

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Fourteenth Session
(Thirteenth Lok Sabha)



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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Monday, December 15, 2003/Agrahayana 24, 1925 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

[*Translation*]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH (Maharajganj, U.P.) : Mr. Speaker Sir, the Government is negligent towards the sugarcane farmers...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : You take your seat first, I have to make an important announcement.

[*English*]

(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, there is a reference before the House. Please take your seats.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seats. I have to make a reference.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI ADHI SANKAR (Cuddalore) : There POTA is being misused in Tamil Nadu...(*Interruptions*) We want repeal of POTA...(*Interruptions*)

11.01 hrs.

WELCOME TO PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION
FROM THE REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, at the outset, I have to make an announcement.

On my behalf and on behalf of the hon. Members of the house, I have great pleasure in welcoming His Excellency, Mr. Muhaimin Iskandar, Deputy Speaker of the House of Representative and the Members of the Parliamentary Delegation from the Republic of Indonesia who are on a visit to India as our honoured guests.

They arrived in India on Sunday, 14th December, 2003. They are now seated in the Special Box. We wish them a very happy and fruitful stay in our country. Through them, we convey our greetings and best wishes to the President, the Parliament and the friendly people of the Republic of Indonesia.

[*Translation*]

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government of India has yet to make a statement in regard to providing the compensation to the sugarcane farmers...(*Interruptions*). The crushing season of sugarcane has started...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : You sit down. I have the notices of all of you with me. I will give one or two minutes to each of you to speak.

First Shri Kuppuswami.

[*English*]

Yes, what is your submission?...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, no boards to be shown in the House. Let discipline be observed in the House. Please keep them away...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : Yes, Kuppusamiji, what is your submission?

Kunwar Akhilesh Singh, after him I will permit you. Please take your seat.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Adhir Chowdhary, Please take your seat.

SHRI C. KUPPUSAMI (Madras North) : Sir, I want to urge upon the Government of India. In Tamil Nadu, more than one-lakh persons have been arrested when they were picketing before the offices of the Central Government and the State Government. There is no law and order situation in the State. There is a demand of the people to declare Tamil as an official language, to declare Tamil as a classical language. We want to repeal POTA because that is being misused especially in Tamil Nadu.

SHRI K. MALAISAMY (Ramanathapuram) : Sir, I am on a point of order.

MR. SPEAKER : You can raise all this during the Zero Hour.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You can raise your point of order during the Zero Hour. I will permit you. Now, please sit down.

(Interruptions)

11.04 hrs.

SUBMISSIONS BY MEMBERS

- (i) **Re : Non-Declaration of Statutory Minimum Price for Sugarcane**

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH (Maharajanj, U.P.) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Union Government had fixed the Statutory Minimum Price at Rs. 69 per quintal for the sugarcane and that too after a lot of persuasion by us in the House last year, but the Government has yet not fixed the Statutory Minimum Price this year. The crushing season for sugarcane has begun in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and other States of the country. As the new Minimum Statutory Price has yet not been fixed, the sugar mills are making payment to the farmers at the previous year's rate. This is leading to gross exploitation of the farmers. The condition of the Uttar Pradesh is grim in this

regard. In this matter the High Court of Uttar Pradesh has issued an order that the State Government has no right to fix the MSP of sugarcane. Hence firstly the Union Government should fix the Minimum Statutory price for sugarcane which will be paid by the sugar mill owners to the farmers.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I will ask the hon. Minister of Agriculture.

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH : Today the farmers are being exploited. Union Government should immediately declare the Minimum Statutory Price for sugarcane ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Union Government has yet not fixed the Statutory Minimum Price for sugarcane...*(Interruptions)*

Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a very serious question. Nothing has been done despite your having given the directions twice. The crushing season has begun. The Government is deliberately delaying it...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat. I am speaking on this subject only. Mr. Minister, I would like to take up this subject during Zero Hour. You Please come and respond on this subject if you are free during the Zero Hour as this subject is being raised for the last two three days. Whatever hon. Members want to speak can be said during Zero Hour.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL (Kanpur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is not ordinary issue. The Government has yet to announce the Statutory Minimum Price of sugarcane though the crushing season has begun. The question hour can still go on. The crushing season for sugarcane farmers has started and the Government has yet to declare the Statutory Minimum Price. Reply in this regard be given. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Minister, you reply it.

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI RAJNATH SINGH) : It is a matter of concern for us also ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please maintain order. I want to hear the hon. Minister Yadavji, you please sit down.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJNATH SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to apprise the hon. Members that it is also a matter of concern for us that the Statutory Minimum Price for sugarcane farmers should have been declared by now and the Commission of Agriculture Cost and Price under the Ministry of Agriculture had made all the preparation in this regard in advance but by then the Election Commission had put a ban on it. ...*(Interruptions)*

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH : Now the elections are over. Why delay is taking place now...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please let me know what the Minister wants to say.

[Translation]

If you don't let the hon. Minister speak, how will it do?

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJNATH SINGH : Now this matter has been referred to the Ministry of Consumer Affairs because the final decision in this regard will have to be taken by it. The Consumer Affairs Ministry would submit the proposal to the CCEA and as per my information the proposal is already ready and the final decision will be taken by CCEA. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the crushing season has begun and the Government has yet

not declared the Statutory Minimum Price. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : The Minister of Agriculture has replied that the matter is under the consideration of Ministry of Food, Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution.

(Interruptions)

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH : The Minister of Food be called in the House. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : The Minister of Agriculture has told here that the matter is pending consideration of the hon. Minister of Food, Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution. I will call him during the Zero Hour and the hon'ble Minister of Parliamentary Affairs would request to him in this regard.

(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj) : Sir, I gave a notice to suspend the Question Hour so that we could take up a very vital matter concerning the security of the country.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is the 21st Report of the Standing Committee on Defence, presented to the House. This is a unanimous Report. This Report made three clear observations; they are decisive observations.

The first one is that till today, the Tenth Plan allocation for Defence has not been finalised, when half of the year is over. Second is bullet proof jackets worth Rs.150 crore have still not been made available to the *jawans* which were asked to be procured in 2001. Third is that lapsable fund has been converted into modernisation fund and yet it has not been released, which is for the preparedness of Defence. This is the Report of the Parliamentary Committee.

Under what authority the Prime Minister and the

Finance Minister are running this country, ignoring this whole Report? Earlier Lahore Summit was held, and that was followed by the Kargil massacre. Now, things are improving between India and Pakistan, and we are happy about it. But at the same time, we want to know the preparedness of defence, under the Prime Ministership of Shri Vajpayee. This Report categorically made clear that our country's defence is not ready. The money of the Tenth Plan has not been finalised. This is the condition of Defence. So, the Prime Minister is answerable to the House.

I demand that either the Prime Minister or the Finance Minister come to the House during the Zero Hour and take the House into confidence. This is not a small matter. This is the Report of the Parliamentary Committee. We demand either the Prime Minister or the Finance Minister come to the House during the Zero Hour and make the position clear.

MR. SPEAKER : The Minister of State in the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs is here; she would bring it to the notice of the Finance Minister and tell him that this is an important issue and that this should be taken up during this Session.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : He could come to the House during the Zero Hour.

MR. SPEAKER : In the BAC meeting to be held today at 1 o'clock, we will take a decision on this.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Sir, you were kind enough to give your observation on the other vital issue, that the Minister concerned shall respond to that during the Zero Hour. Equally, let the Finance Minister also come during the Zero Hour and respond to this issue.

MR. SPEAKER : We are meeting today in BAC at 1.00 o'clock.

(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : How can they

treat Defence like this? It is not an ordinary matter. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I now move on to the Question Hour. I will take it up in the Business Advisory Committee and take a decision on this issue. It is an important issue.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA (Gopalganj) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon. Member has no moral right to ask question to the hon. Minister of Defence. When the hon. Minister rises in the House to give reply to questions, Members from the Opposition leave the House. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY (Berhampore, West Bengal) : We do not know the fate of the notice of our Motion. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I have already given my ruling. All the notices regarding either suspension of Question Hour or Adjournment Motion have been rejected by me. I have already informed the Members about it.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Question 181, Col. Sona Ram Choudhary. There are important questions to be asked in the House.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I have already gone on to the Question Hour. I will give you permission to speak in the Zero Hour. I will give you permission to raise this issue during the Zero Hour and not now.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil) : Sir, I have also given a notice. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I have rejected it. I have received your

notice and rejected it also but you can raise the issue through some other device.

11.12 hrs.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Social Security Scheme for Unorganised Sector

*181. COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the detailed observations made and clarifications sought by the Group of Ministers on the social security scheme for the unorganised sector;

(b) whether the Ministry of labour has been asked to fine tune the scheme;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) by when the said scheme is to be recast and implemented?

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SAHIB SINGH VERMA) : (a) to (d) The Government propose to introduce a comprehensive Bill for the unorganised sector workers in the Parliament. The Group of Ministers has cleared the proposal. The Bill, amongst other provisions, also envisages to provide for certain social security schemes like old age pension, accident and health insurance. The proposal is under active consideration of the Government.

COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of hon. Minister towards the fact that there are 40 crore workers working in organised and unorganised sectors. The National Sample Survey Organisation had conducted a survey in the year 2000 according to which out of these 40 crore workers, 3 crore are in the organised sector and 37 crore workmen are in the unorganised sector. And 24

crore labourers out of these 37 crores are in the agriculture sector. I would like to draw the attention of hon. Minister to the fact that the condition of these labourers is very deplorable, as they are not organised. They have no union, nor do they have any bargaining power. They get work only for a few months in the year and remain jobless throughout the remaining period. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Colonel Sona Ram Choudhary ji, your question is very important. I request you to please ask direct question.

COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am asking question only. A Bill was introduced in 1997 and now they say that they are very actively going to introduce. A report was published in the Times of India dated 7th November, 2003, which said:-

[English]

"The Ministry has prepared the Unorganised Sector Workers Bill, 2003 and along with it three ambitious insurance schemes for workers".

It further said-

"The Labour Minister, Shri Sahib Singh Verma suffered a setback on Thursday when the Union Cabinet asked his Ministry to rework its much -hyped social security scheme for the unorganised sector".

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker, Sir, what I mean to say is that the condition of these farmers is pitiable. Six years have passed but the Bill has not been introduced till date. First part of my question is that when do the Government propose to introduce the Bill for the security and protection of the labourers of unorganised sector especially those dependent on agriculture, as the Government wish to get it passed before the Lok Sabha elections too.

Second part of my question is that some meetings at Secretary level have been held by the concerned Ministry with regard to migrant labourers or those who commute at interstate level. Now it is the responsibility of the Union

Government to provide them with all facilities, but noting has been done so far. I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to what action has been taken and what is proposed to be taken to facilitate these labourers.

DR. SAHIB SINGH VERMA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon. Member has asked a very pertinent question. I would like to thank him. The question is important because there is 40 crore work force in the country. Even after 56 years of independence, nothing has been done for their welfare, but the present Government constituted the second National Labour Commission. At that time, hon. Prime Minister had said that we need a recommendation in this regard as to how can we give social security to the people working in unorganised sector. The Government after so many years paid their attention in this direction and I am happy to say that what the second Labour Commission recommended, we discussed it very elaborately in the Indian Labour Conference, we also organised a two days national seminar, and discussed the same issue again. We also held discussions by holding meetings with Ministers of various States and Trade Union Members. After thorough discussion, we referred a Bill to the Cabinet and they formed a group of Ministers to evaluate the same. The Group of Ministers gave its recommendations and the said Bill is again going to be produced before the Cabinet very soon. I hope that an umbrella legislation would, very soon be enacted for the social welfare of those 37 crore people working in unorganised sectors in the country. Arrangements for the treatment etc. as also funds would be granted to the workers in the unorganised sector in case of their illness. We are also making the provision of insurance of rupees one lakh in case of death or accident. Moreover Provision is also being made for their family pension so that the family could benefit after their death. It also enables the labourer to get pension at the age of 60 years when he is physically, unable to work. I have full confidence that these 37 crore people working in the unorganised sector would get social security. ...*(Interruptions)*

COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY : Sir, he has not given reply to the second part of my question. I had asked that the migrant labour. ...*(Interruptions)* Please give

reply to this part in the reply to my Supplementary Question. ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. SAHIB SINGH VERMA : I am replying to it. This includes all those working in unorganised sector and migrant labour, commuting from one State to the other. He is right but it is a different question as to why do the people go from one State to the other. May be because people, in some States do not want to progress, or run industries, or have not been provided with facilities to open industries or practice any profession. I have, in case of all the Chief Ministers. ...*(Interruptions)*

Hon. Mr. Speaker, Sir, people have to go to far off places due to the reasons that certain regions are comparatively rich in resources etc. But it is unfortunate that they have to go to other States where they have to pass through many hardships and injustice. They live in a very deplorable condition. I have written letter to all the Chief Ministers in this regard and have asked them that if they intend to bring flexibility in their Labour Laws, or introduce any reforms and send any representation, we would immediately give them clearance. Sir, many of the States have made 'Special Economic Zones' and are willing to have our permission. We have said that it won't take more than seven days. We would clear it within a week's time. We have taken this decision and have asked all the States to take measures. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please ask your question as Supplementary.

(Interruptions)

DR. SAHIB SINGH VERMA : So that employment could be generated. There is doubt that employment scenario in the country, is not good, the youth want work and that needs a good environment...*(Interruptions)*. There are some States which could not develop such environment, but some States are quite progressive and are creating such an environment like those Gujarat and some other States. ...*(Interruptions)*

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH : Sir, States are being taken for granted. ...*(Interruptions)*

COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOU DHARY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the social security of workers in unorganised sector. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Now Choudharyji, has to ask supplementary Question.

(Interruptions)

COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOU DHARY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister as to what the Government propose to do for social security of workers of unorganised sector. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Vermaji, you please listen to Choudharyji's Question and give reply to it.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Akhileshji, this is no way, one of the hon'ble member, who is your colleague, is asking Question and you are not allowing him. Will you not allow him to ask Question.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I have asked you repeatedly not to stand up and ask Question without my permission. I have not admitted your notice yet, so you please sit down ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Akhileshji, this is not the way. This will not do in the House.

(Interruptions)

COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOU DHARY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, though the Government of India is taking steps for the workers of unorganised sector but I would like to say that the States have also some responsibility towards workers of unorganised sector. Some States like Kerala, Assam, Kamataka and West Bengal have enacted some laws whereas other States have not taken any effective steps in this regard. I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister whether the Government will make any such

legislation or make such arrangement so that the State Governments may be compelled to enact their own law to provide relief to the workers of unorganised sector. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I request both the Questioner and the hon'ble Minister to reply in short. It is in the interest of the House that all members may be given an opportunity to ask Question.

DR. SAHIB SINGH VERMA : Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, the hon'ble Member has said that some States have enacted the law and the remaining States should also enact law in this regard. I am in favour of what he has said but since this subject of labour relates to concurrent list we cannot force any State in this regard, however we can make request to them. I would like to tell you that many States are such which are taking initiative and working towards it like Gujarat State, which has, recently, requested for S.E.Z. and started working towards it, Kamataka has also started the work in this direction and Maharashtra wants to do the same. You have said correctly that other States should also work in a similar way. I would like to tell one more thing to hon'ble members. I don't want to go into the details of any particular State whether it is Uttar Pradesh, Bihar or any other State. From the very beginning I have been saying that due to increasing unemployment, people have to go to far off places in search of employment. If the State Government want flexibility in labour laws and need any clearance from the Government, then we are ready to give clearance. I just want to say that it may be any State and whichever party may be in power there, we will give clearance within a week. The States should work in such a way and create such atmosphere so that more and more people can get employment. I just want to say this. I don't have any ill-intention against Bihar and Uttar Pradesh rather I am sympathetic towards those people who are unemployed there. I want that they should get employment and for this the State Governments will have to work in this direction.

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH : Since you are expressing sympathy towards unemployed people, I would like to ask as to how many people were provided

employment in these five years because the hon'ble Prime Minister had said that we will provide employment to one crore people every year. You are expressing sympathy. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Hon'ble Minister, Sir, I would like to thank you as you want to do something for unorganised workers and my good wishes are that this task should be completed as early as possible.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister as to whether the pilots, who are getting Rs. 2 to 5 lakh per month as salary, are also covered under the definition of labour? What the Government are doing for them?

MR. SPEAKER : The hon'ble Member has asked a very short Question, hence you are also requested to give very short reply.

DR. SAHIB SINGH VERMA : Since the Minister of Civil Aviation is also interested in this, we are considering over this.

[English]

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY : Sir, in the year 2001, the then Minister of Labour commented that the days of unskilled and under-skilled labour are over. May I ask the hon. Minister how many subscribers have ceased their membership of Provident Fund Scheme and how much arrears have been accumulated due to the default of the employers? I would also like to know whether you have taken any punitive measures against those defaulters.

[Translation]

DR. SAHIB SINGH VERMA : The main Question here relates to the unorganised sector and so far no member has asked any Question with regard to EPF of labourers working in unorganised sector. Though we certainly want that provision of EPF should be applicable to all but according to the prevailing system provision of EPF is

applicable only in those institutions where minimum 20 people are working. Hence the Question of defaulter in unorganised sector does not arise. Yes, a related Question is there at No. 8. When that Question comes and you ask Question at that time, I will give reply.

[English]

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY : Sir, he has not replied to my Question. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Hon'ble Minister, Sir, you give reply to only Shri Lakshman Seth's Question.

[English]

SHRI LAKSHMAN SETH : Sir, it is understood that 37 crores unorganised workmen have been considered to be covered under social security measures. I want to know from the hon. Minister what type of unorganised workers will be enlisted for enjoying all the such special measures. What type of social measures are you considering for them? I would also like to know how all these social security measures, which you are contemplating, will be implemented. What will be the method of implementation of these social security measures?

[Translation]

DR. SAHIB SINGH VERMA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon'ble Member has asked question regarding its details. As I have said that the proposal is yet to be approved by the Cabinet. Thereafter it will be worked out as to how scheme will be prepared and what will be its details. However, I would certainly like to submit to the hon'ble Member that the arrangement will be made only after the persons working in unorganised sector demand that their names should be registered. Facilitation Centres will be set up. The network of our EPF organisation is spread all over the country. We will see it. We will also take the services of ESI. We will also take the services of the employees of the department of Ministry of Labour who are working all over the country. We will take the services of all of them whosoever desires to be covered under it and

would like to avail social security. Since they too are required to give small contribution so without their consent we cannot do anything. We will have to make full arrangement.

SARDAR BUTA SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, nearly cent percent workers in unorganised sector are dalits and tribals, because it is they who work in unorganised sector, be it agriculture, forest or road construction. In fact the blot like bonded labour is also there in unorganised sector. Will this Bill also meet the same fate as that of Abolition of Bonded Labour Bill. Will it contain such provisions? After passing the Bill the Government will say that now implementation is the responsibility of the State Governments. Will it have the same, fate as that of the Bonded Labour Bill, or the Government will make any provision for ensuring Central Government's responsibility in its proper implementation?

DR. SAHIB SINGH VERMA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon'ble Member has mentioned about the implementation. It is unfortunate that whatever labour laws have been enacted in the country are not being enforced in the manner they should have been. The State Governments are solely responsible for this. I would like to share my personal experience. I keep writing to all the Chief Ministers and particularly where I feel that there is laxity in implementation of certain laws I bring it to their notice and also talk to them on telephone, however, despite this it is not enforced as it should have been, as those work in Central sphere, whatever States they may belong to.

[English]

If they are the employees in the Central sphere, then it is the responsibility of the Central Government. But so far as other employees are concerned it is purely the responsibility of the State Government.

[Translation]

It is a fact. We can only remind and request them in meetings. However, as far as the bonded labourers in unorganised sector are concerned, we will give them

unique social security number after enlisting them. Wherever they will go and work their contributions will be deposited. They will be assigned unique social security number that will be their account also and everything will be done according to that.

Regarding your query about bounded labour I feel that to a great extent this problem can be solved by way of enlisting them and assigning them unique social security number. We will do what we can do and will extend cooperation to the States which want to act in this connection. They can cooperate and whatever they want they can do. There is one more central scheme which is presently under consideration. Under this scheme 1.16 percent pension contribution are proposed to be given by the Central Government to unorganised sector as is given to the organised sector. I feel that it will be an important scheme that would prove to be beneficial for the labourers employed in organised sector of the country and will provide re life to them.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to ask some query regarding this question.
...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Now we do not have time. I will give you opportunity later.

[English]

SARDAR SIMRANJIT SINGH MANN : Sir, I would like to ask a special question to the Labour Minister about a very tragic and sad incident.

MR. SPEAKER : We have already gone to the next Question now.

**Additional Amount for Centrally Sponsored
Agricultural Scheme**

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*182. COL. (RETD.) DR. DHANI RAM SHANDIL :
DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government has received requests from State Governments to release additional amount under various Centrally Sponsored Agricultural Schemes;

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

(c) the funds sanctioned/released for the purpose, State-wise;

(d) whether the amount sanctioned in Budget during 2002-03 has since been utilised by these States;

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

(f) the steps taken to ensure full utilisation of the Budget allocation?

[Translation]

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

Statement

(a) to (c) The Department of Agriculture and Cooperation is implementing various Centrally Sponsored Schemes and funds are released to States as per allocation given in the Budget Estimates.

The major funds are released to State under the Macro Management Scheme, Technology Mission on Cotton, Technology Mission on Oilseeds and Pulses and Technology Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture in North Eastern States, Sikkim, Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttaranchal and under On Farm Water Management Programme.

Proposals have been received for additional requirement from some of the States in respect of Macro Management Scheme and Technology Mission on Oilseeds and Pulses (TMOP). The details are given below:-

1. Macro Management Scheme

State	Rs. (in crore)
Rajasthan	25.00
Maharashtra	9.60
Tamil Nadu	3.62
Jammu and Kashmir	2.50

2. Technology Mission on Oilseeds and Pulses (TMOP)

State	Rs. (in crore)
Andhra Pradesh	22.91
Haryana	2.47
Maharashtra	0.75
Rajasthan	1.66
Karnataka	2.25
Madhya Pradesh	22.97
Orissa	1.79
West Bengal	0.60

(d) to (f) The data regarding State-wise allocation, releases and utilization of funds for the year 2002-03 under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes are enclosed at Annexure. Following measures have been taken to ensure full utilization of the budget allocations:-

- (i) States have been requested to ensure that the allocation of funds and provision for supporting services are communicated immediately to the implementing authorities;
- (ii) The progress report of all Centrally Sponsored Schemes are reviewed monthly and on quarterly basis;

- (iii) The States have been asked to furnish the fund utilization certificate pertaining upto 2002-03, year-wise at the earliest; the progress report for utilisation of the funds released during the past year; and
- (iv) Further release of funds is made after getting (v) Periodic review of progress of implementation.

Annexure

Details of Funds, Unspent Balance, Allocation, Release and Expenditure of States under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes during 2002-03

(Rs. in Lakhs)

S. No.	Name of the State	Unspent Balance as on 1.4.2002	Allocation for 2002-03	Release for 2002-03	Expenditure during 2002-03	Unspent Balance as on 1.4.2003
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2518.79	5370.34	3131.88	4481.68	1168.99
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	133.41	2539.20	1647.84	1436.13	345.12
3.	Assam	613.30	3264.40	1990.34	2108.61	495.03
4.	Bihar	2232.43	7186.90	3607.00	1577.86	4261.57
5.	Jharkhand	786.00	2698.67	1351.63	1217.44	920.19
6.	Goa	104.25	228.00	178.50	149.40	133.35
7.	Gujarat	2407.69	4502.89	2576.39	2907.89	2076.19
8.	Haryana	332.26	1919.98	1861.52	2093.90	99.88
9.	Himachal Pradesh	282.77	1715.49	1718.34	1614.98	386.13
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	541.14	1656.88	2007.60	1804.30	744.44
11.	Karnataka	1395.55	7012.37	6264.22	7278.13	381.64
12.	Kerala	212.56	3371.50	3118.42	3126.63	204.35
13.	Madhya Pradesh	2383.73	6170.10	5324.64	7469.80	238.57
14.	Chattisgarh	555.32	2146.45	1310.31	1628.32	237.31
15.	Maharashtra	2804.16	9868.53	8793.24	11664.61	-67.21

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
16.	Manipur	475.01	2158.18	1272.62	1205.55	542.08
17.	Mizoram *	199.89	2847.86	2358.49	2433.24	125.14
18.	Meghalaya	133.06	2222.58	1609.01	1544.82	197.25
19.	Nagaland	36.94	2731.75	1785.00	1660.89	161.05
20.	Orissa	2372.35	4784.53	2456.68	3199.13	1629.90
21.	Punjab	2862.45	1689.55	882.50	460.88	3304.07
22.	Rajasthan	899.55	8340.54	7948.31	7739.45	1108.41
23.	Sikkim	51.78	2005.85	1274.42	1313.81	12.39
24.	Tamilnadu	691.43	5063.44	4093.14	4786.88	-2.31
25.	Tripura	12.59	2406.93	1887.15	1615.47	284.27
26.	Uttar Pradesh	2337.79	9722.06	9606.44	9823.59	2120.64
27.	Uttaranchal	107.97	1473.71	1348.91	1387.40	69.48
28.	West Bengal	663.86	3778.63	2184.99	2545.37	303.48
Total		28168.03	108877.31	83589.53	90276.16	21481.40

COL. (RETD.) DR. DHANI RAM SHANDIL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, we all know that India is an agricultural country. In his reply hon'ble Minister has stated that under the centrally sponsored scheme funds have been allocated to nearly all the States in the country. Undoubtedly the process of allocation of funds for the implementation of various schemes at such a large scale is in itself a commendable step. The Minister of Agriculture and the Central Government deserve congratulation for this bold step. Many States have demanded for more funds or grants for the implementation of these schemes. There are some States where allocated funds has been partially utilised. Through you, Sir, I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister as to what are the reasons for partial utilisation of funds by some of the States. Whether the schemes of

those States which have demanded for more funds have been reviewed on close monitoring basis, if so the hon'ble Minister should give details in this regard.

SHRI RAJNATH SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to inform the hon'ble Member that he might have got information regarding his query that additional funds that have been demanded by the States like Rajasthan Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu Jammu and Kashmir is for macro-management scheme. The additional funds that have been demanded by Andhra Pradesh, Haryana, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa and West Bengal are for technology Mission on oil seeds and pulses. However, as far as the Rajasthan and Jammu and Kashmir are concerned, the question of

fulfilling the additional demand arises when utilisation certificate and progress report are submitted to the Central Government by the concerned State Government. I would like to inform the hon'ble Member regarding his question about Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Jammu and Kashmir and Maharashtra State that the utilisation certificate for 2002-03 has not yet been submitted to the Central Government by the Rajasthan Government. As far the question of Tamil Nadu is concerned, the proposal about his second instalment has been received, however, it is under the consideration of the internal finance division. As far the question of Jammu and Kashmir is concerned, the progress report for the year 2002-03 has not yet been submitted to the Central Government by the State Government. Maharashtra has properly utilised the entire allocated amount, I would also like to inform the hon. Member that normally funds are allocated and released when progress reports and utilisation reports are received from the State Governments by December, January and February.

Now this is the month of December and on the basis of availability of funds with us, additional amount would be provided to those States.

COL. (RETD.) DR. DHANI RAM SHANDIL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, my second supplementary is related to hon. Minister's recent tour to Himachal Pradesh where he had made a mention of Technology Mission for Horticulture. I would like to obtain more information about that. We have large area of barren and surplus land. This type of land can be utilised for agri-production by allotting it to landless farmers and unemployed youth, particularly in tribal and hilly areas like those of Himachal Pradesh where emphasis can be laid on forestry, multiple-crops in place of unplanned forestry and non-seasonal vegetable such as mushroom, floriculture and other multiple-crops through better water management under lift irrigation scheme and production can be encouraged. Many new mile stones in the field of storage, marketing and export have been established in the era of modernisation and information technology. Thus employment opportunities have increased through better use of land of said kind. Through you, I would like to ask hon. Minister whether the Government

propose to provide special package through World Bank's loan assistance to tribal and hilly areas particularly of Himachal Pradesh for technology mission-cotton, oilseeds and pulses production? If so, will hon. Minister apprise the House of it?

SHRI RAJNATH SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, neither there is any provision for providing special package by the Central Government nor any such proposal is under consideration of the Central Government. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA : Hon. Member is asking about special export zone. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJNATH SINGH : He has asked about special package. No issue relating to special package is under consideration with the Government of India. So far as allocation of additional funds for some schemes is concerned, I would like to tell hon. Member that we provide funds under 39 major Centrally Sponsored Schemes. But, as far as the question of macro-management is concerned 27 schemes are covered under it. Under Macro Management Scheme State Government are allowed to add new schemes, if any, to it. The Ministry of Agriculture for the first time have adopted such a flexible attitude towards the State Governments. We are requesting Planning Commission and other departments to provide such flexibility to other departments also. Therefore, I would like to urge hon. Member to contact the State Government and urge them to spend money on the projects he has referred to.

DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, just now hon. Minister himself referred to Rajasthan. I hail from Rajasthan and agriculturally Rajasthan is backward than other States. Hon. Minister has told that the Government of Rajasthan have not sent utilisation certificate so far and until and unless they send utilization certificate, extra funds, as sought by them, cannot be allocated. The farmers over there are in trouble because of the Government of Rajasthan, it is not right that the farmers face problems and suffer loss because of the mistakes of the State Government and poor farmers should not be punished

because of it. I would like to know whether there is any scope of improvement in this regard. Similarly, rural development schemes are implemented directly through panchayats. State Government got latest information about new agricultural schemes new technologies but such information does not reach the poor man. Many other schemes of the Government of India are offered directly to the panchayats. Whether hon. Agriculture Minister or the Government of India propose to give new dimension to such schemes so that the farmers may have direct access to the information relating to such schemes. Because, whatever schemes are offered, the State Government.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You ask the question

DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, this question is such that it can not be asked in a second.

MR. SPEAKER : You ask for discussion and I would permit you.

DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV : Several schemes meant for upliftment of poor farmers run by Union Agriculture Ministry do not reach the common farmers and gather dust in the corridors of State Governments.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : The question should not be so lengthy.

DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV : I am asking a small question. I would like to know whether Union Agriculture Minister propose to take any step so that each farmer can avail benefit from Centrally Sponsored Schemes through Panchayat or village level?

SHRI RAJNATH SINGH : The Government of India desire that farmers should face no difficulty because of non-availability of funds in time. But under existing system the rights of State as well as Central Government are limited and each has to work in its respective field keeping in view their limitations. So far as the question of Rajasthan is concerned, new Government has just been formed there and I have asked my Secretary to contact Chief Secretary

of Rajasthan and obtain the report from them expeditiously. I am sure the report would soon be made available with the Government of India and the funds will then be allocated to them. So far as providing information to the farmers is concerned, the State Governments can discharge the function of educating or training the farmers under Centrally Sponsored Schemes. He knows that even if the Central Government want to do anything directly in the States they can not do so. But Union Agriculture Ministry from time to time monitors and reviews the progress of schemes so that funds allocated are properly utilised and the schemes are properly implemented.

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV : Through you, I would like to ask the Agriculture Minister, though my question may not be related to crop Insurance Scheme of the Central Government, whether potatoes and soyabean crops have been covered under Crop Insurance Scheme and if not, what are the reasons therefor, as it concerns crores of farmers of our country. Second part of my question is—the Central Government sanction loan for agriculture purpose at the rate of 9 percent interest. But so far neither any State Government nor any bank has started implementing it. I want to know what action the Government propose to take in this regard?

SHRI RAJNATH SINGH : He wants to know whether potato and Soyabean have been covered under this scheme or not?

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV : I am dead sure these crops have not been covered under Crop Insurance Scheme.

SHRI RAJNATH SINGH : I will collect this information and apprise hon. Minister of it.

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV : These crops should also be covered under Crop Insurance Scheme.

MR. SPEAKER : Please listen to the reply of hon. Minister.

SHRI RAJNATH SINGH : Farmers are making request for including all the crops under the Crop Insurance

Scheme. His second supplementary question was with regard to providing loan to farmers on less rates and that the interest rate fixed by the Government for agricultural loan has not been implemented by the banks. Our farmers, normally used to get loan at the rate of 14 to 18 percent but in the history of independent India, it is for the first time that any Government have decided to reduce the rate of interest to 9 percent, which, in itself, is a historical decision. So far as I know, and it is definite that commercial banks have implemented these rates. And as far as the co-operative banks are concerned, they are of the view that they can reduce the rate of interest by two or two and a half percent, but it would be facilitative if re-financing or its percentage is increased. We have requested the Ministry of Finance in this regard and they are making serious considerations over it. Our Government is of the firm view that farmers may get loan on as less interest as possible.

[English]

Amendment in Contract Labour System

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*183. SHRI A.F. GOLAM OSMANI :
SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has been actively considering amending the contract labour system in selected sectors;

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

(c) whether several trade unions have opposed this move of the Government;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the reaction of the Government thereto?

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SAHIB SINGH VERMA) : (a) to (e) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) In the wake of economic liberalisation as well as judicial pronouncements and experience gathered in the administration of the Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1970, the Government have received various proposals from social partners for amendments to the said Act. The proposals inter-alia relates to amendment of the provision regarding prohibition of employment of contract labour with a view to allow engagement of contract labour in certain peripheral/supportive activities of an establishment like sweeping, cleaning, security services etc.

(c) and (d) The Central Trade Unions are, by and large, opposed to the idea of contracting out of services and jobs which are perennial in nature.

(e) The Government is actively considering the proposal for amendments to the Act. However before taking any final view in the matter, welfare of the Contract Labour will be taken into consideration.

[English]

SHRI A.F. GOLAM OSMANI : Sir, whatever information that has been given in the reply by the hon. Minister, to mined is scanty and more information is available to the outside agencies than what the hon. Minister has supplied.

In the reply he has stated that in amending the Contract Labour Act of 1970, only those schemes are being considered to allow engagement of contract labour which are in certain peripheral/supporting activities. As per the information, it has been decided only on 13 classes of activities which will not corroborate with this assertion, that is supportive. Though he has not mentioned, we have collected information that there are certain sectors that have been identified by the Group of Ministers. These activities are, first – sweeping, cleaning, dusting, disposal of all kind of waste; second – gardening and maintenance of lawns; third – security services; fourth – running of canteen services; and fifth – maintenance, servicing and repairing of equipment, plants and machines of all kinds.

In this way, they have decided on 13 classes of activities. If the Act is amended, those who are working in these fields will not be given protection under Section 9 of the Act of 1970.

Now, they say this is peripheral. I want to know from the hon. Minister, is the Government of India going to disinvest the essential Government services as the disinvestment policy is now being applied in Government services, like security services.

All that this Government has been accused is of very many loopholes in maintenance and security measures in very many institutions like the Security press. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please ask your question now.

SHRI A.F. GOLAM OSMANI : Now, they say that security services will be privatised and they will be handed over to the private companies. Will the private companies remain accountable in all cases where sensitive departments are concerned?

Secondly, I would like to point out another important item, that is maintenance, servicing and repairing of equipment, machines and plants of all kinds. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : You can put it in your next supplementary.

SHRI A.F. GOLAM OSMANI : Imagine such a situation, where the major operational part of a process. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : All these can be discussed when the Bill comes before the House for discussion and not now. Now, if you want to ask a supplementary, you can ask.

SHRI A.F. GOLAM OSMANI : Firstly, let the Minister state as to how many items have already been decided by the Ministerial Committee and whether he corroborates the facts supplied by me. That is my first question.

[Translation]

DR. SAHIB SINGH VERMA : Hon. Mr. Speaker, Sir, so far as amendment in the Contract Labour Abolition Act is concerned, as said by the hon. Member that he has ample information in this regard and I do not have such information. We would definitely benefit ourselves with the information with him. Presently this Bill is under the consideration of the Group of Ministers. They have not as yet taken decision and recommendations have not been finalised. Those recommendations would be place before the Cabinet after finalisation and then would be introduced in the House. There is no point to make discussion on all these things presently.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Golam Osmani, Please put your second supplementary.

SHRI A.F. GOLAM OSMANI : My supplementary is analogous. This Ministry is trying to evolve a new sort of Labour Policy. In regard to fixation of pay structure and other things, they have tried to exclude the working journalists and reporters. Will the hon. Minister reply as to what is preventing the Government of India to include the journalists, reporters and persons who are associated with the functioning of this type?

[Translation]

DR. SAHIB SINGH VERMA : No, No, where should we include it.

[English]

This Question is about the Contract Labour.

MR. SPEAKER : I know. All those people are not concerned with this directly.

DR. SAHIB SINGH VERMA : Sir, it is not connected with this Question.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, the Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1970 was enacted

to protect then interest of lakhs and lakhs of contract labour.

There was a demand to strengthen this Act. Our experience is that various provisions of the Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1970 are being blatantly violated by the owners and even by the Government of India. I can cite a number of examples. Almost all the trade unions were opposed to the proposal, which had been put forward by the Government, not to amend the Act but to repeal the Act. This proposal was made not by the Labour Minister but by the Finance Minister while presenting the Budget for 2001-02.

The hon. Minister has stated in reply to part (e) of the Question that the welfare of the contract labour would be taken into consideration. The existing Act was enacted to protect the interest of the contract labour. I would like to know from the Minister as to how the interest of the contract labour will be protected after repealing this Act. Also I want to know whether by abolishing this Act, the employers will be permitted to employ contract labour even in the prohibited category.

So, there will not be any permanent employment in any industry. In order to protect the interests of the employers and the multinational companies, is the existing law, which was enacted in 1970, being withdrawn in spite of the opposition from all the Trade Unions, including even the Trade Unions affiliated to the BJP and the Shiv Sena?

[Translation]

DR. SAHIB SINGH VERMA : Hon. Mr. Speaker, Sir, so far as repealing of the Act is concerned neither we have received any such suggestion nor are we going to repeal it. Hon. Member has said that presently there are apprehensions that social security is not there there in the Contract Labour Abolition Act. Even now many labourers are being engaged on contractual basis and this has not been abolished in the act. I would like to say to the hon. Member that the proposal he is mentioning, has been referred to the Group of Ministers. We would put this

point also in the course of discussion. We would not make any compromise in this regard. So far as the social security is concerned due care would be taken to safeguard the interests of those persons covered as Contract Labour. If permission is granted anywhere and to anyone all these aspects, viz. social security minimum wages an working hours etc. are concerned, would be taken due care of.

[English]

SARDAR SIMRANJIT SINGH MANN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to ask a question from the hon. Labour Minister regarding this country's honour and self-respect. The British colonisers used to forcibly catch hold of our women and use them as prostitutes in prostitution centres of the Army cantonments. Secondly, the British colonisers forcibly caught hold of our people from Orissa, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh and sent them as indentured labourers into the Caribbean, North America, Africa and Fiji Islands. Will the Government of India ever seek an apology from the British Government and British Parliament and think of having the British Government give monetary compensation to the descendants of these unfortunate people who were driven into prostitution and sent abroad as indentured labourers against their will.

[Translation]

DR. SAHIB SINGH VERMA : Hon. Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am well aware of the concerns expressed by the hon. Member. He must have gone through the history of that period, whatever happened was very unfortunate. So far as the question of hon. Member is concerned, it does not arise in any way from the main question. But still he expressed concerns about the incidents which were really unfortunate. If any improvement can be made or the Government can do anything, or anything can be asked for, then it should be done. So far as his question is concerned, the question does not arise from the main question.

[English]

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : it has been a common experience that there is a growing tendency among the

employers to exploit the contract labour by putting them in jobs of perennial nature and depriving them of their due real wages which are given to the common workers. In view of this growing tendency among the employers, what guarantee does the Government propose to take to ensure the interest of such contract labourers engaged in perennial nature of job?

[Translation]

DR. SAHIB SINGH VERMA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, as I have said the facts as told by the hon. Member would be considered whenever these recommendations would be finalised and it would also be seen that such provisions are made which may check exploitation and any such problems.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Now, Question No. 184 – Shri G.S. Basavraj.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have to ask a question. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I try to take up atleast five questions.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : But please do not ask question on question.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I wish to ask question as I have been the Minister of this department. Provident fund scheme was implemented by me. Earlier there was a provision of three months. We reduced it to one day and prescribed that a labourer would get benefit of Provident Fund even if he works merely for one. And the basic problem behind this is that of unemployment. I do not want to take self praise but during my tenure as Minister of this department, I had called labour Ministers of various States and told them that

solution of all problems is 'Right to work', but that too cannot be managed by the State Government and the Central Government alone. This needs co-operation of both of them. And therefore we had given a proposal of 50 percent at that time but we raised it to 60 percent, but at last it was being said that it should be 80 percent. I was of the view that the Central Government may give 80 percent and the State Government may give 20 percent but the 'Right to work' may be included in the Fundamental Rights. The State Government are not ready to shoulder the responsibility unless the 'Right to work' is not included in the Fundamental Rights. Labourers have been migrating from Bihar to Punjab, Delhi to North-east. I would like to ask as to whether the Government are making efforts to start work on the proposal and decision taken by the V.P. Singh Government and whether they would involve the State Governments in the issue of including the 'Right to work' in the Fundamental Rights?

MR. SPEAKER : This is a very fundamental question.

DR. SAHIB SINGH VERMA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, though it is a very important question but is not related to the main question. Hon. Member has worked as a dynamic Minister under a dynamic Prime Minister but neither could he resolve this issue, nor could he reach to any conclusion.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, our Government was in power for nine months. We raised the Mandal Commission issue and also had put the photograph of Baba Saheb Ambedkar.

DR. SAHIB SINGH VERMA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, so many important work can be done in the period of nine months. Infact nine months were sufficient to take decision, implementation would have been done later on. It is right that after independence, if both the State Governments and the Union Government work in the direction of 'Right to work' than an ideal situation can be created. We have now taken initiative in this field and the entire country is watching the efforts started under the leadership of Shri V.P. Singh to be realised and implemented as soon as possible.

[English]

Foreign Airlines in Domestic Sector

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

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government has taken any final decision for allowing foreign airlines in the domestic sector;

(b) if so, whether this requires changes in the Foreign Direct Investment ceilings in the sector;

(c) if so, whether the Naresh Chandra Committee Report regarding foreign investment in civil aviation has been received by the Union Government;

(d) if so, by when a final decision in this regard is likely to be taken;

(e) whether the Government's proposal permitting foreign airlines to pick up 26% equity in Indian domestic carrier has been finalised; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Naresh Chandra Committee has submitted its report to the Government on 8.12.2003.

(d) The report is under examination.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

[English]

SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ : Sir, the Minister has given

reply "No, Sir", "does not arise" and like that, but my question is based on the news item titled "Foreign equity circles for landing" of Times News Network. Sir, I will read it. It says :

"The Ministry of Civil Aviation has proposed that foreign airlines be allowed to pick up to 26 per cent equity in Indian domestic carriers. This proposal will be part of the new civil aviation policy that is currently being drafted by the Ministry.

A senior Ministry official said the new policy will liberalise the investment climate in the civil aviation sector."

If this officials' report is true, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether there are a number of proposals lying pending with the Government regarding permission to foreign aviation companies to operate in India. If so, whether the Government has considered these applications and by what time, they are likely to be permitted to operate in India?

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : Sir, the hon. Member has raised the issue about the Report submitted by Naresh Chandra Committee on 8th of this month. These are the recommendations made by Naresh Chandra Committee. They have come to the Government and the Government shall examine all the issues mentioned in the Report. There are 27 issues on which Naresh Chandra Committee has submitted the Report. Thereafter only, policy would be formulated. So, I think as far as the reference of having changes done in the FDI structure as proposed in Naresh Chandra Committee is concerned, it does not exist at the moment. Anything which will emerge would only emerge soon after the Report is considered by the Government.

SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ : I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether Naresh Chandra Committee Report has already been submitted and what is the outcome of Naresh Chandra Committee Report. I would also like to know if it would be very useful in case you adopt its recommendations while formulating the Aviation Policy regarding foreign participation or not.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : Sir, Naresh Chandra Committee has submitted a Report. In the Report, there are around 27 issues which basically relate to taxes on fuel, removal of fee, surcharge, ITP, FTTPSF and so on and so forth. There are lot of issues in it. Sir, this Report has come to the Government.

12.00 hrs.

SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ : What about disinvestment?

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : I would not like to comment anything on behalf of the Government. It will finally be examined at the Ministry's level and then it would be taken to the Cabinet. I think, there is no question of that at the moment.

SHRI V.M. SUDHEERAN : I understand that one of the Committee's recommendations is about 'budget airlines'. The people who are living in the Gulf are very keen to have these 'budget airlines' because the Air India and the Indian Airlines are exploiting the people living in the Gulf. Therefore, to make the travel cheaper, this kind of 'budget airlines' is necessary. What step has been taken by the Government to have these 'budget airlines'?

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : As I have mentioned, the Naresh Chandra Committee has made recommendations on several issues including what you have mentioned. It would not be fair, at the moment, to assess or comment on behalf of the Government. The Government is going to examine all the proposals which have been made by the Naresh Chandra Committee and, thereafter, we are going to bring a Civil Aviation Policy.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Pollution by Sponge Iron Plants

*185. SHRI PARSURAM MAJHI :
SHRI ANANTA NAYAK :

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

(a) whether the Government is aware of the increasing air and water pollution caused by the sponge iron plants in Orissa, Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh;

(b) if so, the details of such plants in each of the said States; and

(c) the action initiate against these polluting units?

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

(b) There are a total of 55 sponge iron plants in the States of Orissa, Jharkhand and Chattisgarh, out of which 19 are in Chatisgarh, 26 in Orissa and 10 in Jharkhand. Majority of the plants have installed air pollution control facilities for stack emissions such as electrostatic precipitator or bag filters / wet scrubbing system. For control of fugitive emissions from raw material and product handling units, Industries have been directed to provide requisite pollution control system.

(c) The actions initiated for control of pollution in Sponge Iron Plants include:

- (i) directing all the sponge iron plants to install adequate pollution control measures by 31.12.03
- (ii) inventorization of sponge iron units for assessing pollution loads;
- (iii) initiation of study on development of clean technology and environmental standards for sponge iron industries; and
- (iv) awareness and training programmes

Public Sector Investment in Agriculture

*186. SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN :
DR. M.V.V.S. MURTHI :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the agricultural production is showing a downward trend in the country for the last five years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the public sector investment in agriculture has declined considerably during the said period;

(d) if so, the details therefor;

(e) the details of public sector investment in agriculture during the past five years; and

(f) the corrective measures taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI RAJNATH SINGH) : (a) and (b) The total value of output in Agriculture including Animal husbandry and Dairying at 1993-94 prices, and foodgrains production during the years 1997-98 to 2001-02 are given in Table 1.

Table 1

Value of Output in Agriculture and Foodgrains
Production during 1997-98 to 2001-02

Year	Value of Agriculture Output at 1993-94 Prices (Rs. Crore)①	Foodgrains Production (Million Tonnes)②③
1997-98	302399	192.3
1998-99	323017	203.6
1999-00	324298	209.8
2000-01	320370	196.8
2001-02	336900	212.0

Source : ① Central Statistical Organisation

②③ Ministry of Agriculture

As can be seen from the above Table, agricultural production has shown an upward trend. The decline in production in 2000-01 reflects the impact of unfavourable weather on crop production. Foodgrains production in the year 2002-03 is estimated to have gone down to 182.6 million tonnes due to severe drought in several States. However, the favourable rainfall in 2003-04 has brightened the prospects of agricultural production. The foodgrains production for 2003-04 is targeted at 220 million tonnes.

(c) to (e) As shown in Table 2 given below, the Public Sector investment in Agriculture measured in terms of Gross Capital Formation (GCF) at current prices during the years from 1997-98 to 2001-02 has not shown decline except in the year 2000-01. At constant prices (1993-94), Public sector investment measured in terms of GCF declined in 1998-99 and 2000-01 during this period. The decline in public investment in agriculture sector specially in the public sector has been on account of the decline in expenditure on irrigation works. However, it may be noted here that there has been a notable increase in the relative share of private sector in the total GCF in agriculture from around 54% in 1960-61 to around 74% in 2001-02.

Table 2

Public Sector Gross Capital Formation(GCF) in
Agriculture including Animal husbandry
and Dairying

Year	Public Sector GCF (Rs. Crore)		Private Sector GCF (Rs. Crore)	
	at current Prices	at 1993-94 Prices	at current Prices	at 1993-94 Prices
1	2	3	4	5
1997-98	6105	3979	16689	11963
1998-99	6613	3870	16251	11025

1	2	3	4	5
1999-00	7714	4221	20438	13083
2000-01	7218	3919	20355	12768
2001-02	9231	4794	22323	13263

Source : Central Statistical Organisation.

(f) Public sector investment in agriculture as compiled by the Central Statistical Organisation consists mainly of expenditure on irrigation works. Government of India have been implementing the Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme launched during 1996-97 for expeditious completion of ongoing major and medium irrigation projects to augment irrigation facilities. The other programmes meant for developing rural infrastructure, thereby inducing more investment in agriculture, especially in the private sector, include Drought Prone Area Programme, Desert Development Programme, National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas, Integrated Wasteland Development Programme; and Rural Infrastructure Development Fund established in NABARD to provide financial assistance to State Governments to augment investments in irrigation, rural roads and bridges, market yards/godowns, inland waterways etc. Besides, with a view to pass on the benefit of declining interest rates to agriculture sector, public sector banks have reduced their lending rates for agriculture to a maximum of 9 percent per annum on crop loans up to a ceiling of Rs.50,000.

Transfer of ASI Properties

*187. SHRI GUNIPATI RAMAIAH : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government is considering any proposal to handover sites/monuments under Archaeological Survey of India to private persons or organisations for proper maintenance and upkeep;

(b) if so, whether such sites/monuments have been identified;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the terms on which these are proposed to be handed over to them?

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

(b) to (d) Question does not arise.

[Translation]

Cases of Non-Payment of EPF

*188. SHRI A. NARENDRA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the number of cases of non-payment of Employees Provident Fund by the offices of Regional Provident Fund Commissioners is increasing every year and the disposal of claims is taking place at a very slow pace;

(b) if so, the number of cases of delay and non-payment of EPF during the last three years and the reasons for delay in the disposal of their claims, year-wise and region-wise;

(c) whether the Government has taken a decision to revamp the Employees Provident Fund Enforcement System to identify the defaulters and the delay in the payment;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government proposes to increase/decrease the rate of interest on delayed payment by the defaulters; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SAHIB SINGH VERMA) : (a) While the number of claims for EPF withdrawal has been increasing, steps have been taken for monitoring and improving the pace of disposal.

(b) Comparative position in respect of Workload/settlement and pendency of claims under Employees'

Provident Fund during the last three years is as given below-

Total Workload	Claims processed and disposed	Claims Pending	Amount Paid (Rs. in crores)
	Year	2000-2001	
2668005	2587900	80105	5243-07
	Year	2001-2002	
2967846	2915696	52150	6561-25
	Year	2002-2003	
2914247	2722494	191453	7995-07

The reasons for delay in settlement of cases is on account of non remittance of contribution/ non submission of returns by the employer, non-submission of completed forms by members and lengthy settlement procedures.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Employees Provident Fund Organisation has taken up the task of modernization of EPF through the project, 'Re-inventing EPF India' with the mission to re-invent the Organisation and reposition Employees' Provident Fund Organisation with the following goals:

- (i) Allotment of permanent and unique number to Provident Fund members for identification. This will be known as Social Security Number.
- (ii) Networking of all Provident Fund offices to facilitate online settlement of claims within 2-3 days.
- (iii) To provide anywhere, anytime facility to customers and to develop mechanism for monitoring of compliance online and on monthly basis.

(e) and (f) Section 7 Q of the EPF and MP Act, 1952 provides for collection of a simple interest rate of 12% per

annum from the employees on delayed payment of PF contribution. The provision is found to be adequate and at present there is no proposal to increase or decrease the rate.

[English]

Labour Reforms

*189. DR. RAJESWARAMMA VUKKALA :
DR. MANDA JAGANNATH :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether certain State Governments have demanded that the subject of labour reforms should come under the purview of States and it should be transferred from Concurrent List of the Constitution to the State List;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government has acceded to this demand;

(d) if so, whether necessary amendments will be made in the Constitution; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SAHIB SINGH VERMA) : (a) to (e) The Ministry of Labour has received no proposal from the States for transfer of subjects relating to labour from Concurrent List to State List. However, while discussing the Agenda Item No. 4 relating to Contract Labour and Contract Appointments at the Eighth Meeting of Inter-State Council held on 27-28 August, 2003 at Srinagar, some States suggested for giving more freedom to the States to introduce labour reforms, and transfer of the subjects relating to labour from the Concurrent List to the State List.

In pursuance of the powers derived by the Central Government from the respective entries in Concurrent List, a number of Central Labour Laws have been enacted and

various Central agencies have been created, over the times, to provide social security and other benefits on uniform basis. These agencies, to name a few, are Employees Provident Fund Organization, Employees State Insurance Corporation, Labour Welfare Organization, a number of Training Institutions under Directorate General of Employment and Training, Chief Labour Commissioner (Central), etc. With the transfer of these subjects from the Concurrent List to State List, not only the workers, country-wide, will be deprived of the existing benefits being availed by them, but also the States will take time to create their machinery to provide such benefits to the workers resulting in multiple-level of legislative protection to workers in States which may lead to inter-State migration of workers and industries. States are, however, allowed to make amendments even in the Central Labour Laws with a view to undertake labour reforms on their requests.

Further the establishments of the some Industries situated in different States will also be affected as the different States may adopt varying standards in enforcement of provisions of labour laws. The Central Public Sector Undertakings having installations in different States will be compelled to have different settlements under different Labour Laws for the same workmen.

Theft of Antiques

*190. SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY :
SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO :

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

(a) whether CBI has unearthed a huge racket in the recent past involved in stealing and selling of priceless antique items from the country's museums and temples;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps the Government proposes to take for the safety and preservation of these rare antique items?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN) : (a) to (c) As reported by Central Bureau of Investigation, during the last year i.e. 2002 CBI EOU-VIII Branch which deals with the cases of antiquities has registered two cases viz. RCs 2/2002 and 3/2002 EOU-VIII relating to theft of priceless antique idols from temples of Atamkur, Distt. Nellore (Andhra Pradesh) and Jagannath Puri (Orissa) respectively. During the year 2003 till date no case relating to stealing and selling of priceless antique items from the country's museums and temples has been registered by the Central Bureau of Investigation.

A huge racket has been unearthed by the Rajasthan Police in the recent past. According to the information received from the Government of Rajasthan, in the year 2001-2002, 38 stolen antique idols were recovered and 31 accused persons were arrested in this connection by the Rajasthan Police. Subsequently in June, 2003 raids were conducted at various places and 791 idols and other art objects were recovered. 21 accused persons including one Vaman Narayan Ghiya, suspected to king pin of the racket, were arrested in this connection. Stolen objects recovered were examined by the Archaeological Survey of India and out of 791 objects examined 705 were declared as Antiquities under section 24 of the Antiquities and Art Treasurers Act, 1972. Charge sheets have been filed by the Rajasthan Police against 19 accused persons including Ghiya in the Court of Law and regarding other accused persons investigations are on by the Rajasthan Police.

Steps have been taken by the Archaeological Survey of India in consultation with the law enforcing agencies like the Central Bureau of Investigation, Customs, Directorate of Revenue Intelligence and the State Government Police to check thefts of antiquities and their smuggling by stepping up vigilance and intensifying checking at the customs exit-channels as well as enforcement of the Antiquities and Art Treasures Act, 1972. Other measures include announcement of National Mission on Antiquities and consideration of amendments in the Antiquities and Art Treasures Act, 1972 to make it more effective.

[Translation]

**Production of Fruits, Vegetables
and Flowers**

*191. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN :
SHRI MANSINH PATEL :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the schemes regarding production and marketing of vegetables, fruits and flowers;

(b) the quantum of vegetables, fruits and flowers produced in the country during the last three years;

(c) the percentage of the production out of the above spoiled due to inadequate cold storage facility;

(d) the cold storage capacity in the country at present; and

(e) the measures being taken by the Government for processing of the said perishable commodities produced in the country?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI RAJNATH SINGH) : (a) The Government has been implementing various schemes for production and marketing of vegetables, fruits and flowers in the country. Under the schemes, various activities such as supply of good quality planting material, area expansion with improved high yielding varieties, productivity improvement measures, training programmes, coverage under drip irrigation, green house construction, plastic mulching are taken up. These activities are now being implemented under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme - Macro Management of Agriculture - Supplementation/Complementation of State Efforts through Work Plans. Under this scheme, the State Governments can prioritize their activities as per their felt needs and requirements. The Government is also implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme on "Technology Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture" in North Eastern States including Sikkim, which has been extended to the States of Jammu and Kashmir, Uttaranchal and Himachal Pradesh during the year 2003-04. The Mission would

address all aspects of development with an end-to-end approach for increasing the production and marketing of horticultural crops including fruits, vegetables and flowers in the country. In addition, the National Horticultural Board is also implementing a scheme for development of commercial horticulture through production and post harvest management.

(b) The available information on the quantum of vegetables, fruits and flowers produced in the country during the last three years is given below:-

	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01
Fruits (Million Tonnes)	44.04	45.50	45.37
Vegetables (Million Tonnes)	87.54	90.82	93.92
Flowers (000' Metric Tonnes)	0.419	0.509	0.556
Cut (million Nos.)	642.8	680.6	803.5

(c) and (d) The report of Sub-Working Group on Post Harvest Management, Marketing and Export for Tenth Plan has assessed that the wastage of fruits and vegetables ranges from 8-37% at various stages of handling after harvest. The cold storage capacity in the country as on 31.12.2002 is 172.44 lakh tonnes.

(e) The Government through the Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MFPI) provides financial assistance in the form of grants for setting up new food processing units and for expansion/modernization of the existing units. Besides, MFPI is also promoting food processing industries through infrastructure development, quality assurance and human resource development.

Modernisation of Steel Units

*192. SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government proposes to modernize steel units;

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

(c) the amount proposed to be spent thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY) : (a) to (c) During the Ninth Five Year Plan, modernisation of SAIL's Durgapur, Rourkela and Bokaro Steel Plants had been completed at an estimated total investment of Rs.12,650 crores.

Further during the 10th Plan, SAIL is planning to invest in quality related schemes like upgradation of its Mills particularly the Cold Rolling Mills at Bokaro and Rourkela. SAIL would also invest in Coal Dust Injection and Continuous Casters to reduce the energy consumption, improve yield and productivity. The total investment (outlay) in the 10th Plan would be of the order of Rs.5000 crores. Depending upon the availability of funds and techno-economic parameters, the details of major projects planned to be considered are given in statement-I enclosed.

As regards other Public Sector Steel Plants, i.e. Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd.(RINL), during the 10th Five Year Plan, RINL is planning to invest a sum of Rs.860 crores in its various upgradation schemes. The details thereof are given in statement-II enclosed.

The aforesaid projects will be funded through internal resources of the companies and the Government does not propose to grant any budgetary support for these projects.

Ministry of Steel does not monitor information in respect of modernisation and expansion programmes of private sector steel plants.

Statement-I

Details of Major Projects proposed to be undertaken by SAIL during 10th five year plan

S. No.	Name of the Project	Vale in Rs. Cr.
1	2	3
1.	Bhilai Steel Plant	
	Rebuilding of two Coke Over Batteries	360

1	2	3
	Revamping and Modernisation of Blast Furnace-7	73
	Installation of Coal Dust Injection in Blast Furnaces	70
	Installation of new Billet Caster in Steel Melting Shop-I	145
	Modernization of bloom Caster and Slab Caster in Steel Melting Shop-II	125
	Upgradation of Reheating Furnaces in Blooming Mill	91
	Modernisation of Plate Mill	50
	Developing of Rowghat Iron Ore Mines	100
2.	Durgapur Steel Plant	
	Installation of new Finishing Mill	350
	Installation of new Bloom Caster	207
	Rebuilding of one Coke over batteries	140
	Installation of Coal Dust Injection in Blast Furnaces	90
3.	Rourkela Steel Plant	
	Rebuilding of two Coke oven batteries	230
	Upgradation / Revamping of Cold Rolling Mill	245
	Revamping of plate Mill	25
4.	Bokaro Steel Plant	
	Installation of Continuous Casting facilities for Steel Melting Shop-I	600
	Rebuilding of two Coke oven batteries	270

1	2	3
	Upgradation of Reheating Furnance-I in Hot Strip Mill	60
	Installation of Cast House Slag Granulation Plant in blast Furnance - 2 and 3	43
	Upgradation / Revamping of Cold Rolling Mill	285
	Total	3559
Total value of 10th Plan Schemes		Rs.5865 crores
Total Outlay		Rs.5000 crores

Statement-II

Details of Major Projects proposed to be undertaken by RNIL during 10th Five year Plan

Name of the Project	Vale in Rs. Cr.
Mining Sector	64.16
Coke Oven Battery	303.00
Coal Dust Injunction	66.00
Other Addition, Modifications and replacement scheme	365.30
R and D and others	61.54
Total	860.00

Road Maps for Agriculture Sector

*193. SHRI BHASKARRAO PATIL :
SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has since decided to implement the seven point agenda of preparing road maps for improving the pitiable condition of the agriculture sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the extent to which it will increase the growth in the agriculture sector; and

(c) the amount of expenditure likely to be incurred thereon?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI RAJNATH SINGH) : (a) and (b) The guidelines for agriculture development have been provided in the National Agriculture Policy announced in July, 2000, which envisages to achieve a growth rate in excess of 4 percent per annum. For this purpose various schemes are being implemented through Annual Plans and Five Year Plans. The Policy also seeks to actualize the vast untapped growth potential of Indian agriculture, strengthen rural infrastructure to support faster agricultural development, promote value addition, accelerate the growth of agro-business, create employment in rural areas, secure a fair standard of living for the farmers and agricultural workers and their families, discourage migration to urban areas and face the challenges arising out of economic liberalization and globalization.

(c) An outlay of Rs. 13,200 crores has been fixed for the Xth Five Year Plan. For the current financial year, an allocation of Rs.2167 crores has been provided for different plan schemes for agriculture.

[English]

National Pulses Development Project

*194. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH :
SHRI KAMAL NATH :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has introduced National Pulses Development Project (NPDP) to increase the production of pulses;

(b) if so, whether the production rate of the pulses has increased or decreased since the introduction of the said project;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the effective steps the Government proposes to take to boost production of pulses in the country and to keep its prices under control?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI RAJNATH SINGH) : (a) to (c) The National Pulses Development Project (NPDP) to increase the production of pulses was introduced in 1972-73. The production of pulses has increased from 99.1 lakh tonnes during 1972-73 to over 149 lakh tonnes during 1998-99. Thereafter, the production of pulses suffered a set back due to drought-like conditions in a number of pulses-producing States during last four years. The production of pulses was 113.1 lakh tonnes during 2002-03. The prospects during the current year are encouraging.

(d) In order to boost the production of pulses in the country, the Government is implementing the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of National Pulses Development Project (NPDP) under Technology Mission on Oilseeds and Pulses (TMOP). Under this scheme, assistance is being provided for production and distribution of seeds, distribution of seed minikits and for sprinkler sets, gypsum/pyrite, rhizobium culture/phosphate solubilizing bacteria, improved farm implements, micro-nutrients, etc. In order to transfer the improved pulses production and plant protection technologies to the farmers, block demonstrations and Integrated Pest Management (IPM) demonstrations by the State Governments and frontline demonstrations by ICAR are also organized. Increase in production of pulses will help to keep the prices of pulses under control. Further, in order to meet the demand-supply gap, the pulses are being imported under Open General Licence (OGL) at low import duty of 10% keep the prices under control.

Statutory Warning on Bottles and Containers

*195. SHRI B. VENKATESHWARLU :
DR. V. SAROJA :

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

(a) whether many soft drinks and tinned food companies do not strictly adhere to the code in the matter of printing the contents of the product outside the container;

(b) if so, whether the Government proposes to make it mandatory for all the soft drink producers and tinned food companies to print the contents of caffeine, calorie and other ingredients on bottles/cans/packets etc.; and

(c) if so, the measures taken to implement the decision early?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Heritage Tourism

*196. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the assistance provided to the State Governments for the development of heritage tourism during the last three years and the current year;

(b) whether some State Governments have sent proposals to the Union Government to develop heritage tourism in their respective States;

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

(d) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN) : (a) to (d) There is no separate scheme for development of heritage tourism. However, the new approach aims to synthesize elements of tourism, culture, clean civic life and healthy environment at important tourist places including heritage sites in the country.

Tourism projects are sanctioned based on field visits/consultation with the State Governments/UT Administrations.

State-wise details of projects sanctioned by the Department of Tourism during the last 3 years and the current financial year (upto 29.11.2003) are given in the statement enclosed.

Statement

*State-wise Projects Sanctioned from 2000-01
to 2003-04 (upto 29.11.2003)*

(Rs. in Lakhs)

S. No.	State/UT	No. of Project Sanctioned	Amt. Sanctioned
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	23	1524.85
2.	Assam	30	1659.44
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	28	570.49
4.	Bihar	22	830.83
5.	Chattisgarh	18	520.28
6.	Goa	20	187.53
7.	Gujarat	33	990.82
8.	Haryana	27	1139.49
9.	Himachal Pradesh	63	1399.25
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	20	1404.81
11.	Jharkhand	9	679.49
12.	Karnataka	36	1950.55
13.	Kerala	38	2324.04
14.	Madhya Pradesh	47	1466.08
15.	Maharashtra	32	2713.65
16.	Manipur	21	870.45

1	2	3	4
17.	Meghalaya	14	265.31
18.	Mizoram	29	731.45
19.	Nagaland	20	1014.57
20.	Orissa	13	647.04
21.	Punjab	12	244
22.	Rajasthan	46	3036.47
23.	Sikkim	54	1401.19
24.	Tamilnadu	40	2049.05
25.	Tripura	25	705.97
26.	Uttaranchal	14	686
27.	Uttar Pradesh	29	1275.28
28.	West Bengal	52	1434.76
29.	Andaman and Nicobar	1	1.78
30.	Chandigarh	11	42.88
31.	Dadar and Nagar Haveli	4	19.77
32.	Delhi	29	1303.78
33.	Daman and Diu	5	319.57
34.	Lakshadweep	1	17
35.	Pondicherry	9	357.83
Total		875	35785.75

Study on Ground Water Resources

*197. SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has conducted any study on ground water resources in the country;

- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and
 (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI) : (a) to (c) The Central Ground Water Board (CGWB), under the Ministry of Water Resources carries out scientific studies on ground water

resources of the country of regular basis. The activities include survey of the ground water conditions, exploration of ground water resources, regular monitoring of ground water level, assessment of ground water resource potential and specific scientific studies like artificial recharge, conjunctive use etc. The State-wise details of ground water resource potential and its development are given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

Ground Water Resource of India

Sl. No.	States	Total Replenishable Ground Water Resource MHaM/Yr	Provision for Domestic, Industrial and other uses MHaM/Yr	Available Ground Water Resource for Irrigation in Net terms MHaM/Yr	Utilizable Ground Water Resource for Irrigation in Net terms MHaM/Yr	Gross Draft Estimated on Prorata basis [As on 01.04.98] MHaM/Yr	Net Draft [As on 01.04.98] MHaM/Yr	Balance Ground Water Resource for future use in net terms MHaM/Yr	Level of Ground Water Resource Development [%]
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	Andhra Pradesh	3.52909	0.52936	2.99973	2.69975	1.11863	0.78304	2.21668	26.10
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.14385	0.02158	0.12227	0.11005	—	—	0.12227	—
3.	Assam	2.24786	0.33718	1.91068	1.71962	0.20356	0.14249	1.76819	7.46
4.	Bihar	2.69796	0.4047	2.29327	2.06394	1.17895	0.82527	1.46800	35.99
5.	Chhattisgarh	1.60705	0.24106	1.36599	1.22939	0.10925	0.07647	1.28952	5.60
6.	Goa	0.02182	0.00327	0.01855	0.01669	0.00219	0.00154	0.01701	8.30
7.	Gujarat	2.03767	0.30566	1.73199	1.55881	1.21895	0.85327	0.87872	49.27
8.	Haryana	1.11794	0.16769	0.95025	0.85523	1.02637	0.71846	0.23179	75.61
9.	Himachal Pradesh	0.02926	0.00439	0.02487	0.02238	0.00591	0.00413	0.2073	16.63

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	0.44257	0.06640	0.37620	0.33860	0.00586	0.00403	0.37217	1.07
11.	Jharkhand	0.66045	0.9907	0.56138	0.50525	0.17352	0.12146	0.43992	21.64
12.	Karnataka	1.61750	0.24186	1.37564	1.23665	0.64973	0.45481	0.92083	33.06
13.	Kerala	0.79003	0.13135	0.65869	0.59281	0.17887	0.12509	0.53360	18.99
14.	Madhya Pradesh	3.48186	0.52228	2.95958	2.66362	1.05494	0.73846	2.22112	24.95
15.	Maharashtra	3.78677	1.23973	2.54704	2.29233	1.26243	0.8837	1.66334	34.70
16.	Manipur	0.31540	0.04730	0.26810	0.24129	Neg.	Neg.	0.26810	Neg.
17.	Meghalaya	0.5397	0.00810	0.4587	0.04128	0.00260	0.00182	0.04405	Neg.
18.	Mizoram	0.14000	0.02100	0.11900	0.10710	Neg.	Neg.	0.11900	Neg.
19.	Nagaland	0.07240	0.01090	0.06150	0.05535	Neg.	Neg.	0.06150	Neg.
20.	Orissa	2.01287	0.30193	1.71094	1.53984	0.37196	0.26037	1.45057	15.22
21.	Punjab	1.81923	0.18192	1.63730	1.47357	2.30028	1.61020	0.2710	98.34
22.	Rajasthan	1.26021	0.19977	1.06044	0.95440	1.10350	0.77245	0.28799	72.84
23.	Sikkim	0.00736	0.00108	0.00628	0.00565	Neg.	Neg.	0.00565	Neg.
24.	Tamil Nadu	2.64069	0.39610	2.24458	2.02013	2.00569	1.40398	0.84060	62.55
25.	Tripura	0.06634	0.00995	0.05639	0.05075	0.02692	0.01885	0.03754	33.43
26.	Uttar Pradesh	8.25459	1.23819	7.01640	6.31476	4.25171	2.97619	4.04021	42.42
27.	Uttaranchal	0.28411	0.4262	0.24149	0.21734	0.09776	0.06843	0.17306	28.34
28.	West Bengal	2.30914	0.34637	1.96277	1.76649	0.9025	0.63175	1.33102	32.19
Total States		43.44799	7.12081	36.32719	32.69307	19.25207	13.47627	22.85029	37.10
Union Territories									
1.	Andaman and Nicobar	0.03263	0.0013382	0.31289	0.2816	Neg.	Neg.	0.03189	Neg.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
2.	Chandigarh	0.00297	0.00044	0.00252	0.00227	0.00351	0.00245	0.00007	—
3.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0.00422	0.00063	0.00359	0.00323	0.00065	0.00046	0.00313	12.81
4.	Daman	0.00071	0.00011	0.00060	0.00054	0.00069	0.00048	0.00012	80.00
5.	Diu	0.00037	0.00006	0.00031	0.00028	0.00042	0.00029	0.00002	94.84
6.	NCT Delhi	0.02916	0.01939	0.00977	0.00879	0.01684	0.01180	0.00203	120.78
7.	Lakshadweep	0.03042	0.00456	0.00195	0.00176	0.00109	0.00076	0.00119	39.12
8.	Pondicherry	0.01746	0.00262	0.1484	0.01335	0.01645	0.01152	0.00332	77.63
	Total UTs	0.11793	0.02915	0.06487	0.05838	0.3966	0.02777	0.03770	—
	Grand Total	43.56592	7.14997	36.41595	32.77436	19.29173	13.50404	22.88799	37.08

**Schemes/Policies for Utilization of
Land and Water**

*198. SHRI V. VETRISLVAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government is giving priority to policies for better utilisation of land and water to increase growth in agriculture sector;

(b) if so, the details of schemes/policies framed by the Government in this regard; and

(c) the result achieved therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI RAJNATH SINGH) : (a) Government of India have accorded abiding importance to improving the quality of country's land and water resources. In the National Agriculture Policy-2000 (NAP-2000), development and management of land and water resources on watershed basis, development/ reclamation of degraded land and on-farm water management are some of the thrust areas for sustainable agriculture production.

(b) The Government of India are implementing various programmes namely, (i) National Watershed Development Programme for Rainfed Areas (NWDPR); (ii) Soil Conservation for Enhancing Productivity of Degraded Lands in the Catchments of River Vally Project and Flood Prone River (RVP and FPR); (iii) Reclamation of Alkali Soils (RAS); (iv) Watershed Development Project in Shifting Cultivation Areas (WDPSA); (v) Drought Prone Area Programme (DPAP); (vi) Desert Development Programme; (vii) Integrated Wasteland Development Programme (IWDP); (viii) Reclamation of Waterlogged Area under Command Area Development Programme; (ix) Integrated Afforestation and Eco-Development Project Scheme (IAEPS), and (x) On Farm Water Management for Increasing Crop Production in Eastern India for sustainable agricultural production.

(c) Since inception upto IX Five Year Plan, an area of 29.198 million ha. has been treated with an expenditure of Rs.10149.73 crore under various Watershed Development Programmes in the country as per details given in the statement enclosed.

Statement

*Area Developed under various Watershed Development Programmes,
since inception upto IX Plan*

Area in lakh ha. and Expenditure in Rs. crore.

S. No.	Ministry/Scheme (Year of Start)	Upto VIII Plan		During IX Plan		Area treated since inception upto IX Plan	
		Area Treated	Expenditure	Area Treated	Expenditure	Area Treated	Expenditure
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
I. Min. of Agri., Department of Agri. and Coopn.							
1.	NWDpra (1990-91)	42.23	967.93	27.56	909.81	69.79	1877.74
2.	RVP and FPR (1962 and 81)	42.83	944.62	12.03	571.58	54.86	1516.20
3.	WDPSca (1974-75)	0.74	93.73	1.84	72.54	2.58	166.27
4.	Alkali Soil (1985-86)	4.84	62.29	0.97	14.09	5.81	76.38
5.	EAPs	10.00	646.00	5.00	1425.00	15.00	2071.00
	Sub Total	100.64	2714.57	47.40	2993.02	148.04	5707.59
II. Min. of Rural Development, Department of Land Resources							
1.	DPAP (1973-74)	68.60	1109.95	29.64	658.29	98.24	1768.24
2.	DDP (1977-78)	8.48	722.79	15.34	519.79	23.82	1242.58
3.	IWDP (1988-89)	2.84	542.96	14.49	496.80	17.33	1039.76
4.	TDET (1993-94)	-nil	-nil	0.32	41.57	0.32	41.57
5.	IPS (1994-95)	-nil	-nil	0.01	0.59	0.01	0.59
6.	WDTF	0.01	4.74	-nil	-nil	0.01	4.74
	Sub Total	79.93	2380.44	59.80	1717.04	139.73	4097.48

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
III. Ministry of Environment and Forests							
1.	IAEPS (1989-90)	2.98	203.12	1.23	141.54	4.21	344.66
Grand Total		183.55	5298.13	108.43	4851.60	291.98	10149.73

Details of abbreviations :

NWDPRA	—	National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas
RVP and FPR	—	River Valley Projects and Flood Prone Rivers
WDPSCA	—	Watershed Development Project for Shifting Cultivation Areas
E.A.Ps.	—	Externally Aided Projects
DPAP	—	Drought Prone Area Programme
IWDP	—	Integrated Watershed Development Project
TDET	—	Technology Development, Extension and Training
IPS	—	Investment Promotional Scheme
WDTF	—	Wasteland Development Task Force
IAEPS	—	Integrated Afforestation and Eco-development Project Scheme.

[Translation]

**Allocation of Foodgrains to Drought
Affected Areas**

*199. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI :
SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

- (a) the quantity of foodgrains allotted to the people living in drought affected areas;
- (b) the mode of allotment of foodgrains to each family;
- (c) whether the Government has decided to provide employment to one person per family under

Food for Employment Scheme for drought affected areas; and

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

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI RAJNATH SINGH) : (a) Total quantity of 87.36 lakh MTs of foodgrains was released to the States for the drought of 2002-03 and 3.15 lakh MTs have so far been released to the States affected by drought during Kharif 2003.

(b) and (c) The foodgrains indicated above were released to the States, free of cost, under the Special Component of Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yozana (SGRY) Scheme for relief employment. The Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yozana (SGRY) Scheme is implemented by the Ministry of Rural Development, with the primary objective of providing additional wage employment in all

rural areas and thereby providing food security and improving nutritional levels. The Special component of SGRY is for augmenting food security through additional wage employment in the calamity affected areas.

There was no restriction on the number of persons to be employed. However, the allocation of foodgrains for relief employment was made on the basis of a formula. For this purpose, the States were classified into three categories and each household was considered of comprising of 5 members on an average.

For the Drought of 2002-03, States which were moderately affected by drought were classified under Category "A" for which coverage of 20% Below Poverty line (BPL) rural households was assumed for provision of employment to 1 person from each such rural household @ 5 kg per person per day for 10 days a month, with minimum of 25% of wage rate being paid in cash. Severely affected States were classified under Category "B" for which 50% of BPL rural households was assumed with other conditions remaining the same. Rajasthan was kept under Special category as indicated below:

- (i) 74 worst affected blocks in the State with universal coverage of all willing rural households with employment to one person from each such rural household @ 8 kg per person per day for 10 days a month with other conditions remaining the same;
- (ii) For all other blocks, employment @ 6 kg per person per day for 10 days a month with other conditions remaining the same.

However, for the later part of the drought (May to July 2003), a revised allocation for Rajasthan was approved for providing employment to all willing households @ 8 kg per person per day for 12 days a month. While the foodgrains for the severely affected States viz. Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa and Rajasthan was provided upto July, 2003, for Tamil Nadu it was provided upto September, 2003, as the State is mainly dependent on North-East Monsoon (October-December).

It is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments concerned to take necessary measures in this regard. The Central Government supplements the efforts of the State Governments with financial and logistic support. Distribution of relief at the ground level is the responsibility of the State Governments concerned.

(d) State-wise details of 87.36 lakh MTs foodgrains released for the drought of 2002-03 and 3.15 lakh MTs of foodgrains released so far for the drought of Kharif 2003, are indicated in the statement enclosed.

Statement

(lakh MTs)		
S. State No.	Drought of 2002-03	Drought of Kharif 2003
1. Andhra Pradesh	17.20	1.00
2. Chattisgarh	4.74	—
3. Gujarat	3.06	—
4. Hariyana	0.25	—
5. Himachal Pradesh	0.10	—
6. Jharkhand	0.40	—
7. Karnatak	7.20	1.65
8. Keral	0.52	—
9. Madhya Pradesh	7.80	—
10. Maharashtra	2.32	0.50
11. Orissa	4.22	—
12. Rajasthan	32.05	—
13. Tamil Nadu	5.0	—
14. Uttranchal	0.50	—
15. Uttar Pradesh	2.00	—
Total	87.36	3.15

Accident Group Insurance Scheme

*200. SHRI DANVE RAOSAHEB PATIL :
KUMARI BHAVANA PUNDLIKRAO GAWALI :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government has introduced the Accident Group Insurance Scheme for farmers;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has received representations to enhance the amount of insurance benefit; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI RAJNATH SINGH) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

[English]

Exploration of Iron Ore

1805. SHRIMATI PRABHA RAU : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the rich iron ore deposits have been found in Surajgarh in Gadchiroli district of Maharashtra;
- (b) if so, whether some private companies have requested the Government for permission to undertake exploration works of iron ore and other minerals;
- (c) if so, whether the Government has examined the proposal; and
- (d) if so, the names of the companies and the investment required to be made in the exploration work and the decision taken by the Government thereon?

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

[Translation]

Construction of Yatri Niwas

1806. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY :
SHRI MANSINH PATEL :
SHRI SHIVAJI MANE :
SHRI LAXMAN GILUWA :
SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY :
DR. M.P. JAISWAL :
SHRIMATI RAJKUMARI RATNA SINGH :

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

- (a) the details of proposals received from various State Governments including Jharkhand, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh for the construction of Yatri Niwas in their States alongwith their locations; and
- (b) the action taken by the Union Government thereon alongwith the funds released, if any, to the State Governments for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN) : (a) and (b) There is no separate scheme for construction of Yatri Niwas in the 10th Plan. However, proposals for construction of budget accommodation units are considered under the new schemes of Integrated Development of Tourism Circuits and Product/Infrastructure and Destination Development. State-wise details of projects sanctioned during 2002-03 and 2003-04 (upto 29.11.03) under these new schemes are given in the statement enclosed.

Statement

*State-wise Projects Sanctioned during 2002-03
and 2003-04 (upto 29.11.2003)*

(Rs. in Lakhs)

S. No.	State/UT	No. of Project Sanctioned	Am't. Sanctioned
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	4	1057.50

1	2	3	4
2.	Assam	11	923.59
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	8	198.84
4.	Bihar	8	505.00
5.	Chattisgarh	11	365.00
6.	Goa	1	0.50
7.	Gujarat	4	216.12
8.	Haryana	14	890.74
9.	Himachal Pradesh	32	844.32
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	5	864.38
11.	Jharkhand	1	393.00
12.	Karnataka	9	1206.49
13.	Kerala	13	926.36
14.	Madhya Pradesh	24	947.38
15.	Maharashtra	12	1302.76
16.	Manipur	3	87.68
17.	Meghalaya	4	71.85
18.	Mizoram	9	347.01
19.	Nagaland	7	816.50
20.	Orissa	5	452.05
21.	Punjab	3	23.00
22.	Rajasthan	22	2576.51
23.	Sikkim	17	896.74
24.	Tamilnadu	11	1392.55
25.	Tripura	8	258.34

1	2	3	4
26.	Uttaranchal	4	550.30
27.	Uttar Pradesh	6	795.80
28.	West Bengal	13	779.42
29.	Andman and Nicobar	0	0
30.	Chandigarh	4	12.75
31.	Dadar and Nagar Haveli	2	8.07
32.	Delhi	21	1231.07
33.	Daman and Diu	4	314.57
34.	Lakshadweep	0	0
35.	Pondicherry	3	253.04
Total		303	21509.23

[English]

Revival of SSP and ASP

1807. SHRI SUNIL KHAN : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has taken decision to revive Salem Steel Plant (SSP) and Alloy Steel Plant (ASP), Durgapur;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY) : (a) and (b) The financial and business restructuring package for Steel Authority of India Ltd. (SAIL) that was approved by the Government in February 2000, inter alia, envisaged formation of Joint Venture (JV) for Salem Steel Plant (SSP), Salem and Alloy Steel Plant (ASP), Durgapur with a view to reviving these plants. While pursuing with the divestment

process, efforts are also on to reduce the losses through increased capacity utilisation, economic utilisation of ASP-SSP synergy for short term gains and reduction in inventory and manpower.

(c) Does not arise.

**Environmental clearance for
Power Projects**

1808. SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether power projects face considerable delay in securing clearance from the Environment Department:

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the details of steps being taken to simplify the clearance process and other measures being taken to grant expeditious clearance to the projects?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The important steps to simplify the clearance process are :

(i) Review and Reengineering of existing environmental clearance procedures.

