennai from my constituency. Whenever I have to attend the Parliament Session I have to travel by train from my constituency. Most of the times I could not get reserved seats. This is a problem faced by people over there and people's representatives like me also. The root cause of this problem is that the divisional headquarters is not in the vicinity and is sufficiently kept apart from my constituency. Had there been a divisional headquarters either at Erode or at Salem these problems would not have been there. Considering the long pending demand from these commercial towns the railways may kindly take steps to create and establish a new division with its headquarters either in Erode or Salem.

Before I could conclude my speech, I would like to draw your attention to the slow paced gauge conversion work and lesser allocation. I am afraid Tamil Nadu is getting least priority. Tamil Nadu has got so many Ministers in the Union Council of Ministers. There is also a Minister of State in the Railways who hail from Tamil Nadu. At least this Railway Minister must work hard to get more allocation for Tamil Nadu. He must ensure that Tamil Nadu is not neglected any further and start getting priority at least from now on. In order to introduce new trains linking the north and south of the country the gauge conversion must be completed soon.

Reiterating that Sathi-Chamarajanagar railway line must be laid at the earliest and extended up to Erode I urge upon the Union Minister for Railways to reward our State which helps the Railways to operate profitably. I also urge upon you to allocate more funds for the ongoing projects and take up without further delay the pending projects. In the style of Kolkata and Delhi the Chennai Metro Rail should also be taken up in a massive way. Bringing to your kind notice that our Government led by our leader Dr. Puratchi Thalaivi is ready to provide all possible assistance and cooperation to complete the pending railway projects in Tamil Nadu, I conclude my speech thanking the Chair for providing me with this opportunity to participate in this discussion.

SHRIMATI RENU KUMARI (Khagaria): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the demands for grants of Railways for the year 2003-2004. I would not make a long speech as the Budget this time has marked lot of utility for the people. I would be showing light to the lamp if I speak on the achievements made by the hon. Minister in the field of Railways. I extend my thanks to the Minister of Railways, hon. Prime Minister and the entire Ministry of Railways.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have a few demands, which I would like to put before the hon. Minister through you. Khagaria Lok Sabha constituency of Bihar is a backward area. There is a dire need of giving halt to trains at Banikpur falling between Nagchhia and Katria on the Barauni-Katihar Railway division. The people of that area have been demanding for the same for the last two years. I would, therefore request the hon. Minister to approve the stoppage of trains at Banikpur and thus facilitate the people there.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, there is also a need to give stoppage to Danapur Katihar Capital Express 3243 up and 3246 down train at Basraha, construction of Passenger shed and an overbridge for going from one Platform to the other. Guwahati-Jodhpur train is also required to be given a halt at Khagaria Railway Station. a swift gate is also required in the West of Madadpur village for Harik and Nagchhib Railway Stations on the main railway track before Diwiadhaar located on the Barauni-Katihar Railway division, as Culvert in Khagaria N.H. was built during the period when hon. Railway Minister was Minister of Water Surface Transport. It was essential to be built, for the absence of it all crops of the people, be it banana, or paddy were inundated, but now these are safe due to construction of culvert and the people of this area are happy too, but until culvert or swift gate are not constructed by the Railways, people there would continue to have problems. I would, therefore, request the hon. Minister to get a swift gate or culvert constructed in village Madadpur.

Sir, I would also like to request the hon. Minister that rupees 5 crore, earmarked for gauge conversion of Samastipur-Khagaria meter gauge line this year are very nominal. I would request the hon. Minister to increase the said funds so that this work may be completed at the earliest. One block of my area-Beldaur is very backward and today when we have reached the 'moon', this area is deprived of even a railway line. Rich people of this block can manage to go anywhere but poor and backward people do not even get a chance to see a train. I would, therefore, request the hon. Minister that a new railway line may be constructed from Bihariganj via Kisanganj-Alamnagar-Beldaur and then to Mahes Khunt, so that the people there could be benefited, I would also request that the only level crossing at the Khagaria in the eastern cabin remains very busy. Around 40 up and down trains pass from there every day. Moreover hospitals and many offices are situated there. Normal life of people gets very disturbed there. I would therefore, like to draw the attention of hon. Minister to the need to accord approval to construction of an overbridge in Khagaria.

With these words, I would again request the hon. Minister that he may give just two minutes' halt to the New Delhi-Guwahati Rajdhani train at Khagaria Railway Station and that too initially for a period of six months. Thereafter if the Railway suffer loss, the decision may be withdrawn. With these words, I extend my thanks to the hon. Minister and support the Bill.

[English]

SARDAR SIMRANJIT SINGH MANN (Sangrur): Thank you, Mr. Chairman for giving me time to speak on the Railway Budget. The Railway Minister has come in for a lot for flak from the Opposition. Though I also represent the Opposition, the Shiromani Akali Dal (Amritsar), I would like to present a kinder and a gentler personality of the Railway Minister. Whenever we, the MPs-either from the Opposition or from the Treasury Benches-met the hon. Minister, he had always been very accessible and accountable and honest about what he told us.