(ii) Decentralization of Work.

Call Centre Services by Air India

1809. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Air India is providing call centre services in different countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the services provided;

(c) whether this would help in upgrading the services of Air India;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the incentives provided to the call centre agents by Air India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The International Call Centre Service is being provided for incoming calls from passengers and travel agents in UK/USA/Canada, which commenced from 07th July, Calls are received at the International Call Centre at Mumbai. This round-the-clock call services attend to wide ranging queries from Reservations covering flight / hotel bookings/ car rentals / meal / seat requests / passengers requiring special attention as well as travel documentation queries, flight information, baggage handling etc. The Call Centre also receives calls from Air India's Frequent Flyer and Elite Club members in connection with their accrued mileage details.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The operation of the International Call Centre is cost effective as the salary structures in the western world are far higher than that in India. Also, by providing a round-the-clock 24/7 service. Air India have improved customer service.

(e) The International Call Centre is outsourced to a Service Provider and is paid for the service provided.

[Translation]

ATR 42-320 for Himachal Pradesh

1810. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government had announced to provide to Himachal Pradesh with ATR 42-320 50 seater aircraft last year.

(b) if so, whether the four ATRs acquired by Alliance Air are for exclusive use in the North Eastern Sector thereby depriving Himachal Pradesh of their services; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps being taken by the Government to ensure that Himachal Pradesh get the services of these aircrafts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Alliance Air has inducted 4 ATR-42-320 (50 seater aircraft) on lease for providing increased connectivity in the North-East with the annual financial assistance of Rs.35 crores from the Department of Development of North-East Region. As such, these aircraft are not available for operation of services to any other part of the country.

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. As such, the airlines are free to operate anywhere in the country subject to compliance of route dispersal guidelines issued by Government.

[English]

Sale of Vintage Jumbos

1811. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has decided to dispose off its three vintage jumbos which are considered to be obsolete for being used for VVIP movement;

(b) whether the Government has also decided to procure new Boeing 747-400 planes for VVIP use replacing the existing fleet;

(c) if so, the amount likely to be realised from the sale of vintage jets;

(d) the expenditure to be incurred in acquisition of new jets for VVIPs; and

(e) by when the new planes are likely to be acquired by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY) : (a) The Board of Air India has approved the disposal of only one B747-200 aircraft.

(b) to (e) Since the VVIP operations are now being carried out only with a B747-400 aircraft and as it is not possible to support the current pattern of operations without induction of an additional B747-400 aircraft, Air India has taken on dry-lease one more B747-400 aircraft to sustain its operations. Air India is in the process of disposing of the B747-200 aircraft and the exact amount will be realised only after the process is completed.

Duty Free Shops at Airports

1812. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAIISI : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government is planning to open up investment in duty free shops at Airports by foreign and private players;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of airports earmarked for the purpose;

(d) the other activities chalked out by the Government to improve the facilities at airports;

(e) the rationale behind allowing private participation in duty free shops at airports in the light of the move to privatise the airports; and

(f) the likely fate of these duty free shops after privatisation of airports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The global tenders for additional duty free shops have been invited for the airports at Delhi, Mumbai,

Kolkata, Chennai, Bangalore, Hyderabad, Ahmedabad, Calicut Goa and Trichy Airport.

(d) Based on the requirements, other passenger facilities and concessions are developed.

(e) and (f) The duty free shops will be awarded to the selected parties at the airports and wherever the airports are to be privatized, the new operators will be assigned for honoring the contractual obligations for the balance period of contract.

Discharge of untreated Sewage into Sea by Hotels

1813. SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Orissa Pollution Control Board has found out that the sea water in Puri is polluted due to inflow of untreated sewage discharge into the sea, mostly from the hotels in the area near the sea;

(b) if so, whether the Government is aware that the local effluent treatment plant ignores the Supreme Court's norms; and

(c) if so, the action plan chalked out by the Government to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) The Orissa Pollution Control Board monitors the water quality of the sea in Puri and it has been observed that untreated wastewater sometimes goes to the sea because of choking of sewer lines leading to the facultative pond.

(b) and (c) As per the direction of the Supreme Court, a detailed sewerage scheme along with sewage treatment plant as provided by the National Environmental Engineering Research Institute, is currently being executed. As an interim measure near the sea beach, a High Rate Transpiration System of treatment and disposal facility has been implemented and it has been informed to the Supreme Court. After the completion of the comprehensive sewage treatment scheme, it is expected that the entire sewage of Puri City can be treated adequately in order to eliminate the risk of pollution of the beach.

NCCF Purchase Scam In DMS

1814. SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether preliminary inquiry into the NCCF purchase scam in Delhi Milk Scheme (DMS) running into lakhs of rupees has since been completed;

(b) if so, whether certain officials have been found involved in the scam;

(c) if so, whether any action has been taken by the Government against these officials on the basis of the preliminary inquiry report; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Action on the basis of the preliminary enquiry report is being taken.

Visit of Tourists to North Eastern States

1815. SHRI M.K. SUBBA : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether with the improved Law and order situation in Assam and other North Eastern States the tourists traffic in the region has increased considerably;

(b) if so, the number of domestic and foreign tourists visited these States during 2000, 2001, 2002 and 2003, till-date; and

(c) the steps taken alongwith the Central aid sought and released to boost tourism in these States?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN) : (a) and (b) A Statement indicating visits of domestic and foreign tourists in North Eastern States during the years 2000, 2001, 2002 and also the latest information available for the year 2003 is enclosed.

(c) Various steps taken to develop and boost tourism in the North-Eastern region include :

- A north-East Circuit comprising of Shillong, Guwahati, Kaziranga, Tezpur, Bhalukpong, Tawang (Arunachal Pradesh), Majuli, Sibsagar and Kohima has been taken up for the integrated development of the region.
- A chapter of Indian Institute of Tourism and Travel Management has been opened at Guwahati.
- A full-fledged Institute of Hotel Management and Catering Technology has been set up at Shillong.
- A video film on tourist attractions for North East has been produced.

— Direct flight between Guwahati and Bangkok has been started.

— Financial assistance for promotion of fairs and festivals is being provided to North Eastern States every year on continuing basis.

— 10% Plan budget of the Department of Tourism, Government of India has been earmarked for the projects/schemes of NE region, including Sikkim.

During the year 2002-03, an amount of Rs. 25.76 crores has been released for various ongoing projects/schemes and also for the new schemes like North-East circuit and other identified destinations in the NE states including Sikkim.

Statement

Domestic and Foreign Tourist Visits during the years 2000, 2001, 2002 and 2003

S. State No.	2000		2001		2002		2003		Data for 2003 received upto
	Domestic	Foreign	Domestic	Foreign	Domestic	Foreign	Domestic	Foreign	
1. Arunachal Pradesh	9932	2044	6349	323	4372	187	457	0	March
2. Assam	891433	5954	1010651	6171	1953915	6409	271705	976	May
3. Manipur	105167	429	76527	183	89633	221	69289	124	Sept.
4. Meghalya	169929	2327	178697	2390	268609	3146	280742	3659	Sept.
5. Mizoram	28221	235	28771	152	29417	259	25781	206	Sept.
6. Nagaland	13272	451	9948	920	14263	657	NA	NA	—
7. Sikkim	143105	10409	203306	31028	159342	8566	130970	6839	Sept.
8. Tripura	231902	0	254912	0	260586	0	127751	0	Aug.
Total	1592961	21849	1769161	41167	2780137	19445	906701	11804	

NA:- Not Available

[Translation]

**Investment by Germany in
Tourism Sector**

1816. SHRI RAMDAS RUPALA GAVIT : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether certain German Companies are contemplating to invest in tourism sector in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any schemes have been formulated by these companies to make investment for the development of tourist sites; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN) : (a) No such proposal has been received in the Department of Tourism.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

[English]

Profit of Air India

1817. SHRI RUPCHAND MURMU : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the net profit earned by Air India during 2002-03;

(b) whether Air India has increased its revenue over the previous years;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government has decided to transfer some flights from Air India to Air India Charters Limited; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY) : (a) The net profit earned by Air India during 2002-03 is Rs.133.86 crores.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The total revenue of Air India for the current year 2002-03 and for the previous year 2001-02 was Rs.5,657.90 and Rs. 5,032.90 crores respectively. The traffic revenue, including Charters and

Code Share/Block Space arrangements with other carriers during the year 2002-03 was Rs. 4,224.14 crores as against Rs. 3,846.52 crores in 2001-02, showing a growth of 9.82%.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Violation of Hygiene Norms

1818. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN : Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the processed food items are being sold in violation of hygiene norms across the country;

(b) if so, the measures being adopted by the Government to monitor the quality of fast foods sold by MNCs and others;

(c) whether the Government has formulated any guidelines to maintain a specific standard in fast food; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM) : (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Agricultural Export Zone in Kerala

1819. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government has given sanction for setting up of Agricultural Export Zone (AEZ) in Kerala for fruits and vegetables;

(b) if so, whether the State Government is in the process of finalising the AEZ project for implementation with Agriculture Produce Export Development Authority's (APEDA) support;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether there is any proposal to sanction transport assistance for horticultural products and processed foods by sea and air;

(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) and (c) An MoU has been signed by the State Government with Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) (being nodal agency of Union Government) on 5th March, 2003. The activities identified by State Government, as per MoU are at various stages of implementations.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. The Government has already sanctioned a scheme for grant of Transport Assistance for shipment of certain horticulture products and processed fruits by sea and air. The scheme has been notified on 1st May, 2003 and is effective from 1st April, 2002. The scheme is applicable for the financial year 2002-03 and 2003-04.

(f) Does not arise.

Funds for Promotion of Animal Husbandry and Dairy

1820. SHRI ALAKESH DAS : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state the funds allocated to States particularly West Bengal to promote animal husbandry and dairy during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : The Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying during 2000-01, 2001-02 and 202-03 has released Rs.95.43

crores, Rs.114.17 crores and Rs.125.48 crores respectively for the promotion of animal husbandry and dairy in the States, of which the State of West Bengal has been provided with Rs. 1.44 crores and Rs. 10.25 crores and Rs. 3.17 crores respectively for the corresponding period.

Outstanding dues of ITDC against Political Parties/Clients

1821. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government is aware that certain category of clients/political parties owe huge amount to ITDC hotels;

(b) if so, the details of such outstanding amounts alongwith names of hotels against which the dues are outstanding; and

(c) the steps proposed by the Government to recover such dues?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The requisite information is given in the statement enclosed.

(c) Recovery of outstanding dues is a continuous process. The measures taken/being taken to recover the outstanding dues include periodical reminders; personal contacts; periodical review both at unit and corporate level; seeking assistance from administrative Ministry; stoppage of credit facility to defaulting parties and resorting to legal action wherever necessary.

Statement

Category-wise and Hotel-wise details of Outstanding dues (Provisional) as on 31.03.2003

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of the Hotel	PSU	Govt.	Private Parties and Others	Licencees	Travel Agent	Card Holder	Politician	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	Ashok New Delhi	229.58	344.00	263.73	128.63	46.07	4.91	0.75	1017.67

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
2.	Jaipur Ashok	0.03	0.81	0.94	1.05	0.99	0.01	0.00	3.83
3.	Jammu Ashok	0.12	.00	0.90	0.20	0.02	0.39	0.00	1.63
4.	Janpath New Delhi	18.91	13.79	52.77	5.8	37.82	4.41	2.53	219.11
5.	Kalinga Ashok	0.90	1.63	1.64	2.81	1.47	0.49	0.00	8.94
6.	LMPH Mysore	0.74	6.78	4.24	0.23	52.66	0.37	0.00	65.02
7.	Pataliputra Ashok	3.23	30.95	20.34	2.84	7.91	0.75	0.00	66.02
8.	Samrat New Delhi	13.35	13.10	37.93	70.52	2.67	0.00	7.16	144.73
9.	Bharatpur Forest Lodge	0.00	0.92	0.11	0.00	3.97	1.60	0.05	6.65
Total		266.86	411.98	382.60	295.16	153.58	12.93	10.49	1533.60

New International Airports

1822. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has recently allowed the private sector companies to construct international airports;

(b) if so, the details regarding the number and names of such airports alongwith the share of Government therein; and

(c) the details regarding the procedure followed by the Government while inviting the tenders of Indian and foreign companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY) : (a) and (b) Government has approved Greenfield airports at Bangalore and Hyderabad under Public Private Partnership. Airports Authority of India (AAI) and other Government of India / Public Sector entities / respective State Government would together hold 26% share in these projects.

(c) Respective State Government selected the private partners through Global Tendering Process.

Open Sky Package

1823. SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government is planning to sing any 'Open Sky' policy with the Governments of Srilanka and Maldives so as to provide a combined tourism package for western travellers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the benefits likely to accrue to India as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Letters from Members

1824. SHRI A.C. JOS : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the number of letters received from various Members of Parliament in the Ministry during the last three years and thereafter;

(b) whether all the letters received have been replied;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the number of such letters pending for final reply?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY) : (a) The number of letters received from various Members of Parliament in the Ministry during last three years and thereafter i.e. from January, 2000 to November, 2003 is 3269.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Letters are pending for final reply due to following reasons:-

(i) Non-receipt of requisite information from concerned organizations viz. attached offices and Public Sector Undertakings under this Ministry.

(ii) The requisite information has since been received but found to be lacking in certain aspects and further clarifications are being sought.

(iii) Pertaining to subjects where policy decisions are to be taken.

(d) 251 letters are pending for final reply at the end of November, 2003. However, major part of the pendency relates to the year 2003.

Air Pollution in Delhi

1825. DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT :
SHRI UTTAMRAO PATIL :

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

(a) whether the Environment Pollution Authority has recommended a complete ban on diesel-run commercial vehicles in the capital;

(b) if so, whether it has also called for strict measures to reduce air pollution in the capital alongwith scrapping the Indraprastha Power Station;

(c) if so, the facts thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) No, Sir. Only the diesel buses were switched over to Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) and by November, 2002 all the buses were converted or replaced with CNG fleet. Only Bharat Stage-II compliant diesel taxis are allowed to ply in Delhi.

(b) and (c) The Environment Pollution (Prevention and Control) Authority for the National Capital Region has recommended a series of priority measures including augmentation of air quality monitoring network, improved quality of fuels, setting up of independent fuel testing laboratories and phasing out of old vehicles. The Authority has also observed that Indraprastha Power Station has outlived its normal life and should be replaced by gas based power plant.

(d) The Government had set up an Expert Committee on Auto Fuel Policy to lay down the future strategies and a road map for control of vehicular pollution in the country. The Committee recommended various action points which include introduction of cleaner fuels, automobile technologies and their enforcement measures.

Removal of Suggestion Counters

1826. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether AAI (Airports Authority of India) has ordered for removal of all grievance and suggestion counters from all major airports;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps proposed by the Government to enquire into such actions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Development of Airports

1827. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has formulated a plan to develop the existing minor airports in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a feasibility study about the potential of Gannavaram and Madhurpudi airports in Andhra Pradesh has been conducted by the DGCA;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the details of the plans for commercial optimisation of these airports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY) : (a) and (b) Development of existing airports is a continuous process based on traffic requirements.

(c) and (d) Gannavaram (Vijayawada) and Madhurpudi (Rajamundry) airports of AAI are already operational for B/737 and ATR type of aircraft respectively in fair weather conditions.

(e) In absence of scheduled flights to these airports, plans for commercial optimizations has not been carried out.

Biotechnology in Farming

1828. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the use of the biotechnology in farming is being recommended to the farmers in India;

(b) if so, whether sufficient funds have been earmarked for the use of biotechnology in farming;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the benefits likely to accrue to the farmers of Maharashtra from the planting of bt. Cotton?

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

(a) Only case by case recommendations of biotechnology products/transgenics are being made by the Genetic Engineering Approval Committee of the Ministry of Environment and Forest after bio-safety and environmental safety evaluations and performance assessment.

(b) and (c) Funds have been provided under Plan/ Non-Plan to promote biotechnological applications in agriculture mainly by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research and Department of Biotechnology (DBT). Sufficient funds have been earmarked to various organizations/institutes of the National Agricultural Research System for the use of biotechnology in farming. Besides need-based biotechnological applications being pursued in several crop-commodity, animal and fishery institutes/ centres, there are exclusive centres such as National Research Centre on Plant Biotechnology, New Delhi (Rs. 18.00 crores proposed X Plan outlay) and National Research Centre for DNA Finger Printing, New Delhi (Rs. 12.06 crores proposed X Plan outlay) are working exclusively on agricultural biotechnology. The DBT funding for agricultural biotechnology is to the tune of about Rs. 9.25 crores for the year 2002-03. Funding of need based specific project on transgenics in agriculture is also proposed.

(d) As per the observations made by Monitoring cum-Evaluation Committee of the DBT in the State of Maharashtra, the planting of Bt cotton hybrids would give benefits to the farmers with increased cotton harvest and reduction in pesticide consumption for controlling the lepidopteran pests in comparison to non-Bt. Cotton hybrids.

Appointment in AAI

1829. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to refer to the reply

given to Unstarred Question Nos. 3611 dt. April 7, 2003 and 4322 dated April 21, 2003 and state :

- (a) whether the information has since been collected from the Airports Authority of India; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons for delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) As per details collected from Airports Authority of India (AAI), 97 appointments have been made in Group 'C' and 'D' posts in AAI on ad-hoc basis. As per AAI, these recruitments were made due to exigencies of work necessitated by additional construction activities with the condition to dispense with these incumbents on completion of construction activities.

The information received from AAI is being examined in the light of relevant laid down recruitment rules.

Misappropriation of Funds in EPFO

1830. SHRI AMBAREESHA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

- (a) whether any misappropriation of funds to the tune of more than Rs. One crore has been detected in the Employees Provident Fund Organisation;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; region-wise;
- (c) whether the Government has fixed any responsibility on EFP officers;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the action taken against erring officials?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SAHIB SINGH VERMA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

- (b) The Region-wise details are as under:
 - (i) SAO, Bommasandra – Rs.77.65 lakh (approx). – (Karnataka).

- (ii) SAO, Nehru Place-Rs. 16.37 lakh (approx). – (Delhi).

- (iii) SRO, Gwalior – Rs. 28.00 lakh (approx). – (M.P.)

- (iv) SRO, Rajkot – Rs.59.40 lakh (approx). – (Gujarat).

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The officials/officers, prime-facie, found blameworthy have been identified.

(e) The following actions have been taken in this regard:

- (i) The relevant records have been seized;
- (ii) The concerned officials/officers have been placed under suspension;
- (iii) Departmental proceedings are also being initiated against them;
- (iv) The cases of SRO – Rajkot and SRO, Gwalior have been referred to CBI;
- (v) In respect of cases pertaining to SAO – Nehru Place and SAO – Bommasandra – FIR has been lodged with the local police authorities.

Eco-Friendly Farming

1831. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether chemical fertilizers has led to degradation of soil and water;
- (b) if so, the remedial measures taken by the Government;
- (c) whether the Government propose to promote organic farming to check this menace; and
- (d) if so, the efforts being made by the Government for popularising organic farming?

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

(a) and (b) The average consumption of chemical fertilizers in the country is only 84.82 Kg/ha. (during 2002-03). This level of consumption is not considered to cause ill effect on soil and water. However, to ensure that there is no ill effect of any kind due to imbalanced use of chemical fertilizers, the Government propagates Integrated Nutrient Management (INM) which includes soil test based judicious use of chemical fertilizers in conjunction with organic sources of nutrients.

(c) and (d) The Government also promotes organic farming by advocating enhanced use of organic source of nutrients like farm yard manure, compost, green manure, vermi-compost and bio-fertilizers.

The Government has formulated a "National Project on Organic Farming" with an outlay of Rs.99.58 crores during Xth Plan. Under the project a "National Institute of Organic Farming (NIOF)", is to be set up for promotion of organic farming in the country.

[Translation]

Subsidy to Fishermen for Fuel Requirement

1832. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government is providing any subsidy to fishermen to meet their fuel requirements for fishing in view of the pliable economic backwardness of traditional fishermen;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the funds allocated for the purpose during the last three years and the current year, State-wise?

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

(a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Training Courses

1833. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government organise training courses in the fields for training the farmers regarding Integrated Pest Management Practices;

(b) if so, the number of such training courses organised so far in the country including Maharashtra;

(c) the number of farmers of Maharashtra benefited from these trainings; and

(d) the number of Training courses targeted to be organised in Maharashtra during 2003-04?

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

(a) Yes, Sir. Government of India organise demonstration and training of farmers and State Agricultural Extension functionaries in the field of Integrated Pest Management by conducting Farmers' Field Schools (FFSs) through 26 Central IPM Centres located in 22 States and one Union Territory under the Central Sector Scheme entitled "Integrated Pest Management Approach in India". The training of farmers in IPM have also been organised in the States under UNDP programmes and FAO-EU Cotton IPM Programme in India besides the IPM trainings under Technology Mission on Cotton (TMC).

(b) and (c) So far, 8,027 Farmers' Field Schools (FFSs) have been organised by the Central IPM Centres in the country upto Kharif, 2003 in IPM including Maharashtra. Out of the above, 832 FFSs have been conducted in Maharashtra where 26,160 farmers have been trained in IPM skill. Besides, 5,025 farmers have also been trained in Maharashtra through 201 FFSs organised under FAO-EU Cotton IPM Programme/State Government since 2001. Further, 2,250 IPM training programmes have been conducted in the country under TMC out of which 603 have been organised in Maharashtra whereby 18,090 farmers have been trained upto 2002-03.

(d) A total of 32 FFSs are targeted to be organised by CIPMC, Nagpur in Maharashtra besides 286 by State Government and 646 under the TMC during 2003-04.

[English]

Hijacking of IC-814

1834. SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the investigations into the hijacking of flight IC-814 to Kandhar by the CBI has almost reached a dead end;

(b) if so, whether the CBI is facing some difficulties in the process of investigation;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken by the Government to remove these hurdles; and

(d) the current status of the investigations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY) : (a) No, Sir. After investigation of the case, CBI filed a chargesheet against 10 accused - 5 hijackers, who are Pakistani Nationals, two other Pakistani Nationals for their role in the conspiracy and 3 other persons. CBI is conducting further investigation, with the permission of the Court, to apprehend 7 Pakistani Nationals to get evidence relating to larger conspiracy, if any.

(b) to (d) CBI is facing difficulties in securing presence of the 7 Pakistani Nationals. They have been declared as absconders and Red Corner Notices have been issued against each of them. CBI is further facing difficulty in tracing Taliban leaders/functionaries who are suspected to have been involved in the conspiracy along with the hijackers. The case is covered under the Section 173(8) CRPC.

Safety Measures in Coal Mines

1835. SHRI RAMJIVAN SINGH :
DR. N. VENKATASWAMY :
SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV :
SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether any Expert Group has been appointed to review the safety measures in coal mines in view of frequent fatal accidents therein;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a number of miners were recently killed in major mishap in an underground mine of Singareni Collieries Company Limited;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the number of mishaps in SCCL mines since 2000 and the number of miners killed in each of the mishaps;

(f) the major causes for the frequent mishaps in the SCCL mines; and

(g) the measures taken so far to prevent the mishaps in the SCCL mines?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SAHIB SINGH VERMA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) In the recent mishaps which occurred in Godavarikhani No. 8 A incline mine of Singareni Collieries Company Limited ten persons (including the Sirdar) were killed and two persons suffered serious injuries. The preliminary inquiry made by Directorate General of Mines Safety (DGMS) has pointed out that 11 workers were engaged under the supervision of the Sirdar in a slice of a depillaring district where reduction of the rib against goaf was under progress. Suddenly a massive fall occurred in the goaf which, after overriding remnant rib covered the entire workplace, inflicting fatal/serious injuries.

(e) The details regarding mishaps and number of miners killed therein since 2000 in the SCCL mines is given in the statement enclosed.

(f) The fall of roof and sides is the major cause of fatal accidents as per the analysis made by DGMS.

(g) The following measures have been taken by DGMS to prevent the mishaps:-

- (i) In the mine where accident has occurred recently, the permission for depillaring has been withdrawn and the management has been

advised to propose modified method of extraction in consultation with a scientific organization.

- (ii) Instructions were issued to the management to complete the Check survey of all mine plans.

- (iii) Managements have been directed to prepare time bound plan for reduction of exposure to workers by reducing manual loading and adopting mechanization.

Statement

Details of Accidents causing fatal injuries in SCCL mines during the period from 1.1.2000 to 31.10.2003

S. No.	Date of Accident	Mine	Cause	Killed	Injured
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	14.1.2000	Belampalli OCP, Goleti	Dumpers	1	0
2.	21.1.2000	Belampalli OCP, Goleti	Dumpers	1	0
3.	19.3.2000	Godavari Khani No.VIIIA	Fall of Roof	1	1
4.	22.3.2000	Goutham Khani O/C	Other Accidents due to Dust/Gas/Fire	2	0
5.	12.4.2000	Somagudem No. 1	Fall of Overhangs	1	1
6.	16.4.2000	Morgans PIT	Other Accidents due to Dust/Gas/Fire	2	0
7.	20.4.2000	Somagudem No. 1	Fall of Roof	2	0
8.	20.4.2000	Godavari Khani No.IX	Rope Haulage	1	0
9.	24.5.2000	Prakasham Khani Opencast-II	Other Heavy Earth Moving Machinery	1	0
10.	24.5.2000	Indaram Khani No.1	Rope Haulage	1	0
11.	25.5.2000	Godavari Khani No.VIII	Fall of Roof	1	0
12.	01.6.2000	Ravindra Khani No.VIII	Fall of Roof	1	0
13.	07.6.2000	Godavari Khani No.VIIIA	Fall of Roof	1	0

1	2	3	4	5	6
14.	15.6.2000	Somagudem No. 1	Fall of Sides (Other than Overhangs)	1	0
15.	20.6.2000	Kalyan Khani No.VA	Fall of Roof	1	2
16.	30.6.2000	Ramagundam O/C-I	Conveyors	1	0
17.	09.7.2000	Prakasham Khani No.1	Other Accidents due to Dust/Gas/Fire	1	0
18.	21.7.2000	Chinanur No. IIA Inc ne	Fall of Roof	1	0
19.	25.7.2000	Godavari Khani No.VI	Rope Haulage	1	0
20.	30.7.2000	Ramagundam O/C-II	Dumpers	1	0
21.	25.8.2000	Somagudem No. 1	Rope Haulage	1	0
22.	06.10.2000	Godavari Khani No.IX	Fall of Roof	5	0
23.	24.11.2000	Kalyan Khani No.II	Fall of Sides (Other than Overhangs)	1	0
24.	11.12.2000	Prakasham, Khani Opencast-II	Dumpers	1	0
25.	21.12.2000	Goutham Khani O/C	Dumpers	1	0
26.	25.12.2000	Godavari Khani No.VIIIA	Fall of Sides (Other than Overhangs)	1	0
27.	31.12.2001	Ramagundam O/C-I	Dumpers	1	0
28.	31.1.2001	Jawahar Khani No.V	Fall of Sides (Other than Overhangs)	1	0
29.	18.2.2001	Prakasham Khani Opencast-II	Crushing and Screening Plants	1	0
30.	1.5.2001	Godavari Khani No.6B	Rope Haulage	1	0
31.	3.5.2001	Ramagundam O/C-II	Wheeled Trackless (Truck, Tanker, etc.)	1	0
32.	13.5.2001	Prakasham Khani Opencast-II	Dumpers	1	2
33.	30.5.2001	Godavari Khani No.1	Rope Haulage	1	0
34.	2.6.2001	Guleti No.II	Fall of Sides (Other than Overhangs)	1	0
35.	4.6.2001	Godavari Khani No.VIII	Rope Haulage	1	0
36.	25.6.2001	Godavari Khani No.X	Fall of Sides (Other than Overhangs)	1	0
37.	3.7.2001	Kakatiya Khani No.I and IA Incline	Fall of Persons on the Same Level	1	1

1	2	3	4	5	6
38.	31.7.2001	Kalyan Khani No.VA	Fall of Roof	1	0
39.	19.8.2001	Ramagundam O/C-I	Dumpers	1	0
40.	22.8.2001	No. 21 Incline	Rope Haulage	1	0
41.	23.8.2001	Godavari Khani No.VIII	Rope Haulage	1	0
42.	30.8.2001	Motilal Khani No.IV	Rope Haulage	1	0
43.	9.9.2001	Prakasham Khani No.II	Fall of Roof	1	0
44.	10.9.2001	No. 5 Incline, Kothagudam	Fall of Roof	1	0
45.	5.10.2001	Godavari Khani No.VIII	Fall of Roof	1	0
46.	31.10.2001	Godavari Khani No.VI	Rope Haulage	1	0
47.	5.11.2001	Godavari Khani No.II	Fall of Roof	1	0
48.	9.11.2001	Ravindra Khani No.V	Fall of Roof	1	0
49.	13.12.2001	Ravindra Khani No.VI	Misfire/Socket (Other than Drilling into)	1	0
50.	15.12.2001	Prakasham Khani No.II	Rope Haulage	1	0
51.	20.12.2001	Ravindra Khani No.VI	Fall of Roof	1	0
52.	29.12.2001	Shanti Khani	Cutting Machines	1	0
53.	9.1.2002	Srirampur No.II	Rope Haulage	1	0
54.	26.2.2002	Kalyan Khani No.II	Fall of Roof	5	1
55.	18.3.2002	Prakasham Khani No.I	Rope Haulage	1	0
56.	26.3.2002	Motilal Khani No.IV	Fall of Sides (Other than Overhangs)	1	0
57.	6.4.2002	Guleti No.1	Rope Haulage	1	0
58.	15.5.2002	Kalyani Khani No.I	Fall of Roof	2	0
59.	21.6.2002	Srirampur No.III and III A	Fall of Roof	1	0
60.	17.7.2002	Godavari Khani No.IIA	Fall of Roof	2	0
61.	18.8.2002	Ravindra Khani No.VI	Fall of Roof	1	0

1	2	3	4	5	6
62.	27.8.2002	Chinnur 1 and 1A	Fall of Roof	3	0
63.	30.9.2002	Godavari Khani No.I	Buried in Sands, etc.	1	0
64.	18.10.2002	Motilal Khani No.IV	Fall of Sides (Other than Overhangs)	1	0
65.	10.11.2002	Godavari Khani No.V	Fall of Sides (Other than Overhangs)	1	1
66.	13.11.2002	Kakatiya Khani No.I and IA Incline	Fall of Sides (Other than Overhands)	2	1
67.	10.1.2003	Prakasham Khani Opencast-II	Wheeled Trackless (Truck, Tanker, etc.)	1	0
68.	22.3.2003	Kakatiya Khani No.2/2A Incline	Rope Haulage	1	0
69.	26.3.2003	Godavari Khani No.3	Fall of Sides (Other than Overhangs)	1	0
70.	21.5.2003	Prakasham Khani Opencast-II	Unclassified	1	0
71.	31.5.2003	Ravindra Khani No.6	Fall of Sides (Other than Overhangs)	1	0
72.	3.6.2003	Gautham Khani O/C	Other Heavy Earth Moving Machinery	1	0
73.	9.6.2003	Centenary OCP	Other Non-Transportation Machinery	1	0
74.	16.6.2003	Godavari Khani No.7 LEP	Irruption of Water	17	0
75.	28.6.2003	Shantikhani	Falle of Person from Height/into Depth	1	0
76.	27.8.2003	Prakasham Khani Opencast-II	Wheeled Trackless (Truck, Tanker, etc.)	1	0
77.	28.8.2003	Kalyan Khani No.5	Fall of Roof	1	0
78.	15.9.2003	Godavari Khani No.3	Unclassified	1	0
79.	17.10.2003	Godavari Khani No.8A	Fall of Roof	10	2

Setting Up of Science Cities

1836. DR. N. VENKATASWAMY : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government has recently decided to set up "Science Cities" across the country with

the cooperation of State Governments and private companies;

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

(c) the number of such cities that have been set up or are proposed to be set up alongwith the total

funds earmarked and spent during the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN) : (a) to (c) The Government of India facilitates the setting up of Science Cities on receiving proposals from agencies including the State Governments, on the basis of certain stipulated norms. The following Science Cities are presently under construction:

1. The Pushpa Gural Science City, Jalandhar, Punjab.
2. The Gujarat Science City, Ahmedabad, Gujarat.
3. The Regional Science City, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh (by upgrading the existing Science Centre)

[Translation]

Music Schools in Delhi

1837. SHRI RAMSHAKAL : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

- (a) the number of music schools in Delhi under the Ministry of Tourism and Culture; and
- (b) the amount of funds released during the last two years school-wise?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN) : (a) There is no music school in Delhi under the Ministry of Tourism and Culture.

- (b) Does not arise.

[English]

Loan from Australia for Godavari Basin River Development

1838. SHRI Y.V. RAO:

SHRI KALAVA SRINIVASULU :

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Australia has agreed to provide a loan of 700 U.S. Dollars for Godavari basin river development in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, whether any agreement was signed in Hyderabad in this regard; and

(c) if so, the projects to be undertaken under this agreement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Safety of Dams

1839. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU :

DR. D.V.G. SHANKAR RAO :

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

- (a) whether there is any law empowering the State Governments the right to decommission a dam, if found unsafe by draining out the water stored in its reservoir; 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) Only Government of Kerala has recently passed an Act "The Kerala Irrigation and Water Conservation Act-2003" applicable to Kerala State inter-alia empowering the State Government to decommission a dam. The aforesaid bill as passed by the Kerala State Legislature received the assent of the Governor on the 13th September, 2003.

(b) This Act provides for constitution of a Dam Safety Authority, which is to be headed by a retired Judge of the High Court. Other members of the Dam Safety Authority will be eminent specialist in the field, officers from

the various State Government Departments and Chief Engineer, Central Water Commission, Government of India, Relevant provisions of this Act regarding decommissioning of dam are as under:-

"62 (e) To advise Government to suspend the functioning of any dam if the public safety so demands;

"62 (f) To examine the precariousness of any dam, in public interest and to submit its recommendations including decommissioning of dam to the Government;

"62 (5) The disbanding, construction or reconstruction of any dam shall be made only after obtaining a report in the regard from the Authority."

[Translation]

Pollution by Cox Distillery

1840. SHRI ASHOK KUMAR SINGH CHANDEL : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has received any complaints against Cox Distillery for causing pollution beyond permissible limits in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

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

(b) Government have received complaints regarding pollution caused by discharge of effluents from Cox Distillery unit at Naugaon, Madhya Pradesh into nearby water bodies.

(c) Based on the site inspection carried out by a team of scientists during 14 and 15 October, 2003, Madhya Pradesh Pollution Control Board has been asked to

implement the recommendations contained in the report and regularly monitor the progress of the action plan proposed by the industry for the up-gradation of the effluent treatment plant and commissioning of bio-methanation unit.

[English]

Branches of NAFED

1841. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of branches of NAFED in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government has a proposal to widen the activities of NAFED;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government propose to set up new branches of NAFED in the country during Tenth Plan; and

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

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

(a) NAFED has 30 branches in the country. A State wise list of the branches is at statement enclosed.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Statement

S.No.	Name of the State	No. of Branches
1	2	3
1.	Rajasthan	2
2.	Jammu and Kashmir	2

1	2	3
3.	Uttar Pradesh	1
4.	Haryana	1
5.	Himachal Pradesh	1
6.	Punjab	1
7.	Delhi	2
8.	Maharashtra	3
9.	Gujarat	2
10.	Madhya Pradesh	1
11.	Chhattisgarh	1
12.	West Bengal	2
13.	Bihar	1
14.	Assam	1
15.	Orissa	1
16.	Jharkhand	1
17.	Tripura	1
18.	Tamilnadu	2
19.	Karnataka	1
20.	Andhra Pradesh	1
21.	Kerala	2
Total		30

Violation of CRZ Guidelines in Mumbai

1842. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of previous observations and

decisions of the Government regarding violation of CRZ guidelines by Eversmile builder at Mahul, Mumbai;

(b) whether the Government has received any report based on January, 2003 from Chief Naval Hydrographer regarding violation of CRZ guidelines in the above said area;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action plan formulated by the Government to tackle the situation?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) Based on the representations received from Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited, Mumbai and Fisherman Association, Mahul creek, the Government had appointed an Expert Committee to look into the alleged violation of Coastal Regulation Zone Notification, 1991 by M/s Eversmile Construction Company Private Limited along the Mahul creek, Mumbai. Based on the recommendations made by the above Expert Committee, Government has issue directions under Section 5 of Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 to M/s Eversmile Construction Company Private Limited, Mahul on 16th April, 2002 directing the company to comply with the provisions of Coastal Regulation Zone Notification, 1991.

(b) and (c) The Maharashtra State Coastal Zone Management Authority has submitted a report alongwith the High Tide Line demarcated by the Naval Chief Hydrographer, as on January, 2003.

(d) The National Coastal Zone Management Authority has already held a meeting on 5.12.2003 and decided to seek additional clarifications from the Maharashtra State Coastal Zone Management Authority in the above matter.

Vizag Steel Plant

1843. SHRI RAJAIHA MALYALA : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether Vizag Steel Plant of Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited has earned any profit during 2002-03;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the profit earned during the current year;

(c) whether the plant was running in loss prior to that; and

(d) if so, the losses suffered by it in the previous year?

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

(b) Rashtriya Ispat Nigam, Ltd.- Visakhapatnam Steel Plant (RINL-VSP) has earned a net profit of Rs.521 crores during the year 2002-2003. It has also registered a net profit of Rs.465 crores (Provisional) during the 1st half of the current year i.e. 2003-2004.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) During the year 2001-2002, RINL-VSP suffered a net loss of Rs. 75 crores.

[Translation]

Agricultural Production

1844. SHRIMATI RAJKUMARI RATNA SINGH :
SHRI SHIVAJI MANE :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of schemes being implemented to boost agricultural production in the country;

(b) whether these schemes have been reviewed;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the value of imports and exports of agricultural products during the last three years alongwith product-wise details thereof;

(e) whether the Government has made efforts to impose a ban on import of agricultural products; and

(f) if so, the extent of success achieved therefrom?

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

(a) A number of schemes are being implemented to boost the agricultural production in the country. The important schemes are macro management, Oilseed Production programme, National Pulse Development project, Oilpalm Development Programme, Accelerated maize development programme, Technology Mission on cotton, On farm Management, Technology Mission on Horticulture for North-Eastern region including Sikkim, Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Praedesh and Uttranchal, National Horticulture Board, Technology Mission on Coconut, Agri clinic and Agri business Centre Scheme, Gramin Bhandran Yojna, Construction of cold storage, Promotion of Integrated Pest Management, National Agricultural Technology Project, Human Resource Development – training support to agriculture, strengthening of agricultural extention services, establishment and maintenance of seed banks and Quality control arrangement on seeds, national project on development and use of biofertiliser, strengthening and promotion of agricultural information systems, National agricultural insurance scheme, Cooperative education and training and cooperative marketing, processing and storage under in cooperatively undeveloped States etc. Macro management scheme has been introduced by merger of 27 schemes. A list of which is enclosed at statement-I.

(b) and (c) Schemes have been reviewed as part of zero base budgeting exercise. Many schemes have been restructured in order to give more flexibility to the State Governments in the selection and to cover important areas of their priority Macro Management is one such scheme. Other structured schemes relate to production of oilseed, pulses and maize, post harvest technology on oilseed pulses and maize, restructuring of National Seed Corporation and State Farms Corporation of India, integrated nutrient management, strengthening and modernizing of pest management.

(d) The value of imports and exports of agricultural products during the last three years alongwith product-wise details is at statement-II and III.

(e) and (f) Import of 300 sensitive products including that of important agricultural products is being constantly monitored by the Government on regular basis and steps are taken from time to time to ensure that increased imports do not cause adversity to the domestic production. Towards this end Government regulates the imports through the use of tariff mechanism.

Statement-I

List of Centrally Sponsored Schemes

1. Assistance to Cooperatively Weaker Section.
2. Assistance in Women Cooperatives.
3. Non-overdue Cover Scheme.
4. Agri. Credit Stabilisation Fund.
5. Special Scheme for SC/ST.
6. Integrated Cereals Development Programme in Rice Based Cropping system Area.
7. Integrated Cereal Development Programme in Wheat Based Cropping System Areas.
8. Integrated Cereal Development Programme in Coarse Cereals Based Cropping System Areas.
9. Special Jute Development Programme.
10. Sustainable Development of Sugarcane Based Cropping System Areas.
11. Balanced and Integrated Use of Fertilizer.
12. Promotion of Agricultural Mechanization among Small Farmers.
13. Integrated Development of Tropical, Arid and Temperate Zone Fruits.
14. Production and Supply of Vegetable Seeds.
15. Development of Commercial Floriculture.
16. Development of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants.
17. Development of Roots and Tuber Crops.
18. Development of Cocoa and Cashew.
19. Integrated Programme for Development of Spices.
20. Development of Mushroom.
21. Use of Plastics in Agriculture.
22. Bee-keeping.
23. National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas.
24. Schemes for Foundation & Certified Seed Production of Vegetable Crops.
25. Soil Conservation in Catchments of River Valley Projects and Flood Prone Rivers.
26. Reclamation and Development of Alkali Soils.
27. State Land Use Boards.

Statement-II

Export of Agricultural Products

Commodity	April 2000-March 2001		April 2001-March 2002		April 2002-March 2003(P)	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Pulses	244.08	537.08	161.64	369.13	144.37	337.23

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Rice Basmati	849.02	2154.94	667.07	1842.77	594.87	1729.54
Rice (Other than Basmati)	682.27	777.26	1541.49	1331.37	4076.35	3634.08
Wheat	813.49	415.09	2649.38	1330.21	3570.89	1700.18
Other Cereals	45.09	38.75	114.73	115.92	103.44	89.13
Sub-Total (Foodgrains)	—	3923.12	—	4989.40	—	7490.16
Tea	187.43	1788.71	180.10	1719.22	179.08	1621.62
Coffee	184.90	1184.87	176.26	1094.92	182.58	974.21
Tobacco Unmanufactured	97.34	661.26	84.48	582.05	99.63	729.70
Tobacco Manufactured	10.01	205.95	13.46	225.66	20.69	274.56
Poultry and Dairy Products	—	108.20	—	207.96	—	173.12
Floriculture Products	—	117.96	—	127.43	—	174.87
Spices	244.68	1617.74	239.29	1496.97	266.12	1614.59
Cashewnut Shell Liquid	2.25	3.89	1.99	5.25	6.02	8.37
Cashew	89.16	2049.58	98.20	1788.68	127.23	2006.40
Sesamum Seed	182.38	515.27	218.97	562.23	108.79	341.28
Nigerseed	29.38	80.04	22.22	47.85	35.55	76.52
Groundnut	201.37	316.40	112.81	250.94	65.57	173.86
Guargum Meal	126.26	591.70	117.89	403.09	106.27	467.72
Oil Meals	2417.24	2044.69	2781.72	2262.93	1611.56	1377.53
Castor Oil	259.64	952.76	213.68	625.94	153.64	519.70
Shellac	5.27	67.72	5.70	72.99	5.60	87.91
Sugar	338.69	430.98	1456.45	1728.29	1470.93	1693.19
Mollases	428.44	74.11	221.12	53.56	221.39	45.04
Fruits Vegetable Seeds	9.28	62.59	4.93	62.19	7.79	90.78

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Fresh Fruits	—	386.38	—	417.15	—	432.03
Fresh Vegetables	—	456.93	—	575.20	—	618.41
Processed Vegetables	—	228.25	—	198.79	—	246.61
Processed Fruit Juices	—	556.84	—	512.55	—	559.27
Miscellaneous Processed Items	—	532.62	—	724.18	—	856.02
Meal and Preparations	—	1469.69	—	1193.28	—	1361.99
Marine Products	502.60	6367.29	468.03	5898.34	501.58	6683.08
Cotton Raw including Waste	29.70	221.07	8.23	42.69	10.80	47.12
Jute Hessain	56.77	205.51	51.26	186.22	98.07	343.99
Poultry Products	—	104.82	—	148.29	—	169.74
paper Wood Products	—	1330.43	—	1524.37	—	1867.13
Total Agricultural Exports	—	28657.37	—	29728.61	—	33126.49
Total National Exports	—	201356.45	—	209017.97	—	252789.97
% Share of Agricultural Exports in National Exports	—	14.23	—	14.22	—	13.10

* Included in Sugar

** Included in Sesamum Seed

Commodity not reported

\$ Not Chemically Modified

@ HPS Groundnut

\$\$ Includes Horticulture

Source:- Director General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, Ministry of Commerce, Kolkata.

Statement III

Import of Agricultural Products

Commodity	April 2000-March 2001		April 2001-March 2002		April 2002-March 2003(P)	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Pulses	349.84	498.47	2217.82	3160.16	1879.52	2562.67
Wheat	4.22	2.87	1.35	0.84	—	—
Rice	13.19	17.78	0.06	0.07	0.87	1.09
Other Cereals	30.37	15.55	4.76	3.58	1.10	0.79
Cereal Preparation	21.78	50.89	35.15	82.34	52.14	116.61
Milk and Cream	1.32	7.48	1.17	8.39	1.15	9.69
Cashew Nuts	249.32	960.85	161.79	431.14	401.20	1230.64
Fruits and Nuts Excluding Cashew N	—	797.76	—	756.76	—	610.36
Spices	43.87	254.13	86.29	503.87	118.29	568.47
Sugar	30.40	31.11	25.58	32.60	41.29	32.66
Oil Seeds	—	7.21	—	1.34	—	11.48
Vegetable Oils Fixed (Edible)	4177.17	5976.53	4321.83	6464.97	4266.00	8744.88
Vegetable and Animal fats	1.18	10.89	1.21	10.37	1.40	11.19
Cotton (Raw and Waste)	212.36	1184.73	387.04	2053.62	201.32	1041.06
Jute (Raw)	63.48	79.50	79.69	95.68	118.23	109.17
Tea	10.87	41.44	10.31	67.01	23.57	124.19
Wood and Wood Products	—	2149.04	—	2583.87	—	1925.20
Total Agricultural Imports		12086.23		16256.61		17100.15

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Total National Imports		228306.64		245199.72		296596.94
% Share of Agricultural Import in National Imports		5.29		6.63		5.77

Commodity not reported

@ Other Oilseeds.

@@ : Oilseeds.

Source:- Director General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, Ministry of Commerce, Kolkata.

[English]

Harmful Effects of Bt. Cotton

1845. SHRI KALAVA SRINIVASULU : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Review Committee on Genetic Manipulation (RDGM) has not visited a single site during the course of Monsanto's field trails of Bt. Cotton in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefore;

(c) whether farmers of Bt. Cotton have suffered heavy crop losses on this count; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken to protect the farmers from the harmful effects of Bt. Cotton?

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

(a) The Monitoring-cum-Evaluation Committee (MEC) constituted by the Review Committee on Genetic Manipulation (RCGM) had visited Bt. Cotton field trails conducted by M/s. Maharashtra Hybrids Seeds Co. Ltd., (Mahyco), from 1999 onwards. The MEC had visited 14,45,62 and 19 locations of Bt. Cotton field trails during Kharif 1999-2000, 2000-01, 2001-02 and 2002-03 respectively.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The realisable benefits of Bt. Technology are proportional to the level of lepidopteran pest infestation. The performance of Bt. Cotton is also dependent on agro climatic conditions, genotype of the hybrids, and management of the crop. Reports indicate that the incidence of bollworm has been less in Bt. In comparison to non Bt. Cotton resulting in reduced requirement of pesticide spray.

(d) Trials conducted by ICAR and the Department of Biotechnology have indicated that Bt. Cotton dose not have any harmful effects on environment, non-target organisms, soil micro-flora including animal health.

Connectivity Between Port Blair and Andaman Islands

1846. SHRI GUTHA SUKENDER REDDY : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether poor connectivity between Port Blair and other Andaman Islands is the main hurdle for tourist inflow in Andaman Islands; and

(b) if so, the measures taken to open new connectivity other than Kolkata and Chennai for encour-

aging domestic and foreign tourists to visit Andaman Islands?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN) : (a) Connectivity between Port Blair and other Andaman Islands is satisfactory and, therefore, not a hurdle for tourist inflow to the Andaman Islands.

(b) Kolkata and Chennai are well connected with port Blair by Indian Airlines and Jet Airways. In addition there are two weekly ships operating from Chennai and three weekly ships operating from Kolkata to Port Blair. There is a monthly service by ship operating between Vishakhapatnam and Port Blair as well. Port Blair Airport also allows landing of tourist charter flights.

Amendment to Environmental Clearance Certificate

1847. SHRI SHRINIWAS PATIL : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Maharashtra has approached the Union Government to amend the environmental clearance certificate given for Western Freeway Sea Link Project from Worli to Nariman Point; and

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

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

(b) The Government has not agreed to the request made by Government of Maharashtra to amend certain conditions indicated in this environmental clearance letter dated 10.2.2003 and the same was conveyed to Government of Maharashtra on 11th August, 2003.

Encroachment Near Historical Monuments

1848. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any survey has been conducted recently regarding encroachment on ASI land near historical monuments/sites in Delhi and other States;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken to clear the monuments from such encroachments?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Delhi Circle of the Archaeological Survey of India has conducted joint survey with the revenue authorities to the south-west of Qutb Minar area in Delhi. Survey of the protected area of the centrally protected monuments is taken up as and when necessary.

(c) Encroachments are removed from the protected area with the help of district authorities and local bodies and appropriate legal action is taken wherever necessary.

Loss Making Routes of IA

1849. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has identified the unprofitable routes of Indian Airlines;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has a proposal to set up a subsidy fund to subsidise airlines to fly on unprofitable routes; and

(d) if so, the steps taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY) : (a) and (b) Indian Airlines, including Alliance Air, operated 113 services on domestic network during 2002-2003, out of which 54 services did not meet direct cost. The remaining 59 services generated surplus over direct cost. The list of services not meeting direct cost is enclosed as statement.

(c) and (d) Naresh Chandra Committee in its report submitted on December 8th 2003 have recommended setting up a subsidy fund for subsidising essential but uneconomic services.

STATEMENT

List of Services Not Meeting Direct Cost of Operations during 2002-03

Domestic

S. No.	Sector	SVC.No.
1	2	3
1.	Mumbai-Chennai	173-174
2.	Delhi-Lucknow-Patna-Ranchi-Kolkata	411-412
3.	Mumbai-Jaipur	611-612
4.	Mumbai-Rajkot-Vadodara-Mumbai	145-146
5.	Chennai-Bangalore	587-588
6.	Bangalore-Goa-Pune-Bangalore	917
7.	Mumbai-Hyderabad	617-618
8.	Mumbai-Manglore	179-180
9.	Kolkata-Jaipur-Ahmedabad-Kolkata	269
10.	Delhi-Jaipur-Jodhpur-Udaipur-Mumbai	471-472
11.	Bangalore-Cochin-Trivandrum-Goa	909-910
12.	Mumbai-Indore-Bhopal-Delhi	133-134
13.	Hyderabad-Mumbai	927-928
14.	Mumbai-Kolkata	675-676
15.	Mumbai-Ahmedabad	603-604
16.	Delhi-Jammu-Srinagar	821-822

1	2	3
17.	Delhi-Leh	431-432
18.	Mumbai-Bhavnagar	635-636
19.	Goa-Mumbai	663-664
20.	Mumbai-Jamnagar-Bhuj-Mumbai	147
21.	Delhi-Agra-Khajuraho-Varanasi	407-408
22.	Delhi-Patna-Bagdogra-Guwahati	891-892
23.	Kolkata-Mumbai	273-274
24.	Mumbai-Hyderabad	551-552
25.	Mumbai-Ahmedabad	613-614
26.	Chennai-Trivandrum	931-932
27.	Chennai-Tirupathy-Hyderabad	943-944
28.	Kolkata-Gauhati	229-230
29.	Mumbai-Bangalore-Ahmedabad	109-110
30.	Guwahati-Lilabari	209-210
31.	Silchar-Guwahati	251-252
32.	Delhi-Srinagar-Jammu-Delhi	825
33.	Chennai-Bangalore	559-560
34.	Mumbai-Puttaparthi	669-670
35.	Delhi-Chandigarh-Amritsar-Delhi	485
36.	Mumbai-Goa	163-164
37.	Delhi-Ahmedabad-Pune	861-862
38.	Kolkata-Ahmedabad-Jaipur-Kolkata	267
39.	Kolkata-Tezpur-Dimapur-Kolkata	215
40.	Bangalore-Trivandrum	905-906

1	2	3
41.	Kolkata-Silchar-Imphal	255-256
42.	Kolkata-Bhubaneshwar	261-262
43.	Leh-Jammu	425-426
44.	Kolkata-Aizwal-Imphal	211-212
45.	Kolkata-Agartala	241-242
46.	Leh-Srinagar	429-430
47.	Kolkata-Silchar	253-254
48.	Kolkata-Dibrugarh	701-702
49.	Leh-Chandigarh	483-484
50.	Kolkata-Jorhat-Dimapur-Kolkata	257
51.	Kolkata-Guwahati	229-230
52.	Delhi-Jammu-Srinagar	421-422
53.	Kolkata-Agartala	245-246
54.	Kolkata-Aizawl	703-704

[Translation]

Subsidies by Developed Countries

1850. SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN :
DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether for the presentation in World Trade organization the Government has formulated any proposal to control the situation arisen due to heavy subsidies provided to the agriculture sector by the developed countries;

(b) if so, the details of the draft proposal;

(c) whether consent of other developing countries of the world has been sought on this issue; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) :
(a) to (d) In the on-going negotiations in the WTO India along with other WTO Members including Argentina, Brazil, China, Egypt, Indonesia, Philippines, South Africa, and Zimbabwe, as Members of the G-20 alliance on agriculture, have been pressing for substantial reductions in trade-distorting domestic support and time bound elimination of export subsidies by heavy subsidizing developed countries.

[English]

Iron Ore Mines

1851. CH. TEJVEER SINGH :
SHRI NAMDEO HARBAJI DIWATHE :

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) the number of iron ore mines functioning in the country at present;

(b) whether most of them are not modernized so far;

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

(d) whether there is any proposal for modernisation of all these iron ore mines; and

(e) if so, by when these are likely to be modernised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY) : (a) Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM) has reported that during 2002-2003 the total number of reporting iron ore mines in India is 225 (provisional).

(b) and (c) Indian Bureau of Mines has reported that there are 63 mechanized mines and 162 other than

mechanized mines. The decision of mechanization/ automation i.e. modernisation of a mine is a commercial decision which is taken by individual mining companies.

- (d) No, Sir.
- (e) Does not arise.

Use of ILS

1852. SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE :
 SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADODA MANDLIK :
 SHRI C.N. SINGH :
 SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE :
 SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

- (a) whether a number of flights were delayed due to fog last year;
- (b) if so, the factors attributed thereto;
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to ensure timely and safe flights during foggy season this year;
- (d) whether the pilots of Jet Airways and Air Sahara are not trained in the use of ILS CAT-III A; and
- (e) if so, the remedial action being taken by the Government to ensure safety of the passengers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The fact that pilots of some airlines are not trained to use the Cat-III A Instrument Landing System (ILS) is the main factor for delay in flight operations during fog situations.

(c) Special training has been stipulated for pilots for landing in ILS Cat-II and Cat-III A weather conditions. Operators are required to train their pilots for ILS Cat-II and Cat-III A operations as per the training requirements.

Directorate General of Civil Aviation has been continuously monitoring the progress of training of pilots in order to have adequate number of pilots to meet the low visibility conditions during the ensuing winter season.

(d) Jet Airways and Sahara Airlines have been authorized for ILS Cat-II operations. On obtaining required experience and training, they would be considered for ILS Cat-III A operations also.

(e) Pilots not authorized for ILS Cat-III A conditions are not allowed to conduct operations in ILS Cat-III A conditions. As such, safety of the passengers is not endangered.

Rural Tourism

1853. SHRI SHIVAJI MANE :
 SHRI LAXMAN GILUWA :

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

- (a) whether the Union Government had directed the State Governments to send proposals for the development of rural tourism during the Tenth Five Year Plan;
- (b) if so, the details of proposals received so far, State-wise; and
- (c) the action taken so far thereon?

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

(b) and (c) On the basis of proposals received from the State Governments, Rural Tourism Projects have been sanctioned at following places so far :

2002-03

1. Phumen Ingti (Assam)
2. Kokkare Bellur (Karnataka)
3. Hatwa Village (Madhya Pradesh)

4. Mopungchuket (Nagaland)
5. Raghurajpur (Orissa)
6. Kamlasagar (Tripura)
7. Jageshwar (Uttaranchal)

2003-04 (upto 29.11.2003)

1. Pochampalli (Andhra Pradesh)
2. Chitrokote (Chhatisgarh)
3. Paragpur (Himachal Pradesh)
4. Kumbalangi (Kerala)
5. ToupHEMA (Nagaland)
6. Kazhgumalai (Tamil Nadu)
7. Shantiniketan (West Bengal)

Explosion in Bhadravati Steel Plant

1854. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 3444 dated August 18, 2003 regarding explosion in Bhadravati Steel Plant and state :

(a) the details of the recommendations made by the committee; and

(b) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY) : (a) and (b) The enquiry committee has submitted its report on 5th August, 2003. The Committee while going into the details of the circumstances, has found that human error, negligence, lack of awareness of safety precautions amongst workers and supervisor present at the spot led to the accident. In view of these the committee has, inter-alia recommended greater security and safety awareness amongst workers. The committee had recommended imparting immediate training on safety procedures, for

incorporating existing safety procedures in Standard Operating Practices (SOPs) and for taking utmost care while operating hazardous operations, besides associating safety personnel during breakdown/maintenance job on critical equipment. SAIL has accepted these recommendations and is implementing them.

Compensation for Lost Crops to Post Godhra Riot Victims

1855. SHRI J.S. BRAR :

COL. (RETD). SONA RAM CHOUDHARY :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether post Godhra riot victims have not been given relief for lost crop and equipments;

(b) if so, the seasons therefore;

(c) the number of persons affected as a result thereof; and

(d) by when relief is likely to be released?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As reported by the Gujarat Government no cases of such damage has come to the notice of the Government.

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

Revision of Ceiling of Export of Chrome Ore

1856. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO :

SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR :

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) the present ceiling fixed by the Government on the export of chrome ore;

(b) whether the miners and exporters of chrome ore have requested the Government to revise the ceiling;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government has examined their suggestions; and

(e) if so, the details of the consideration made thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY) : (a) The export ceiling for low silica friable/fine chromite ore and chromite lumps for the year 2003-04 fixed by the Government is 4 lakh tonnes.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. While some associations/companies had requested for an upward revision of the export ceiling on chrome ore, others had represented for maintaining status quo.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. Government has examined the need for an increase in the export ceiling on chrome ore and decided to maintain the ceiling of 4 lakh tonnes for 2003-04, with a view to conserve the available reserves.

[Translation]

New Wage Board for Newspaper Industry

1857. SHRI TUFANI SAROJ : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government is contemplating to constitute a new wage board for newspaper industry;

(b) if so, by when the said board is likely to be constituted;

(c) whether the Government proposes to accept the recommendations of the National Labour Commission in respect of the newspaper industry; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SAHIB SINGH VERMA) : (a) and (b) The Manisana Wage Board has submitted its recommendations only in July, 2000 which

have been accepted by the Government with minor modifications. Therefore, it may be too early to constitute next Wage Board for newspaper employees, working journalists, non-journalists workers in newspaper and news agencies.

(c) and (d) The Government is examining the recommendations of the National Commission on Labour that there is no need for any Wage Board, statutory or otherwise for fixing wage rates for workers in any industry. Keeping in view the sensitivity of the issue, it would require further deliberations.

[English]

Opening up of Tourism Offices

1858. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to open tourism offices in China, Malaysia and Thailand;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith present tourist traffic from these countries vis-a-vis likely to increase after opening up of such offices; and

(c) by when these tourism offices are likely to become operational?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. A proposal is under consideration.

The details of tourist traffic from these countries for the period of 2000, 2001 and 2002 are given as under:-

Year	China	Malaysia	Thailand
2000	14420	60513	18607
2001	13901	57869	18623
2002	15422	63748	19649

It is expected that after opening of offices in these countries with the promotional effort tourist traffic will increase substantially.

Cheaper Air Service

1859. DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR :
DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT :
SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government has mandated the National Council for Applied Economic Research (NCAER) to conduct a study and recommend ways and means to lower air tariffs;

(b) if so, whether the NCAER has since submitted its report to the Union Government;

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

(d) whether any other modalities have been worked out to lower the air tariffs of Indian Airlines and Air India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY) : (a) to (d) On 14.8.2003, Government has entrusted the National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER), Delhi with a study on various aspects of domestic Civil Aviation Sector. The terms of Reference of the study inter-alia include suggesting of means by which the domestic air travel could become more affordable. NCAER's report is awaited.

Sea Beach Erosion in West Bengal

1860. SHRI PRABODH PANDA : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Digha Development Authority of West Bengal has drawn the attention of the Union Government towards serious threat of sea beach erosion posed by Bay of Bengal; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith preventive steps proposed by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY) : (a) No reference of serious threat to sea beach erosion has been received from Digha Development Authority. However, a proposal for protection of vulnerable coastal area from sea erosion was submitted by Government of West Bengal to the Central Water Commission (CWC) for inclusion under the National Coastal Protection Project (NCP) planned by the CWC for external funding.

(b) Aforesaid proposal of Government of West Bengal for construction of 10.75 Km. of beach protection works in the districts of South 24 Parganas and Midnapore (Digha) and 36.50 Kms. of bank protection works in the tidal reaches of the rivers in the districts of South 24 Parganas and North 24 Parganas has been included under Phase-I of NCP prepared by the CWC.

Onion Intervention Scheme 2000

1861. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Maharashtra has been requesting the Union Government for sharing of 50% loss to onion growers under an "Onion Intervention Scheme 2000" in view of the nature of onion as a fast perishing commodity;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether other onion growing States have also mooted similar schemes to help the onion growers;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the reaction of the Union Government thereto;

(f) the assistance given under the Market Intervention Scheme since 2000 State-wise; and

(g) the amount of onion procured through such intervention, State-wise?

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

(a) and (b) On the request of the Government of Maharashtra, the Ministry of Agriculture implemented the Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) for onion from 20th January, 2000 to 29th February, 2000.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Does not arise.

(f) and (g) 65,000 MTs of onion was procured only in the State of Maharashtra in the year 2000 under MIS at a total loss of Rs. 9.75 crores. The 50% of Central Government share of loss amounting to Rs. 4.875 crores has been released to the State Government. There has been no procurement of onion under MIS in any State during 2001, 2002 and 2003.

**Infrastructure for Agricultural
Research and Education**

1862. SHRI BHAN SINGH BHAURA :
SHRI ALAKESH DAS :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of infrastructure facilities provided for agricultural research and education in the country particularly in Punjab;

(b) whether the Government has made any assessment regarding adequacy of these facilities;

(c) if not, the measures taken by the Government to upgrade the same; and

(d) the details of agricultural research and education centres in the country, State-wise?

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

(a) The Department provides laboratories, field/farm facilities and human resources for undertaking agricultural research and education aspects of the country. The details of infrastructure facilities provided including in the State of Punjab are given in the Statement enclosed.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) To upgrade these research centres, support is provided mainly through Plan and Non-Plan grants for infrastructure, scientific and technical inputs.

(d) The details are given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

*State-wise List of ICAR Institute/NRCs/PDs/AICRPs and its
Regional Stations/Research Centres*

State	Name of Institutes/NRCs/PDs/AICRPs	Location
1	2	3
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	Central Agricultural Research Institute	Port Blair
Regional Station/Research Centre		
	Central Plantation Crops Research Institute	Port Blair
Andhra Pradesh	Central Research Institute for Dryland Agriculture	Hyderabad

1	2	3
	Central Tobacco Research Institute	Rajamundhry
	National Academy for Agril. Res. Management	Hyderabad
	N.R.C. – Sorghum	Hyderabad
	N.R.C. – Oil Palm	Pedavegi
	NRC – Meat	Hyderabad
	Project Directorate – Oilseed Research	Hyderabad
	Project Directorate – Rice Research	Hyderabad
	Project Directorate – Poultry Research	Hyderabad
	AICRP – Dryland Agriculture	Hyderabad
	AICRP – Sorghum	Hyderabad
	AICRP – Tobacco	Rajamundhry
	AICRP Linseed	Hyderabad
	AICRP Sesame and Niger	Hyderabad
	AICRP-Agro-meteorology	Hyderabad
	Network - Economic Ornithology	Hyderabad
	Regional Stations/Research Centres	
	Central Inland Capture Fisheries Research Institute	Eluru
	Central Institute for Freshwater Aquaculture	Vijayawada
	Central Institute for Freshwater Aquaculture - ORP centre	Kankipadu
	Central Institute for Research on Cotton Technology	Guntur
	Central Institute of Fisheries Education	Kakinada
	Central Institute of Fisheries Technology	Vishakhapatnam
	Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute	Kakinada
	Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute	Vishakhapatnam

1	2	3
	Central Tobacco Research Institute	Guntur
	Central Tobacco Research Institute	Jeelugumilli
	Central Tobacco Research Institute	Kandukur
	National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources	Hyderabad
	Sugarcane Breeding Institute	Kavvur
Arunachal Pradesh	N.R.C. - Yak	Dirang
	Regional Station/Research Centre	
	ICAR Research Complex for NEH Region	West Siang
	Regional Stations/Research Centres	
Assam	Central Rice Research Institute	Gerua
	Central Research Institute for Jute and Allied Fibres	Bamra
	Central Inland Capture Fisheries Research Institute	Guwahati
	Central Plantation Crops Research Institute	Kohikuchi
	National Bureau of Soil Survey and Land Use Planning	Jorhat
Bihar	ICAR Research Complex for Eastern Region	Patna
	Project Directorate - Water Management	Patna
	NRC Makhana	Darbhanga
	NRC Litchi	Muzaffarpur
	Regional Stations/Research Centres	
	Central Institute for Freshwater Aquaculture - ORIP Centre	Ranchi
	Central Potato Research Institute	Patna
	Central Rice Research Institute	Hazaribagh
	Central Tobacco Research Institute	Pusa
	Indian Agricultural Research Institute	Pusa

1	2	3
	National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources	Ranchi
	Sugarcane Breeding Institute	Motipur
	Regional Stations/Research Centres	
Chandigarh	Central Soil and Water Conservation Research and Training Institute	Chandigarh
Goa	ICAR Research Complex for Goa	Ila, Old Goa
Gujarat	N.R.C. - Groundnut	Junagadh
	N.R.C. - Medicinal and Aromatic Plants	Anand
	AICRP - Groundnut	Junagadh
	AICRP - Medicinal and Aromatic Plants	Anand
	Regional Stations/Research Centres	
	Central Arid Zone Research Institute	Bhuj
	Central Inland Capture Fisheries Research Institute	Vadodara
	Central Institute for Research on Cotton Technology	Surat
	Central Institute of Fisheries Technology	Veraval
	Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute	Veraval
	Central Soil and Water Conservation Research and Training Institute	Valsad
	Central Soil Salinity Research Institute	Anand
	Indian Institute of Horticultural Research	Godhra
Haryana	Central Institute for Research on Buffaloes	Hisar
	Central Soil Salinity Research Institute	Karnal
	National Bureau of Animal Genetic Resources	Karnal
	National Dairy Research Institute	Karnal
	N.R.C. - Biotechnology (Part of NDRI)	Karnal
	N.R.C. - Equine	Hisar

1	2	3
	Project Directorate - Wheat Research	Karnal
	AICRP - Arid Fruits	Hisar
	AICRP - Blood Protosta	Hisar
	AICRP - Buffalo	Hisar
	AICRP - Honey Bees	Hisar
	AICRP - Mgmt. of Salt Affected Soils and Use of Saline Water	Karnal
	RandD Support for Process Upgradation of indigenous Milk Products	Karnal
	Indo-Dutch ORP on Drainage Water Management	Karnal
	Regional Stations/Research Centres	
	Central Inland Capture Fisheries Research Institute	Karnal
	Central Institute for Research on Cotton Technology	Hisar
	Central Institute for Research on Cotton Technology	Sirsa
	Central Institute of Cotton Research	Sirsa
	Central Institute of Fisheries Education	Rohtak
	Indian Agricultural Research Institute	Karnal
	Sugarcane Breeding Institute	Karnal
Himachal Pradesh	Central Potato Research Institute	Shimla
	N.R.C. - Mushroom	Solan
	AICRP - Micro Biological Decomposition	Palampur
	AICRP - Mushroom	Solan
	AICRP - Potato	Shimla
	Regional Stations/Research Centres	
	Central Potato Research Institute	Kufri
	Central Sheep and Wool Research Institute	Garsa, Kullu

1	2	3
	Central Sheep and Wool Research Institute	Kullu
	Indian Agricultural Research Institute	Katrai
	Indian Agricultural Research Institute	Tutikandi, Shimla
	Indian Agricultural Research Institute	Amartara, Shimla
	Indian Grassland and Fodder Research Institute	Palampur
	Indian Veterinary Research Institute	Palampur
	National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources	Shimla
	Project Directorate - Wheat Research	Shimla
	Project Directorate - Wheat Research	Lahul
Jammu and Kashmir	Central Institute of Temperate Horticulture	Srinagar
Regional Stations/Research Centres		
	Indian Veterinary Research Institute	Sapore, Srinagar
	National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources	Srinagar
Jharkhand	Indian Lac Research Institute	Ranchi
Regional Station/Research Centre		
	Indian Institute of Horticultural Research	Ranchi
Karnataka	Indian Institute of Horticultural Research	Bangalore
	National Institute of Animal Nutrition and Physiology	Bangalore
	N.R.C. - Cashew	Puttur
	Project Directorate - Biological Control	Bangalore
	Project Directorate - Animal Disease and Monitoring Surveillance	Bangalore
	AICRP - Tropical Fruits	Bangalore
	AICRP - Betelvine	Bangalore
	AICRP - Cashew	Vittal

1	2	3
	AICRP - Small Millets	Bangalore
	Network- Agricultural Acarology	Bangalore
	Regional Stations/Research Centres	
	Central Inland Capture Fisheries Research Institute	Bangalore
	Central Institute for Freshwater Aquaculture	Bangalore
	Central Institute for Research on Cotton Technology	Dharwad
	Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute	Karwar
	Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute	Mangalore
	Central Plantation Crops Research Institute	Hirehalli
	Central Plantation Crops Research Institute	Vittal
	Central Soil and Water Conservation Research and Training Institute	Bellary
	Central Tobacco Research Institute	Hunsur
	Indian Agricultural Research Institute	Dharwad
	Indian Grassland and Fodder Research Institute	Dharwad
	Indian Institute of Horticultural Research	Chettahalli
	Indian Veterinary Research Institute	Bangalore
	National Bureau of Soil Survey and Land Use Planning	Bangalore
	National Dairy Research Institute	Bangalore
	Sugarcane Breeding Institute	Jamkhandi
Kerala	Central Institute of Fisheries Technology	Cochin
	Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute	Cochin
	Central Plantation Crops Research Institute	Kasargod
	Central Tuber Crops Research Institute	Thiruvananthapuram
	Indian Institute of Spices Research	Calicut

1	2	3
	AICRP - Palms	Kasargod
	AICRP - Spices	Calicut
	Regional Stations/Research Centres	
	Central Inland Capture Fisheries Research Institute	Alappuzha
	Central Institute for Freshwater Aquaculture - ORP Centre	Kollamparambii
	Central Institute of Brackishwater Aquaculture	Narakkal
	Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute	Calicut
	Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute	Vizhinjam
	Central Plantation Crops Research Institute	Kayangulam
	Indian Institute of Spices Research	Apangala
	National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources	Trichur
	Sugarcane Breeding Institute	Cannanore
	Regional Stations/Research Centres	
Lakshadweep	Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute	Minicoy
	Central Plantation Crops Research Institute	Minicoy
Madhya Pradesh	Central Institute of Agricultural Engineering	Bhopal
	Indian Institute of Soil Science	Bhopal
	N.R.C. - Soyabean	Indore
	N.R.C. - Weed Science	Jabalpur
	AICRP - Energy Requirement in Agricultural Sector	Bhopal
	AICRP - Farm Implements Machinery	Bhopal
	AICRP - Human Engineering and Safety Studies	Bhopal
	AICRP - Micro Secondary Nutrients	Bhopal
	AICRP - Power Tiller	Bhopal

1	2	3
	AICRP - Renewable Energy Sources	Bhopal
	AICRP - Soil Test Crop Response	Bhopal
	AICRP - Soybean	Indore
	AICRP - Utilisation of Animal Energy	Bhopal
	AICRP - Weed Control	Jabalpur
	AICRP White Grub	Durgapur
	RNAM Phase-VI	Bhopal
Regional Stations/Research Centres		
	Central Inland Capture Fisheries Research Institute	Hoshangabad
	Central Institute for Freshwater Aquaculture	Akola
	Central Institute for Freshwater Aquaculture - ORP Centre	Balghat
	Central Institute of Fisheries Education	Powarkhera
	Central Institute of Fisheries Technology	Hoshangabad
	Central Potato Research Institute	Gwalior
	Central Soil and Water Conservation Research and Training Institute	Datia
	Indian Agricultural Research Institute	Indore
	Indian Veterinary Research Institute	Bhopal
	National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources	IGKV, Ambikarnagar
Maharashtra	Central Institute of Fisheries Education	Mumbai
	Central Institute for Research on Cotton Technology	Mumbai
	Central Institute of Cotton Research	Nagpur
	National Bureau of Soil Survey and Land Use Planning	Nagpur
	N.R.C. - Citrus	Ngapur

1	2	3
	N.R.C. - Grapes	Pune
	N.R.C. - Onion and Garlic	Godra (Nasik)
	AICRP - Cotton	Nagpur
	AICRP - Pearl Millets	Pune
Regional Stations/Research Centres		
	Central Institute for Freshwater Aquaculture - ORP Centre	Bhandra
	Central Institute for Research on Cotton Technology	Nagpur
	Central Institute of Fisheries Technology	Mumbai
	Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute	Mumbai
	Indian Agricultural Research Institute	Pune
	N.R.C. - Sorghum	Solapur
	National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources	Akola
	National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources	Amravati
Manipur	Central Agricultural University	Imphal
	ICAR Research Complex for NEH Region (Regional Centre)	Imphal
Mizoram	ICAR Research Complex for NEH Region (Regional Centre)	Kolasai
Meghalaya	ICAR Research Complex for NEH Region	Barapani
Regional Stations/Research Centres		
	Central Potato Research Institute	Shillong
	ICAR Research Complex for NEH Region	West Garo Hills
	National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources	Shillong
Nagaland	N.R.C. - Mithun	Jharnapani
	ICAR Research Complex for NEH Region (Regional Centre)	Khanakhuru

1	2	3
National Capital Territory of Delhi	Indian Agricultural Research Institute	New Delhi
	Indian Agricultural Statistics Research Institute	New Delhi
	National Bureau of Agriculturally Micro-Organisms	New Delhi
	National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources	New Delhi
	N.R.C. - Agricultural Economics and Policy Research	New Delhi
	N.R.C. - on Plant Biotechnology	New Delhi
	N.R.C. - Integrated Pest Management	New Delhi
	N.R.C. - DNA Fingerprinting	New Delhi
	Project Directorate - Maize Research	New Delhi
	AICRP - Agricultural By-product	New Delhi
	AICRP - Agricultural Drainage	New Delhi
	AICRP - Arid Legumes	New Delhi
	AICRP - Biological Nitrogen Fixation	New Delhi
	AICRP - Engineering Measures for Efficient Land and water Mgmt.	New Delhi
	AICRP - Floriculture	New Delhi
	AICRP - Long-term Fertilizer Experiments	New Delhi
	AICRP - Nematode	New Delhi
	AICRP - Optimisation of Groundwater Utilisation through Wells	New Delhi
	AICRP - Pesticide Residue	New Delhi
	AICRP - Post Harvest Techn. of Horticultural Crops	New Delhi
	AICRP - Under-utilised and Under-exploited Plant	New Delhi
	AICRP on Home Science	New Delhi
	AICRP Tillage Management of Indian Soils	New Delhi
	Integrated Krishi Vigyan Kendras	New Delhi

1	2	3
	National Seed Project	New Delhi
	Network Scheme - Micronutrients	New Delhi
	Network Scheme - Embryo Transfer Technology	New Delhi
	Indo-Israel Demonstration Project (IARI)	New Delhi
	National Agricultural Technology Project (NATP)	New Delhi
	Regional Stations/Research Centres	
	National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources	Issapur
	National Bureau of Soil Survey and Land Use Planning	New Delhi
Orissa	Central Institute for Freshwater Aquaculture	Bhubaneswar
	Central Rice Research Institute	Cuttack
	NRC for Women in Agriculture	Bhubaneswar
	Water Technology Centre for Eastern Region	Bhubaneswar
	AICRP - Tuber Crops	Bhubaneswar
	ORP on Processing and Utilisation of Organic Waste for Aquaculture	Bhubaneswar
	Regional Stations/Research Centres	
	Central Avian Research Institute	Bhubaneswar
	Central Institute of Fisheries Technology	Burla
	Central Institute of Brackishwater Aquaculture	Puri
	Central Research Institute for Jute and Allied Fibres	Bamra
	Central Soil and Water Conservation Research and Training Institute	Koraput
	Central Tuber Crops Research Institute	Bhubaneswar
	Indian Institute of Horticultural Research	Bhubaneswar
	National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources	Cuttack
Punjab	Central Institute for Post Harvest Engg. and Technology	Ludhiana
	AICRP - Application of Plastics in Agriculture	Ludhiana

1	2	3
	AICRP - Harvest and Post Harvest Technology	Ludhiana
	Regional Stations/Research Centres	
	Central Institute for Freshwater Aquaculture	Ludhiana
	Central Institute for Research on Buffaloes	Nabha
	Central Institute for Research on Cotton Technology	Ludhiana
	Central Potato Research Institute	Jalandhar
	Punjab Agricultural University	Ludhiana
Rajasthan	Central Arid Zone Research Institute	Jodhpur
	Central Institute of Arid Horticulture	Bikaner
	Central Sheep and Wool Research Institute	Avikanagar
	N.R.C. - Camel	Bikaner
	N.R.C. - Rapeseed and Mustard	Bharatpur
	N.R.C. - Seed Spices	Ajmer
	AICRP - Sheep	Avikanagar
	AICRP - Pearl Millet	Jodhpur
	AICRP - Rapeseed and Mustard	Bharatpur
	Network - Rodent Control	Jodhpur
	Regional Stations/Research Centres	
	Central Arid Zone Research Institute	Pali
	Central Arid Zone Research Institute	Jasailmer
	Central Arid Zone Research Institute	Bikaner
	Central Institute for Research on Cotton Technology	Sri Ganganagar
	Central Sheep and Wool Research Institute	Bikaner
	Central Soil and Water Conservation Research and Training Institute	Kota

1	2	3
	Indian Grassland and Fodder Research Institute	Avikanagar
	National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources	RAU, Mandor
	National Bureau of Soil Survey and Land Use Planning	Udaipur
Sikkim	N.R.C. - Orchids	Tadong
	ICAR Research Complex for NEH Region (Regional Centre)	Gangtok
Tamil Nadu	Central Institute of Brackishwater Aquaculture	Chennai
	Sugarcane Breeding Institute	Coimbatore
	N.R.C. - Banana	Tiruchirapalli
Regional Stations/Research Centres		
	Central Inland Capture Fisheries Research Institute	Coimbatore
	Central Institute for Research on Cotton Technology	Coimbatore
	Central Institute of Cotton Research	Coimbatore
	Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute	Mandpam
	Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute	Tuticorin
	Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute	Chennai
	Central Potato Research Institute	Udhagamandalam
	Central Sheep and Wool Research Institute	Kodaikanal
	Central Sheep and Wool Research Institute	Mannavanur
	Central Soil and Water Conservation Research and Training Institute	Udhagamandalam
	Central Tobacco Research Institute	Vedassundur
	Indian Agricultural Research Institute	Wellington
	Indian Agricultural Research Institute	Aduthurai

1	2	3
Regional Station/Research Centre		
Tripura	ICAR Research Complex for NEH Region	Lembucherra
Uttar Pradesh	Central Avian Research Institute	Izatnagar
	Central Institute for Research on Goats	Makhdoom
	Central Institute for Subtropical Horticulture	Lucknow
	Indian Institute of Pulses Research	Kanpur
	Indian Institute of Sugarcane Research	Lucknow
	Indian Institute of Vegetable Research	Varanasi
	Indian Veterinary Research Institute	Izatnagar
	National Bureau of Fish Genetic Resources	Lucknow
	Indian Grassland and Fodder Research Institute	Jhansi
	N.R.C. - Biotechnology (Part of IVRI)	Izatnagar
	N.R.C. - Agroforestry	Jhansi
	Project Directorate - Cropping System Research	Modipuram
	Project Directorate - Cattle Research	Meerut
	Project Directorate - Foot and Mouth Diseases	Izatnagar
	AICRP - Chick Pea	Kanpur
	AICRP - Gastrointestinal Parasitism	Izatnagar
AICRP - Goat	Makhadoom	
AICRP - Haemorrhagic Septicaemia	Izatnagar	
AICRP - Jaggery and Khandasari	Lucknow	
AICRP - Pig	Izatnagar	
AICRP - Pigeon Pea	Kanpur	
AICRP - Pulses (MULLARP)	Kanpur	

1	2	3
	AICRP - Sugar Crops	Lucknow
	AICRP - Vegetable Research	Varanasi
	AICRP on Management of Diaraland Improvement	Modipuram
	AICRP - Sub - tropical Fruits	Lucknow
	AICRP - Forage Crops	Jhansi
	Vegetable Seed Project (National Seed Project)	Varanasi
	Network Scheme-Crop Based Animal Production System	Jhansi
	Regional Stations/Research Centres	
	Central Inland Capture Fisheries Research Institute	Allahabad
	Central Institute for Freshwater Aquaculture - ORP Centre	Allahabad
	Central Institute of Fisheries Education	Chinhat
	Central Potato Research Institute	Modipuram
	Central Research Institute for Jute and Allied Fibres	Pratapgarh
	Central Soil and Water Conservation Research and Training Institute	Agra
	State Agricultural Universities	
	Chandra Shekhar Azad University of Agriculture Technology	Kanpur
	Acharya Narendra Dev University of Agriculture and Technology	Faizabad
	Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel University of Agriculture and Technology	Modipuram Meerut
	Institute of Agriculture Banaras Hindu University	Varanasi
Uttaranchal	Central Soil and Water Conservation Research and Training Institute	Dehradun
	Vivekanand Parvataiya Krishi Anusandhan Shala	Almora
	N.R.C. - Cold Water Fisheries	Bhimtal (Nainital)
	Project Directorate Foot and Mouth Disease	Mukteshwar

1

2

3

Regional Stations/Research Centres

	Central Institute of Temperate Horticulture	Mukteshwar
	N.R.C. - Cold Water Fisheries	Champawat
	National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources	Bhowali
West Bengal	Central Inland Capture Fisheries Research Institute	Barrackpore
	Central Research Institute for Jute and Allied Fibres	Barrackpore
	National Institute of Research on Jute and Allied Fibre Technology	Kolkatta
	AICRP - Jute	Barrackpore

Regional Stations/Research Centres

	Central Inland Capture Fisheries Research Institute	Malda
	Central Inland Capture Fisheries Research Institute	Kolkatta
	Central Institute for Freshwater Aquaculture	Rahara
	Central Institute for Freshwater Aquaculture	Kalyani
	Central Institute for Freshwater Aquaculture - ORP Centre	Kolkatta
	Central Institute of Fisheries Education	Kolkatta
	Central Institute of Brackishwater Aquaculture	Kakdweep
	Central Institute of Sub-tropical Horticulture	Malda
	Central Plantation Crops Research Institute	Jalpaiguri
	Central Research Institute for Jute and Allied Fibres	Bud Bud
	Central Soil Salinity Research Institute	Canning Town
	Central Tobacco Research Institute	Dinhata
	Indian Agricultural Research Institute	Kalimpong
	Indian Veterinary Research Institute	Kolkatta
	National Bureau of Soil Survey and Land Use Planning	Kolkatta

1	2	3
	National Dairy Research Institute	Kalyani
	NRC - Orchids	Darjeeling

NRC — National Research Centre

PD — Project Directorate

AICRP — All India Coordinated Research Project

**STATE AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITIES IMPARTING
AGRIL. EDUCATION**

Assam	Assam Agricultural University	Jorhat
Andhra Pradesh	Acharya NG Ranga Agricultural University	Hyderabad
Jharkhand	Birsa Agricultural University	Ranchi
West Bengal	Bidhan Chandra Krishi Viswavidyalaya	Nadia
	Uttar Banga Krishi Vishwavidyalaya	Dist. Coach Bihar
	West Bengal University of Animal and Fishery Sciences	Kolkata
Manipur	Central Agricultural University	Imphal
Haryana	Chaudhary Charan Singh Haryana Agricultural University	Hisar
Uttar Pradesh	Chandra Shekar Azad University of Agriculture and Technology	Kanpur
	UP Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Pashu Chikitsa Vidyan Vishwa Vidhyalaya	Mathura
	evam Go Anusandhan Sansthan	
	Narendra Deva University of Agriculture and Technology	Faizabad
Himachal Pradesh	Sardar Ballabh Bhai Patel Univ. of Agriculture and Technology	Modipuram
	Ch. Sarwan Kumar Himachal Pradesh Krishi Vishwavidyalaya	Palampur
	Dr. Yashwant Singh Parmar University of Horticulture and Forestry	Solan
Gujarat	Gujarat Agricultural University	Gujarat
Uttaranchal	Govind Ballabh Pant University of Agriculture and Technology	Pantnagar
Chhattisgarh	Indira Gandhi Krishi Vishwavidyalaya	Raipur

1	2	3
Madhya Pradesh	Jawaharlal Nahru Krishi Viswavidyalaya	Jabalpur
Kerala	Kerala Agriculture University	Trichur
Maharashtra	Maharashtra animal Science and Fishery University	Nagpur
	Marathwada Agricultural University	Parbhani
	Mahatma Phule Krishi Vidyaeeth	Rahuri
	Dr. Panjabrao Deshmukh Krishi Vidyapeeth	Akola
Rajasthan	Maharana Pratap University of Agriculture and Technology	Udaipur
	Rajasthan Agricultural University	Bikaner
Orissa	Orissa University of Agriculture and Technology	Bhubaneswar
Punjab	Punjab Agricultural University	Ludhiana
Bihar	Rajendra Agricultural University	Samastipur
Jammu and Kashmir	Sher-E-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technolgy	Jammu
	Sher-E-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technolgy of Kashmir	Srinagar
Tamil Nadu	Tamil Nadu Veterinary and Animal Sciences University	Chennai
	Tamil Nadu Veterinary and Animal Sciences University	Coimbatore
Karnataka	University of Agricultural Sciences	Dharwad
	University of Agricultural Sciences	Bangalore

**Violation of Forest Conservation Act and
Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972**

1863. SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA :
SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY :

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

(a) the number of cases registered for causing
harm to forest and wildlife under the Forest Conservation

Act, 1980 and Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 during the last
three years alongwith the areas where such cases have
been registered;

(b) the number of persons found guilty; and

(c) the number of persons punished alongwith the
type of punishment given to them?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
(SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) to (c) Forest Conservation Act,

1980 deals with the diversion of forest land for non forestry purposes in which prior approval of Government is necessary before any such diversion, In case of Violation of the provisions of this Act, action is taken against the defaulting officials besides imposition of the condition of penal compensatory afforestation. During the last three years, the number of cases of violation under the said Act are as under :

S.No.	State/UT	No. of Cases
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	7
3.	Assam	1
4.	Bihar	1
5.	Chhattisgarh	1
6.	Dadar and Nagar Haveli	1
7.	Goa	3
8.	Haryana	1
9.	Himachal Pradesh	2
10.	Jharkhand	2
11.	Karnataka	2
12.	Madhya Pradesh	1
13.	Maharashtra	1
14.	Orissa	2
15.	Rajasthan	1
16.	Sikkim	1
17.	Tamil Nadu	1
18.	Tripura	53

1	2	3
19.	Uttar Pradesh	1
20.	Uttanchal	13
Total		96

As far as Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 is concerned, the responsibility of the implementation of this Act rests with the State Governments which also includes registration of cases against the offenders and getting them punished. The data on such cases is not maintained by the Government.