However, since 1947, revenues earned from Punjab by the Indian Railways have greatly outstripped the investments made in Punjab. We direly need a direct link from Ferozpur to Amritsar via Khem-Karan. This can also be an alternate route to Jammu & Kashmir. In case of dire need-God forbid, if there is any sabotage on the main Delhi-Pathankot-Jammu railway track-this track can be used as alternative route.

Moreover we, the Sikhs, are very greatly attached to the Golden Temple by sentiment and emotion. The Sikhs of Malwa have no direct train to Amritsar. The Ferozpur-Amritsar link will provide this Secondly, the Dhauladhar Express runs from Delhi to Pathankot. We wish that this train be diverted through Amritsar to Pathankot so that the Eastern Malwa region, where Sikhs live, can get a direct link to Amritsar.

Punjab has the conductive, disease free climate for the growth of seed potatoes and the needs of the country are met by Punjab. The only handicap is that we have no refrigerated railway wagon to seaports. We need to export our seed potatoes to Sri Lanka via Chennai, to Bangladesh and Nepal. We think that this will earn India a lot of foreign exchange.

Secondly we welcome the statement of the hon. Prime Minister from Kashmir when he said that he wanted goods relations with Pakistan. It must be to the credit of Pakistan which has also reciprocated these good feelings. We, in Punjab, are especially interested in peace between India and Pakistan because Pakistan is our neighbouring

country. If the railways can roll the wagons to Peshawar, our seed potatoes can be transported to Afghanistan which buys the entire quantity of seed potato from Holland.

18.20 hrs.

(MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER *in the Chair*)

We can sell our seed potatoes at half the price to Afghanistan.

Moreover, with the thaw in Indo-Pakistan relations, we want the *Samjhauta* Express to be revived so that our Muslim population, who have a lot of relatives in Pakistan and the Pakistani Muslims who have a lot of relatives in our Punjab especially my constituency Malerkotla in Sangrur, will benefit. Now, what happens Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, if a Muslim Punjabi wants to go to Pakistan, he has to go *via* the Gulf, but if the *Samjhauta* Express is introduced, that distance will be cut off and the poor Muslim can visit his relatives in Pakistan very easily and *vice versa* the relatives in Pakistan can visit our Punjab very easily. This is a humanitarian problem and it must be addressed.

When I was in Tamil Nadu recently, the Sikhs of Chennai told me that they need a direct train to Amritsar. Shri Nitish Kumar, the hon. Railway Minister very well understands the Sikh sentiments. He has recently introduced a train to Amritsar from Jamshedpur for the benefits of the Sikhs. I will be grateful if the Train from Chennai is extended to Amritsar or the bogies of the train which terminates in Delhi are attached to a train that goes up to Amritsar.

Sir, we need a lot more investment in Punjab. We are a fast moving economy and since there has been no investment in Punjab by the Indian Railways, I will be grateful if the Railway Minister gives us Railway over bridges over motor ways to speed up our economy. Then there is *Sachkhand* Express. This train should have a stop at Sirhind Junction because of Sikh population visiting Nanded in Maharashtra.

My erstwhile parliamentary constituency Taran Tartan still does not have a computer reservation centre. I would request that the Railway Minister gives us this Centre.

Lastly, we have a lot of railway station which are over a hundred years old. We want them to become heritage sites. I hope the Railway Minister will agree to that and give it to us.

[Sardar Simranjit Singh Mann]

Last but not least is the importance of the NRIs visiting Punjab. They want to see a lot of cleanliness at our railway stations. At present, our railway stations are full of human excreta and there is a lot of stink. I will be grateful if the Railway Minister gives out contracts to private companies to keep the railway stations and the railway tracks neat and clean.

Thank you very much for giving me time to speak and good luck to the Railway Minister.

[Translation]

*SHRI P. MOHAN (Madurai): Hon. Deputy Speaker Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak on the Demands for Grants for Railways for the year 2003-04. I would like to thank and appreciate the Railway Minister for his announcement made just before the Budget. I welcome the steps taken by the Railways to exempt handicapped persons from being levied luggage charges on the three wheel pram chairs they may take along with them during rail journeys. I had written to the Railway Minister about this and he has heeded to it kindly and has withdrawn these luggage charges not only in Southern Railways but in the entire network of Indian Railways. Similarly certain other good measures have been taken by the Railway Minister and I would like to congratulate him. Sports persons and sick people travelling for treatment are being provided with concessional fares now. Reducing the eligibility age for male senior citizens is a laudable step. As part of ensuring safety the railways could go in for 20,000 people. This is a welcome step. It is my bounded duty to congratulate you for this move of creating posts and recruiting people at this point of time.

Introduction of five new trains has been announced and I welcome it. But still there are several projects pending in Tamil Nadu. Chennai-Kanyakumari double line as a broad gauge one is a long pending demand. As such a stretch of 2,000 kms of railway track in Tamil Nadu continues to remain as metre gauge even after your massive gauge conversion scheme. I am afraid it is only in Tamil Nadu a vast stretch of railway line is awaiting gauge conversion. I would like to draw your attention to the meagre allocation of about Rs. 40 crore to Tamil Nadu in the Southern Railways. I would like to point out that it is improper to make such a small allocation. As pointed out by members who spoke ahead of me the gauge conversion work must be given utmost

priority. Only then it would be paving way for the introduction of new trains linking different parts of Tamil Nadu with the rest of the country. Both the Southern Railways and the Railway Ministry have stated recently that more of revenue accrues to the railway by way of operating passenger trains than goods trains. In my opinion people resort to trucks for freight movement than using goods trains because of delay caused due to non-availability of double track. Chennai-Kanyakumari double lane would augment the freight movement by rail. For instance, a huge freight carrier came to Tuticorin port last month. Most of the goods were to be sent to North frontier regions and North Eastern States. Most of the goods were transported by trucks. Only a few tonnes of these goods were transported by the goods train operated by the Southern Railways. The reason cited was that the freight movement by train causes inordinate delay. There is another bottleneck here. Dindigul-Madurai section is yet to be converted into a broad gauge line. This affects the direct movement of trains between Chennai and Kanyakumari or Chennai and Tuticorin. When gauge conversion has been taken up in a big way in many States why this vital link between Dindigul and Madurai is yet to be attended to? I would like to point out that this comes in the way of introducing new passenger and goods trains and providing direct link to several parts of the country. I urge upon the Railway Ministry to take up immediately the gauge conversion between Dindigul and Madurai and double lane between Chennai and Kanyakumari. I read in newspapers recently that railway have started paying attention to the ongoing gauge conversion work between Madurai and Rameswaram after they received a letter from the President of India. I would like to point out here that it is not enough to complete gauge conversion work between Madurai-Manamadurai and between Manamadurai and Rameswaram. A better link to Rameswaram would be possible only when you complete the gauge conversion work in Dindigul-Madurai section. Even to operate a train from Coimbatore to Rameswaram it is essential.

Before I could conclude, I would like to draw the attention of hon. Railway Minister to the project of constructing a Yatri Niwas at Madurai for which the hon. Minister himself laid the foundation stone in 1998. This project that was with the Railways and the Railway Board has now been transferred to IRTC. I urge upon the Railway Minister to take steps to complete this project in time.

It has been stated that 20,000 new hands will be recruited for ensuring safety in railways. As such, Act

*Original in Tamil.

Apprentice Scheme is available in Southern Railways. People are trained in coach maintenance and coach repairing. Duly qualified and trained people who have got training under this apprentice scheme are there in the waiting list waiting to be absorbed by the Railways. They are about 2000 in number. These people have to be given a top priority when the new recruitments are to be made. It is a point to be noted that these people are trained by the Railways itself. I would like to repeat my request for running new trains between Madurai-Jodhpur and Madurai-Howrah. The Railway Minister may kindly look into this long pending demand from the people of my constituency.

I thank the Minister of State for Railways, Shri A.K.S. Moorthy for having included the project of constructing a new railway station in Madurai called Koodal Nagar Railway Station. I request him to allocate adequate funds for this project.

[English]

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO (Kalahandi): Sir, kindly, allow me for just two minutes.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You can ask clarifications after the reply.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, first of all, I would like to thank all those hon. Members who have participated in today's debate. Some hon. Members had taken part in first phase and many hon. Members have taken part in it for the second time. I have replied to many questions during first phase today also I would take up certain specific issues. But Somnath Babu has told that I do not even acknowledge his letters. I specific issues. But Somnath Babu has told that I do not even acknowledge his letters. I immediately collected information from my office in this regard and I came to know that during this year I have received six letters from him which have been acknowledged by my office. He has asked for acknowledgment of between Menthia and Khana junction. He had written a letter on 26 February which I have acknowledged. The date on this letter is not clearly legible. I think it is March. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: It has been sent by which train, I have not yet received it. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: I have a photocopy of that with me. There are six acknowledgments. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: If I find that there is a mistake in my place, then I would sincerely and unconditionally apologise for that. Otherwise, the hon. Minister should also check it up.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Whatever has come to me is with the despatch. Therefore I have asked for a photocopy just. I am sending all the documents to him. Though he has got it acknowledged by sending a letter to me in the House. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: It is because I always get replies from him that is why I was upset about it and I mentioned it. There was no response for these two important letters. However, I will check up again and if there is a mistake, then I shall certainly admit on the floor of the House that there was a mistake.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You say that he has sent acknowledgment to your letters.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: I am not talking it otherwise.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: I should receive it.