Minimum Wages to Unorganised Sector

1864. SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE :
SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government proposes to bring a legislation for providing minimum wages to workers of unorganised sectors including rag pickers and rickshaw pullers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether trade unions have expressed reservations over the legislation for lack of implementing mechanism; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SAHIB SINGH VERMA) : (a) to (d) There already exists a legislation namely the Minimum Wages Act, 1948 which provides for fixation, revision and enforcement of minimum wages in respect of the workers engaged in the scheduled employments, mostly in the unorganised sector, both in the Central and State spheres. Rag pickers and Rickshaw pullers are not included in the scheduled employment.

A Comprehensive Bill for the unorganised sector workers is proposed to be introduced in the Parliament, wherein it is envisaged to regulate the employment and conditions of service of unorganised sector workers and to provide for their safety, social security, health and welfare etc. The Draft legislation has been unanimously recommended by all the social partners in the recently held Indian Labour Conference on 16-18 October 2003 for introduction in the Parliament.

Working of ICAR

1865. SHRI B.K. PARTHASARATHI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government proposes to reduce financial allocations to the ICAR;

(b) if so, whether any study has been conducted to identify the inactive and non-contributory wings or institutes under the ICAR; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

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

(a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) The financial allocations to ICAR are increasing every year. The ICAR has undertaken the Zero Based Budgeting on the directions of the Planning Commission and the following 9 schemes/plan projects have been phased out :-

1. AICRP on Post Harvest Technology of Horticultural Crops.
2. AICRP on Microbial Decomposition and Recycling of Farm and City Waste.
3. AICRP on Tillage Requirement.
4. AICRP on Engineering Measures for Efficient Land and Water Management.
5. Network Project on Embryo Transfer Technology in Animal Production.

6. AICRP on Blood Protista.

7. AICRP on Agricultural Drainage.

8. Project on Promotion of Research and Development of Hybrid Seed in selected Crops.

9. AICRP on Management of Diara Land.

Production of Steel

1866. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state : the details of the domestic production of steel in the third quarter of the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY) : The details of production of Finished (Carbon) Steel in the country during the first two months of the third quarter of the current financial year is given below :-

Production of Finished (Carbon) Steel

	(Million Tonnes)
Item	2003-04 (Oct.-Nov.)
Finished Steel	(Provisional)
<i>Main Producers</i>	2.46
<i>Secondary Producers</i>	3.30
Total	5.76

(SOURCE : JPC)

Cultivation of Herbal Plants

1867. SHRI PRADIP YADAV : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government has received any proposal from Central Fuel Research Institute (CFRI) for cultivation of herbal plants and setting up of related

industries in various parts of the country especially in Jharkhand;

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

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

(a) and (b) The Government have not received any proposal from Central Fuel Research Institute (CFRI) for cultivation of herbal plants and setting up of related industries in different parts of the country including Jharkhand.

- (c) Does not arise

Facilities to Farmers

1868. SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of farmers in the country and the number out of them having less than 2 acres of cultivable land, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government proposes to provide electricity irrigation facilities, manure and seeds free of cost to these poor farmers;

- (c) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;
(d) by when it is likely to be implemented; and
(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(a) Data on the number of farmers having cultivable land are not compiled. However, data on number of Operational Holding according to size-group of operated area are generated through quinquennial Agricultural Census. The latest available information relates to Agricultural Census 1995-96. A statement showing the total number of Operational Holdings and Marginal Operational Holdings as per Agricultural Census 1995-96 is enclosed.

(b) to (d) There is no proposal before the Government of India to provide electricity, irrigation facilities and manure free of cost to the farmers including those having less than two acres of cultivable land. However, under different schemes related to agriculture, assistance is given for various components like seed, Integrated Pest Management, training, micronutrients, farm implements, etc. to all categories of farmers including those having less than 2 acres of land under the National Pulses Development Project and Oilseeds Production Programme, seed minikits of latest varieties are distributed free of cost to Small and Marginal farmers, particularly SC/ST farmers.

(e) Under the Constitution of India Electricity, Irrigation and Agriculture are State Subjects. Provision of facilities like electricity, irrigation and manure free of cost to farmers is to be decided by the respective State Governments.

Statement

*Statewise total number of operational Holdings
number of Marginal operation Holdings as
per Agricultural Census, 1995-96*

(In Thousand)

Sl. No.	State/UTs	Total Number of Operational Holdings	Number of Marginal Holdings
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	10603	6300
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	104	21
3.	Assam	2683	1669
4.	Bihar (including Jharkhand)	14155	11344
5.	Goa	70	57
6.	Gujarat	3781	1034

1	2	3	4
7.	Haryana	1728	815
8.	Himachal Pradesh	863	556
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	1336	1041
10.	Karnataka	6221	2610
11.	Kerala	6299	5918
12.	Madhya Pradesh (including Chhatisgarh)	9603	3878
13.	Maharashtra	10653	4266
14.	Manipur	143	69
15.	Meghalaya	160	72
16.	Mizoram	66	28
17.	Nagaland	149	9
18.	Orissa	3966	2145
19.	Punjab	1093	204
20.	Rajasthan	5364	1611
21.	Sikkim	44	24
22.	Tamil Nadu	8012	5951
23.	Tripura	301	247
24.	Uttar Pradesh (including Uttranchal)	21529	16237
25.	West Bengal	6547	5003
26.	Union Territories	107	70
27.	All India	115580	71179

Note : Marginal Operational holdings : Operational holdings having operated area less than 2.47 acres.

[English]

**Conference on Inter-Linking
of Rivers**

1869. DR. D.V.G. SHANKAR RAO : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to convene a conference of Chief Ministers on the issue of inter-linking of rivers; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY) : (a) There is no proposal at present to convene such a conference.

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Grievance Redressal Cell

1870. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of complaints relating to corruption and violation of rules received by Grievance Redressal Cell in the Ministry during the last three years and current year;

(b) the number of complaints disposed of during each year and number out of them lying pending; and

(c) the number of employees/officers found guilty alongwith action taken against erring officials?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY) : (a) During this period, only one complaint relating to violation of rules by two retired officers was received in the Grievance Redressal Cell of the Ministry in February 2002.

(b) The complaint was disposed off in June 2003.

(c) The complaint was examined in consultation with Department of Personnel and Training. In respect of one official, the case was forwarded to the concerned State Government, being the competent authority for taking appropriate action in the matter and in respect of the other official, it was found that no action was necessary.

Soil Erosion due to Ganga River

1871. DR. M.P. JAISWAL : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURDES be pleased to state :

(a) whether a study has been conducted to look into the problem of soil erosion caused by the Ganga river in Bihar;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) A number of committees have been constituted by the Government of India in the recent past to study the problem of erosion due to Ganga covering various States including Bihar and suggest remedial measures, the details of which are as follows :

(i) A Committee led by the then Chairman, Ganga Flood Control Commission, Patna (consisting of a Member from Central Water Commission and representative of basin states) was constituted by the Ministry of Water Resources in December, 1999. The Committee visited the critical erosion sites of river Ganga in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and West Bengal for assessment of the problem and suggested necessary remedial measures. The team in its report dated 14th January, 2000 identified various critical erosion

sites and recommended some anti-erosion schemes in the above three States for implementation. Accordingly, Government of India approved Centrally Sponsored Scheme, which included schemes as identified by the Committee. The Centrally Sponsored Scheme interalia included 8 schemes for the State of Bihar for which total of Rs. 39.5 crore was allocated as central assistance against which Rs. 34.91 crore has been released to Government of Bihar so far.

(ii) A High Level Expert Committee to study the erosion problem in critical reaches of Ganga between Buxar and Mokama was constituted by Ministry of Water Resources, Government of India in August, 2000 under the Chairmanship of Shri R Ghosh, Former Chairman, Central Water Commission. The Committee submitted its report in June, 2001, which was forwarded to the State Governments for follow up action.

(iii) Another committee under the leadership of Chairman, Ganga Flood Control Commission alongwith members drawn from Ganga basin States was constituted by the Ministry of Water Resources, Government of India in January, 2003 to identify schemes for inclusion in the Centrally Sponsored Scheme namely, "Critical anti erosion works in Ganga basin States" for implementation in the Xth Plan and also to review the status of implementation of the recommendations of the earlier committees which were constituted to study the Bank erosion problems in the States including Bihar. Consequently a Centrally Sponsored Scheme estimated to cost Rs. 178.85 crore with a central share of Rs. 136.17 crore which includes Rs. 40 crore as central share for Bihar has been approved for implementation during the period 2004-07.

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

Upgradation of Madurai Airport

1872. SHRI S. MURUGESAN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the details of progress made in the extension/upgradation of Madurai Airport; and

(b) by when the extended/renovated airport is likely to be ready?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY) : (a) Extension and strengthening of the existing runway upto a length of 2287 meters for making Madurai airport suitable for operation of AB-320/ B-737-800 type of aircraft is likely to be taken up after acquisition of land by the State Government and subsequently handing over of the same free from all encumbrances to the Airports Authority of India (AAI). Construction of a new Terminal Building at this airport is also planned to be taken up during Tenth Five Year Plan.

(b) The extended/renovated airport is likely to be ready after 30 months from the date of handing over of complete land by the State Government.

Promotion of Heritage Hotels

1873. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government is aware of the problems faced by heritage hotels in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to resolve them and promote heritage hotels?

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

(b) The details of concessions sought by the heritage hotels from time to time include special tariff for electricity, reduction in liquor licence fee, rebate under

various provisions of the Income Tax Act, exclusion of hotels from Luxury Tax, Service Tax, duty free import of essential items, concession under land and building tax, improvement of roads, etc.

(c) The Department of Tourism, Government of India has taken up these issues with the State Government and the concerned Union Ministries for extending concessions/incentives to all categories of hotels including heritage hotels.

The following incentives are available to hotels including heritage hotels:-

- (i) Expenditure Tax on hotels has been completely withdrawn w.e.f. 1.6.2003.
- (ii) Concessions under the Income Tax Act.
- (iii) A further extension has been accorded to the hotel industry for exemption of Service Tax.
- (iv) Hotel industry has been given the status of infrastructure for some of the incentives. Financial Institutions, which have infrastructure capital fund, will get the incentives under Section 10(23G) of Income Tax Act for lending to hotels, on the same lines as available to them for lending to other infrastructure sectors. This facility will be available to such Financial Institutions for lending to 3 star and above hotels.
- (v) Concessional Customs Duty on imports.
- (vi) Capital Subsidy to new hotel projects in 1-star to 3-star category and heritage basic category under the scheme of Incentive to Accommodation Infrastructure of the Department of Tourism.
- (vii) Free publicity and promotion through publicity material of the Department of Tourism, Government of India and India tourism Offices in India and abroad.

Dues of Indian Airlines

1874. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the complete details of the loss suffered by Indian Airlines due to under-utilization of code share capacity and non-payment of dues by international airlines;

(b) the names of defaulting airlines stating the amount pending against each of them; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Indian Airlines to recover the dues?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY) : (a) to (c) The code share capacity entitlements do not entail any cost but to the extent utilized, generate additional revenue to Indian Airlines. The extent of utilization of code share capacity depends on traffic demand and operating carrier's network etc. There also exist bilateral/business arrangements in other areas between Indian Airlines and international airlines for which invoices are exchanged and settlement is made through IATA clearing house or locally as the case may be on a regular basis. In the course of these transactions, there arise few cases of dues remaining unpaid for some dispute/clarification/ supporting documents requirement etc. All such cases are reviewed and efforts are made to resolve through mutual discussion either at local representative level or if necessary by taking up the matter at corporate level. The amount of such disputed invoices at any point of time is generally a small proportion to the total volume of transactions and the amount of revenue earned by Indian Airlines from these transactions.

Resolution of CABA

1875. SHRI P.D. ELANGO VAN : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has taken note of the resolutions passed during the last CABA meeting held in December, 2001;

(b) if so, the steps taken so far by the Government to implement the resolution passed and suggestions made during that meeting;

(c) the reasons for not conducting the CABA meeting after December, 2001;

(d) whether the Government has any plans to conduct the General Body meeting of the Central Advisory Board and Archaeology in the near future; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN) : (a) and (b) The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) has taken necessary action for implementing the resolutions passed in the 30th meeting of the Central Advisory Board of Archaeology (CABA) held in December 2001.

(c) to (e) The next meeting of CABA is scheduled to be held sometime in the first quarter of 2004. No meeting could take place earlier due to reconstitution of CABA.

Operation of Air Deccan

1876. SHRI KOLUR BASAVANAGOUD : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Air Deccan has commenced operations to Hubli and Belgaum in Karnataka; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to improve facilities at Belgaum and Hubli airports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Airports Authority of India has improved the operational facilities and services, security and safety services, passenger amenities and facilitation for operation for 50 seater type of aircraft at Belgaum and Hubli airports.

**Retrenchment of Workmen from
Organised Sector**

1877. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state the total number of workmen in organised sector who lost the job either due to retrenchment or voluntary retirement during the Eighth and Ninth Plans, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SAHIB SINGH

VERMA) : The State-wise information on the number of workmen affected due to retrenchment during 1992-2002, as provided by Labour Bureau, is enclosed as statement.

Since the inception of the Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) in October, 1988 till 31.3.2002, approximately 4.24 lakh employees of Central Public Sector Undertakings opted for VRS.

Statement

*Retrenchment of Workmen from Organised Sector
Number of workers retrenched during 1992-2002—State-wise*

State	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Andhra Pradesh	290	239	44	—	—	83	—	24	—	—	44
Arunachal Pradesh	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Assam	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bihar	—	3	169	—	—	—	—	—	154	—	—
Chhattisgarh	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Goa	13	154	38	98	—	28	—	22	10	304	322
Gujarat	844	848	604	628	680	1380	1276	802	566	821	471
Haryana	164	195	80	—	100	63	134	57	10	251	30
Himachal Pradesh	459	151	267	—	—	—	—	20	108	248	510
Jammu and Kashmir	—	222	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Jharkhand	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Karnataka	—	—	—	360	—	—	—	—	11	97	88
Kerala	11	30	—	—	—	—	—	38	41	113	42
Madhya Pradesh	—	—	—	52	54	36	—	28	—	38	152

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Maharashtra	493	373	273	75	3	—	104	—	—	319	237
Manipur	976	35	56	—	—	—	—	—	—	663	—
Meghalaya	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Mizoram	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nagaland	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Orissa	157	250	178	132	1026	592	146	1157	239	296	1463
Punjab	95	92	106	—	4	—	—	25	959	—	—
Rajasthan	59	217	—	64	377	155	50	186	598	177	186
Sikkim	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tamil Nadu	—	—	—	18	—	—	156	21	—	7	99
Tripura	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Uttar Pradesh	229	18	140	261	128	256	107	123	100	180	201
Uttaranchal	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	17	—
West Bengal	46	55	73	76	—	—	36	—	—	1	—
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	—	—	—	—	—	511	—	—	167	—	—
Chandigarh	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	53	29
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Delhi	—	—	164	—	—	138	21	—	—	83	1
Daman and Diu	—	7	—	28	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Lakshadweep	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pondicherry	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Grand Total	3836	2891	2192	1792	2372	3242	2030	2503	2963	3668	3875

— = Nil

Source : Labour Bureau, Shimla

*[Translation]***Airport at Muzaffarnagar**

1878. SHRI AMIR ALAM : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government proposes to construct an airport in or around Muzaffarnagar in view of huge tourist traffic there;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY) : (a) Since no airline has desired to commence scheduled operations to and from Muzaffarnagar, there is no proposal to construct an airport at this place.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

*[English]***Programmes/Schemes of National Horticulture Board**

1879. SHRI R.L. JALAPPA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the programmes/schemes imple-

mented by National Horticulture Board in Karnataka; and

(b) the amount provided to the State for the purpose during 2003-2004?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) The Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, through National Horticulture Board (NHB), is implementing the following programmes/Schemes in the country including the State of Karnataka:—

(i) "Development of Commercial Horticulture through Production and Post Harvest Management"

(ii) "Capital Investment Subsidy Scheme for Construction/Expansion/Modernisation of Cold Storages and Storages for Horticulture Produce"

(iii) Technology Development and Transfer for Promotion of Horticulture. The salient features of the above Schemes are enclosed as statement.

(b) An amount of Rs. 106.67 lakhs has been provided under NHB schemes in the State of Karnataka during the year 2003-2004, upto 30.09.2003.

Statement**I. Development of Commercial Horticulture through Production and Post-Harvest Management**

Name of the Scheme/Project	Components	Pattern of Assistance
1	2	3
(i) Production Related	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - High quality commercial horticulture crops - Indigenous crops/produce, herbs - Aromatic and Medicinal Plants - Seed and Nursery - Biotechnology, Tissue Culture 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Back-ended capital subsidy not exceeding 20% of the project cost with a maximum limit of Rs. 25 lakh per project. For the North Eastern/Tribal/Hilly Areas, maximum limit of subsidy would be Rs. 30.00 lakh per project.

1	2	3
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bio-pesticides - Organic Foods - Primary processing of products - Estt. Of Hort. Health Clinics/Laboratory (For Agriculture/Horticulture unemployed graduates) - Consultancy Services - Bee-keeping. 	
(ii) PHM/Processing related	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Grading/Washing/Sorting/Drying/Packing Centres - Pre-cooling Unit/Cool Stores - Refer Van/Containers - Sp. Transport Vehicle - Retail Outlets - Auction Platform - Ripening curing chamber - Market yard/rope ways - Processing unit/Radiation unit/VHT unit - Hort. Ancillary industry e.g. tools, equipment, plastics, packaging etc. - Crates, Cartons, Aseptic Packaging and Nets (50% subsidy) 	

II. Capital Investment Subsidy Scheme for Construction/Expansion/Modernisation of Cold Storages and Storages for Horticulture Produce

Components

Cold Storages including Controlled Atmosphere (CA) and Modified Atmosphere (MA) Stores U, pre-cooling units and other Storages for onions, etc.

Pattern of Assistance

Under the Scheme back-ended Capital Investment Subsidy is provided to the eligible organisations @25% of the project cost not exceeding Rs. 50.00 lakh per project and @33.33% of the project cost upto a ceiling of Rs. 60.00 lakh per project for North Eastern States.

III. Technology Development and Transfer for Promotion of Horticulture

- Introduction of New Technologies	- 100% financial assistance upto Rs. 10 lacs/project for production related and Rs. 25.00 lakh to R and D efforts
- Visit of progressive farmers	- 2nd Class Sleeper Rail/ordinary bus fare and Rs. 100/day/farmer for a group of 30 farmers
- Experts Services from India/Abroad	- Actual basis
- Technology Awareness	- Upto Rs. 50,000/seminar
- Organisation/participation in seminars etc.	- Upto Rs. 3.00 lakh for State, Rs. 5.00 lakh for National and Rs. 10.00 lakhs International event
- Udyan Pandit	- Rs. 1.50 lakh
- Publicity	- On merit
- Observation-cum-study tours abroad	- On actual basis
- Honorarium to Scientists for effective transfer of technology.	- Upto Rs. 20,000/- for each expert upto 5 experts/project.

Eligible Organizations

The eligible promoters under the above schemes shall include NGO's, Association of Growers, Individuals, Partnership/Proprietary Firms Companies, Corporations, Cooperatives, Agricultural Produce Marketing Committees, Marketing Boards/Committees, Municipal Corporations/Committees, Agro-Industries Corporations, SAU's and other concerned R and D organizations. Individuals, SAUs and other concerned R and D organisations are not eligible for the cold storage capital subsidy scheme. However, "Individual" are included as eligible organisations for onion storages only in those cases where bank/FI financing is involved.

Concessional Fare by IA

1880. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Indian Airlines offers rebate/

concessions in air-fares to passengers who travel on specific routes;

(b) if so, the basis for selection of such routes;

(c) whether Delhi-Bhubaneswar and Mumbai-Bhubaneswar route air-fare is likely to be reduced in near future; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Indian Airlines offers special and Promotional Fare on specific routes/flights from time to time. In open competitive markets, forces like demand/supply, seasonality and product features like frequency, timings, direct/indirect operations etc. determine the prices. There are frequent upward and downward movements of market fares in response to market needs. Indian Airlines also adjusts its fares to meet the market requirements.

(c) and (d) There is no proposal to reduce the fares on Delhi-Bhubaneshwar and Mumbai-Bhubaneshwar. However, Indian Airlines offers APEX fares on Mumbai-Bhubaneshwar route which are lower than normal fares.

[Translation]

Bio-Farming

1881. SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of programmes/schemes implemented to provide benefits of bio-technology to the farmers; and

(b) the details of the efforts being made by the Government to raise the production from bio-farming?

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

(a) A Network Project on Bio-fertilizers, two National Agricultural Technology Projects (NATP), eleven Agricultural Producess fund projects and five revolving fund projects are under operation to provide benefits of bio-technology to farmers.

(b) The Indian Council of Agricultural Research has proposed a multidisciplinary research project in a network mode entitled "Development of Technology Package for Organic Farming" during Xth Plan.

Assistance for Woman Co-Operative Societies

1882. SHRI RAJO SINGH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the State Governments particularly Bihar have requested the Central Government to sanction/ grant financial assistance for women cooperative societies under central scheme;

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

(c) whether any funds have been released for these societies for the current financial year; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(a) and (b) The proposals received from various States for assistance to Women Cooperative Societies through their Work Plans for the year 2003-04 under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme Macro-Management of Agriculture are enclosed as statement.

(c) Funds are released in lump sum against the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Macro-Management of Agriculture and not exclusively for Women Cooperatives.

(d) Does not arise.

Statement

Details of Budget provision made by the States/UTs for the Centrally Sponsored Scheme for Assistance to Women Cooperatives in the Work Plan proposals for the year 2003-04.

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of the State/UTs.	Budget provision made for Women Cooperatives
1.	Maharashtra	30.00
2.	Madhya Pradesh	12.00
3.	Kerala	15.00
4.	Mizoram	25.00
5.	Rajasthan	20.00
6.	Punjab	0.10
7.	Manipur	8.00
8.	Meghalaya	5.00
9.	Tripura	7.00

[English]

**Dhansri and Champamati Irrigation
Projects of Assam**

1883. SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWUMU-
THIARY : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be
pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has taken any steps
to complete Dhansri Irrigation Project in Darrang district
and Champamati Irrigation Project in Bongaigaon district
in Assam by way of converting AIBP into 100% Centrally
Funded schemes;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the financial assistance provided to the State
Government for completion of the projects alongwith time-
frame, if any, fixed in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF
WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRA-
VARTY) : (a) to (c) The Central Government is providing
Central Loan Assistance (CLA) under Accelerated Irriga-
tion Benefits Programme (AIBP) to such ongoing approved
major/medium irrigation projects which are in an advanced
stage of completion. The State of Assam has been included
under Special Category and the CLA is provided in the
ratio 3:1 (Centre:State). Since inception of this programme
in 1996-97, Dhansiri Irrigation Project has been Provided
CLA of Rs. 28.82 crore and champamati Rs. 13.00 crore.
The completion of these projects depends on the priority
accorded to these projects and funds made available by
the State Government.

[Translation]

**Regularisation of Encroachments
on Forest Land**

1884. SHRI NAMDEO HARBAJI DIWATHE : Will the
Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to
state:

(a) whether encroachments made on the forest

land prior to enactment of the Forest (Conservation) Act,
1980 have not been regularised so far;

(b) if so, the area yet to be regularised, State-wise;

(c) the reasons for not regularising the same;

(d) whether the Government proposes to regularise
such encroachments; and

(e) if so, the criteria proposed to be adopted in this
regard?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
(SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) to (d) Government had received
proposals for regularization of pre-1980 eligible encroach-
ments from States of Arunachal Pradesh, Gujarat,
Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Kerala, Orissa, Rajasthan
and Andaman and Nicobar Islands. The Government has
regularized pre-1980 eligible encroachments over around
3.66 lakh hectares of forest area, in respect of these States.
Some proposals of Orissa and Rajasthan could not be
considered as the Supreme Court has, in the meantime,
restrained Union of India from further regularization of
encroachments on forest lands vide their order dated 23-
11-2001.

(e) Government had issued detailed guidelines for
regularization of pre-1980 eligible encroachments as well
as eviction of all in-eligible encroachments on 18th
September, 1990, which clearly lay down the criteria
adopted for the purpose. A copy of these guidelines is
enclosed as statement.

Statement

**Guidelines for Regularisation of Encroachments
on Forest Land**

Encroachment of forest land for cultivation and other
purposes continues to be the most pernicious
practice endangering forest resources throughout the
country. Statistical information compiled by Ministry
of Agriculture during early 1980s revealed that nearly
7 lakh hectares of forest land was under encroach-
ment in the country about a decade back. This is

despite the fact that prior to 1980, a number of States had regularised such encroachments periodically and approximately 43 lakh hectares of forest land was diverted for various purposes between 1951 and 1980, more than half of it for agriculture. The decisions of the State Government to regularise encroachments from time to time seem to have acted as strong inducement for further encroachments in forest areas and the problem remained as elusive as ever for want of effective and concerted drive against this evil practice.

2. The National Forest Policy, 1988 has also observed the increasing trend in encroachments on forest land and stated that these should not be regularised. Implementation of this pronouncement has been examined by this Ministry keeping in view the constraints of various State Governments some of whom have expressed that they stand committed to regularise encroachments of a period prior to 1980. The issue figured prominently in the Conference of the Forest Ministers held in May, 1989 and was later examined by an inter-Ministerial Committee, set up by this Ministry in consultation with the representatives of some of the States. Keeping in view the recommendations of the Forest Ministers' Conference and the Committee referred to above, and with due approval of the competent authority, the following measures are suggested for review of the old encroachments and effective implementation of the pronouncement made in this regard in the National Forest Policy, 1988.

2.1 All the cases of subsisting encroachments where the State Governments stand committed to regularise on account of past commitments may be submitted to this Ministry for seeking prior approval under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. Such proposals should invariably conform to the criteria given below :

1. PRE-1980 ENCROACHMENTS WHERE THE STATE GOVERNMENT HAD TAKEN A DECISION BEFORE ENACTMENT OF THE FOREST

(CONSERVATION) ACT, 1980, TO REGULARIZE 'ELIGIBLE' CATEGORY OF ENCROACHMENTS.

- 1.1 Such cases are those where the State Governments had evolved certain eligibility criteria in accordance with local needs and conditions and had taken a decision to regularise such encroachments but could not implement their decision either wholly or partially before the enactment of the Forest (Conservation) Act, on 25.10.80.
- 1.2 All such cases should be individually reviewed. For this purpose the State Government may appoint a joint team of the Revenue, Forest and Tribal Welfare Department for this work and complete it as a time-bound programme.
- 1.3 In case where proposals are yet to be formulated, the final picture after taking into considerations all the stipulations specified here may be placed before the concerned Gaon Sabha with a view to avoid disputes in future.
- 1.4 All encroached lands proposed for regularisation should be properly surveyed.
- 1.5 Encroachments proposed to be regularised must have taken place before 25.10.1980. This must be ascertained from the First Offence Report issued under the relevant Forest Act at that point of time.
- 1.6 Encroachments must subsist on the field and the encroached land must be under continuous possession of the encroachers.
- 1.7 The encroacher must be eligible to avail the benefits of regularisation as per the eligibility criteria already fixed by the State.
- 1.8 As far as possible scattered encroachments proposed to be regularised should be consoli-

dated/relocated near the outer boundaries of the forests.

- 1.9 The outer boundaries of the areas to be denotified for regularisation of encroachments should be demarcated on the ground with permanent boundary marks.
 - 1.10 All the cases proposed to be regularised under this category should be covered in one proposal and it should give district-wise details.
 - 1.11 All cases of proposed regularisation of encroachments should be accompanied by a proposal for compensatory afforestation as per existing guidelines.
 - 1.12 No agricultural practices should be allowed on certain specified slopes.
2. 'INELIGIBLE' CATEGORY OF PRE-1980 ENCROACHMENTS WHERE THE STATE GOVERNMENTS HAD TAKEN A DECISION PRIOR TO THE ENACTMENT OF THE FOREST (CONSERVATION) ACT, 1980.
- 2.1 Such cases should be treated at par with post 1980 encroachments and should not be regularised.
3. ENCROACHMENTS THAT TOOK PLACE AFTER 24.10.1980.
- 3.1 In no case encroachments which have taken place after 24.10.80 should be regularised. Immediate action should be taken to evict the encroachers. The State/UT Government may, however, provide alternate economic base to such persons by associating them collectively in afforestation activities in the manner suggested in this Ministry's letter No. 6-21/89-FP dated 1.6.90, but such benefits should not extend to fresh encroachers.

CLARIFICATION

A reference is invited to the guidelines issued by this Ministry for regularisation of certain cases of forest encroachments reproduced above. The relevant paragraph 1.1 of the guidelines, which clarifies the cases of encroachments, which subject to specified conditions, would be eligible for regularisation, is reproduced below :

"Such cases are those where the State Governments had evolved certain eligibility criteria in accordance with local needs and conditions and had taken a decision to regularise such encroachments but could not implement their decisions either wholly or partially before enactment of the Forest (Conservation) Act on 25.10.1980.

2. Doubts have been raised as to whether all encroachments that had taken place up to 25.10.1980 could be regularised in accordance with an eligibility formula by which some earlier encroachments were regularised.
3. A perusal of the paragraph reproduced above will make it clear that there are 2 pre-conditions for any encroachments to be considered for regularisation. These are :
 - (a) The State Government should have taken the decision on regularisation of encroachments before 25.10.1980; and
 - (b) That the decision should be with reference to some eligibility criteria (normally expected to be related to social and economics status of encroachers, location and extent of encroachment, cut off date of encroachment, etc.)
4. It would be seen that the encroachments which are proposed to be considered for regularisation, subject to the prescribed conditions, are those which fulfilled the eligibility criteria evolved by the State Government as per decision taken before 25.10.1980 for regularisation of encroachments. The objective is

limited to permitting implementation of decisions taken before 25.10.1980 which could not be implemented because the enactment of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 intervened. It is therefore quite clear that while all encroachments that can be considered as eligible for regularisation would have taken place before 25.10.1980, all encroachments that had taken place before 25.10.1980 would not be eligible for regularisation—they may be ineligible because either they do not meet the eligibility criteria or are not covered by any decision taken before 25.10.1980. Thus, if the decision on regularisation of encroachments in a State covered only encroachments up to a date earlier than 25.10.1980, the guidelines on regularisation of encroachments do not envisage that the State Government would now survey encroachments between that date and 25.10.1980 and propose regularisation. The latter encroachments though occurring before 25.10.1980 are not covered by any regularisation decision taken prior to that date and hence can not be considered for regularisation at this juncture.

5. Accordingly, the State Governments may take up for implementation only such decision of pre 25.10.1980 period which could not be implemented because of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 intervening and propose regularisation of encroachments as per those decisions and in accordance with the eligibility criteria laid down in those decisions. No encroachments not covered by any pre 25.10.1980 decisions—even though they might have occurred prior to that—should now be considered for regularisation in terms of our guidelines.

**AEZ Project for Medicinal and
Aromatic Plants**

1885. SHRI V.S. SIVAKUMAR : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government has accorded sanction to the Agri Export Zone (AEZ) project for Medicinal and Aromatic plants;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the said project is now pending with Agriculture Produce Export Development Authority (APEDA) to promote export, marketing, research and development of the plants; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the remedial steps proposed to be taken in this regard?

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) An Agri Export Zone for Medicinal and Aromatic plants for the State of Uttaranchal was sanctioned by Government on 03/02/2003. This sanction was notified by Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) on 31/03/2003.

(c) and (d) An MoU between Agricultural and processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) and the Government of Uttaranchal has been signed on 26/03/2003 and the activities there under have already been initiated.

**Conference on Agriculture for
Rabi Campaign**

1886. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a National Conference on Agriculture for Rabi campaign 2003-04 has recently held;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the salient features of the discussion held and decision arrived at;

(c) whether the Government has fixed any target for the production foodgrain during the current kharif season; and

(d) if so, the details thereof indicating the steps taken by the Government to achieve the target?

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

(a) to (d) The National Conference on Agriculture for Rabi

Campaign-2003-2004 was held on 29th and 30th September, 2003 at New Delhi. The Conference discussed in detail the strategies for Rabi-2003-04 season including cropping plan and availability of key inputs for different crops in different States. The Conference provided an opportunity to States to share their experiences and efforts being made to increase production and productivity of different crops which assumes importance in the context of doubling food production and farmers' income. The Conference also addressed inter-alia the issues of credit flow to the Agriculture Sector, farm income insurance, contract farming, market reforms and update on WTO negotiations at Cancun. The Conference also addressed the need for evolving appropriate strategy to cope with the problems likely to be encountered in the near future in respect of States which had experienced deficient rainfall in some parts of the Southern States and Maharashtra.

The food production during Kharif 2003 season is estimated at 108.45 million tonnes which represents an increase of about 18 million tonnes over last year's production of 90.48 million tonnes. For the current Rabi season, a target of 108.32 million tonnes of food production has been fixed.

[Translation]

Shishum Trees

1887. SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Shishum trees which provide high quality of timber wood have almost dried up in Bihar;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefore;
- (c) whether the Government propose to encourage farmers for the re-plantation of Shishum trees in the State; and
- (d) if so, whether the Government proposes to provide improved variety of the Shishum saplings of economic assistance to the farmers in this regard?

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

(a) A large number of Shishum trees have wilted and dried in the Gangetic plains of North Bihar in localized pockets.

(b) As per the report of Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE), the roots of the tree are damaged due to water logging, low aeration, soil compaction or wrong agricultural practices. This results in the attack of a soil inhabiting fungus-Fusarium solani, which obstructs the flow of ascending sap causing the wilting of leaves. Subsequently the leaves dry up and fall, leaving the terminal branches bare. Then girdling of the stem by cankers disrupt transportation of nutrition from the leaves to the roots, subsequently causing the drying of the tree.

(c) and (d) The Government is encouraging the farmers for re-planting Shishum trees along with other species to discourage monoculture. For this, the Environment and Forests Department, Government of Bihar, besides giving technical know how, published a notice in the daily news paper (Hindustan dated 19-10-2000) asking the people to take up Shishum plantations with the following precautions :

- (i) Remove all wilted and dried Shishum trees
- (ii) Use Shishum stumps for re-planting
- (iii) Take mixed plantation i.e. plant Shishum with Jamun, Semal, Kadamb, Neem, Siris, Gambar, Arjun, Babul etc.
- (iv) Avoid water logging in the plantation area
- (v) Do not allow girdling of stem (removal of barks).

Funds to States for Constrction of Dams

1888. DR. MAHENDRA SINGH PAL : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the schemes for construction of dams in various States are lying pending due to paucity of funds as a result of which the State are unable to execute these proposed schemes;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government proposes to provide assistance to the State Governments for the purpose; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

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

(a) and (b) A large number of river valley projects, both multipurpose and irrigation, have spilled over from Plan

to Plan mainly because of financial constraints faced by the State Governments. As a result of this, despite huge investments having already been made on these projects, the country is not able to derive the desired benefits. With this in view, Central Government launched Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) to provide Central Loan Assistance to such ongoing approved major/medium irrigation projects which are in an advanced stage of completion.

(c) The details of Central Loan Assistance released under AIBP to various States since inception of this programme in 1996-97 is given in the Statement enclosed.

Statement

*Central Loan Assistance released under AIBP to States
from 1996-97 to 2003-04*

(Rs. in crores)

Sl. No.	State	CLA Released during								Total
		1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1.	Andhra Pradesh	32.250	74.000	79.670	65.015	95.020	281.660	33.186		663.801
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.000	0.000	0.000	7.500	7.500	15.000	1.500		31.500
3.	Assam	5.230	12.400	13.950	14.540	24.077	14.521	16.274	2.081	103.073
4.	Bihar	13.500	5.150	36.185	129.695	148.440	3.420	14.481		350.871
5.	Chhattisgarh	0.000	4.500	9.500	10.520	13.930	48.200	104.000	73.965	264.615
6.	Goa	0.000	5.250	0.000	3.500	61.650	58.000	0.000		128.400
7.	Gujarat	74.773	196.900	423.820	272.700	421.850	581.690	1000.330	153.634	3125.697
8.	Haryana	32.500	12.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	18.000		62.500
9.	Himachal Pradesh	0.000	6.500	5.000	11.047	18.015	3.244	8.150	5.084	57.040

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	1.300	0.000	0.000	4.680	10.460	11.070	34.999		62.509
11.	Jharkhand	0.000	8.890	11.640	14.345	9.050	10.820	9.670		64.415
12.	Karnataka	61.250	90.500	94.500	157.140	171.000	492.500	620.850		1687.740
13.	Kerala	3.750	15.000	0.000	0.000	22.400	11.275	5.665	7.500	65.590
14.	Madhya Pradesh	63.250	110.000	81.250	95.325	151.328	215.410	220.000	117.325	1053.888
15.	Maharashtra	14.000	55.000	50.860	49.875	97.020	39.100	133.134	60.000	498.989
16.	Manipur	4.300	26.000	10.780	21.810	1.500	9.360	19.500	8.000	101.250
17.	Meghalaya	0.000	0.000	0.000	2.694	5.512	4.470	1.500		14.176
18.	Mizoram	0.000	0.000	0.000	1.433	1.433	2.000	0.750		5.616
19.	Nagaland	0.000	0.000	0.000	2.730	5.000	5.000	2.659		15.389
20.	Orissa	48.450	85.000	71.500	90.250	100.320	168.475	179.570	7.295	750.860
21.	Punjab	67.500	100.000	0.000	42.000	55.620	113.690	36.660		415.470
22.	Rajasthan	2.675	42.000	140.050	106.665	78.467	96.315	174.385	142.645	783.202
23.	Tripura	3.773	5.100	3.975	34.653	13.883	21.063	13.395		95.842
24.	Tamil Nadu	20.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000		20.000
25.	Uttar Pradesh	43.500	78.000	76.500	286.000	315.900	354.690	359.000	116.925	1630.515
26.	Uttaranchal	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	25.163	7.500	32.663
27.	West Bengal	5.000	20.000	10.000	25.000	26.825	38.608	28.133		153.566
28.	Sikkim	0.000	0.000	0.000	1.360	0.000	2.400	0.750		4.510
Total		500.001	952.190	1119.180	1450.5	1856.2	2601.981	3061.703	701.954	12243.686

[English]

be pleased to state :

Durgapur Steel Plant

(a) whether some anomaly in loading section of despatch department in Durgapur plant in the month of October, 2003 has been reported;

1889. SHRI SUNIL KHAN : Will the Minister of STEEL

- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
(c) the remedial action taken thereon?

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

[Translation]

**Pending Insurance Claims of
Farmers under NAIS**

1890. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN :
SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO :
SHRIMATI RAJKUMARI RATNA SINGH :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the payment to farmers under National Agriculture Insurance Scheme (NAIS) is yet to be released to all districts in Jammu and Kashmir, West Bengal and Uttar Pradesh for the last two years;
(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for delay;
(c) by when the dues are likely to be cleared; and
(d) the payments made against insurance claims during the Ninth Five Year Plan, year-wise?

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

(b) and (c) Claims amounting to Rs. 0.37 lakh and Rs. 438.64 lakhs in respect of Rabi 2002-03 season are pending in Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal respectively for want of the State share of funds. Payment of the pending claims is contingent upon receipt of the State share of funds.

- (d) Year-wise details of the payments of crop

insurance claims during the Ninth Five Year Plan are given as under :

(Rs. in lakhs)	
Year	Claims
1997-98	18507.68
1998-99	12785.20
1999-2000	46937.94
2000-01	128173.33
2001-02	55680.10

**Separate Health Services for
Hospitals under ESIC**

1891. SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN :
SHRI RAMDAS RUPALA GAVIT :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government proposes to set up separate health services for all the Hospitals under Employees State Insurance Corporation all over the country; and
(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SAHIB SINGH VERMA) : (a) No, Sir.

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

[English]

Flights from Bidar

1892. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ :
SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the request of the Government of Karnataka to open the Bidar Airport belonging to Indian

Air Force for civil flights has been accepted by the Union Government;

(b) if so, whether Air Deccan has been permitted to operate Bangalore-Bidar-Hyderabad flight; and

(c) if so, the total flights daily operating or likely to be operated?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY) : (a) to (c) The proposal for opening the Bidar airport belonging to Indian Air Force for civil flights is under consideration by the Government.

[Translation]

Insurance Deal of IA

1893. SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI :

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Insurance deal of Indian Airlines for the year 2003-2004 has since been awarded to the New India Assurance Company;

(b) if so, whether open tender were not invited for the said purpose nor the guidelines of the Central Vigilance Commission were complied with;

(c) if so, whether the Government has received complaints from the representatives of the people in this regard; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The insurance policy of the aircraft fleet of Indian Airlines is renewed on 1st October every year. Indian Airlines takes its aviation insurance policy from one

of the four Public Sector Insurance Companies. In view of high-insured value and risk exposure and financing and lease requirements, the Indian insurers place majority of the risks with international re-insurers.

With a view to avail of the best expertise available with the insurance companies, a committee consisting of both the Dy. Managing Directors, Director (Flight Safety), Director (Operations), Director (Engineering) and Director (Finance) was constituted in Indian Airlines to interact with all the four public sector insurance companies so as to try and ensure a good deal for Indian Airlines for the last renewal effective 1st October, 2002.

Considering all the relevant factors such as operational and financial strength, experience and exposure in aviation insurance, credit rating etc., the Committee had recommended New India Assurance for renewal of Indian Airlines aviation insurance policies for the year 2002-03.

(c) and (d) Complaints were received through Members of Parliament and Central Vigilance Commission in this regard. The position, in detail, has been clarified to the CVC who has agreed with the clarifications and has advised closure of the matter.

[English]

Retrenchment of Workers from Irrigation Projects of Orissa

1994. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the number of workers engaged in various ongoing major irrigation projects in Orissa as on March 31, 2003, project-wise;

(b) whether a large number of workers are being retrenched from these projects;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps being taken to provide these workers some alternate jobs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY) : (a) The number of workers engaged in various ongoing major irrigation projects of Orissa as on 31st March, 2003, as reported by the Government Orissa, are given in the statement enclosed.

(b) and (c) The Government of Orissa has reported that at present no workers are being retrenched. However, prior to 31st March, 2003, 2342 work charged and 1291 Nominal Master Roll (NMR) workers were retrenched due to completion of major works and subsequent declaration of workers as surplus by the project authorities of Upper Kolab Project, Upper Indravati Irrigation Project and Subamarekha Irrigation Project.

(d) Irrigation being a State subject, irrigation projects including flood control are planned, investigated, funded, executed, operated and maintained by the State Governments themselves as per their own priorities. The retrenched workers are being provided benefits/alternate jobs as per the policy of the State Governments.

Statement

Name of the Project	No. of workers engaged as on March 31, 2003	
	Work Charged	NMR
1	2	3
Balimela Dam Project	92	—
Potteru Irrigation Project	128	44
Upper Indravati Irrigation Project	83	177
Upper Kolab	443	19
Rengali Dam Project	265	18
Brahmani Left Basin	500	82

1	2	3
Brahmani Right Basin	37	31
Subamarekh Irrigation Project	277	425
Defunct DSARP (presently under RVN Basin)	69	48
Upper Indravati Hydro-Electric Project	160	—

National Civil Aviation Development Fund

1895. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Naresh Chandra Committee has recommended setting up of a National Civil Aviation Development Fund (NCADF) to promote infrastructure development in this sector as well as the creation of Civil Aviation Economic Regulatory Authority (CAERA); and

(b) if so, the details of the recommendations made by the committee in this regard and the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY) : (a) and (b) The Report of the Naresh Chandra Committee, received on 8.12.2003, is presently being examined.

Closure of Tourism Office at Tel Aviv

1896. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether tourism office at Tel Aviv in Israel was closed last year;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government proposes to open its tourism office in Tel Aviv again; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) In pursuance of Expenditure Reforms Commission's recommendations, restructuring of Overseas Tourist Offices was undertaken and in this process five Tourist Office including Tel Aviv were closed.

(c) and (d) Internationally Tourism scenario keeps changing. Opening and closing of foreign offices is a function of market requirement.

[Translation]

Missing of Monkeys in Meerut

1897. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether carcasses of monkeys were found in the protected forest area of Meerut district of Uttar Pradesh in the recent past;

(b) if so, whether some monkeys were also reported missing therefrom;

(c) if so, whether any enquiry has been conducted;

(d) if so, the findings thereof; and

(e) the action taken or proposed to be taken against the persons found involved therein?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FOREST (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) Carcasses of 8 monkeys were found on the left bank of Anoopshahar branch canal near Bhindwara village under the jurisdiction of Parikshat Garh range of Meerut Forest Division in Uttar Pradesh.

(b) No, Sir. There are no such reports of any missing monkey carcasses.

(c) to (e) Do not arise.

[English]

Exploitation of Tea Garden Labourers

1898. SHRI M.K. SUBBA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has received a Memorandum from public representatives regarding the situation arising from closure of tea gardens and exploitation of tea garden labourers in Assam;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the tea garden labourers are rendered jobless and surplus due to closure; and

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

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SAHIB SINGH VERMA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Representations have been received from Shri Mani Kumar Subba, Hon'ble Member of Parliament, Lok Sabha relating to serious problems being faced by the Indian/Assam Tea Industry in the context of dumping of cheap tea from countries like China, Srilanka, Vietnam and Indonesia and other countries and closure of Tea Gardens rendering the workers jobless and forwarding a memorandum of the Assam Tea Tribe Students Association raising issues like non-implementation of Plantations Labour Act, 1951 etc.

(c) and (d) According to the information made available by State Government of Assam 678 workers of Pathini Tea Estate under Karimganj District have been rendered jobless following winding up of the garden owned by Tea Trading Corporation of India. The State Government has taken up the matter with concerned authority and Tea Trading Corporation of India.

[Translation]

Reduction in Air Fare

1899. SHRI DANVE RAOSAHEB PATIL : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Indian Airlines has slashed air fares on nine routes;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the loss likely to be incurred by the Indian Airlines as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

[English]

Exploitation of Ground Water

1900. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether any survey has been conducted to assess the impact of usage of sub-soil water on the water table;

(b) if so, the regions where the water table has reportedly receded; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to check the exploitation of ground water in States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY) : (a) and (b) A long-term analysis of ground water levels by the Central Ground Water Board (CGWB), under the Ministry of Water Resources during the years 1983-2002 indicates decline in ground water levels by more than

4 metres in some districts of various States of the country. The names of the States/districts having pockets with fall in water level in the last twenty years (1983-2002) are given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) Water being a State subject, it is primarily the responsibility of the concerned State Governments to plan, finance and execute schemes for augmenting water resources. The Central Government has initiated following measures to check over-exploitation of ground water :-

- (i) Implementation of a Central Sector Scheme for Study of Recharge to Ground Water in the country.
- (ii) Circulation of Manual/Guidelines on Artificial Recharge of Ground Water to the States/ Union Territories to enable them to formulate area specific artificial recharge schemes to check the declining trend in ground water levels.
- (iii) Circulation of a Model Bill in the year 1970 which was re-circulated in 1992 and again in 1996 to all the States/Union Territories to enable them to enact suitable legislation for regulation and control of ground water development.
- (iv) Organisation of mass awareness programmes and training courses on rain water harvesting and artificial recharge of ground water.
- (v) Constitution of Central Ground Water Authority under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 for regulation and control of ground water management and development.
- (vi) Launching of a website on Roof Top Rain Water Harvesting ([www. cgwbindia.com](http://www.cgwbindia.com)) to make aware and educate the public about various techniques of harvesting rainwater and store it for future use.

Statement

*Name of Districts showing fall of Water level (in parts) in last 20 years
(1983-2002) during Pre-Monsoon period*

S.No.	State	Districts showing Fall of More than 4m. (@ more than 20 cm per year)
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Adilabad, Anantapur, Chittoor, Cuddaph, East Godavari, Guntur, Hyderabad, Karimnagar, Kurnool, Mahbubnagar, Medak, Nalgonda, Nellore, Nizamabad, Prakasam, Ranga Reddy, Srikakulam, Visakhapatnam, Vizianagaram, Warangal, West Godavari.
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	East Siang.
3.	Assam	Johar, Karbi Anglong, Morigaon.
4.	Bihar	Darbhanga, Gaya, Khagaria, Samastipur.
5.	Chhattisgarh	Bastar, Bilaspur, Dantewada, Dhamtari, Durg, Janjgir-champa, Kanker, Korba, Raigarh.
6.	Delhi	Central, New Delhi, North West, South, South West, West,.
7.	Gujarat	Ahmedabad, Amreli, Banashkantha, Baroda, Bharuch, Bhavnagar, Dangs, Jamnagar, Junagarh, Kheda, Kutch, Mehsana, Panch Mahal, Rajkot, Sabarkantha, Surat, Surendra Nagar, Valsad.
8.	Haryana	Bhiwani, Faridabad, Gurgaon, Hissar, Jind, Kaithal, Kurukshetra, Mahendragarh, Panchkula, Panipat, Rewari, Sirsa.
9.	Jharkhand	Gumla, Palamu.
10.	Karnataka	Bangalore, Belary, Belgaum, Bidar, Bijapur, Chitradurga, Davanagere, Dharwad, Gadag, Gulbarga, Hassan, Haveri, Kolar, Koppala, Mandya, Mysore, Raichur, Shimoga, Tumkur, Uttar Kannada.
11.	Kerala	Iduki, Kannur, Kollam.
12.	Madhya Pradesh	Barwani, Betul, Bhind, Bhopal, Chhatarpur, Damoh, Datia, Dewas, Dhar, Guna, Gwalior Hoshangabad, Indore, Jabalpur, Jhabua, Katni, Khandwa, Khargone, Mandsaur, Morena, Narsinghpur, Nimuch, Panna, Raisen, Rajgarh, Ratlam, Rewa, Sagar, Satna, Sehore, Shajapur, Sheopur, Shivpuri, Tikamgarh, Ujjain, Vidisha, Chhindwara.

1	2	3
13.	Maharashtra	Ahmadnagar, Akola, Amravati, Aurangabad, Bhandara, Buldana, Chandrapur, Dhule, Gadchiroli, Jalgaon, Jalna, Kolhapur, Latur, Nagpur, Nanded, Nashik, Osmanabad, Parbhani, Pune, Raigarh, Ratnagiri, Sangli, Satara, Solapur, Thane, Wardha, Yavatmal,
14.	Meghalaya	West Garo Hills.
15.	Orissa	Angul, Balasore, Bargarh, Bolangir, Cuttack, Deogarh, Dhenkanal, Gajapati, Ganjam, Jajpur, Kalahandi, Khurda, Koraput, Malkangiri, Mayurbhanj, Nawapara, Nayagarh, Nowrangpur, Phulbani, Puri, Rayagada, Sambalpur, Sonapur, Sundargarh.
16.	Punjab	Amritsar, Bhatinda, Faridkot, Fatehgarh, Ferozepur, Jalandhar, Karpurthala, Ludhiana, Mansa, Moga, Patiala, Ropar, Sangrur.
17.	Rajasthan	Ajmer, Alwar, Banswara, Baran, Barmer, Bhilwara, Bikaner, Bundi, Chittorgarh, Churu, Dausa, Dholpur, Dungarpur, Ganga Nagar, Hanumangarh, Jaipur, Jalore, Jhalwar, Jhunjhunu, Jodhpur, Karauli, Kota, Nagaur, Pali, Rajsamand, Sawaimadhapur, Sikar, Sirohi, Tonk, Udaipur
18.	Tamil Nadu	Chennai, Coimbatore, Cuddalore, Dharmapuri, Dindigul, Erode, Kancheepuram, Kanniyakumari, Karaikal, Namakkal, Perambalur, Pudukkottai, Ramanathapuram, Sivaganga, Thanjavur, Theni, Tiruchirappalli, Tirunelveli, Tiruvallur, Tiruvannamalai, Triuvapur, Viluppuram.
19.	Uttar Pradesh	Agra, Aligarh, Allahabad, Azamgarh, Badaun, Bahraich, Ballia, Banda, Barabanki, Bareilly, Bulandshahar, Deoria, Etah, Etawah, Faizabad, Fatehgarh, Fatehpur, Ghaziabad, Gonda, Hamirpur, Hardoi, Jalaun, Jaunpur, Jhansi, Kanpur, Lakhimpur, Lalitpur, Lucknow, Mainpuri, Mathura, Meerut, Mirzapur, Moradabad, Muzaffarnagar, Pratapgarh, Raebareli, Rampur, Saharanpur, Shahjahanpur, Sitapur, Sultanpur, Unnao.
20.	West Bengal	Bankura, Bardhaman, Birbhum, Dakshin Dinajpur, Haora, Hugli Jalpaiguri, Mednipur, Murshidabad, North Twenty four Parganas, Puruliya, South Twenty four Parganas.

Approach Road and Car Park

1901. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 2941 dated December 9, 2002 and state :

(a) whether the new approach road and car park

area's construction work has since been completed;

(b) if so, the amount spent thereon; and

(c) by when the new approach road is likely to be opened for public?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY) : (a) The

new approach road and car park area's construction work has been completed.

(b) The amount spent is Rs. 295 lakhs.

(c) The new approach road to the Civil Enclave is obstructed by the Indian Air Force boundary wall. However, the matter had been taken up and NOC from Ministry of Defence for connecting new approach road with Civil Enclave has been received in September, 2003 with certain conditions. New approach road is likely to be opened for public after demolition of existing IAF boundary wall of length 30 mtr. intercepting approach road to terminal building.

EPF Deposits by Punalur Paper Mills

1902. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Management of Punalur Paper Mills in Kerala has deposited its full amount of PF share for workers;

(b) if so, the total amount deposited by them;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to recover the amount and to distribute the PF to workers of the said Mills?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SAHIB SINGH VERMA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) The establishment has remitted Provident Fund contributions upto December 1986.

(c) The establishment is lying closed and has been taken over by a Receiver appointed by the Hon'ble High Court of Mumbai.

(d) The Regional Provident Fund Commissioner, Kerala has been directed to take appropriate action in

accordance with the provisions of Employees' Provident Fund and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952 for realising the outstanding dues upto the date of closure of the establishment.

Irregularities in Commercial Wing of AI

1903. SHRI BHASKAR RAO PATIL : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has taken note that the malpractices in the commercial wing of the Air India has increased manifold during the past few years;

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

(c) whether the unscrupulous travel agents are responsible for bringing Air India into red; and

(d) if so, the corrective steps proposed to be taken to overhaul the system of Air India and to make it profitable?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY) : (a) and (b) The number of vigilance cases registered against officials of Commercial Department in Air India does not show an increasing trend.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. The functioning of Travel Agents is governed by the IATA rules which controls distribution of ticket stocks and recoveries of airlines' dues from Agents. Air India has laid down procedures governing various aspects of the agencies functioning on behalf of Air India such as ticketing fare construction, refunds etc. Stringent action such as barring access to our reservation system is taken when an Agent is found to indulge in malpractice.

Diversion of River Water

1904. SHRI P. RAJENDRAN : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has any proposal for diversion of water from Pampa and Achencovi rivers of Kerala to Vypar in Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the details including the decision of the National Water Development Commission, if any;

(c) whether any studies are initiated on the impact of Vypar Link Project on ecological balance of Kuttanad wetlands; and

(d) 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 National Water Development Agency (NWDA), under the Ministry of Water Resources, has prepared a feasibility report of the Pamba-Achankovil-Vaippar link envisaging diversion of 634 Million cubic meter surplus waters from Pamba and Achankovil rivers to Vaippar basin.

(c) and (d) The Centre for Water Resources Development and Management (CWRDM), Kozhikode, Kerala undertook a study sponsored by the Government of Kerala to understand the water balance of the rivers draining into the Vembanad wetland System and to look into the limitations of the earlier studies carried out by the State and National agencies and to come out with appropriate management plans for the system. The report concluded that all five rivers draining into Vembanad Lake including Pamba and Achankovil rivers would be water deficit in the ultimate stage of development.

Luggage Screening at Hyderabad Airport

1905. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether only one scanning machine screens the hand baggage of passengers at the domestic airport at Hyderabad;

(b) if so, whether such cumbersome procedures cause inordinate delay and inconvenience for passengers;

(c) whether the AAI proposes to install more machines for scanning;

(d) if so, whether any discussions were held between the Airports Authority of India and CISF in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY) : (a) Earlier only two machines for screening hand baggage were provided at the domestic terminal of Hyderabad Airport, With the introduction of passenger friendly security checks two more machines have been provided. One each for IAC and private airlines operators.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) No proposal is pending for more machines.

(d) and (e) In the Airport Security Committee meeting modalities for operating the two additional screening machines were discussed.

Relocation of Polluting Units

1906. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of industries and factories located on the banks of various rivers in the country which are mainly responsible for the discharge of pollutants in these rivers, State-wise and river-wise;

(b) whether the Government had directed relocation of these industries and factories;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the progress made in this regard so far?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) The details of number of industries polluting rivers State-wise and river-wise are given at statement I and II enclosed respectively.

(b) to (d) A total of 851 grossly polluting industries discharging their wastes into rivers were identified in 1997

for priority actions. Out of these 851 industries, 608 have now provided the requisite effluent treatment facilities, 238 are closed. Matter in respect of three units is in the Courts. In respect of the remaining two units, the respective State Pollution Control Boards have been asked to take necessary action.

Statement-I

State-wise No. of Units discharging wastes into rivers

Sl. No.	Name of the State/ Union Territory	Total No. of Units	No. of Units Closed	No. of Units which have provided requisite treatment/disposal facilities after issuance of directions	No. of defaulting Units
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	60	18	42	00
2.	Assam	07	06	01	00
3.	Bihar	14	04	10	00
4.	Gujarat	17	03	14	00
5.	Haryana	21	09	12	00
6.	Karnataka	20	02	18	00
7.	Kerala	36	04	32	00
8.	Madhya Pradesh	02	01	00	01
9.	Maharashtra	06	03	03	00
10.	Orissa	09	03	04	02
11.	Pondicherry	04	00	04	00
12.	Punjab	18	01	16	01
13.	Tamil Nadu	366	118	248	00
14.	Uttar Pradesh	241	59	181	01
15.	West Bengal	30	07	23	00
Total		851	238	608	05

Statement-II

Sl. No.	Rivers	Total No. of Units	No. of Units Closed	No. of Units which have provided requisite treatment/disposal facilities after issuance of directions	No. of defaulting Units
1.	Godavari	30	7	23	0
2.	Krishna	37	9	28	0
3.	Pennar	14	5	9	0
4.	Brahmaputra	7	6	1	0
5.	Subarnarekha	7	2	4	1
6.	Sabarmati	7	1	6	0
7.	Tapi	2	0	2	0
8.	Mahi	4	1	3	0
9.	Narmada	4	1	3	0
10.	Cauvery	375	120	255	0
11.	Minor River Basins	36	4	32	0
12.	Mahanadi	7	3	4	0
13.	Brahmani	1	0	0	1
14.	Ghaggar	5	0	5	0
15.	Indus and its Tributaries— Satluj and Ravi	13	1	11	1
16.	Ganga and its tributaries	302	78	222	2
Total		851	238	608	5

**Encroachments in National Parks/
Sanctuaries**

1907. SHRI AMBAREESHA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether many National Parks and Sanctuaries in the country are facing the problem of unchecked encroachment;

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

(c) the steps taken to remove these encroachments?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) and (b) The problem of unchecked encroachment in National Parks and Sanctuaries does not exist and fresh attempts of encroachments are not allowed. Action is also taken to evict the old and ineligible category of encroachments. All these matters are dealt at the level of State Governments. The State wise details for National Parks/Sanctuaries are not maintained at the Government level. However, the total forest area under encroachment at present is reported to be around 13.5 lakh hectares at present.

(c) Government is committed to protect the National Parks and Sanctuaries against encroachments through the State Governments/Union Territory (UT) Governments in accordance with the law. Government have issued directions to the various State Governments and UT Governments to deal with the issue of the encroachments on priority and evict the ineligible encroachers from the forest lands as per the guidelines of the Forest (Conservation) Act 1980. Government have also asked various State Governments/UT Governments that the eviction process should be monitored at the highest level and accountability should be fixed for inaction.

Draught Animal Power

1908. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Planning Commission in its report for Tenth Plan on Animal Husbandry criticised severely MNES for not doing any thing for Draught Animal Power (DAP) and also mentioned the requirement of about 80 million bullocks;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

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

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

[Translation]

National Horticulture Board

1909. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the incentives given to small farmers, farmer's organizations, Government and Non-Governmental organizations by the National Horticulture Board for the Development of various fruits and flowers cultivation through latest agricultural techniques during the last three years;

(b) whether the said board has given a very scanty incentive to Karnataka;

(c) if so, the reasons therefore; and

(d) the number of projects sanctioned in Karnataka and the success achieved therefrom so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) The Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, through National Horticulture Board (NHB), is implementing a Scheme – "Development of Commercial Horticulture through Production and Post Harvest Management" – under which back-ended Capital Investment Subsidy @20% of the total project cost with a maximum limit of Rs. 25 lakh per project is provided to those projects which are found technically and financially viable. However, for the North-Eastern/Tribal/Hilly Areas, maximum limit of subsidy is Rs. 30 lakh per project. The salient features of the Scheme are enclosed at statement-I. The progress under the Scheme, during the last three years, is given at statement-II.

(b) to (d) Under the scheme, 131 projects with a

subsidy of Rs. 9.70 crores have been sanctioned in the State of Kamataka out of 1078 projects with a subsidy of Rs. 49.94 crores sanctioned in the country, during the last three years. The Scheme is entrepreneur driven.

Statement-I

Development of Commercial Horticulture through Production and Post-Harvest Management

Name of the Scheme/Project	Components	Pattern of Assistance
1	2	3
(i) Production Related	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - High quality commercial horticulture crops - Indigenous crops/produce, herbs - Aromatic and Medicinal Plants - Seed and Nursery - Biotechnology, Tissue Culture - Bio-pesticides - Organic Foods - Primary processing of products - Estt. Of Hort. Health Clinics/Laboratory (For Agriculture/ Horticulture unemployed graduates) - Consultancy Services - Bee-keeping. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Back-ended capital subsidy not exceeding 20% of the project cost with a maximum limit of Rs. 25 lakh per project. For the North Eastern/Tribal/Hilly Areas, maximum limit of subsidy would be Rs. 30.00 lakh per project.
(ii) PHM/Processing related	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Grading/Washing/Sorting/Drying/Packing Centres - Pre-cooling Unit/Cool Stores - Refer Van/Containers - Sp. Transport Vehicle - Retail Outlets - Auction Platform - Ripening curing chamber 	

1	2	3
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Market yard/rope ways - Processing Unit/Radiation Unit/VHT Unit - Hort. Ancillary Industry e.g. tools, equipment, plastics, packaging etc. - Crates, Cartons, Aseptic Packaging and Nets (50% subsidy) 	

Eligible Organisation

The eligible promoters under the above schemes shall include NGO's, Association of Growers, Individuals, Partnership/Proprietary Firms Companies, Corporations, Cooperatives, Agricultural Produce Marketing Committees, Marketing Boards/Committees, Municipal Corporations/Committees, Agro-Industries Corporation, SAUs and other concerned R and D organisations.

Statement-II

State-wise break-up of projects sanctioned under the scheme "Development of Commercial Horticulture through Production and Post Harvest Management" during the period from 2000-2001 to 2002-2003

S. No.	Name of the State	2000-01		2001-2002		2002-2003	
		No. of projects	Subsidy released (in crores)	No. of projects	Subsidy released (in crores)	No. of projects	Subsidy released (in crores)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2	0.5	6	0.35	74	2.39
2.	Bihar	1	0.22	1	0.01	2	0.05
3.	Chhattisgarh	0	0	0	0	13	0.63
4.	Delhi	0	0	0	0	3	0.16
5.	Gujarat	1	0.25	15	1.18	108	5.51
6.	Haryana	0	0	9	0.3	14	0.81
7.	Himachal Pradesh	2	0.21	5	0.38	19	0.68

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
8.	Jammu and Kashmir	0	0	1	0.04	3	0.27
9.	Karnataka	4	0.94	26	2.95	101	5.81
10.	Kerala	0	0	4	0.12	12	0.14
11.	Madhya Pradesh	0	0	40	0.13	64	0.59
12.	Maharashtra	5	0.55	149	6.05	221	7.92
13.	Orissa	1	0.25	2	0.13	13	0.89
14.	Punjab	2	0.25	8	0.94	6	0.85*
15.	Rajasthan	0	0	1	0.03	14	0.31
16.	Tamil Nadu	0	0	29	2.53	32	2.39
17.	Uttaranchal	0	0	0	0	7	0.1
18.	Uttar Pradesh	1	0.25	2	0.12	17	0.69
19.	West Bengal	0	0	6	0.06	6	0.11
20.	Arunachal Pradesh	1	0.15	1	0.15	0	0
21.	Assam	0	0	1	0.004	5	0.24
22.	Mizoram	0	0	0	0	1	0.04
23.	Manipur	1	0.02	1	0.02	3	0.08
24.	Nagaland	1	0.01	2	0.09	5	0.09
25.	Sikkim	3	0.01	0	0	1	0.004
26.	Jharkhand	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total		25	3.61	309	15.58	744	30.75

[English]

Employment Generation

1910. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the on-going economic reforms have

failed to generate employment;

(b) if not, the employment generated since October, 1999;

(c) whether the Government have made any assessment of on-going economic reforms in the context of employment generation;

(d) if so, the findings thereof; and

(e) the extent to which the target regarding generation of employment has been achieved so far?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SAHIB SINGH VERMA) : (a) and (b) Since the initiation of economic reforms in 1991, National Sample Survey Organisation has carried out quinquennial surveys on employment and unemployment during 1993-94 and 1999-2000. As per these surveys, estimated employment in the country on usual status basis has gone up from 374 million in 1993-94 to 397 million in 1999-2000.

(c) and (d) Government constituted a Special Group headed by Dr. S.P. Gupta, Member, Planning Commission to analyse employment and unemployment in all aspects and suggest strategy and programmes for creating 5 crore employment opportunities during the 10th Plan period. The special group has recommended the following strategy.

- 8% growth in GDP with business as usual will contribute around 30 million employment opportunities.
- Special employment generation programmes will yield around 20 million employment opportunities.
- Special emphasis on agriculture, irrigation, agro-forestry small and medium enterprises, tourism, information communication technology and other services.

(e) Considering the employment creation taking place in the normal growth process as well as through special employment generation programmes, it is estimated, that approximately 80 lakh jobs were created during the 1st year of the 10th Plan.

Cultivation of Cocoa and Vanilla

1911. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has taken any steps to encourage the cultivation of plantation crops like Vanilla and Cocoa in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a small beginning has been made in Kerala and some other parts of the country in growing and developing vanilla plantations;

(d) if so, whether the Government proposes to set up a separate board to encourage large scale cultivation of vanilla and cocoa which has a great international market; and

(e) if so, the steps proposed to be taken in this regard?

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

(a) and (b) For encouraging cultivation of vanilla and cocoa in the country following programmes are implemented:

- (i) **Vanila** : For promoting vanilla cultivation, under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Macro Management in Agriculture-Supplementing/Complementing the State Efforts through Work Plans, following programmes are implemented: (i) Production and distribution of quality planting material at 25% subsidy; and (ii) Establishment and maintenance of demonstration plots in the farmers' field in potential vanilla growing States by providing assistance @25% of cost of inputs limited to Rs. 500/- per plot. Department of Horticulture, Karnataka provide technical guidance regarding cultivation aspects, plant protection etc. to the farmers at taluk and district level.

Besides, the Spices Board under Ministry of Commerce is implementing following programmes to promote vanilla cultivation :

Programme	Incentive/assistance provided
1. New planting	Maximum of Rs. 5/- per cutting or 50% of the cost of quality rooted cuttings of vanilla.
2. Setting up of processing units	Rs. 2,500/- per unit to farmers towards 25% of the cost of setting up vanilla curing unit.

The Spices Board so far has supported new planting in 570 ha. and set up 280 curing units.

(ii) **Cocoa** : For promoting cocoa cultivation, under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Macro Management in Agriculture-Supplementing/ Complementing the State Efforts through Work Plans, following programmes are implemented :

(i) New plantation development with clones of high yielding varieties; (ii) Replanting/ rejuvenation of uneconomical gardens; (iii) Establishment/strengthening of regional nurseries for generation of high yielding planting materials of cocoa; (iv) Farmers participatory demonstration cum training areas; (v) Training to farmers and field level workers; (vi) Plant protection campaign; and (vii) Development of infrastructure for processing and marketing.

(c) Spices Board in association with private sector nurseries proposed to produce and supply 27 lakh tissue culture plantlets which will be hardened, stocked and distributed by Kudumbhasree Project of Government of Kerala. The Board's departmental nurseries have programmes to produce conventional planting material to the tune of 7 lakh per annum. The Board has also planned and contracted with Farmers' Groups to produce around 4 lakh rooted cuttings during 2003-04. and 8 lakh rooted cuttings during 2004-05. The Board under its programmes proposes to cover an area of 5,000 ha. under vanilla during X Plan period.

(d) and (e) All aspect of vanilla and cocoa, such as, research, development, post harvest management and

exports are taken care of by Indian Council of Agriculture Research; Directorate of Arecanut and Spices Development, Calicut, Directorate of Cocoa and Cashewnut Development, Kochi under Ministry of Agriculture; and Spices Board under Ministry of Commerce and Industry. Therefore, at present, there is no proposal to set up a separate board for vanilla and cocoa.

Unemployed Youths

1912. COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the number of unemployed youths in the country as on date, State-wise; and

(b) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to contain the unemployment problem?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SAHIB SINGH VERMA) : (a) Estimates of employment and unemployment are obtained through quinquennial labour force surveys conducted by National Sample Survey Organisation. Last such survey was carried out during 1999-2000. As per this survey, State-wise details of the estimated unemployment rates in the country on usual status basis during 1999-2000 are given in the statement enclosed.

(b) Government is targeting creation of 5 crore employment opportunities during the 10th Plan period. Out of these, nearly 3 crore will come through normal growth process assuming 8% growth of GDP and remaining 2 crore through special employment generation programmes.

Statement

State-wise unemployment Rate

S. No.	States	1999-2000			
		Rural		Urban	
		Male	Female	Male	Female
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1.2	0.7	4.2	4.2

1	2	3	4	5	6
2. Arunachal Pradesh		0.9	0.1	1.4	10.00
3. Assam		4.7	11.9	9.1	22.3
4. Bihar		2.4	0.6	7.6	9.4
5. Goa		7.0	18.7	15.3	35.2
6. Gujarat		0.8	0.3	2.1	2.6
7. Haryana		1.3	0.5	2.7	4.6
8. Himachal Pradesh		3.0	1.8	6.3	11.8
9. Jammu and Kashmir		2.6	7.1	4.7	12.8
10. Karnataka		1.0	0.3	3.0	4.7
11. Kerala		7.6	19.7	6.9	26.4
12. Madhya Pradesh		0.7	0.7	4.3	1.6
13. Maharashtra		2.4	1.1	6.1	7.8
14. Manipur		2.4	2.5	7.4	10.3
15. Meghalaya		0.5	0.3	3.4	6.8
16. Mizoram		2.1	0.5	4.4	2.6
17. Nagaland		3.0	3.8	9.3	10.8
18. Orissa		3.1	1.6	7.2	6.7
19. Punjab		2.3	6.2	3.1	3.5
20. Rajasthan		0.8	0.2	2.7	3.7
21. Sikkim		3.5	2.0	6.7	10.0
22. Tamil Nadu		3.0	1.2	3.9	5.8
23. Tripura		0.8	4.6	5.5	8.8
24. Uttar Pradesh		1.3	0.6	4.5	4.6
25. West Bengal		3.4	3.8	7.7	11.1

1	2	3	4	5	6
26. Andaman and Nicobar Islands		3.3	7.6	3.8	23.9
27. Chandigarh		1.0	—	3.9	14.4
28. Dadra and Nagar Haveli		1.6	—	1.6	—
29. Daman and Diu		1.3	—	1.4	8.3
30. Delhi		3.9	26.0	3.2	5.3
31. Lakshadweep		10.9	52.9	8.2	26.3
32. Pondicherry		4.7	2.6	3.5	6.9
		2.1	1.5	4.8	7.1

*As per usual status approach.

Unemployment rate is the percentage of unemployed with reference to Labour Force.

Cash Rich Religious Places

1913. COL. (RETD.) DR. DHANI RAM SHANDIL : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of cash rich religious places in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether prominent religious places are sinking in crores of rupees in the transformation process; and

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith names of such religious places?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN) : (a) to (c) The figures of cash rich and prominent religious places or information on their developmental plans are not compiled by the Ministry of Tourism and Culture.

Low Cost Air Service to Gulf

1914. SHRI PARSURAM MAJHI : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

- (a) whether Air India proposes to introduce low cost air service to some Gulf countries;
- (b) if so, the countries identified for the purpose;
- (c) the date from which the air services are proposed to be introduced; and
- (d) the details of the fare structure; if finalised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY) : (a) to (d) Measures to reduce the cost of air services to all countries are periodically reviewed by Air India. No separate class of low cost service is being taken up at present.

Sea Cruise

1915. SHRI GUNIPATI RAMAIAH :
SHRI GANTA SREENIVASA RAO :

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

- (a) whether sea cruise is increasingly becoming popular among domestic and foreign tourists; and
- (b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to identify and develop such spots alongwith details of potential areas in each State?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN) : (a) International tourism trends indicate that sea travel is becoming increasingly popular and that there is enormous potential for its growth and expansion.

(b) The Ministry of Shipping, Government of India has constituted a Committee to explore the potential of cruise tourism and develop related infrastructure in the major ports on the western coast. Committees at the port level have also been constituted in the major ports of Mumbai/ Marmagoa/New Mangalore/Kochi and Tuticorin

for identification and implementation of related work. A separate Committee has been constituted under the Chair person, Mumbai Port Trust to review rules and regulations concerning cruise vessels/tourists. A Seminar was organised for cruise tourism in Mumbai on 15th October, 2003. World Tourism Organisation (WTO) had deputed two experts as resource persons for this Seminar.

Decline in Elephant Population

1916. SHRI A. NARENDRA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

- (a) the number of elephants in the country where project elephant has been implemented, location-wise;
- (b) whether the number of elephants is fast declining due to poaching in the country;
- (c) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to save the elephant population;
- (d) whether any efforts are being made to increase the elephant population in the country; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) According to the latest estimates, the population of elephants in the States-where Project Elephant is being implemented, is as under :

State	Number
1	2
Andhra Pradesh	73
Arunachal Pradesh	1607
Assam	5312
Jharkhand	618
Karnataka	6088
Kerala	5737

1		2
Meghalaya	—	1840
Nagaland	—	147
Orissa	—	1827
Tamilnadu	—	2971
Uttaranchal	—	1507
West Bengal	—	327

(b) No Sir.

(c) to (e) Project Elephant is being implemented in the country with a view to protecting elephants and improving their habitats. Various measures undertaken for this purpose are as under :

- (i) Government has identified 26 Elephant Reserves in the country with a view to provide systematic and focussed management of viable elephant ranges. Of these, 23 Elephant Reserves have since been notified by the State Government.
- (ii) Intensive patrolling is done by the forest staff in sensitive areas. Assistance from the Police is also taken as and when required.
- (iii) The C.B.I. has been empowered under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 to apprehend and prosecute wildlife offenders.
- (iv) The Government through Ministry of Home Affairs has written to all State Governments to lend a helping hand to the field formations of the Forest Departments to curb poaching and illegal trade in wildlife.
- (v) A Special Co-ordination and Enforcement Committee, comprising representatives from various enforcement agencies of Government has been set up under the chairmanship of

Secretary of the Ministry of Environment and Forests, for overseeing the measures taken to curb poaching and illegal trade in wildlife. Similar co-ordination committees comprising representatives of various enforcement agencies at the State level have also been set up.

- (vi) The Forest Departments of Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka have formed a regional co-ordination committee for joint action against inter-State gangs of poachers.
- (vii) Import and export of ivory have been banned.
- (viii) India is a signatory to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES) which prohibits international trade in ivory and other elephant products.
- (ix) For controlling trans-border trade in elephant parts and products, a Memorandum of Understanding has been signed with Nepal.

Guideline for Export of Organic Food

1917. DR. RAJESWARAMMA VUKKALA :
SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government has framed specific guidelines on export of organic food; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) :
(a) and (b) Under the aegis of National Programme on Organic Production (NPOP), guidelines for export of organic product have been framed. As per Directorate General of Foreign Trade's (DGFT) Public Notice No. 19(RE-2001)/1997-2002 dated 11th June 2001, organic exports are required to be certified as such by a duly accredited inspection and certifying agency.

National Commission on Cattle

1918. SHRI MANSINH PATEL :

KUMARI BHAVANA PUNDLIKRAO GAWALI :

SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY :

SHRI DANVE RAOSAHEB PATIL :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the salient features of the recommendations made by National Commission on Cattle;

(b) whether the Government has examined those recommendations; and

(c) if so, the action taken thereon?

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

(a) The salient features of the recommendations made by the National Commission Cattle are enclosed as statement.

(b) and (c) The recommendations of the Commission are under consideration of the Government.

Statement

Chapter-VIII

Recommendations of the Commission

The Recommendations of the National Commission on Cattle are as follows :

1. The Prohibition for slaughter of cow and its progeny, which would include bull, bullocks, etc, should be included in Fundamental Rights or as a Constitutional Mandate anywhere else, as an Article of the Constitution. It should not be kept only in the Directive Principles or/ Fundamental duties as neither of these are enforceable by the courts.
2. The amendment of the Constitution should also be made for empowering the Parliament to

make a Central Law for the prohibition of slaughter of cow and its progeny and further for prohibition of their transport from one State to another. This may be done by shifting the subject and relevant item from the State List to the Central List, or at least to the Concurrent List in the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution.