[English]

It cannot be one way. Generally I have never made a complaint.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: It is the right of the Member to get not only acknowledgment but also a reply.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Sir, thank you. The hon. Minister' has acknowledged that he has not replied to the letters in two months.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the way he has sent me a letter in the floor itself, similarly I am sending photocopies of acknowledgment of his six letters. I respect the traditions of Parliamentary democracy. I have great honour for Somnath Babu and he is our outstanding parliamentarian. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Why did I intervene, its because you as well as he performs very well in the House. But I have not been able to understand how this difference occurred.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: It cannot be from my side but he has said so thus I felt that it should not have been like this. If it is so, it is very bad and I apologize for it and would send a copy immediately. It is a well accepted tradition that if any hon. Member sends a letter to a Minister, then that should be acknowledged. We make efforts to give final reply in minimum time. Still, he know, railway has a very vast network. I always try to acknowledge the letters immediately but sometimes it gets delayed because of excessive work load or continuance of Parliament session but acknowledgment should be sent and sending acknowledgment is not a special work, it is my duty.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: All right.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: As we have started with Somnath Babu, I will take up the point raised by him. He wanted to know by when doubling work of Khana Senthia will be completed. I had sought immediate information regarding it and that has been made available. Khana-Jhapatarthal stretch was sanctioned in 1992-93. It is five kms long stretch and it had been completed. Then Jhapatarthal-Guskara a 15 kms long stretch was completed in 1993-94. The work may have started in 1993-94 or it may have been included in Pink Book in that year. Next, Gusakara to Bholpur, a 19 kms long stretch has also been completed. The work on Bholpur to Ahmedpur, a 19 kms stretch is under progress and it will be completed during the financial year 2003-04. Then Ahmedpur to Senthia is 13 kms away. We would complete it during 2004-2005.

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: I am thankful to the hon. Minister now that there is a record on the floor of the House.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: I am acknowledging this on the floor of the House.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Very good. I am obliged to you. The only thing is that please see that in the eleventh year it is completed.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: It is an announcement on the floor of the House; it has to be done.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Thank you very much. At last we see the end of the tunnel.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Before I start discussion on some other issue, I would like to make a mention of an unfortunate incident relating to Bomb blast at Mulund as has just been mentioned by Shri Kirit Somaiya. Immediately compensation should be provided to the people affected by bomb blast. So all possible efforts would be made in this regard. The Railway Board will discuss it especially with Railway claims Tribunal, Judicial Members of the tribunal would settle the claim cases expeditiously. As per the information made available to me there are 82 cases in total and there have been 11 casualties. 71 persons were injured. So far only 24 cases have been filed. If any are has only not been able to file the case, officers of Railways would provide him help and Local General Manager will be given instructions in this regard.

Kirit Somaiyaji can contact with them so that all could be provided assistance. As the settlement of case may take time, interim relief could be provided to them meanwhile and that would be adjusted against the amount which will be settled as claim. If the need arises they would be given interim relief. It is an unfortunate incident.

Now the point has been raised that I had replied in regard to the introduction of some trains during the last session. Ramji Lal Sumanji, while discussing on this matter mentioned that the trains are introduced with a purpose of deriving political mileage. Politics has a very comprehensive connotation. The trains should not be introduced with a purely political purpose but as all of us are in politics and also take political decisions and even the Government is being run by the politicians and if some decision is taken on the request of the MP's then I don't think it is a political decision with a vested interest and nor is it objectionable. However it would be wrong to either introduce trains or to reject the demand for introducing trains with the intention of fulfilling purely political vested interest. As for your making mention of Janashatabdi is concerned. I would like to say that we had introduced 16 Janashtabadis last year and also the effort was made to provide one Janashatabdi for every State and to cover all major States and it was for this purpose that new trains were introduced. One Janshatabdi

was introduced between Jameshpur and Ranchi in Jharkhand but it did not cut much success. The reason for its failure was that the distance between Tatanagar and Ranchi is longer by train vis a vis the road. Hence we reviewed the decision and EMU service was provided after having withdrawn Janashatabdi from that route. Similarly a Shatabdi train had been running between Jameshpur and Howrah since 1985. Its occupancy was very limited. It was withdrawn and a Janashatabdi was introduced between Howrah and Jamshedpur and I had made an announcement to this effect earlier also. The information provided is often on dimensional. There are several other Janashatabdis. We review all aspects. Shatabdi and Janashatabdis are running at very low occupancy on certain routes. I will certainly review it and the trains would be run on viable and popular routes only. Adjustments would be made by introducing other trains in place of Janashatabdis wherever possible. I will try to meet the demand from all quarters. Not only this your view and suggestions will also be taken care of in the meeting scheduled as per the fixed time table. It is not true that one region has been neglected while much attention has been paid towards others. I try to provide facilities for the maximum number of regions. The Members quoting statistics from non official sources are overburdened with expectations. Some hon. Member said that there are two aspects of everything. I have introduced several new trains which have provided superhits. You can find out about the performance of Saptakranti which was mentioned by Shri Raghuvansh Babu and the residents of Agra and Kanpur can give better idea about it. They had demanded for an exclusive train between Delhi and Kanpur. We have also introduced Shramashakti Express and anybody willing can find out about its performances. Mention has been made of only those trains which are running on low occupancy and nobody discusses about the trains which have proved a runaway success. No one mentions about superhit trains even once. However travellers have only well wishes to offer for us. The problem is that whether the trains are introduced with a political intent or not, some of the information's are propagated with a motivated desire to malign. Still I would review all those routes which have been mentioned by you in the question.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: You did not give any train to us.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Dada, you were more concerned about the doubling project. I had told about the specific target fixed in that regard.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: We have been demanding trains for the last ten years.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: I had given full information about as to when your project was entered into pink book and when was it completed. I feel that you should be satisfied. You had also congratulated me.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: I had discussed the Agra division in detail. Also throw some light on the need of its expansion.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: It will be dealt with separately. It is not a matter of debate. It is being said that Tamilnadu is being grossly neglected in regard to trains and the figures of meters gauge lines have been quoted. I showed you the figures. We found that as on 1st April, 1992, the total length of meter and narrow gauge lines in India was 27349 kilometres and it was 2907 kilometres in Tamilnadu. Till 31 March, 2003 the total length of the lines converted into broad gauge was 10101 kilometres while the figure stood at 995 kilometres in regard to Tamilnadu. On the completion of the ongoing projects the total length of rail lines due for conversion in the country would stand at 8490 kilometres and at 632 kilometres in Tamilnadu. I hope that House would excuse me for revealing that once the ongoing projects in the country are complete, the total length left of narrow and metre gauge lines in the country will be 8940 kilometres and 632 kilometres in Tamilnadu. The percentage of the existing metres and narrow gauge lines in the country is 32.69 percent of the total of railway lines while this figure is 21.74 percent in case of Tamilnadu. It is being said that Tamilnadu is being neglected in all India context. I can say that it is not being neglected but this kind of sentiment arises in the people's mind. No State will neglected this way.

Mention about some of the projects has been made but I would certainly like to mention about one project. The gauge conversion project from Madurai to Rameshwaram will be accorded priority and the target has been fixed in regard thereto. The distance between Madurai and Manamadurai is 48 kilometres. The conversion work of this railway line would be completed by June, 2004. The distance between Manamadurai and Rameshwaram i.e. 113 kilometres and the work of this line would be completed by December, 2005. Targets have been fixed. There are very important railway projects.

[English]

SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN (Sivaganga): Sir, I would like to ask one clarification. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: You can ask any question later on. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: It should be made from Mana Madurai to Tiruchi. But you are making it from Madurai to Mana Madurai. That would not be useful.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: I cannot fix targets for all the railway projects in the country. I cannot do that. It is not possible for me.

SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: It is allowed. An amount of Rs. 25 crore was granted.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: This railway project is now being taken up on priority.

SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Thank you.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: That is why I have announced a target date of completion after duly consulting the Member, Railway Board concerned.

SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: We thank you for that.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: They have given me this target. This can be done. Sufficient funds will be allocated in due course of time.

SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: That may be made from Tiruchi to Mana Madurai to Rameswaram. That is my request.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Sir, I am not yielding.

[Translation]

Sir, Shri Devegowdaji has mentioned some points. He is not present in the House. He has mentioned about Beejapur-Gadag line. This line is proposed to be constructed under k-right system on 50-50 cost sharing basis. We have provided 10 crore rupees for this line and the remaining 10 crore would be spend by Kamataka Government. I hope there will be progress in this regard. Similarly, it has been decided in-principle that Hubli-Ankola

line would also be laid under K-right system but no action has been taken so far in this regard. However, we are providing 15 crore rupees for it and would make all efforts to expedite the work on it.

Hon'ble Member Shri Chimmayanand Swami has raised a question regarding Onihar-Jaunpur line. In-principle, the proposal has been sent to Planning Commission for approval. There is a suggestion to introduce DMU on this line but this is a meter gauge section which is not in such a good condition to run DMU on it. Therefore, we have sanctioned for renewal of this line so that DMU could run on it. Renewal work will be done there till the gauge conversion project is sanctioned for it. Hon'ble member Shri Rasa Singh Rawat has raised the question about Ajmer workshop. POH will be done for BGD L for which Rs. 4 crore have been sanctioned. Other hon'ble members have also raised questions. I have replied some of them but rest of the replies to the questions will be sent to the concerned members.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the House is aware that during the supplementary budget, an announcement was made to give 10% concession to doctors travelling in trains. Orders were also issued in this regard but the procedure which was to be followed by the doctors to avail this facility became complicated. Several representations have been given in this regard. Now in view of these representations, the procedure has been simplified. Now they would be required to fill a form alongwith the photocopy of the registration certificate issued by the Medical Council of India. Doctors are supposed to take medicines with them when they avail concessions. We are giving privilege to doctors to travel by railways. We know that the doctors will not be benefited much with this 10% concession but it is a kind of honour, a gesture to them. Often we see that during railway journey of someone gets unwell, doctors immediately extend their services as soon as they come to know about it. They take it as their duty. 'Suvidha' Form is being simplified. Just now Shri Somnath Chatterjee mentioned a train which goes to Shanti Niketan. Whatever he mentioned during the discussion and whatever was written in the letter, is really regrettable. First of all, I would like to apologise on behalf of Railway Ministry as railway employees did not provide proper information due to which they suffered and the boy was left behind on the platform. He pulled the chain but it was not working. It is a matter to be inquired. I have issued orders for immediate action. Trains cannot run in this way. Chain is pulled in such circumstances of

emergency. If one family member boards the train and the other is left due to illness or others such reason, in such circumstances chain is pulled. We have taken it seriously that the chain was out of order at that time. I have told the member (Transport) to take immediate action in this regard and a detailed inquiry should be done regarding the concerned railway service. However, it is really regrettable that a great advocate about whom he has mentioned is no more amongst us. His death is a lesson for us, we should take a lesson from his death. Action should be taken for implementation so far as the facilities are concerned. We have declared this year as 'customer satisfaction year'. Such incidents, if continue to take place, will tarnish the image of Railways. We are not here to face such a situation. The situation should be improved otherwise there is no logic to remain here. Therefore, from the core of my heart, I want to say that I will fully utilize the power and capacity to improve the situation. Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh has again mentioned the same project. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: So far as our scheme is concerned, it will be implemented if he approves it on merit. He has acknowledged the letter written to him.