3. The Parliament should then make a Central Law, applicable to all States, prohibiting slaughter of cow and its progeny. Violation of the Law should be made a non-bailable and cognizable offence. There should be provision for sessions trials for offences committed under the Law, with a punishment of a minimum of three years of rigorous imprisonment and maximum 10 years of rigorous imprisonment with fine. The burden of proof should be on the accused to prove his innocence.
4. The Central Government should constitute a permanent National Cattle Development Commission or Rashtriya Goseva Ayog for preservation and development of cattle all over the country. The Commission should be provided with adequate funds, of say at least Rs. 100 crores per year.
5. There should be a separate Ministry for Cattle Preservation and Development. It should not be under the Department of Animal Husbandry, whose basic mandate is not for cattle preservation but for livestock development and for production of livestock products, including meat products.
6. The Animal Husbandry Department should be reorganized and the subjects allotted to it and the objectives given to it, should be for preservation and development of animals and not for animal food by way of meat etc.
7. No financial aids should be given by Animal Husbandry or Agriculture Departments for

- construction, renovation or maintenance of slaughter houses.
8. There should be a complete ban on export of beef and veal. Also, steps should be taken to ensure that beef or veal is not allowed to be exported under the guise or pretext of buffalo meat.
 9. The Central Government should ensure constitution and functioning of Goseva Ayogs in each of the States and also provide these bodies with adequate funds. These Ayogs should be monitored by the "Rashtriya Go Seva Ayog" to be set up by the Government of India, as proposed above.
 10. The implementation of the Cattle Protection Laws should be ensured through the following.
 - * Creation of Central Cattle Protection-Rapid Task Police Force with regional offices and branches in all States. It should have a special force deputed on the Bangladesh border to prevent the cattle exodus from the border States and also on the Kerala's borders with Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka.
 - * In view of Articles 48 and 51 (g) of the Constitution of India, appropriate directions may be given under Article 355 or any such provision of the Constitution, to Kerala, Nagaland, Mizoram, Arunachal Pradesh, Tripura, Manipur and other North Eastern States to enforce the prohibition on slaughter of the cow and its progeny. Special directions may be given to Kerala to stop importing cattle from neighbouring States for slaughter.
 - * The provision of the existing laws for prevention of cruelty to cattle during transport by rail, truck, road or otherwise, should be effectively enforced. Cruelty to cows during extraction or let-down of milk by giving injections, such as oxytocin, should be prohibited by law and the prohibition should be enforced.
 - * The Government should issue a Circular banning production of leather of slaughtered cattle and a mechanism for its enforcement should be evolved. Export of goods made of such leather should be banned.
 - * The penal laws of preventive arrest and detention like POTO, etc., should be amended to detain smugglers and organised mafia gangs, who indulge in large-scale smuggling of cattle to Bangladesh, West Bengal and Kerala and also in sale of cattle to illegal slaughter houses, operating all over the country.
 11. Cross-breeding of indigenous breeds, with imported cattle like Jersey should be prohibited, especially in the breeding tracts of important indigenous breeds. Conservation and preservation of these indigenous breeds should be encouraged. A National Breeding Policy should be evolved and special plans should be developed and implemented, with sizeable financial assistance for developing and preserving indigenous breeds throughout India.
 12. Subsidies for purchase of tractors and mechanical appliances for Agriculture should be stopped. Instead, the use of bullocks in ploughing and bullock-driven tractors, generation of power through indigenous electrical equipment and carts should be subsidized, promoted and encouraged.
 13. The report of the Organic Manure Task Force Committee 2001 should be accepted and its recommendations implemented in total.

14. The use and production of chemical fertilizers and chemical pesticides should be discouraged, subsidies on these items should be reduced or abolished altogether. The use of organic manure should be subsidised and promoted.
15. The recommendation of the XI Sub Group (on Meat Sector) set up by the Planning Commission for the 10th Plan proposals should be rejected outright.
16. Gaushalas, Gosadans and Pinjrapoles should be organized through voluntary organizations both by Central and State Governments. The Government should give financial aid for construction and maintenance of such Gaushalas on the basis of matching grants for day-to-day expenses; and 70 per cent grant for capital expenses for construction. They must be allowed free land or land at concessional rates, both for construction and for grazing purposes. Sufficient land should also be given for growing fodder for the cattle in these organisations.
17. Pasture lands should be protected, developed and provided for grazing of cattle belonging to farmers at the village level. Forest laws should be amended to provide grazing facilities for cattle within the forest areas or in the outlying lands fringing on the forests.
18. The use of Gobar (cow dung) and Gomutra (cow urine) of indigenous breeds of cattle should be promoted extensively in agriculture in the form of different manures, composts, Pest-repellents and pesticides.
19. Encouragement should be given to research in cow urine therapy such as that done by the Govigyan Anusandan Kendra, Devalapar, Nagpur and CSIR at Lucknow and other centers, which led to the recent grant of American Patent No. 6410059 for use of cow urine "Ark" (Distillate) for enhancing the effect of anti-cancer medicines.
20. The Information and broadcasting Ministry should under take propagation for awareness campaign of qualities and virtues of cow milk, cow products, cow urine and cow dung. Acceptance of "Panchgavya" by Ayurvedic System of Medicines should be widely propagated and its benefits explained to the people. The medicines from cow products and organic manure utilization should also be given wide publicity by Government Media.
21. In the education and awareness campaign, "Farmans" issued by various Mughal emperors, Akber, Humayun, Jahangir, and Bahadur Shah Zafar prohibiting cow slaughter during their rule should be widely advertised both in electronic media and other media.
22. In the educational curriculum, the subjects should be introduced on Panchgavy therapy, cow milk, cow urine and other by products of cow, the use of cow and bullocki agriculture, organic manure and medicines prepared from cow dung and cow urine.
23. All India University should be established for the above and such subjects should be introduced in all Universities particularly Agricultural Universities and on Animal Science and in Veterinary Colleges and Universities and Hospitals.
24. The cultivation of fodder and manufacture of feed for cattle should be encourage The States should be asked to ensure production of fodder and feed in proportion to the size of their cattle population.
25. In some States, such as Punjab and Haryana, standing crop residues which can used as fodder are burnt. This should be made a penal offence as precious fodder is being wasted, whereas many States are deficient in fodder.

26. On the pattern of Food Corporation of India, a Fodder Corporation of India should be constituted and branches should be established in each State with storage facilities.
27. The Agricultural Universities and Agriculture Ministry with Forest Ministry collaborations should ensure special fodder production drive. The State Governments and the Central Government should subsidise the fodder sale on the pattern of food subsidies given to 'Below Poverty Line' (BPL) Indian citizens from ration shops, through the Public Distribution System.
28. A circular should be sent by the Central Government directing that the State laws and Municipality laws, prohibiting keeping of cattle in Civil Lines and cities, should be suitably amended to permit the house owner to keep 2 to 4 cows and their progeny in their houses or campus even in the city areas or town areas. At the same time, strict action should be taken against those cattle owners who allow their cattle loose on the streets.
29. A circular should be sent to the State Governments Panchayats and Municipalities to regulate control, remove and maintain the stray cattle wandering on streets and roadsides without owners. They should be kept in cattle houses or cattle compounds to be maintained by the local Self-Government institutions, Municipalities and Panchayats.
30. The Commission recommends that early steps may be taken for a Parliamentary Legislation applicable to the whole country by repealing various legislations now in force and a resolution as contemplated Article 249 (i) may be passed by the Rajya Sabha or action under Article 252 could also be initiated, and a central legislation on the subject could be brought about to achieve the desired objects and the common problems in different States could be taken care of by such common legislation.
31. While amending the Fundamental Rights chapter of the Constitution, a proviso to Article 19 may be added after sub clause 5 "*provided, the right to carry on any trade or business shall not in any way extend to the slaughter of the cow and its progeny and/or to conduct business/trade in Beef*".
32. Similar proviso to be added to Article 301 "*provided, the right to carry on any trade or business shall not in anyway extend to the slaughter of the cow and its progeny and/or to conduct business/trade in Beef*".
33. In the Concurrent List, the following to be added :
- (a) Prohibition of Slaughter of cow and its progeny.
 - (b) Laws relating to the movement to cow and its progeny from State to State.
34. To declare the Indian breeds as the national wealth of India and no slaughter of any native breed of our country shall be permitted at any cost.
35. It is recommended that a Central Cattle Commission be permanently constituted, which shall have as representatives, atleast eight Members/Directors, one each in charge of i) feed and fodder; ii) cattle movement; iii) on enforcement; iv) grazing lands; v) breeding; vi) research, analysis and development; vii) organic farming; and viii) veterinary medical services. Such cattle commissions should also be set up in each State.
36. Grazing lands should compulsorily be, set apart, whether Government allotted or temple lands. Use of these lands should be exclusively made available only for cattle grazing and should not be allowed for any other use.
37. If there are any grazing or pasturelands, which have been encroached upon, the encroachment should be immediately removed by the concerned Government authorities.

38. Every State must have a Breed Center, which should concentrate on the development of the indigenous breeds and not on foreign breeds. These breeding centers should also upgrade and develop the breeds.
39. A Cattle Census should be taken regularly and its results compiled speedily. Breed-wise numbers should be recorded and every indigenous breed must be registered.
40. A Cattle Laws Enforcement Directorate should be constituted, which shall be in charge of the movement of cows, bulls, bullocks and calves from place to place and State to State and also monitor whether the cow/cattle moved out from one State, has been utilized for the purpose for which it was sought to be moved.
41. Centres for promotion of the usage of cow urine, dung and Panchagavya, medicines, etc and also research centers to be constituted for the promotion of production and use of alternative source of energy, such as Gobar gas, alternative methods of farming, through use of draught animal power, organic manure, cow urine pesticides etc.
42. Export and Import of beef to be totally banned.
43. "Save the Indian Breed" Campaign to be launched all over the country.
44. There must be a constitutional status of Cow as the National Animal (Rashtriya Prani) and killing of cow and its progeny should be made a constitutional offence.
45. All types of manufacture, sale, use and import of Polythene Bags should be banned and prohibited.
46. Throwing eatables or eatable waste in polythene bags on the streets, roads or in dust bins, within the reach of cattle consumption, should be made a penal offence.
47. The Government should encourage and implement breeding policy by which a genetic improvement and upgradation of existing cross-bred cattle should be brought about by further crossing with good indigenous breeds.
48. The auctioning of all the working bullocks in the Municipality Corporations, Panchayats and other places should be stopped. Instead, they should be given retirement and maintained till they die their natural deaths. Their work had been utilized throughout their working life and after that their dung can continue to be used for production of organic manure.
49. Temples and religious places, should be prohibited from selling or auctioning the cattle, which are donated or gifted by worshippers. The trustees of these places should either keep the cattle in their own Goshalas or give them to nearby Goshalas for maintenance.
50. The various recommendations made by the Commission are based on the suggestions given by the Committees on different issues, given in the relevant Chapters viz. Chapter III.

Civil Aviation Policy

1919. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH :
 SHRI RAMDAS RUPALA GAVIT :
 SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY :
 SHRI NARESH PUGLIA :

Will the minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the new Civil Aviation Policy has since been finalised;
- (b) if so, the salient features thereof; and
- (c) the details of action plan for implementation of the policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Cheaper Helicopter Journey

1920. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY :
DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Civil Aviation Ministry has any plans to make helicopter travel more affordable;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether some separate norms will be introduced for aircraft and helicopter operations;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) by when the new plan is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY) : (a) and (b) The fares charged by helicopter operators are dependent on the cost of operations and commercial considerations.

(c) to (e) Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has laid down separate requirements in the form of Civil Aviation Requirements (CAR) to ensure continued airworthiness and safety of aircraft and helicopters. These CARs have been framed in accordance with standards laid down by the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) for the operations of aeroplanes and helicopters.

Production of Oilseeds and Pulses

1921. SHRI V. VETRISELVAN :
SHRI GANTA SREENIVASA RAO :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether production of oilseed and pulses in the country is far behind the requirement;

(b) if so, the total production of oilseeds and pulses in the country for the last two years upto October, 2003;

(c) whether low production has put a heavy burden of import of edible oils and pulses;

(d) if so, the quantum of edible oils and pulses imported during the above period and the amount spent on such imports; and

(e) the specific plan of the Government to make the country self-reliant in this field?

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

(b) The total production of oilseeds and pulses in the country during 2001-02, 2002-03 and 2003-04 is given below:

(Production in lakh tonnes)

Year	Oilseeds	Pulses
2001-02	208.00	131.90
2002-03	157.50	113.10 (IV advance estimates)
2003-04	150.80	54.40 (As on 30.09.2003)

(c) and (d) The production of oilseeds and pulses in the country is insufficient to meet the demand. Therefore the gap of demand and supply of these commodities is met through imports. The quantum of edible oils and pulses imported during 2001-02, 2002-03 and 2003-04 (up July, 2003) and the amount spent on the import is given below :

Year	Qty. in lakh metric tonnes		Value Rs. in crores	
	Import of edible oils		Import of Pulses	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
2001-02	43.22	6474.96	22.18	3160.16
2002-03	42.66	8744.87	18.79	2562.67
2003-04 (Upto July, 2003)	19.19	4145.17	4.78	741.76

(e) In order to increase the production and productivity of oilseeds and pulses and to make the country self-reliant in the production of these crops, two Centrally Sponsored Scheme, namely Oilseeds Production Programme (OPP) and National Pulses Development Project (NPDP) are in implementation in the country. Under these schemes financial assistance is provided for various inputs like production and distribution of seeds, distribution of seed minikits, distribution of improved farm implements sprinkler sets, rhizobium culture, micro nutrients etc. In order to disseminate the production technology amongst the farmers frontline demonstrations by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and block demonstrations by the State Department of Agriculture are also organised.

[Translation]

III Effects of G.M. Crops

1922. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI :
SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI :
SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government is aware of the ill effects of G.M. crops as reported in Rashtriya Sahara dated October 31, 2003;

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

(c) whether insects and butterflies keep away from G.M. crops causing ecological imbalance;

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

(e) whether the Government propose to carry out long term trials before taking any decision regarding switching over to G.M. crops; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

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

(a) Government is aware of the news item.

(b) The ill-effects reported in the said news item are referred in relation to crops other than cotton, which is the only crop wherein genetically modified Bt cotton hybrids have been released for farmers' cultivation in India. Even for the released Bt cotton hybrids, detailed scrutiny of biosafety and environmental safety aspects has been conducted under the aegis of Genetic Engineering Approval Committee (GEAC) of the Union Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India.

(c) No, Sir. This statement is not scientifically correct.

(d) The question does not arise.

(e) and (f) In India, the development of GM crops involves various steps starting from contained green house studies to contained open field small scale and large scale trials. The studies and trials on GM crops are monitored by various statutory bodies as per the Rules, 1989 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. The Government takes decision on the GM crops on case-by-case basis, depending upon the target gene inserted, the crop and the intended use of the crop.

[English]

Air Safety

1923. SHRI KAMAL NATH :
SHRI NARESH PUGLIA :

SHRI UTTAMRAO PATIL :

SHRI PARSURAM MAJHI :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government has called for global partnership to make air travel fully secure and safe;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a conference on civil aviation safety and security was held at New Delhi in the month of October 2003;

(d) if so, the details of discussions held in the conference and outcome thereof;

(e) the details of other steps the Government proposes to take to provide fool proof safety in flights; and

(f) the amount required for implementing the new security measures?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY) : (a) and (b) India is an active member of International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO), the apex UN body in the field of civil aviation, which, inter-alia, sets standards and regulations necessary for the safety and security of international air transport.

(c) and (d) Under the framework of Indo-European Union (EU) Civil Aviation Cooperation Project, an international Conference on "Civil Aviation Safety and Security" was held in Delhi on 15-16 October, 2003. This conference provided a forum to address the security and safety related issues in an interactive manner.

(e) Various steps like compliance with the safety requirements specified by International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO), 100% Monitoring of Flight Data Recorders, regular Safety Audit of the Operators, installation of Minimum Safe Altitude Warning Systems (MSAW),

Monopulse Secondary Surveillance Radars (MSSR), Airborne Collision Avoidance Systems (ACAS), Ground Proximity Warning Systems (GPWS) etc. have been taken to ensure safety of air transport.

(f) Based on requirement, funds are allocated as expenditure on security schemes is an on-going process.

[Translation]

Agriculture Development Scheme

1924. SHRIMATI RAJKUMARI RATNA SINGH :

SHRI SHIVAJI MANE :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether several States have performed unsatisfactorily in implementing the agriculture development schemes;

(b) if so, name of such States; and

(c) the remedial measures taken by the Government to tackle this problem during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) to (c) Fund is released to different States under various schemes. The State utilizes the fund for various components of the schemes. However, some unspent balance remains with the States at the end of the financial year. This is due to various reasons like flood, drought, failure of rains and other conditions. These unspent balances are utilized next year. In order to increase the utilization of fund, regular monitoring of the implementation of the scheme is done. The releases of fund is also dependent on the utilization by the State Government.

Under the umbrella scheme of Macro Management the second instalment is released by making graded cuts if the utilization of funds is delayed.

[English]

Private Air Taxi Service

1925. DR. N. VENKATASWAMY : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the number of non-scheduled air operators providing air taxi/non-scheduled air transport services in the country;

(b) the criteria for according permission/license to these operators; and

(c) whether any regulator body/mechanism has been put in place to monitor quality of service, fare-structure etc. in respect of these operators?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY) : (a) At present, there are 37 non-scheduled operator's permit holders in the country.

(b) Non-scheduled operator's permit and Non-scheduled (charter) Operator's permit are issued in accordance with the Civil Aviation Requirements (CAR), Section 3, Series 'C', Part-III dated 8.10.1999 and CAR, Section 3, Series 'C', Part-V dated 17.5.2000 respectively issued by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA).

(c) Domestic air fares are not regulated by the Government. The non-scheduled operators are required to meet the safety and security norms prescribed by DGCA and Bureau of Civil Aviation Security.

[Translation]

Exploitation of Unemployed Youths by Private Security Agencies

1926. SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO :
DR. M.P. JAISWAL :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government is aware that private security agencies are exploiting unemployed youths;

(b) if so, whether most of the security agencies are paying less than the fixed minimum wage;

(c) if so, the steps likely to be taken by the Government to prevent exploitation of youth by these agencies; and

(d) the details of guidelines issued by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SAHIB SINGH VERMA) : (a) to (d) In order to protect the workers engaged in the private security agencies the "Employment of Watch and Ward through private security services or directly by the employers in all Public Sector Enterprises" was included in the schedule of the Minimum Wages Act, 1948 in the Central sphere Vide Gazette Notification S.O. 216 (E) dated 12.3.2001. With the inclusion, all the provisions of the act like fixed hours of a normal working day, overtime, filing of claims etc have become applicable to all the private security agencies. The Minimum Wages Act provides for enforcement both at the Central and State sphere. The Inspectors, who are appointed under the Act conduct regular inspections of the establishments and advise the employers to make payment of shortfall of wages whenever any case of non-payment or less payment of minimum wages is detected. There are legal and penal provisions against the defaulting employers.

[English]

Welfare of Bidi Workers

1927. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the quantum of money collected by the Government by levying cess on Bidi in the last year and the amount spent on welfare of Bidi workers from this fund, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government has taken any fresh welfare measures for Bidi workers;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SAHIB SINGH VERMA) : (a) The Government have collected Rs. 84.48 crores as cess on bidi in the year of 2002-2003. The details of the amount spent on the welfare measures extended to the bidi workers during the year are enclosed as statement-I.

(b) to (d) A new scheme for reimbursement of the expenditure incurred on treatment of minor diseases like Hernia, Appendectomy, Ulcer, Gynecological, and prostrate diseases has been introduced for the bidi workers and their families. Apart from these a number of other financial assistance have also been revised. The details of these financial assistance are enclosed as statement-II.

Statement-I

Details of the Expenditure during the year 2002-2003

S. No.	Name of Region	States Covered	Expenditure (Rs. in crores)
1.	Allahabad	Uttar Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Jammu and Kashmir and Uttaranchal	2.65
2.	Bangalore	Karnataka and Kerala	12.60
3.	Bhilwara	Gujarat, Rajasthan and Haryana	2.48
4.	Bhubaneshwar	Orissa	4.88
5.	Kolkata	West Bengal, Assam, Tripura and Meghalaya	6.31
6.	Hyderabad	Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh	15.02
7.	Jabalpur	Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh	3.85
8.	Karma	Bihar and Jharkhand	8.34
9.	Nagpur	Maharashtra and Goa	9.61

Statement-II

Benefits of the financial assistance for bidi workers and their families have been revised as :

- (i) the actual cost or Rs. 2.00 lakh in case of renal transplant and Rs. 1.3 lakh for coronary by-pass surgery, whichever is less;
- (ii) A lump sum amount of Rs. 1,000/-, under

Maternity Benefit, for eligible female bidi workers.

- (iii) Subsistence allowance @Rs. 1,000/- p.m. when there is more than one dependant and @Rs. 750/- p.m. in case of one dependant only.
- (iv) For the purpose of sport gear, 75% of the actual expenditure, subject to a limit of Rs. 10,000/-

- and for other sports activities, 75% of the actual expenditure, subject to a limit of Rs. 10,000/- in a financial year;
- (v) The insurance claim amount, subject to the provisions of the scheme, is Rs. 10,000/- for natural death and Rs. 25,000/- for accidental death;
- (vi) School uniform, text books and stationery to the wards studying upto Class-IV is Rs. 250/- per head; and
- (vii) Scholarship for children studying in Class-V and above in recognised institution to Rs. 500/- to Rs. 8,000/ per head per annum.

**Development of Ayodhya as
Tourist Destination**

1928. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY :
SHRI SURESH KURUP :

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to develop Ayodhya as a tourist destination to show-case the cultural heritage of Ayodhya on the lines of Kurukshetra;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith estimated cost likely to be incurred thereon;
- (c) whether any other tourist destinations are also proposed to be developed on similar lines in other States; and
- (d) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN) : (a) and (b) Based on field visits to UP the following works have been identified in consultation with State officers :-

1. Development/Repairs of Ram Ki Paidi.
2. Development of River Front/Green Belt as far as seven kilometers.

3. Development of smaller Parikarma route.
4. Development of Kunds.
5. Development of Gardens.
6. Installation of Sound and Light Show conceived around Ramayana story.
7. Construction of a neat and attractive tourist resort.

Out of the above, for Ram ki Paidi a sum of Rs. 98.18 lakhs has been sanctioned and released to CPWD.

(c) and (d) Development of tourist/pilgrim places is primarily undertaken by the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations. However, the Department of tourism, Government of India, provides financial assistance to State Governments/Union Territory Administrations every year for the tourism projects identified in consultation and interaction with them.

Details of projects sanctioned in the current year by Department of Tourism are given at statement enclosed.

Statement

*State-wise Tourism Projects sanctioned during
the year 2003-04, to date*

S. No.	State/UT	No. of Project Sanctioned	Amount Sanctioned (Rs. in Lakhs)
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2	550.00
2.	Assam	2	155.46
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	3	157.54
4.	Bihar	0	0
5.	Chattisgarh	2	57.00

1	2	3	4
6. Goa		0	0
7. Gujarat		2	19.00
8. Haryana		6	558.49
9. Himachal Pradesh		2	65.00
10. Jammu and Kashmir		2	770.00
11. Jharkhand		1	393.00
12. Karnataka		3	304.00
13. Kerala		2	65.00
14. Madhya Pradesh		6	236.20
15. Maharashtra		4	679.30
16. Manipur		1	82.44
17. Meghalaya		1	1.50
18. Mizoram		3	205.85
19. Nagaland		2	456.00
20. Orissa		3	404.55
21. Punjab		0	0
22. Rajasthan		9	1477.81
23. Sikkim		4	550.50
24. Tamilnadu		6	833.55
25. Tripura		3	42.21
26. Uttaranchal		1	2.30
27. Uttar Pradesh		3	500.80
28. West Bengal		8	578.32
29. Andaman and Nicobar		0	0

1	2	3	4
30. Chandigarh		1	5.00
31. Dadar and Nagar Haveli		0	0
32. Delhi		7	727.07
33. Daman and Diu		1	265.07
34. Lakshadweep		0	0
35. Pondicerry		1	245.17
Total		91	10388.13

[Translation]

Problems faced by Sponge Iron Industry

1929. SHRI RAMJILAL SUMAN :

SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI :

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether Sponge Iron Manufacturers Association has submitted their demands to the Government;

(b) if so, the details of the demands;

(c) whether the Government has constituted a committee to sole iron ore related issues faced by sponge iron industry;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the committee has submitted its report to the Government; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY) : (a) and (b) Sponge Iron Manufacturers Association has represented regarding serious problems of availability of right grade of iron ore at affordable prices, inadequate availability of non

coking coal of right grade and quality, restricted supply of natural gas below the contracted quantities and consistent threat of its major price increase.

(c) and (d) To look into iron ore related issues faced by sponge iron industry, the Government has constituted a Committee comprising of representatives from the industry association, Ministry of Mines, Governments of Orissa and Jharkhand and public sector iron ore mining companies.

(e) The Committee has not submitted its report.

(f) Does not arise in view of (e) above.

[English]

Open Sky Policy

1930. DR. MANDA JAGANNATH : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has requested the Union Government for extending open sky policy to promote tourism and associated industries in the State; and

(b) if so, the response of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As in the past, a limited open sky policy has been declared by the Government of India under which airlines of various countries have been permitted to operate extra-bilateral flights for the period December, 2003 to February, 2004 subject to existing terms of the commercial agreement with designated Indian carriers. This will enable them to mount extra flights to meet demand during peak tourist season.

Assistance to States for Centrally Sponsored Tourism and Cultural Schemes

1931. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of funds allotted/released to State Governments for Centrally Sponsored Tourism and Cultural Schemes during the last three years and thereafter, State-wise and scheme-wise;

(b) whether the Union Government has received requests from State Governments to release additional assistance for implementation of such schemes; and

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

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected and would be placed on the Table of the House.

Manufacturing of Poor Quality of Wheels by Durgapur Steel Plant

1932. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV :
SHRI SUNIL KHAN :

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government is aware that the wheels made by Durgapur Steel Plant (DSP) for Railways are of very poor quality and fractures in these wheels have resulted in certain cases of rail accidents;

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

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

(d) whether the Wheel and Axle plant in DSP was visited by the Steel Minister and Chairman of SAIL in October 2003 to investigate the radius of the wheel and the quality;

(e) if so, the findings thereof; and

(f) the follow-up action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY) : (a) Wheels

manufactured at Durgapur Steel Plant are 100% as per the quality requirements specified by the Indian Railways in their relevant specification. Wheels are tested/inspected by the inspecting agency of Railway i.e. Rail India Technical and Economic Services (RITES) before despatch. Fracture of wheels have taken place, in most cases, after prolonged usage and under application of severe breaking conditions leading to thermal cracks.

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

(c) In the last two years SAIL has upgraded the Wheels and Axles testing facilities to make the Wheels manufactured at Durgapur Steel Plant exactly in line with the stringent requirements of Indian Railways. Facilities such as Online Ultrasonic Testing Machine, Magnetic Particle Testing Machine, Online Hardness Testing Machine, Universal Testing Machine, Optical Brinell Harness Tester and Macro-Etching facility have been installed. Further improvements, as needed, are regularly considered under the guidance of Railway Design and Standard Organisation (RDSO).

(d) and (e) Steel Minister alongwith Chairman, SAIL visited Wheel and Axle Plant at Durgapur in October 2003. They have reviewed the whole gamut of issues involving manufacturing and quality assurances system at DSP and were satisfied with the same.

(f) In view of (d) and (e) above, question does not arise.

Plantation Workers

1933. SHRIMATI MINATI SEN : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government had set up an Inter-Ministerial Group to look into various issues plaguing the plantation sector in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Group has given its recommenda-

tion about sharing of social cost between the Union Government, the State Government and the plantation sector; and

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

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SAHIB SINGH VERMA) : (a) and (b) The Government constituted an inter-Ministerial Committee to look into the various issues concerning the plantation sector. The terms of reference of the Committee are in the Statement enclosed.

(c) and (d) The inter Ministerial Committee has recommended that the Central Government, the State Governments and the plantation industry should bear the social and infrastructure cost under the Plantations Labour Act, 1951 in the proportion of 40:10:50 respectively. The report of the Committee has been circulated to all concerned.

Statement

Terms of reference of the Inter Ministerial Committee on Plantation Sector

The terms of reference for the Committee was as under:

(a) In the context of increased cost of production of tea and lower price realisation from the auction system whether without diluting the statutory responsibilities under the Plantations Labour Act, 1951, it would be possible to allocate social sector funds for the plantation sector through earmarking funds from the social sector Ministries and State Governments, including panchayats for primary health, education roads, water and sanitation in the plantation areas.

(b) The policy of imports of tea for re-exports and the problems which Indian tea industry faced by way of imports of poor quality tea for re-export needed further examination. In this context, the

suggestion for a moratorium of the Tea Marketing Control Order, 1984 for a year also required consideration.

- (c) The existing taxation structure for the plantation industry which was stated to be adverse to the industry need to be examined, particularly in the context of dual tax which the plantation sector had to pay by way of both high agricultural income to the State Governments and high Excise Duty to the Central Government.
- (d) The issue of price determination in the auction system also required examination, particularly in the context of the various intermediaries that were involved in the tea auction system and the manner in which the auction prices were stated to have been kept artificially low as compared to the retail prices of tea.
- (e) The modalities of remitting the Provident Fund dues of workers to be worked out after discussing the matter with the employers and the workers representatives to arrive at an amicable solution to the problem.

Death by Exposure of Pesticides

1934. SHRI PRABODH PANDA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a number of farmers have died and thousands of farmers are suffering from various ailments in Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Kerala due to pesticides exposure during last cotton crop season;

(b) if so, the actual number of farmers who died and are suffering, State-wise;

(c) whether use of pesticides in cotton farming in India is alarming; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to contain the use of pesticides in cotton farming?

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

(a) No, Sir. The State Governments of Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, and Kerala have reported no death or suffering of farmers from various ailments due to pesticides exposure during last cotton crop season.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) The use of pesticides in cotton is highest among all crops. However it is slowly declining.

(d) The Government has taken following steps to contain the use of pesticides in cotton farming:

(i) The Government has adopted Integrated Pest Management (IPM), encompassing cultural, mechanical and biological methods and need based use of pesticides, as the cardinal principle and main plank of plant protection in the country. 26 Central Integrated Pest Management Centres in 22 States and one Union Territory are imparting training to farmers and extension functionaries in IPM including safe and judicious use of pesticides. So far, 1560 Farmers Field Schools have been organised thereby training 46,676 farmers and 6736 Agricultural Extension Officers in IPM in Cotton.

(ii) The Government is promoting the use of bio-pesticides. The guidelines for their registration have been simplified recently. Government also gives grants-in-aid to State Governments for establishing bio-control laboratories for production of bio-control agents.

(iii) FAO-EU Integrated Pest Management (IPM) programme for Cotton in India is also being implemented in the States of Andhra Pradesh,

Karnataka, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and Punjab with a view to promote Integrated Pest Management in Cotton crop through Training of Facilitators and farmers.

- (iv) The Government India is implementing a Technology Mission on Cotton (TMC) for increasing the production and productivity of the cotton crop. The TMC includes grants-in-aid for establishment of biological control laboratories for minimizing the use of chemical pesticides and training of farmers in Integrated Pest Management. Insecticides Resistance Management strategies are also being promoted under this programme to complement the efforts of Integrated Pest Management approach.

**Clearance to Sea Link Projects
of Mumbai**

1935. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE :
SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA :

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

(a) the details of sea link projects pending with the Union Government for environmental clearance as on date particularly from the Government of Maharashtra;

(b) since when each of them is pending;

(c) the extent of cost escalation suffered by each project; and

(d) the steps taken to accord early clearance to these projects?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) and (b) The Trans Harbour Sea Link Project submitted by Maharashtra State Road Development Corporation Limited, Government of Maharashtra was considered in the Expert

Committee on 17.7.2003 and additional information was sought on 4th August, 2003. Government of Maharashtra have provided the additional information on 3.11.2003.

(c) As per the details provided by Maharashtra State Road Development Corporation Limited, the cost escalation is about 6% per year.

(d) The project will be processed for approval in accordance with the guidelines issued under the Environment Impact Assessment Notification.

**Assistance to States for
Irrigation Projects**

1936. SHRI BHAN SINGH BHAURA : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government is assisting various State Governments in implementing irrigation projects;

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

(c) whether this scheme has been extended to the districts facing water scarcity; and

(d) if so, the name of such districts with special reference to Punjab?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY) : (a) and (b) The Central Government is providing Central Loan Assistance (CLA) under Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) for completion of such on-going approved major/medium irrigation projects which are in an advanced stage of completion. The details of CLA released during the last three years to these projects is given at the Statement-I.

(c) and (d) The details of CLA provided to the projects benefitting water scarcity districts are given in the Statement-II. There is no such project benefitting water scarcity districts in Punjab.

Statement-I*Central Loan Assistance (CLA) released under AIBP during the last 3 years*

(Rs. crore)

Sl. No.	Name of State/Project (Started in Plan)	CLA Released during			Total
		2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003	
1	2	3	4	5	6

Major, Medium and Minor Irrigation Projects**ANDHRA PRADESH**

1.	Sriram Sagar (Stage-I) (III)	27.720	47.000		74.720
2.	Cheyzeru (Annamaya) (V)	2.080			2.080
3.	Jurala (VI)	21.000	27.880	20.300	69.180
4.	Somasilla (V)	17.000			17.000
5.	Nagarjunsagar (II)	7.260	10.170		17.430
6.	Madduvalasa (V)	13.200	19.940		33.140
7.	Gundalavagu (V)	1.670			1.670
8.	Maddigedda (V)	1.000			1.000
9.	Kanupur Canal (III)	1.920			1.920
10.	Yerrakalva (V)	2.170		7.886	10.056
	Sub-Total 1	95.020	104.990	28.186	228.196

CLA Released under Fast Track Programme

	Nagarjunsagar Project (II)		27.170		27.170
	Somasila (V)		60.000		60.000
	Sriramsagar Project St.I (III)		72.000		72.000
	Annamayya (Cheyyuru) (V)		5.000	5.000	10.000
	Madduvalasa (V)		12.500		12.500

1	2	3	4	5	6
	Sub-Total 2	0.000	176.670	5.000	181.670
	(Andhra Pradesh)-Total	95.020	281.660	33.186	409.866
	ARUNACHAL PRADESH				
	337 M.I. Schemes in 1999-2000				0.000
	532 M.I. Schemes in 2000-2001	7.500			7.500
	285 ongoing M.I. Schemes in 2001-02		15.000		15.000
	2 ongoing and 286 New MI Scheme in 2002-03			1.500	1.500
	(Arunachal)-Total	7.500	15.000	1.500	24.000
	ASSAM				
11.	Pahumara (A.P. 1978-80)		0.980		0.980
12.	Hawaipur LIS (VI)			2.000	2.000
13.	Rupahi LIS (A.P. 1978-80)				0.000
14.	Dhansiri (V)	5.400	7.920		13.320
15.	Champamati (VI)	3.050	2.230	2.170	7.450
16.	Bordia (A.P. 1978-80)	1.000	0.987	2.000	3.987
17.	Kolonga (V)				0.000
18.	Burhi Dihang LIS (A.P. 1978-80)	0.750	0.924	0.500	2.174
19.	Bordikaral (V)	3.600		0.313	3.913
20.	Mod. of Jamuna Irr. Project (IX)		0.375	3.960	4.335
21.	Integrated Irri. Scheme in Kollong Basin (V)	4.500		1.357	5.857
	6 M.I. Schemes in 1999-2000				
	46 M.I. Schemes in 2000-2001	5.777			5.777
	5 New M.I. Schemes in 2001-02		1.105		1.105
	3 M.I. Schemes under Kartavi AAC in 2002-03			0.415	0.415

1	2	3	4	5	6
	40 Nos. M.I. Schemes			2.128	2.128
	7 Surface M.I. Schemes (New)			0.3915	0.392
	5 ongoing M.I. Schemes under KACC			0.6243	0.624
	3 ongoing M.I. Schemes under KACC			0.4150	0.415
	(Assam)-Total	24.077	14.521	16.2738	54.872
	BIHAR				
22.	Western Kosi Canal (III)	59.000			59.000
23.	Upper Kiul (V)	1.200	2.660		3.860
24.	Durgawati (V)	18.740		13.740	32.480
25.	Bansagar (V)				0.000
26.	Omi Reservoir (V)	2.370	0.760	0.7405	3.871
27.	Bilasi Reservoir (V)	0.470			0.470
28.	Sone canal modernisation (VII)	66.680			66.680
	(Bihar)-Total	148.440	3.420	14.4805	166.341
	CHHATTISGARH				
29.	Hasdeo Bango (A.P. 1978-80)	12.930	45.000	26.160	84.090
30.	Shivnath Diversion (V)	1.000	0.600	0.270	1.870
31.	Jonk Diversion (IV)		2.600	2.670	5.270
32.	Koseteda			3.000	3.000
	Sub Total 1	13.930	48.200	32.100	94.230
	CLA Released under Fast Track Programme				
33.	Bamai			1.300	1.300
	Hasdeo Bango (A.P. 1978-80)			70.600	70.600
	Sub total 2	0.000	0.000	71.900	71.900
	(Chhattisgarh)-Total	13.930	48.200	104.000	166.130

1	2	3	4	5	6
GOA					
34.	Salauli Phase-1 (IV)	3.350	3.000		6.350
35.	Tillari (V)	58.300	55.000		113.300
	(Goa)-Total	61.650	58.000		119.650
GUJARAT					
36.	Sardar Sarovar (VI)	400.000	480.000	903.000	1783.000
37.	Jhuj (A.P. 1978-80)				0.000
38.	Sipu (A.P. 1978-80)				0.000
39.	Mukteshwar (VI)	2.000	2.530	0.890	5.420
40.	Hamav-II (V)				0.000
41.	Umaria (V)				0.000
42.	Damanganga (IV)				0.000
43.	Karjan (V)				0.000
44.	Sukhi (V)				0.000
45.	Deo (V)				0.000
46.	Watrak Kadana RB Canal (A.P. 1978-80)				0.000
47.	Aji-IV (IX)	10.350		0.665	11.015
48.	Ozat-II (VIII)	5.500	5.160	1.115	11.775
49.	Brahamini-II (IX)	4.000			4.000
50.	Bhadar-II			0.660	0.660
	Sub-Total 1	421.850	487.690	906.330	1815.870
CLA Released under Fast Track Programme					
	Sardar Sarovar Project (VI)		94.000	94.000	188.000

1	2	3	4	5	6
	Sub-Total 2		94.000	94.000	188.000
	(Gujarat)-Total		581.690	1000.330	2003.870
	HARYANA				
51.	Gurgaon Canal (III)				0.000
52.	WRCP (VIII)			18.000	18.000
53.	JLN Lift Irri. (V)				0.000
	(Haryana)-Total	0.000	0.000	18.000	18.000
	HIMACHAL PRADESH				
54.	Shahnehar Irrgn. Project (VIII)	11.455	3.244	6.400	21.099
55.	Sidhata (IX)	1.500		1.500	3.000
56.	Changer Lift (IX)	0.765		0.250	1.015
	42 M.I. Schemes in 1999-2000				0.000
	60 M.I. Schemes in 2000-2001	4.295			4.295
	(H.P.)-Total	18.015	3.244	8.150	29.409
	JAMMU AND KASHMIR				
57.	Marwal Lift (IV)				0.000
58.	Lethpora Lift (IV)	0.310	0.265	0.815	1.390
59.	Koil Lift (V)				0.000
60.	Mod. of Ranbir Canal (VII)	5.000	3.700	5.233	13.933
61.	Mod. of Pratap Canal (VII)	0.900	0.900	1.060	2.860
62.	Mod. of Kathua Canal (VII)	0.750	0.900	1.087	2.737
63.	Rajpora lift (A.P.. 1978-80)	1.000	0.965	5.193	7.158
64.	Tral Lift (A.P. 1978&80)	1.000	0.965	10.166	12.131
65.	Igophey (IX)	1.500	1.875	4.485	7.860

1	2	3	4	5	6
66.	Rafiabad Lift Irrigation (IX)		0.900	4.757	5.657
67.	Zaingir Canal (IX)		0.600	2.203	2.803
	(J and K)-Total	10.460	11.070	34.999	56.529
JHARKHAND					
68.	Gumani (V)		6.500	4.000	10.500
69.	Torai (V)				0.000
70.	Latratu (VII)	0.120			0.120
71.	Kansjore (VII)	2.330		1.000	3.330
72.	Sonua (VI)	1.535	2.020	2.335	5.890
73.	Surangi (VII)	1.730	2.300	2.335	6.365
74.	Tapkara Res. Scheme (VI)				0.000
75.	Batane (V)	3.335			3.335
	(Jhankhand)-Total	9.050	10.820	9.670	29.540
KARNATAKA					
76.	UKP Stage-I (IV)	100.000	200.000	181.000	481.000
77.	Malprabha (III)		10.000	25.560	35.560
78.	Hirehalla (VI)	8.000	10.000		18.000
79.	Ghatprabha (V)	45.000	5.000	75.000	125.000
80.	Karanja (V)	18.000	10.000	10.000	38.000
81.	UKP Stage-II (IX)		250.000	275.050	525.050
82.	Gandorinala (VIII)		7.500	17.870	25.370
	Sub-Total 1	171.000	492.500	584.480	1247.980
CLA Released under Fast Track Programme					
	Hirehalla			8.780	8.780

1	2	3	4	5	6
	Karanja			24.370	24.370
83.	Maskinala			3.220	3.220
	Sub-Total 2	0.000	0.000	36.370	36.370
	(Karnataka)-Total	171.000	492.500	620.850	1284.350
	Kerala				
84.	Kallada Project (III)	9.750			9.750
85.	Muvattupuzha (V)	12.650	11.275	5.665	29.590
	(Kerala)-Total	22.400	11.275	5.665	39.340
	MADHYA PRADESH				
86.	Indira Sagar (VI)	80.000	23.000	74.010	177.010
	Bansagar (V)	25.000	43.330		68.330
87.	Upper Weinganga (V)	14.000	2.200	5.560	21.760
88.	Rajghat Dam (V)	11.928			11.928
89.	Sindh Phase-II (VI)	7.730	46.660	47.200	101.590
90.	Sindh Phase-I (IV)	3.500		2.320	5.820
91.	Mahi (VI)	2.170	1.855	17.850	21.875
92.	Beriyar (V)	5.000		5.940	10.940
93.	Urmil (V)	1.000	0.335	0.600	1.935
94.	Banjar (V)	1.000		0.400	1.400
95.	Bariyapur			1.120	1.120
	Sub-Total 1	151.328	117.380	155.000	423.708
	CLA Released under Fast Track Programme				
96.	Bargi Dam RBC 16 Km.-63 Km. (V)		98.030		98.030

1	2	3	4	5	6
97.	Bargi Div. Pro. Canal (63 Km. to 104 Km)			65.000	65.000
	Sub-Total 2	0.000	98.030	65.000	163.030
	(Madhya Pradesh)-Total	151.328	215.410	220.000	586.738
MAHARASHTRA					
98.	Gosikhurd (VI)	4.500	5.700		10.200
99.	Surya (A.P. 1978-80)	2.640			2.640
100.	Waghur (V)	20.000	17.000	8.480	45.480
101.	Bhima (III)				0.000
102.	Upper Tapi (IV)		1.400		1.400
103.	Upper Wardha (V)	35.310		33.706	69.016
104.	Wan (VI)	17.240		4.3136	21.554
105.	Jayakwadi (V)	8.920	15.000	4.125	28.045
106.	Vishnupuri (A.P. 1978-80)	4.000			4.000
107.	Bahula (V)	4.410		1.544	5.954
108.	Krishna			14.173	14.173
109.	Kukadi			37.438	37.438
110.	Upper Manar			0.642	0.642
111.	Hetwane			2.5155	2.516
112.	Chaskman			3.312	3.312
	Sub-Total 1	97.020	39.100	110.249	246.369
CLA Released under Fast Track Programme					
113.	Khadakwasla			2.780	2.780

1	2	3	4	5	6
114. Kadvi				7.000	7.000
115. Kasarsai				1.685	1.685
116. Jawal Gaon				1.365	1.365
117. Kumbhi				9.300	9.300
118. Kasari				0.755	0.755
Sub-Total 2		0.000	0.000	22.885	22.885
(Maharashtra)-Total		97.020	39.100	133.134	269.2541
MANIPUR					
119. Khuga (VI)			6.860	6.000	12.860
120. Thoubai (A.P. 1978-80)			2.500	11.000	13.500
121. Dolaithabi Barrage Project				1.500	1.500
108 M.I. Schemes in 1999-2000					0.000
108 M.I. Schemes in 2000-2001		1.500			1.500
118 New M.I. Schemes in 2002-2003				1.000	1.000
(Manipur)-Total		1.500	9.360	19.500	30.360
MEGHALAYA					
122. Rongai Valley (VIII)		1.280	1.220	1.500	4.000
39 M.I. Schemes in 1999-2000		—			0.000
47 M.I. Schemes in 2000-2001		4.232			4.232
34 on-going M.I. Schemes in 2001-2002			3.250		3.250
(Meghalaya)-Total		5.512	4.470	1.500	11.482
MIZORAM					
10 M.I. Schemes in 1999-2000		—			0.000

1	2	3	4	5	6
	10 M.I. Schemes in 2000-2001	1.433			1.433
	7 M.I. Schemes (3 ongoing and 4 new) in 2001-2002		2.000		2.000
	5 ongoing surface M.I. Schemes in 2002-02			0.750	0.750
	(Mizoram)-Total	1.433	2.000	0.750	4.183
	NAGALAND				
	468 M.I. Schemes in 1999-2000				0.000
	468 M.I. Schemes in 2000-2001	5.000			5.000
	74 New M.I.I. Schemes in 2001-2002		5.000		5.000
	60 ongoing M.I. Schemes in 2002-03			2.500	2.500
	Seiza Mill Project			0.159	0.159
	(Nagaland)-Total	5.000	5.000	2.659	12.659
	Orissa				
123.	Upper Indravati (RB) (A.P. 1978-80)	19.500		28.100	47.600
124.	Subemrekha Multipurpose (VII)		37.740		37.740
125.	Rengali (IV)	34.000	5.480	28.120	67.600
126.	Anandpur Barrage (IV)		1.000	14.000	15.000
127.	Upper Kolab (V)	10.000	12.380	6.150	28.530
128.	Titlagarh (VIII)	3.000	7.085	6.610	16.695
129.	Lower Indira (IX)	5.500	22.520	64.035	92.055
130.	Lower Suktel (IX)	2.500	3.300	12.000	17.800
	16 M.I. Schemes in 1999-2000	—			0.000
	23 M.I. Schemes in 2000-2001	25.820			25.820
131.	Potteru (IV)		9.870		9.870

1	2	3	4	5	6
132.	Naraj Barrage (IX)		4.670		4.670
	Sub-Total	100.320	104.045	159.015	363.380
	CLA Released under Fast Track Programme				
	Subamarekha Project (VII)		17.420		17.420
	Gate Works of Narrage barrage (IX)		17.450		17.450
	Execution of Rengali Left Canal (IV)		14.000		14.000
	Potteru (IV)		15.560		15.560
133.	Improvement of Sasan Canal			17.460	17.460
134.	Salandi Left Main Canal			3.095	3.095
	Sub-Total 2	0.00	64.43	20.555	84.985
	(Orissa)-Total	100.320	168.475	179.570	448.365
	PUNJAB				
135.	Ranjit Sagar Dam (VI)	40.290			40.290
136.	Remodelling of UBDC (IX)	13.330	80.000		93.330
137.	Irr. to H.P. below Talwara (IX)	2.000	20.000	10.000	32.000
138.	Shahpur (IX)		13.690	16.160	29.850
139.	Kandi Canal Extension St.II			10.500	10.500
	(Punjab)-Total	55.620	113.690	36.660	205.970
	RAJASTHAN				
140.	Jaismand (Modernisation) (VI)	0.075			0.075
141.	Chhapi (V)	3.100	2.500		5.600
142.	Panchana (V)	7.697	7.570		15.267
143.	IGNP Stage-II (V)	47.890	47.400	76.100	171.390

1	2	3	4	5	6
144. Bisalpur (VII)					0.000
145. Narmada Canal (VI)			9.000	20.000	29.000
146. Gambhiri (Modernisation) (VI)		0.315			0.315
147. Chauli (VIII)		0.460	6.170	9.600	16.230
148. Mahi Bajaj Sagar (IV)		14.130	14.000	8.760	36.890
149. Mod. of Gang Canal (VI)		4.800	9.675	28.500	42.975
Sub-Total 1		78.467	96.315	142.960	317.742
CLA Released under Fast Track Programme					
Panchana (V)				20.970	20.970
Chhapi (V)				10.455	10.455
Sub-Total 2		0.000	0.000	31.425	31.425
(Rajasthan)-Total		78.467	96.315	174.385	349.167
TRIPURA					
150. Gumti (V)		1.845	0.844	0.8437	3.533
151. Manu (VI)		1.500	0.375	0.562	2.437
152. Khowai (VI)		1.500	0.844	1.219	3.563
628 M.I. Schemes in 1999-2000					0.000
335 M.I. Schemes in 2000-2001		9.038			9.038
335 ongoing M.I. Schemes in 2001-02			19.000		19.000
268 Ongoing Surface M.I. Schemes in 2002-03				10.770	10.770
(Tripura)-Total		13.883	21.063	13.3947	48.341
TAMIL NADU					
153. WRCP (Viii)					0.000
(Tamil Nadu)-Total					0.000

1	2	3	4	5	6
UTTAR PRADESH					
154.	Upper Ganga and Madhya Ganga (V)	32.640	36.500		69.140
155.	Sharda Sahayak (III)	50.000			50.000
156.	Sarju Nahar (V)	52.000	65.000	110.000	227.000
157.	Kharif Chennai in H.K. Doab (VII)	13.500	15.000	10.000	38.500
158.	Rajghat Dam (V)	16.360			16.360
159.	Gunta Nala Dam (VI)				0.000
	Bansagar (V)		27.250	49.550	76.800
160.	Lakhwar Vyasi (V)				0.000
161.	Tehri (VII)	127.000	129.000	113.730	369.730
162.	Gyanpur Pump Canal (VII)	10.400	8.500		18.900
163.	Eastern Ganga Canal (V)	8.000	19.090	14.000	41.090
164.	Rajghat Canal (V)	6.000	14.620	20.000	40.620
165.	Mod. Of Agra Canal			2.000	2.000
	Sub-Total 1	315.900	314.960	319.280	950.140
CLA Released under Fast Track Programme					
	Upper Ganga Mod. Project (V)		17.78	39.720	39.720
	Madhya Pradesh Canal Project (V)		21.95		0.000
	Sub-Total 2		39.730	39.720	79.450
	(Uttar Pradesh)-Total		354.690	359.000	1029.590
UTTARANCHAL					
	185 Nos. Surface M.I. Schemes			24.0750	24.075
	8 Surface M.I. Schemes			1.0875	1.088
	Total	0.000	0.000	25.1625	25.163

1	2	3	4	5	6
WEST BENGAL					
166.	Teesta Barrage (V)	20.000	23.283	16.538	59.821
167.	Kangsabati (II)	5.000	11.710		16.710
168.	Modernisation of Barrage and Irrigation System of DVC. (VI)				0.000
169.	Tatko (V)	0.625		0.267	0.892
170.	Patloi (V)	0.700	0.765		1.465
171.	Hanumata (VII)	0.500	0.800	0.090	1.390
172.	Subemarekha Barrage (VII)		2.050	11.238	13.288
	(W.B.)-Total	26.825	38.608	28.133	93.566
SIKKIM					
	129 M.I. Schemes in 1999-2000				0.000
	76 ongoing M.I. Schemes in 2001-2002		2.400		2.400
	62 New M.I. Schemes in 2002-2003			0.750	0.750
	(Sikkim)-Total	0.000	2.400	0.750	3.150
Grand Total		1856.200	2601.981	3061.7026	7519.8836

- Inter State Project

Statement-II		1	2
Name of State	District Facing Water Scarcity	Bihar	Munger
1	2		Rohtas
Andhra Pradesh	Nalagonda		Palamu
	Cuddapa	Gujarat	Bharuch
	Mahabubnagar		Panchmahal
	Prakasham		Ahmedabad
			Mehsana

1	2	1	2
	Rajkot	Orissa	Kalahandi
	Banaskantha	Rajasthan	Churu
	Kuchchh		Barmer
	Bhavnagar		Jodhpur
	Surendranagar		Jaisalmer
	Jamnagar		Bikaner
Haryana	Whole State including D.P. Distts.		Jalore
Karnataka	Bijapur		Dungarpur
	Raichur	Uttar Pradesh/Uttaranchal	Allahabad
	Belgaum	Lowering of Air Corridor Height	
	Belgam	1937. SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :	
	Dharwad	(a) whether International Civil Aviation authorities are considering lowering the air-traffic corridor height from 40,000 ft. to 20,000 ft. and of the gap between two corridors from 4000 ft. to 2000 ft. to allow increase in air passage and traffic;	
	Gulbarga	(b) if so, whether the new stipulations include enforcement of licence regulations for Air Traffic Controllers;	
Madhya Pradesh	Khandwa	(c) if so, whether Pakistan has already introduced licencing system for ATC as an abundant safety measure;	
	Khargaan	(d) if so, whether India is likely to follow the suit; and	
	Sidhi	(e) if not, the reasons therefor?	
	Datia	THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY) : (a) The International Civil Aviation Organization has introduced Reduced Vertical Separation Minima (RVSM) of 1000 feet	
	Jhabua		
Maharashtra	Ahmednagar		
	Aurangabad		
	Sangli		
	Satara		
	Puna		
	Solapur		

for aircraft flying between the flight levels of 29,000 feet to 41000 feet over the airspace of South East Asia including India. This reduced vertical separation would be able to accomodate more number of aircraft in the airspace.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) No information is available with regard to introduction of licensing system for Air Traffic Controllers (ATCs) in Pakistan.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) India, being a Member of International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO), follows the standards and recommended practices laid down by ICAO.

Drip Irrigation by Foreign Companies

1938. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether foreign companies have evinced interest to invest in drip irrigation in the country;

(b) if so, whether any foreign company has offered its proposal on drip irrigation in India;

(c) if so, the details thereof and whether any concrete action-plan has been worked out in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and by when a final decision is likely to be taken thereon?

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

(a) to (c) The Ministry of Agriculture has not received proposal from any foreign companies evincing interest to invest in drip irrigation in the country;

(d) Does not arise.

Opening up of Islands for Tourism

1939. DR. D.V.G. SHANKAR RAO : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to open up more islands in Andaman for tourism; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) The Standing Committee of Secretaries has recommended development of tourist resorts on the following islands, in the first phase with adequate environmental safeguards by giving land on long term lease to private investors through competitive bidding:-

- (1) Havelock Island
- (2) Neil Island
- (3) Long Island
- (4) North Passage Island (Merk Bay)
- (5) South Andaman Island
- (6) Cinque Island
- (7) Ross and Smith Island
- (8) Little Andaman Islands
- (9) Rutland Island
- (10) Interview Island

Assistance for Seminars and Workshops

1940. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY : Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government provides assistance for organizing workshops, seminars, exhibitions, fairs and for studies/survey etc. to create awareness about the potential and prospect of food processing industries in the country;

(b) if so, the amount released and spent for the said programme during the last three years, and thereafter year-wise and State-wise;

(c) the number of above mentioned programmes conducted by the Government in each State particularly in Jharkhand and Bihar; and

(d) the number of persons benefited therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The details are at statement enclosed.

(d) Since these programmes are promotional in nature, no such information have been centrally maintained.

Statement

Details of Amount sanctioned for organizing Workshops, Seminars, Exhibitions, Fairs, Studies and Surveys etc. during last 3 years

(in lakhs)

S. No.	Name of the State	2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	3.50	0.68	1.00	5.18
2.	Andaman and Nicobar	1.50		0.98	2.48
3.	Assam		0.65		0.65
4.	Bihar	3.70	1.00	0.75	5.45
5.	Delhi	46.34	39.61	38.19	124.14
6.	Goa	4.00			4.00
7.	Gujarat	7.18	1.00	3.29	11.47

1	2	3	4	5	6
8.	Himachal Pradesh	1.00	1.00		2.00
9.	Haryana		1.00		1.00
10.	Jammu and Kashmir		1.00		1.00
11.	Kerala	3.00	1.50	5.00	9.50
12.	Karnataka	3.60	10.50		14.10
13.	Maharashtra	5.40	4.72	4.77	14.89
14.	Madhya Pradesh	1.76	3.00	0.73	5.49
15.	Manipur	3.00			3.00
16.	Orissa	0.45	1.00		1.45
17.	Punjab	2.39	5.50		7.89
18.	Tamil Nadu	3.69	15.09		18.78
19.	Tripura	0.30			0.30
20.	Uttar Pradesh	8.36	2.00		10.36
21.	Uttaranchal			0.75	0.75
22.	West Bengal	1.00	3.00	5.35	9.35
Total		100.17	92.25	60.81	253.23

Utilization of Forest Area In Tamil Nadu

1941. SHRI S. MURUGESAN : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a vast scope for utilisation of forest areas of Courtallam in Tamil Nadu and also availability of plenty of herbs;

(b) if so, whether the Government proposes to set up a herbal garden in Courtallam; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) to (c) Courtallam in Tamil Nadu is rich in medicinal herbs. Efficacy of drugs made from plants growing in Courtallam is widely recognized. A Medicinal Plant Conservation Area of 132 hectares has been established in the Reserve Forest area of Courtallam. However, there is no proposal to set up a herbal garden in Courtallam.

Price of Agricultural Produce

1942. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether prices of agricultural produce have fallen in the recent past;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NAYAYAN YADAV) : (a) and (b) According to the Wholesale Price Index (WPI) with base 1993-94=100, the point to point increase in the WPI of agricultural commodities for the year ending November 22, 2003 was 3.7% compared with 4.4% during the corresponding previous year. The main reason for the relative decline in the prices of agricultural commodities vis-a-vis last year has been the lower rate of increase in the prices of non-food articles and the decline in the prices of foodgrains, including pulses, during the year ending November 22, 2003.

(c) To minimize the impact of fluctuation in market prices both at home and abroad, and to ensure remunerative prices for farmers, the Government announces Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) for major kharif and rabi crops. For the Kharif crops of 2003-04 season the Government announced MSPs in July 2003. In order to encourage the farmers to switch over to relatively more remunerative crops like pulses and oilseeds, the Government have been announcing, in recent years, relatively higher increases in MSPs of these crops vis-a-vis the MSPs of other crops like paddy and wheat.

Development of Tourism in Walled City of Delhi

1943. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has any proposal for development of tourism in the walled city of Delhi;

(b) if so, the steps proposed by the Government;

(c) whether the Government has any proposal for the restoration and conservation of heritage sites/buildings/havelis in the walled city; and

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

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN) : (a) to (d) Details of projects sanctioned by the Department of Tourism, Government of India, for development of Tourism in the walled city of Delhi are at Statement-I.

Details of works sanctioned by Archaeological Survey of India are at Statement-II.

Statement-I

Department of Tourism

S. No.	Year	Name of the Projects	Amount sanctioned (Rs. in lakhs)
1	2	3	4
1.	2001-02	Illumination of Red Fort	18.12
2.	-do-	Illumination of wall of the walled city	8.32
3.	2002-03	Cleaning/working of city wall	3.95
4.	-do-	Installation of tubewell electric pump at Red Fort	2.54
5.	-do-	Upgradation of Tea House—electrical work	11.21

1	2	3	4
6.	2002-03	Upgradation of Tea House—civil work	33.09
7.	-do-	Toilets and parking on rear side of Red Fort	49.40
8.	-do-	Illumination of Front side of Red Fort	38.01
9.	-do-	Illumination of remaining rear side of Red Fort	16.76
10.	-do-	Development of lawn in front of Red Fort	300.34
11.	-do-	Upgradation of SEL show at Red Fort.	38.00

Statement-II

Archaeological Survey of India

S. No.	Name of the Projects	Estimated Cost (Rs. in lakhs)
1	2	3
Red Fort		
1.	Providing fixing stone pavement Rang Mahal to Moti Masjid and around Diwane-e-Aam at Red Fort	31.34
2.	Baoli at Red Fort	12.18
3.	Fortification wall and its adjoining area of Red Fort	47.20
4.	Moti Masjid, Red Fort	3.97
5.	Inlay work at Red Fort	22.13
6.	Khas Mahal Diwan-e-Aam and Hammam at Red Fort	3.54

1	2	3
7.	Asad Burj Red Fort	8.83
8.	Red sand stone flooring at Rang Mahal, Red Fort	6.23
9.	Hayat Balsh Garden Red Fort	36.76
10.	P/F Nahar-I-Bahist red sandstone flooring and channel at Nahar-I-Bahist at Red Fort	50.00
11.	Khas Mahal and Mussman Burj, Red Fort	22.26
12.	Delhi Gate Red Fort	30.94
13.	Ceiling at Rang Mahal, Red Fort	25.00
14.	Sawan-Bhadon and Shah Burj pavilions, Red Fort	25.00
15.	Hammam, Red Fort	25.00
16.	Sawan Bahdon Pavilion, Red Fort	10.00
17.	Cells of Diwan-e-Aam, Red Fort	10.00
18.	Shah Burj Pavilion and apartments, Red Fort	10.00
19.	Compound wall lighting at Red Fort	28.59
20.	Construction of Ticket booth in front of Red Fort	48.35
21.	Approach road and berm from Lahauri Gate to Delhi Gate in front of Red Fort	44.88
22.	Development of tea House Red Fort	47.43
Salimgarh		
1.	Slingarh Fort	39.76
2.	Cells adjoining Salimgarh Bridge on the north	12.02

1	2	3
3.	Pedestrian bridge over Railway track connecting Saleem Garh Fort and Red Fort, Delhi by Northern Railway	37.28
Other Monuments		
1.	City Wall (Kashmiri Gate)	9.42
2.	Jahan Panah Wall, Delhi	26.83
3.	City wall Dariya Ganj	51.95
4.	Cells of fortification wall each Delhi	12.24
5.	Sheesh Mahal, Salimnagar	23.00
Gardening and Landscaping (Horticulture)		
1.	Red Fort Garden	12.76
2.	Salimgarh Fort	1.91
3.	S.S. Museum Red Fort	0.96
Chemical Branch		
1.	Diwan-e-Khas Red Fort	1.93
2.	Rampart wall, Lahori Gate, Red Fort	15.40
3.	Diwan-e-Aam, Red Fort	1.70
4.	Fort Wall fencing Ring road, Red Fort	2.96
5.	Asad Burj, Red Fort	0.57
6.	Diwan-e-Khas, Red Fort	1.87
7.	Rampart wall, Red Fort	1.50
8.	Sawan Pavillion, Red Fort	1.50

Approval to Irrigation Projects

1944. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the number of irrigation projects approved by the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs during the last three years and the current year;

(b) the number out of them approved for Maharashtra;

(c) the present status of these projects; and

(d) the assistance given by the Union Government to the State Governments during the said period for the projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY) : (a) and (b) The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs during the last three years has approved Pagladia multi-purpose project in Assam. During current year no irrigation project of Maharashtra or any other State has been approved by the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs.

(c) and (d) The Pagladia Multi-purpose project has made a limited headway due to non-handing over of land by the State Government to the project executing agency and security related problems. The Central Government have released Rs. 24.82 crore during 2000-01 and Rs. 17.50 crore during 2001-02 for this project.

Inflight Facilities

1945. SHRI P.D. ELANGO VAN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the list of contracts awarded by Indian Airlines alongwith the amount involved therein to provide inflight facilities and amenities to the air passengers during the last three years;

(b) the total expenditure incurred by Indian Airlines in inflight amenities during the last three years, year-wise;

(c) whether the Government has received letter of expressions from any other contractors/suppliers for providing the inflight amenities to passengers;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government is considering to enhance the allocation made for inflight facilities; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY) : (a) A list of contracts awarded by Indian Airlines to provide in-flight facilities and amenities is enclosed as statement-I.

(b) The expenditure incurred by Indian Airlines on food and other passenger amenities for last 3 years is given below:

Year	Amount in Crores
2000-01	115.01
2001-02	109.57
2002-03 (Provisional)	126.94

(c) and (d) Statement-II listing the parties other than the existing caterers, who had responded to the Tender Notices for catering contracts is enclosed.

(e) and (f) Indian Airlines constantly endeavours to upgrade the passenger related facilities/amenities for which commensurate budget allocations are made.

Statment-I

List of Caterers, (As on 9/12/2003)

Northern Region	Caterers
1	2
Delhi	M/s. Ambassador Sky CHEF M/s. Taj Air Caterers M/s. Chefair Flight Kitchen
Varanasi	M/s. Pradeep Hotel
Lucknow	M/s. Hotel Pradeep

1	2
Amritsar	M/s. Hotel Royal Castle
Jammu	M/s. Airport Restaurant
Southern Region	
Chennai	M/s. Taj Air Caterers
Thiruvananthapuram	Muthoot Sky CHEF
Trichirapalli	Jenney's
Calicut	Malabar Caterers
Bangalore	LSG Sky CHEF Grand Ashok
Cochin	Casino Hotel
Hyderabad	Tulip Manohar Hotel Taj Sats
Eastern Region	
Kolkata	MBD Airport Hotel M/s. Taj Sats
Bhubaneshwar	M/s. Hotel Prachi Resorts
Guwahati	M/s. Paradise Restaurant
Patna	M/s. Airport Restaurant
Port Blair	M/s. Annapurna
Western Region	
Mumbai	M/s. Ambassador Sky CHEF Taj Sats
Goa	M/s. Renaissance
Pune	M/s. Deccan Park
Nagpur	M/s. Airport Restaurant
Ahmedabad	M/s. Cama Park Plaza M/s. P.K. Hospitality

Statement-II

*List of Parties other than Existing Caterers
Who Responded Against Tenders for Catering Contracts*

NORTHERN REGION

Delhi	Amritsar	Varanasi	Lucknow	Jammu
NIL	M.K. Hotel	NIL	NIL	NIL

EASTERN REGION

Kolkata	Bhubaneshwar	Patna	Guwahati	Port Blair
1. Royal Bengal Air Caterers	1. Mayfair Lagoon 2. Hotel Swosti 3. Hotel Shishmo 4. The Crown	NIL	NIL	NIL

WESTERN REGION

Mumbai	Goa	Nagpur	Pune	Ahmedabad
1. Chefair	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL

SOUTHERN REGION

Chennai	Bangalore	Hyderabad	Cochin	Trivandrun	Calicut
1. Saj Flights Services (P) Ltd.	1. Saj Flight Services (P) Ltd. 2. Taj Sats Air Catering Ltd. 3. Royal Orchid Park Plaza 4. Le Meridien	1. Aditya Park Inn 2. Airport Restaurant	1. Saj Flight Services (P) Ltd.	1. Saj Flight Services (P) Ltd. 2. Kovalam Hotels Ltd.	1. Saj Flight Services (P) Ltd. 2. Paramount Towers

**Modernization Project "Reinventing
EPF-India"**

1946. SHRI Y.V. RAO : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has taken up the project called 'Reinventing EPF-India';

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether some international experts on social security have been appointed for the Project;

(d) if so, the terms and conditions thereof; and

(e) by when the project is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SAHIB SINGH VERMA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Employees Provident Fund Organisation has taken up the task of modernization through the project, 'Re-inventing EPF India, involving business process re-engineering, re-tooling of Accounting System and development of comprehensive Application Software towards achieving organisational goals including settlement of claims within 2-3 days and service to members from any geographical location in the country. This project also provides for allotment of permanent and unique number i.e. National Social Security Number (NSSN) to Provident Fund members for independent identification.

(c) No, Sir.

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

(e) As per the schedule, the project is to be implemented by April 2004 in six pilot centres.

Steel Prices

1947. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the international price of steel justify the

production cost of Indian Steel produced by SAIL in the international market; and

(b) if not, the steps being taken by the Government to match the international price of Steel with Indian Steel?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY) : (a) The international prices are market driven and decided primarily by the demand-supply conditions in the global steel market. Cost of production is commercial information for the steel companies and data for the same is not maintained by the Ministry.

(b) In a deregulated environment, prices are determined by the free interplay of forces of demand and supply. Government does not intervene in the market to influences prices.

Mechanized Fishing

1948. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has marked any limit along the coastline of the country debarring mechanized fishing;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to assist the poor fishermen during the last three years ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Based on a Model Marine Fishing Regulation Bill circulated by the Government of India, all the coastal States have enacted Marine Fishing Regulation Acts earmarking operational areas for different types of fishing vessels. The details are given in Statement-I enclosed.

(c) The steps taken by Government of India to assist the poor fishermen during the last three years (2000-01 to 2002-03) are given in Statement-II enclosed.

Statement-I*Area reserved for Traditional Crafts and Mechanised Vessels in the Territorial waters of Maritime States*

S. No.	State/Act	Area exclusively for traditional craft*	Areas for Mechanised vessel
1	2	3	4
1.	Gujarat Fisheries Act, 2003	—	—
2.	Maharashtra MFRA 1981	5-10 fathom depth (9-8m depth)	—
3.	Goa MFRA 1980	5 Kms.	Beyond 5 Kms.
4.	Karnataka MFRA 1986	6 Kms.	Beyond 6 Kms.
5.	Kerala MFRA 1980	10 Kms.	Beyond 10 Kms.
6.	Tamil Nadu MFRA 1983	3 nautical miles (5.4 Kms.)	Beyond 3 nautical miles
7.	Andhra Pradesh MFRA 1993	8 Kms.	Beyond 8 Kms.
8.	Orissa MFRA 1982	5 Kms.	(i) Upto 15m OAL beyond 5 Kms. (ii) Above 15m OAL beyond 10 Kms.
9.	West Bengal	(i) Upto 8 Kms. for mechanised vessels upto 9m OAL. (ii) Upto 20 Kms. but not below 8 Kms. for vessels above 9m OAL.	(i) Upto 15m OAL upto 50 Kms. but not below 20 Kms. (ii) Above 15m OAL beyond 50 Kms.

*Traditional craft can fish anywhere in the sea. The reservation mentioned implies only that other category of vessels may not fish in the area reserved for traditional craft.

Statement-II

The steps taken by the Government of India to assist the poor fishermen of the coastal States/UTs during the last three years (2000-01 to 2002-03) are as follows :

1. Subsidy for purchase of Out Board Motors engine (OBM) @ Rs. 10,000 per engine and

Inboard Motors engine (IBM) @ Rs. 12,000 per engine.

2. The National Welfare of Fishermen Schemes is having 3 components:

- (i) Saving-cum-Relief Scheme for marine fishers.

- (ii) Accident Insurance Scheme for active fishers.
- (iii) Housing for fishers.
3. Under the Scheme of Reimbursement of Central Excise Duty on HSD, an amount of Rs. 1700.26 lakhs has been granted to the States for assisting fishermen.
4. Under the scheme for Motorization of traditional Crafts, an amount of Rs. 298.95 lakhs for motorising 5715 crafts has been granted.
5. Under the Scheme of Welfare of Fishermen, Central assistance of Rs. 5974 lakhs has been released to various States/UTs. During this period, over 10 lakh fishermen were covered under Group Accident Insurance Scheme and about 2.5 lakh fishermen under Saving-cum-Relief component annually.
6. Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Fishing Harbour Facilities at Major and Minor Ports and Fish Landing Centres, Central assistance to the tune of Rs. 3264.05 lakhs has been released to the various maritime States, UTs and Port Trusts. Under the scheme, expansion of existing facilities of one major fishing harbour, 2 minor fishing harbours and 13 fish landing centres have been sanctioned, which would benefit the fishermen for safe berthing and landing facility of their boats/vessels.

[Translation]

Development of Historical Sites

1949. SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN :
SHRI RAMDAS RUPALA GAVIT :

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

(a) whether the Government has formulated schemes for the development of various sites of historical and cultural importance in the country;

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

(c) the funds allocated by the Union Government to the State Governments for implementation of such schemes during 2003-2004; and

(d) the amount spent so far on the schemes?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN) : (a) and (b) Development of tourist places is primarily undertaken by the respective States Governments/UT Administrations. The Department of Tourism also sanctions projects for development of tourist places of national and international importance including sites of historical and cultural importance in consultation with the State Governments/UT Administrations.

Archaeological Survey of India looks after the work of conservation and maintenance of monuments/sites under Central protection.

(c) and (d) State-wise information on projects sanctioned by Department of Tourism during the year 2003-04 (upto 29.11.2003) is given in the statement.

Statement

State-wise Tourism Projects Sanctioned during the Year 2003-04 (upto 29.11.2003)

(Rs. in Lakhs)

S. No.	State/UT	No. of Project Sanctioned	Amount Sanc-tioned	Amount Released
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2	550.00	515.00
2.	Assam	2	155.46	155.06
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	3	157.54	122.00
4.	Bihar	0	0	0
5.	Chhattisgarh	2	57.00	20.60

1	2	3	4	5
6.	Goa	0	0	0
7.	Gujarat	2	19.00	15.20
8.	Haryana	6	558.49	440.49
9.	Himachal Pradesh	2	60.00	24.80
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	2	770.00	770.00
11.	Jharkhand	1	393.00	393.00
12.	Karnataka	3	304.00	241.70
13.	Kerala	2	65.00	27.00
14.	Madhya Pradesh	6	236.20	119.12
15.	Maharashtra	4	679.30	679.30
16.	Manipur	1	82.44	24.73
17.	Meghalaya	1	1.50	1.20
18.	Mizoram	3	205.85	66.75
19.	Nagaland	2	456.00	136.80
20.	Orissa	3	404.55	126.50
21.	Punjab	0	0	0
22.	Rajasthan	9	1477.81	1296.25
23.	Sikkim	4	550.50	179.25
24.	Tamil Nadu	6	833.55	596.73
25.	Tripura	3	42.21	15.16
26.	Uttaranchal	1	2.30	2.30
27.	Uttar Pradesh	3	500.80	499.80
28.	West Bengal	8	578.32	245.22
29.	Andaman and Nicobar	0	0	0

1	2	3	4	5
30.	Chandigarh	1	5.00	4.00
31.	Dadar and Nagar Haveli	0	0	0
32.	Delhi	7	727.07	727.07
33.	Daman and Diu	1	265.07	238.56
34.	Lakshadweep	0	0	0
35.	Pondicherry	1	245.17	73.55
Total		91	10388.13	7757.14

[English]

**Gold Coins Distributed to
Employees of EPFO**

1950. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the employees contributing to the Employees Provident Fund (EPF) were distributed gold coins on the occasion of the golden Jubilee year of EPFO;

(b) if so, the whether all the employees covered under the EPF scheme have been given the gold coins;

(c) if so, their number, the cost of each coin and the total expenditure incurred thereon;

(d) whether certain number of coins were also distributed at the discretion of the Minister of Labour, and

(e) if so, the number thereof and the persons who were given these gold coins under discretionary quota?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SAHIB SINGH VERMA) : (a) No, Sir. However Gold Coins were distributed

to all the employees of EPFO in the Golden Jubilee year 2003.

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

(d) No, Sir.

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

Scheme to Promote Tourism

1951. SHRI M.K. SUBBA : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has formulated any tourism development schemes to associate religious and cultural heritage, nature and arts creations and special knowledge of indigenous medicines;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken and proposed to be taken to implement these schemes?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN) : (a) and (b) Development of tourism is primarily undertaken by the concerned State Governments/ UT Administrations. However, the Department of Tourism also extends financial assistance/sanctions projects at tourist places of national and international importance.

The new approach is to synthesize elements of tourism, culture, clean civic life and healthy environment at important tourist places including places associated with religions, culture, nature, arts, etc.

(c) Details of projects sanctioned in the country during 2002-03 and 2003-04 (upto 29.11.2003) are as under :-

Year	No. of Projects	Amount Sanctioned (Rs. in crores)
2002-03	212	111.21
2003-04 (upto 29.11.2003)	91	103.88

Expansion of Oil Palm Cultivation

1952. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has plan for expansion of oil palm cultivation all over the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has received any proposal from the Government of Kerala for financial assistance to promote oil palm cultivation in the State;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. To promote cultivation of oil palm in India, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme, namely, Oil Palm Development Programme (OPDP) is being implemented in the States having potential for oil palm cultivation. Currently, the States of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Goa, Gujarat, Tripura and Assam are covered under OPDP. The objective of the scheme is to promote cultivation of oil palm with a view to augmenting the domestic supply of edible oils so as to bridge the gap between demand and supply. Under the scheme, assistance is provided towards the cost of planting material, cultivation inputs, installation of drip irrigation system, diesel pump sets, training, development of waste-land, extension and publicity, establishment and staff, frontline demonstrations, leaf-nutrients analysis laboratories and testing of genotypes under various environmental conditions

(c) No, Sir.

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

Rural Slaughter Houses

1953. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to construct Rural Slaughter Houses when adequate infrastructure like power, running potable water, quality control and refrigeration are not available in rural areas;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether the Government is considering to shelve the project;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(a) No, Sir.

(b) The question does not arise.

(c) The question does not arise.

(d) The question does not arise.

Conversion of ESI Hospitals into General Hospitals

1954. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Maharashtra and general public are demanding to convert ESI Hospital into General Hospitals;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto; and

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

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SAHIB SINGH VERMA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) In view of (a) above, does not arise.

[Translation]

Retirement Age of Scientists

1955. COL. (RETD.) DR. DHANI RAM SHANDIL :

DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV :

SHRIMATI RENU KUMARI :

SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has recently proposed to enhance the retirement age of the scientists and teachers working in various research institutions particularly the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), State and Central Agricultural University from sixty to sixty two years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the date from which it is likely to come into effect;

(d) whether the Government propose to maintain the status after reviewing the said decision which may result in increasing unemployment; and

(e) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government has enhanced the age of superannuation of Scientists of ICAR and teachers of State Agricultural Universities and Central Agricultural University from 60 to 62 years.

(c) Necessary instructions have been issued on 31st October, 2003 and made effective from 13th October, 2003.

(d) and (e) There is no proposal before the Government to review this decision because the scientists of ICAR and teachers of Central Agricultural Universities and State Agricultural Universities are governed by the UGC package of pay scales. The Government of India had earlier enhanced the age of superannuation of the teachers of Universities and colleges under the UGC from 60 to 62 years. The age of superannuation of the scientists

of ICAR and teachers of Central Agricultural Universities/ State Agricultural Universities has been enhanced on the same analogy.

[English]

Hardships to Job Seekers Abroad

1956. SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether as per the recent order of the Ministry it is obligatory for a person going abroad on job visa to submit original power of attorney, demand letter and specimen employment contract at the time of seeking Emigration Check Not Required (ECNR) clearance;

(b) if so, whether such restriction is causing hardships to individual and small groups of job seekers;

(c) if so, whether the Government has received any memorandum seeking exemption there from the said job seekers; and

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

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SAHIB SINGH VERMA) : (a) It is not obligatory for individuals with valid employment visas to furnish power of attorney, demand letter and specimen employment contract at the time of obtaining emigration clearance. However, those persons who seek emigration clearance through registered Recruiting Agents are required to furnish the said documents.

(b) to (d) Orders have been issued on 03.12.2003 withdrawing w.e.f. 25.12.2003 the requirement of depositing one way economy class airfare by individuals seeking emigration clearance for employment abroad.

Requirement of Sponge Iron

1957. SHRI PARSURAM MAJHI : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) the approximate requirement of sponge iron in each steel plant of the country;

(b) whether its entire demand is met by sponge iron plants of the country;

(c) if not, whether any steel plant is importing sponge iron;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether there is a scope of consuming more quantum of sponge iron by the steel plants; and

(f) if so, the steps taken by the Government to meet the requirement in the country itself?

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

Illegal Flights

1958. SHRI A. NARENDRA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether incidents of illegal flights including cargo flights have been reported recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof and names of the operators involved therein during the last three years;

(c) whether any investigation has been conducted;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(e) the follow-up action taken or proposed to be taken against the illegal flight operators?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY) : (a) to (e) No incident of any flight including cargo flight operating without valid permission has been reported in the recent past. However, in July, 2002 it was reported by the Ministry of Home Affairs that M/s SAM Aviation Pvt. Ltd. had been obtaining flight clearances from DGCA to operate cargo flights of CIS countries by submitting fake recommendation letters of the Embassy of Kazakhstan to Ministry of External

Affairs for which Jaideep Mirchandani, CMD; Siraj Amani, Executive Director and Madhur Michael, Manager (Ops) of the Company were arrested on 18th April, 2002. FIR No. 02/2002 dated 16.4.2002 was registered u/s 419/420/468/471/120-B IPC at Police Station Special Cell Lodi Colony, New Delhi. Ministry of Home Affairs have also withdrawn their security clearance in respect of Sam Aviation Pvt. Ltd. and its Directors.

Development of Buddhist Circuits

1959. DR. RAJESWARAMMA VUKKALA :
DR. MANDA JAGANNATH :
DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH :

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

(a) whether the Government is aware that Andhra Pradesh has vast potential for promotion of sites linked with Buddhist culture and heritage;

(b) if so, whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has approached the Union Government for development of Buddhist circuits in the State under the pilgrim tourism programme;

(c) if so, the response of the Union Government thereto;

(d) whether the Union Government proposes to provide any assistance for development of infrastructure and connectivity with the Buddhist site so that these could be developed into a cogent circuit;

(e) if so, the amount of assistance the Government propose to provide; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) Government of Andhra Pradesh has submitted a proposal for integrated development of Nagarjunasagar under the Buddhist Circuit.

(c) to (f) The Department of Tourism, Government of India has sanctioned on 19.9.2003, an amount of Rs. 500 lakhs for integrated development of Nagarjunasagar under the Buddhist Circuit.

[Translation]

Raids on ASI Officers

1960. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN :
SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO :

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

(a) whether the premises of several offices of the Department of Archaeology have been raided by the CBI recently;

(b) if so, the details of such cases reported during the last two years till date;

(c) whether the officers responsible for checking corruption in the Department of Archaeology failed to act earlier; and

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

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. During the period under reference the CBI conducted the raids/searches at the following premises/offices of the Archaeological Survey of India:-

(1) Institute of Archaeology, New Delhi was raided on 3.11.2001 in connection with the alleged misappropriation of Government funds. The CBI has not yet submitted its report in this case.

(2) The Office chamber of Shri P.G. Krishna murthy, Deputy Superintending Archaeological Engineer who was then posted at Bhubaneswar Circle was raided by the CBI on 4.4.2002 in connection with a bribery charge against him.

The CBI has submitted its report. Sanction to prosecute Shri P.G. Krishnamurthy has been conveyed to the CBI.

- (3) The Office chamber of Shri Birbal Ram Meena, Superintending Archaeologist, who was then posted at Jaipur Circle was searched by the CBI on 26.4.2002 in connection with the charge of possession of disproportionate assets by him. The report of CBI has been received and permission to prosecute him has been given to the CBI.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. All possible steps are always taken to prevent corruption in the Archaeological Survey of India.