[English]

He has been kind to acknowledge it. And for the first letter say yes to the contents now.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: That is for the double line project.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: No, besides, doubling it is for the Bolpur station also.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: First get the doubling work done.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: You simply assure everything to be done on priority.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Invite me also on the breakfast as you do to Shri Shivraj Patil.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: I will host dinner let alone the breakfast.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, several hon'ble members had mentioned about New Delhi-Howrah Rajdhani Express 2305 up/2306 down while I

was replying to first session of discussion on the Railway Budget. This train will now run from grand Chord. This train at present runs on main line train line twice a week. However, members from Bihar raised objection over it. We have to take consent of all in such decisions. Now we are making a slight amendment in it. Now this train will run on main line once a week i.e. on Friday it will move from New Delhi to Howrah through main line and on Sunday it will benefit the members coming from Howrah. It will facilitate the members from Bihar also. That is why we have made an amendment that New Delhi-Howrah Rajdhani will run via Patna once a week.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we had introduced classification during the pervious railway budget. Under it several commodities were placed at lowest class of 90. Edible salt was put at 90 but we have been receiving several representations especially from Gujarat during the last year with the complaint that the increase in freight rates is leading to unemployment among the people engaged in the production of unrefined salt. It was also stated that the workers engaged in salt production who are known as 'agaria' are facing lot of difficulties. As production of salt is confined to certain areas, the situation remains bad in consumption areas, such problems may arise in other salt producing areas. That's why we have taken decision in this regard. Classification will remain at 90, however, we have decided to give concessions in freight rates of ordinary non-refined edible salt for a specific distance to overcome the crisis emerged before to enable the people engaged in this industry. Therefore, under the concession scheme, we have proposed freight rates on the basis of the distance covered, like 10% concession will be given for a distance between 1001 kms. to 1600 kms. 15% for a distance between 1601 kms to 2200 kms and 20% concession for a distance of 2201 kms to 3000 kms and it will be more than 25% for more than 3000 kms. These concessions shall apply only on ordinary non-refined edible salt. It will not be applicable on refined, branded or vacuum salt. We put before the Government, a proposal with regard to implementing schemes of giving concession in the Price of non-refined salt for cooking purposes on the basis of distance, so that people living in Kutch and other far-flung areas could tackle the problems coming in their way. I hope that this proposal would be accepted. Infact we had made this proposal last year, and our hon. Members from Gujarat in particular have raised the matter in this regard at that time. Recently, we reviewed the situation in this regard, and felt that if some concessions to these people can provide them some relief, then we must take some measures. And so we gave this proposal.

[Shri Nitish Kumar]

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in the end. I would like to assure the House that maximum attention would be paid on safety. We have presented white paper on safety and have also put the problems being faced by the people. The hon. Member should discuss the issues before us and give suggestions so that we could further strengthen the safety. Adequate safety measures have already been taken, if you see the white paper you would find that many new initiatives have been taken, but besides this, there is still so much to be done. We are thinking over the matter as to how we can provide safety to the railway passengers. And for this we would welcome the suggestions of all. With these words, I extend my thanks to all those hon. Members, who participated in the debate. I would send my response in writing to the statement of those, to whom I could not express my views. With this, I request this august House to approve the budget proposals. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: He did not make even a single mention to Shanti Niketan. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Ratilal Kalidas Varma and Shri Bikram Keshari Deo wanted to ask clarifications. I will allow them first and then I will give the floor to you.

[Translation]

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA (Dhandhuka): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to submit to the hon. Minister that even earlier this issue was discussed that due to broad gauge conversion from Junagarh to Bhavnagar in Gujarat, some trains have been cancelled, the number of trains there has been restricted to two from three. As a result of this, employees and labourers of eight Legislative Assembly constituencies are facing difficulties and are on hunger strike today. We had given a notice to this effect and had informed about this also. I would like to know whether the same three trains would again be started from there or not and even the President Shri Mahadev Desai, his colleagues and other MLAs sitting there on strike, whom I had joined for one day, want only this much assurance from you that the said three trains may kindly be re-started.

19.00 hrs.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Is there gauge conversion?

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA: It is meter gauge. The train has to be operated on that as it operates on that only.

[English]

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO (Kalahandi): Sir, thank you for giving me this opportunity. I would like to have two clarifications from the hon. Minister. He has done a lot for Orissa. He has concretised the East-Coast zone and for that I would like to thank him. But certain portions of Orissa are completely neglected, that is, South-Western part, where Sambhalpur Division is there. We have requested the hon. Minister umpteen times—we have only one train to New Delhi, that is, from Visakhapatnam to New Delhi—to make it daily. The name of the train is Samata Express, the name of the Party to which the hon. Minister belongs. What is the present position in this regard? I would like to have a clarification on this.

Lastly, I would like to state that the ongoing Lanjigarh Road to Junagarh Project requires about Rs. 80 crore and only a placement of Rs. 5 crore has been made. It is a very important line to develop bauxite in that area. Will the hon. Minister clarify whether he would be giving additional funds for this project?

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I had said this in my speech and I would like to ask just one question to Nitish ji that whenever there is any discussion on construction of an overbridge, most of the time we get answer from the Ministry of Railways that they do not get desired support from the State Governments. 50 percent contribution is of the Railways whereas 50 percent contribution is made by the Public Works Department of the State Government. I feel that the State Government does not make the desired contribution. I had requested that if through correspondence or through inviting concerned Ministers and holding discussion in this regard, anything could be done, then we can expedite this work. I request the State Government to take initiative in this regard and State Governments may call a meeting for extending their cooperation.

[English]

SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA (Kolar): On the last occasion also I had mentioned that the hon. Minister was kind enough to direct the officers with regard to one project which is pending half-way. He had studied that project. The stretch is ready but nothing has happened till date. I would like to know whether any progress has been made or any steps taken in that regard.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hoogly): Sir, while the general discussion on the Railway Budget was taking place, I had written a letter to the hon. Minister that in response to the request made by the Government, some MPs have provided substantial amount of money from the MPLAD Fund for the construction of level crossings. In my case, it has so happened that the Howrah Division has prepared everything and they have given me the estimate too. I had deposited the money. The money is lying with the Collector. Now, new pleas are being taken and the hon. Minister had assured me that he would look into it. But even after such a long time, I have not received any reply nor any sympathetic consideration about this particular case.

DR. V. SAROJA (Rasipuram): Hon. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, Salem to Cuddalore gauge conversion is pending for the past seven years and the people there are on strike. The hon. Minister of State is well aware of it. I would like to know what is the present position in that regard. Is there any improvement after the general discussion on the Budget?

Sir, I may be allowed to place rest of the suggestions on the Table of the House.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: It has to be given directly to the hon. Minister and not to be placed on the Table now.

SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: Sir, I raised a point with regard to transportation of grass to the famine stricken areas. There is non-availability of rakes. I had requested the hon. Minister that adequate number of rakes may be supplied to those areas.

SARDAR SIMRANJIT SINGH MANN: Sir, Punjab is receiving a very heavy glut of foodgrains, particularly wheat. Will the hon. Minister give us special trains to remove this glut so that the situation in our godowns improves and we have a speedy disposal of our grains?

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Shri Ramji Lal Suman has mentioned this fact here that the Railways give contribution for construction of road overbridge and road underbridge in place of busy level crossings especially T.V.U. (Train Vehicle Unit), numbering more than one lakh, there is a fund for these purposes which is called the Railway Safety Fund. A part of the money collected through cess levied on diesel and petrol is given to the Railways. Money is given out of that fund

as a share for construction of overbridge or underbridge in place of level crossing, manning purposes and also for safety measures as well as for certain other purposes.

Sir, the rule in this says that proposal is made by the Government to whom the road belongs and if the number of T.V.U. is more than one lakh, the Railway gives share in that. I had, so far as I remember, written letter to all the Chief Ministers in the year 2001 mentioning that they have busy level crossing in their States, and if they propose for road overbridge or road underbridge then we are ready to share the cost. We received response from many States. Then I also took up the matter with many States at my own level, and discussion was held with the Chief Ministers of States when they came to Delhi and situation in many States got improved too and many projects were sanctioned, which then got included in the works programme of the Railways.

Sir, hon. Member, Shri Ramji Lal Suman has suggested that I may at my own, take initiative for those States which do not give proposal. I accept this proposal of his and I would, once again, initiate talks with these States, I would write to the Chief Ministers again and, if required, would call a meeting of State Ministers for Road construction, as the funds available with us are not being utilized. Reason behind is that either we are not getting projects, or the projects are not getting sanctioned and so various obstructions are in our way for getting the work started. There are so many improvements like general arrangement drawing and land acquisition. I accept this suggestion of the hon. Member.

As far what Shri Rupchand Palji has said I would like to state that the unmanned level crossings will be made manned ones not only through the MPLADS funds but also through the funds allocated by the railway under a spend scheme. Now where the bottleneck lies in this regard would only known once I come to know about its status. I will try to get information in this regard at the earlier.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Do at the earliest what you want to do.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, several other Members have raised several questions. It is an evergoing process. Shri Vermaji mentioned about one thing. I would try to comprehend his point after having discussed it with him and would also called the officers. You abruptly raise an issue and expect me to reply it. It is very difficult and sometimes even impossible to reply question asked abruptly.