[English]

Setting Up of National Environment Authority

1961. SHRI BHASKARRAO PATIL :
SHRI NARESH PUGLIA :
SHRI SURESH CHANDEL :

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

(a) whether the Government has taken a decision to set up a National Environment Authority and six regional authorities across the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the proposed composition of the National Environment Authority and the regional authorities;

(d) the functions proposed to be assigned to them;

(e) the proposed locations of regional authorities;

(f) the estimated annual expenditure on the National Environmental Authority and regional authorities and

(g) when these authorities are likely to start functioning?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government has decided to setup a National and Six Regional Environment Authorities under Section 3(3) of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

(c) Each Authority will have a Chairman, two Members (an expert each in environment and forestry) and a Secretary. The National Authority, in addition, will also have a Vice Chairman.

(d) These Authorities will perform such functions of the Government pertaining to environment and forestry related matters, as may be delegated to these Authorities from time to time.

(e) The headquarters of the National Authority will be at Delhi and those of Regional Authorities at Bangalore, Bhopal, Bhubaneswar, Shillong Lucknow and Chandigarh respectively.

(f) A tentative annual expenditure of Rs. 3 crores has been estimated for each of the Authorities.

(g) Action has been initiated to fill up the posts as mentioned in part (c) above to make the authorities functional.

Foreign Investment in Food Processing Units

1962. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH :
SHRI UTTAMRAO PATIL :
SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA :

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

(a) whether several foreign investment proposals have been approved for setting up of food processing units in the country during the past few year.

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has been encouraging foreign investment proposals at the cost of the domestic investment; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM) : (a) to (d) Since liberalization in July 1991 till March, 2003, Government has approved 773 foreign investment proposals envisaging a total foreign investment of Rs. 11401 crores approximately in the various sectors of food processing. The policy of Government to encourage foreign direct investment is to supplement and complement domestic investment in the processed food sector and not at the cost of domestic investment.

Sharing of Information between China and India on Agriculture

1963. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any agreement between India and China has been signed regarding sharing of information in agriculture sector; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on application of phytosanitary measures between India and the State General Administration of the People's Republic of China for Quality Supervision and Inspection and Quarantine was signed on 14th January, 2002.

(b) The MoU envisages exchange of information on pests status on traded agricultural products, changes in the regulations/systems/procedures, technical information relating to pest diagnostic method, post harvest treatment methods and survey and surveillance.

Absence of Market of Sambar Southe

1964. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the farmers in Karnataka who have produced large quantities of Sambar Southe (Sambar Cucumber) are throwing it on the roads due to absence of buyers; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to save the farmers from the distress?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) and (b) Sambar Southe is grown in meager quantity in Karnataka. There is no substantial arrival of this commodity in the Market Yards of the State.

The reported incident has taken place only in the jurisdiction of Agricultural Produce Marketing Committee (APMC), Davangere, Karnataka. During last week of November 2003, about 10 quintals of Sambar Southe arrived in the wholesale vegetable market yard. Davangere Market is not a traditional market for this commodity and hence the prices have been quoted low. Thereafter, there is no regular arrival of Sambar Southe. No such incident has been reported from other parts of Karnataka. The Agricultural Produce Marketing Committee Davangere has initiated necessary steps to prevent distress sale by the farmers.

National Farm Policy

1965. DR. N. VENKATASWAMY : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has recently formulated a "National Farm Policy";

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether State Governments have been consulted while formulating the policy; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The Government had announced the National Agriculture Policy in July, 2000 with a view to achieve, a growth rate in excess of 4 per cent per annum in the agriculture sector, after having consultation with State Governments from time to time. The policy comprehensively covers major issues and problems relating to agriculture.

**Development of Chiria Iron Ore
Mine of IISCO**

1966. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA :
SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI :

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government proposes to develop Chiria iron ore mine of IISCO;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the present financial position of the mine;

(c) whether both the management of IISCO and SAIL have planned to separate the said mine from IISCO and amalgamate it with SAIL;

(d) if so, whether this process would make IISCO Bumpur works more sick for its subsequent privatisation; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and remedial steps being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY) : (a) and (b) While Government is not proposing to develop Chiria Iron Ore mine, Indian Iron and Steel Co. (IISCO) is drawing up plans to substantially increase production in Chiria Iron Ore mine. IISCO, of which Chiria Iron Ore mine is a part, made a loss of Rs. 43 crores during the first half of 2003-04 as compared to Rs. 100 crores during the same period of last year.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

**Visit of Pakistan Commission
for Indus Water**

1967. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has cleared the visit of PCIW to discuss Baglihar hydro-electric project in Jammu and Kashmir recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps so far taken to resolve the deadlock?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY) : (a) The Government arranged a visit to Baglihar Hydro-electric Project (J and K) as a special tour of inspection of the Permanent Indus Commission (PIC) from 19th to 23th October, 2003. The tour was undertaken under the provisions of the Indus Waters Treaty at the request of Pakistan Commissioner for Indus Waters (PCIW).

(b) Both the Indian and Pakistan Commissioners, accompanied by their advisors inspected the works and sites of Baglihar Project on 21.10.2003. The dam and power house areas of the Project were inspected by the PIC.

(c) Indian has repeatedly conveyed to Pakistan that the design of the Baglihar Hydroelectric Project fully conforms to the provisions of the Indus Waters Treaty. India has made all efforts to dispel the apprehensions of Pakistan in the best possible manner by arranging the visit to the various components of the Baglihar project and providing necessary explanations/clarifications to the queries raised by the Pakistan team, during this 100th tour of PIC. Moreover, India has consistently expressed its readiness for technical discussions on the objections of Pakistan in meeting(s) of the Permanent Indus Commission to resolve the issues amicably in the spirit of goodwill and cooperation envisaged in the Treaty.

**Opening of Cell for Public
in Agra Fort**

1968. DR. MANDA JAGANNATH : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the cell in Agra Fort where Shivaji was locked is not open for public;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the action proposed to be taken to open the cell for public?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN) : (a) No, Sir. It is open to the visitors.

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

Herbal Plants

1969. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a number of herbal plants could be grown in arid regions without much requirement of water;

(b) if so, whether the Government has prepared any scheme to educate farmers to grow herbal plants in such regions; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

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

(a) Yes, Sir. A number of herbal plants like Aonla, Aloe, Ghritakumari, Babchi, Guggal, Kalmegh, Senna, Haritaki etc. could be grown in the arid regions without much requirement of water.

(b) and (c) The Government is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Macro Management in Agriculture-Supplementation/Complementation of State Efforts through Work Plan under which cultivation of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants is one of the Activities. This scheme is being implemented in all the States of the

country including the arid regions wherein activities like supply of quality planting material of medicinal plants, area expansion, establishment of demonstration plots and training of farmers are undertaken.

**Setting up of Labour Commission of
South Asian Region**

1970. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Labour Unions of Pakistan, Bangladesh, India and Sri Lanka have resolved to set up a Labour Commission of the South Asian Region to monitor and enforcement of labour laws;

(b) if so, the main functions of this Commission;

(c) whether the Government has approved setting up of such Commission and participation of Indian Unions;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the extent to which this Commission is likely to be helpful in establishing healthy relation between the member countries and safeguard the labour interests?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SAHIB SINGH VERMA) : (a) to (e) As per the information furnished by the Ministry of External Affairs, there is no decision within the SAARC framework to set up a labour commission of the South Asian Region to monitor and enforce labour laws. However, there have been media reports that South Asia labour Conference for Peace and Regional Cooperation was held in Karachi on 1-2 September, 2003. The Conference reportedly adopted a declaration in which it was, inter-alia, resolved to constitute a South Asian Labour Commission.

[Translation]

Economic Package for FPI

1971. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV : Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to provide any new economic package for the food processing industries being run in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the amount proposed to be provided to the food processing industry under the said economic package?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM) : (a) to (c) Ministry of Food Processing Industries is operating six Plan Schemes during the Tenth Plan under which financial assistance in the form of grant-in-aid is extended to Non-Government Organizations/ Cooperatives/Private Industries/Public Sector Undertakings/Human Resource Development Organizations/Research and Development Institutions for the development of processed food sector. The percentage and quantum of assistance vary from scheme to scheme.

The details of Tenth Plan allocation is enclosed as statement.

Statement

Sl. No.	Name of the Plan Scheme	Rs. in crores
1.	Scheme for Infrastructure Development	250.00
2.	Scheme for Technology Upgradation/ Establishment/Modernization of Food Processing Industries	98.00
3.	Scheme for Backward and Forward Integration and other promotional Activities	85.00
4.	Scheme for Quality Assurance, Codex Standards and Research & Development	90.00
5.	Scheme for Human Resource Development	65.00
6.	Scheme for Strengthening of Institutions	62.00
Total		650.00

[English]

Meeting of Cauvery River Authority

1972. SHRI AMBAREESHA : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether any meeting of the Cauvery River Authority was held recently in New Delhi; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Conversion of Sea Water into Potable Water

1973. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government is aware that Bhabha Atomic Research Centre has developed the technique of converting sea water into potable water on a commercially viable basis;

(b) if so, whether the Government proposes to set up such plants in the Coastal Arid Zones of the country for their socio-economic development; and

(c) 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) Two processes for the desalination of water from the sea, viz. Multi Stage Flash (MSF) and Reverse Osmosis (RO), have been developed by the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC). The plant for production of 1800 cubic metre per day of desalinated water from sea water by Reverse Osmosis process at Kalpakkam, Tamil Nadu has already been commissioned in August 2002. The demonstration plant located at Kalpakkam

with MSF technology which is under constructions, will produce 4500 cubic metre per day of desalinated water from sea water.

(b) and (c) Drinking Water being a State subject, all schemes including those for converting sea water into potable water are formulated and executed by the respective State Government. The Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) under Department of Atomic Energy is capable of giving technical assistance to any State/Central Government/agency for setting up such desalination plants in coastal areas.

Increase in Livestock Population

1974. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government has launched any scheme to increase population of livestock in various States;

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

(c) the allocation made for the purpose during the said period, State-wise; and

(d) the achievements made there under by various States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) to (d) The Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying is not implementing any specific scheme to increase the livestock population in the country. However, the Department has introduced in 2002-03 a new scheme namely "Conservation of Threatened Breeds, small ruminant, pig, equine and pack animal" aiming at the conservation of livestock species facing extinction. The Department during 2002-03 has released Rs. 11.50 lakhs to Gujarat, Rs. 63.80 to Karnataka, Rs. 6.70 lakhs to Punjab, Rs. 42.00 lakhs to Rajasthan and Rs. 171.50 lakhs to Tripura for the implementation of this scheme.

Right to Strike

1975. SHRI PRABODH PANDA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government propose to review the Labour Law regarding the 'Right to Strike';

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any representations have been received by the Government from the Trade Unions on this issue;

(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) Section 22 and 23 of the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 provide certain restrictions on the right to strike both in public utility services and other industrial establishments. But the right to strike, as such, has not been denied to the industrial workmen under the provisions of Industrial Disputes Act, 1947. At present there is no such proposal to amend the provisions of Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 regarding Right to Strike.

(c) and (d) Representation have been received from various Trade Unions consequent upon the Judgement of Hon'ble Supreme Court dated 6th August, 2003 in the case of T.K. Rangarajan V/s Government of Tamil Nadu and others in Civil Appeal No. 5556 of 2003. The trade unions have stated that right to collective bargaining and right to strike, which have been achieved after prolonged struggle and sacrifices cannot be parted with in the light of the judgement of Hon'ble Supreme Court in the above mentioned case.

(e) Hon'ble Supreme Court has not given any observation on the provisions of Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 and right to strike as such; has not been denied to the industrial workmen under the Provisions of Industrial Disputes Act, 1947.

Professionalism in Indian Airlines

1976. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 948 dated 28 July, 2003 and state :

(a) the extent to which Indian Airlines has been able to monitor the performance of Reservation and Station Manager level officers to induce them to perform credibly and with commercial aptitude;

(b) whether there is a lot of complacency in the cities like Delhi and Mumbai;

(c) if so, whether the Government proposes to ensure that Indian Airlines is able to offer service at par with services of other airlines by rotating the senior level officers;

(d) if so, whether any work-study programme has been conducted for such officers; and

(e) if not, the steps proposed to change the work-ethic in Indian Airlines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY) : (a) The performance of the Reservations and Station Manager level Officers is monitored and improved through :

- Regular briefing and debriefing sessions.
- Annual Appraisal Reports.
- Passenger feedback.
- Intervention programmes designed for the frontline officers.
- Giving them designations matching with their duties and responsibilities.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) to (e) Indian Airlines constantly endeavours to bring about qualitative and quantitative improvements in its services with a view to ensuring customer satisfaction and to remain competitive in the market.

In the operational areas the officers and staff are rotated for performing duties at various points in order to perform all commercial functions effectively.

Installation of Statue of Shivaji

1977. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE :
SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA :

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

(a) whether the Government of Maharashtra had submitted any proposal for installation of a statue of Chhatrapati Shivaji at Megh Dambri in Raigad Fort; and

(b) if so, the Union Government's decision thereon alongwith the cost involved therein?

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

(b) Installation of a new statue within the precincts of a centrally protected monument distorts the ancient ambience of the protected monument and contravenes the provisions of Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958 and Rules, 1959.

Employment Growth Rate in organised Sector

1978. SHRI SUNIL KHAN : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the employment growth rate in the organised manufacturing sector in the country is showing a negative trend since 1991; and

(b) if so, the details of the employment generation in the said sector during the period of 1980—2001 and thereafter?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SAHIB SINGH VERMA) : (a) and (b) Estimated employment and its annual growth rate in the organised manufacturing sector for the period 1980—2001 based on Employment Market Information Programme of Directorate General of Employment and Training is given in the Statement enclosed.

Statement

*Employment in the organised manufacturing
Sector during 1980—2001*

(In lakh)

Year	Employment	Percentage change
1	2	3
1980	58.62	0.2
1981	60.47	3.1
1982	62.53	3.4
1983	62.89	0.6
1984	61.91	-1.6
1985	61.83	-0.1
1986	62.63	1.3
1987	62.72	0.1
1988	62.61	-0.2
1989	62.45	-0.3
1990	63.27	1.3
1991	63.33	0.1
1992	64.27	1.5
1993	63.96	-0.5
1994	64.14	0.3
1995	66.21	3.2
1996	66.58	0.6
1997	71.29	7.1
1998	68.52	-3.9

1	2	3
1999	67.43	-1.6
2000	66.15	-1.9
2001	64.43	-2.6

**Environmental Hazards Caused by
Toxic Wastes**

1979. SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE :
SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE :

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

(a) whether the Government is aware of the
growing environmental hazard caused by dumping of
toxic material during ship-breaking at Alang on Gujarat
coast;

(b) if so, whether a scrapped Norwegian LPG
tanker recently berthed at Alang with hazardous wastes
in violation of Basel Convention regulations;

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

(d) whether the workmen at the Alang yard are
exposed to toxic wastes such as Asbestos and if so, the
steps being taken to protect the lives of such workers from
environmental hazards?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
(SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) to (d) In view of the potential
environmental and health hazards posed by ship breaking
activity, detailed guidelines have been developed by the
Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) to ensure that
ship-breaking activities are carried out in an environmen-
tally sound manner. The Supreme Court has also given
wide ranging directions on ship-breaking activity to ensure
safety of the workers as well as protection of the
environment. The guidelines and Supreme Court directions
have been sent to all the relevant bodies and authorities

such as the concerned State Pollution Control Boards including Gujarat Pollution Control Board, Gujarat Maritime Board etc., for strict compliance.

Permission was recently granted to a Norwegian ship "Hesperus" for berthing at Alang ship breaking yard, Gujarat, after detailed investigations by the Gujarat Pollution Control Board and in consultation with the CPCB. At present, the trans-boundary movements of ships destined for breaking purpose do not attract the Basel Convention on the Control of Trans-boundary Movement of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal.

Share of Agricultural and Allied Products in Exports

1980. SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the share of agricultural and allied products in total exports has been falling steadily over the years;

(b) if so, the reason for decline in India's agricultural exports to the developed countries; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) to (c) The total export of agricultural and allied products (including tea, coffee, marine products, cotton including waste and castor oil) and its share in total exports from India during the last three years is as follows:

Year	Value of Agro-Exports (Rs. in crores)	% share to the total exports
2000-01	27,288	13.55
2001-02	28,144	13.46
2002-03	31,030	12.28

Source : DGCI&S

As can be perused from the above figures, the

agricultural exports have increased during the last three years. The decrease in percentage share of agro exports to total exports is due to the higher growth rate in exports of other products. However, in order to boost the agro export, a number of measures have been initiated by the Government including infrastructure development, promotion of modern packaging units, quality improvement and quality control, market development and creation of Agriculture Export Zones among others.

Poor Condition of ESI Dispensaries

1981. SHRI S. MURUGESAN : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government is aware of the poor condition of Employees State Insurance dispensaries in the country especially in Tamil Nadu; and

(b) if so, the remedial steps taken by the Government to modernise those dispensaries and also to set up specialised hospitals?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SAHIB SINGH VERMA) : (a) The medical care under the ESI Scheme is being provided by the State Government including the Government of Tamil Nadu. The shortcomings in providing medical care, if any, which are brought to the notice of the ESI Corporation are taken up with the respective State Governments for ratification.

(b) To improve the medical services, the ESI Corporation has drawn up action plans to modernize its Hospitals. One existing ESI hospital in each State has been earmarked for conversion into a Model Hospital with all modern facilities. In addition the ESI Corporation has entered into tie-up arrangement with reputed Private Hospitals to provide super specialty care.

Potato Production

1982. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether glut in potato production has been reported from various parts of the country this year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to draw a long-term plan for providing storage, processing and preserving facilities for potato;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(a) and (b) No, Sir. No State Government has reported about the glut in potato production in the country.

(c) to (e) The National Horticulture Board (NHB) under the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation is implementing since December, 1999 the "Capital Investment Subsidy Scheme for Construction/Expansion/Modernization of cold storages and storages for Horticulture Produce" including potato by providing capital investment subsidy @ 25% of the project cost with a maximum limit of Rs.50.00 lakh and for North-Eastern/Tribal/Hilly areas @ 33.3% with a maximum limit of Rs. 60.00 lakhs. Under the scheme additional capacity of 36.54 lakh tonne has since been created with the sanction of 801 cold storage projects. The Ministry of Food Processing Industry, is also promoting establishment of infrastructure facilities through financial assistance for setting up/expansion/modernization of food processing units including potato.

Renovation Work by ASI in Andhra Pradesh

1983. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of conservation work being carried out by Archaeological survey of India (ASI) in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) the details of conservation and maintenance work carried out by ASI in Andhra Pradesh during 2002-03;

(c) the reasons for the low level of activity of ASI in Andhra Pradesh; and

(d) the steps proposed to protect and renovate old and ancient monuments in the State by the ASI?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN) : (a) and (b) Monument-wise details of conservation work being carried out by Archaeological Survey of India in Andhra Pradesh are enclosed as statement.

(c) and (d) There is no low-level activity of ASI in Andhra Pradesh, either in the previous year or this year. While there is no proposal for protection of monuments, perspective plan for conservation as well as integrated development of selected protected monuments has been drawn for the 10th Five Year Plan. There are already 136 protected monuments in Andhra Pradesh.

Statement

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of work	Expenditure 2002-2003	Revised Conservation Programe Allotted 2003-2004
1	2	3	4
1.	Group of Temples at LEPAKSHI, Dist. Anantapur.	10.68	4.50
2.	Providing Grill fencing over dwarf wall around keerthi thorana at Kushmahal at WARANGAL, Dist. Warangal.	12.75	—

1	2	3	4
3.	Group of temples at PUSHPAGIRI, Dist. Cuddapah.	7.50	5.00
4.	Structures on Lingalakonda at SANKARAM, Dist. Visakhapatnam.	3.57	—
5.	Fathe Darwaza at GOLCONDA FORT, Dist. Hyderabad.	0.90	—
6.	Chintala Venkata Ramana swamy temple at TADPATRI, Dist. Anantapur.	9.95	2.00
7.	Mine rates and Face lift of the surroundings at CHARMINAR, Dist. Hyderabad.	7.83	—
8.	Formation of Pathways fencing the protected area and landscaping at SALIHUNDAM, Dist. Srikakulam.	8.80	5.00
9.	Land Acquisition of Papanasi temple at ALAMPUR, Dist. Kurnool.	12.63	—
10.	Reconstruction of fallen breaches to Lower fort walls at CHANDRAGIRI, Dist. Chittoor	3.39	—
11.	Rain effected structures in Naya Quilla at GOLCONDA FORT, Dist. Hyderabad.	1.49	—
12.	Fixing Iron grill around CHARMINAR, Dist. Hyderabad.	2.64	—
13.	Buddhist Remains at ADURRU, Dist. East Godavari.	5.60	4.00
14.	Taramathi mosque and Adjoining structure at GOLCONDA FORT, Dist. Hyderabad.	0.54	—
15.	Amphi stadium and University complex at ANUPU, Dist. Guntur.	8.25	—
16.	Rock cut caves and Buddhist Remains on the hill Pandavalakonda at KAPAVARAM, Dist. East Godavari.	5.26	3.50
17.	Formation of pathways fencing, landscaping at SANKARAM, Dist. Visakhapatnam.	5.78	9.00
18.	Group of Rock cut cave temple at BHAIKAVAKONDA, Dist. Prakasam.	1.76	4.00
19.	Group of temples at Udayagiri, Dist. Nellore.	3.52	5.00

1	2	3	4
20.	Sri Ramalingeswara swamy temple at VELPUR, Dist. Guntur.	2.75	6.00
21.	Providing iron grill over cut stone dwarf wall in front of rock cut cave temple at UNDAVALLI, Dist. Guntur.	4.75	2.30
22.	Masjid mullakhali at Nayaquilla at GOLCONDA' FORT, Dist. Hyderabad.	7.08	0.70
23.	Resurrection of Swayambhuva temple complex scattered members at WARNGAL FORT, Dist. Warangal.	5.40	3.50
24.	Abdul Wahab Khans Tomb at KURNOOL, Dist. Kurnool.	2.48	5.00
25.	Group of Temples at PEDDAMUDIUM, Dist. Cuddapah.	2.14	—
26.	Providing barbed wire fencing around ancient mould at RAMATHIRTHAM, Dist. Nellore.	0.96	—
27.	Rock cut caves and structures at GUNTUPALLI, Dist. West Godavari.	3.37	25.00
28.	Providing Iron Grill chain link fencing over dwarf wall around the constructed monument at ANUPU, Dist. Guntur.	68.63	—
29.	Conservation of Nagina Bagh and Adjoining structures at GOLCONDA FORT, Dist. Hyderabad.	0.94	5.00
30.	Rani Mahal and Structures at GOLCONDA FORT, Dist. Hyderabad.	0.45	10.00
31.	Stucco Repairs in the mosque area and Upper galleries of CHARMINAR, Dist. Hyderabad.	0.50	11.50
32.	Reconstruction of Kalyana Mandappa at Thousand Pillard Temple at HANUMAKONDA Dist. Warangal.	0.46	25.00
33.	Providing Roof and Development of Environment around Kush Mahal at WARANGAL FORT, Dist. Warangal.	0.36	5.00
34.	Sri Bhimeswara Swamy Temple, DRAKSHARAMAM, Dist. East Godavari.	—	25.00
35.	Fort and Buildings at Siddavattam Fort, SIDDAVATTAM, Dist Cuddapah.	—	15.00

1	2	3	4
36.	Conservation and Development of Kalyanamandapa of T.P. TEMPLE, Dist. Warangal,	—	3.50
37.	Sri Umamaheswara swamy temple at YAGANTI, Dist. Kurnool.	2.78	—
38.	Sri Kopateshwara swamy temple Dist. at CHEJERLA, Dist. Guntur.	9.20	14.00
39.	Dutch Cemetry at MACHILIPATNAM, Dist. Krishna.	3.08	—
40.	Nakkallagudi at BICCAVOLU, Dist. East Godavari.	5.59	—
41.	Sri Sowmyanadha swamy temple at NANDALUR, Dist. Cuddapah.	17.26	—
42.	Lower fort and Structures at GURRAMKONDA, Dist. Chittoor.	0.56	—
43.	Grill fencing around Ramappa temple at PALAMPET, Dist. Warangal.	14.27	—
44.	Group of temples at ALAMPUR, Dist. Mahaboob Nagar.	17.81	4.00
45.	Sri Raja Rajeswari temple complex at CHANDRAGIRI, Dist. Chittoor.	3.16	—
46.	Water tightening the western portion and upper terraces of Akkanna Madanna at GOLCONDA FORT, Dist. Hyderabad.	4.20	—
47.	Fort buildings and temple at GANDIKOTA, Dist. Cuddapah.	27.24	4.00
48.	Sri Kondanda rama swamy temple at VONTIMITTA, Dist. Cudapah.	10.03	9.00
49.	Sri Madhavaraya swamy temple at GORANTLA, Dist. Anantapur.	1.72	—
50.	Providing pathways from Ranimahal entrance to Sr.C.A. Office at GOLCONDA FORT, Dist. Hyderabad.	2.78	—
51.	Sri Krishna temple at UDAYACIRI, Dist. Nellore.	3.37	—
52.	Sri Kumara Bhimeswara Swamy temple at SAMALKOTA, Dist. East Godavari.	2.27	—

1	2	3	4
53.	Sri Veerabhadra Swamy Temple at BICCAVOLU, Dist. East Godavari.	1.02	—
54.	Landscape and Providing pathways at Papanasi group of temples at ALAMPUR, Dist. Mahaboob Nagar.	1.67	2.00
55.	Repairs to Sri Mallikharjuan Swamy temple KAMBADUR, Dist. Anantapur.	—	5.00
56.	Sri Agasteswara Swamy Temple, CHILMAKUR, Dist. Cuddapah.	—	5.00
57.	Sri Parasurameswara Swamy Temple, ATHIRALA, Dist. Cuddapah.	—	5.00
58.	Kancharagudi at BICCAVOLU, Dist. East-Godavari.	—	8.00
59.	Kondareddy Burz at KURNOOL, Dist. Kumool.	—	8.00
60.	Sri Veerabhadra Swamy Temple, MOTUPALLI Dist. Prakasham.	—	5.00
61.	Pittikeswara Group of Temple, PITTIKAYAGULLA, Dist. Prakasham.	0.50	8.00
62.	Sri Parasuramaswamy Temple at GUDIMALLAM, Dist. Chittoor.	0.20	5.00
63.	Rock-cut caves at BHIRAVAKONDA Dist. Prakasham.	1.50	4.00
64.	Group of Temples at HEMAVATHI, Dist. Anantapur.	0.66	0.75
65.	Sri Madhavaraya Swamy Temple at GORANTLA, Dist. Anantapur.	0.58	0.20
66.	Sri Chintala Venkatarama Swamy Temple at TADPATRI, Dist. Anantapur.	4.44	0.50
67.	Veerabhadra Swamy Temple at LEPAKSHI, Dist. Anantapur.	0.20	0.80
68.	Monolithic Bull at LEPAKSHI, Dist. Anantapur.	0.16	0.25
69.	Hill Fort and Buildings at GOOTY, Dist. Anantapur.	—	0.25
70.	Dolmen and Small rock-cut caves at KALYANADURG, Dist. Anantapur.	—	0.05

1	2	3	4
71.	Sri Buggaramalingeswara Swamy Temple, TADIPATRI, Dist. Anantapur.	0.02	0.30
72.	Hill Fort at RAYA DURG, Dist. Anantapur.	—	0.05
73.	Mallikharjuna Temple at KAMBADUR, Dist. Anantapur.	0.02	0.05
74.	Mahalakshmi Temple, GORIPALLI, Dist. Anantapur.	—	0.05
75.	Hill Fort and Large well at RATNAGIRI, Dist. Anantapur.	—	0.05
76.	Hill Fort and Large bastion and old gateway at MADAKASIRA, Dist. Anantapur.	—	0.05
77.	Fort and Buildings at PENUGONDA, Dist. Anantapur.	—	0.15
78.	Upper fort and Structures at CHANDRAGIRI, Dist. Chittoor.	0.11	1.20
79.	Upper fort and Structures at GURRAMKONDA, Dist. Chittoor.	0.78	0.90
80.	Lower fort and Structures at CHANDRAGIRI, Dist. Chittoor.	2.37	5.00
81.	Lower fort and Structures at GURRAMKONDA, Dist. Chittoor.	0.37	—
82.	Sri Parasurama Swamy Temple at GUDIMALLAM, Dist. Chittoor.	0.21	0.80
83.	Sri Chenna Keshava Swamy Temple at SOMPALLE, Dist. Chittoor.	0.68	0.30
84.	Palliswara, Madiaya Madava Temple, KALAKADA, Dist. Chittoor.	0.02	0.10
85.	Sri Venkateswara, Vishnu Temple at MANGAPURAM, Dist. Chittoor.	0.1	0.25
86.	Sri Vaidhyanadha Swamy Temple at PUSHPAGIRI, (Group of temples), Dist. Cuddapah.	1.05	0.65
87.	Fort moat and Buildings at SIDDAVATTAM, Dist. Cuddapah.	0.81	1.30
88.	Sri Sivakeshava and Kamalasambaveswara Swamy Temple complex at PUSHPAGIRI, Dist. Cuddapah.	0.76	1.55
89.	Sri Indranatha Swamy Temple at PUSHPAGIRI, Dist. Cuddapah.	0.51	—
90.	Fort and Temple at GANDIKOTA, Dist. Cuddapah.	0.12	0.25
91.	Ancient Village Sites and Temples at PEDDAMUDIUM, Dist. Cuddapah.	0.52	1.30

1	2	3	4
92.	Jain Temple and Remains at DANAVALAPADU, Dist. Cuddapah.	0.53	0.65
93.	Sri Sowmyanadha Swamy Temple at NANDULAR, Dist. Cuddapah.	0.11	0.25
94.	Sri Kodandarama Swamy Temple at VONTIMITTA, Dist. Cuddapah.	0.22	0.35
95.	Sri Parasurama Swamy Temple at ATHIRALA, Dist. Cuddapah.	0.96	0.05
96.	Vishwanadha Swamy Temple, SIVALAPALLI, Dist. Cuddapah.	0.81	0.05
97.	Sri Vigneswara and Agasteswara Swamy Temple, CHILMAKUR, Dist. Cuddapah.	0.37	0.05
98.	Buddhist Remains at SHALIHUNDAM, Dist. Srikakulam.	0.43	0.05
99.	Sri Kumara Rama Bimeswara Swamy Temple at SAMALKOTA, Dist. East Godavari.	0.67	0.70
100.	Sri Bhimeswara Swamy Temple at DRAKSHARAMA, Dist. East Godavari.	0.29	0.75
101.	Rock cut canal, Chaityas on the two adjoining hills at Bojjannaskonda at SANKARAM, Dist. Visakhapatnam.	0.97	1.25
102.	Rock cut caves, cisterns of Buddhist Stupa at KAPAVARAM, Dist. East Godavari.	0.42	0.65
103.	Rock cut and ruined Buddhist monastery at RAMATHIRTAM, Dist. Vizianagaram.	0.48	0.65
104.	Sri Golingeswara Group of Temples, Nakkalagudi kanchara and Veerabhadra Swamy temple at BICCAVOLU, Dist. East Godavari.	0.49	0.70
105.	Group of Temples at SRIMUKHALINGAM Dist. Srikakulam.	1.01	0.10
106.	Mounts containing Buddhist remains such as Stupa's at ADURRU, Dist. East Godavari.	0.13	0.5
107.	Buddhist remains at KODAVALI, Dist. East Godavari.	—	0.5
108.	Ancient remains at CALINGAPATNAM, Dist. Visakhapatnam.	0.12	0.5
109.	Ancient Buddhist remains at KOTTUR, Dist. Visakhapatnam.	—	0.5

1	2	3	4
110.	Durga Bhairava Konda at NEELAVATHI, Dist. Vizianagarn.	0.10	0.5
111.	Dibbeswara Swamy temple, SARAPALLI, Dist. Vijayanagarn.	0.17	0.15
112.	Navabrahma group of temples at ALAMPUR, Dist. Mahaboob Nagar.	2.44	3.00
113.	Sri Umamaheswara Swamy Temple at YAGANTI, Dist. Kurnool.	0.88	0.95
114.	Hill fort, ADONI, Dist. Kurnool.	0.43	0.10
115.	KONDA REDDY BURZ at Kurnool.	0.5	0.25
116.	Ashoken rock edicts at RAJULAMANDAGIRI, Dist. Kurnool.	0.47	0.65
117.	Papanasi group of temples at ALAMPUR, Dist. Mahaboob Nagar.	0.51	0.25
118.	Kudavalli Sangameswara Swamy temple, ALAMPUR, Dist. Mahaboob Nagar.	0.4	2.50
119.	Ashokan inscriptions on the Hillock at JONNAGIRI, Dist. Kurnool.	—	0.5
120.	Abdul Wahab Khan Toombs and Adjoining building at KURNOOL.	0.1	0.25
121.	Inscribed boulder at CHINNAKADABUR, Dist. Kurnool.	—	0.5
122.	Inscribed stone lying to the east of Shiva temple at RAYACHOTI, Dist. Kurnool.	—	0.5
123.	Ancient temple including the Sculpture of Lord Subrahmanya at NANDAVARAM, Kurnool.	—	0.5
124.	Reconstructed monuments on hill top at NAGARJUNAKONDA, Dist. Guntur.	0.85	1.30
125.	Inscribed pillar near Gopalswamy temple at IPURU, Dist. Guntur.	0.18	0.20
126.	Sri Ramalingeswara Swamy Temple at VELPUR, Dist. Guntur.	0.54	0.25
127.	Reconstructed monuments at ANUPU, Dist. Guntur.	3.13	3.50
128.	Sri Kapoteswara Swamy Temple at CHEJARLA, Dist. Guntur.	0.71	0.25

1	2	3	4
129.	Buddhist Remain at BHATTIPROLU, Dist. Guntur.	0.2	0.25
130.	Amphi Stadium at ANUPU, Dist. Guntur.	—	2.00
131.	Mounds at ancients at GRANDHASIRI, Dist. Guntur.	—	0.5
132.	Ancient Buddhist remains at MANCHIKALLU, Dist. Guntur.	0.34	0.5
133.	Ancient Shiva temple at Pandugula, Dist. Guntur.	—	0.5
134.	Sri Bhimeswara and Ramalingeswara Swamy temple at SATYAVOLU, Dist. Prakasam.	0.23	0.80
135.	Group of Temples at UDAYAGIRI, Dist. Nellore.	0.97	0.40
136.	Sri Bhavanarayana Swamy Temple at BAPATLA, Dist. Guntur.	2.72	0.45
137.	Pittikeswara Group of temples at PITTIKAYAGULLA Dist. Prakasam.	0.12	0.5
138.	Chola temple at MOTUPALLI, Dist. Prakasam.	0.4	0.35
139.	Ancient Mounds at KANUPARTHI, Dist. Prakasam.	0.3	0.5
140.	Ancient Mounds at RAMATHIRTHAM, Dist. Nellore.	0.14	0.5
141.	Ancient Mounds at UPPUGUNDUR, Dist. Prakasam.	0.12	0.5
142.	Bhairavakonda at PEDDAREDDYPALLI, Dist. Prakasam.	0.7	0.70
143.	Dutch Cemetry and Bandar fort at MACHILIPATNAM, Dist. Krishna.	0.80	0.60
144.	Akkanna Madanna caves at VIJAYAWADA. (Revised), Dist. Krishna.	0.30	2.20
145.	Ruined Buddhist Stupa at AMARAVATHI, Dist. Guntur.	0.33	0.40
146.	Four staired rock cut cave Hindu temple at UNDAVALLI, Dist. Guntur.	0.35	0.50
147.	Rock-cut caves at MOGALRAJPURAM, Dist. Krishna.	—	0.20
148.	Buddist remains at GHANTASALA, Dist. Krishna.	—	0.15
149.	Mound containing Buddhist remains at GUDIVADA, Dist. Krishna.	1.14	0.30

1	2	3	4
150.	Mound containing Buddhist remains at ARUGOLANU, Dist. West Godavari.	—	0.5
151.	Buddhist remains at GUNTUPALLI, Dist. West Godavari.	0.88	2.00
152.	Ancient Mounds at Peddavegi, Dist. West Godavari.	—	0.5
153.	Buddhist remains at JAGGAYYAPETA, Dist. Krishna.	—	0.5
154.	Buddhist remains at GUMMADIDURRU, Dist. Krishna.	—	0.5
155.	Buddhist remains at MUNAGACHARLA, Dist. Krishna.	—	0.5
156.	Buddhist mound at ALLURU, Dist. Krishna.	—	0.5
157.	Thousand Pillar Temple at HANUMAKONDA, Dist. Warangal.	0.53	2.00
158.	WARANGAL FORT, Warangal.	1.67	2.00
159.	Sri Ramappa Temple at PALAMPET, Dist. Warangal.	0.32	1.45
160.	Pre Historic site at JANAMPET, Dist. Khammam.	—	0.5
161.	Inner fortification to GOLCONDA FORT, Dist. Hyderabad.	5.96	13.00
162.	Newly laid garden at GOLCONDA FORT, Dist. Hyderabad.	3.23	—
163.	Nayaquilla at GOLCONDA FORT, Dist. Hyderabad.	0.60	5.00
164.	CHARMINAR, Dist. Hyderabad.	5.20	5.00

Environmental Development Works

(Rs. In lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of work	Expenditure 2002-2003	RCP Allotted 2003-2004
1	2	3	4
1.	Hill Top Garden, N Konda.	3.32	4.98
2.	Museum Garden, Amaravathi.	1.17	1.91
3.	Golconda Fort, Hyderabad.	1.39	1.99

1	2	3	4
4.	Kamappa temple, Palampeth.	1.16	3.69
5.	Ramappa temple, Palmpeth.	—	1.00
6.	Fort Warangle.	—	1.00
7.	Moghal Rajpuram Caves, Vijaywara.	—	0.25
8.	Rock Cut Temple, Udaigiri.	—	0.25

Chemical Treatment

(Rs. In lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of work	Expenditure 2002-2003	RCP Allotted 2003-2004
1.	Char Minar, Hyderabad, Distt. Hyderabad.	0.39	6.00
2.	Chinna Venkateshwara Temple, Tadipatri, Distt. Anantapur.	2.50	4.00
3.	Shri Kalyan, Venkateshwara Swami Temple, Mangapuram, Distt. Terupati.	—	4.00
4.	Veerbhadra Swami Temple, Lepaksi, Distt. Anantapur.	0.16	1.00
5.	Shri Kumara Bhimeshwara Temple, Samalkota Distt, East Godavari.	1.02	1.50
6.	Temples at Anantapur Distt. Mehboob nager.	3.35	5.00
7.	Kodanda Rama Swami Temple, Vbantimetta, Distt. Cuddapa.	—	3.25

Concept of Crop Rotation

1984. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has formulated any scheme to give incentives to farmers who have adopted the concept of crop rotaation;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the funds allotted by the Government to the State Governments including Maharashtra during the last three years and current year State-wise?

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

(a) No, Sir.

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

Upgraded Airports

1985. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN :
SHRI RAJO SINGH :
SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the location of airports upgraded in the country including Bihar during the last three years State-wise;

(b) the amount budgeted and spent on the development of each of the airports during each of last three years, airport-wise;

(c) the amount likely to be spent thereon during 2003-04;

(d) the steps being taken to upgrade Biju Patnaik Airport to International level; and

(e) the steps being taken to ply airbus daily between Delhi-Bhubaneswar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY) : (a) and (b) Upgradation of airports is a continuous process. Major upgradation work undertaken at airports during the last three years i.e. 2000-01, 2001-02 and 2002-03 respectively is given below (Amount budgeted and spent is given in respective brackets in crores of rupees).

Hyderabad (13.19, 6.15, 13.31) (0.00, 13.17, 0.00) in Andhra Pradesh; Guwahati (16.17, 13.54, 10.65) (0.19, 4.47, 1.69) in Assam; Gaya (1.00, 4.00, 6.23) (1.41, 8.33, 5.09) and Patna (2.55, 2.78, 9.58) (0.03, 0.69, 1.16) in Bihar; Ahmedabad (28.92, 18.35, 17.29) (0.52, 6.77, 14.03) in Gujarat; Jammu (4.32, 10.04, 6.22) (2.04, 13.14, 1.42) in Jammu and Kashmir; Bangalore (3.99, 1.61, 2.40) (0.00, 17.41, 2.99) in Karnataka; Calicut (8.15, 3.07, 4.11) (0.00, 0.22, 1.47) in Kerala; Imphal (4.53, 3.64, 6.92) (0.05, 2.07, 5.93) in Manipur; Indore (1.91, 2.86, 2.14) (1.07, 1.93, 0.87) in Madhya Pradesh, Bhubaneswar (3.77, 1.57, 3.95) (0.67, 0.26, 0.58) in Orissa; Jaipur (8.59, 7.70, 8.06) (2.06, 7.58, 4.37) in Rajasthan; Agartala (13.08, 8.71, 17.30) (19.52, 12.25, 13.20) in Tripura and Lucknow (14.40, 5.64, 5.99) (2.16, 10.09, 1.90) in Uttar Pradesh.

(c) Rs.73.71 crores.

(d) Biju Patnaik Airports has been upgradd to International standard. But the extended portion of runway will be operationalised only after diversion of the existing road passing through the runway by the State Government.

(e) Airlines plan their operatios for any sector on the basis of commercial and operational viability subject to route dispersal guidelines issued by the Government.

Cattle Rearing Centres

1986. SHRI P.D. ELANGO VAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has launched any scheme to start integrated/advanced cattle rearing centers in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount spent for the purpose during the last three years, State-wise;

(d) whether the Government proposes to start the cattle rearing center/research unit in Dharmapuri District, Tamil Nadu; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. No such scheme has been launched by this Department.

(c) to (e) The question do not arise.

Foodgrain Production

1987. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the States in the country that are self-dependent in foodgrain production;

(b) whether these States have a stock of surplus foodgrains;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the States where wheat and pulses production has been increasing; and

(e) the future of oilseed mission?

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

(a) The High Level Committee on Long-Term Grain Policy constituted under the Department of Food and Public Distribution in its report (July 2002) has indicated that during 1999-2000 only Haryana, Punjab, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh had surplus in rice and wheat, i.e., an excess of net official production over National Sample Survey consumption of rice and wheat. In rice, in addition to the above-mentioned four States, West Bengal also had surplus. The above five surplus States with 37% of population accounted for 61% of total rice and wheat output, of which 36% was surplus over their own consumption.

(b) and (c) The total stocks of rice and wheat held by the Food Corporation of India (F.C.I.) and State agencies as on 1st November, 2003 is 220.72 lakh tonnes comprising 56.59 lakh tonnes of rice and 164.13 lakh tonnes of wheat.

(d) The production of wheat has recently been increasing in Chhattisgarh, Uttranchal, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh and Tripura. Similarly, the production of pulses has recently been increasing in Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Haryana, Nagaland, Assam, Orissa and Rajasthan.

(e) The Planning Commission has not agreed for the continuance of the Technology Mission on Oilseeds and Pulses during the Tenth Plan.

**Loss due to Joint Venture in
Aircraft Maintenance**

1988. SHRI KAMAL NATH : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) has decided that no foreign airlines should be allowed to undertake aircraft maintenance and other ground handling and engineering activities at Indian airports;

(b) if so, the reasons for entering into the proposed joint venture between Indian Airlines and Singapore Airlines for aircraft maintenance which would compromise the security of aircraft, carrying VVIPs;

(c) the criteria fixed for selecting the joint venture partner for the purpose;

(d) whether the rules were adhered in choosing Singapore Airlines for the said joint venture;

(e) whether a 1000 crore per annum business could have accrued to Indian Airlines and Air India if the joint venture is not made; and

(f) if so, whether this would adversely affect the profitability of both the Indian companies; and

(g) if not, the logic behind entering into such a joint venture?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY) : (a) The decision of the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) is to allow Air India, Indian Airlines and Airports Authority of India through their subsidiaries/Joint Ventures to offer ground handling services at Indian Airports. The decision does not cover aircraft maintenance and engineering activities, as these do not fall within the definition of "ground handling".

(b) to (d) No Joint Venture Company has been set up in this regard. Indian Airlines and M/s Singapore Airlines Engineering Company Limited have signed an MOU for conducting a joint feasibility study to determine the value added propositions of setting up a maintenance facility on a Joint Venture basis. A final decision would be taken based on the viability and feasibility of the study. No compromise would be made regarding safety and security of aircraft and passengers.

(e) to (g) The basic objective is to bring about qualitative and quantitative improvements in the maintenance, repair and overhaul of aircraft with minimal investment. The Joint Venture will be entered into only if

the return on investments and gains to Indian Airlines are established.

Development of Deepar Beel

1989. SHRI M.K. SUBBA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government has sanctioned an amount of Rs. 15 crore for the development of Deepar Beel in Assam;

(b) if so, the details of the scheme under which the above amount sanctioned alongwith the total estimated cost thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/being taken for implementation of the same?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) A proposal at a total cost of Rs. 15.07 crores for a period of 5 years was received from Assam Government for development of Deepar Beel. After examining the proposal, an amount of Rs. 97.58 lakh has been sanctioned for the current financial year.

(b) and (c) The sanctioned amount is meant to be spent on catchment area treatment, survey and demarcation, protection measures, weed control, pollution abatement, education and awareness creation. An amount of Rs. 50 lakhs has already been released to the State Government.

Varieties of Wheat

1990. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the present varieties of wheat being sown in the country are of inferior quality; and

(b) if so, the steps being made by the Government to re-introduce good quality nutritious wheat in the country?

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

(a) No, Sir.

(b) The question of reintroduction does not arise. Wheat varieties developed and grown in the country possess good chapatti making quality and sufficient varieties have also been developed for the preparation of bread, biscuits and pasta products. Further upgradation of wheat quality remains a continuous process in crop improvement.

Creation of Food Parks

1991. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ : Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has approved a Rs. 250 crore infrastructure development scheme for the food processing industries to facilitate the creation of "Food Parks" to help small and medium units;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the extent to which this scheme would help small entrepreneurs in investing facilities like cold storage, warehousing, power and water supply;

(d) the details of action plan to be considered in the Tenth Plan; and

(e) the total amount so far spent in implementing the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM) : (a) to (e) The Scheme for Infrastructure Development with a total outlay of Rs. 250 crores is one of the six Plan Schemes being operated by the Ministry of Food Processing Industries during the 10th Plan Period with an overall outlay of Rs. 650 crores. Under these schemes, financial assistance is provided for the development of the processed food sector.

Under the Scheme for Infrastructure Development, financial assistance in the form of grant in aid is provided for setting up of common facilities in Food Parks. These common facilities include cold storage, food testing and analysis laboratory, effluent treatment plant, common processing facilities, power, water supply etc. The grant is up to 25% of the project cost in general areas and 33.33% in difficult areas subject to a maximum of Rs. 4 crores. Through the intervention of this scheme, small and medium enterprises are helped to improve their viability by defraying the cost of the major common facilities provided in the Food Parks.

During the first year of X Plan i.e. 2002-03, the Ministry released assistance to the tune of Rs. 28.93 crores under the scheme for setting up of food parks.

[Translation]

**Foreign Investment for Tourism
Development**

1992. SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any financial assistance has been received by the Government from foreign countries during the current year to develop tourism;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the names of States where tourist spots are being developed with the said assistance?

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

(b) and (c) The Government of India entered into loan agreement with Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) on 31.3.2003 whereby JBIC has agreed to provide loan assistance (Approximately Japanese Yen 7331 million = Rs.299.2 crores approximately) for

Ajana Ellora Conservation and Tourism Development Project Phase-II in Maharashtra. The Project is scheduled to be completed by end of June, 2008.

[English]

**Amendments to Wildlife (Protection)
Act, 1972**

1993. SHRI BHASKARRAO PATIL :
SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH :
SHRI NARESH PUGLIA :
SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE :
DR. M.V.V.S. MURTHI :

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

(a) whether State Governments are provided financial assistance for purchase of weapons and communication devices under various centrally sponsored schemes to tackle poaching;

(b) if so, the assistance provided during the last three years, State-wise and scheme-wise;

(c) whether the Government has decided to amend the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 to make it more effective to combat poaching; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The required details of the financial assistance provided during last three years are at enclosed statement.

(c) The Wild Life (Protection) Act 1972 has already been amended vide the Wild Life (Protection) Amendment Act 2002 making it more effective to combat poaching.

(d) Does not arise.

Statement

Details of funds released to States for purchase of weapons and communication devices under various centrally sponsored schemes during last three years.*

(Rs. in lakhs)

Name of the State	Dev. of NP/WLS			Project Tiger			Project Elephant			Forest Protection		
	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Andhra Pradesh	24.00	4.50	1.50	6.00	—	—	5.60	6.25	3.40	10.20	23.0	—
Arunachal Pradesh	52.875	87.575	6.13	1.50	12.77	—	38.90	29.50	1.00	5.35	5.40	8.25
Assam	97.48	16.94	21.90	1.70	—	0.95	—	—	—	2.25	1.95	—
Bihar	—	3.5	—	—	—	6.00	—	—	—	4.20	—	—
Chhattisgarh	—	—	15.9	—	—	—	—	—	—	7.40	34.90	—
Goa	3.20	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2.00	6.32	3.57
Gujarat	13.20	3.60	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6.00	31.00	9.60
Haryana	9.00	—	2.50	—	—	—	—	—	—	0.92	15.51	7.60
Himachal Pradesh	—	15.35	4.20	—	—	—	—	—	—	5.20	21.00	5.00
Jammu and Kashmir	—	10.15	12.30	—	—	—	—	—	—	2.30	10.60	—
Jharkhand	—	—	4.50	—	—	1.00	—	—	—	6.85	20.75	—
Karnataka	—	—	5.00	5.50	—	2.95	—	—	—	6.00	16.00	—
Kerala	3.00	6.25	36.20	—	—	2.00	4.60	4.45	4.80	9.35	12.35	7.00
Madhya Pradesh	23.90	28.70	35.35	15.05	21.30	17.40	—	—	—	10.60	60.00	22.62
Maharashtra	5.59	29.273	12.83	3.00	24.90	22.40	—	—	—	7.40	—	3.20
Manipur	4.50	—	4.20	—	—	—	—	—	—	3.23	5.10	—

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Meghalaya	11.75	3.00	1.50	—	—	—	—	3.50	—	15.54	13.30	—
Mizoram	31.80	16.10	10.00	—	4.61	2.00	—	—	—	3.95	12.90	9.20
Nagaland	5.00	—	12.60	—	—	—	—	1.50	—	—	2.80	4.00
Orissa	—	16.40	21.38	9.65	27.40	1.50	2.00	12.00	12.25	1.00	27.50	6.00
Punjab	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	13.30	—
Rajasthan	6.50	15.85	25.90	10.00	7.50	11.50	—	—	—	5.00	5.00	10.00
Sikkim	5.60	10.00	9.00	—	—	—	—	—	—	2.00	5.95	—
Tamil Nadu	6.50	7.60	5.50	3.00	—	1.00	—	2.50	10.00	—	22.50	8.00
Tripura	—	10.00	1.00	3.30	—	—	—	—	—	3.30	23.60	18.50
Uttar Pradesh	9.80	14.05	0.35	4.00	1.50	3.00	—	—	—	1.40	15.50	—
Uttaranchal	—	15.50	12.75	8.54	10.50	4.50	3.35	4.75	20.25	17.40	8.00	—
West Bengal	8.10	25.30	5.80	2.00	1.80	23.50	5.50	1.20	—	9.40	20.50	6.00
Andaman and Nicobar	31.00	15.20	28.45	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dadar and Nagar Haveli	—	4.31	7.40	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	352.79	359.14	283.74	73.24	112.28	99.70	59.95	65.65	51.70	148.24	434.73	128.54

*For the year 2002-03 the information is as on January 2003.

NP: National Parks

WLS : Wild Life Sanctuaries

Subsidies to Farmers

1994. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH :

DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT :

SHRI KHAGEN DAS :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government is providing subsidies to farmers for improving the infrastructure, agricultural products, marketing and promotion services;

(b) if so, the details of schemes under which such subsidies/assistance is provided; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government is implemented these schemes effectively?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) to (c) There are several schemes in which assistance is provided to the farmers for agriculture production. The main schemes are Macro Management, Oilseed Production Programme, National Pulses Development Project, Accelerated Maize Development Programme, Oil Palm Development Programme, Technology Mission on Cotton and Technology Mission on Horticulture in North East including Sikkim, H.P., Uttaranchal and J and K. Assistance is provided under different components including seed, Integrated Pest Management, micronutrients, farm implements, etc. Assistance is also given for purchase of micro-irrigation equipments like sprinkles and power tillers and farm equipments. Under on farm Water Management, assistance is provided for installation of tubewells, electric diesel pumping sets, etc. Under Grammen Bhandar Yojana, subsidy is provided on the Capital cost for constructing rural godown and cold storages are also being constructed for enhancing the storage capacity of horticultural and agricultural commodities for which subsidy is given to meet a part of the capital cost.

**Relaxation in Felling and Transit
Rules for Forest Produce**

1995. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government proposes, to relax felling and transit rules for forest produce from areas falling in the private or non-forest land;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the benefit to be accrued as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) to (c) The felling of trees standing on private non forest land is governed by State Laws and Rules made for the purpose. The transportation of forest produce including timber is governed by the transit rules

framed by the State Governments under the powers conferred upon them under the provisions of the Indian Forest Act, 1927/State Forest Acts. Hence, providing relaxation for felling and transit of forest produce from areas falling in the private non forest land is a matter to be decided at the State level.

River-Linking Project

1996. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY :
SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA :

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Chairman of the Task Force on River-linking Project had asked the Surveyor General of India for topography maps of the rivers;

(b) if so, whether objections were raised for making available the maps, on the grounds that they were secret documents and their placement on the website to invite technical opinions about feasibility of the project would involve breach of security; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government to resolve the objections?

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

(a) to (c) In connection with launching of website on interlinking of rivers, Ministry of Defence was approached for security clearance to place the digitized maps of the proposals on the website and also their use for other purposes such as preparation of tender documents, technical reports and other project related activities. Ministry of Defence suggested to carry out certain corrections in the maps and desired that the coast line and international boundary of India would need to be authenticated by the Director, Map publications, Survey of India, Dehradun before final printing. In this regard, Survey of India has suggested certain modifications to be attended to in the maps before considering the same for authentication.

Production of Kharif

1997. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Kharif grain output for the current year is much better than the previous year;
- (b) if so, the comparative figures for the Kharif production during the last three years;
- (c) whether the increased Kharif production will reduce the dependence on imports of some of the Kharif items; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(a) and (b) Unlike in last year, there was good rainfall from the South-west monsoon in 2003 which brightened the prospects of foodgrains production. The figures for the Kharif foodgrains production during 2003-04 vis-a-vis last three years are as under:-

(Million Tonnes)

Crops	2000-01 01	2001-02 02	2002-03 03\$	2003- 04@
Rice	72.78	79.76	66.51	75.05
Coarse Cereals	24.86	26.92	20.13	27.96
Pulses	4.45	4.87	3.84	5.44
Total Foodgrains	102.09	111.55	90.48	108.45

\$ As per 4th Advance Estimates released on 01.7.2003.

@ As per 1st Advance Estimates released on 30.09.2003.

(c) and (d) As regards foodgrains, there has been no shortage. In fact, the comfortable stock position coupled with high production in 1999-2000 and 2001-02 has led

to a decline of 1.2% in Wholesale Price Index (WPI) with base 1993-94 of foodgrains during the last three years 1999-2000 to 2002-03. As regards edible oils, the domestic production of oilseeds is inadequate to meet the needs for ensuring the required production of edible oils in the country. Despite the fact that the production of oilseeds increased from 18.61 million tonnes in 1990-91 to 24.75 million tonnes in 1998-99, the import of edible oils increased from 4.85 lakh tonnes to 26.22 lakh tonnes during the same period. The import of edible oils rose to 42.66 lakh tonnes in 2002-03 which of course reflects the decline in domestic production in subsequent years, especially in 2002-03 due to severe drought. The demand for edible oils is influenced by a number of factors like population growth, per capita income and market prices both at home and abroad. It is therefore difficult to ascertain the time required to achieve self-sufficiency in edible oils.

Decline in Fish Production in Orissa

1998. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the decline in the fish production in Orissa during the last three years;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to increase fish production in the State during the said period?

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

(a) The total fish production in Orissa has increased from 2.59 lakh tones in 2000-01 to 2.89 lakh tonnes (Prov.) in 2002-03.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Various Central/Centrally Sponsored Schemes such as Development of Freshwater and Coastal Aquaculture, Development of Marine fisheries, National

Welfare of Fishermen, Fisheries Training and Extension, and Fishing Harbour Facilities at Major and Minor Ports are in operation to enhance production and productivity in the fishery sector.

**Assistance under Kyoto
Protocol**

1999. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether India has gained from Kyoto Protocol;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the strategy of the Government to avail to assistance through Kyoto Protocol to reduce carbon emissions;

(d) whether there is any scope to establish "green projects" in India; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the present status of the projects, if any, which have been planned?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) and (b) Although India has acceded to Kyoto Protocol, the Protocol is yet to enter into force.

(c) The main strategy of Government is to actively participate in the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) envisaged under the Protocol to channelize maximum financial assistance for supporting projects resulting in reduction of emissions at global level.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) India has endorsed 12 projects in response to a tender of Netherlands in the year 2002 and 13 projects in response to a CDM tender of Finland this year. Out of these, five projects have been short-listed by the Government of Netherlands and two by the Government of Finland.

Minimum Wages

2000. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR :
SHRI P.S. GADHAVI :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether recently the Trade Unions have requested to the Union Government to increase minimum wages;

(b) if so, the response of the Union Government thereto;

(c) whether the Working Group on Minimum Wages (WGMW) has recommended minimum wage of Rs.66/- per day to the labourers; and

(d) if so, the details of other recommendations made by them and the reaction of the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SAHIB SINGH VERMA) : (a) to (d) In pursuance of the decision taken at tripartite fora of Central Advisory Board constituted under section 8 of the Minimum Wages Act, 1948 in its meeting held on 27th June, 2002, the Government set up a Working Group to go into the Codification of the concept of Minimum Wages, Listing out Guidelines based on Critical Evaluation of Various Parameters and also to Study the Problems in Implementation of minimum Wages. It has recommended the norms in terms of 3 consumption units and per capita requirement of food, clothing, fuel, lighting and miscellaneous items including Children's education, medical requirement etc. as determined by the results of quinquennial Consumer Expenditure Survey for Rural Areas conducted by National Sample Survey Organization. Based on these norms the Working Group worked out afresh the national minimum wage at Rs.66/- per day to be made applicable to unskilled labour in respect of each employment.

The other major recommendations inter-alia include revision of national minimum wage with statutory support every five years coinciding with quinquennial consumer

expenditure survey; Continuation of Variable Dearness Allowance, strengthening enforcement machinery, minimization of regional disparities in minimum wages through the mechanism of regional level committees etc. No decision has yet been taken by the Government regarding acceptance of the report of the Working Group.

Dry Lease of Jet

2001. SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the offer of the Boeing aircraft Co. to provide jet on dry lease was rejected because the configuration was not found to be suitable;

(b) if so, whether Boeing Aircraft Co. has offered to undertake re-configuration of the planes at its own cost; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. In response to a global tender enquiry floated in July, 2003, for 747-400 aircraft on dry lease, M/s. Boeing had offered one aircraft in "as is condition" with passenger seating configuration of 16F/48J/316Y as against Air India's requirement of 12-16F/26-34J/389Y. M/s. Boeing did not commit to reconfigure the aircraft to meet Air India requirement, but offered to reimburse some of the expenses if Air India gets it done. Air India was not ready to accept the responsibility of reconfiguration as it requires substantial resource allocation. Furthermore, Boeing galley reconfiguration had a lead-time of one year. The aircraft being taken on lease was to be inducted by end of November, 2003 and was required to be integrated with Air India's present fleet and hence Boeing offer was not found technically acceptable.

Flights from Kolkata Airport

2002. SHRI SUNIL KHAN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Kolkata airport will be allowed to undertake more international flights like Kolkata-China via Japan, Kolkata-Russia via China and Kolkata-London;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether due to heavy rush on Kolkata-Port Blair and Kolkata-Agartala Sector Government propose to increase seat capacity; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY) : (a) and (b) Operations of international flights from any airport in India to foreign destinations are governed by the provisions of the Air Services Agreement between India and the country concerned. Actual operations are, however, matters of commercial judgement of the airlines. Designated airlines of more than 35 countries, including Russia and United Kingdom, are having rights to operate to Kolkata. British Airways is presently connecting Kolkata with London on twice weekly basis.

(c) and (d) Subject to the fulfilment of route dispersal guidelines, airlines are free to deploy capacity on any sector as per their commercial judgement.

Concession to Students by IA

2003. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Indian Airlines provide concession to students undertaking air travel;

(b) if so, whether an old and cumbersome system is in vogue for providing concession to students;

(c) if so, the reasons for not simplifying this system;

(d) whether a simpler system based on two identifications is being considered by the Government; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and steps proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Indian Airlines offers 50% discount on economy class fares to the bona-fide students, between 12 and 26 years of age, on domestic sectors from hometown to place of study. Indian Airlines has prescribed a Student Concession Form which is available on internet and at Indian Airlines Booking Offices free of cost. The concession form is required to be filled up by the applicant student alongwith two passport size photographs. The form is to be attested by the Principal/Head of the Educational Institute.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Vacant Posts in Archaeological Survey of India

2004. SHRI P.D. ELANGO VAN : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has any plans to fill the posts lying vacant in Archaeological Survey of India as suggested in the last CABA meeting;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Epigraphical Survey of India, Mysore have adequate staff strength to look after the huge voluminous collection particularly in Tamil Nadu; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN) : (a) and (b) Proposals for appointment to Group 'A' posts in different cadres, which are required to be filled up through UPSC, have been sent to them. Proposals for appointment by direct recruitment to Group 'B' posts have also been sent to the Staff Selection Commission. Circles/Branches of the Archaeological Survey of India have also been making all

efforts to fill up Group 'C' and 'D' posts which fall with their jurisdiction.

Continuous efforts are also made at the Headquarters Office to convene the DPC meetings for filling up of the vacant posts under promotion quota.

(c) and (d) There is no Central Government office called Epigraphical Survey of India with its Headquarter at Mysore. However, the Archaeological Survey of India is having an Epigraphy Branch at Mysore with two zonal offices, one at Chennai and the other at Lucknow. The Southern Zonal office at Chennai aims at copying and deciphering the large number of Tamil inscriptions available in Tamil Nadu as well as those in other Dravidian languages in the Southern States. The Tamil Epigraphists stationed both at Chennai and Mysore repeatedly go on collection tours to Tamil Nadu to copy the inscriptions and decipher them. Otimum work is being done with the staff available.

Operational Airports

2005. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether only one third of the airports owned by the Airports Authority of India are fully operational as on date;

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

(c) the total amount of funds required for making all its airports fully operational;

(d) whether the AAI has any plan to do so in the near future; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY) : (a) and (b) Only 63 out of 96 airports owned by Airports Authority of India (AAI) are fully operational. Remaining 18 airports are non-operational and 15 other airports are closed.

(c) The estimated amount of Rs.1200 crores will be required to make these 33 airports fully operational.

(d) and (e) At present, AAI has plans to make Mysore airport fully operational for operation of 50 seater type of aircraft at an estimated cost of Rs.35 crores.

**Application of Euro Norm
in Agriculture**

2006. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government is aware that the campaign for the application of Euro norm standard would adversely affect our agriculture export and domestic consumption due to negative campaign on pesticides;

(b) whether the Government proposes to adhere to WHO code for standard of certification rather than succumbing to the pressur of Euro norms;

(c) if so, whether Inter-Ministerial meetings have been held in this regard; and

(d) if so, the outcome thereof?

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

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

[Translation]

Diversification of Crops

2007. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has formulated any scheme regarding diversification of crops;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government is considering to give subsidy to the farmers for growing crops other than wheat and paddy; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Question do not arise.

[English]

Construction of Forest Roads

2008. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Kerala has submitted any proposals regarding construction of forest roads under NABARD scheme to the Government for clearance;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) and (b) No proposal for clearance under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 has been received from the Kerala Government regarding construction of forest roads under NABARD Scheme. However, the State Government has sought general exemption under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 for improvement of forest roads including tarring by availing financial assistance from NABARD.

(c) The State Government has been informed that that the Environmental clearance is required for tarring of forest roads and there is no provision for any exemption. Regarding clearance under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 it has been clarified that for the works undertaken after 1980, if the road passes through National Park or Sanctuary or it involves felling of trees or it does not exclusively relate or ancillary to conservation, development and management of forests

and wildlife, the approval of Government will be necessary. Roads serving dual purposes will also require forestry clearance.

Inter-Linking of Rivers

2009. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to impose cess, taxes and duties on certain items to mobilize funds for river-linking projects; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY) : (a) No such proposal is under consideration.

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

World Heritage Fund

2010. SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN :
SHRI RAMDAS RUPALA GAVIT :

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

(a) whether any funds have been allocated from the 'World Heritage Fund' for the development of places of historical and cultural importance in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the places of historical and cultural importance identified for the development under the said funds?

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

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

Welfare of Migrant Labourers

2011. SHRI BHASKARRAO PATIL :
DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government proposes to take/has taken any decision to enact a new legislation to safeguard economic interests of the migrant labourers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) by when the said legislation is likely to be brought; and

(d) the benefits likely to be accrued to the migrant labourers there from?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SAHIB SINGH VERMA) : (a) to (d) In order to safeguard the economic and other interests of the migrant labourers, the Government has already enacted the Inter-State Migrant Workmen (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1979. This Act provides for regular payment of wages, minimum wages fixed under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, equal pay for equal work irrespective of sex, displacement allowance, journey allowance, suitable residential accommodation, prescribed medical facilities free of charge and prescribed protective clothing etc. to inter-State migrant workmen. In view of this Government has no proposal to enact a new legislation for the migrant labourers.

[English]

Supply of Spurious Seeds and Pesticides

2012. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY :
SHRI JYOTRADITYA M. SCINDIA :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether despite good monsoon this year, the

farmers in Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra and some around suffered due to supply of spurious seeds and pesticides;

(b) if so, the districts mainly affected thereby;

(c) whether the Union Government had been apprised of the problems of the farmers in time; and

(d) if so, what aid was given to help the farmers by the Government?

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

(a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

Profitable Airports

2013. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the profit earned by the civil airports including Delhi and Mumbai, airport-wise during the last two years and thereafter;

(b) whether other loss making airports are managed through the earnings of profitable airports mainly the Delhi and Mumbai airports;

(c) the financial assistance provided to the loss making airports during the last two years; and

(d) the extent to which the loss making airports are to be affected for want of adequate finances consequent upon the proposed privatisation of Delhi and Mumbai airports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY) : (a) The profit before tax earned by civil airports, airport-wise, amount in lakhs being shown in brackets during 2001-02, 2002-03 and 2003-04 (estimated) respectively are Delhi (22422.98) (21118.49) (19851.38); Mumbai (33140.89) (33564.47) (31550.60); Chennai (9966.33)

(7467.15) (7019.12); Kolkata (1668.34) (2801.54) (2633.45); Bangalore (1846.25) (31.94.60) (3002.92); Hyderabad (383.94)(1734.91) (1630.82); Goa (492.69) (876.68)(824.08); Calicut (570.50) (536.27); Juhu (222.67) (333.81) (313.78); Pune (204.93) (373.46) (351.06); and Ahmedabad (16.62) and (15.63). However Calicut and Ahmedabad were loss making airport during 2001-02 but profit making during 2002-03 and 2003-04.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Entire cost of operation and maintenance of the loss making airports is met out of revenue of Airports Authority of India (AAI).

(d) The income to AAI from proposed concession fee/lease rentals consequent upon restructuring of Delhi and Mumbai airports will be utilised for operation and maintenance of airports of AAI including loss making airports.

Promotion to Production and Export of Steel by Indo-China Joint Group

2014. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Indo-China Joint Group has been established to promote the production and export of steel; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the activities carried out by the Joint Working Group?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Indian Steel Alliance (ISA) under the Confederation of Indian Industries took a delegation to China in October 2003. It was decided during the discussions that there was a need for continuation of a dialogue between the two countries and to set up a Joint Working Group (JWG) between the China Iron and Steel Association (CISA) and the ISA. The JWG will jointly address matters of common interest between the steel industries of the two countries.

Exorbitant Prices at Airports

2015. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether private/Government shops at airports charge exorbitantly for snacks and beverages; and

(b) if so, the steps Government proposes to take to ensure that pricing is competitive and reasonable at all airport shops?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. Shops at airports charge on the basis of the rate list exhibited for the items sold. The rates are fixed by licencees taking into account the element of rental charges payable to the Airports Authority of India. Regular monitoring is done to prevent overcharging at the airports.

Tapping of Water Potential

2016. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Non-Government Organisations (NGOs) and Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) has emphasised the need to accelerate efforts to tap the untapped water potential especially rain and ground water;

(b) if so, whether the Government has formulated any plan to tap the untapped water potential; and

(c) if so, the progress achieved so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) Yes, Sir. Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) and Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) have emphasised the need to accelerate efforts to tap the untapped water potential.

(b) and (c) Water being a State subject schemes for

tapping the untapped water resources are formulated, planned and executed by the respective State Governments. Live storage capacity of 177 billion cubic metre (BCM) has been created. Another 75 BCM of live storage will be created on completion of projects which are under various stages of construction. Besides, further live storage capacity of 132 BCM is to be created through the proposals under consideration. For speedy completion of ongoing schemes, Government of India has launched Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP). Government of India is also promoting rainwater harvesting through Watershed Management Programme, artificial recharge of ground water and roof-top rainwater harvesting under the sector reform project of Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme of the Ministry of Rural Development, for which technical and financial assistance is provided to the State Governments and other implementing agencies. Central Ground Water Board has also taken up a Central Sector Scheme on "Studies of Recharge Ground Water" on pilot basis during the Ninth Plan. For meeting future requirements of water, as a long term measure, National Water Development Agency have formulated National Perspective Plan for water resources development which envisages interlinking various Peninsular rivers and Himalayan rivers with a view to feed deficit basins from surplus basins.

Merger of Posts

2017. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a proposal from Air India to merge the posts of Chairman and Managing Director; and

(b) if so, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY) : (a) Air India has not made any such proposal.

(b) Does not arise.

Development of Poultry

2018. SHRI P.D. ELANGO VAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the amount allocated for the development of poultry and hatcheries in the country during the last three years, year-wise:

(b) whether the Government propose to provide more funds for the development of poultry and hatcheries in Tamil Nadu; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

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

(a) The Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying is implementing one Central Sector Scheme, "Central Poultry Development Organization" and one Centrally Sponsored Scheme, "Assistance to State Poultry Farms" for the development of Poultry in the country. The year-wise expenditure incurred during the last three years is as follows:

(Rs. In crores)

Year	Central Poultry Development Organisation	Centrally Sponsored Scheme "Assistance" to State Poultry Farms"
2000-01	4.65	1.35
2001-02	4.98	5.05
2002-03	4.93	10.66

(b) and (c) The Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme "Assistance To State Poultry Farms" during X Plan in all the States/UTs including Tamil Nadu. One time assistance is provided to strengthen the State poultry farms in terms of hatching, brooding and rearing of low input technology birds. There is an allocation of

Rs. 5.00 crores for the scheme during the current financial year 2003-04. However, no proposals have been received under this scheme from State Government of Tamil Nadu.

Further, in order to meet the requirement of the unorganized sector in the rural area, the activities of Central Poultry Development Organizations have been restructured during the 10th Plan. These organizations make available low input technology birds, impart training of trainers/farmers, provide feed quality monitoring among other activities. The Central poultry Development Organization (Southern Region), Hasarghatta caters to the need of the Southern State/U Ts. including Tamil Nadu. There is a total allocation of Rs.4.00 crores for the scheme during the current financial year 2003-04.

New Terminal at Thiruvananthapuram

2019. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH :

SHRI V.S. SIVAKUMAR :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the land required for the construction of new terminal at Thiruvananthapuram airport has been acquired by the Government of Kerala;

(b) if so, by when the land is likely to be transferred to AAI to start the construction of new terminal;

(c) the total amount likely to be spent thereon;

(d) whether the Government of Kerala is likely to share the financial liabilities;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) steps initiated by the Government to draft terms and conditions of the MoU?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY) : (a) and (b) The State Government of Kerala has informed that

acquisition of 27 acres of land is nearing completion and is likely to be transferred to Airports Authority of India by end of January 2004. Action for acquisition of another 120 acres of land is under active consideration of Government of Kerala.

(c) to (e) The estimates and modalities for financing the construction of terminal have not been worked out.

(f) Does not arise.

Operation of Air Deccan

2020. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA :
SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has allowed the Air Deccan to operate domestic flights in the country;

(b) if so, the sectors where the Government has allowed Air Deccan to operate;

(c) whether the DGCA had assessed the fleet performance of the Air Deccan;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Air Deccan operates on the following sectors;

Bangalore—Hubli—Bangalore

Bangalore—Mangalore—Bangalore

Bangalore—Chennai—Bangalore

Bangalore—Belgaum—Bangalore

Bangalore—Coimbatore—Bangalore

Bangalore—Madurai—Bangalore

Bangalore—Tirupati—Hyderabad—Tirupati—Bangalore

Hyderabad—Vijayawada—Hyderabad

Hyderabad—Bangalore—Hyderabad

Bangalore—Goa—Bangalore

(c) to (e) The preparedness of Air Deccan was assessed by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), before it was permitted to start operations. The permit was granted only after confirming that the requisite manpower, infrastructure and literature was available with the operator.

Women in Silk Industry

2021. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the women labourers engaged in silk industry in the country are not facing a conducive working environment;

(b) if so, the details in this regard; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to improve the quality of their working environment?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SAHIB SINGH VERMA) : (a) and (b) The working conditions of women labourers engaged in silk industry are governed by various labour laws and rules framed thereunder which are considered quite adequate.

(c) Women who are engaged in the silk reeling activity work on traditional and obsolete equipment. To improve their working conditions and their productivity, the central Silk Board has developed and is popularising low cost reeling technologies like multi-end reeling machines for mulberry sector, motorized-cum-pedal operated reeling-cum-twisting machines for the non-mulberry sector, and hot air dryers which improve working conditions by reducing

drudgery, creating a smoke free atmosphere and reducing pupae smell.

Visit of Foreign Tourists

2022. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India figures amongst the top ten tourists destinations; and

(b) if so, the number of foreign and domestic tourists who visited different tourist destinations in Andhra

Pradesh and other States during 2000, 2001, 2002 and 2003 so far?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN) : (a) The Readers Award of Condénast Traveller – a leading International Travel Journal has selected India as one of the ten preferred destinations of the world.

(b) A statement indicating state-wise visits of domestic and foreign tourists during the years 2000, 2001, 2002 and also the latest information available for the year 2003 is enclosed.

Statement

Domestic and Foreign Tourist Visits during the Years 2000, 2001, 2002 and 2003

State/U.T.	2000		2001		2002		2003		Data for 2003 Received upto
	Domestic	Foreign	Domestic	Foreign	Domestic	Foreign	Domestic	Foreign	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Andhra Pradesh	47998204	78713	52533647	67147	60487370	210310	64757894	358982	August
Arunachal Pradesh	9932	2044	6349	323	4372	187	457	0	March
Assam	891433	5954	1010651	6171	1953915	6409	271705	976	May
Bihar	5520589	73321	6061168	85673	6860207	112873	3192675	29593	July
Goa	976804	291709	1047342	260071	1325296	271645	1068558	150769	August
Gujarat	11408281	31748	8272969	30930	5735286	34187	3256152	18041	June
Hariyana	260442	1113	276287	898	6426763	85281	4234394	71094	August
Himachal Pradesh	4571129	111191	5211772	135760	4958917	144383	4416359	129381	September
Jammu and Kashmir	5393463	19400	5246948	21298	4570583	7821	3238515	12660	July
Karnataka	18000000	208000	14117464	140703	8678670	59545	N.A.	N.A.	
Kerala	5013221	209933	5240009	208830	5568256	232564	4680961	209976	October
Madhya Pradesh	4796133	111036	5048851	107824	4903242	67319	1178815	31994	March
Maharashtra*	8297158	1075169	8479695	915399	9802527	768935	N.A.	N.A.	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Manipur	105167	429	76527	183	89633	221	69289	124	September
Meghalaya	169929	2327	178697	2390	268609	3146	280742	3659	September
Mizoram	28221	235	28771	152	29417	259	25781	206	September
Nagaland	13272	451	9948	920	14263	657	N.A.	N.A.	
Orissa	2888392	23723	3109976	22854	3289205	23279	2549869	16438	September
Punjab	385682	3854	474305	3258	317904	7558	303468	324	April
Rajasthan	7374391	623100	7757217	608283	8300190	428437	3201113	223767	July
Sikkim	143105	10409	203306	31028	159342	8566	130976	6839	September
Tamil Nadu	22982262	785876	23812043	773073	39873160	804041	16230366	340701	May
Tripura	231902	0	254912	0	260586	0	127751	0	August
Uttaranchal	—	—	9551669	44429	11818221	55762	3432495	22022	May
Uttar Pradesh	64830000	848000	68071000	795000	73067000	109464	1088999	80688	August
Chattisgarh	—	—	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	
Jharkhand	—	—	353177	2979	313134	2244	293953	1982	August
West Bengal	4737112	197061	4943097	284092	8844232	529366	6263665	426978	June
Andaman and Nicobar	85300	3156	84064	5539	90629	5101	N.A.	N.A.	
Chandigarh	486355	14612	482133	15203	554948	13706	456385	14161	October
Daman and Diu	74172	8330	580322	10290	595449	6569	353566	2162	October
Delhi*	1497890	1127950	1324636	830092	1228059	543036	1159519	494729	September
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	408639	223	452000	400	452100	202	260950	105	August
Lakshadweep	1087	597	3501	650	6173	912	2687	454	September
Pondicherry	527274	23878	476804	22115	480522	20094	366876	18294	September
Total*	220106941	5893542	234781257	5433957	271328180	4564079	126914935	2667099	

*Figures are estimated

N.A.:— Not Available.

Tourism Development Fund

2023. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has finalised a proposal for setting up a Rs.500 crore tourism development fund;

(b) if so, how the funds so provided is to be utilized for development of infrastructure to boost tourism in the country;

(c) whether the proposal is to be implemented in consultation with the State Governments; and

(d) if so, the allocations to be made to the states under this fund?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN) : (a) A proposal for creation of a Tourism Infrastructure Development Fund/Scheme with an allocation of Rs. 500 crores during the 10th Plan has been sent to the Planning Commission. This broadly envisages improving basic infrastructure facilities like roads, electricity supply, water supply etc. at important tourist places in the country. However, the details have not been finalised/ approved.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Agri-Export Zones

2024. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a number of Agri-Export Zones set up in the country with a view of promoting agricultural exports have not become functional so far;

(b) if so, the details therefor;

(c) the number of proposals received for setting up

more agri-export zones and the number out of them sanctioned so far;

(d) whether the market share in agricultural exports has decreased from 17.72% in 1998-99 to 12.61% in 2002-2003.

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to increase agricultural exports?

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

(a) and (b) So far, the Union Government has sanctioned and notified 48 Agri Export Zones (AEZs) in 19 States in the country. In all the 48 cases, an MoU has been signed between Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) and the concerned State Government for setting up the zones. The progress of work, in these zones is at various stages of completion.

(c) APEDA being a nodal agency of Central Government for monitoring of AEZs, has received 82 proposals till date. Out of these 82, 48 AEZs have already been sanctioned.

(d) and (e) Though the percentage share of agri exports in total exports has come down from 17.72% in 1998-99 to 12.61% in 2002-2003, the value of agricultural exports have increased from 25511 crores to Rs. 31030 crores during the above period. The decrease in percentage share of agro exports to total exports is due to the higher growth rate in exports of other products.

(f) In order to boost the agro export, a number of measures have been initiated by the Government including infrastructure development, promotion of modern packaging units, quality improvement and quality control, market development and creation of Agriculture Export Zones among others.

12.01 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[English]

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
(SHRI T.R. BAALU) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table :-

- (1) A copy of the Bio-Medical Waste (Management and Handling) (Amendment) Rules, 2003 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. S.O. 1069 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 17th September, 2003 under section 26 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.
- (2) A copy of the Notification No. S.O. 979(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 27th August, 2003 making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 763(E) dated the 14th September, 1999, issued under sub-section (2) of section 3 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 8264/2003]

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SAHIB SINGH VERMA) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table :-

- (1) A copy of the Consolidated Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Employees Provident Fund Organisation, New Delhi for the year 2001-2002, together with Audit Report 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 8265/2003]

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619 A of the Companies Act, 1956 :-

- (1) Review by the Government of the working of the Bharat Refractories Limited, Bokaro Steel City, for the year 2002-2003.
- (2) Annual Report of the Bharat Refractories Limited, Bokaro Steel City, for the year 2002-2003, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 8266/2003]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the Indian Airlines Limited and the Ministry of Civil Aviation for the year 2003-04.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 8267/2003]

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table :-

- (1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956 :-
 - (a) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Orissa Agro Industries Corporation Limited, Bhubaneswar, for the year 1994-95.
 - (ii) Annual Report of the Orissa Agro Industries Corporation Limited, Bhubaneswar, for the year 1994-1995, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 8268/2003]

- (b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Punjab Agro Industries Corporation Limited, Chandigarh, for the year 2001-2002.

[Shri Hukumdeo Narayan Yadav]

- (ii) Annual Report of the Punjab Agro Industries Corporation Limited, Chandigarh, for the year 2001-2002, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 8269/2003]

- (c) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Karnataka Cashew Development Corporation Limited, Mangalore, for the year 2002-2003.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Karnataka Cashew Development Corporation Limited, Mangalore, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.
- (2) Two Statements (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at item No. ("a" and "b") of (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 8270/2003]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management, Hyderabad, for the year 2002-2003.
- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management, Hyderabad, for the year 2002-2003, together with Audit Report thereon.
- (iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management, Hyderabad, for the year 2002-2003.

→ [Placed in Library. See No. LT 8271/2003]

- (4) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Oilseeds

and Vegetable Oils Development Board, Gurgaon, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Oilseeds and Vegetable Oils Development Board, Gurgaon, for the year 2002-2003.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 8272/2003]

- (5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Sikkim Livestock Processing and Development Corporation Limited, Sikkim, for the years 1998-1999, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Sikkim Live stock Processing and Development Corporation Limited, Sikkim, for the years 1998-1999, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001.

- (6) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned of (5) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 8273/2003]

12.02 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

Fifty-fifth to Fifty-Seventh Reports

[English]

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hoogly) : Sir, I beg to present the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Public Accounts Committee (2003-2004) :

- (1) Fifty-fifth Report of PAC (13th Lok Sabha) on Chapter 5 of Audit Report No. 12A of 2002 (Direct Taxes – System Appraisals) relating to "Refunds under the Income Tax Act, 1961".
- (2) Fifty-sixth Report on Action Taken on the recommendations contained in 20th Report of

PAC (13th Lok Sabha) relating to "Indian Railways Appropriation Accounts (1997-98)".

- (3) Fifty-seventh Report on Action Taken on the recommendations contained in 5th Report of PAC (13th Lok Sabha) relating to "Design and Development of Main Battle Tank – Arjun".