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA: The Deputy Speaker, Sir, I had given a letter to him hand to hand in this regard.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: What can I do if you don't have spare time what can I do if you who are so much concerned about it don't find any time to discuss it. I am ready to spare time for it and you can come to my office. I would consult the officers as to what can be the solution of the problem and then solution would be reached it. It is not easy to reply a query made abruptly and vaguely regarding a railway line in the country?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Vermaji, I request you to go to the Minister's office tomorrow only and get this problem resolved.

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA: I had met his P.S. also.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Why are talking about these things here? You sit with me if you have spare time. It would be strange if you don't want to spare time and also want the problem to get resolved. I am repeatedly mentioning that first let me comprehend as to what is the problem. Once I comprehend it I am ready to take appropriate step.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the hon. Members should't have much complaints against me. I try to resolve the maximum problems of the maximum number of the hon. Members but some hon. Members don't have even the time to personally discuss the problem with me. They convey it through the letter and thus the reply is given after the letter is examined. I will be able to reply you once it is examined. I will discuss any matter or issue or problem that needs to be resolved. I will certainly try to find solution of possible but unless problems are discussed how the solution can be found out. As far the question of the movement of fodder and water in a drought affected area is concerned we are doing it on priority basis. We are transporting both fodder and water free of cost and are doing it on priority basis. There is a growing demand for it from all quarters. We are trying to transport them as per the availability of rakes with us. We are ready to transport water in syntex tanks even in flat wagons in case where tank wagons are not available. This is personally looked into by me and all the concerned general managers have been directed to do this job on priority basis. The Government agency has to keep an indent in this regard as to who will receive the fodder.

These servicing agency should also be a government agency. This thing is taken care of because we will not transport fodder of any private agency. We only move the fodder if it is indented by the Government or government agency. Still I will personally find out where the problem is.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, a question regarding rake movement has also been raised. We are transporting fodder and water in the drought affected areas and it has to be accorded priority. The foodgrain movement has been taking place in the drought affected areas and especially those areas in North which are deficient areas. Secondly, export is also being done the foodgrains which have been committed to be exported are also under movement. I don't know as to what was said by an FCI officer but that is also a government agency. I don't want to say anything about it in the House but sometimes rakes are not available. Railways is blamed for every problem that arises. No wagons rakes are being provided to railways. The demand of the railway rakes has steeply increased suddenly-first on account of the drought and the transportation of foodgrains in these areas and secondly to fulfill the export needs.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, priority in foodgrain movement will have to be given if we want to anything to Iraq. The level of our water reservoirs have gone down due to drought. It will decrease the hydro power generation which in turn will push the demand of coal supply for thermal power plants to generate more power. The demand for rake has increased and every person want the rakes at the earliest. However, a priority is fixed in this regard and whosoever indents for them earlier is provided rakes. All efforts are being made to meet the maximum demands of the country through better management and better utilisation of rakes. Still some complaints have been received and I have directed Member (Traffic) to get them resolved at his own level. I have asked him to personally check out as to what areawise problems are being faced in terms of rake movement Shri Santosh Mohan Devji said about North Eastern region that whenever such problems arise they try to resolve them. Standing Committee has also recommended that transparently be brought in allocation of rakes and there should be some fixed norms for it. It is a happy news for transporters. One and half years ago there was no demand for the railways rakes but now there is excessive demand for the same. It is certainly a good news for us but we should ensure

transparency in rake allocation so that one may not take undue advantage of it. Hence I have asked the Member (Traffic) to monitor it at his personal level and also keep one informed from time to time.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I will request again that this motion be passed by Parliament.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: A number of cut motions have been moved by the Members to the Demands for Grants (Railways) for 2003-2004. Shall I put all the cut motions together to the vote of the House?

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I shall now put all the cut motions together to the vote of the House.

All the cut motions were put and negatived.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I shall now put the Demands for Grants (Railways) for 2003-2004 to vote.

The question is:

"That the respective sums not exceeding the amounts shown in the fourth column of the Order Paper be granted to the President of India out of the Consolidated Fund of India, to complete the sums necessary to defray the charges that will come in the course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 2004, in respect of the heads of demands entered in the second column thereof against demand Nos. 1 to 16."

The motion was adopted.

19.16 hrs.

APPROPRIATION (RAILWAYS) NO. 3 BILL*, 2003

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Now, the House will take up the Appropriation (Railways) Bill.

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of the financial year 2003-2004 for the purposes of Railways.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of the financial year 2003-2004 for the purposes of Railways."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: I introduce** the Bill.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV (Silchar): This Appropriation (Railways) Bill is being passed. We, the Members, are staying here. The Railway Minister should see to keep their canteen open. There is nothing. We are hungry people. We can pay for it. The canteen should be kept open.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The Minister may now move that the Bill be taken into consideration.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: I beg** to move:

"That the Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of the financial year 2003-2004 for the purposes of Railways, be taken into consideration."

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of the financial year 2003-2004 for the purposes of Railways, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The House will now take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 2, dated 21.4.03.

**Introduced and Moved with the recommendation of the President.

[Mr. Deputy Speaker]

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.*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The Minister may now
move that the Bill be passed.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The House now stands
adjourned till Eleven of the clock tomorrow.

19.19 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock
on Tuesday, April 22, 2003/Vaisakha 2, 1925 (Saka).*

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