12.03 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN

Sixteenth Report

[English]

DR. (SHRIMATI) ANITA ARYA (Karol Bagh) : Sir, I beg to present the Sixteenth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Empowerment of Women on the Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the Eighth Report of the Committee (Thirteenth Lok Sabha) on the subject 'Training and Empowerment of Women in Local Bodies'.

12.04 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON LABOUR AND WELFARE

Thirty Fourth to Thirty-seventh Reports and Statements

[Translation]

SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR (Sagar) : Sir, I beg to present :

- (a) A copy each of the following reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Labour and Welfare :-
- (1) Thirty-fourth Report on action taken by the Government on the Recommendations/Observations contained in the Thirty-second Report of the Standing Committee on Labour and Welfare on Demands for Grants (2003-2004) of Ministry of Labour.
 - (2) Thirty-fifth Report on action taken by the Government on the Recommendations/Observations contained in the Thirtieth

Report of the Standing Committee on Labour and Welfare on Demands for Grants (2003-2004) of Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

- (3) Thirty-sixth Report on action taken by the Government on the Recommendations/Observations contained in the Thirty-first Report of the Standing Committee on Labour and Welfare on Demands for Grants (2003-2004) of Ministry of Tribal Affairs.
 - (4) Thirty-seventh Report on "The Emigration (Amendment) Bill, 2002".
- (b) A copy each of the following Statements (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Labour and Welfare :-
- (1) Statement showing further action taken by the Government on the Recommendations/Observations contained in Twenty-fourth Report of the Standing Committee on Labour and Welfare (2002) (Thirteenth Lok Sabha) on the recommendations/observations contained in Twenty-first Report (Thirteenth Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants (2002-2003) of the Ministry of Labour.
 - (2) Statement showing further action taken by the Government on the Recommendations/Observations contained in Twenty-fifth Report of the Standing Committee on Labour and Welfare (2002) (Thirteenth Lok Sabha) on the recommendations observations contained in Nineteenth Report (Thirteenth Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants (2002-2003) of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.
 - (3) Statement showing further action taken by the Government on the Recommendations/Observations contained in Twenty-sixth Report of the Standing Committee on Labour and Welfare (2002) (Thirteenth

[Shri Virendra Kumar]

Lok Sabha) on the recommendations/ observations contained in Twentieth Report (Thirteenth Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants, (2002-2003) of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, let I be heard first. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI ASHOK KUMAR SINGH CHANDEL (Hamirpur, U.P.) : Mr. Speaker, Sir the girls in schools of U.P. are being sexually exploited. They are lured to indulge in sex with the senior officers. This is not the case in U.P. alone, the girls and women are meeting the same fate throughout the country. I am informing you on this count. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You know that calling attention is given priority to the Question Hour.

(Interruptions)

SHRI ASHOK KUMAR SINGH CHANDEL : Sir, the Government of Uttar Pradesh wants to suppress the matter and the senior officers enjoy the patronage of U.P. Government. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : See, there is only one speaker listed for the calling attention. Hon. Minister will reply him and it will be over within 10-15 minutes. Then the Zero Hour will be started and then I will give you an opportunity. Now I call on hon. Member Shri Mistry.

(Interruptions)

SHRI ASHOK KUMAR SINGH CHANDEL : Sir, it is matter related to the sexual exploitation of young girls. Let discussion be held on it. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You speak during Zero Hour. I would listen you then.

[English]

Now we will take up the Calling Attention Notice.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hoogly) : Sir, we have given notice for raising the issue of unemployment. . . . (Interruptions)

12.05 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

Loss caused to the farmers of Gujarat due to failure of the crops

[English]

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY (Sabarkantha) : Sir, I call the attention of the Minister of Science and Technology to the following matter of urgent public importance and request that he may make a statement thereon :

"The situation arising out of the loss caused to the farmers of Gujarat due to failure of the crops of Bt. Cotton Bollguard MECH-162 and MECH-12 varieties of seeds produced and marketed by Mahyco Monsanto Company India Limited and steps taken by the Government in regard thereto."

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT, MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the three varieties of B.T. (baxillus Thuringiensis) Cotton namely Mak-162, Mak-12 and Mak-184 were released in the month of May and June of the year 2003 in the various districts of Gujarat for cotton farmers. From the yield point of view the said three hybrid varieties of cotton had been found to be better than traditional hybrid varieties of cotton that used to be cultivated by the farmers of that region.

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Minister, the hon. Minister is saying that he had read your reply. Hence he wants to ask the question. I had given him the permission to ask the questions directly.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : Yes, Sir, I don't have any objection. *It was found that there was a lesser

*Speech was Laid on the Table.

requirement for pesticide spray to control bollworm for the BT cotton hybrid variety vis a vis the traditional hybrid varieties and the yield was also found to be better. These hybrid BT cotton varieties take less time to bear fruit. Hence the farmers also get an opportunity to sow the wheat crop during Rabi season that may facilitate them to get additional benefits (income).

Out of the said three varieties of BT cotton, Mak-12 was found to be the best. Its yield was maximum, the size of its ball was larger and fiber was also younger. The farmers are getting Rs. 300 per quintal more remunerative price for the BT cotton variety vis a vis the cotton. The performance potential of the Mak 184 BT cotton variety in the market is better. Its balls and fibers are larger and longer respectively that are in great demand in the market. The yield of this BT cotton hybrid variety is maximum in intensive management conditions. All the users of BT cotton varieties have been provided this information so that they may get excellent results through its optimum use.

Mak-162 is an average hybrid variety of BT cotton that is suitable to be grown in the rain field area. The ball size in this hybrid variety is smaller vis a vis the Mak-12 and Mak-184 BT cotton hybrid varieties. However the number of balls per plant and regenerating potential of the variety makes it in league with the other hybrid varieties in context of the standards of cultivation. The yield of this variety had been more than average in the previous and current growing season in Gujarat. The farmers were suggested to use the lapido-epron pest larva counts twice a week during the flowering season for getting the better yield so that the ETL level for the spray of pesticide could be determined as per requirement.

On the request of hon. Member Shri Madhusadan Mistry, a team of experts of the department of biotechnology of the Ministry of Science and technology comprising of agricultural scientists of the New Delhi and Gujarat Agriculture University, Anand and the officers of the Central and State Government was sent to the village Laxmipura of district Sabarkantha of Gujarat to study the yield

potential and the performance of BT cotton varieties in the current year. The team visited the village Laxmipura on 11th November, 2003. Before and after the tour the team met hon. Member so that it can apprise them regarding the yield of BT Cotton in that area.

Out of the list of 58 fields mentioned in the letter of hon. Member, the team visited 5 fields and found that the bt-cotton crop in 4 out of the visited fields was very good to excellent and the condition of crop in one field was not that good, and it was just average. The yield of bt-cotton in these fields will surely be more than that of non bt-cotton crop. The team is of the view that the farmers who have managed their crops as per the recommended agro-process will surely get better yield this year. The literature containing directions for agro-process to be adopted by bt-cotton growers was distributed in regional languages. For success or failure of cotton crop it is important to adopt recommended crop pattern, Datas randomly collected from these five fields relating to seed-capsule and damaged balls indicate that bt cotton is capable of fighting lapidoptation insects. It is note-worthy that bt cotton technology (Cry 1 AC gene) does not affect genetic capacity of that background of genetic capacity wherein it has been developed. Yield of hybrid bt cotton depends also upon agro-climatic conditions, genotype of hybrids and crop-management.

It has been conducted in the capacity performance report for the year 2002-2003 submitted to Genetic Engineering Approval Committee (GEAC) by Messers Maharashtra Hybrid Seeds Company Limited (Mahyco) Mumbai, that yield of bt cotton crops was generally more satisfactory than that of non-bt-hybrid varieties. The conclusion of performance report for the year 2003-04 of State bt-Cotton's performance is also similar. In addition, Mahyco has also planned for providing intensive training to cotton growing farmers for better management of bt-cotton crops during ensuing cotton sowing season as it is a new crop technology.

Local newspapers have reported that the farmers of district Sabarkantha are very happy over performance of bt-cotton crop during current year.

[English]

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY : Sir, I have read the answer given by the Minister. I apprehended that I would get the same type of answer. I am not satisfied at all with the answer. I do not know why the Government is hell bent on giving benefit to a multinational company when the farmers are meeting heavy losses, especially in Gujarat, by purchasing the seeds of this company. Let me come to the facts of the Motion.

In Gujarat, more than 100 thousand acres of land has come under the cultivation of the Bollguard variety BT cotton MECH-162 and MECH-12. The claim of the company was that Bollguard variety of BT cotton fights the pest at its very germination, that it does not allow it to grow, that it does not allow it to attack the balls of the cotton, and that the farmers will yield a very good crop. The company claimed that the yield per acre would be at least from 18 quintals to 20 quintals of cotton. It was also claimed that the farmers would not need to spend much money on the pesticides as a result of which the farmer would save good amount of money. It was also stated that because the yield is more, the benefit to the farmers would be much greater.

Farmers in the whole of Gujarat, and especially in my area, realised as early as in August that the pest has attacked the very cotton flowers not once but many times in a span of almost 30 days to 40 days as the cotton balls grew bigger and bigger. The pest was not killed in the seed itself as the company claimed. The claim of the company that the plant itself fights the pink, green and mixed colour pest was proved to be false. The plant did not fight back this pest. In fact, it attacked the very balls and the flowers. There were many plants where there were hardly any flowers and cotton balls.

As early as August, the farmers wrote to the Government of Gujarat. They informed the company of it. In fact they informed this to the Director of Agriculture of the State Government of Gujarat. Farmers purchased these seeds based on the permission given by Government of India to this company, as also the leaflets printed and distributed by the Department of Agriculture of Government

of Gujarat. Based on that permission and those leaflets they purchased these seeds.

When they found that the company's claim was literally wrong, they dismissed it thinking that in Gujarat the last three years had been bad because of severe drought. In the hope that since the fourth year was good they would get a bumper crop they will have good income, they have sown these cottonseeds.

No action was taken even after they have written to the Department of Agriculture of Government of India. The Agriculture Department of Government of Gujarat even went to the extent of saying that they had nothing to do with the permission because it was given by the Government of India, and that they were nowhere in the picture. I wrote to the Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Environment and Forests, and Ministry of Science and Technology.

Sir, I also wrote to the Standing Committee. The Committee gave its report. It was comprising some scientists.

MR. SPEAKER : Please be very brief.

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY : Sir, I am just making a very brief statement. It is a question of millions of the farmers in this country. It is not a small issue.

Sir, the Department of Bio Technology also comes under him. My question is that how the Genetic Engineering Approval Committee has given them the permission without making full field trials. They made the field trial on 60 farms only in this company. What is the basis of these experiments that were carried out? The experiments were carried out only in 60 farms. The Bio Technology Department gave permission to Mahyco Monsanto Company to sell the seeds in the entire country despite the fact that the experiments were not carried out in different regions where the climatic conditions differ, and where all other things differ. As a result, the farmer has made a loss.

Now, his Department says : "We are not responsible for the loss, we are not supposed to give you the compensation. You go to the consumer court and file a case against the company."

The GEAC comes under him and he is directly responsible for his approval. One of the Members in the Committee has raised objections. I must read out as to what he said. He is the person from the Ministry of External Affairs. He has said :

"There may be some arrangements of funds from the company to meet any eventualities in the event of anything going wrong"

He has suggested that this could be one-time deposit or the share from the sale of the seeds for a limited period. He has also raised the issue of non-tariff barrier which could be used to restrict the trade by importing countries. It is also needed for coordination and exchange of data with other countries growing BT cottons.

Now, the GEAC has given permission to this company on the following conditions : that it should provide the report every year; that it should, at least, inform the farmers about the productions of seeds; that the packet should also contain the detailed direction to use seeds including sowing about agro climate; that the data should be provided to the GEAC; that the monitoring and susceptibility of the BT cottons should also be undertaken by the agency identified by the Ministry of Environment and Forest. There are hosts of such conditions. But these conditions are being violated by the company.

Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister that what does he want to do with this company which has violated the very directions and conditions laid down by the GEAC. It is my demand that the Government should ask the Mahyco Monsanto Company to deposit the money in order to pay the compensation to all those farmers in the country who have made a loss.

Sir, this data is not made public. The field trial data of the Mahyco Monsanto Company, which has carried out the experiments on 60 farms in this country, is very strictly prohibited. It has not made it available to the public. It has not been debated in this country. They are not providing the data on the farmers.

MR. SPEAKER : Please conclude now.

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY : Sir, I am just concluding. Please give me two to three minutes more.

Sir, it was also stated that they should initiate an independent study. The very composition of the GEAC is in question. It consists of only officials. There is nobody there who is interested in studying the whole issue. So, I would like to know what the Government mechanism is to know how much seeds the company is producing.

Sir, the said company has a very limited capacity to produce these seeds. It makes me feel that the company is mixing spurious and duplicate seeds with these main seeds. As a result of it, the farmers are making loss in the whole country. There are such reports from the South India as well as from the Western India.

So, I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to what steps he is going to take so that the GEAC meetings and minutes are transparent and they are made public. Does he want them to pay compensation to the farmers who have made loss? If the compensations are not paid, I would be compelled to understand that there is something which goes on between the company and the Government.

On all these points, I would like to have the reply of the hon. Ministers.

[Translation]

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : Sir, I had received a complaint from hon. Member that the farmers in Laxamipura area under his parliamentary constituency have sown Bt cotton seeds in current season and they suffered losses as the seed did not work. He had written me a letter on 18.10.2003. He had written a letter to the Chairman of Standing Committee also and even to officers of my department also. Immediately I sent a Committee there. I am reading out names of that Committee.

[English]

Dr. O.P. Govila, Prof. of Genetics (Retd), Division of Genetics, IARI, New Delhi, Dr. T.V. Ramanaiah, Scientist-F DBT, Government of India, Dr. R.C. Jhala, HOD, Deputy

[Dr. Murlī Manohar Joshi]

of Entomology, College of Agriculture, Anand, Dr. U.G. Patel, Senior Cotton Breeder, GAU, Surat, Dr. R.A. Sherasiya, Additional Director of Agriculture, (Extn.) Gandhinagar, Government of Gujarat, Mr. B.P. Sojitra, JDA (Seeds), Gandhinagar, Government of Gujarat, Shri R.K. Chaudhary, DDA (Extn.) Himatnagar, Government of Gujarat, Dr. D.B. Patel, Assistant Research Scientist (Cotton), Khedabrama, GAU, Gujarat, Mr. V.V. Patel, Assistant Director of Agriculture (Ex.), Ider, Sabarkantha, Government of Gujarat, Mr. N.V. Patel, Assistant Director of Agriculture (QC), Himatnagar, Government of Gujarat, Mr. H.M. Chvada, AO, Dist. Himatnagar, Government of Gujarat, Mr. D.R. Patel, Extension Officer, Khedabrama, Government of Gujarat, and Mr. U.M. Makavana, Extension Officer, Ider, Government of Gujarat.

[Translation]

This list does not include any officer of the Central Government. . . .(Interruptions) Well, I have listened to you, now you listen to me. Mistry ji do not get agitated. I am also interested in it. . . .(Interruptions) Please listen as I have listened to you patiently. I am also equally concerned about farmers. I am also aware of this issue. I, too, know what is to be done in this matter, Please listen peacefully. It is not like that. After receipt of your letter, these people went there and met the farmers. The farmers showed them only two fields. The Committee on its own saw three more fields. They submitted the report about that. They conducted comparative study of all the varieties of seeds and submitted the report highlighting the shortcoming, if any. They asked the farmers, if the spray was required, whether they sprayed on time. And it was not done timely, the farmers may surely have faced difficulty in bt-cotton case. Brochure containing instructions in Gujarati was distribution to the farmers. Each packet contains some instructions. If these are not strictly followed, there would surely be problem. Despite, the Government of Gujarat reported, so did the Gujarati newspapers that the farmers got good BT production, I will read out the news-item in English. Though it is in Gujarat and published in Sandesh dated 21.11.2003.

[English]

"Sabarkantha farmers happy with good BT production".

He may read its details in Sandesh, dated 21.11.2003 which further reported :

"Farmers honoured by getting good yield in Bolghat."

He is a farmer, Kantibhai Jyotharam Patel of Prem Nagar, Botu Village of Mansa Taluka.

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY : Sir, I need your protection. What is this happening? I have also got the newspaper reports which say that has gone wrong with BT cotton. It is not the composition of the scientists or the people with Central Government which I am asking. This is a large scale problem in Gujarat. In other States what the Genetic Engineering Approval Committee has said about it. But why has the company not obeyed the conditions which are laid down by GEAC?

What has the Minister got to say on this point? It is not a local problem. What he is reading is a very small part of the note. . . .(Interruptions) It is not the local problem. It is not the question of that at all. Sir, I would like to seek your protection.

[Translation]

SHRI SHIVAJI MANE (Hingoli) : The farmers are suffering heavy losses. . . .(Interruptions) Farmers are being ruined there. . . .(Interruptions) The Government cannot reply in this way. . . .(Interruptions)

[English]

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : Please be quite. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : The procedure laid down in the House is quite clear. The Member has raised the questions which he wanted to raise and the Minister is replying to his questions The Minister is expected to reply to the questions which are raised and if the Member is not satisfied.

(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj) : Sir, his question is very specific. It is about the recommendations of the Genetic Engineering Approval Committee in respect of his State and whether they have been complied with by the producers or not. . . .(Interruptions) He is not getting a satisfactory reply. So, he should be protected. . . . (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV (Parbhani) : Company is looting farmers in the name of Bt. Cotton. . . .(Interruptions)

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : The sale of Bt. Cotton seeds is increasing every year. It may be true as Shri Mistry ji pointed out, that spurious seeds are being sold. In Gujarat alone, five companies selling inferior quality seeds have been detected. It is a different issue. We will take strict action against those selling inferior quality seeds. We have already cancelled the license of the companies selling inferior seeds and we will take similar action in case we receive similar complaints. We will take action as soon as we receive complaints of the selling of inferior seeds.

Initially, 32,161 packets were sold in Madhya Pradesh in 2003-2004. 14,401 packets were sold in Gujarat. 46,404 packets were sold in Maharashtra while 12,894 and 897 packets were sold in Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka respectively. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Hon'ble Minister, please continue your reply.

(Interruptions)

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : Sale of the seeds is increasing every year. . . .(Interruptions) please listen to me. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI SHIVAJI MANE : Hon'ble Minister is speaking only about company, but whether Government have any plan to give any compensation to the farmers or not? . . .(Interruptions)

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : If the farmers have suffered any loss due to inferior seeds, that is a separate issue. We have not received any report that indicates that

farmers have suffered any loss. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY : They have suffered loss because of the company. . . .(Interruptions)

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : Rather than going by his statement, I will have to conduct an inquiry to ascertain the facts. Secondly, farmers need to be given intensive training because this is a new variety. They will have to be instructed about all the details regarding the sowing of seed, spray on it, applying "Refoojiya" etc. If anybody cultivates it without following the instructions, then we will not be responsible for it. First they should know all about it. If there has been any lacunae on the part of the Government then we will certainly provide compensation. We will provide them information and training again. But now, when we see that demand for the cotton seed is increasing day by day in every State, it won't be fair to say that it is causing losses.

In my view, if there had been any such loss due to actions of any company, then the farmers can have recourse to consumer courts. Ever Government would assist them in doing so. We do not have any objection to it but we have to be alert against companies selling inferior seeds. Whenever any quality product is introduced in market, its imitations also start selling. As soon as your complaint in this regard was received, We have caught five companies of Gujarat indulging in the act. Similar cases have been reported in other States also and we will take similar action against them. I have instructed my department to detect such companies and take strict action against them. We will make all out efforts to stop the sale of inferior seeds. But, in the matter of farming, the extension department of Gujarat Government, university departments and the company itself need to provide training to the Farmers. Government would extend its full cooperation in this regard. But it would be an exaggeration to say that Government are responsible for the losses. . . .(Interruptions) If the instructions are not followed in entirely, then cultivation would not be successful. But we will conduct our own inquiry and if it is found that the error was on part of the company, it would be punished. But so far we do not have any such report. On the contrary, we have reports that the use of Bt Cotton is increasing alongwith

[Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi]

area under its cultivation. Farmers won't cultivate it if they suffer loss as a result. It proves that the demand of Bt. Cotton in the country is on the rise. . . .(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has not answered my question about GEAC. . . .(Interruptions) I want your protection. He is simply evading the question. . . .(Interruptions)

[Translation]

This is violation on company's part. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I can not direct hon'ble Minister to answer as per your diktats. You know I can not do it. You can put your question through another device.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : You can raise your question under some other device.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Hon'ble Minister has already said that he is ready to order investigation on the issue. Further inquiry will be conducted.

[English]

Your purpose is served. . . .(Interruptions)

12.26 hrs.

RE: NON-DECLARATION OF STATUTORY
MINIMUM PRICE FOR SUGARCANE

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, last week Kunwar Akhilesh Singh and Shri Ravi Prakash Verma had raised the issue regarding declaration of Statutory Minimum Price of sugarcane by the Central

Government. We are grateful to you for directing the Government to present their viewpoints. Most Important is that crushing season has started. Last year the proceedings of the House were interrupted because of High Court orders in this regard. Now the Private sugarmill owners are saying that payments will be made on the basis of the Statutory Minimum Price as decided by the Central Government. It is a very serious matter. Sugarcane growers are in distress. Not only in Uttar Pradesh but also in other sugarcane producing States like Bihar, sugarcane growers are facing lot of problems as the prices have not been announced so far. You directed the Government in this regard. Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture is present here. He said that Shri Sharad Yadav will reply in this regard. The present Government is not serious on this issue. My allegation is that the Government has a nexus with the sugarmill owners. We are grateful to you. Shri Sharad Yadav is present here. We would like the Government to declare SMP today itself. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL (Kanpur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, please associate my name also on this issue. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV (Parbhani) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I also want to speak. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Why do you not give notice? I have not received your notice on this issue. I have received the notices of Shri Ramji Lal Suman and Kunwar Akhilesh Singh only.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Give a separate notice if you belong to Maharashtra.

(Interruptions)

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH (Maharajganj, U.P.) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, last year three farmers were gunned down by the police in Uttar Pradesh on the issue of sugarcane price. When proceedings of the House were paralysed on this issue, hon'ble Prime Minister intervened and on 19th December, 2002, Central Government fixed the Statutory minimum price at Rs. 60 per quintal. This price was effective till September this year. September has passed and now crushing season for the sugarcane has been started in

many States including Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Punjab and Maharashtra. However, the Central Government has not yet fixed the Statutory Minimum Price of sugarcane. As per my information, Government's Commission on Agricultural cost and price has suggested to fix the Statutory Minimum price of sugarcane at Rs. 73 per Qt. But neither the Central Government has approved this suggestion nor do we agree to it. As Government and cooperative sugar mills in Uttar Pradesh are paying Rs. 95-100 during this crushing season, therefore, the Statutory Minimum Price should be fixed atleast at Rs. 80 per Qtt. Uttar Pradesh Government is unable to mount pressure on private sugar mills as hon'ble High Court has issued an order that private sugar Mill owners would be liable to pay the Statutory Minimum Price fixed by the Central Government and not the one declared by the State Government. Taking benefit of it, sugar mill owners are exploiting the sugarcane farmers. Uttar Pradesh Government in its budget session fixed the minimum price of sugarcane but the Central Government has not yet declared the Statutory Minimum Price due to which sugarcane growers are being exploited as large scale by the mill owners. This has created resentment among the sugarcane growers. As directed by you, a little while ago, hon'ble Minister of Agriculture has come out with a Statement in this House that the Ministry of Agriculture has taken a decision and forwarded the matter to the Ministry of Food and Civil Supplies. The Minister of Food and Civil Supplies is present here. He is a great supporter of Farmers and is a product of socialist movement. Through you, I would like to request the Union Minister of Food and Civil Supplies to declare the Statutory Minimum price at Rs. 80 per Qtt. Immediately. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : See, I have notices from the two members on this issue and I have given permission to both of them. Now, the hon'ble Minister will reply.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA (Gopalganj) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the problem of Bihar is bigger than the Problem of Uttar Pradesh. The way mill owners of Bihar have treated the farmers there. . . .(Interruptions) Farmers have not got the prices fixed last year. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SEPAKER : I cannot allow every hon'ble Member to speak on this issue as other issues are also to be taken up.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajanj Bihar) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a very important issue. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Every issue is important.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SHIVAJI MANE (Hingoli) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Support Price should be increased. There is same rate for the last 15 years. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Minister, please associate Maharashtra also on this issue as Members from Maharashtra are also raising a question on the same issue.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV (Purnea) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, please associate Bihar also in this regard. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please associate Bihar also on this issue.

[English]

SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN (Sivaganga) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, what about Tamil Nadu?. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Tamil Nadu also will be included in this. Please take your seat.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I agree with regard to the concern expressed by the hon'ble Member. A little delay has taken place in this regard but it was not in the hands of the Government. Elections were to be held in November and Election Commission had directed the Government not to make any corrections in the prices. I do agree with Akhiles ji but please be patient. It is right that it has been delayed by a few days. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL : Crushing season has started. Elections were to be held in November not in December. . . .(Interruptions) It is 15th December today. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI SHARAD YADAV : Please listen to me. It is not like that, your concern is genuine. . . .(Interruptions) I am already saying so. We would be able to reach at some appropriate decision if you listen to me first. 5-7 days' delay has certainly taken place. Elections were to be held in the month of November but I would like to submit that it has been happening not for the last one or two years – but it has been the convention like in the year 1998-1999, the prices were announced on 16.12.1998, in 1999-2000 these were announced on 9.12.1999. Last year also, support prices were announced on 12.12.2002. Last time Shri Rajnathji was on foreign tour when the meeting of CCA was to be held. . . .(Interruptions) I am saying the truth only. Some delay has certainly taken place. But Akhileshji is saying we will decide the Minimum support price as recommended in one or two days. In this regard I would like to say that though the crushing has taken place but sugar mills be it private, or cooperative or Government, they will have to make the payments to the farmers. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL : Due to foreign tour lakhs of farmers. . . .(Interruptions) It is 15th December today. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : There is no need to go into all this.
(Interruptions)

SHRI SHARAD YADAV : Last year also prices were declared on 12th. . . .(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I think the Minister's reply is satisfactory. Please take your seat.

[Translation]

Now there is no point to speak in this regard.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN (Hajipur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, this subject is of great importance. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Paswanji, the hon'ble Minister has said that he will make announcement in four to six days.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, my subject is very important. The Government had announced that Maithili language would be included in eighth schedule of the Constitution but this session is about to conclude and in this regard no action has been taken.

MR. SPEAKER : It is different subject. At present, I have taken up other subject, after that I will give you chance to speak.

[English]

SHRI C. KUPPUSAMI (Madras North) : Sir, in Tamil Nadu, the DMK cadre today are picketing before the Central and State Government offices. More than a lakh of DMK cadres and leaders have been arrested and taken into custody.

The DMK President, Kalaingnar M. Karunanidhi has been urging the Government of India for a very long time and we, the DMK Members of Parliament have also raised the following issues on the floor of the House that Tamil language, which is very rich, ancient and possesses the requisite standards, be declared as a classical language and that Tamil language be declared as the official language. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI K. MALAISAMY (Ramanathapuram) : Sir, Tamil language is recognised even in Malaysia also. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Let him complete his Statement. Please sit down.

SHRI C. KUPPUSAMI : Sir, at the introduction stage of the POTA Bill, it was assured by the hon. Deputy-Prime Minister that it will not be misused. Much against the

assurance, it is blatantly being misused against the political leaders and media persons in Tamil Nadu. Hence it has to be repealed.

Sir, the Cauvery dispute should be settled immediately to save the Cauvery Delta farmers and steps should be taken to implement the Sethu Samutharam Project immediately.

Sir, urging on these issues, the DMK, despite drawing the attention of the Central Government and after exhausting all attempts for a remedy, picketing is being conducted today in Tamil Nadu.

Hence, I urge upon the Central Government to respond positively on the first and reasonable demands of our Party and give a reply. Thank you very much.
... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : If you all cooperate, one after another I can take the notices and give you an opportunity to many Members to speak. But if you go on disturbing the House, I will not be able to accommodate all of you.

[Translation]

*SHRI P. MOHAN (Madurai) : The Union Public Service Commission is holding competitive examinations in Hindi and English and candidates are permitted to write such examinations in other regional languages also. But Staff Selection Commission is not holding examination in Tamil and other regional languages and they hold it only in English and Hindi. This denial of opportunity has resulted in having less than 1 percent of representation of Tamil speaking people in the Central Government work force of about 32 lakhs of employees in the Union Government offices all over the country. I understand that people of other languages are also underrepresented with Telugu speaking employees supposed to be the highest are forming just about 1 percent of Central Government employees. This trend must be arrested. When UPSC permits candidates to opt for and write in their regional languages for selection in IAS, IPS, IFS and IRS, similarly SSC must also hold competitive examinations in Tamil and

*Translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.

other regional languages also. I urge upon the Union Government to initiate suitable action in this regard.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV (Purnea) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I was the first person to submit notice in the morning.

MR. SPEAKER : Let me first listen, what he is speaking.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I will give chance to the Members one by one. Banatwallaji, please sit down, I will definitely give you chance.

SHRI RAMCHANDRA PASWAN (Rosera) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, my subject is very important.

MR. SPEAKER : Please do not listen to him, but to me I will give you also chance to speak.

SHRI LAL BIHARI TIWARI (East Delhi) : National Confederation of Government employees associated to Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh which covers employees of Railways, Post, Telegraph and Telecom Department had staged Dharma and demonstration from 15 September to 30 September to get their demands fulfilled. Recently on 12 December, five thousand Government employees gave court arrest at Jantar Mantar. They gave a memorandum with regard to their demands to the Prime Minister of India. This matter is related to employees. The Supreme Court imposed a restriction on strikes by Government employees on 6 August, 2003 while resolving a case of employees of Tamilnadu. But even if it requires to make constitutional amendment, the Government should do this, because there is a need to restore the right of Government employees to go on strike.

Besides, the Fifth Pay Commission had recommended in its report that Sixth Pay Commission should be constituted by 1 January, 2003. But, till now, the Union Government has not taken any decision in this regard. The Fifth Pay Commission also recommended that if Dearness Allowance increases to 50 percent, than it should be

[Shri Lal Bihari Tiwari]

merged in basic pay. I would like to say that at present, the dearness allowance is 59 percent, therefore 50 percent of dearness allowance should be merged in basic pay. Besides that new Pension policy announced by the Union Government should be withdrawn, and old pension policy should be continued.

In last budget session, the Bhartiya Mazdoor Sangh had demanded to raise income-tax limit up to one lakh rupees but it has been ignored. Therefore in the coming budget session, this demand should be fulfilled. Besides that the casual leaves given to Government employees should not be reduced in any way.

MR. SPEAKER : Tiwari ji, you know that such a long speech is not permitted to be delivered, you have to tell only points. You are aware of rules.

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : Sir, I associate with him. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Your name will be associate with him.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, the Government should bring a legislation to amend the Constitution. . . .(Interruptions) Right to work is a fundamental right. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Now, Shri Haribhau Shankar Mahale.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : If all the hon. Members maintain peace, I will give opportunity to everybody.

SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE (Malegaon) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, an administrator has been appointed as the head of Ekavarna Cantonment Board and no elected representative has been appointed. The bureaucracy had announced to enact a new law but till now no law has been enacted. Through you, I would like to request the

Government of India, particularly to Defence Minister that this problem should be resolved.

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the property of closed mill proposed to be sold as per the instructions given by BIFR to Asset sales Committee was to be carried out by inviting sealed tenders in three leading newspapers to the highest bidder without disclosing the reserved amount. But the debris of the building on 16 acres of land of New Victoria Mills in Kanpur was sold to a contractor in one crore three lakh fifty thousand rupees without floating any open tender in this regard. Besides this, why the prescribed rules were violated and the property of a Public Sector Undertaking was sold on a reserved price of one crore three lakh fifty thousand rupees to a party without following the tender procedure? The property of NTC sold through tender procedure bore double the reserved amount. Not only this but in an inquiry conducted by the vigilance Department of NTC holding company, the Manager (Finance) of the Lord Krishna Textile Mills of NTC in UP was found responsible for the misappropriation of more than 50 lakh rupees. In this regard, the Chief Vigilance Officer of NTC holding company Shri S.K. Chaturvedi, IAS, informed Shri K.R. Pillai, the Chairman, NTC, UP vide letter no. D.O. No. 5(1) 2003 – VIG (774) dt. 11.11.2003 and recommended the suspension of the Manager (Finance) immediately. However, the Chairman, NTC, UP did not take any action under the pressure of the Minister and the Manager in getting opportunity to destroy the evidences. 87 officers and employees of units of NTC, UP who have not yet rendered their resignations under Voluntary Retirement Scheme. How long will it take to absorb them in other units of NTC or Public Sector undertakings as has been done in case of the employees working in an other Public Sector Undertaking (BIC). It is a very important issue. The Textile Ministry should give a reply in this regard.

SHRI E. AHAMED (Manjeri) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, . . .(Interruptions) I had raised a point regarding this company. . . . (Interruptions) I did not get any reply.

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I also want to speak on it.

MR. SPEAKER : You can speak on any issue other than Bihar.

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : No, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Ramchandra Paswan.

SHRI RAMCHANDRA PASWAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak. My submission is that Maithili language should be included in the 8th schedule of Constitution. . . . (Interruptions) Hon'ble Deputy Prime Minister Shri L.K. Advani visited Darbhanga on 16th August to attend the programme organised by hon'ble Shri Kirti Azad. There he stated that hon'ble Prime Minister has made an announcement in this regard and we would implement it. Mr. Speaker, Sir, neither any proposal has been received nor any action has been taken in this regard so far. Approx. 4 crore 30 lakh people speak Maithili. Today 4 crore 30 lakh people are waiting for the announcement but nothing has been done in this regard till now. Lok Sabha elections can be held at any time but so far no action has been taken in this regard. Was the assurance given just to collect the votes and to cheat the voters or they really wanted to include it in the 8th Schedule? This is a matter concerning 4 crore 30 lakh people. There is resentment among the people for not including the Maithili language in 8th Schedule. They are waiting for an announcement to this effect. We demand that Central Government should take action in this regard and introduce a bill in the House in this regard as early as possible.

SHRI KIRTI JHA AZAD (Darbhanga) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, a high level committee has also been constituted in this regard. We have discussed the issue with both Prime Minister and Deputy Prime Minister and we have been given assurance also in this regard. . . . (Interruptions) A programme was also organised in my parliamentary constituency in this regard. . . . (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Raghunath Jha, Shri Pappu Yadav and Shri Kirti Jhad Azad, all are associating with it. Mr. Minister, please pay attention towards it.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVERAJBHAI CHIKHALIA) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I will convey the views of Shri Ramchandra Paswan to the concerned Minister. . . . (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the University Grants Commission has tried to impose conditions even on minority educational institutions. Unjustified conditions are being imposed. It is provided that even the minority educational institutions must make admission of the students according to the common tests laid down by the UGC. Even the Aligarh Muslim University is not exempted. It is a minority educational institution according to the Act of Parliament passed by us. The condition is that even the minority educational institutions must make admissions according to the common tests of the UGC. Such condition is an encroachment on the rights of minority educational institutions. It is an attack on the minority educational institutions.

Sir, I appeal to the Government to intervene in the matter and to see that the spirit of article 30 of the Constitution is maintained. I appeal to the Government to see to it that the minority educational institutions are not so obliged and restricted in matters of admission of the students that they are required to be made as per the common tests. It is a matter of minority rights. I hope the Government will take it seriously.

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi) : Nobody can go against the Supreme Court. There is a Supreme Court judgement.

MR. SPEAKER : Are you replying?

(Interruptions)

SHRI E. AHAMED : Sir, the Aligarh Muslim University, the students, the parents and the Government have been informed of it, but no assurance has been given by the Government. . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Winter Session of this House will be over on 23rd of this month. Our hon. Prime Minister, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, carrying the goods wishes of the entire nation, shall visit Pakistan in the SAARC Summit for which we all wish him good luck for the country, our future interest and goodwill between Pakistan and India.

Mr. Speaker, similar good wishes were given to him on the eve of Lahore summit. Unfortunately, Pakistan retaliated in the Kargil event in which our *jawans* laid their lives.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, thereafter the Prime Minister in his wisdom appointed a Kargil Review Committee and we all know the outcome. In this very House, last week our most competent and indispensable colleague and a patriot, Shri Madan Lal Khurana's leadership provided a Report of the Standing Committee on Defence, which was laid in this House. This Reports says on Page 3 and I quote :

"The Committee were particularly concerned that under-utilisation of funds earmarked for capital expenditure had weakened the process of modernisation of Defence Services with possibilities of ominous consequences in the prevailing international and national security environment."

It further reads : ". . .The Tenth Defence Five Year Plan period, the Ministry had not yet formulated the plan." It further says :

"The Ministry of Defence have started a dialogue with the Ministry of Finance because certain amount of approval of the C and AG would also be required to enable this to fructify. The Ministry of Defence hope that during the course of this year, all the details and modalities would be finalised. If everything goes well, from the next fiscal year, this kind of a 'Defence Modernisation Fund' would come into existence."

Mr. Speaker, Sir, now I quote the more serious thing. It says :

"The Committee noted with the gravest and utmost concern that the Tenth Defence Plan (2002-2007) has still not been finalised along with indications of rough financial commitments. . . .The Tenth Defence Plan has not yet been formally approved by the Cabinet and it is in the process."

Now, I come to the most shocking thing about which our *Jawans* will cry. The Committee observes that acquisition of one lakh bullet-proof jackets at an approximate cost of Rs. 150 crore has not been completed. It says :

"The Committee are extremely unhappy that the procurement of a life-saving item involving only Rs. 150 crore has not been completed even after the lapse of more than two years and thus the precious lives of thousands of Indian soldiers continue to be endangered."

It was requisitioned in 2001 and even after the lapse of more than two years, the process was not completed. The Committee has also recommended that the Ministry should simplify the procurement procedure.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is the duty of the Head of the Council of Ministers, the Prime Minister, that before his visit to Pakistan, he should take this House into confidence giving a full Statement about the preparedness of our Defence in the light of this Report. I feel, before the rise of the House on 23rd December, the Prime Minister must make a Statement about this. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I have already said that we would take up this matter in the meeting of Business Advisory Committee.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA (Gopalanj) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like the discussion to be held on the issue raised by Shri Dasmunsi. However, my submission is that the hon. Members should have the courage to listen to what the hon'ble Member has asked and what the hon. Minister says in reply to it. By raising this question hon'ble Member is misleading the House and the country. I want that this issue should be discussed in the House and the hon. Members

should pay attention to the views of Hon'ble Defence Minister and others who participate in the discussion in this regard. . . .(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : This issue does not relate to Defence Minister. It is about the Prime Minister's visit to Pakistan and he should take this House into confidence about Defence preparedness. . . . (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA : There should not be any excuse in this regard.

SHRI DHARM RAJ SINGH PATEL (Phulpur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to state that. . . . (Interruptions)

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is very important whether Congress Party is serious about defence. Are they ready to listen to the Defence Minister? What is the use of raising this issue if they are not ready to listen to him and stage walk out from the House?. . . . (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : It is not an issue concerning Defence Minister. . . .(Interruptions) They are belittling their Prime Minister. . . .(Interruptions)

[Translation]

We are not ready to hear till he is the Defence Minister. . . .(Interruptions) Ask the Prime Minister to relieve such a Defence Minister. . . .(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : His notice will be examined and the Prime Minister or the concerned Minister will reply.

(Interruptions)

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : Why should the concerned Minister not reply?

MR. SPEAKER : That is what I have said.

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : The concerned Minister has to reply and they have to listen to it. They cannot behave in a very undemocratic manner.

MR. SPEAKER : The Prime Minister has the privilege to reply to any question raised in the House. So, either the Prime Minister or the concerned Minister will reply. Let the Government decide.

(Interruptions)

SHRI KIRTI JHA AZAD : When the Question on our Defence preparedness with respect to Pakistan came up on 11th December, they did not listen to the concerned Minister and walked out. . . .(Interruptions)

12.55 hrs.

(ii) RE: REPORTED ARREST OF SADDAM HUSSEIN, DEPOSED PRESIDENT OF IRAQ

[Translation]

SHRI DHARM RAJ SINGH PATEL (Phulpur) : Please let me speak. You people speak regularly. . . .(Interruptions)

Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of Government of India towards events taking place in world. The former President of Iraq Mr. Saddam Hussein has been nabbed by the American armed forces. This very House had passed a resolution against the American aggression on Iraq. We don't have any objection to his arrest but he should be given humane treatment. He should be tried under the auspices of International Court of Justice or UNO so that justice could be done to him. He has been the President of Iraq for 35 years. He has been detained by the American forces but it should not happen that he is tortured or even murdered. Therefore, I appeal to the UN to ensure that excesses are not committed against a ruler who has fought for his country. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN (Hajipur) : I would also like to speak on the issue. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I will associate your name, too, in it.
(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have given notice of adjournment motion on the arrest of Saddam Hussein and I would like either hon'ble Prime Minister or the hon'ble External Affairs Minister of Government of India to clarify Government's stand on the issue. Reactions are pouring in this regard from all over the world but Government of India is still mum on the issue. Our wish is that international norms be followed in this regard in place of leaving the whole affairs on the whims of America and Shri Bush to do whether they like to Saddam Hussein. Government of India should clarify its stand in this regard. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV (Purnea) : Sir, when all countries of the world have given their reactions, then either the Prime Minister or External Affairs Minister should give their official reaction so that message could be sent to the world that India is a democratic country which supports democratic system and action should also be taken under this system. We should send message to the world that USA will not be allowed to do any wrong. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, we associate ourselves with the statement of Paswan ji. Government should give a statement on the issue. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : There should be some instruction from the Chair. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA (Gopalganj) : Government should make its stand clear on the issue. . . .(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY (Miryalguda) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, may I say something? We would like to request the Government, on behalf of the Congress Party, that the Government of India should make a statement on the

situation arising from the arrest of Saddam Hussein. At this point, we do not intend to go into the merits of the situation there. However, since the former ruler has been arrested, the Government of India must give reaction. We must do our best to see that he is treated in a proper way.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : We also associate with it.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hoogly) : In the backdrop of the resolution that was adopted in the House, the Government should not only respond properly, but also condemn the American media attitude to punish him in a manner that is not acceptable to the human beings in the world.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, despite your indication for response, the Government did not give any reply. No one is ready to say anything from the Government side. . . .(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : She will bring it to the notice of the Prime Minister.

[Translation]

SHRI ASHOK KUMAR SINGH CHANDEL (Hamirpur, U.P.) : At least hon'ble Minister should give some assurance. . . .(Interruptions)

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. Chairman, Sir, I will discuss this issue with hon'ble Minister. . . .(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV (Purnea) : Sir, I have given a notice.

MR. SPEAKER : I thought you have put your point and so I gave him permission.

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have been giving notice for the last ten days. Please give me a minute to speak. . . .(Interruptions)

[English]

13.00 hrs.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : Sir, I demand from this House that the language of a substantial tribal population of our country belonging to five States, the Santhali language, should be included in the Eighth Schedule of our Constitution. Its position among the languages is threatened now. It is unfortunate that the Standing Committee on Home Affairs had to say :

“ . . .many of the languages such as Bhojpuri, Maithili, Angika, Magahi, Santhali demanding inclusion in the Eighth Schedule are now under the umbrella of Hindi language. Individual recognised status to these languages by inclusion in the Eighth Schedule may compromise the primacy accorded to Hindi by the Constitution as the language of the largest group of Indians.”

MR. SPEAKER : Please conclude. You can always make a point in one minute. Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan, please speak on your subject.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, Santhali language is not under the umbrella of Hindi language. If it is recognised as a national language, the position of Hindi language will not be disturbed. . . .(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI ASHOK KUMAR SINGH CHANDEL (Hamirpur, U.P.) : My matter is also important. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Radhakrishnan, Do you not want to speak?

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : There is a substantial percentage of tribal population in five States who can read and write Santhali language. . . .(Interruptions) More than one crore people can speak in their own language Santhali. They have been demanding and agitating that this language be included in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution. . . .(Interruptions) The Government of India should bring a legislation to amend the Constitution to include this language of the tribal people of our country who fought for the freedom of the country.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, my issue is very important. I have been giving notice for 10 days. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You have to conclude in one minute, time is about to expire.

[English]

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil) : Sir, I have given notice for adjournment motion.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Radhakrishnan ji, you are a very senior Member.

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw your attention towards an important issue. It is regarding the Prime Minister's Golden Quadrilateral four lane road scheme. At all other places, the work is going on at a very fast pace whereas in Bihar the contract has been awarded to Rani constructions and Lenco constructions, who sub contract their work to local contractors. Their work is not going on properly and that is why honest officer Satyendra Debey was murdered there. CBI is investigating this matter.

I request that his family be provided protection; one of his family members be given job and Rs. Twenty

[Shri Rajesh Ranjan Alias Pappu Yadav]

lakh be provided as compensation to the bereaved family. Satyendra Dubey was from a poor family. They have not been given any compensation. He tried to discharge his duty with honesty. Lenco and Rani constructions are committing irregularities. Entire work in Purnea district has been awarded to Rani constructions but actual work is being done by the local contractors. . . .(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing of what Shri Pappu Yadav says will go on record from now.

[Translation]

What he says will not go on record.

(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Now let Shri Radhakrishnan speak, you have introduced the subject.

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : I would like to have updated information regarding Shri Satyendra Dubey.

[English]

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : Sir, the Central Government is interfering in the autonomous cultural bodies of the country. Recently they have sacked Prof. M.G.S. Narayanan, Chairman of the Indian Council of Historical Research without assigning any reasons. This is unjust. The Government of India should explain the reasons why he was removed from that post.

MR. SPEAKER : The House stands adjourned to meet again at 2 p.m.

13.04 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till Fourteen of the Clock.

14.03 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at three minutes past Fourteen of the Clock

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair]

[English]

SPECIAL TRIBUNALS (SUPPLEMENTARY PROVISIONS) REPEAL BILL*, 2003

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Now, the House shall take up Item No. 11 – Bill to be introduced. Shri Satyabrata Mookherjee.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE) : Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to repeal the Special Tribunals (Supplementary Provisions) Act, 1946.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to repeal the Special Tribunals (Supplementary Provisions) Act, 1946."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE : Sir, I introduce the Bill.

14.04 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Now, the House shall take up Matters under Rule 377.

[Translation]

- (i) **Need to construct a bridge on Chambal River at Osedghat, Madhya Pradesh**

SHRI ASHOK ARGAL (Murena) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the foundation of a bridge at Osedghat on Chambal

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river connecting both Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh was laid by the then Prime Minister. Shri Rajiv Gandhi but the bridge is yet to be constructed. The construction of the said bridge would greatly benefit the people of the district Firozabad of Uttar Pradesh and district Murena of Madhya Pradesh. It will not only provide a convenient passage for lakhs of vehicles but would also save the precious fuel of the country.

Therefore, I request the Union Government to construct the said bridge immediately.

- (ii) **Need to constitute a High level committee to look into the working of Shatabdi project of Bharat coking coal Ltd.**

SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY (Giridih) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir the Shatabdi project of Bharat coking coal Ltd. involving a cost of two hundred crore rupees is in the grip of fire resulting in the loss of crores of rupees every month. 181.30 hectare area has been affected by the fire. The flames of fires are rising upto ten feet in the coal mines and noxious carbon monoxide is being released. The workers are working in hazardous conditions and there is no provision for their safety. Dozens of workers are being afflicted due to noxious gas.

There is a target of 4000 tonnes of coal production every day from here while the actual production is 2 thousand tonnes. Similarly, the coal from the Kargali Coal washery is being produced in lesser quantity vis a vis the target and even its quality is inferior leading to losses worth 4-5 crore every month. Bunker of this washery is in damaged condition and its repairing requires an expenditure of 12 lakhs. However the management is not paying any attention in this direction. We have drawn the attention of the management towards this aspect. Similar kind of irregularities are prevailing in the coal washery.

Hence the Government is requested to constitute a High level Committee to look into the veracity of the said facts and the reasons for the failure of the management to provide factual response in this regard and also to take effective steps to increase the coal production and check the incidents of fire in coal mines so that the coal industry could be saved from being received.

- (iii) **Need to allocate additional funds to facilitate early completion of Ahemad Nagar-Beed-Parli-new Railway line in Maharashtra**

SHRI JAYSINGRAO GAIKWAD PATIL (Beed) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the construction work of Ahemdanagar-Beed-Parli (Vaidyanath) new rail line in my constituency Beed in Maharashtra is about to commence. It was sanctioned in 1996. The budgetary allocation made for this project since 1996 is very inadequate due to which there is a resentment among the people of my Lok Sabha constituency Beed.

An allocation of Rs. 15 crore in 2002-2003 and of Rs. 15.37 crore in 2003-2004 has been made for this project. Some construction work has begun between Ahemdanagar to Nairaindoh but the pace of the construction work is too slow. There is a need to expedite the work. The entire hope of the people of Beed which is the most backward Lok Sabha constituency rest on the completion of the construction work of this rail line project as the arrival of railway would result in the increase in the employment opportunities and development in the region.

Hence, through you, I would like to request the hon. Minister of Railway to spend the funds worth Rs. 30.37 crore allocated so far for the construction of the Ahemednagar Beed-Parli (Vaidyanath) railway line till March 2004 and also allocate additional funds of Rs. 100 crore to facilitate the early completion of the project on priority basis.

- (iv) **Need to review the salary and allowances of employees working in community Polytechnic Project.**

SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR (Sagar) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the community polytechnic project was started in 1978 by the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India. This project is being run by the Government polytechnic and the Women Polytechnic institution. The purpose of the project is to utilize the technology and expertise which is available in the institution through mainly five activities namely social and

[Shri Virendra Kumar]

economic survey, technology transfer, human resource development, technical and other subsidiary services and information broadcasting for the rural development. The payscales employees working under the project since 1995 are still unrevised even though the employees of the Central Government and State Governments have been provided the benefit of revised pay scales and allowances since 1996. The salary and allowances of these employees had been revised in 2001 but the revised scales does not provide any financial benefit to the employees vis a vis the 1995 scales. The future of the employees working on contract basis in the project launched in 1978 is hanging in balance and several of the employees even have crossed the age of funding employment.

Hence I request the Union Government to consider the demand sympathetically to review the salary and allowances and also the regularisation of service of these employees keeping in view the needs of the dependents and families of these employees while considering other aspects of the matter on humanitarian ground.

(v) Need to allocate Rs. 80 crore in the next Budget for early completion of gauge conversion work on Neemach-Ratlam section of Western Railways

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA (Mandsaur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the gauge conversion work on Neemach-Ratlam Section of Western Railways in my parliamentary constituency Mandsaur is in progress. The construction work of overbridges and culvert has been completion. Now the work of laying of railway line involving on estimated expenditure of 70-80 crore rupees remains pending. The Ministry has accorded priority to the project and I am thankful to the Ministry therefor. I have written letters of the hon. Minister in the past also and have urged upon him to complete the project at the earliest.

Hence, I request the Government to expedite the completion of gauge conversion work of Neemach-Ratlam section and at least an allocation of Rs. 80 crore for this purpose be made in the next budget.

(vi) Need to revive the Naginimora Railway Station and Construction one rail link from Dimapur to Naginimora via Chumukedima and Tuli in Nagaland

[English]

SHRI K.A. SANGTAM (Nagaland) : In 1920, during the British reign in India a railway station was constructed at Naginimora in Nagaland to connect it with the rest of the country. Through this railhead a huge quantity of coal, timber, agriculture produce and various raw materials for industries were transported to other parts of our country. But this station has been abandoned since 1980.

I, therefore, request the Government of India to revive the Naginimora Railway Station and construct one rail link from Dimapur to Naginimora via Chumukedima and Tuli which would pass through the entire fertile agriculture zone as well as different mineral belts on the foothill of Nagaland to transport materials to different parts of the country thereby, bringing economic boom to the North-East. It would also go a long way in bringing this remote region to the main stream especially in the light of the Peace process which is going on between the Government of India and different insurgent groups in Nagaland.

(vii) Need to expedite construction of an aerodrome at Hassan, Karnataka

SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA (Hassan) : A decade ago a land measuring about four hundred acres was allotted in Hassan (Karnataka) for constructing an aerodrome. This land has been fenced and kept in the safe custody of the Government of India.

We are urging the Centre repeatedly to take up the construction of this aerodrome immediately. Surprisingly, till today the Centre has not made up its mind in this regard. All infrastructural facilities like electricity, water, link roads etc., are readily available. Hassan city is developing very fast and setting up an aerodrome here is very essential. The people of Hassan district are very much agitated about the inordinate delay in the construction work of this aerodrome.

I, therefore, urge upon the hon. Prime Minister to clear this long awaited project and issue necessary instructions for taking up the construction work of this aerodrome without further delay.

(viii) Need to review Rural/Urban classification criteria fixing rentals of telephones

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM (Badagara) : Recently, the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) Authorities have classified certain Grama Panchayats as 'Urban' in an indiscriminate manner and raised the rent from Rs. 220 to Rs. 360 bimonthly and brought down the number of free calls to 150 from 250. These Grama Panchayats which are identified as urban by the BSNL authorities are having neither the advantages nor the developments of Urban centres. For all purposes, they are under the Control of Panchayats Raj Institutions and not under Nagarpalika Act. Several Panchayats in my constituency, Badagara are now termed as 'Urban' and people are put to great disadvantage. There is no justification in this new classification since certain other Panchayats within the same Telephone Exchange are retained as 'Rural'. Moreover, there is no improvement in the Service rendered by the BSNL authorities after this new classification. It is also very difficult to understand the yardstick by which BSNL has made the new classifications. I request the hon. Minister of Communication to examine the matter and give necessary directions to bring down the rent to Rs. 220 and raise the free calls to 250.

(ix) Need to provide 27 percent reservation to OBCs for admission in educational institutions and jobs in Public Sector Undertakings

[Translation]

SHRI DHARM RAJ SINGH PATEL (Phulpur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw your attention towards the fact that a number of Ministries of Union Government are not providing 27 percent reservation to Other Backward Classes. For example, this reservation is not being provided for admission in Central Universities, Navodaya Vidyalayas and Sainik schools. Similarly OBCs are not being given 27 percent reservation in dealership by Public Sector Oil Companies under Petroleum Ministry.

Therefore, I demand that Government of India provide 27 percent reservation of OBC students in all its universities, colleges, schools, Kendriya Vidyalays, Navodaya Vidyalayas and Sainik schools. And 27 percent reservation should also be provided to OBCs in dealership and jobs in public sector oil companies. The Ministries/ departments which have not filled this 27 percent quota for OBC, should fill it through a special drive for OBC's.

There should be a Parliamentary Standing Committee on OBC on the lines of SCs and STs.

(x) Need to merge all the rural banks with NABARD and set up an Indian National Rural Bank with a view to boost rural economy

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhanjharpur) : 196 regional rural banks sponsored by 28 nationalised banks were set up in 1975 to accelerate the economic development of rural areas. To meet these objectives. NABARD was set up in 1982. Though rural banks played an important role in strengthening rural economy, yet they have not been successful in achieving their targets by and large because of their different style of functioning and their various sponsor banks. The total capital of 196 rural banks in 511 districts of 23 States is Rs. 49,395 crore and in the year 2002-2003 these banks have earned a net profit of Rs. 563 crore. I request the Government of India to consider seriously the setting up of Indian National Rural Bank by integrating all the rural banks with a view to streamline the financing of agriculture, agro-based industries and small industries located in rural areas. If the Government finds it desirable, it may consider integrating all the rural banks under NABARD which may also be in the interest of farmers.

(xi) Need to open trade route between India, Myanmar and Bangladesh from Mizoram for its all round development

[English]

SHRI VANLAL ZAWMA (Mizoram) : The small North-Eastern State of Mizoram shares a 404 kilometres long international border with Myanmar and 318 kilometres with Bangladesh. In comparison, Mizoram shares only 284

[Shri Vanlal Zawma]

kilometres with its neighbouring States of Manipur, Assam and Tripura.

Before 1947, Mizoram, then called the Lushai Hills had a self-sufficient economy. Goods used to come from Bangladesh and Myanmar into Mizoram by road and by boat at several entry points and *vice versa*. With the closure of all traditional routes of trade after independence, the Aizwal-Silchar highway on its northern border with Assam has been the only road linkage with the rest of the country. As such, the economy of Mizoram is severely constrained by poor communication, lack of infrastructural facilities and unavailability of market to sell its agricultural and horticulture produce.

In order to develop Mizoram economy, it is therefore, imperative that border trade with its neighbouring countries should be given a fillip. To Raise the border trade to a significant level for Mizoram, impetus has to be given for the establishment of more trade centre and establishing new and improved existing infrastructural facilities like road and river linkages and upgrading existing facilities/policies and procedures governing border trade between India, Myanmar, and Bangladesh, respectively.

14.20 hrs.

**RAILWAYS (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2003
RAILWAYS (SECOND AMENDMENT) BILL, 2003
RAILWAY PROTECTION FORCE (AMENDMENT)
BILL, 2003**

AND

**RESOLUTION RE: APPROVAL OF
RECOMMENDATIONS IN THE EIGHTH REPORT
OF RAILWAY CONVENTION COMMITTEE**

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Hon. Members, the Railway (Amendment) Bill, 2003, the Railways (Second Amendment) Bill, 2003 and the Railway Protection Force (Amendment) Bill, 2003, as passed by Rajya Sabha, have been listed at Sl. Nos.

13, 14 and 15 in today's List of Business.

Shri Nitish Kumar, Minister of Railways has requested the hon. Speaker that all these Bills may be discussed together alongwith Government Resolution regarding approval of certain recommendations made by the Railway Convention Committee (1999) in their Eighth Report presented to Lok Sabha on 24th July, 2003. The item relating to Government Resolution has already been circulated to Members in the Chamber through Supplementary List of Business. I hope the House agrees.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS : Yes.

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR) :
Sir, I beg to move the following :

"That the Bill further to amend the Railways Act, 1989, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

"That the Bill further to amend the Railways Act, 1989, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

"That the Bill further to amend the Railway Protection Force Act, 1957, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

"That this House approves the recommendations contained in Para 51 (with modification of 3 years time limit to 9 years) and in Paras 49, 50, 52, 53, 54, 55 and 56 of the Eighth Report of the Railway Convention Committee (1999) appointed to review the rate of dividend payable by the Railway Undertaking to General Revenues etc., which was presented to the Lok Sabha on 24.07.2003."

[Translation]

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Railway Amendment Act, which has been introduced in the House, was passed by Rajya Sabha on 31st July. I would like to remind the hon'ble Members that in the course of my railway budget speech of 1999, I had said, *vide sub para 5 of para 22*, that minimum penalty for ticketless travelling be increased from Rs. 50 to Rs. 250. It will not only increase revenues

but will also help reduce the difficulties of genuine passengers. The assurances made while presenting railway budget for the year 1999 are being made good through this Bill. Hon'ble Members might be aware that Section 137 of Railway Act deals with ticketless travelling and section 138 deals with buying inappropriate tickets which may either be buying ticket for less distances than travelled or travelling in higher classes than for which the ticket was purchased. In sub-section (3) of both the section, it has been laid down that anybody who is caught under the above mentioned sections will have to pay a penalty equal to the actual fare for the distance he has travelled or Rs. 50, whichever is more. It means that the penalty will be over and above the fare recovered from the defaulter. Thus the penalty will be either the amount equal to the actual fare or Rs. 50, whichever is more. My proposal is that this minimum amount be increased from Rs. 50 to Rs. 250. This penalty is sought to be increased with a view to lessen the problems faced by the travellers having genuine tickets. They have to face difficulties when ticketless travellers enter reserved compartments and create nuisance. Sometimes the trains are unnecessarily overcrowded due to ticketless travellers, this step has been taken with a view to discourage them. People caught in the act will have to pay penalty. It will generate revenues and people will be encouraged to buy tickets before travelling. Since this is a continuous process, every year we conduct ticket checking drives, people are caught and that is why I propose to enhance the deterrent amount from Rs. 50 to Rs. 250.

As far as Railway Act second Amendment Bill is concerned we propose to empower the Railway Protection Force (RPF) to intervene and act further in regard to the offences mentioned under the Railway Act. This Bill seeks to empower the RPF to arrest and prosecute the guilty persons. There has been concern over the increasing offences related to Railways. The crime control (law and order) is a State subject. Every State Government has set up the Government Railway Police to deal with the offences related to Railway. The expenditure incurred on the force is shared half each by the State Government and Ministry of Railway respectively. There are many types of

offences. Some offences fall under IPC and some of the offences related to Railways are mention in the Railway Act. It has been seen that more attention is paid to tackle serious offences and naturally it should be the case. However less attention is paid to tackle minor offences. RPF is there to tackle the crime related to Railways but question arises as to what is being done by RPF? RPF was set up to protect the property and assets of Railways. RPF was created by RPF Act, 1997. RPF was set up to check the crime but it was not vested with the power to investigate and prosecute. Subsequently another law, Railway property and lawful possession Act was formulated under which RPF was given the power to arrest and prosecute a person found in possession of the Railway property. You are aware that we have a major force and central armed force under our disposal with a strength of 70000 personnel but RPF does not have power to deal with the minor offences that take place at the Railway station or trains. Railway Act provides that an offender nabbed by a Railway police personnel to be handed over to the GRP, but due to the GRP being overburdened with work it fails to pay requisite attention to the minor offences committed relating to Railway. Hence concern was expressed in this regard and a high level committee was constituted. The Committee submitted its report and on the basis of these recommendations of the Committee the draft proposal of the Railway Amendment Act has been drawn. The Act seeks to empower RPF to prosecute and investigate into the offences relating to Railways. Presently RPF is responsible only for the security of Railway's assets and property. The amendment bill seek to make RPF accountable to the security of the passenger and passenger area. Hence the amendment Bill seeking to further amend the Railway Act seeks to empower RPF by amending the RPF Act suo moto. I would like to apprise the hon. Members that there is no need to be apprehensive that the passage of the Bill tantamounts to the transgression of the rights of the other body or organisation. Rather it is being done to supplement the efforts made by GRP and enable them further to tackle the crimes The Bill would not create any conflict between RPF and GRP. Hence RPF is being empowered to investigate into the offences and prosecute the offenders which entirely belong to the

[Shri Nitish Kumar]

Railways. Through the Bill BPF is not being empowered to investigate into and prosecute all those offences that find mention in the Railway Act. The Bill does not empower the RPF to investigate into the serious offences mentioned under the section 150, 151 and 152 e.g. sabotage, endangering the safety of the railway etc. instead the minor offences like nabbing the persons travelling without ticket, illegal sale of the railway ticket by touts, chain pulling without reason, entry of the male passenger in the boggy reserved for ladies, travelling in a higher class in an unauthorised manner, travelling on rooftop of the boggy etc. which have, till now, been looked after the State police would now be brought under the ambit of RPF. It will improve the image of the railways as RPF is present at every major station. Now the strength of RPF could be utilised to assist the State police force the Railway Armed Forces could also be utilised better. These who Bills – Railway (Amendment) Bill 2003 and Railways (second Amendment) Bill 2003 have been introduced with a view to check the offences related to Railway and to improve its image.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, as far Railway Protection Force (Amendment) Bill 2003 is concerned, RCC has made its recommendations in this regard and it is due for the approval of the parliament. The para 51 under it mentions the deferment of the dividend for the year 2000-01 and 2001-02. Some share of dividend of general revenue has been deferred and it has not been paid in full. RCC had recommended that this amount of dividend which comes around Rs. 2700 crore and deferred in 2002-2003 be paid by the Railways within three years. The outstanding dividend worth Rs. 249 crore in 2001-02 has been paid and considerable time has been given to pay the rest of the that. Now we have started paying that dividend too. The Government have a additional liability of Rs. 900 crore in order the resolve all these problems within three years. We have also made a provision in the amendment Bill to pay the proposed dividends. The Ministry has approved the proposed amendment and for getting the rest of the proposals as it is, this proposal has been brought by the Government.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you I request the House to pass the said three Bills.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Motions moved :

"That the Bill further to amend the Railways Act, 1989, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

"That the Bill further to amend the Railways Act, 1989, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

"That the Bill further to amend the Railway Protection Force Act, 1957, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

"That this House approves the recommendations contained in Para 51 (with modification of 3 years time limit to 9 years) and in Paras 49, 50, 52, 53, 54, 55 and 56 of the Eighth Report of the Railway Convention Committee (1999) appointed to review the rate of dividend payable by the Railway Undertaking to General Revenues etc., which was presented to the Lok Sabha on 24.07.2003."

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, in the Business Advisory Committee meeting, we agreed to cooperate with the Government in disposing of these items together. But I would like to draw your attention that we can debate all these items together, but all these items should be put to vote separately. Otherwise, if all of them are passed together, it will not be proper.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : All the items will be put to vote separately.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : There three Bills have been put together for the purpose of holding debate only.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : All right. These three Bills are to be taken up together for discussion only. Shri Adhir Ranjan Chaudhary.

[English]

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY (Berhampore, West Bengal) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, by agreeing to the proposal made by the hon. Railway Minister, we have taken up these three Bills and the Resolution together for discussion in the House.

Sir, the Minister has discovered an innovative measure through the Bills. It is a sort of a double-edged sword and it can help the already financially constrained Railway Ministry to earn some revenue by enhancing the price of penalty. On the other hand, it will educate the people so that the problems of *bona fide* passengers would have mitigated.

Among the three Bills, one is in relation to the Railway Protection Force. The legislative document has sought to add a few more legal teeth to the arsenal of the RPF. The ostensible reason seems to be that the Railway Protection Force, consisting of 70,000 personnel, is not adequately equipped to deal with the day-to-day problems and to prosecute the offenders who commit certain offences. Therefore, some legal provisions have been sought to be infused in the already existing Act to volstr the RPF by amending section 179, the Railways Act 1989, the Government is going to authorise one officer who would deal with some offences that have not yet been brought within the ambit of the Railway Protection Force. However, the authorised officers would not have the powers in respect of certain serious offences under section 150-152 of the Railways Act, 1989. Therefore, my first reaction is that the legislative document is totally half-hearted and has been perfunctorily prepared because we still do not know about the criteria of the authorised officers who would be empowered to deal with certain offences.

So far as security of the Indian Railways is concerned, I think, a holistic approach needs to be undertaken so that the present RPF could be modernised to provide more teeth to deal with the deteriorating law and order situation in the Railway sector. The incidents of violence are growing by leaps and bounds. These have become a daily routine in so far as the Railways are concerned. Molestation, rape, violence and other criminal activities, including subversive

activities, are taking place in every nook and corner of our country. A few days earlier, ethnic violence took place in Assam due to the flippant attitude of the Railway Recruiting Board. It had taken its toll of a number of innocent people who had gone there for menial jobs. Subsequently, the violence in Bihar had also been noticed. Therefore, the entire security of Railways should be revamped to deal with the growing violence that is taking place in the Railways.

Here the objective of the Bill is to deal with the day-to-day problem and smooth running of the trains. In so far as Indian Railways are concerned, I think, an overall approach should be devised. The day-to-day problems and smooth running of the trains cannot be achieved by a single legislation. We have to make some additional legal provisions for the Railway Protection Force? It is true that we all feel proud of our Indian Railways. The Indian Railways are regarded as the epitome of national integration. A sort of macrocosm which has inherited a host of inscrutable intricacies, however it has accomplished an odyssey of 150 years by traversing every nook and corner of our country and thus leaving behind an array of variegated memories that we are still basking of.

The Indian Railways is ranked first among Asian nations and ranked second in the world in terms of separate Ministry, in terms of its budget provisions and it also enjoys a whopping asset of more than Rs. 55,000 crore. However, this behemoth requires to be overhauled. The Railways, for long, has been suffering from acute financial crunch. That is why, the requisite financial sinew which is required to get it overhauled and to rejuvenate it is out of the bound of the Railway Ministry. I admit that. The Railway Minister himself has been pursuing with the Finance Ministry and the Government to provide more financial help to get the Railways revamped and to get the Railways overhauled. But the sturdy Finance Minister from the desert has deserted his alluvion friend Shri Nitish Kumar in the hour of crisis.

Sir, the Achilles' heel, in so far as Railways are concerned, can easily be identified. First of all the working expenses in Railways are totally untenable. The steep increase in the expenditure has resulted in the erosion of

[Shri Adhir Chowdhary]

investible funds, which ultimately affected the expansion capacity and the infrastructural development of Railways. Investible funds from General Exchequer for long years have been reducing.

If you go by the statistics, you will find that the funding from the General Exchequer in three years is inconsistent with the Railways when SRF is set up. In the First Five Year Plan, the Budgetary support provided to the Railways was to the tune of 34 per cent. It was gradually raised and in the Fifth Plan, Railways had been provided the budgetary support to the tune of 75 per cent. In the Sixth Plan, a substantial amount was also provided to the tune of 54 per cent. In the Seventh Plan, it was to the tune of 42 per cent and since the Eighth Plan it got dropped to 33 per cent. In the Ninth Plan period, it again dropped to around 20 per cent. It clearly vindicates that Railways have become a child of a lesser God. Therefore, the funds which are immediately required by the Railways have not been provided as a result of which the infrastructure and the expansion programme has been severely affected.

Sir, in the present economic and global scenario when the market dynamics have been changing in a rapid manner, Railways have to have such qualities as to how to compete with the present market dynamics. The Railways have not been able to realise its targeted revenue. On the one hand, the increase is taking place in the expenditure and on the other hand the rate of expenditure has not been in commensurate with the rate of revenue augmentation. Therefore, the Railways' budget has always been registering a shortfall. Also there is a pressing need to finance the infrastructure of the Railways and its expansion programme and the Railways have to resort to external borrowings. As a result of which the interest on borrowings has been incurred by the Railways and, ultimately, the entire Railway sector has been suffering from financial crunch.

14.45 hrs.

[SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV *in the Chair*]

Sir, now the situation is that the share of traffic movement, which the Railway earlier enjoyed, has been

slashed due to improvement in the road sector. In the year 1950-51, the share of traffic movement by Railway was nearly 88 per cent. It has been reduced now to 40 per cent. In the year 1950-51, the share of road transport in the entire traffic movement was only 12 per cent. Now, the share of road sector has gone up to 60 per cent.

Sir, now the Railways are suffering, on the one hand, from competitive prices and, on the other hand, from quality services. The road sector is always having some advantage in respect of its flexibility of shorter movement, and of small volume. Therefore, at present, the Railway cannot afford to continue its services at the growth rate of only 3.5 per cent, when the massive investments are being made in the road sector, in the pipeline sector, etc.

Therefore, Sir, in the Tenth Plan some measures to be taken up have been suggested as to how to compete with the present market dynamics. Along with that some thrust areas have been identified. Technological upgradations are required. As per the suggestions of the Tenth Plan, Railways have to run on commercial lines while maintaining the social and developmental aspects. In so far as the Ninth Plan period is concerned, the Ninth Plan had suggested to mobilize internal resources in order to finance the Railway infrastructure and the expansion programme. But, in the statistics that we have got from the Government, it has been clearly shown that the revenue, which was supposed to be mobilised internally, has not been achieved.

Sir, in the year 1997-98, internal resources were generated to the tune of Rs. 3,542 crore. But in the year 2001-02, the internal resources have been decelerated to the tune of Rs. 2,463 crore. It clearly indicates that the Ninth Plan target has not been achieved and the Railways are finding an alternative to resort to borrowing.

Sir, in the year 2002-03, in the annual Plan, the total outlay in the Budget estimates was Rs. 12,330 crore, out of which internal generation of resources was expected to be Rs. 2,630 crore, market borrowing was Rs. 3,000 crore and Capital from the General Exchequer was Rs. 4040 crore. Similarly, according to the Budget estimate of 2003-04, out of total outlay of Rs. 12,918 crore, internal

generation of resources was expected to the tune of Rs. 2,630 crore, that means 20.36 per cent. Market borrowing was to the tune of Rs. 3,000 crore that means 23.22 per cent and Capital from the General Exchequer was Rs. 4544.34 crore that is 35.18 per cent. That means the market borrowing remained constant. It is continuing unabated and Railways persistently are resorting to market borrowings for the last few years.

This is the reason why the investable fund has been severely eroded. Naturally, it has affected the expansion programme.

Sir, the traffic volume is being increased to the tune of 714 per cent and when the passenger traffic is improved to the tune of 615 per cent, at that time the expansion programme is being done to the tune of 250 per cent. That is why, now, Sir, 70 per cent of the entire freight and passenger movement in Railways are being carried out by 30 per cent railway track. Therefore, the existing network is totally overstretched now.

Sir, in order to meet the demand of the people, the Railway Minister has been introducing new passenger trains every year, which is further encroaching upon the path availability of the existing freight and passenger movement. Therefore, Railway needs to be provided enormous funds so that the Indian Railway which has lost its glory and lustre could be restored.

May I ask the hon. Railway Minister whether the subversion is still taking place in various parts of our country? Sir, you are well aware that the horrible memories of Gaisal and Rafiganj incidents are still haunting us. May I know from the hon. Railway Minister as to who were responsible for these accidents? I want to know whether they have been unearthed by the investigating agency. How much compensation has been paid to the victims of Gaisal railway accident?

Sir, the hon. Railway Minister is well aware of my demand, for which I have been persuading him for long. He is responsive to all Members of this House. I know that his resources are very much limited. However, I got prompted to make my request again to the hon. Railway Minister. The Hon. Minister is well aware that Nashipur and

Azimganj railway link, which was existed earlier, revived after long hibernation by your grace. In the current year's Budget, the Railway scheme between Nashipur and Azimganj has been revived and you have provided a sum of Rs. 2 crore. However, so far my information goes, not even a single penny has been disbursed to that project. I request the hon. Railway Minister to extend his co-operation to implement the project so that the entire economic scenario of Bengal could be radically changed. Not only that, see present Bangladesh Government – Bangladesh is our immediate neighbour – now posing hostile attitude towards us. Supposing any border conflict takes place, then this railway link will help you a lot in order to mobilise logistical approach to that particular region.

Sir, a two kilometre railway bridge in the Nashipur and Azimganj railway link would serve the purpose and it would cost only Rs. 50 crore. The Railway Minister may please take into consideration and put the entire money which will be required to get this project implemented in the coming year's Budget.

I know the hon. Minister and his Ministry are very serious. He also knows the Achilles heels that his Ministry is combating now. However, I find no substantial argument to oppose this Bill and the Resolution. Therefore, I support this Bill.

Thus, I am concluding my speech.

[Translation]

SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA (Ambala) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the Bills moved by the hon. Minister for amending Railway Protection Act, 1957 and Railway Act, 1989. The railway department in our country is hundreds of years old and it has a long list of achievements to its credit however, with the passage of time, and advancement in information technology, certain changes in railway are being felt. Keeping in view the said developments. Shri Nitish Kumarji has taken up the task to bring reforms in it. I would like to extend my thanks to him for his commitment in this regard. As far the initiation of process of reforms in railway department is concerned

[Shri Rattan Lal Kataria]

I feel that after taking measures in this regard we will be able to make our railway system as competent as that of the developed nations. This department will prove to be revolutionary in contributing to the exchequer of the country and providing facilities to the people. As far the present amendment Bill is concerned, I would like to submit that GRP and RPF have been working for years however tackling certain new challenges has been a problem. As for example, about two decades back there was no terrorism in our country. It is just for last two decades that the country has been facing terrorism and the railway has also been the target of terrorists. It resulted not only in the loss of times but also of property. The railway, now, has to work round the clock for the protection of railway tracks. It is also a challenging task before the railway department. Once the present Bill becomes the Act, the officers appointed by the railway department will have the power not only to issue warrant to arrest but they will also be competent to investigate the entire matter and give their judgement.

15.00 hrs.

As per the provisions of CRPC it will be possible to take action against the guilty persons. I would like to draw the attention of the hon'ble Minister to another issue. It is fine that we are giving power to the protection forces. However, I have passed through few cases, out of which I would like to share one. I am elected from Ambala Lok Sabha Parliamentary Constituency, Haryana. DRM office is located there. Ambala is an important junction. Being the representative of that area, on several occasions certain cases have been brought to my notice, I was really sorry of People from Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal come to Punjab and Haryana for menial jobs. They work here throughout year. When they return to their native place with their entire earnings of the year, it has been noticed that in connivance with the police their money of about Rs. 10,000-20,000 is pick pocketed and only Rs. 200-250 are left with them. In view of such incidents, I would like to submit to the hon. Minister that what even forces are constituted or whatever rules are formulated, there should be a provision to strictly enforce the same.

If the protectors are found to be acting like perpetrators stern action should be taken against them so that people may take their earnings safely to their families. If such incidents are brought to the notice of the hon'ble Minister, immediate action should be taken in this regard.

The hon'ble Minister has rightly said that with the passage of time the nature of crimes is also changing. Intruding the ladies compartments, chain pulling and pickpocketing are few such crimes. Though these crimes appear to be minor one but there is need to take it seriously. Presently the infrastructure of Railway Department is biggest in the country. It is also essential to ensure its protection. The proposed Bill not only talks about the protection of the railway properties rather the protection of the passengers is also included in it. Besides this, the protection of other things like railway yards has also been covered in it as it is extremely important.

As far the security measures covered in the proposed amendment Bill is concerned, I do not feel that anything more is required to be added in it. I would like to request to the hon'ble Minister that as per his commitment he should carry on reforming the railways under the leadership of hon'ble Atal Bihari Vajpayee and the NDA Government. He will enjoy the support of all of us in this regard. Sir, what I am going to submit is not concerned with the subject under discussion, however, I would like to say something off the track. Ambala city is a famous textile market of Asia. Though Ambala Cantt. is linked with many trains however. . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN : You please speak only those things which are concerned with the subject under discussion, otherwise, it will become a tradition.

SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA : All right Sir, I would like to request the hon'ble Minister that there should be halt of some of the express trains in Ambala city too. In my parliamentary constituency there is a place called Barara where people of the area are demanding for the haltague of express trains. I would like to submit that there is a railway workshop at Jagadhari. Thousands of acres of land is lying vacant there. A railway coach factory should be set up there.

[English]

SHRI NIKHILANANDA SAR (Burdwan) : Hon. Chairman, Sir, our hon. Railway Minister has placed for discussion today so many amendments. The first Bill, which he has introduced, is specially about taking stringent measures against ticketless travellers. I think, nobody will oppose this move. It was stated in the Budget Speech of 1999 that some steps would be taken. May I ask the Railway Minister about this inordinate delay of nearly five years from 1999 to 2003? He took five years to materialise the assurance given in the Budget Speech of 1999. It shows the efficiency of our Railway authorities. Nobody will support ticketless travelling, but he hopes that valid passengers with proper tickets will be benefited by his move.

May I ask Mr. Minister what steps he has taken regarding preventing accidents? I am asking this because now the Railway Minister has been re-designated by so many people as Railway Accidents Minister. Now, he is not the Railway Minister. He has been re-designated. He thinks about the property belonging to the Railways, but there is also taking place loss of lives and property of the common people due to hundreds of unmanned level crossings. Is it not his duty to man those level crossings and to save the lives and property of the common people, poorer sections of the people? That does not get proper importance from him. Next thing is that no one knows whether he will reach his destination or not. So many mishaps and so many accidents are taking place.

Today it is the age of speed. We want to see trains with more speed. But, Indian Railways is going in the reverse direction. The time-table is being scheduled and re-scheduled again and again. More time has been given for the running of the trains. Even Rajdhani is not spared, and more time has been allotted for Rajdhani. But still late running of trains is going on. Is it the deficiency of the Railway authorities?

There is Section 137, and Section 138, Sub-Section (3) to take stringent measures with regard to illegal travelling. We do not wish to oppose his move, but these things are also to be seen.

Regarding passenger amenities so many things have been told. I would like to ask one question. The terminating point in the Eastern Railways is Howrah and Saldah. Apart from these two terminating points, the number of passengers is the highest in Burdwan Railway Station. What amenities have been provided to those people? Pick-pocketing takes place even on the railway over-bridge, and over the platforms. Such type of crowd is always available there.

Asansol is a very important point. The number of passengers is more in Asansol than in Dhanbad. But, in Dhanbad, there are two nice over-bridges over the platform, but in Asansol there is only one. For the South-Eastern Railway and the Eastern Railway, the crossing station is Asansol. But it is denied to have more over-bridges over the platforms. Who will think for the passengers there?

The Railways have decided regarding uni-gauge conversion. It was said that all lines are to be changed into broad-gauge. But, in the name of gauge conversion, our Railway Minister takes hundreds of schemes at a time. Only one lakh, two lakh, or 10 lakh allotments are made, and no purpose is served. If he takes some of the schemes and completes them in due course, then the revenue earnings from those sections will help him to undertake new proposals and new schemes. But that is not done.

The Britishers – in our pre-independence – set so many Railways like meter-gauge, narrow-gauge, etc. The hon. Minister is losing time by doing the uni-gauge conversion.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Hon. Member, please come to the subject.

SHRI NIKHILANANDA SAR : Sir, problems in recruitment are going to take place in Railways. Sir, only yesterday there was a Railway examination for class IV employees in Kolkata. In a single day the examination cannot be conducted in Kolkata, as 10 lakh applicants will appear in the examinations. Three days have been fixed for the examination, but in a single day, that is by yesterday itself it was completed.

[Shri Nikhilananda Sar]

On the other hand, there are skilled labourers who have completed the apprentice period in CLW. They are denied employment due to the wrong policy followed by the Railways. As a result of that such problems took place in Assam, Bihar and some other places. Hence, the Railway Minister should take some steps to see that this type of thing does not happen again.

The recruitment policy should be revised for nominal services likes class IV employees. Nearly, one million unemployed applicants have applied for the Railway recruitment in Kolkata. These type of things should be avoided by the Railway authorities. Another thing which has been mentioned in section 79 is that the railway officers can arrest, but the case will be handled by the Police alone. This, to some extent, will be done by themselves. There is no harm in that and no one will oppose this move. However, at the same time, the railway authorities should be more vigilant in taking these steps.

With these words, I conclude my speech.

[*Translation*]

SHRIMATI RENU KUMARI (Khagaria) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to speak on this Bill. The purpose of this Bill is very noble. Untoward incidents happening with railway passengers is certainly a matter of concern. I would like to extend my thanks to the hon'ble Minister that keeping in view this he has moved the said Bill.

Today, the railway is very important means of transportation. Presently, railway not only transport goods from one place to other rather it is also a means to communicate idea and sentiments to different places. It acts as a bridge for emotional interaction. Not to talk of women and girls even men are not secure in railway journey. The passengers feel scared in rail journey whether they will be able to reach their destination safely or not? VIP passengers in A/C second class are not secure. Today the situation is such that unauthorised passengers enter into the second class reserved coaches. When TTE goes for checking and demands ticket, they do not show it. Such passengers forcibly enter into the coaches that ceates too

much problem for people like us. Sometimes strong headed passengers travel without ticket and TTEs provide them seats. GRP is already functioning however, they are not effective in providing protection to the passengers. The incident of chain pulling and eve teasing frequently occur. More powers should be given to RPF for the protection of railway passengers, however, sometimes RPF personnels misbehave with women. Alongwith giving them more powers they should be made dutiful. They should be forced to realise that power has been given to them only to protect the railway passengers. Least they may not become perpetrator in the form of protector. They should be made to realise that if they commit any crime they will be severely punished and that will dicourage others to commit such crimes. If the present Bill is passed it will certainly provide protection to railway passengers and they will be able to reach their destination safely.

[*English*]

SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA (Kolar) : Sir, I congratulate the hon. Railway Ministers, Shri Nitish Kumar and Shri Basangouda R. Patil, for giving a new train to Karnataka. This train goes via Markuppam, which falls in my constituency, to Bangalore. This train facilitates 5,000 people in earning their bread and butter from the nearby BGML Gold Mines.

By this train these people travel from Bangalore in order to earn their livelihood. I am extremely happy and I congratulate the Minister. Yatnalji came and inaugurated the train. He assured us that the railway line would be extended further by 50 kilometres from Marikuppam to Bisanatham which will be linked to the Chennai trunk line. Though this is not the main subject of the debate today, I would request him to ensure that it is implemented. In the interest of Railways, we support the Railways (Amendment) Bill, 2003 that is brought before the House today.

The work of gauge conversion started in 1993-94. However, it is not going on at the pace at which it was started. I know there is a financial constraint in the Ministry of Railways. I, therefore, urge upon the Prime Minister and the Finance Minister to give more funds to Railways.

Railways are the main means of transport for goods and passengers in the country. I hope hon. Ministers, Shri Nitish Kumar and Shri Basangouda Patil will take this issue up with the Prime Minister and have more funds allocated to complete the ongoing projects. The projects already sanctioned. projects whose foundation stones have already been laid in Karnataka as well as in other parts of the country should be completed first.

There are two-three points that I would like to make. There is a requirement of running a new train from Kolar to Marikuppam. In Kotar, the railway station needs to be shifted to the bus stand where it will be more useful. A reservation counter is required to be opened there. There is a long-pending demand of Yelahanka-Bangarupet line for which an amount of Rs. 80 crore has already been given. Shri Nitish Kumar knows about this. He knows very well that without completing its remaining part of Madanapalle, it will not serve its intended purpose. I urge upon both the Ministers to ensure its early completion. People have been suffering continuously, We have been agitating over this for the last seven years. I hope this time this project will be included in the Budget and it will be completed early. Once completed, this will serve the purpose of 25 lakh people of Kolar District from where 60 percent of the mangoes and vegetables go out. This will be useful for a huge number of pilgrims going to Tirupati from this side. About a thousand buses go to Tirupati everyday from here. If you give this Madanapalle link, it will be very viable. That is why I request the hon. Minister of Railways and the Minister of State to kindly include this project in the Budget and ensure its early completion.

DR. MANDA JAGANNATH (Nagar Kuruool) : Respected Chairman, Sir, thank you very much for giving me this opportunity. I stand here to support the Railways (Amendment) Bill, 2003 brought before the House.

Ticketless travel is a very serious nuisance on the trains. Unauthorised travellers not only cause a lot of inconvenience to passengers, but also cause huge financial loss to the Government. This question has not been effectively solved in the fifty-five years of Independence.

It is very difficult to check and identify the ticketless travellers in the General compartments unless you deploy a large number of Conductors to enter these compartments and check each passenger for tickets. As the number of General compartments is very less, one always finds them overcrowded. It is very difficult even for a robust person to walk in to these coaches. This is not confined to the unreserved compartments only. It happens in the reserved compartments also several times. When we, Members of Parliament, travel in trains, we see that there is no check on unauthorised or ticketless travellers getting into the railway bogies and causing nuisance.

This is causing a great deal of inconvenience. While we are sleeping, nobody knows what will happen next.

Sir, it is very difficult to comment on the security measures that are being taken up in the compartments. But a number of times, theft is taking place even in the reserved compartments where even the so-called VVIPs are travelling. It happens many a times. There is only one coach attendant. He too will be found sitting or sleeping somewhere. But whenever you get up in the middle of the night for some assistance, you would not find anybody in the coach. That is why I say that the adequate number of such personnel should be there. In each compartment, at least, two persons would be deputed.

Sir, sometimes we are faced with very funny things. The Government Railway Police Force (GRP) will be stationed at the railway stations, and the RPF will be travelling into the trains. But whenever a passenger wants to lodge a complaint in the event of any eventuality, viz., chain snatching, the GRP says that it does not come under their jurisdiction. So, in such cases of chain snatching etc., such confusion should be done away with. The accountability should be fixed. The responsibility of the persons concerned should also be fixed. Once a passenger enters into the train and the train starts, and if his chain is snatched, there will be no time for him to get down and go to the police station to lodge his complaint. And, the force which is available in the train says that it does not come under their jurisdiction! So, this problem has to be sorted out.

[Dr. Manda Jagannath]

There should be a mechanism to take care of such type of incidents. As I have already mentioned, the thefts and other things are going on unchecked. I, therefore, request the hon. Railway Minister to see that the Railway Protection Force is properly utilised and they should be in a position to take immediate action in case of any emergency.

With these few words I conclude.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is not appropriate to take up all the three Bills simultaneously for discussion. All the three Bills are relating to different issues. Two Bills, which deal with Amendment in Railways Act can be taken up together for discussion whereas third one is relating to RPF. First two could have been taken up for discussion but third one is altogether different one.

So far as amendment to Railways Act is concerned, hon. Railway Minister says that they had announced in 1999 that penalty would be imposed to ticketless travellers. He further stated that this penalty will be enhanced from Rs. 50 to Rs. 250. It seems as if he has done a great favour. They took 4-5 years to fulfill their assurance. The Bill was kept in abeyance like shunted bogies. Hon. Minister should tell why the assurance made in 1999 was delayed to be fulfilled in 2003?

My second question is-what is the yardstick to ascertain whether one is travelling deliberately without ticket or under some unforeseen circumstances, as hon. Minister has said that penalty will be imposed on persons travelling deliberately without ticket. Ticketless travelling is a very serious problem of railways. I support that people should not travel without ticket in train. Such people should be punished. Over one crore people travel by trains everyday. Whereas railways are able to apprehend around one crore and 40 lakh ticketless travellers each year.

Sir, during recent three years Rs. 168 crore, Rs. 150 crore and Rs. 140 crore was recovered from them. I am telling it on the basis of figures of last three years. During 2001-2003, 1 crore and 34 lakh ticketless travellers were

caught and Rs. 168 crore were recovered from them. This way, more or less Rs. 10-20 crore are recovered from ticketless travellers whose number also vary 10-20 lakh passengers every year. These are the figures of people caught. Railways have no estimate of ticketless travellers who escaped.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Raghuvansh Babu is using 'Tickas' word in place of Ticket. It is people's language and it is neither English nor Hindi.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : I challenge hon. Minister I would like hon. Minister to apprise this House of railway revenue collected in Bihar.

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR) : Others are commenting upon Dr. Raghuvansh Babu and he is challenging me.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : I would like to tell him that more people from Bihar than their capacity buy railway ticket. He is Railway Minister, he has details of whole country. He should tell the house that the sale of tickets in Bihar far exceeds capacity of railway stations in Bihar. What I mean to say is that in comparison to other parts more people in Bihar buy tickets. When he presents comparative figures, people will know the reality that in which States more people travel without ticket and where people buy ticket and travel.

I go on Friday and return on Monday. I know in which areas more people travel without ticket. I know even who are those MPs who permit others to travel on their ticket. I have noted everything. If I disclose the real state of affairs between Gorakhpur to Mugalsarai, people may have to run from here. Therefore, I want him to apprise the House of booking of tickets from Bihar and elsewhere, then everyone would know the reality.

Sir, penalty should be imposed on a person deliberately travelling without ticket. He should be punished. Please tell the House why fine has been enhanced from Rs. 50 to Rs. 250? Why it has not been enhanced from Rs. 5 to 500 or Rs. 5 to 200 or Rs. 5 to 300? He has told that people travelling deliberately without ticket would be fined Rs. 250 in place of Rs. 50. Now, I

want to know how he would ascertain who is travelling deliberately without ticket and who is travelling without ticket under some compulsion. A person may be very much willing to buy ticket before he commences his journey. But he may not be able to buy it because of heavy rush at the window. The only option he has is to postpone his journey. But there may be some unavoidable circumstances. He may be going for interview or for urgent professional work or to the Court. If under such circumstances one travels without ticket it is ticketless travelling though not deliberately. Now what is the option with hon. Minister in extant case? Though he wanted to buy the ticket, but he could not do so under some unavoidable circumstances. So, what alternative does hon. Minister has in this case? . . . (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Dr. Raghuvansh Babu, you please continue.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Many people call it tickas here. I speak people's language, so make your mind clear. I speak the language of crore of people. . . (Interruptions)

Mr. Speaker, Sir, Ticket Examiners on duty in the train permit people to travel, for instance, if they pay Rs. 200 in case the ticket's value is Rs. 500. If one has no option but to go, then either he would travel ticketless, or postpone his journey or buy it from a tout or lastly connive with the Ticket Examiner and then travel. If the passenger tells him that he could make no arrangement, and requests him to do the needful; he needs just to pay him Rs. 400. He will keep them in his pocket and allow the passenger to travel just like that. I want to know what the Government have done to check it? Suppose he is caught, he will be fined Rs. 250 in place of Rs. 50. A person who wants to purchase the ticket but if he is helpless in buying a ticket and he is caught he will be charged Rs. 250 in place of Rs. 50 plus value of the ticket also. And if he contacts tout he can just travel. Therefore, how the Government would provide protection to a person who wants to abide by the law and does not want to defraud railways of revenue? Many a times I find long queue at ticket window. . . . (Interruptions) Ticket is people's language. I know the language of many

others also and I would request to check their activities too.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you, I would like to know how these problems can be tackled. What is the provision for those who want to travel with ticket and also for those who want to board the train without ticket, what shall a person do if he is unable to buy a ticket in view of long queue and the train arrives. Though there are many ticket counters in Delhi, yet 5-6 counters are often closed. Railway plea that they are short of staff. Hon. Minister would tell the reality. . . . (Interruptions)

Mr. Chairman, Sir, yesterday only I had been to the platform. I was waiting to board Rajdhani Express while I observed a long queue. I enquired about that I was told that those in the queue are waiting to board Sompooma Kranti Express. Railways treat them like prisoners. Hon. Minister has introduced Sampooran Kranti and Sept Kranti trains. Please tell the House which train earns maximum revenue and whether waiting list in Vaishali crosses 150,200,300 or not? Please also tell the House, where maximum tickets are sold? People approach us to request hon. Minister for getting them reservation through MP quota.

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA (Gopalganj) : It is also our duty.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : I am performing four duties as an M.P. in Delhi. First is regarding helping people in getting reservation in trains. We have got the form printed. I asked a person as to why he was so much worried? Daily 5-10 people come to me for reservation. One says my name is 150th where as other one says it 300th in waiting list. Hon. Minister, a person whose name is 300th in waiting list is surely one who buys the ticket before boarding the train and that these people pay in advance. If 300 people are in waiting list then why not to add more bogies to the train. I want to say that take strict action against ticketless travellers so that it can prove as a deterrent for others. But provide full protection to the people who want to pay and travel. Give them their due respect and all the facilities then only he should say that no one should travel without ticket. The Government should act.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now you conclude.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : I have spoken on one bill only. I will be asked which bill is passed in the House, the media people will ask, which railway bill was passed, the contents of the bill have been revealed from the discussion just held. Now, I will reveal, what are the contents of bill. The hon'ble Minister should clarify that bill regarding amendment of Railway Act is for checking ticketless travelling.

One I was travelling in four seater coupe of S-1 coach. Two MPs did not come. At Kanpur station the TTE sold two seats reserved for MPs and two traders occupied the seats in coupe. I thought that they may be classmate or acquaintance of the MP from Kanpur. I asked them who they were, whether they had any acquaintance with the MP, they replied in the negative and said that TTE had allowed them. They were businessmen, and had boarded from Kanpur. TTE sold the seat reserved for MP. If he had given them receipt of reserved ticket, it would have been all right, he would have helped the railways, and had obeyed the law, but he did not give them ticket, and let them travel as they greased his palm. Some arrangement should be made in this regard, even seats reserved for MPs are being sold, if this is the prevailing practice then how will you check ticketless travelling, therefore action should be taken in this regard.

Now, I come to bill number two. There are three bills, therefore I will speak in brief on all of three.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Speak briefly on all of three.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Whether I have bored the House? You may ask the House, whether I have bored them? I am revealing the facts and speaking interesting things.

One bill deals with amendment on railway act with regard to RPF. I feel that the Ministry was finding it difficult to tackle with the problem of safety and protection of passengers. The hon'ble Minister of Railways was saying that both safety and security in railways at present is in bad shape, he is making arrangement for safety funds. He

is studying the reports of Khanna Committee and other Committees in this regard. There is a perception among people that Railway Department is responsible for security and safety in railways, therefore, and why railway department is not doing so? Now Law and Order are with GRP, and they do not have any control on GRP. GRP means Government Railway Police, but in actuality it is State police. Now, they do not have any control over it. A major constitutional amendment is required for the purpose which may cause unrest. Alongwith it, RPF was responsible for the security of railway property and dealt with the theft cases. Now, through an amendment, they have made the provision to entrust the responsibility of the security of passengers alongwith security of railway property to RPF.

Secondly, the job of RPF had been to hand over defaulters to the Police, it means their job was just investigation and not prosecution. Now, in some cases, they want to reach there. Both these bill are related to each other, which means that RPF will be responsible for ensuring security of both passengers and railway. This bill tends to give more powers to RPF. They will not only hand over the culprits to police, but will also do investigation and prosecution. This is the main feature of this bill.

I have gone through the bill. It has been said that new Head constable or authorized official i.e. Havildar would be entrusted the task. In GRP Daroga (Sub Inspector) do the investigation. As per the proposed provision, Head Constable of RPF would do the job. I feel there is some confusion in this regard. I want that the hon'ble Minister should clarify this in his reply because Inspector, SDP or SP do the investigation in GRP, but they have written not less than Head Constable. Actually Havildar is called Head Constable. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Raghuvanshji, other Members too have to speak.

(Interruptions)

[English]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : RPFs Havaldar is equivalent to a Daroga and Damdar of GRP.

[*Translation*]

I do not find this equation appropriate. You have made provisions in it. It appears after reading this bill that alongwith investigation work you are giving them the responsibility of prosecution. How can the Head Constable do it? What is the qualification of Head Constable? What is the educational qualification of the Head Constable? He is capable of running only. He may be qualified or not. He does not have good educational background. We support you in regard of this bill. Since Railway is the largest department of this country. It connects one place of the country to another, therefore security and safety in this department should be given prime importance. There may be violence and sometimes human error or machine error takes place. A separate debate is required on it. I will not discuss all these points, but I understand that every Member of the House is in favour of giving foremost priority to safety and security of the railways and it should be so. All the provisions in this regard should be made effective.

The bill is about giving more powers and entrusting more duties to RPF. It would be appropriate, if the responsibility of investigation remains in the hands of the people, who know the rules and regulations, otherwise chaos will take place. Its consequences should be considered. The hon'ble Minister should clarify all these things. I would also like to say that if all three bills would have been introduced separately, then more Members would have expressed their view, but now all three have been introduced collectively, it is also good. With these suggestions, I conclude my speech.

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV (Parbhani) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to thank the hon'ble Minister of Railways of Government of India. There are no two opinions that Indian railways are progressing under the leadership of Shri Nitish Kumar. I would like to congratulate the hon'ble Minister of Railways on behalf of myself and my party Shiv Sena. I support three amendment bills introduced by hon'ble Minister of Railways. Railways (Amendment) Bill, 2003 to amend Railway Act, 1989, Railway (Second Amendment) Bill, 2003 to amend Railway Act 1989 and Railway Protection Force

(Amendment) Bill, 2003. I would not like to comment much but a common man who travels by train, wants that his journey should be happy, comfortable and safe and the train by which he is travelling should be safe. GRP and RPF share the responsibility in this regard. Earlier their powers were limited. Railways Protection Force was not having much powers. This amendment will give more powers to Railway Protection Force. Not only this rails, railway property, station, goods kept at station, should be protected. I do not want that only goods should be protected, but passengers travelling in trains and their belonging should also be protected. There was need to give Railway Protection Force, more powers and this is what is being done through the amendment. The belongings of railway passengers would be made secure through this Bill.

At present, their strength is only 70,000. Through you, I would like to request the Minister of Railways that Railway is the biggest means of transport. At least one and a half crore people travel daily by railways. My suggestion is that the strength of RPF personnel should be increased.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, you please conclude.

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV : Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singhji has spoken at length. I am just concluding.

My Submission is that many sensitive areas of the country such as naxalite affected areas, where there is danger to the railways, should be notified and its protection should be handed over to the RPF. My third suggestion is that the RPF should be modernised as per the recommendation of Khanna Committee. Our Railway Minister had made an announcement that 5000 constables will be recruited in Railways. Through you, I would like to give suggestion to the Railway Minister that if the recruitment of constables in category IIIrd and IVth has to be made then, only local people should be appointed in these posts. It is a sensitive subject. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN : It is a separate subject. Now you please conclude.

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV : The local people should be appointed in the posts of IIIrd and IVth category. It is a good thing that RPF will be getting more power but these powers should not be misused. We all want that railway journey should be safe. I once again would like to thank the Minister of Railways. I support all these three bills on behalf of myself and on behalf of my party.

SHRI BHAN SINGH BHAURA (Bhatinda) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I support all these three Bills which have been introduced. In the first Bill, the penalty for ticketless travel has been increased from Rs. 50/- to Rs. 250/-, which is not wrong but its misuse should be stopped. I am citing an example in this connection. Three months ago, a poor man reached Bhatinda station and since the train was about to start, he boarded the train without ticket. Then he went to the Railway officer, who was sitting there and asked for ticket. The railway officer was a woman. First she shouted on him and then asked him to give penalty of Rs. 50/- and sent him to police station also. That poor man gave Rs. 100/- and when he asked for the balance amount of Rs. 50/- she did not return the balance also and made him alighted from the train. There are so many officers who do not care. When the penalty was Rs. 50/- that officer kept Rs. 100/- and now when the penalty will become Rs. 250/- then the officers will keep Rs. 500/-. What is the solution to this problem? Hence, I request you to consider over this.

Passengers travelling in railways should be given protection. Though the railway Minister is considered the Minister of accidents which are occurring now-a-days. It is a good thing that he has introduced the Bill and for this I congratulate him. I feel that since the intention of the Bill is good, it should be implemented in the interest of people. I thank you for giving me time to speak.

16.00 hrs.

[English]

SHRI V. VETRISILVAN (Krishnagiri) : Thank you, Sir, for giving me an opportunity to speak on the Bill. I rise to support the Bill on behalf of my Party, DMK.

So far, many of my colleagues have expressed their views on these amendments. I would also like to elaborate on one or two points but I would not take much time of the House, as I do not want to waste the precious time of this august House.

Sir, the hon. Minister has promised, while addressing the House and explaining this Bill, to give more powers to the Railway Protection Force. Of course, Sir, India is the biggest democratic country in the world. More than 100 crore people are living in this country. The Railways are playing a vital role in the country. In India, more than 3 lakh people travel by Rail every day. Of course, before my speech, my friend has rightly said about this. Only 70,000 RPF employees have been recruited. In this democratic and thickly populated country, this number of 70,000 is very less. As far as employment of the RPF is concerned, I would request the hon. Minister to employ more persons.

Also, Sir, I would like to speak about the conflict taking place between the State police and the RPF. There is a conflict between the respective State Government police and Railway Protection police. We need to determine jurisdiction. Jurisdiction is also very important for RPF. There should not be animosity as far as jurisdiction is concerned. So, I would request the Government to look into the matter and in the future course of this amendment, there should not be any enmity in this matter.

Also, Sir, as far as the passengers of Railways and areas of Railways are concerned, they are very important subjects. Now, the passengers are very much afraid of travelling in trains. Of course, many crimes occur in the Railways at the time of travelling. The passengers are, therefore, afraid of travelling in the trains. Therefore, I would request the hon. Railway Minister to give more power to the RPF. Safety of the passengers is most important.

Modern weapons should be given to the RPF. Of course, guns have been given to the police but they are unable to operate them. I do not know what is the use of keeping those guns, without using them.

The criminals are not afraid of police. Therefore, I request the hon. Railway Minister to give more powers to RPF.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude now.

SHRI V. VETRISELVAN : Now, I come to the area of passengers.

Railway properties are being unlawfully occupied by some people and that is, encroachment. The Government has to remove these unlawful occupations. I would like to know as to what type of action has been taken and what powers have been given to them to remove those encroachments. This is also very important. Who is the authority? Is it the Railway Police or RPF? I would like the Minister to clarify this point.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, you have to conclude.

SHRI V. VETRISELVAN : As regards modernisation, no doubt it is necessary. Already there is a mistake committed by the Government as regards modernisation of the police forces. This has to be categorised into three – modernisation of weaponry, modernisation of communications and modernisation of development to transport. These are very important. I would request the hon. Railway Minister to take necessary steps to develop more modernisation in this regard. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, whatever Shri Vetriselvan says further will not go on record.

(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Your speech is not being recorded. You please sit down.

[English]

Now, I call upon Shri Manikrao Gavit to speak.

[Translation]

SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT (Nandurbar) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you, I would like to thank hon'ble Minister Shri Nitish Kumarji. Railway is a very big facility for the people of the country as lakhs and crores of people travel by train daily and hence it is very essential to give

*Not Recorded.

protection to both passengers and Railways. The Railway Protection Force and the police force of the States provide security to the passengers. Protection should be given to both Railways and passengers. Therefore the bill, which the hon'ble Minister has brought is a very good steps and I would like to congratulate him for this. Today the number of express trains has also increased. I would like to congratulate hon'ble Minister for this also. My submission is that there is a backlog of SCs and STs in RPF which should be cleared while recruitment is made in the railways. A large number of incidents of theft occur in Surat – Bhusawal area of Gujarat, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh which is adjoining to my area. My request is that this problem of theft should be checked in these tribal areas.

16.09 hrs.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Launching of Military Action against Indian Insurgent Groups by Royal Government of Bhutan

[English]

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, we have been informed by the Royal Government of Bhutan that they have launched today military action against Indian insurgent groups operating from camps in that country. Sir, Government of India strongly support this action of the Royal Government of Bhutan.

His Majesty the King of Bhutan had telephonically informed the Prime Minister of the impending action on Friday, 13th December.

The Prime Minister has conveyed to His Majesty the King that the Government and people of India stand firmly and solidly behind the Royal Government of Bhutan at this critical juncture and would provide all necessary support as requested, till the task is completed.

The Indian Army is also taking necessary measures to intercept movement of militants from Bhutan into India.

[Shri Yashwant Sinha]

The Government of India has advised the State Government of Assam and West Bengal to remain alert to deal with the situation arising out of this action, including sealing the borders and maintaining peace.

The Royal Government of Bhutan has always assured the Government of India that it will not allow its territory to be used for activities inimical to India's interest. The launch of operations against Indian insurgent groups in Bhutan has struck a blow against terrorism and terrorist activities in our entire region.

The action against Indian insurgent groups in Bhutan would prevent further loss of innocent lives by the mindless acts of violence perpetrated by these terrorists. It will promote peace, stability and security in the region and further cement the strong friendship and cooperation between India and Bhutan.

16.11 hrs.

RAILWAYS (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2003
RAILWAYS (SECOND AMENDMENT) BILL, 2003
RAILWAY PROTECTION FORCE (AMENDMENT)
BILL, 2003

AND

RESOLUTION RE: APPROVAL OF
RECOMMENDATIONS IN THE EIGHTH REPORT
OF RAILWAY CONVENTION COMMITTEE—*contd.*

[English]

DR. V. SAROJA (Rasipuram) : Hon. Chairman, Sir, I thank you very much for giving me this opportunity. I rise here to support all the three Bills.

I appreciate the concern of the Ministry of Railways. The aim of the Bills is appreciable, but the question of implementation is always a problem.

Sir, I would like to give two suggestions to the Ministry. When the passengers are travelling, be it in reserved coaches or in unreserved coaches or even in the AC

coaches, the belongings of the passengers are not properly taken care of. May I suggest that there may be a separate room in every compartment? The existing officials may be asked to lend one or two helping hands. The belongings of the passengers may be kept there in a separate room. Fees may be collected then and there. If this is done, the passengers will have a peaceful night.

In this context, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister that there are 70,000 Railway Protection Force personnel. So, the manpower is there, but still the alertness is not there. The proposed outcome is not there. My personal experience is that I lost my brief case about three years back between Arakkonam and Central Station. I registered the case immediately with the Railway Protection Force. I am yet to collect that bag. I would like to know this from the hon. Minister. If this is the case, how do you expect us to support them? We are paying for all the 70,000 employees from the taxes of the common man. We are paying the Government officials from our taxes but they fail to discharge their duties to the satisfaction of the common people.

Secondly, there should be a Women Wing in the Railway Protection Force because most of the complaints relating to the women are not being properly registered and investigated. They are not able to get justice within a short time or in due time. I would urge upon the hon. Minister to have a Women Wing in the Railway Protection Force. Whenever and wherever the Railway Zone or the Division feels like sending them, they can be deputed. There may be security services, especially in the ladies' compartment during the night time.

Coming to my constituency, there is undue delay in the Salem-Karur new railway line. Of course, there is a problem in acquisition of the land. Time and again, I am insisting on that. At the time of proposal of the line, when the survey is being done, the Ministry is not taking into confidence the State Government and the Revenue Department. Before the proposal is finalised, a proper survey should be there.

They have to start taking up these schemes only after acquiring land. Otherwise, the money that is already spent

would be locked up, it would not bear fruit and there would be undue delay. They are supposed to complete this project within three years as Shri Nitish Kumar had said during the inauguration at Cuddalore. I think, the Government should have an alternative line. I request the hon. Minister to at least speed up that line.

I would also request the hon. Minister of State in the Ministry of Railways to fix up a date to come to Attur to inaugurate the Salem-Attur gauge conversion project so that the long pending demand of the people of my constituency is satisfied.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj) : Sir, I would not like to take the time of the House by participating in the debate but I would only make two or three suggestions to the hon. Minister.

First of all, I thank him specially for bringing the Railway Protection Force (Amendment) Bill, which is a long-pending demand cutting across party lines in the country and also in the Standing Committee.

I have seen, on my own, several times and I have reported in Parliament through the debates the kind of sufferings of women passengers and the harassment of women passengers in ordinary stations as well as junction stations, especially in the late night trains. They are really helpless. I do not know whether there is a provision in the RPF but they must recruit girls in the Railway Protection Force. The women CRP have proved their worth defending Parliament and laying down life. So, a women battalion of the RPF should be there compulsorily so that they take care of women during working hours in the suburban services in places like Mumbai and in trains that have late night arrivals and departures. This has to be done because incidents of harassment of women are reported widely in railway stations and in the vicinity of railway stations which are not at all attended to. Besides cases of chain-snatching, there are also cases of abduction, rape and molestation. When the lights go off in the station, there is a nightmare among women. In 1987, I have witnessed one such incident in Howrah station. The hon. Minister must understand that a male passenger can just shout and run away but a women cannot do anything except scream.

Therefore, special care has to be taken of these passengers by adding a new battalion of women in the Railway Protection Force.

I am sorry to say that unless you change the pattern of training and existing training methods of the RPF, they would not be able to do justice or fulfil the objectives, as their training methods are not up to the mark. The superiors who control them are very senior IPS officers. The training methods of the RPF is not even like the training methods of the Armed Constabularies of States. So, their training methods require to be changed and this is my second suggestion.

Coming to my third suggestion, every year, there are many *jawans* who are getting demobbed. Most of them are physically fit. So, why do we not have a reservation for them? It could be two per cent, five per cent or even ten per cent, as the Ministry would decide. They could be encouraged to join the RPF to strengthen the morale of the Force. The Government would also need to give the RPF personnel training on the law of the land and the process of prosecution. I talked to some of the RPF personnel who are of the rank of Havaldar when the Bill was brought in. Their approach to prosecution and their approach to filing cases and taking things in proper perspective are not at all up to the mark because they lack motivation and tuning.

So, therefore, unless it is dealt properly by competent people, your whole objective will be frustrated.

These are my three suggestions. I will again request the hon. Minister of Railways about the junction stations, vulnerable spots, the most helpless women of this country, their main modus of operation in the business activities, etc. All other things are linked with the Railways. The women are harassed very much, even those who sell vegetables are looted and nobody can do anything. Even when they complain to police, they ask money from them even to register a complaint. That is the condition.

Therefore, women personnel in RPF, at least, in every important station, are required to take care of the problems of the women. I hope the hon. Minister will consider this point.

[Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi]

These are my three suggestions.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Basu Deb Acharia. Please be brief.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : Sir, when you called my name I was not present in the House. I was attending an important meeting. I did not expect that all these three Bills would be clubbed and discussed together because the purpose of Railways (Amendment) Bill is quite different from the Railway Protection Force (Amendment) Bill.

The Railways Protection Act was passed in 1957. Then, subsequently, there had been amendments and again when the Indian Railways Act was enacted, then certain provisions were incorporated which were not there of earlier Act of 1898. When this proposal was debated here in this House, I introduced one Private Member's Bill which was debated for several hours. The main purpose of my introduction of that Bill was to restore the recognition to RPF Association. This point was also raised that the power, which is there with the RPF Force, even after the amendment, after converting them to Arme Force of the Indian Union, certain powers are lacking. As a result, the security of the passenger is not being properly looked into.

Now a days, the security of the travelling passenger has been deteriorated. Two months back I sent one letter to the hon. Minister when some students, including the girl students. of City College of Kolkata were travelling in Bagh Express. The train was detained for two hours and all the 16 boys and girls were looted and beaten up. I have not received any reply from him. Nobody came forward; even RPF personnel did not come forward to protect these students of City College of Kolkata. This happened in the month of October. They were returning from Nainital. This is my apprehension and this apprehension was also expressed by some of the representatives of the State Governments. I have gone through the Report of the Standing Committee and find that nowhere in the Standing Committee the evidence from the State Government was

taken. This was sent to all the State Governments and most of the State Governments have also submitted their memorandums also. I have also sent the memorandum sent by the Government of West Bengal.

Their apprehension is that the law and order is a State subject. Hon. Railway Ministry may clarify when he replies to the debate whether this amendment will encroach upon the domain of the State Government or not. We all support to give more power to protect the passengers. The main concern is the travelling passenger, but by giving more power, whether in future, there will be a clash, interruption and interference in each other's work. That has to be clarified.

I have gone through the Report. In the Report, the Standing Committee have stated that they impressed upon the Ministry of Railways to ensure proper safeguards so that powers proposed to be conferred upon the Railway Protection Force are not misused in any manner. I want to know whether such safeguards have been provided. The Bill was referred to the Standing Committee and the Standing Committee scrutinised it. The Standing Committee have also unanimously recommended and suggested to have come safeguards in the Bill. I do not find anywhere, after submission of the Report, that any such safeguard has been provided in any provision of the Bill, which is now being brought before us. That should be taken care of. The Standing Committee Report also says :

"The Committee also emphasise that the Ministry of Railways, through administrative instructions/regulation, must ensure that the powers to arrest and investigate and prosecute be entrusted to an officer not below the rank of Assistant Sub-Inspector."

I want to know whether this recommendation has been incorporated in the proposed Railway Protection Force Bill. That should also be provided.

Sir, in regard to the Indian Railways (Amendment) Bill where the penalty, which was enhanced in 1989 to a minimum of Rs. 50, is now being proposed to be increased to Rs. 250 as a deterrent measure. When this penalty is being enhanced, we will have to see that proper checking is also

done. I can cite one example. Railway ticket checking staff were taken to a station in Madhupur in Jharkhand State. The Senior Divisional Commercial Manager had taken them there. This staff was beaten in the presence of Railway Protection Force and left. So, they left the place. With special force, they had gone there for special ticket checking. Then, they were sent by another train and admitted in the hospital. Such things are happening when they try to increase earning of the Railways from passenger traffic because the earning of the passenger traffic is subsidised by earning from freight traffic. The main earning is from the freight traffic. To increase the earning through passenger traffic, certain measures are required to be taken.

Some innovative measures are to be taken like scheduling of the timings of the trains, etc. Sir, the amenities for the passengers are to be given priority. All these things should be taken care of.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Basu Deb Acharia, please conclude your speech.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : So, I hope that the Railway Minister will reply and will clarify all these things. By only enacting an Act, the security and safety of the passengers cannot be guaranteed unless a positive approach is there. This could be done through coordination between the Central Government and the State Government. You should also see to it that the powers of the State Government are not encroached by amending the existing RPF Act.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Basu Deb Acharia, please take your seat.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Ramesh Chennithalaji, doubts should be removed only.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (Mavelikara) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of hon'ble Minister towards only one issue that there is an acute shortage of staff in RPF. Wherever there is RPF, there the number of staff is very less. I had drawn the attention of hon'ble Minister towards this at the time of budget discussion also and in my speech on supplementary budget, I emphasised that if the Government want to

deploy the Railway Protection Force in a proper manner and want to make it more efficient then there is an urgent need to appoint more and more personnel in the force. I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister as to what action the Government are taking to ensure appointment to more and more personnel in the force and to make it more efficient?

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Ramesh Chennithala, please take your seat.

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA (Gopalganj) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I welcome this Bill but at the same time I would like to request the hon'ble Minister that more and more powers should be provided to the RPF so that responsibility could be shared equally between RPF and GRP. Constitution amendment, if required, should also be made for this purpose.

Sir, the hon'ble Minister hails from Bihar. He has introduced many trains for Bihar. Bihar is stretched to many remote areas. He has introduced many new trains like August Kranti and Vaishali Express in Bihar. I would like to tell him that vegetables and fruits are grown in large quantities in these areas but due to lack of rail transport facility for their produce they are not getting benefit of this facility. Hence I request the hon'ble Minister to provide air-conditioned containers in the trains coming from remotest areas of Bihar so that vegetables grown there could easily be transported to Delhi. For instance, I would like to submit that, in Sihur, 'Parval' is sold at Rs. 5/- per kg and in Patna, it is sold at Rs. 10 or Rs. 11/- per kg but in Delhi it is being sold between Rs. 20/- and Rs. 25/- per kg. If air conditioned containers are provided in the trains coming from Bihar then the vegetables grown there could easily be transported to Delhi and other cities. This will benefit the fruit and vegetable growers.

Sir, there are large number of people belonging to Bihar living in Mumbai but there is no provision of catering in the trains coming from Mumbai as a result of which the passengers have to face a lot of difficulties. I, therefore,

[Shri Raghunath Jha]

urge upon the Railway Minister to provide catering facilities in the trains coming from Mumbai to Delhi or Bihar.

[English]

DR. M.V.V.S. MURTHI (Visakhapatnam) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I will not take much time. I would like to make only two points. The Railway Protection Force is being given more powers. It is a welcome sign, but all the while the Railway Protection Force are limited to certain offences and certain goods only. But by giving these extra powers they would be able to check the crime more effectively and also bring them to book, and they can themselves produce the criminals before the Magistrate.

But, while appreciating this, there are also problems in certain stations. They say that the Railway Protection Force could not do much in the law and order problem like somebody coming from outside and taking away the goods, etc. In this regard, there is a need to increase the protection force so that the trains could be run on time and delays could be checked. Now, a lot of inordinate delays are occurring. By doing so, the Railways are also losing money. I am saying this because delay is money. So, that it should be checked. Delays are a very important aspect that could be checked by the Railway Protection Force, and also the offences. I thank the hon. Minister for the amendment to the Act.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Mohan Rawale. I am not allowing any speech. You can only ask one clarification.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE (Mumbai South Central) : Sir, I support the submission made by Murty ji that crime should be checked. . . .(Interruptions)

Sir, four Marathi people in Manmad were thrown out of 'Pawan Express' train coming from Bihar. And when we asked for accountability, it was said that they committed suicide. What is the truth? This incident took place after the movement for giving preferene to Marathi people was launched here. . . .(Interruptions)

Sir, it is a very serious incident and the railways are not giving any information in this regard. Were they mentally unsound that they committed suicide? This should be investigated. Sir, through you, I would request the hon. Minister to hold enquiry into this matter. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Hon. Minister has noted it.

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : How were they killed? . . .(Interruptions) They were thrown. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV (Purnea) : Mr. Chairman Sir, thanks a lot. I would ask only three questions. I request the hon. Minister to disband the GRPF. It is good that the hon. Minister is giving powers to the RPF, but the question is that how many new vacancies would be created after the disbandment of the GRPF and whether there is any provision to strengthen the RPF and to deploy more force. Secondly a penalty of Rs. 250/- is being imposed in this regard, who will check it? People get down at any station, no T.T.E. is there, penalty is being increased but whether the penalty recovered would strengthen our revenue. Third point is that there have been altercations between the force personnel and the people. Recently firing took place in Patna injuring and killing some people. . . .(Interruptions) A dalit girl was raped in Hajipur. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : You have put your basic point.

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : Sir, there has been mention of rapes that too by the force personnel viz., RPF and the army itself. . . .(Interruptions) The Chain of incidents occurring with the common people. . . .(Interruptions) My only request is that whether any provision is being made so that the common people are not exploited by the force.

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, first of all, I would like to thank all those 19 hon. Members who have participated in the debate held on the said Bills.

Sir, the prime objective of the Railway Amendment Bill, as has been clarified initially is to comply with the declaration made in the Railway Budget in 1999 The

penalty is proving effective and in between even fare has been revised many a times. In view of all this it has been decided to fix the penalty at Rs. 250 and the said Amendmet Bill has been brought to fulfil the some motive. So many facts have been revealed in this regard. All are aware that provision for this has been given in section 137 and 138 of the Railway Act. Provision are there for those travelling without ticket and also in section 138 for unauthorised travellers. Railway employees have been given powers as to what is to be done under such circumstances. The excess charge taken from the persons is equal to the amount of fare charged, or Rs. 50 whichever is more, that means that one has to pay not only the ticket amount if one is travelling without ticket, but also extra amount equivalent to ticket amount, or Rs. 50 whichever is more, is charged from him and those who fail to make the payment are presented before the Magistrate for excess charge and can either be punished or penalised – these are the provisions. Similarly Section 138 deals with those who travel unauthorised or they travel in a higher class coach they are not entitled to, or have ticket from Delhi to Patna but travelling till Katihar. Provisions are being made in respect to both of them. The amount of penalty may be raised from Rs. 50 to Rs. 250 and this would work as deterrent. It is a continuous process. Just now hon. Member Shri Rajesh Ranjan alias Pappu Yadav, while summing up, had said that already there is a mechanism for this in our Law, checkings are conducted and people are caught. If the figures are taken into account some of which have been mentioned by hon. Shri Raghuvansh Prasad Singh ji, it would become clear that every year people have been caught without ticket or with irregular ticket and this number is on the increase. There were 111 lakh people in 1998-99, then it increased to 118 lakh and then the number reached 130 lakh, in 2001-2002, the number was 142 lakh and in 2002-2003, it was 149 lakh and the latest figure till September is that 77 lakh people have been caught within 6 months. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : The number of persons travelling without ticket should decrease but is increasing.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : That is why we are making more deterrent punishment, and more and more people

are being apprehended 77.89 lakh people were apprehended this year till September fine is charged. Infact action is taken in many ways but this ticketless travelling is really a kind of disease. But it is not logical to say that ticketless travelling has been completely checked as said by my hon. Colleague Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh. He should have told that the number is decreasing in Bihar people are travelling with ticket, there are evidences. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : People travel on the roof of the train.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Why is he pulling the Chain every now and then. There is a provision for this too in Section 141.

MR. CHAIRMAN : It is not in the House. It is there in the Railways.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Sir, you are preventing the train from running as you immediately pull the Chain.

MR. CHAIRMAN : This rules does not apply in the House. The House runs as per the rules of procedure in the House.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Thats alright, but I mentioned it as discussion is taking place on the Railway Act. Sir, here, the House is to be conducted by you, as protection should be given to the railway passengers, we should be given protection here by the Chair.

Action is taken. But it would be deterrent if a penalty of Rs. 250 is imposed instead of Rs. 50 many people board the train out of fun under the impression that they shall have to pay just rupees 50, if caught. Now they would not travel in train once they come to know about the penalty of Rs. 250. Yes, there is difference between hypocrisy and innocence. One situation is that the train is about to leave and person is standing in queue to get ticket, under such circumstances there is provision that the person concerned can inform the guard and board the train. But the person would be penalised if he does not inform the guard. If he has mentioned about a specific case sent to me in writing I would see into it. It is not that the Railway employees

[Shri Nitish Kumar]

do not commit mistake, they do and there is provision for taking action against them once they are found guilty. And if we get information about some specific date and time, we shall get it properly investigated and take action. You have stated rightly that there are different kinds of passengers, several passengers travel without ticket with the collusion of employees. It is also a kind of corruption and the action in this regard is taken but the Railway Vigilance looks after this. Vigilance squad keep on visiting and checking out whether or not the railway employees are doing their duty diligently. Railway Vigilance is meant for them. Railway Vigilance also take action. However as Raghuvansh Prasad mentioned a specific instance in that some persons boarded the first class compartment of a specific train at Kanpur. He has said this also that he would only mention about the day in the House. I would seek further information from him about the incident and he would provide the information. . . .(Interruptions)

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali) : I have sent the letter.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : He did a very good job in sending the letter. Cognizance would be taken of the letter and when he is an eyewitness to the incident and has mentioned in the House, it would be properly looked into and immediate action in this regard will be taken. It would be wrong for a Railway Minister that such incidents are not taking place at all. Such incidents do take place and the personnel of Railway Vigilance nab the guilty persons at various places and the action is taken against the guilty persons. However the purpose of law is to check the ticketless travelling i.e. to work as a deterrent by taking the stringent measure. This provision has been made to check the ticketless travel which has been mentioned generally.

Secondly, RPF amendment Act and Railway Second Amendment Bill have been brought under which RPF has been empowered to take initiate prosecutionary and investigative powers in regard to some of the offences mentioned under Railway Act, Though there is already a

provision that any railway employees can nab the offender and hand over to the police and the RPF personnel also have this power but now RPF has been empowered to arrest the offender and hand over to GRP. Now, through this amendment, RPF has been empowered to arrest and prosecute the offenders in regard to some offences mentioned in the Railway Act.

Various offences have been mentioned under the Railway Act. Other offences fall under the IPC. The offences mentioned under the Railway Act are directly related to Railways. Now the hon. Member Shrimati V. Saroja has mentioned that her attache case was stolen while travelling in train. Even though the amendment Bill is passed, the case of stolen goods of railway passengers would be looked into by GRP as it comes under IPC. This amendment Bill should not lead one to think that RPF is being empowered to hand over the entire responsibility of railway security to RPF. It can not be done because there is the constitution according to which the governance in the country is being carried. The Centre as well as the States both have their responsibility. The law and order is a State subject and police would always remain under States.

Hon. Shri Basu Deb Acharia is such a well informed Member. Who can encroach on the rights of a sector in federal set up. There is a constitutional provision for it. How can one be successful in encroaching on the State's rights? Railway network is spread throughout the country. It is not possible to make this network successful without the co-operation of the States. RPF is an organised armed force under the Union Government entrusted with the task of protecting the railway property. Through enacting RPUP Act, it is being empowered to launch prosecution against the guilty persons. It already has the power to prosecute persons found in possession of railway's property. RPF assist the GRP in other matters. . . .(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am sorry to intervene. I rise to make a submission that three more legislative business are enlisted after the reply by the hon.

Minister. Thereafter, the discussion under rule 193 is to follow which has been pending for many days. I have been told that 16 Members have yet to speak. I would like to request you to take up these three Legislative business later on Nitishji is present here and the subject is concerned to him also. It is requested that the discussion under Rule 193 be taken after the hon. Minister furnishes his reply. The discussion would be completed today so that the Speakers whose turn is due could get an opportunity to speak today. Remaining Legislative business could be taken up later on.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Does the House agree on it?

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Sir, we agree.

[Translation]

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS : Yes, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The House agree on it. The discussion under the rule 193 will be taken after this.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : RPF is not short of strength. It has 70 thousand personnel. It has confined work to do. It is being observed that GRF is not able to live upto the responsibility thrust on it. The image of Railways is getting tarnished. RPF is being entrusted with the job of ensuring the safety of passengers and the passengers area besides the additional task of a protecting the railway property. In this regard RPF is being empowered to investigate and prosecute into some of the offences mentioned under the Railway Act. Standing Committee considered over it and supported this move. The Committee also suggested that no officer below the rank of ASI be involved in the investigative or prosecutory work. We have accepted this suggestion and we would ensure by issuing instruction in this regard that no officer below the rank of ASI does not work in it and this suggestion has been accepted and fully supported by all. I would like to dispel this misconception that vesting in more powers to RPF does not include the powers to investigate and prosecute into serious offences like the rape in train, sabotage or train breakage etc. Basu Deb Acharia frequently raise the question as to what RPF

had been doing or can do. RPF is an armed force and has right to act in self defence under special circumstances but only the State police has a right to intervene in those situations. What actually happens in that GRP is considered a part of Railway police and is assumed as being accountable to Ministry of Railways. However its administrative control is not with us and nor it can be so. GRP is controlled by State. People refer about their letters and fate thereof. These letters are forwarded to the State police. What can be done by us in that regard?

It is their job to address the grievances. Train pass through various States and if any incident takes place, what can be done by the Railways. If any untoward incident takes place in train and security of the passengers is thwarted, Railways gets the blame. When a Railway passenger is referring in any way, it tantamounts to the suffering of Railways. Police investigate into the matters properly. Earlier they used to catch the offenders and hand over to them. This amendment would provide them some rights. He has stated that it would empower them to nab the touts at railway stations. Earlier if a person found indulged in touting and irregularities at stations, was normally handed over to GRP. Their power was limited to this extent only. It has been observed that sometime RPF personnel too want to take stringent action against the touts but they are harassed on the pretext that this does not come under their jurisdiction and touts get benefit of it. Such minor offences tarnish the image of Railways. Touting is prevailing. GRP is responsible to check the touting but it is not paying any heed to it. RPF is a mute spectator. It only catches the touts and hand over them to GRP. It has been observed that sometimes they get free also. RPF is being made responsible for looking after the crimes mentioned under Railways Act. They will catch such criminals and will take action against them. RPF will also take action against the ticketless travellers. The security of passengers and passenger area is also coming under it. Passenger is defined as a person who uses valid passes or purchases tickets to travel in trains. He can enter station, Yard, train and passenger area. RPF was unable to do scouting suo-motto. Now when the security of passenger area comes under it, they would be able to do scouting of trains. Assigning of such work to RPF would lessen the

[Shrimati Sushma Swaraj]

burden of GRP. We have the force with the help of which scouting can be done. RPF will do it and GRP will be free from this burden. GRP will check the crimes of serious nature. It will try to catch the saboteurs, dacoits, looters, attachy lifters, chain snatchers, Pic-pocketiers etc. RPF will look after the works related to station area. GRP is accountable for checking the heinous crimes. It would be having sufficient strength for it. They would be able to handle this work. There are some apprehensions that empowering RPF means that it will enjoy all the powers and secondly that it may create clash between RPF and GRP. However, it is not like this because GRP will look after all the crimes mentioned under IPC. Alongwith it, GRP will also look after the sabotage and train breakage related crimes mentioned under section 150, 151 and 152 of Railway Act. Besides, there are four other crimes which comes under the jurisdiction of GRP. GRP will also look into the matters regarding false statement or false reporting done by a railway employee or by a customer dealing with Railways. It means all the remaining crimes mentioned in Railway Act will be handled by RPF. Hence RPF will keep on eye on the bad elements at station area and will catch them. Now while travelling in train they will continue to catch the offenders but now after this amendment they will hand over them to Police officer alongwith a registered report. Earlier no report used to be registered. Please try to understand the difference between the two. Now if they will hand over a person involved in dacoity, they will submit a detailed report regarding the dacoity and the involvement of the person held for dacoity. Earlier it was not necessary to register the report. But now the report will be registered and further investigations would take place on its lines. Hence providing these powers to RPF is a positive step from the safety point of view of passengers and RPF strength would be utilised for this purpose. Now the point is that they should be strengthened more. . . .

(Interruptions)

[English]

Please let me complete. I am on a different point. You can ask your question-later on. I will respond to it. Please let me first conclude.

[Translation]

There are three points in this regard. One is that RPF should be strengthened. They are being empowered with the responsibility of investigation and prosecution with regard to some offences mentioned under RPUP Act. It is not that suddenly they are burdened with this responsibility rather they are already doing this work under some Act. They have some experience in this regard but still all arrangements are being made for their training. In this way they would be able to interact more with the people. Till now they were protecting the property of the passengers but now they will extend protection to them also. This will make their rapport with the people. Therefore, a proper training should be given to them. And we have already given directions to take steps in this regard. They will be required to take action against the offenders involved in various crimes and for this purpose they will have to be fully equipped. Arrangements will have to be made to provide them vehicles etc. it is a continuous process. Efforts would continue to be made to provide them modern weapons but our main intention is to utilize the strength of RPF. GRP's burden would be lessened and there would be a coordination between the two. GRP will check the heinous crime and minor offences will be checked by RPF. Now RPF would be able to deliver results. The objective is to utilize such a big force.

I would like to assure that it would not create any confrontation between the two rather a confrontation often takes place at present. This amendment has defined the role of both the forces. Both of them have a different role to play. Now RPF will remain present at station and it has some legal powers to use. Earlier it was only a show piece. They used to nab the offenders and hand over to GRP. However, from now onwards they will have to take action against them.

He has mentioned about passenger trains. I have received complaints, and not only the complaints but so far as I remember a T.V. channel "Aaj ki Baat" had shown a scene of a Delhi Railway Station in which some people in Police uniform were taking bribe from the passengers to get into the train. Such a scene was shown. The hon'ble

Member of the House Shri Sharad Pawar ji also seen it and immediately called me. I immediately contacted railway officers, got the cassette and shown it to them and then they contacted the Police. Now RPF will regulate all these activities at station. Till now GRP was saying that they were not having administrative control. Now RPF is being empowered with these powers and if it involves in some irregularities, then action can be taken against it due to administrative control over them. Action can be taken against them if they harass the people. One of the Members stated that poor people are being looted in trains when they return from their work place. They are being harassed in one way or other. How they can be protected? Several measures are taken in this regard. Now train escorting would be done and RPF would be responsible for arresting the ticketless travellers etc. when RPF would be responsible for doing all these works and if any irregularities are seen, then RPF would be accountable for it. It will improve the image of Railways and safety of passengers.

17.00 hrs.

I hope the Act which has been framed with a limited objective would be successful. Instructions would be issued in this regard and all the concerns expressed here would be taken care of. . . .(Interruptions) The officers below the rank of A.S.I. would not be engaged for it. Standing Committee has recommended it and we have accepted.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAMSUNSI : There should be provision for Lady RPF also.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : It is already there. Hon'ble Members from Maharashtra are aware that a joint squad of Lady RPF with T.T.E. at Central and Western Railways has been constituted. It has played a major role. Male passengers used to board into the female coaches. It has helped in preventing this practice. They have already taken steps in this regard and now with the help of these powers, they can accomplish this task in a better way as they are being empowered with legal powers. There are provisions in it to deal with women and for this purpose lady constables are there.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA (Canara) : Who will give protection to Lady T.T.E.?

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : I could not understand what you have said.

MR. CHAIRMAN : She is asking about protection of lady T.T.E. in Railways.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Please state about the strength of RPF.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : At present RPF have sufficient strength. Efforts are being made to fill up the vacancies if any. Vacancies are being filled up in Eastern-Railway also.

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : I had raised a matter.

MR. CHAIRMAN : That was not related to it.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNINTHALA (Mavelikara) : The strength of RPF in Southern Railway is not sufficient, action should be taken in this regard.

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Four Marathi boys were thrown out of the train. They have died. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : He is mentioning about an incident. I can give him information if he explains the incident in details.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You may give in writing to hon'ble Minister.

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Four boys have died. DRM has stated that they had committed suicide. Please reply to it.

MR. CHAIRMAN : It is a specific incident. You may give it in writing to hon'ble Minister.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : There is no use of raising name of a particular religion or area.

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Our people have died and were thrown out of train and DRM is stating that they have committed suicide.

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RAJAN DASMUNSI : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I appeal, through you, to the House that whenever any incident occurs, which is related to any religion, or province or caste, we should bring that incident to the notice of the hon. Minister and request him to inquire into that incident. But we should not express our emotion and anger in this manner because that creates another kind of problem.
... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Mohan Rawale, you may give it in writing to hon'ble Minister. He himself has sated so.

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : I want to reply as to who is responsible for it. DRM has openly given his statement. I would like to know as to whether those boys were travelling without tickets? It is not so. Four people have died, they were thrown out of the train.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Hon'ble Railway Minister has stated that you may inform him. He will get this incident investigated.

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : He is aware of it. Out Four people were killed in Pawan Express.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Please inform me about the time and place of the incident. I will get the matter investigated and accordingly inform the hon'ble Member.

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Railway Ministry is aware of it. Four passengers were killed. Railway Ministry is saying that they have committed suicide.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : It should be investigated.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Hon'ble Minister has stated that the matter would be got investigated. You may please inform him about the time and place of the incident.

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : He knows about it. I do not want to ensue arguments.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You may meet him separately and narrate him the entire story. Now please take your seat.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am not aware of the incident personally. I will furnish all the information to him if he provides the details of the incident.

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : It should be investigated.
... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : You please sit down now. Hon'ble Minister has stated that he is not aware of it, therefore, you may please give him the details of the incident.

SHRI PRAKASH PARANJPE (Thane) : Four persons have died and hon'ble Minister is not aware of it. He is saying that he does not know about it. Did the officers under him not informed him? . . . (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Nothing will go on record.

(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAKASH PARANJPE : Will he come to know about it only when we inform him. . . . (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please take your seats.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : You do not want to hear the hon'ble Minister.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Nothing will go on record except what the hon. Minister says.

(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Prakash ji, this is not appropriate. This should not happen. Hon. Minister is replying. Please

*Not Recorded.

take your seat. Hon. Minister is asking you to give in writing. He would investigate into it.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : We would be able to inquire from the Railway officers only if he tells the entire facts.

SHRI PRAKASH PARANJPE : Is it that he would hold enquiry only when we tell them facts. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : All these things have been recorded. Now what do you want? Hon. Minister would find out the solution or you yourself want to do this? House shall not run like this. You cannot put pressure on the Minister.

(Interruptions)

SHRI PRAKASH PARANJPE : Whether the Ministers would do anything, only when they are asked to do so. Four persons have died. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : He has still not told as to what happened, when did it happen and how it happened. I would have received some information had I been told about it. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI PRAKASH PARANJPE : This means that he does not know anything. We would ask for the accountability of the concerned officers if he is not informed about it. . . .(Interruptions) They do not inform. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Prakash ji, please tell. Mohan Rawale ji is an old Member here, what problem do you have in giving to the hon. Minister in writing?

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Please tell what was the centre and place where this incident occurred and what was the time?

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : I do not know the date but I now that it was 'Pawan Express' in which the incident took place.

SHRI PRAKASH PARANJPE : Whether he should not keep the records, or every time we have to inform him about each incident?. . .(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Mohan Rawale, please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : It is the responsibility of States to control crimes. If any incident has occurred in any train and the Ministry of Railways has any information about it, we would furnish it. . . .(Interruptions) Police would investigate if any crime has been committed. . . .(Interruptions) The Ministry can not conduct investigation. The culprits will have to be apprehended. . . .(Interruptions) States shall have to do this job. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : How would the things go if all speak at one time.

SHRI PRAKASH PARANJPE : We are demanding for investigation.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : This is not fair. Please take your seats.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : What investigation should I order to be conducted.

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : This case should be investigated. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Rawale ji, you are yourself spoiling your case. When the hon. Minister has acceded to conduct investigation then you have to give only the date of the incident. Hon. Minister has accepted your demand.

(Interruptions)

SHRI PRAKASH PARANJPE : Whether he would not conduct investigation if I do not tell the date. . . .(Interruptions) He would do so only when the MPs demand for that. Four persons have been killed in this incident. Shall he not investigate into it.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : We cannot conduct investigation immediately even if the incident has occurred. I cannot say anything unconstitutional. I have affirmed oath as Member for safeguarding the Constitution. And it is for the police of the State to conduct investigation if a crime has occurred there. I can seek the information as to what action they are taking and provide the same to the hon. Member. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Sir, it has been published in every newspaper of Maharashtra that suicides have been committed. Why should four people commit suicide when they are not without ticket. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Hon. Minister has told you that he would provide information in this regard. Matter would be referred to the concerned department and they would conduct investigation only if it is in their jurisdiction and if it is in the jurisdiction of State Government, the investigation would be conducted by them.

(Interruptions)

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Hon. Minister can get the information right now and furnish it. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Sir, he has not mentioned the date of incident. Had he mentioned it, we would have received information of this case. He is not telling about the date of incident.

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Incident has taken place in Manmad-Bhusawal area. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Hon. Minister, you please conclude your statement.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Sir, I am about to conclude. I wish to put just one point. Hon. Minister, Shri Adhir Chowdhary has just now talked about railway finance. We have also included the resolution of Railway Convention Committee. I wish to put that this year we had fixed the target of loading of 540 million tonnes, there is proportionate target, but we are going ahead of it. As per the progress made so far. I can say that we would exceed the target of 540 million tonnes. So far as income is

concerned, it is right that income has not been as per our expectations after exceeding the target and there are many reasons attached to it. One is the distance factor, classification of goods, all these things have to be taken into account. But if any lacunae is found, we shall see into it. Infact income in freight traffic is also getting lesser after the loading process being more than the target, and we are vis-à-vis curtailing our expenditure too. We are spending much less amount than the estimated expenditure. And if there has been decrease in income, then offset is also there as a result of decrease in expenditure. In this way financial condition is normal. After everything, so far as problem of railway finance is concerned, all are aware that it has arisen due to implementation of the recommendations of Fifth Pay Commission. Operating expenses have increased all of a sudden due to salary and pension. The Ministry has to give Rs. 6300 crore as pension. The situation arising as a result of fulfilling all these liabilities and implementing the recommendations of the Fifth Pay Commission, is now coming under control slowly and steadily. I would like to assure hon. Members that we are giving full dividend. We gave it last year also and are giving this year too. We would also give the dividend which was deferred in 2001 and 2002. The Railway Convention Committee has recommended for three years and now the Government have made it to nine years. We have started making the payment. Just a few minutes back, I mentioned the year 2001-02, we had raised loan of Rs. 249 crore in the year 2000-01. Long time period was given for the repayment, but we have already repaid the loan before time. We received this loan from the general exchequer. Besides, we are giving full dividend and have also started giving deferred dividend. We are improving and are reducing our expenditure and also finding ways to increase income. It seems that this would improve the condition of Railways. This improvement would be made with the co-operation of hon. Members and help of our Parliament. Besides, we are demanding for additional funds for other projects mentioned and making arrangements for projects besides these. We are making efforts to complete the pending projects as soon as possible. I have mentioned all this as some points were raised by hon. Members with regard to resolution.

With these words. I urge upon this august House to pass the concerned bill and resolution.

[English]

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY (Berhampore, West Bengal) : Sir, the dividend should be done away with on those assets which have outlived their utility.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That the Bill further to amend the Railways Act, 1989, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The House shall now take up clause by clause consideration of the Bill.

The question is :

"That clauses 2 and 3 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 and 3 were added to the Bill.

*Caluse 1, the Enacting Formula and the Long
Title were added to the Bill.*

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : I beg to move :

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That the Bill further to amend the Railways Act, 1989, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The House shall now take up clause by clause consideration of the Bill.

The question is :

"That clauses 2 to 5 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 to 5 were added to the Bill.

*Caluse 1, the Enacting Formula and the Long
Title were added to the Bill.*

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : I beg to move :

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That the Bill further to amend the Railway Protection Force Act, 1957, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The House shall now take up clause by clause consideration of the Bill.

The question is :

"That clauses 2 to 6 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 to 6 were added to the Bill.

*Caluse 1, the Enacting Formula and the Long
Title were added to the Bill.*

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : I beg to move :

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That this House approves the recommendations contained in Para 51 (with modification of three years' time limit to nine years) and in Paras 49, 50, 52, 53.

54, 55 and 56 of the Eighth Report of the Railway Convention Committee (1999) appointed to review the rate of dividend payable by the Railway Undertaking to General Revenues etc., which was presented to the Lok Sabha on 24.07.2003."

The motion was adopted.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now I am going to take up item No. 20 of the List of Business, Discussion under Rule 193.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE (Mumbai South Central) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, this incident occurred on 24th November at Manmad-Bhusawal line when five persons were hurled out from the running train. Out of them four persons died and only one, Shri Devendra, could survive. His cloths were torn. I would like to inform the hon. Minister that there was agitation in Mumbai on the issue of recruitment in Railway department. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : You, please tell the date to the Minister.

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Mr. Chairman, Sir, this incident occurred on 24th November and it was reported in paper on 29th of that month. When it was asked, regarding the hurling of five persons from the train, the DRM informed that that was a case of suicide. I want that inquiry should be held in this regard.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The hon'ble Minister in his reply has said about this.

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV (Parbhani) : But the order for inquiry in this regard should be given.

MR. CHAIRMAN : This information is in the notice of the hon'ble Minister.

(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI PRAKASH PARANJPE (Thane) : How can DRM consider it as suicide? Is there any family record? What investigation has he made? . . .(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : The hon'ble Minister has already told that you have given him information and he is aware of the fact.

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV : The inquiry should be held regarding the incident.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The hon'ble Minister has listened you and has informed you.

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV : Mr. Chairman, Sir, how did DRM declare that it is a case of suicide.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The hon'ble Minister has accepted it.

[English]

SHRI PRAKASH PARANJPEE : The Minister is protecting the DRM for his wrong report.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : The inquiry should be held regarding the incident of murder. Their cloths were torn. They were hurled out of the train.

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV : Atleast order of inquiry should be given.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I have already told you that order of inquiry will be given only if it comes under the jurisdiction of hon'ble Minister.

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV : We are demanding for the inquiry.

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : They were unemployed, they did not commit suicide.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Your entire statement has been recorded and it has come to the notice of the hon'ble Minister.

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Can it not be reported to DRM.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please do not behave like 'Zero Hour'.

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : 59 persons were killed in Assam.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Nothing shall go on record except what Shri Ram Vilas Paswan says.

(Interruptions)*

Shri Ram Vilas Paswan, now you speak.

17.24 hrs.

(At this stage Hon'ble Member Shri Mohan Rawale came and stood on the floor near the Table)

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : You are trivializing the seriousness of the subject matter. You are compelling me to speak from the Chair that you are trivializing the seriousness of the subject matter.

Hon'ble Minister has clarified that he takes this matter seriously. Despite that you are coming in the well.

[English]

17.24½ hrs.

(At this stage Shri Mohan Rawale went back to his seat)

17.25 hrs.

DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

Recent Incidents of violence in Assam and some other parts of the country due to Recruitment Policy of the Railway – Contd.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN (Hajipur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, today we are discussing the incidents of violence in Assam in which as per the official figure 40-50 persons have been reported killed, however, unofficially it is

*Not Recorded.

reported to me that hundreds of persons have been killed in this incident. Even today people are leaving the State. Yesterday or day before yesterday I was in Calcutta. Even now many people are coming to Calcutta from that State. The people are in the grip of terror and are afraid. The hon'ble Members have expressed their concerns in this regard. The hon'ble Speaker has also given ruling that no such thing should be debated in the House that may further deteriorate the situation there. So, I would like that whatever is being discussed should be in cordial environment however, I would not like to repeat whatever has been stated by the Law Minister of the State regarding the prevailing situation there.

Sir, Article 19(D) of the constitution states about the Fundamental Rights of the citizen. As per this articles every citizen has right to settle and do business in any part of the country. It has also been the culture of India that people have been moving from one part of the country to another parts to earn their livelihood. If one goes to Bihar he will find that large number of Rajasthanis, especially Marwardies are running business in all cities and towns of Bihar. There are people from Punjab also. Whenever Lok Sabha elections are held we find that there is no any discrimination towards them. From Acharya Kripalani to George Fernandes everyone go to Bihar and stay there. I would like to extend my thanks to the people of Bengal that there are lakhs of people from Bihar and are contributing in employment opportunities and are also earning their living. For last few years it has been notices that regionalism is being promoted. Though regionalism may for a time being give benefit to certain political parties or organisations but ultimately it will weaken the country. There are two types of element in the society-one who have faith in democracy and understand the main stream of the country. The second are those anti-social elements whom we call extremists. I would like to submit that mosquitoes always breed in dirty drains. If the drains are sanitised, the breeding of mosquitoes is stops.

The basic problem in our country is that of unemployment and the problem of unemployment should be addressed seriously. However, it also depend on what we politicians are doing. Shri Rawale ji who hails from

[Shri Ram Vilas Paswan]

Maharashtra is a good friend of mine. He is a open heated and though during discussion gets involved in altercation and also contradict the Minister of Railways however, he does not keep anything in heart. He is very gentle and straightforward man. He is also a labour leader however, sometimes odd happens. Such persons are present here. We have a long political career. He has to stay in active politics for atleast fifty years more.

17.30 hrs.

[SHRI P.H. PANDIAN *in the Chair*]

Sir, if one has to stay in politics for fifty years then one cannot go ahead with one section only. I understand that there is problem of underemployment among local people in Maharashtra. There is problem of unemployment in Assam and also in North East. However, it does not mean that if the people of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh go there, one may as a leader of political party starts demanding that only Marathi people have right to employment there. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE (Mumbai South Central) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, my name has been mentioned. So, it has become essential for me to speak. I would like to inform that the people from Gujarat, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra live in Maharashtra and Mumbai. It has been mentioned in Railway manual.

[English]

It has been written in the Railway Manual that priority should be given to the local people.

[Translation]

As far as struggle is concerned, we are fighting for group 'C' and 'D' jobs. It is not only our demand rather, it is also in railway manual which was formulated in 1959. Paswan ji you are like elder brother of mine. We are not making this demand for the entire country. We are making this demand only in Mumbai and Maharashtra that, as per the manual, priority should be given to the local people of Maharashtra and Mumbai for the recruitment in both the

groups. This should be implemented not only in Maharashtra rather it should be followed in other States also. Shri Basu Deb Acharia started this discussion. He told that the vacancy upto the DRM level should be filled up from the local level candidates. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Rawale ji, I have been the Minister of Railways. He has also worked with me. He knows all these things. I am telling different thing. I agree that priority should be given to local people in the recruitment of fourth class employees, however the slogan that he is giving is not appropriate. You also know that Mumbai is our commercial capital. You know this as well that there are two types of capitals in every country that is business capital and political capital. As for example in America New York is business capital and Washington is political capital. Similarly, in Canada Ottawa is political capital and Montreal is business capital. In the same way India has two capitals. One is New Delhi which is political capital and another is Mumbai which is commercial capital which is also called mini India. This is its beauty. The day one its beauty is destroyed Mumbai will loss its existence.

Sir, today it is on account of such situation in Maharashtra that on one intends to set up industry there. The Film industry has started setting up its studios in NOIDA. The people from there are migrating to Karnataka because they know that Karnataka is peaceful place. There is peaceful environment there. One is national interest and the other is party interest. The third one is personal interest. When party and personal interest surpass the national interest, it becomes unfrotunate for the nation, party and the people. Rawale ji, I have mentioned your name because you are a rational person. You are sensible. It is not fruitful to mention about those persons who are not present here as they cannot come here and give reply. This thing is not related to Maharashtra only.

Sir, yesterday I was in Dhanbad, BJP Government is in power there. NDA Government headed by BJP is in power in the Centre. On the one hand the Government demand that Article 370 should be abolished and everyone should be permitted to purchase land there as every Indian has right to do business there. However, I

would like to know from the Chinmayanand Swami ji as to why on the other hand they intend to impose Article 370 in Jharkhand. Jharkhand was bifurcated on 15th November 2000. How and why was it bifurcated is a matter of history however, the simple rule is that prior to 15th November 2000 when Jharkhand was the part of Bihar we were domicile of the same State. When the State was bifurcated on 15th November 2000, the people who migrated to Jharkhand from Bihar should not be treated as the original resident of Jharkhand however, rule was formulated that only those who have been residents of Jharkhand for 72 years will be treated as original resident of that State.

Only those would be considered natives of Jharkhand who came there before 1932 and whose names figure in revenue records. Their party may not be contesting elections there, but people there are clearly divided in tribals and non-tribals. Those armed with bows and arrows are raising slogans to drive the Biharis out. The quarrel is between tribals and non-tribals and Jharkhandis and non-Jharkhandis. What is this? . . .(Interruptions) Same thing is happening in Uttaranchal also. That is why I asked, why such things are taking place? There is a nationalist party and they can help formulate a law stipulating that all the people living in the State on the date of creation of that State would be considered the inhabitants of that State while those going away would be considered inhabitants of the State where they have moved. Such tendencies are not good for the country.

Sir, hon'ble Minister would reply to my statement about railways. Earlier the rule was not there, it has been laid down as per the direction of Supreme Court or due to some other reason. Hon'ble Minister has assured us that it would be amended again and locals would be preferred for the appointments made at the level of DRMs. That would be the most appropriate thing in my opinion. At the DRM level, there are generally 20000 appointments. So far as the recruitment of gangmen is concerned, for 20000 posts there are 70 lakh applicants. Such is the position. Unemployment will ruin the country. Unemployment will pose a threat to the democracy in the country. No one is interested in raising the issue of unemployment because

Congress party fears that if they raise the issue, people are bound to ask them as to how many were provided unemployment in their regime. BJP is also not interested in raising the issue as they would also be asked about the outcome of their promise of giving employment to one crore every year. However unemployment is the real problem and that is why locals are dissatisfied as they think that their dues are being appropriated by outsiders. That is why, as I heard, Shri Nitish Kumar ji was saying that the earlier recruitment rule would be made effective. In my opinion, that is appropriate.

Sir, how many recruitments are made by the DRM and by the Zonal offices. DRMs usually constitute a recruitment board for class IV posts and they appoint gangmen as per their requirement. This tension against outsiders has become a trend. I have received a telegram from Tripura that Biharis students living in hostels are being threatened. They are being threatened to leave the State. It is going on all over the country. In my opinion, this is a very dangerous trend. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY (Berhampore, West Bengal) : Sir, it is not happening all over the country.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : I have commended Bengal. . . .(Interruptions) I referred to West Bengal at the outset. . . .(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI ABDUL HAMID (Dhubri) : Why were the innocent passengers harassed at Jamalpur railway station? . . .(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : He has not yielded. Kindly resume your seat. The hon. Member is speaking. If you want to refute, you will have a chance. . . .(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI ABDUL HAMID : There are so many Biharis in Assam, no one had any enmity with them. . . .(Interruptions) He should come to the point.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : I am coming to that. . . .(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI ABDUL HAMID : The Union Minister Shrimati Bijoya Chakravarty went to the AASU office and personally instigated them to burn the railway office. . . . (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Sir, should I accept that my colleagues are supporting what the people of Bihar did. Why do they speak such things. On the one hand they say that no political party is involved in it and these acts are the handiwork of ULFA and extremists. . . . (Interruptions) Why are they linking it to that. . . . (Interruptions) Who is supporting that?. . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI ABDUL HAMID : I do not support it. . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : I condemn what happened in Bihar. . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajganj, Bihar) : Sir, on the one hand they say that no political party is involved in those incidents. A Minister of Assam Government has been reported as saying that Biharis have been driven out. This Statement is from a Minister of the Government. . . . (Interruptions) What happened in Assam was due to a well planned conspiracy and Congress Government is directly responsible for that. Sir, I have the statement* of hon'ble Minister with me.

[English]

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY : The Assam Government has taken appropriate measure to prevent the untoward incident. . . . (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : My submission is that nobody can appreciate the incidents of molestation in trains passing through Bihar. But on that pretext, if people are being burnt alive, then nothing can be more tragic. And if such things are being done with the tacit support of the

*As the Speaker did not Subsequently accord the necessary Permission. The paper was not treated as laid on the Table.

Government, as Shri Prabhunath Singh is alleging, then it is also very tragic. . . . (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY : The Government of India appreciated the efforts of the Assam Government in containing the violence. . . . (Interruptions) It was appreciated by the Government of India. . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI ABDUL HAMID : Why the Bihar people attacked the Awadh Assam Express at Jamalpur Railway Station?. . . . (Interruptions) Why the innocent passengers were being harassed?. . . . (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : All right. I know that at the root of recent happenings are poverty and unemployment but if regionalism is being propagated due to them, if riots are taking place in the name of language, then nothing can be more shameful. Therefore, in my opinion, all the recent incidents should be condemned by the Chair. I am convinced, whatever my colleagues, overcome by their emotions, may say, that common man can not commit such a deed. Common citizens can't commit such acts. If any Bihari is working in another State, he is also contributing to the economic growth of that State. When terrorism was at its height in Punjab and no one was willing to go out in the open, then it was the Bihari labourer who was risking his life to work in the fields of Punjab. In Delhi itself there are no fewer than 40 lakh Bihari labourers. The issue of the present State of affairs, poverty and employment in Bihar alongwith its reasons is altogether a different one.

This is another debate. We can hold Union Government as well State Government responsible for that, but it does not mean, that if a person from one State goes to another State to earn livelihood, a brutal action be taken against him and a leader of political party supports him directly or indirectly. I understand that it would be dangerous day and blackest for the country.

I do not want to say anything more than this. Not only the people of Bihar, but wherever such things are happening, people get apprehensive about it. When slogans are raised that a particular State is for people of that State only, it becomes dangerous. Mother India is one

and India is like a garden. There are all kinds of flowers in this garden and flowers of all places blossom in it. It is duty of the gardener to look after all flowers, and to give opportunity to blossom to every flower and every bud. If such kind of action is taken by a politician, I understand that I should be condemned. The Prime Minister and Home Minister has taken initiative in this regard but I want that a meeting should be called in this matter, because this matter is linked to national integration and national sovereignty. When we raise slogan of national unity and integration, it is the duty of the Prime Minister of India to call Chief Ministers of all States and if necessary, a meeting of all political parties leaders of the State where such incident has taken place be called to consider the ways of maintaining social harmony and friendly atmosphere in the country.

I would again like to request my colleagues from Maharashtra and Assam as such incidents have taken place in these two States. Allegations and counter-allegations are still being levelled in Maharashtra. The people of a State are levelling allegations and counter-allegations. Feeling of fear and terror has been created in the minds of people of Maharashtra and Assam living outside the State. Therefore, the Government of India should take initiative and a delayed meeting on the issue of national integration should be held on it so that such kind of incident do not take place in future, a way out should be found.

With these words, I would like to thank you.

[English]

SHRI MADHAB RAJBANGSHI (Mangaldoi) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, we would like to know the name of the paper which was shown by Shri Prabhunath Singh and also see it.

[Translation]

SHRI ARUN KUMAR (Jahanabad) : The name of that paper is 'Poorvanchal Prahari' dated 6 October, 2003. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA (Gopalganj) : That statement has been made on 6 October, 2003. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI MADHAB RAJBANGSHI : You should keep this paper on the Table of the House. . . .(Interruptions)

[English]

We would like to see what is the news. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : You can lay it on the Table.* Let the Member see it.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : I have asked him to lay it on the Table. You can see it.

(Interruptions)*

DR. M.V.V.S. MURTHI (Visakhapatnam) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is a very unfortunate incident that took place in Assam very recently. It speaks about the level of unemployment in our country. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA : Sir, he has to sign it and then lay it.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You sign it and then lay it on the Table. It is a normal practice that if you want to cite a newspaper or any document, it should first be shown to the Chair. Only after its approval, it can be laid on the Table of the House. Without seeing that paper, I have allowed you. You should mark it with your endorsement saying that it is true. Normally, you must show it to the Chair. Then only, you can raise it. It is the rule in respect of any paper or any document.

DR. M.V.V.S. MURTHI : Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is a very unfortunate event that took place.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I lay this paper. She has agreed that the Chief Minister of Congress Party are involved in such things. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA : We want to check such wrongful deeds. . . .(Interruptions)

*As the Speaker did not Subsequently accord the necessary Permission. The paper was not treated as laid on the Table.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : I am laying it with my signatures. You shall conduct the inquiry in this matter. . . .(Interruptions) Such type of incidents are taking place in Assam under the protection of Congress. . . . (Interruptions)

[English]

DR. M.V.V.S. MURTHI : Mr. Chairman, Sir, these incidents ought not to have taken place. . . .(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : In Bihar, people kill their own people whereas the people of Bihar kill people of Assam. . . .(Interruptions) The Congress Government is killing the people. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI MADHAB RAJBANGSHI : Who killed whom on Jamalpur station. . . .(Interruptions) Why was he killed. . . .(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB (Cuttack) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, a Member from Andhra Pradesh wants to make his point. Let him be allowed to speak. . . . (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : I have allowed him to speak. They have not allowed him.

DR. M.V.V.S. MURTHI : They should hear me at least so that the House also hears me. I also wanted to make a point about Railway Recruitment Policy. The recent incidents that took place in Assam are very unfortunate and are condemnable. They should be condemned because they are against the national integration policy. However, inherently there must be some defects. otherwise, such a situation would not have occurred in this way. This situation is very inflammable and it reflects on the country's policy of recruitment and unemployment. The youth here are unemployed. What do they do? They have to get some money. They have no jobs, and on the other side they all are poverty stricken. The value of the life is only a few hundred rupees now. Anybody can remove a person for a few hundred rupees because of poverty.

There is also unemployment. Recruitment in the Railways was taking place for the C and D category jobs at Headquarters. At least, these jobs should have been given to the people, who were living around that area and for the locals, but that is not happening. If this had been the policy, then the incidents would not have occurred. Besides, the people are not being recruited at the divisional level for the C and D category jobs. The recruitment policy at the Divisional level should be implemented. If those jobs were earmarked on a regional basis in every Division, then those who are residing nearby would come and take up that job. Why should it be done only at the headquarters?

Instead of discussing on that issue, we are harping that this happened because Biharis have entered some place or Assamese have entered into some other place or that Andhraites have entered into Orissa, etc. In the previous year also that there was some hue and cry – which occurred in Bhubaneswar – that some Andhraites were driven away from Orissa when they went there for C and D category jobs.

So, there should be a change in the policy of recruitment. We should discuss about those here, instead of showing emotional feelings, bringing regional feelings, *bhumiputra* slogans, and all such things. It is not correct. We should change the policy and regionalise it. Wherever they are living, whatever may be the religion, whatever may be language, if one is living around, then he should get a job there. If a Bihari or an Andhraite who lives in Assam is driven away, then where will he get a job? He is already living on that ground. So, the House should think about it and solve the problem.

All our policies should be made in such a manner that the lower jobs are given to the people living in those areas. If this happens then many of the problems would be solved. Let the hon. Minister think about it he is a very enlightened Minister and take some steps so that at least in the future, the C and D category jobs are regionalised, and that they can be filled only at the Divisional level.

Yesterday I was in Vizag and some young boys came there to see me. Their recruitment was in the C and D

category jobs, that is, menial jobs. They are living in Vizag. How can they go to Hyderabad for interview? Even if they go there, they do not know where to stay, how to live, and what to do for smaller jobs in the bigger cities.

A Divisional headquarters is there at Visakhapatnam, and such jobs could be taken up at the Divisional headquarters levels. Instead of all of them being driven away to that Board at Headquarters, small Boards could be given at the regional levels at the Divisional headquarters, so that this problem could be solved. By doing so, in the future at least we could see that these things do not occur.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA (Canara) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have been sitting here and listening to the earlier debates, as well as the one that is taking place today. I noticed that it was becoming a kind of a dual between the Assamese and the Bihari MPs in the House, where tempers were running high. Therefore, I gave my name because I believed that some of us who did not belong either to Bihar, West Bengal, or Assam should also put forth our point of view. The question is not just about one incident that happened in a train in Bihar and the repercussions in Assam. I was at that time in the Northeast when these incidents occurred. I was in Mizoram, and when I heard about it I was very worried as to whether it would spread or what would happen. It is because immediately after the train incident in Bihar – when it was flashed – there was reaction from the Assam youth as also from others. I do want to say that I am not ruling out, of course, some political involvement here and there. After all, political cadres being what they are, they could get involved, but basically, it was an immediate reaction. Even in Mizoram, they kept saying, “We do not want the outsiders here. They must go back. We do not want outsiders coming and changing our population profile”. It has happened in many border areas. It has happened in Arunachal and in various other places where because of population coming in, the local people feel threatened and they have a problem.

However, I do want to say that in this whole battle, nobody really spoke about the victims of these incidents.

In the train, young girls and innocent women, who were travelling, were molested, pulled out and attacked. They had nothing to do with anything. They were students coming to Delhi; they were students coming out of Assam. I am just saying that innocent people were attacked.

I ask the hon. Minister, “Where was your Railway Protection Force? Where were your people, when the train had stopped on the platform, when they were being molested and when things were happening?”

[Translation]

SHRI PRAKASH PRANJAPE : If you inform the hon'ble Minister, he will conduct the inquiry. He will not conduct inquiry himself. . . .(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA : I am not talking of this one incident. All I am saying is that it can happen anywhere.

[Translation]

Leave aside the accident.

[English]

You must have the Railway Protection Force or the CRPF or whatever railway authority is there on every platform. You must have the protection force in sensitive areas or whatever it is, so that there is immediate action.

I know the problem. The local police say that when the crime takes place in a train, they have no jurisdiction. The person must be arrested by the Railway Police and handed over to them after which only they can file an FIR. There are technicalities within technicalities. Even in the case of a theft, if the fellow is caught pulling my chain in the train, the local police have no authority. It has to be through your railway process. My chain may go or my life may go, but there will be nobody from the railways. These are the technicalities which you have to sort out, if you want to really make rail travel safe for the innocent citizens of this country. We do not feel safe and I can tell you this very honestly. There is nothing being done to ensure safety.

[Shrimati Margaret Alva]

[Translation]

The bogies standing at station are a set fire, being tarred.

[English]

Nobody knows how the fire occurred in the New Delhi Railway Station here where bogies were burnt. How were they burnt?

[Translation]

Here also people of ISI or Bangladeshis have come?

[English]

The other day, I was surprised to hear people saying that these incidents in Assam happened because of ISI and Bangladeshis. Everything that happens in the country is a fight either instigated by the ISI or Bangladeshis. If you know that ISI is doing so much, then, as a Government, why are you not stopping it? Can the ISI hold the Railways, the people, the Government and everything to ransom? Everything that happens in the North-East is either attributed to ISI or Bangladeshis, and this must stop. I think, you have to look at the deeper malady in the North-East. I do want to say that it is not just a question of lawlessness. As was pointed out by Shri Murthi just now, joblessness, the fear of unemployment, is stalking the youth in the country.

Now, you have a Minister for the North-East. I have also served on the Special Task Force for the North-East for development. No industrialist wants to come and invest there because of law and order problem and the fear of underground insurgents. Outsiders do not want to come and the local people do not have the capacity to either have industry or other things because they have no outlets. The only thing that happens is smuggling trade across the Burma border and, on that side, on the Chinese border. Everywhere, it is smuggling on which people are living. Where are the jobs being created in the North-East?

I went to the market the other day. Every single electronic item you want is available in the Mizoram

Bazaar with Chinese instructions, and I asked the people there as to who will read it. Everything, including Burmese goods, is available in the market and people are happy. They say, "Well, we are getting it in Mizoram at a cheaper rate than it is elsewhere in India."

Therefore, what is the problem at the moment? The Railway Minister must understand that Railways are the largest recruitment agency today in the public sector. You are the lifeline of the nation, but you have to understand the problem.

MR. CHAIRMAN : If the House agrees, we can go on with the discussion.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA : Yes, Sir, that is what was agreed.

MR. CHAIRMAN : We will sit till the debate is over. Is it okay?

SOME HON. MEMBERS : Yes.

18.00 hrs.

MR. CHAIRMAN : All right. With the approval of the House, the sitting of the House is extended till the discussion is concluded.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA : Therefore, there is a need to look at the problem. I also read about that incident in the papers where five youths were thrown out of a train, out of whom four died and one survived. Somewhere else there is an attack on outsiders who have come and settled down. There are problems. I must say that unemployment is creating law and order situations everywhere. When the Railways are recruiting.

[Translation]

As it has been said right now that the people of one place are put somewhere else, they do not go there. they do not work over there.

[English]

There has to be some way in the recruitment policy of absorbing the local people at the lower levels.

I was also in the Ministry of Personnel.

[Translation]

I have seen a lot of things in recruitment.

[English]

There was one zone for recruitment of certain posts which had Andaman and Nicobar and Bengal tied up together. All the people from the mainland used to go to Andaman and Nicobar Islands, find an address and appear for competitive exams. Though the examination is conducted in Andaman and Nicobar Islands, which was supposed to be the zone, nobody from those islands used to get jobs. The same thing happens in other parts of the country.

In my State we had the challenge of urban and rural recruitment. Our State Government decided that since the youth in the rural areas do not have the same facilities as the urban youth, special marks be added to rural candidates who studied purely in rural schools. However, the Supreme Court has struck it down. As a result of that all the vacancies now go to the urban youth. When it comes to women's reservation they say.

[Translation]

That the jobs would be given to elite. Jobs are being given to such people.

[English]

Those who come from the better areas of the country are getting jobs and those who are left behind are permanently left behind. Therefore, you have to review your recruitment policy.

I am not saying that India is not integrated or that everybody is not an equal citizen. Local sensitivity is very important if you are to avoid this kind of anger which is growing. All of us have seen the problems. When you recruit, if you have zones and local divisions in the Railways and recruit for C and D posts, as all of us are saying, from the local people, keep 70 per cent of the

vacancies for the locals and 30 per cent to others who compete. If the local people are backward, the area is backward, and if people from outside come and take away their jobs, there is going to be anger and there is going to be violence. In the rural areas, tribal areas, there are no jobs, there is no development and there is no money coming. That is why the youth there are taking to the gun. What has happened in the North-East? It is all because there are no jobs, there is no absorption, there is no hope for the youth that they are taking to guns. Some of these boys met me and told me when I asked them why they take that path, that the day they join the underground movement, they get a uniform, they get a badge, they get a gun and they get a pay packet. They questioned as to what was India doing for them.

[Translation]

When I was Minister of Youth Affairs, a youth asked me.

[English]

So, I am saying please review your recruitment policy. Let the zones which you have created have 70 per cent local recruitment and let 30 per cent go to outsiders. In the other zones, let the local people have 70 per cent and 30 per cent for outsiders. Satisfy both the sections, but give weightage to the local people who are living there, who are looking for jobs. Those youths are as much in need of jobs as those who come from outside.

[Translation]

How can you say that examination be held in another language also. Day before yesterday somebody said that the entire examination be held in Hindi.

[English]

I was shocked to hear that. Why it would be held in Hindi.

We come from different areas. I am not against Hindi. I speak perfect Hindi. But why should you say that boys in Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh must all compete in Hindi? It is all one way.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Hindi is an official language.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA : I understand it. You go to South and learn any our language. If you would even learn three words of our language we would learn your language.

[English]

This imposition of Hindi by the Northern States on the non-Hindi States is going to be the ruin of this country, I am telling you. This is what is going to ruin the integrity and unity of India.

[Translation]

You can not develop the country. In the World Bank Report, your States are called sick States. . . .(Interruptions) You are giving us advice to learn Hindi. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : You too had contributed in making our State a sick State. . . .(Interruptions)

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH : What have you given to Bihar and Uttar Pradesh in 40 years? Both these States are connected to each other.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA : Do not discuss language with me. I have not taken name of any State.

[English]

We know what is good for us. . . .(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : You have made Bihar a sick State. . . .(Interruptions) This is the loss which has been made.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA : I have not taken the name of your State. I have not taken name of any State.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Madam, please address the Chair.

(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA : I have not taken the name of any State. I said: "Do not try to impose Hindi on any one of us. It will not be acceptable." . . .(Interruptions)

[Translation]

You may do anything, people do not expect that language and religion would be imposed on them.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : If it is said that Hindi is imposed, it is a case of treason. You are such a senior Member and you are speaking against Hindi. Do not promote regionalism.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA : I have seen many things.

[English]

There is no way that you can force the people of the non-Hindi States to conduct every examination in Hindi. It may be after 50 years; it may be after 100 years, but today, it is not going to work. I am telling you that the more you try to impose it, the more is going to be the reaction against it.

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH : If Hindi will not be imposed then English should also not be imposed. English is a foreign language so we cannot tolerate it at any cost. We will accept Assamese, Gujarati, Marathi, Kannada, Malayalam and all Indian language, but we will not accept English at any cost. English is a symbol of slavery.

[English]

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA : Sir, I want to tell you that the Constitution speaks about 'many national languages'. . . .(Interruptions)

Sir, the Constitution treats all the 18 languages equally. All of us have been given equal status in the Constitution. I do not worry, those who want to speak in Hindi, may speak Hindi but do not say that the youth everywhere must compete in Hindi only. That is what will create differences between one part of the country and the other. Neither in the North-East nor in the South nor in any other parts of the country is this going to work.

Sir, leave alone the language issue. I must point out that there must be a special zone created for the North-East. The North-East has special problems. But very little of the Railways. For recruitment, as far as they are concerned, please have a special zone for them and give them a certain number of jobs. If they are not filled up by them, then throw them open to the others. But let them have a sense of security that they can also compete and get jobs for themselves and not be overrun from outside.

Sir, finally, I do want to say that the backward areas have remained backward. They have remained backward not because of anybody's deliberate plans but because of circumstances which have given the benefits of investment. jobs and infrastructure to certain parts of the country and left out the others for various local reasons. This has to be corrected.

Sir, somebody said : "This is a garden which has place for all flowers." I understand it. It is a beautiful garden. But when a creeper which climbs on a tree becomes larger and heavier than the tree can support or feed, then the tree is going to dry up and the creeper is also going to die. Therefore, I say that if outsiders have also to be accommodated, then there must be enough to share. Until that happens, there will be these kinds of incidents and clashes where some will say : "We are being deprived because of the other"

Therefore, I am appealing to you Mr. Minister to please review your recruitment policies so that justice is done to the local people and that all-India picture – as far as the Railways are concerned – is kept in mind. Please see that for Group C and Group D posts, the local people are given preferences whether it is my State to your State or anybody else's State. Only then we will be able to solve this problem.

With these words, I conclude.

[*Translation*]

SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR CHOUDHARY (Katihar) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to take part in the discussion being held under rule 193 on the incidents that took place with Bihari brothers in Assam. First of all I express my grief for the violence that took place in Assam killing Bihari brothers

and their family members and the loss to their property due to which they are migrating from there. I also condemn the small but disgraceful incident that took place in Bihar before this incident. Besides, I also express sympathy towards the Assami people who are in great trouble and who have suffered loss to life and property. More than 6 dozen people have been killed there.

Sir, there must be peace in every State of the country. Unity of the country should be maintained. All the hon. Members have expressed the same opinion that the country should march ahead with firmness and all the people living in different States of the country should get the right to live and earn their livelihood and the country should emerge as a powerful country. Then why such an incident took place and why the issue was given such a turn. Our brothers from Assam and also other Members are present in the House. I would like to ask them why such an incident took place. I would like to tell you that the Railway Recruitment Board examinations were being held not only in Assam but also in my Parliamentary Constituency Katihar. Candidates from Assam and Bihar were also there but such sort of incident did not occur there and nobody was misbehaved. This problem is being connected with unemployment. This incident took place on 9th November. This examination was to be held on 9th, 16th and 23rd November. Not only from Bihar but the candidates from West Bengal, Uttaranchal and Uttar Pradesh also came there to appear in 9th November examination because this is the only route through which one can reach there. The candidates who reached there were definitely unemployed. General Intelligence Paper was to be held and on 8th itself news started pouring in Katihar that candidates were being beaten and drove away from the station, they are not being given any place to stay. Their luggage has been snatched away and they have been ill-treated. Even the girl candidates were insulted. We should discuss this issue rising above the party politics. I have witnessed the incident. I feel pain when people give one sided statements but talk about unity and integrity of the country. Unity of the country cannot be maintained by creating the feeling of parochialism and linguistic regionalism. Therefore, to save the unity and integrity of the country, this problem should be considered cool-

[Shri Nikhil Kumar Choudhary]

heartedly. If Central Government is blamed for it then I would like to ask as to whose Government is in power in Assam. I blame the Bihar Government also but people would demand justice from those who have power, who can maintain law and order and to whom people of the country have given all rights. Identity cards of the candidates were torn off, their luggage was snatched and they were beaten cruelly in the incident that took place on 9th December. And they are saying that the Government in power there is not instrumental in this matter. Police remained mute spectator there. People were crying for help but the local police reprimanded them. They were removed from there. From there they reached Katihar hiding in a train. People saw them in the same state as the news were coming. There was resentment among the people against the State Government but despite that no untoward incident took place in Katihar. However, an incident should have taken place. Jamalpur incident was being mentioned here but no incident took place in Katihar. We went to station on 10th when those candidates reached there. I would like to thank the DRM and ADRM because they also took initiative in this regard. We are thankful to the officers of RPF. We made combined efforts in this regard and asked the candidates about their demands. Humiliating incident was happened with them. Their clothes, money and luggage was snatched from them. If someone was having identity card with him he was not having his luggage. They were hungry. There was resentment among the people. They were demanding justice. Large number of people were present there. When such an incident took place, people support the affected persons. That time also people were with them. I represent the people of that area. My nature is to suppress the resentment and to maintain peace. I assured them that as per their demand, 9th December examination would be conducted again. If they were scared to go to Assam to appear in the exam then that exam will not be conducted in Assam. As per their third demand I assured them they would be allowed to appear in the coming examination. I assured them that I would talk to Railway Minister Shri Nitish Kumar to fulfil these demand and I will renounce from the politics if these demands would not be fulfilled. This assurance restored

peace there and the trains which were halted there since morning started running from 3 O'Clock. Assam bound train Avadh-Assam express train and Delhi bound Mahanana express train restarted from 3 O'Clock. I am pained to say that the electronic media exaggerated this incident from 11th onwards.

Shri Lalooji is an hon. leaders of Bihar and I respect him. Statements were starting pouring in that the Member of Parliament from Katihar has involved in nefarious activities and has provoked the people and spread terrorism in the area. Apprehension came to my mind that what would happen if I go to Assam. An illusion was tried to be created there. Shri Pappu Yadav also met with the same situation. He is not here at the moment. I know that he had been there that day due to some reason. I came to know that he visited hospital to see the people injured in firing. Railway property also got damaged in that incident. I also assessed the situation. No ill-treatment was meted out to our brother from North-East and Assam but a person who is a sensible citizen, who lives with family, who has affection towards his family and who respects humanity, condemns the Jamalpur incident. I also associate with him and I also associate with the grief-stricken families. However, the incident followed by it is really heart-rending. When no incident took place in Katihar then how such an incident took place in Guwahati, Dispur, Dibrugarh and Tinsukia in Assam. Since this issue was related to unemployment, Dr. C.P. Thakur, North-East Development Minister, Shri Chinmayanand, the Minister of State for Home Affairs and some other Cabinet Ministers from the Centre visited there. Hon. Railway Minister will revealed the report given by them. However, the incidents continued to take place. I would like to ask the Chief Minister of Assam Shri Tarun Gogoi as to what he was doing at that time. He remained in Guwahati and Dispur for 9 days but did not show courage to go to Tinsukia and Dibrugarh. Former Chief Minister of Bihar Shri Laloo Prasad also went there. As he is capable to solve this issue, that is why he went there. Sir, this is my maiden speech. Though I can speak at length, however, I seldom get the chance to speak here. Please provide me 10 more minutes.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : This is your maiden speech for this Session. Is it not? You had been a Minister here. And you are still maiden!

SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR CHOUDHARY : Yes, Sir. I know that. But with your permission, I would like to speak for ten more minutes.

[Translation]

I was saying that Shri Laloo Prasad went there. Electronics media blew the incidents up out of all proportion and projected that if the Chief Minister of Assam Shri Gogoi had expressed regret for the painful incident, People would have remained calm. I would like to thank the people of Bihar that they did not react even when Biharis were being killed by ULFA. This shows the greatness of Bihar. Bihar can survive even after many turmoils. Bihar has taught the lesson of peace to the world. Bhagwan Budha, Mahavir and Sikh gurus were born here and those who visited this sacred land, settled down there and spread knowledge. Vikramshila and Nalanda Vishwvidyalaya of Bihar spreaded knowledge not only in our country but also in other parts of the world including Japan and China. However, today, Bihar is being blemished.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to tell Shri Raghuvansh Prasad Singh that I am pained to say that electronic media propogated that Nikhil should be booked undre POTA and he would be agree to it. What is my fault? Such a statement was issued without any facts. This statement spoiled the entire atmosphere. Bihari correspondents were also in Assam when Shri Lalooji was addressing a meeting in Dibrugarh and Guwahati. The house of a shopkeeper Shri Manulal living in Beltala Panchkuchi was attacked on 18th November. A Minister of Assam Government Shri Hemant Sharma threatened Manu in front of the Times of India correspondent that if he made complaint to the Press, he would not be able to save himself when the news would publish tomorrow. When the Minister of a Government was terrorising the exploited Bihari instead of paying solace to him, Lalooji was praising that Government. He was giving clean chit to the Gogoi Government that it was not instrumental in it. 60 people were killed but still Gogoi

Government did not do anything. This incident has hurt me a lot. When correspondent asked Lalooji in Guwahati, when he was going to Dibrugarh and Tinsukia, he replied that he was not going there as they were disturbed areas. It pained me. Then how did he issue clean chit to Tarun Gogoi Government when he cannot go to Dibrugarh and Tinsukia. More than 5 dozen people have been killed there and he is saying that Tarun Gogoi Government has respected the people of Bihar. . . .(Interruptions) Mr. Chairman, Sir, please give me five minutes. I am concluding.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : There are fifften more hon. Members to speak.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR CHOUDHARY : I would like to ask a question to Assam Government that if Assam Police was intending to save the life and property of Biharis then how the massacre took place in labourers colonies, where people were killed en bloc. I am mentioning an incident that took place in a village. 19 people were killed in a labourer colony of Bongoi village which comprises of 2000 labourers. Central Reserve Police Force was not deployed there though it should have been.

18.27 hrs.

[SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA *in the Chair*]

Four Home Guards and an ASI of Assam Police were deployed there. Home Guards were having Rifles and a Carbine was with ASI. Three people came on motorcycle and started firing indiscriminately killing 19 people. Why they did not protect them? Rather they fled from there. I want to say that if their intention was to save the people then why the police officer present there did not direct the CRPF personnels, who were also present there and even CRPF camp is situated there to tackle the rioters who were torching the huts of labourers in Dhulia village of Dibrugarh? What was the strength of the Force in Assam at the time when such incidents were occurring there. We could have understand if Shri Tarun Gogoi would have stated that security force was not deployed there in

[Shri Nikhil Kumar Choudhary]

sufficient number as elections were being conducted at four places. I want to mention about the security force present in Assam at that time. 125 company CRF, one battalion of Assam Rifle and 23 battalion army were present there at the time of incident. Had they been re-deployed as per the need, the incident would have averted and the life and property of Biharis could have been saved. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Nikhilji, please conclude.

SHRI MADHAB RAJBANGSHI : He is incorrect. Such number of forces were not present there. . . .(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR CHOUDHARY : The hon. Minister in his reply will say as to what was the strength of CRPF. . . .(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Nikhilji, please conclude. Please conclude in one minute. You have spoken at length.

(Interruptions)

SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR CHOUDHARY : I would like to slightly deviate from Assam issue. Is it not true that the Chief Minister of Bihar said that most of our Bihar brothers go to Assam to work as labourers? I know that people of Bihar are very hard worker and conrageous. They want to live their life not by begging but by working hard. There has been a cordial relationship between Assam and Bihar.

SHRI MADHAB RAJBANGSHI : It has been peaceful now.

SHRI NIKHIK KUMAR CHOUDHARY : Try to make it more peaceful but the Government has done nothing for the families of the deceased there. I want to say that large scale migration is taking place from there.

Sir, people are migrating from there. It is not justified to compel the people to migrate from there who have extended a lot of contribution for the development of tea estate and for strengthening the economy of the State. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please sit down. You have raised the issue. Now please conclude in a minute.

SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR CHOUDHARY : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am concluding. This incident concerns not only Assam but such incidents are taking place outside the Assam also. Congress Government is in power in Assam, Karnataka and Maharashtra also. I would like to mention an incident of Karnataka. Wherever Bihari people have gone to work as labourers, be it mills of Surat, Factories of Ahmedabad and Delhi or the fields of Punjab, that area has made progress a lot. Bihari labourers have really worked hard for the improvement and development of these areas. In Karnataka State. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please sit down.

SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR CHOUDHARY : Sir, an institute named Kalptaru Institute of Technology is situated at Tunkr in Karnataka where students from Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh get education. There is a boys hostel also in which students from said States are also living. An incident took place there on 4th December. An attack was made on Bihari students to drive them away. 27 students got injured in that incident, they were taken to hospital. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please sit down.

SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR CHOUDHARY : Sir, there is a solid reason for the incident that took place there and the manner in which Bihar and Bihari people are being humiliated is inappropriate. I want that unity and integrity of the country should be maintained.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, we should consider whether the way in which this issue is being raised by the hon'ble Members would increase or decrease the number of such incidents. One should think before one speaks. We should say that such incidents should be decreased and peace be maintained in the country. An effective solution to this problem should be evolved.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the present debate was earlier started on Friday. Then it was discontinued for 10 days and today on the 11th day it has been restarted. I am trying

to know the reasons as to why it was stopped in between and whether it can be done as per the rules. . . .
(Interruptions)

SHRI SHIVAJI MANE (Hingoli) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, such an important issue is being discussed here, at least the Cabinet Minister should be present here.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJBHAI CHIKHALIA) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, hon'ble State Minister of Home Affairs Shri Chinmayanand Swami is present in the House. Cabinet Minister remained sitting here for a long time. He has just left the House. . . .(Interruptions)

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH (Maharajganj U.P.) : Hon'ble Minister you may introduce your colleagues to the Ministers.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the discussion is being held on the railway recruitment and the situation arising out of the incident happened with the students who were to appear in 9th November examination. Media had published the incident but it was having no concern with the common people in Bihar. However, the pick-pocketiers and such type of other people on the station spreaded violence.

Sir, the incident of 9th November in Assam is really odemnable and shameful. The more condemnable are the news pouring in Bihar and thereafter whatever has happened in Assam, is more regretful. Such a big incident has taken place there but Members are not revealing the truth. The Government should have taken immediate action on the incident that took place there regarding railway recruitment. They did not let the candidates to appear in examination. They are still saying that only local candidates should be allowed for the recruitment. The State Government of Bihar issued instruction that the Collector and SP would be held responsible if such an incident occur at any place. Even after that, an incident took place in Jamalpur. The Collector and SP of the area were removed from there on the same day and 24 people were arrested. No Member has spoken in this regard till now,

that is why I am speaking this. It is right that they should have apprehend before occurring the incident. Newspapers reported the incident at length. The Government should have been alert in this regard but they were not. Immediate action was taken when the incident took place. People were demanding that the Collector and SP should be suspended. Action was taken and 24 people were arrested in this connection. Vigorous search is going on there. The State Government has no objection for CBI inquiry in this regard. People in Assam call them Biharis and Members of ULFA call them Indian and outsiders. Newspapers have reported all this. Government should prevent such reporting. The statement of banned organization is reported by the media and telecast on television more prominently than the statement of Prime Minister. Government should have checked this also. This reporting provoked the people. ULFA people are already exploiting the people there but this incident has further incited them and given them the opportunity. It so happens that sometimes we do not have good relationship with a person but if somebody hurts him, we might have sympathy with him. Similarly, the people of Assam were not having any kind of relationship with ULFA and it was in isolation but when it got the opportunity, they incited the people and involved them in violent activities. They spread violence in Dibrugarh, Tinsukia and at some other places also including Guwahati.

Sir, BJP Members criticized the State Government that it is an inefficient Government. Nikhil Choudhary ji is announced with Bihar Government, he is displeased with Lalooji. He said that why he did not go to Dibrugarh during his visit to Guwahati. . . .(Interruptions) He needs not to interrupt, I am speaking. . . .(Interruptions) The State Minister of Home Affairs showed the courage to visit there or he fulfilled his duty but very late. Is Prime Minister not responsible for national integration? Home Minister is being given the status of Deputy Prime Minister but the internal situation of the country is disturbed. However, the Deputy Prime Minister has no concern with it but ULFA has. He was busy in elections at that time. Please do not put words in my mouth. . . .(Interruptions) Why is he speaking, Security Forces have not been deployed there. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Nikhilji, Raghuvansh Prasad Singh did not interrupt you even for once when you were speaking but why are you interrupting him. You have spoken, now you please listen. Raghuvanshji please speak and address the Chair only.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : I can say that if he insists but I want to speak the right thing. What is the responsibility of the Central Government on this issue? People are connecting all these incidents with unemployment. Unemployment is a national problem. . . .(Interruptions) The Chief Minister had nothing to do with when her husband had left. . . .(Interruptions)

Even the Prime Minister did not go there what to talk about the Chief Minister. The statues of Chief Minister is below the Prime Minister. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Raghuvansh Prasad, please address the Chair.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Sir, I will tell about the problem of unemployment. It is right that lakhs of applications have been received from Engineers and M.A. passed people for the post of third and fourth grade post of Khalasi. It is a matter of concern for all. The problem of unemployment is a very serious problem. People blame Bihar and Assam for the lack of employment opportunities but what about the Maharashtra. Maharashtra is a developed State, there are ample employment opportunities even then candidates were drove away from there also, they did not let them to appear in examination. Therefore, it is right that the problem of unemployment should be solved. Such incidents have occurred even in Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and at some other places also. For what purpose National Integration Council has been set up? When its meeting would be held? Are the disruptive forces not getting benefit of such incidents? Therefore, I demand that a meeting of National Integration Council should be convened. If Prime Minister does not call the meeting, it would be deemed that he is fanning the situation. Central Government is incapable to save the unity of the Government though it is the Central Government who is responsible to keep the country united. What information actually the Central Government has received till now

about the number of persons killed? The numbers reported by the newspapers are varying like 80-85, 50-60. Have they got the list of the deceased from the State Government or not? How many people have been killed and burnt, to what extent the loss to property has occurred there, how many people have migrated or migrating from there, what is the situation there at present. People there are still terror-stricken, violent activities are still taking place there and people are still migrating from there on a large scale. What steps have been taken by the Central Government for the families of the deceased and whether any scheme has been envisaged for providing compensation and rehabilitation of those who have lost their property in fire? Is there any package for them? I would like to know from the Central Government as to what effective precautions are being taken to prevent recurrence of such incidents in future.

Unemployment is a separate issue but we should be aware of the reasons behind this incident. This incident took place because of the railway recruitment rules. Such an incident has never taken place earlier at the time of railway recruitment. However, this time, this kind of incident has taken place in the name of railway recruitment. Hon'ble Railway Minister should tell as to what was the previous policy of recruitment, what was being followed till now and what new would be adapted in this regard. He should tell us as to what extent these new changes in the policy would be carried out. I would like to know as to why a Cabinet Minister has not been suspended for making such harmful Statement in the newspaper. A Cabinet Minister stated that if Prime Minister wants to save the country, Bihari Police should be removed from here and continue violence. The Statement has been not been denied so far.

I would like to know as to why that Minister has not been suspended so far. They take oath of maintaining unity and integrity of the country, to safeguard the Constitution, to do justice with everyone and not to be biased against anyone. However, they do not comply with it. That Cabinet Minister is still holding his post. Similarly, if any Minister of Assam Government has given such statement like this, then the Chief Minister and the leader of the party should

pay attention towards it. How one can remain in the Cabinet after giving such Statements? How one can speak against the Constitution? He may not be less than the Member of ULFA who is issuing such a statement. Media is broadcasting the statements issued by ULFA from Bangladesh and forests of Bhutan. Is the Central Government have no control over them? No Statement has been issued by the Central Government in this regard. Is it not its responsibility?

I would like to know as to why an idea of strong Centre was conceived. Who is responsible to take action if people of the States would be discriminated like this? If a State Government fails to discharge its duty or it does not have good intention, then Central Government is there to take action. Who will take action to save the unity and integrity of the country?

Shrimati Margaret Alva has been a Minister but she was deadly against the issue of language. Framers of our Constitution envisaged the concept of unity in diversity. People of different caste, religion and attire live in our country. I want to say that communalism is a threat to the country. This is a threat to the integrity of the country. Our country is already reeling under this problem. We have suffered a lot of loss also. The country was partitioned due to communalism. Mahatama Gandhi was assassinated due to it and several communal riots keep on taking place in the country in which innocent people keep on losing their lives. It is the number one enemy of the country.

I feel that regionalism is the number. One enemy of the country. I do not know if it has ceased to be the number one cause but I would like to say that extremism, opportunism, regionalism, casteism etc. all are the enemies of the country and the question of compromising with them does not arise. However these divisive communal forces are raging in full fury. It had never happened earlier. The Karbi and Kuki people are killing each other in Assam. Though some ethnic clashes at local level used to take place, it never assumed such proportions. The Bodo people do not spare Adivasis there. All these sporadic incidents are taking place but is it not the responsibility of the Union Government? Why is communalism, casteism, regionalism and extremism

increasing in the State? I am of the opinion that two ailments namely regionalism and extremism are affecting the State at the same time. When Assam-Bihar conflict took place even the extremism started to get inflamed there. When two-three disease afflict the body at once then complication arise in the body. Similarly when such challenging problems start affecting the body pulitic of a State then it assumes grave dimensions and the responsibility of the Union Government is maximum in this regard. Then comes the responsibility of the State Government, political parties and intelligentsia in the country. The Common people should be made aware in this regard. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now you conclude.

(Interruptions)

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : I am concluding. Now it is being said that the unemployment is on increase in Bihar. I am of the opinion that more or less, unemployment is affecting the entire country. . . .
(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, you have already spoken about unemployment.

(Interruptions)

DR. RAGHUANSH PRASAD SINGH : I have yet to unveil the secret. These ships left our shores for Mauritius in 1524. One left from Mumbai, another from Chennai and the third one from Calcutta. Two of the ships were not filled to their capacity but the one from Calcutta was full of passengers and all were poor people from Bihar. They went of Mauritius, Fizi, Guayana and Surinam. Kerla was the most densely populated State in the country followed by Bengal and Bihar respectively. However after bifurcation of Bihar, that is carving out Jharkhand, Bihar has slipped down to second position in the matter of population density. The people of Bihar went all around the world as labourers at that time. The airplane was yet to be invented at that time and the travel used to be through sea journey. When the people started to board the ship from Mumbai, it lead to the growth of the factories there. The people from Calcutta also started to leave the country. The people from

[Dr. Raghuansh Prasad Singh]

here went there in hope of working in industry there. Even now the people are migrating to various countries in search of employment. Now it is being said that the world is opening up under WTO regime but only the goods are assuming global character. If the passport regime is done away with and people get an opportunity to move freely then Bihar is certainly going to prosper.

The main reason of Bihar getting more and more backward is the growing regionalism in rest of the country. Several Stalwarts of Bihar from Rajendra Babu to Jagjivan Ram have remained in the power. Despite Bihar kept on lagging behind because Bihar never resorted to regionalism. We all are Indians. During bad times we tend to be divided on caste lines. There is regionalism at other place. Hence we lagged behind. We assume us a part of the country hence we consider it equivalent to calling names if someone designate us as Biharis. . . . (Interruptions) Others feel proud at being called and known by their regions. . . . (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, you sit down.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : The people of Bihar consider themselves Indians and not Bihari. Hence calling Bihari tantamounts to calling names. . . . (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : You sit down for a minute. Hon. Minister is to make an announcement.

SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJBHAI CHIKHALIA : Right now, some more Members are to speak. Hence dinner has been arranged. The arrangement for taking meals has been made in the room number 70 for the Members and in the room number 73 for the other persons.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, ten more hon. Members are to speak. If all other speakers stick to five minutes time it would conclude quickly. Raghuansh Babu, now you sit down.

(Interruptions)

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : I will conclude within a minute.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You conclude within half a minute.

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I request that justice be done to all.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You conclude within half a minute.

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I request that justice be done to all.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, everyone will get five minutes.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Raghuvanshji has taken twenty minutes. He is the only one who speaks and never takes less than half an hour.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : I would like to warn the Union Government about the growing regional imbalance in the country. I would like to know as to what policy do the Government have evolved to do away with the regional disparity in the country and what action has been taken in this regard? Does Bihar exist just to give it a bad name by taking alibi? The people of Bihar are spread all across the country from the beginning and the country can not progress without them. . . . (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : You sit down.

(Interruptions)

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : The examination of IAS and IPS is held in English. . . . (Interruptions) You raise the language issue. . . . (Interruptions) Our boys are topping even in English. . . . (Interruptions) They are topping the examination even in America and Britain. . . . (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, Shri Prabodh Panda.

Nothing will go on record except what Shri Prabodh Panda says.

(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRABODH PANDA : Mr. Chairman, Sir, how can I speak? . . . (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, please sit down.

*Not Recorded.

Now, Shri Prabodh Panda.

(Interruptions)

[*Translation*]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Raghuvanshji, Shri Prabodh Pandaji is on his legs. You sit down.

(Interruptions)

[*English*]

SHRI PRABODH PANDA (Midnapore) : Sir, I am very much aware of the time constraint. So, I shall try to be brief.

Sir, on behalf of the Communist Party of India, I strongly condemn the violence that took place in Assam and in some parts of our country in regard to the RRB exams. I also strongly condemn the incidents of killing more than 60 persons, particularly at Tinsukia and in other parts of Assam and also the attack on several Guwahati-bound trains in Bihar. The RRB exams in Mumbai had been threatened. We came to know that the hon. Minister agreed to cancel the exams. What happened in Assam, in Mumbai and elsewhere are the grave reminder of the acute problem of unemployment. It is aggravated further as a result of the wrong Railway recruitment policy, particularly in case of Group-D, Group-C, Khalasi, Gangmen and so on.

The problem of unemployment has never been addressed properly by the Union Government. The declaration for one crore jobs to the unemployed has become a mockery. In these circumstances, the recruitment in the Railways should be done in a responsible manner so that it does not generate mass resentment and mass grievance.

The Government has failed on these two issues, namely, to adopt a proper Railway recruitment policy and to address the unemployment problem. The situation warrants that this policy has to be changed. The recruitment policy must have to change. This point has been addressed by several hon. Members in this august House the other day and even today itself. The situation is such that for 20,000 jobs, more than 70,00,000 people applied and they have been called to appear before the Interview Board. So, this is the situation. Such a horrible

situation is the breeding ground for dissatisfaction and mass resentment. It is possible that the provincial chauvinist forces, terrorist outfits and even the fundamentalist forces are willing to take this opportunity to disintegrate our nation.

19.00 hrs.

Our Government should be aware of that. The Railways is the biggest employer in the Government. They should be very careful and very responsible. They should be aware of the grave situation in our country. In this scenario, my appeal is that the Ministry of Railways should think over it.

So far as recruitment to Group 'C' and Group 'D' posts is concerned, the assignment should be given at the DRM level. They should be entrusted with the task of setting up the recruitment board. Slogans like 'Jobs for sons of the soil' are being raised. If we want to solve this problem, the local employment exchange should be asked to send the names of local candidates based on some ratio.

Today, the problem of language has been raised in this House. In this scenario, we should stick to the three-language formula of English, Hindi and the regional language. Any language that is acceptable to the candidates should be the medium of examination.

A point has also been raised about convening the National Integration Council. It should be immediately convened and the Government should come up with a proper procedure to be adopted in these matters.

We are talking about the law and order situation here. So far as the Assam situation is concerned, there is no denying of the fact that the State administration failed to take timely preventive measures, particularly in Tinsukia where a large number of Bihari people have settled for generations and have now become people of Assam but how can the Union Government escape from its responsibility in this regard? Were they not delaying the decision on despatch of paramilitary forces to Assam despite repeated requests by the State Government? The Central Government was very much aware of the grave situation in the North-East. So, how can the Central Government escape from that responsibility?

[Shri Prabodh Panda]

Finally, my appeal to the Union Government and the hon. Minister of Railways is that this should not be taken in a causal manner. The grave situation in our country, the acute unemployment problem of our country and the local situation in the States should be taken into consideration and a specific formula should be evolved to solve the problem.

With these words, I conclude my speech and take this opportunity to thank you once again.

[Translation]

SHRI ARUN KUMAR (Jahanabad) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the problem and the present circumstances of Assam is being discussed here in detail. Several hon'ble Members have put forth their views. I would like to express my opinion briefly.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, our country achieved its independence 56 years ago. Our federal structure should have been strengthened in such a period. But no one has ever questioned about the native State of those who fought for our independence. The great personalities who fought for our freedom, who protected our freedom, are revered all over the country. It is the same – be it for Sardar Bhagat Singh, Subhash Chandra Bose, Mahatma Gandhi or Bardoloi. No one thought that one is Assamese, Bihari or Marathi. In 56 years of independence, we ought to have got over such feelings, and we ought to have strengthened our nationalism but it did not happen. But I would like to say that whether it is regionalism, extremism or opportunism, which have been discussed by the Members here, have political patronage. That is why our country is weakening. Recruitment Board issue is nothing more than an excuse. Hon'ble Member Nikhil Choudhary named an hon'ble Minister here. His statement has not been made because of the actions of Recruitment Board. Today the authenticated statement, laid on the table will be read. It is clear that the statement was made when the Legislative Assembly was in session. An hon'ble Member of Assam Gana Parishad asked whether the hon'ble Minister is speaking as a Minister to the Government or is it his personal stand. The Parliamentary Affairs Minister Shri Majhi said there that he

is making the statement in his capacity as Minister. Now the Government's statement speaks of driving out Biharis. I have laid that paper on the table, and it is not being said that inquiry into its authenticity would be conducted. . . .(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI MADHAB RAJBANGSHI : The Minister is preparing to file a defamation case against this newspaper for publishing this news. . . .(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI ARUN KUMAR : The same Minister, with reference to an injured man. . . .(Interruptions) Everything is being done through newspapers. The statement was made on October 5, 2002. Thereafter the same Minister gave the statement that such things may not be said before media as it may have ill consequences. . . .(Interruptions) he was threatened. When such statements are being given by responsible persons, then what kind of circumstances will be created.

SHRI MADHAB RAJBANGSHI : It is a news to me.

SHRI ARUN KUMAR : It is the second news. I am not saying all this about a certain Shri Tarun Gogoi but about the same person. Therefore, Mr. Chairman, Sir, in my opinion Union Government need to deal with it strongly.

MR. CHAIRMAN : All right. You now please sit down. You have been speaking for 7 minutes.

SHRI ARUN KUMAR : Please have spoken for 20-25 minutes Hon'ble Raghuvansh ji spoke for 20 minutes.

MR. CHAIRMAN : There is one more hon'ble Member who has to speak. Therefore, you please conclude in two minutes.

SHRI ARUN KUMAR : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the circumstances in which this debate is being held, is strengthening regional and ethnic forces. Hon'ble Member Shrimati Margaret Alva just pointed out that Hindi is being imposed, but the policy of the Government is to promote regional languages. It was alleged that Hindi is being imposed. I don't understand this. Is there a new policy

under which Hindi is being imposed. She has been in ruling party for considerable period of time and her statement in the capacity of a Member is irresponsible. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA : Sir, since I have been named, I would like to speak. It is not a matter of policy. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI ARUN KUMAR : You said that Hindi is being imposed.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA : I am clarifying that point only.

[English]

You cannot impose a language on anybody.

SHRI ARUN KUMAR : Who is imposing?

[Translation]

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA : Day before yesterday, an hon'ble Member said that Railway Board Examinations should be held in Hindi Medium :

[English]

I said, 'I object to this because there are parts in the country where Hindi is not the language and they will not be able to compete equally.' . . .(Interruptions)

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH : Sir, Hindi is official language. Its insult is crime.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA : I have not insulted it.

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH : Hindi is not official language as a result of her generosity. . . .(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA : Sir, it has always been the policy that Hindi will not be imposed on any State. . . .(Interruptions) Sir, now that this issue has been raised, I stand up here and say that in my whole career of 30 years in Parliament, nobody has used such a word against

me, but an hon. Member here used such a word against me for having objected the imposition of Hindi. It is still the expected language. . . .(Interruptions)

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILES SINGH : It is a foreign language.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA : If it is a foreign language, then why it is being spoken here. . . . (Interruptions)

[English]

For having said that we will not allow Hindi to be imposed on our States, I was called like that. . . . (Interruptions)

[Translation]

No one used such language for me in my thirty years as Parliamentarian.

[English]

Sir, I urge that it should be expunged from the record. I do not demean myself by asking for an apology from the Member. I do not want his apology because I do not care for his apology, but I want it to be expunged from the record.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I will go through the record and if there is anything objectionable, I will expunge it.

[Translation]

Shri Arun Kumar, you please conclude.

SHRI ARUN KUMAR : Mr. Chairman, Sir, therefore my submission is that keeping in view the unity of the country strong action be taken against such person giving such statements. Indian Railway is the symbol of national unity and is a great medium for strengthening national unity. People belonging to northern region are working in the South and vice-versa. It is only facilitating exchange of views. Government of India ought not to bow down before regional and ethnic forces. The issue of national unity is a very important issue before us.

With these words. I conclude.

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV (Purnea) : Sir, I would like to say one thing for the information of the House.

Sir, as per the information, yesterday also the people of Purvanchal and Bihar had been beaten by the police personnels at Vishakhapatnam. Three days ago 27 students suffered head injury in Karnataka. I had handed over the fax that I received in this regard to Ram Vilas Paswanji.

MR. CHAIRMAN : This issue was raised by Shri Ram Vilas Paswan during the discussion.

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : Sir, the Students were beaten in Karnataka. Some of the injured and beaten students also include those who are known to me and also belong to my constituency. Would the way they were beaten be tolerated? Today discussion on the subject is taking place. Will they be kept on being beaten by Vishakhapatnam and Karnataka police? The people from my constituency were also beaten. How long this kind of injustice would be tolerated?

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Nothing will go on record except Kunwar Akhilesh Singh.

.(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am grateful to you that you gave me an opportunity to speak on the discussion on the subject of violence in Assam that took place during the railway recruitment examination. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : The hon. Minister of State of Home Affairs is sitting. The people of Bihar had been beaten in Karnataka the day before yesterday but nobody is paying attention to it. The Bihar were beaten in Vishakhapatnam also. I have its cutting with me.

*Not Recorded.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The hon. Minister would speak on it when he intervenes in it later.

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH : Sir, it is really unfortunate that there are riots or violence in the Assam, Vishakhapatnam and Karnataka in the name of regionalism and language dispute the passage of 56 years of independence of the country. The social, economic and regional disparity has been prevailing in the country even after 56 years of independence and this disparity is the prime cause of these conflicts. It reflects the failure of our democratic system that we have not been able to do away with the social, economic and regional disparities despite 56 years of independence.

We all should accept it in good spirit.

The violence that took place during railway recruitment examination is reflects the lack of employment opportunities. The people of Assam felt that the outsiders would be able to get selected in large number and they would miss on the opportunity to get employment. Unless we try to make breakthrough towards finding the solution to this basic problem, these kind of problems would keep on arising.

It is not the time to debate as to what did we achieve and where did we fail during these 56 years of independence. The large population increased rapidly after independence and unless this rapid increase in population is checked neither the dream of providing social security could be achieved nor employment could be provided to the innumerable unemployed youth and the problem of increasing unemployment and population. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI SHIVAJI MANE (Hingoli) : That is why we talk of common civil code.

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH : In this context I would like to say that you want to blame the minorities for this problem by saying such things. You are in Government and have the figures of 1952 census and also the latest census report with you and the population of which community has increased to what extent can be easily seen? The root cause of this is education or the lack of it. Kerala can be

taken as the model in this regard. Kerla has almost the level population of followers of three religions. Kerla starved for achieving hundred percent literacy and its population growth rate remained at 13.2 percent vis a vis the national average of 20.6 percent. Until we resolve our basic problems, we can not check such situations from emerging. Their party had promised to provide employment to one crores persons every year but they do not look like meeting their promise despite the fact that they have already completed five years in corridors of power.

Today the issue of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh was discussed. Margreji termed Bihar as a sick State. She raised objection over the issue of language. The only fault of Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Bihar has been that they contributed a lot during the freedom struggle and even West Bengal was in this league. Whether Bihar and UP have to bear the brunt of rendering such glorious services? Uttar Pradesh gave India its First Prime Minister Pt. Jawahar Lal Nehru while the first President of India Dr. Rajendra Prasad belonged to Bihar. Jaiprakash Narain who brought political revolution in the country also belonged to Bihar. He called upon the youth for a revolution against the injustice, atrocities and exploitation. It swayed not only Gujarat but entire country. I would like to know whether Uttar Pradesh and Bihar will have to suffer the consequences just because they served as the land of revolution and freedom struggle? To those who refer to the backwardness of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh, I would like to say to them that an open debate be held about the injustice done against the negligence shown towards both these States since, 1947. I would like to ask as to how much per capita investment was made by the Government in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh vis a vis the other States in the country? If comparative data is studied, a clear picture would emerge before you. The stepmotherly treatment given by the successive Governments has resulted. In the lagging behind of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, Railways are uniting the country together. Railways have connected the country from Kashmir to Kanayakumari. Hindi cinema also has worked as the cementing factor. Today the credentials of Hindi were questioned Shrimati Margreji complained that

Hindi is being thrust upon them. I would like to humbly request her that it is not so. Hindi is the official language of the country.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL (Latur) : He had explained it.

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH : At that time you were not present in the House. He would have explained afterwards.

MR. CHAIRMAN : He had given the explanation. Now you please have this topic.

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH : In my view Hindi is an official language. If English is imposed upon us at the cost of official language then atleast I will not tolerate it. We are in favour of Tamil, Kannada, Telugu, Malayam and Bengali but we respect other Indian languages also. Certainly the medium of exams in the States should be the language spoken there but as far as Hindi is concerned, if it is neglected we will not tolerate this at any cost. Hindi helps in integrating the country.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the people who talk about the backwardness of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, I would like to tell them that had the labour class of Bihar not migrated to Punjab, the situation of Punjab would have been different today. There they are being exploited and are forced to work for 12-14 hours a day. Had we ever tried to see their condition as to what kind of treatment they are being given? In Maharashtra also they are being ill-treated. Whether they are being given humanly treatment there? I would like to congratulate the Minister of Railways for introducing a train from Bihar to Delhi. I have seen that the moment a person from Bihar enters Uttar Pradesh border he is misbehaved. In such a situation, when they are being given ill-treatment, how can they contribute in the development of country. If all this continues like this then it will give rise to violence which will pose a danger for the entire country. Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan are economically backward States. Therefore, I would request the Government to come forward to remove this economic disparity. Unless and until the regional disparities are removed, we cannot check these evils.

[English]

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB (Cuttack) : Mr. Chairman, I stand here to participate in the discussion under Rule 193 which deals with basically two aspects : One is the incidence of violence in Assam and other parts of the country, and the second is the recruitment policy of the Railways. These are the two points which need to be elaborated. When this discussion was taken up on the other day, which I had minutely observed, I was under the impression that I would be speaking on that day and, therefore, I had prepared a note. However, due to my ill-luck, I do not have that note with me now; I am not carrying that note with me. Anyway, I will confine my speech to these two aspects of the discussion be done.

At the first, the incidents of violence both in Assam and Bihar and in other parts of the country which should be condemned by this House, or at least by the Chair. Attack on train passengers in Bihar has also to be condemned in equal terms. They are very unfortunate incidents. Anti-social elements take advantage of such situations. It has, to a certain extent, a political tinge to it. That has to be deduced, culprits should be apprehended and booked.

The second aspect is regarding the pressure on the youths of different regions. Discussion has been made about regional parochialism, regional uprising, about specific regional languages. If there is a discussion on that matter. It will take a lot of time. As the present discussion is only on these two aspects – the law and order situation in specific areas and the railway recruitment policy – I will devote more time to the railway recruitment policy.

Before I come to the recruitment policy, I would like to talk about the unemployment problem in the country. The minimum qualification prescribed for the post of a *khalasi* or a gangman is Class-(VIII). By this, one can comprehend as to how vast is the problem of unemployment in our country.

I would like to draw the attention of this House to a very peculiar situation that has arisen in our country. The situation is of societal tension. There has been a mention

of the census figures and the age groups of people. The people belonging to the age group which is dependent on the earnings of others in our society is bulging. We have a bulging dependent age group in our society. That is the main reason for social tension in our country. That has manifested in different aspects. Who are these dependants? Dependants are the people who are beyond sixty or sixty-five years of age who do not earn much for the family. Dependants are from the age group of five years till twenty-five years of age. After twenty-five, the society, no less the family, expects that a boy or a girl should either earn or make a family. When they do not, the problem starts. That is the main problem, which needs to be addressed.

I come to the railway recruitment policy now. Railways have been in existence in the country for 150 years. In our part of the country, Railway have been there for 100 years. Our Cuttack railway station is going to celebrate the centenary year very soon. More than 100 years have passed. However, the Railway Service Board is no less than around sixty years old. I think it was in 1942 that the first Railway Service Board was formed. Why was it formed? It was formed because the railway system during the British days also was not transparent. The main reason why the Railway Service Board was formed was to see that better men are recruited to handle the organisation.

Subsequently, in the last fifty-sixty years, the Railway Service Board has been converted into the Railway Recruitment Board. I think there are 19 regional Railway Recruitment Boards now in the country catering to different regions. I will confine my discussion to recruitment for Group-C and Group-D posts only. Recruitment to Group-C posts is being done through the Railway Recruitment Boards and recruitment to Group-D posts is being done by the Divisional Railway Managers. Here comes the problem. Nobody is complaining about recruitment to the officer rank posts, which could be done at the national level without any territorial boundaries.

There, Hindi, English and other languages also can be the mode of examination. Nobody is complaining there. The major complaint is, why recruitment should be done at a national level for the posts of Group D or Group C categories of a Division or Zone.

Here is the problem where I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister. The problem caters to my State's Khurda Road Division. We have, as you know, another division at Sambalpur. In the East-coast zone, there is another division in Waltair. The fourth division which also caters to a part of Orissa is the Kharagpur Division. In Kharagpur, when an examination takes place for Group D posts, Bengali is the language; and Oriya is also the language because a part of Midnapur is under that Division and a part of Balasore district is also there under that Division. Similarly, in Sambalpur Division, Raipur area, a Hindi-speaking belt is also there. For Khurda Division, Telugu is also another language as the mode of examination as Palash comes under it.

19.31 hrs.

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

But in October, 1998, when the first notification came for this Group D examination, applications were sought for. I think, after six weeks, another notification came saying that the extension has been made. Then, third notification also came saying that this will be open for all throughout the country. That is where the problem arose. Lakhs and lakhs of applications came. Earlier, that was not being so. I was told by one of my senior friends that earlier for these gangmen, the most able bodied persons of that locality were being recruited by the Divisional Manager. He was not only earning his salary for his family, he was also protecting the property of the Railways. He knew, who were the culprits, who were the *dakus* and who are capable of destroying a number of Railway properties.

Now, when you open the invitation for application throughout the country, a person who will be employed – no matter how he will be selected – he will be having very little contact with the local people to protect the property of the Railways. That should not be the main criterion.

I have two things to suggest. Let the language be confined to the local language of that Division alone for filling up Group D posts. As has been suggested, I fully agree that the local employment exchanges should also be the medium to send the names for the interviews and selections.

My second point is that the applicants should be confined to that area alone through that local language. I think, by doing these two things, a lot of tension in the country, which unnecessarily creates a law and order problem throughout the country, can be solved.

In the Sambalpur Division, during the recruitment, already around 400 gangmen have been posted. They went through that old system with Oriya and Hindi as the mode of languages because Raipur area comes under that Division. So, in Sambalpur Division, recruitment has already been done. But in Khurda Road Division, it is still pending. I was told that more than 4 lakh applications came. After physical and written examinations, around 8,000 and odd persons had been selected and listed and the *viva voce* was supposed to be done. But now, it has been stopped.

MR. SPEAKER : Please conclude now.

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB : I am just concluding, Sir.

Now, out of these 8000 and odd listed applicants, only 1,200 will be posted. This is the problem. This is the vastness of the problem of unemployment which the Railways is going to tackle. Hundreds and hundreds of people are roaming around in the Khurda Road, Bhubaneswar and Cuttack to find out what their future is. They have been asking me, saying please talk to the Railway people. Let us find out what their future is. It is necessary that steps are taken at the earliest in this regard.

I would like to conclude with one sentence more. I would like to just clarify a misconception which has arisen. The other day when this point was being discussed, it was raised from the other side that because of creation of a number of zones, these problems are cropping up in a greater manner. That is not so. Confining Zonal Headquarters in metropolish was a colonial mindset and we should get rid of that mindset.

Regional aspirations are there; we have to tackle that; local problem has to be tackled. Recruitment for Group-C should be done at the local recruitment level

[Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab]

and recruitment for Group-D should be done at the divisional level. And adequate protection should be given to the Railways for recruitment of local people.

[Translation]

SHRI SUBODH ROY (Bhagalpur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the recent incidents of attacks on Bihari and Hindi speaking people, may they were in Assam, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka or in any other parts of the country, is a matter of condemnation and great concern.

Sir, any patriot, who is a supporter of unity and integrity of the country, cannot remain unconcerned over such issues but he is helpless except sticking to his firm determination to deal with this shameful situation. In spite of the fact that our country has made lot of achievements and development, this situation is still prevailing, hence my request is that there is a need to deeply consider over this issue as to why such situation is prevailing even after so many years of independence. The country has made a lot of progress but today when regionalism, separatism and destructive forces are on rise, it is our responsibility to find out the reasons behind all these things. From all this, one thing is very clear that there is lot of resentment among youth as they feel that their future is in dark. They are concerned about their jobs as to what will be their future, how would they earn their livelihood and perform their responsibility. Thus they are very much concerned about their future. Who is responsible for this situation? One belief is that these Bihari and Hindi speaking people, who belong to eastern Uttar Pradesh, are illiterate and neglected. The people who have created this type of feeling and have provoked people, may it be in Bihar or any other State, is a matter of concern. The massacre of 50-60 innocent Biharis and Hindi speaking people and all other such incidents which have taken place in the country is also a matter of great concern. Certainly big criminals are involved in this. They have openly done all this. However it also reflects failure on the part of administration. In whichever State such incident occur, it is the responsibility of that State Government to properly maintain the law and order situation. But the question is what is the

main reason behind all this and why this problem has arisen today?

Sir, I believe that in such terrible situation prevailing in the country the people were expecting the Government something significant so as to ensure the employment opportunities and new direction to the unemployed and disappointed youths of the country. Hence when the hon'ble Prime Minister made an announcement for providing employment to one crore people, they were very hopeful but nothing like this has happened. Only the Department of Railways has done a great job. Our Nitish Babu took a courageous step and made an announcement to recruitment of 20-25 thousand people in group 'D' category which resulted in creating a ray of hope among all youths. But where did we made the mistake in implementing the policy, it should be investigated in the light of what other Members have told. But this is clear that there is no other department or industry where the youth are hopeful to get employment. The way, the process of privatisation has been initiated in the name of globalisation and liberalisation and the major factories have been shut down or large scale through the process of disinvestment, has rendered lakh of people jobless. Hence today there is a need to open all closed factories and revive the sick factories. Jobs should be provided on large scale to all unemployed youth and landless people and the problem of weavers should also be solved.'

I would like to urge the Railway Minister to ensure that the employment procedure and the particular department creating new posts should be fair and unprejudiced. The second thing that I would like to point out here is that a vast chunk of unused land lie by the side of the railway lines, should be given to the landless, dalits and poor people of rural areas and not to the contractors. Keeping in view the above facts and for the sake of unity and integrity of the country, it is essential that we should work with a spirit to rule out separatism regional – imbalance and communalism in Bihar. The Government should immediately pay attention to it in order to resolve the problems of Bihar.

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV (Parbhani) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am grateful for the opportunity you have

given to me. Discussion under rule 193 was held last week also and a number of speakers have spoken on this issue.

An hon'ble Member of Shiv Sena has already spoken on the issue. On behalf of myself and my party, Shiv Sena, I condemn the violence perpetrated against the youth of Bihar in Assam, who had gone there in connection with railway recruitment exams.

No party can support such acts, particularly because the unemployed are already having problems of themselves. I will talk about Maharashtra also, but first I would like to condemn the incident.

MR. SPEAKER : Please be precise in your speech on Maharashtra.

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV : With reference to Assam incident, I don't think anybody has any right to perpetrate violence against anybody in seeking employment. Jobs etc. are side issues, but Shiv Sena is a party which keeps national interest supreme. We talk of national interest not just for the sake of talking but because we genuinely desire nationalism. We have right perception of national interests. If we have genuine desire for the progress of India, then each and every citizen should be a nationalist to the core. People, especially Shri Prabodh Panda ji and Shri Raghuvansh babu have spoken about incidents of Assam, Maharashtra etc. Not only Maharashtrians but also the people of Karnataka, Assam want that justice be done with locals. In fact, such a desire is prevalent in people of almost all States. For the posts in the category of class III and class IV, for posts such as gangmen, sons of the soil be preferred. Shiv Sena is a demanding only that. Nothing is more important than the unity and integrity of the country. An unemployed youth of a State, who has no other job avenue, no money to start his own work, it is quite natural for him to be agitated.

Through you, I would like to request the hon'ble Railway Minister to review the whole recruitment system and find out a way to do justice to sons of the soil. In my opinion, the examinations for group 'C' and 'D' posts should be conducted in the local language. If it is not done, then

those who are unemployed and frustrated, those who are below poverty line, will be agitated. Therefore the whole system needs to be reviewed by the hon'ble Railway Minister.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Marathi speaking people in Maharashtra are divided in three zones. I would like to make a submission to the hon'ble Railway Minister through you. Shrimati Margaret Alva, who was speaking prior to myself, said that some solution should be found of the problem. For the posts of group 'D' locals should be preferred to the extent of 60, 70 or 80 percent. A way out needs to be found. If it is not done, then people would be agitated.

I request hon'ble Railway Minister to review the recruitment system for group 'D' posts and justice be done to sons of the soil. Besides examination should be conducted in regional language. I thank you for the time you permitted me to speak.

[English]

SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE (Jorhat) : Sir, at the outset, I appeal to the august House to condemn unequivocally the attack on the Biharis in Assam as well as the incidents in the Brahmaputra Mail in Bihar at Jamalpur Railway Station which triggered the Assam happenings. This will send the right message to the people of both the States and elsewhere.

What harm a wrong recruitment policy can cause to a peaceful society is nowhere better illustrated than the present Railway recruitment procedure for Grade III and Grade IV jobs in Assam and for that matter, in the entire North-East and elsewhere too.

Biharis have been living in Assam for over more than 100 years. They are integrated into Assamese society. There has always been a climate of amity and goodwill with the people of Assam. There is no sense of rivalry or competition because the local people are not even in the same trade or same type of activities too. It is very unfortunate that over a recruitment policy of the Railways, there has been a climate of violence and clashes leading to loss of life and property.

[Shri Bijoy Handique]

It is also true that there have been repeated demands at various fora, particularly at the informal Consultative Committee meetings attached to the N.F. Railway and a few other Divisions in respect of scrapping the present policy of recruitment for Grade III and IV categories of jobs. The Railway Minister, however, says that he is bound by the Supreme Court directive against reservation in railway jobs. I must, however, say that there is a wave of massive resentment in Assam and elsewhere. It was not against the Biharis that the interview was opposed. It is against the recruitment policy of the Railways. It is just an accident that the bulk of the candidates were from Bihar. Some of them were from Tripura also. Yet barring about 150 candidates, rest of the candidates in the particular batch participated in the interview in full security.

What surprises and hurts the local people is that no step has so far been taken by the Central Government in respect of their demand. They are least concerned to know whether Railway Ministry is competent to do it or not. What they want is that the Government should do it and the Government must do it. The Government also should bear in mind that it cannot preserve the national character of Railways or any other national institution by merely imposing an all-India pattern on various regions, rather they should allow it to grow from below towards fitting into the national pattern. The railway authorities' claim that this policy is designed with the federal polity in mind is too tall to be credible and it has proved to be all bunkum. Sermonising unemployed youths at the grassroot level and denying them basic justice cannot build a national psyche.

The most crucial question now is what do we do now to prevent recurrence of such incidents. It transpired in the discussion in the informal Consultative Committee meeting a couple of days ago that region-wise reservation of Grade IV jobs can be done by amending the DoPT directive. If so, the ball is in the court of the Government. It is for the Government now to do it. If they are sincere, the issue can be resolved. I do hope that the Government will rise to the occasion and do the needful. It is not that once the railway jobs of certain grades at the lower level are reserved,

everything will be over and all problems will be solved. I personally feel and I am afraid that somewhere our emotional integration and social harmony got derailed in spite of the historical process of assimilation of which assamese society always boasts of. This is a society of multi-religion, multi-language, multi-community, multi-ethnicity and multi-culture groups. There may be some misunderstanding, some hitches or some missing links sometimes. We the different groups of Assamese society must put our head and hands together to keep the process of integration alive.

MR. SPEAKER : Please conclude.

SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE : Sir, I am from Assam. Let me speak a few lines more. I want to say something more in response. I am speaking out of anguish. This is our assurance to the august House. We need to evolve some mechanism at the village level, probably at the *panchayat* level to deal with these far flung areas, because most of the Biharis live in the far away forest areas. In fact, the existing Village Defence Organisation will now be remodelled and strengthened to do such work. The Government of Assam has already taken up the job to reorganise this Village Defence Organisation.

At the same time, it should be borne in mind that terrorist activities must be controlled and contained. We must not allow any law and order situation to break out for it is the terrorists who call the shots in such a situation. To maintain law and order and to control the terrorists, Assam, like any other State, has to depend upon the Central forces. Assam is however, driven into a tight corner due to inadequate Central forces. The Assam Chief Minister is on record having written 14 letters since 2002 without any results. I am afraid it is rather a sad commentary on the Centre-State relations.

Sir, when violence broke out, there were only 111 companies of Central para-military forces. So, it is the terrorists who took advantage of the situation. The terrorists took over and controlled the situation. Normally, para-military forces are deployed for counter-insurgency operations but they had to be deployed for law and order duty and terrorists were just waiting for this moment, to jump into the fray and create trouble. At last, when 25

companies of para-military forces did arrive in Assam, the situation was already under control. The question to be considered here is, because of the urgency of the situation, why were not the Central para-military forces airlifted? They could have been airlifted for speed is the essence of such a situation.

Before I conclude, I would like to say that instead of wasting time on blame-game and trying to take political leverage, instead of bickering and shouts and counter-shouts, let us have soul searching and think of addressing ourselves sincerely and honestly to find a permanent answer to this crisis of confidence which Assam as well as Bihar, at the moment, are passing through.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI RENU KUMARI (Khagaria) : Mr. Speaker, Sir. I am obliged that you have given me opportunity to express my views. Debate is going on since days. All the Members are concerned at the rising number of attacks against the Biharis in various States. I would like to remind you that it is the same Bihar, which taught the lessons of peace and non-violence. Buddhists, Jains, Hindus and Sikhs of the country and the whole world hold Bihar as sacred. The Tenth Guru, Guru Govind Singh was born in Bihar. Since, we are running short of time, I would like to be precise. Universities such as Nalanda and Vikramshila were also in Bihar, which enlightened not only the country but the world too. Gandhiji, who single handedly took on the might of British empire, on which sun never set, for the cause of freedom of the country, chose Bihar as his Karmabhoomi. The descendants of Biharis took the reins of power in Trinidad, Fiji and Mauritius. And the same people are now being looked at with contempt. Have they deserved it, or it is because of their ability to work hard that people are envious of them. Railway Recruitment Board is being mentioned. Before all this controversy did anybody know that so many vacancies of Gangmen and Group 'D' posts were there. How many of the poor used to get these jobs when these were under DRM and GM.

20.00 hrs.

How many knew that all over the country there were 20,000 such vacancies. Now that Railway Ministry has

decided that recruitment through a written test would be conducted by the Railway Board wherein only the meritorious, whatever be his economic class would be selected and provided employment. Now it is being said that sons of the soil be preferred. Whether this will not promote regionalism? When we are talking of jobs at national level then why this talk of sons of the soil, of regionalism and language.

Earlier there used to be nepotism in selection process. Similarly vacancies in legislative assembly and legislative councils were filled by the relatives of presiding officers. Whatever be the decision of Railway Board, but whether Biharis are not sons of the soil? Whether Biharis will not be allowed all over the country. If they are, why such things are being said? In my opinion, such discussion may prove dangerous for the national unity.

During the course of discussion only one point was raised here that Railway Recruitment Board is responsible for the riots occurred in Assam. Ultimatum was given to the Muslims living there to leave Assam during the partition of India in 1951. Fatal attack was made in 1960 on Bengali Hindus living in Assam. Incidents of violence against Muslims occurred at large scale in 1966. Riots also took place in the name of language in 1972. Ultimatum was also given to leave Assam in the name of alienation Movement (Videshi Bhagao Andolan) in 1979. Atrocities were committed against Muslims in 1983 as a result of participation in election after the threat posed by 'AASU' for boycotting the elections. Thereafter incidents like 'Neli' tragedy took place, in which 100 innocent people were killed. We should look into the reasons behind the violence that broke out there. I would like to put here that the basic reason behind this violence is hunger and unemployment. It is hunger that leads a man to moral turpitude, and also destroys his discretion. It also compels people to take up arms and women to surrender their chastity unless we eliminate this hunger through providing employment, violence would keep on occurring throughout the country.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is one more thing that was raised in discussion. My other hon. Colleagues raised the question as to why only people from Bihar are being attacked in various States be it, Maharashtra, Karnataka,

[Shrimati Renu Kumari]

Jharkhand, or Assam. We shall have to understand the reasons behind it. The people from Karnataka, or Maharashtra or any other State are not attacked anywhere while the people of Bihar get ill treatment everywhere. Hon. Members like Raghuvansh Prasad Singh ji shall also have to understand this, as he is a part of the ruling party in Bihar. All of us from Bihar and the entire House should think over it. The Bihar High Court has given a statement and all may have read it in which it is stated that no body is safe in Bihar. Law and order situation is out of control there. It is a matter of concern as to how did the DGP and former DGP of Bihar came under discussion as a result of recent incident. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH (Aara) : It is not related to this subject. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI RENU KUMARI : He has no morality and that's why he is disturbing. He was lost his conscience hence he is uttering like this. Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to mention here the background of Bihar. There are no humane conditions in Bihar, people are living like animals. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is not related to this discussion.

MR. SPEAKER : You have raised an appropriate point. One should speak only on the relevant subject.

SHRIMATI RENU KUMARI : Crores of rupees are being provided to Bihar under 'Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan' from the Centre. But the people of Bihar are not getting any benefit of this. . . .(Interruptions) Please listen to me.

SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH : Hon. Member is criticizing the Government of Bihar, which has nothing to do with this discussion.

SHRIMATI RENU KUMARI : Why is he so worried about the Government of Bihar. It is on account of the behaviours or hon. Member that the condition of Bihar is deteriorating. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Debate should not be held on this subject. Please confine to the subject which is under

discussion. Renu Kumari ji please conclude as your time is over.

SHRIMATI RENU KUMARI : All Government schools are in a bad condition in Bihar. Buildings are in dilapidated condition, and there is no teacher. Education system has collapsed there, there is no power and roads are in bad condition. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You please sit down.

SHRIMATI RENU KUMARI : The Chief Secretary had to go to jail and there is almost no scope of employment there. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please do not interrupt. Hon. Lady Member is speaking on the subject. You please sit down. Madam please conclude now.

SHRIMATI RENU KUMARI : Hon. Mr. Speaker, Sir, please listen to me. After the carving out of Jharkhand. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, why is Shri Ram Prasad Singh speaking in between when his face is not appearing on television and Laloo ji may also not be watching the TV.

SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH : Face should appear here too. I am simply expressing my views, there is no question of television. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI RENU KUMARI : The incidents of abductions and murders are taking place daily. There is no factors. But there is no shortage of raw material there Maize, jute, sugarcane. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH : How does it relate to the subject.

SHRIMATI RENU KUMARI : Please let me speak.

MR. SPEAKER : Only the speech of Renu Kumari ji would go on record.

(Interruptions)*

*Not recorded

SHRIMATI RENU KUMARI : Students and labourers are migrating from the State in the absence of employment. Labourers leaving behind their old parents are migrating to Haryana and Punjab for paddy harvesting.

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE (Aurangabad, Maharashtra) : I also have to speak for a minute.

MR. SPEAKER : Please ask question if you have any. Your speech is over. Please sit down.

SHRIMATI RENU KUMARI : Instead of common people criminals are getting benefits in Bihar. There is no control on population. I wish that instead of blaming each other the State as well as Union Governments should encourage Small scale and cottage industries there. Land is very fertile in Bihar and there are perennial rivers too. Employment should be generated there. . . .(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Let me conclude the debate now. Last one minute I have given to her.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH : The Government of Bihar has pondered over it. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I feel her speech shall not conclude if you keep on speaking like this. Please sit down.

SHRIMATI RENU KUMARI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Gogoi Government remained mute spectator during violence in Assam but they can not escape from the moral responsibility on the pretext of requisition of forces from the Centre. President rule should be imposed there by removing such a worthless Government. . . .(Interruptions)
Mr. Speaker, Sir, a poet has rightly said—

"Bhara Nahin jo bhavon se, behati jisme rasdhar nahin,
Haridaya nahin wah pather hai, jisme swadesh ka pyar nahin."

India has ample of natural resources and can provide employment to all its people. However, there is a lack of

will-power and resolution of the Government. I would, therefore, like to say that industries should be established in Bihar but at the same time President rule should also be imposed there by dismissing such worthless Government, only then the people of Bihar will not be killed anywhere. State can be revived only if capital investment is made there. . . .(Interruptions). And if this happens, we would create a 'new India'.

With these words, I conclude my speech.

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE (Aurangabad, Maharashtra) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I thank you for giving me opportunity to speak.

MR. SPEAKER : I have not permitted you to speak. You can ask in case you have any question. I have permitted you to speak only because you are the leader of your party.

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE : Sir, I condemn whatever happened in Assam. . . .(Interruptions) The incidents taking place in Maharashtra can not be compared to what happened in Assam. People have only reacted in Maharashtra, nothing more.

Sir, hon'ble Railway Minister is present in the House. Railway Recruitment Board advertised 20000 vacancies for which lakhs of people applied. The applicants were not only from Bihar but from all the States. I would like to inform the hon'ble Minister that examination to fill up the post of teachers in Maharashtra was held on the same day all over the State. However, people of one district did not go to other district to take up the examination. Through you, I would like to request that first Railway Recruitment Board should call candidates registered with employment exchange and the examination should be conducted on the same day all over the country so that people of one State could not go to any other State. All this is due to creation of linguistic States. I would go to the extent of saying that the educated unemployed of Bihar go to other States because Shri Laloo Prasad Yadav did not create enough job opportunities within the State. If he had created job opportunities. There the youths of State would not have gone to other States. This problem has arisen

[Shri Chandrakant Khaire]

due to failure of the State Government. I would like to submit that Railway Recruitment Board exams be conducted on the same day all over country.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMI) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the discussion started on December 5, and hon'ble Minister of Railways has to reply to it. I am intervening because law and order situation was also involved in it.

Sir, as hon'ble Member Shriamti Renu Kumari said, the North-east States are not new to violence. It has been happening since 1951. The violence is mostly a result of inter-tribal rivalry, even though other kind of violence are also not unusual. After Kashmir, North-Eastern States are most sensitive. Besides Assam, there are seven more States. The hon'ble Members have expressed their sentiments, but while speaking they have to keep in mind that what they say is heard by all and is regarded as authentic and they are also quoted as authoritative. I am obliged to those hon'ble Members who have said that there is a need to rise above linguism and look at the country as one. We should not discriminate between Bihari, Assamese or Hindi and non-Hindi. It is also not good for national unity.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, recruitment examination was being conducted in Assam at 12 different locations including Guwahati, viz Bongaigaon, Kakrajhar, Tinsukia, Dibrugarh, Sibsagar, Jorhat, Naugaon, North Lakhimpur, Sonikpur, Cachar and Karimganj. Sir, violence started from Guwahati from where it spread to other places. On the first day only Guwahati was affected. . . .(Interruptions) I am talking about the first day of violence against Biharis. Please comment only after I have completed my speech. I am speaking only after listening to all of you.

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is no one in press gallery.

MR. SPEAKER : You please listen to him. There is no need for that.

SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMI : I am speaking to you and not to the press.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the incident itself was nothing out of ordinary but one thing I fail to understand is that when people in such large number from outside were coming then there ought to have been made arrangements to check immediately such incidents.

Some of my friends have mentioned the deployment of para military forces time and again. Para military forces are demanded publically. I had said it to hon'ble Chief Minister Shri Gogoi, the Chief Secretary, the DGP and all the senior police officers. All had agreed that it is true. Whenever any incident occurs, there is demand for para military forces and a message to this effect is sent that the situation can not be controlled by the local police and only para military forces can handle it. It is a wrong trend. I would also like to say to hon'ble Members if they say to press and in public that they could not handle the situation because they did not have central paramilitary forces, they are also indirectly saying that their police organisation cannot be trusted to bring normalcy to the situation. It is another thing if such concerns are expressed in camera. I went to Bongaigaon. It is an industrial city, there is located a huge ONGC plant, a railway establishment and coolies live there with me were the Home Minister of the State rank, Chief Secretary of the State DGP, several MLAs and senior police officers. In their presence, people said that they do not have faith in local police and they demanded central security forces. It is wrong. It is very dangerous if the police lost its trustworthiness. The reason here was, as Nikhil Chowdhary ji said, that two militants riding on a motorcycle alongwith a driver were armed with AK-47 rifles. They were not challenged by the nine policemen who were on duty and were armed with rifles and carbines. The assailants escaped after killing six persons including women and children and Muslims who were not there for recruitment tests. They had been living there for years. It was the same place where 19 persons were killed in 2000. A unit of central reserve force was located just 10 minutes from the spot. It is being said that the incidents could have been averted if the central reserve forces were deployed there then why they were not deployed even when they

were so close to that spot. Central Reserve Forces are not sent to station permanently at any place. They are mobile. They are deployed as per requirement. They are not attached to police stations, they can be sent anywhere. This is the surprising element. When the local people narrated it, the State Home Secretary admitted that the policemen, who did not take any action, have been apprehended and put in custody. In a way he admitted that such things do happen.

I was saying that many of my colleagues have already spoken with regard to the CRPF. There is no need to say so. As per the figures, there were 123 companies of the CRPF out of which 10 companies were permanently deployed. Besides, 23 battalions were of the army. Prior permission is not required to call army in Assam. They can be called anytime. One battalion was of the Assam rifles. Besides, the Government have, in order to handle this situation, given standing directions to the State Governments that they can form their own reserve battalion (RBI) besides the ordinary police. The Government of Assam was given approval to form 6 such battalions, out of which 4 have been formed, the expenditure of which would be borne by the Central Government. Now the question is that some error has been committed when battalions were required to be deployed at important places after the incident that occurred on the 9th but were not deployed. When the first incident of murder took place. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : Who committed mistake?

SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMI : Now you may know as to who has committed mistake. It is not the responsibility of the Central Government to deploy police forces. First incident took place on the 17th when a person from Bihar died in the Kitply colony of Tinsukia area. Incident in Bihar took place on the 11th-12th during the railway recruitment programme. The Central forces were required to be re-deployed keeping in view all these incidents but this was neglected. And the result was that the State Government took action when the situation went out of Control.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, first of all, I would like to extend my thanks to his excellency the Governor of Bihar and the Governor of Assam that both of them jointly took initiative on the 19th for restoring peace in the region. They jointly appealed the people to follow non-violence and work for the national integration. The student Union of Assam 'AASU' called for a 'Bandh' on the 17th, which created provocation. They were requested by the hon. Governors to withdraw the bandh, as it was not in the interest of the country? The students Union abided by the request made by hon. Governor. They alienated from the said bandh and movement. Had the State Government made the same appeal to them vis-à-vis the hon. Governor, effect would have been better. When I heard this news on the 19th in Varanasi. . . .(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL : Do you mean to say that that was not done?

SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMI : I was talking about the 19th. And I came to know about it later on, not immediately. On the 19th, the incident takes place, both the hon. Governors make appeal to the Assam students Union, situation comes under control, but then the incident takes place in Tinsukia where maximum of Bihari people live. Surprisingly enough, the persons killed were neither private employees, nor Government servants, but were those labourers working in brick kilns, who go there for a certain period and come back after earning some money. Similarly truck drivers were killed who pay temporary visits. Even the street hawkers were killed and their huts were burnt. Yesterday hon. Raghuvansh ji was asking the extent of loss of life and property there.

MR. SPEAKER : Chinmayanand ji, how much time would you take.

SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMI : I need ten minutes time.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : I also wish to have information from hon. Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs on a few points. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMI : As per information received by us, 53 persons have been killed.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : That is in record only, otherwise 300 persons have been killed there.

SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMI : I would give the same information as provided to me by the Government of Assam.

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : You do not know how many persons were killed, I know that. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : What is the number of persons injured?

SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMI : I am telling about the number of persons immediately after the incident occurred on the 9th. And if they talk of something before that. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : I am not talking about anything before the 9th, but the developments after the 9th. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMI : We sought for the information immediately after taking to the officers in Assam. It is latest information.

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Minister may kindly address the chair only.

SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMI : 53 persons were killed, 285 were injured. Burnt/destroyed houses are 619. Number of plundered houses is 159. I have also requested the State Government to make estimation of the loss occurred. They have not yet given information. Alongwith this, the persons who were living there in small villages and working in Kilns were called in camps as they were insecure there. In fact 15 relief camps were established accommodating 4740 persons. I went there on the 22nd. I had talked to the hon. Chief Minister Shri Tarun Gogoi and hon. Governor Shri Ajay Singh on the 19th. Keeping in mind the situation as told by them, I requested the hon. Deputy Prime Minister that I should pay visit to the area, he asked me to go. And when I talked to the Chief

Secretary and police officers and expressed my desire to visit there, they said that the situation there is not normal and it would be a problem if they deploy security forces for my visit. Even then I said that I would come within a day or two. I went there on the 22nd. Hon. Minister of Development for North-Eastern States, Shri C.P. Thakur also accompanied me. I visited village Bongai, Dibrugarh, Tinsukia and Dhuliajan. I requested that the local representatives of those areas I visited may kindly accompany me. Hon. Pawan Singh Ghatowar remained with me in Tinsukia. Pawan Singh ji said one thing there that background for such an incident was on the making since months and it cannot be denied that ULFA was waiting for taking advantage for such an opportunity as it had been isolated. They did not get any opportunity in the last three years to create any mischief and people had no faith in them. I feel that they had pre-planned it. As the same time elections of Municipal Board were also being held there. There was a kind of tension due to elections in the entire State as holding of peaceful elections in such an environment of incidents of violence is also a challenging job and therefore the entire Government machinery was busy making preparations for elections. Security forces were deployed for the said purpose and so ULFA took advantage of the situation. We have received information that out of 53 persons, 40 were killed by the ULFA outfit. And therefore, I do not feel that local people were opposing the people from Bihar. All the owners of factories asked for security as rocket launcher fell in their compounds on 27th of December, as a result of which the managers were tendering resignation and the factories were on the verge of closure. Hindustan Lever has a total strength of one lakh employees.

Sir, one lakh persons would become unemployed if they close their factories. My submission is that the rules-regulations of Railways is a different thing, but if local people there create an environment of insecurity then what to talk of jobs, even the employed would become unemployed. It is therefore, necessary to ensure security there.

Sir, the Union Government have taken initiative for police reforms and modernisation. Although this process

started in the year 1970, but since then all States have been given merely Rs. 536 crore. However After 1999, each State is being given Rs. one thousand crore every year. Modernisation in the police department should take place, they should have sophisticated weapons, efficient vehicles and an effective system of communication. Record of crimes should be fed in computers. Funds are being spent for making all such improvements.

Sir, I want to put this point, but I am compelled to do so. One of the State Governments asked to purchase helicopter out of this fund so that they could keep a check on crimes through helicopter as the road conditions in the State are not good. They said that they want to tackle the emergency situations. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : Sir, which is that State. please tell the name. How shall we come to know if he does not tell the name?

SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMI : Thats not my habit. I do not wish to tell the name of the State.

Sir, Assam and the North-Eat comprise different types of tribes. The honour of these tribes has been neglected. A major incident occurred and no one has discussed it. Kokrajhar was one of the places where recruitment was to be made. On 6th December, i.e., this month itself 2623 terrorists surrendered in Kokrajhar. The weapons included AK-47 and AK-56 rifles and rocket launchers. The Union Government as also the Government of Assam have promised to provide them with job opportunities in the CRPF, other organisations of the Central Government and the police. This should have been discussed. All newspapers reported it but no one discussed it here.

Sir, around two groups have surrendered in Tripura. We have made an announcement, infact hon. Deputy Prime Minister, during his visit to Kokrajhar, made an announcement that if we can give rights to the people belonging to Bodo tribe, then why not to these persons. These tribes had been fighting for their rights since 1993 i.e. since the last 10 years, and no one listened to them. Now attention has been paid towards them. They have surrendered today, and thus they are being paid attention.

As per the developmental work started by the hon. Prime Minister by Constitution of separate Ministry for the North-east, and it has been requested to spend 10 percent amount of its budget on the North-east. It wont get lapsed if the amount is not spent. It would be non-lapsable and would remain in that account. Efforts are being made to generate employment. These tribes are concerned that they may not lose their own identity. I, therefore, feel that the violence taking place in North eastern States should not be seen only from one point of view.

Sir, one more point as mentioned by Kunwar Akhlesh Singh ji is with regard to the multiplicity of population in the North-Eastern States. People from neighbouring countries are migrating in huge numbers there. One Bill viz, I.M.G.T. is here before the House. If it is reinstated then we can pave the way for ousting those persons who have infiltrated illegally to India in Assam etc. The Bill is under the consideration of standing parliamentary committee. Hon. Acharia ji is here with us. 3 lakh 65 thousand cases of infiltration of foreigners have been registered in Assam, but as a result of working as per the Present act, only 1501 persons have been sent back till date. I, therefore, request you that if this Bill is passed then we would be able to send back 4 lakh Bangladeshi people to their country, but this is possible when I.M.D.T. gets implemented, otherwise not. I, therefore, request you that if it is implemented then we would be able to prevent these Bangaldeshi people from grabbing the employment opportunities. People of Assam shall not have any problem in getting their rights once these 70 lakh people go out of the country.

Sir, at the end, I request that we are committing a great mistake by calling the incidents of violence in Assam as those of communal violence. We should realise that somewhere we need to correct ourselves and I am sure that we shall definitely be successful with the way we are proceeding. There is no violence in Assam at present, the situation has been totally brought under control. Though, there is terror and fear but even after withdrawal of army from that area, no incident of violence has taken place. I extend my thanks to the Government of Assam and the security forces that they controlled the situation there in such a short time and restored peace in Assam.

MR. SPEAKER : As per the rules, the discussion ends only after the reply by the Minister is given but so far the main reply is yet to be given. I will listen the reply of Shri Nitish Kumar.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : After the completion of the debate. I would as exception allow one or two Members to speak.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Sir, the reply of hon. Minister of Railways won't be enough to solve the problem.

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : It will definitely solve the problem.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : After the debate is over, I will allow you.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : This discussion is regarding recent incidents of violence in Assam and some other parts of the country. *... (Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : I will give permission, but not now. You sit down till the last, I will allow you to ask the question. Please be seated.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, he has said nothing about Maharashtra and Gujarat, He has also not said anything about the issue of Maharashtra, Andhra and Jharkhand. *... (Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon. Minister did not give any reply. Leave aside Maharashtra, I had asked two questions. I had asked as to how much assistance is being given by the Union Government to the dependents of deceased. Secondly I had asked him to

urge upon the Prime Minister to call a meeting of the National Integration Council. These two are the issues which I raised. Doing postmortem alone won't resolve the problem. *... (Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Firstly you listen to what hon. Minister Shri Nitish ji says, he will reply your questions. You please be seated.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Let me maintain the order in the House.

(Interruptions)

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I also would ask the question after the hon. Minister finishes his reply. *... (Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : You have to ask the question in very brief you can not ask lengthy question.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Sir, I will ask one question only. *... (Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I will allow you to ask only one question because not many question are asked on such subject. To be honest, question are not allowed be asked on such a subject.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : I will also ask the question.

MR. SPEAKER : You can also ask one question.

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to thank all the hon. Members for expressing their view on a serious subject. I have listened to the views of all the hon. Members very carefully. If the hon. Members listen to me carefully then several of the misconceptions and doubts hovering in their minds would dispel as it is very important to make a discussion meaningful on Railway Recruitment Policy. Even then any issue on Railway's Recruitment policy is left, I would reply to that with the permission of the hon. Mr. Speaker, the discussion is being held on the subject of Railway

Recruitment policy. I do not accept this view that the violence has taken place, due to the Railway Recruitment policy. Hon. Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs has expressed his views about the violence that took place there and the subsequent development there. Later on, perhaps he would be able to throw some light on it, while replying to the questions of the Members.

First of all, I would like, in my capacity as the Railway Minister to condemn violence, whether it has taken place and it has become necessary for me to give clarification when Railways coincidentally, have been involved in the whole development. Several Members have expressed their views on Railway Recruitment Policy. I consider it pertinent here to narrate in brief about how the recruitment in Railways takes place. There are four groups of posts namely Group A, Group B, Group C, and Group D in Railways for which recruitment takes place. The recruitment for Group A posts is done through Union Public Service Commission. Group B posts are filled through promotion and there is no direct recruitment for it. The recruitment of Group 'C' posts is held through Railway Recruitment Board. We also handed over the recruitment of Group D posts to the Railway Recruitment Board. This policy decision has been taken during my tenure that the recruitment of Group D staff would be made by the Railway Recruitment Boards and a set procedure for their appointment be adopted for this purpose. This is the only new change that has been made during my tenure as Railway Minister. The rest of the procedure and recruitment policy remains unchanged and it has been going on for years. Hon. Member is linking both Group 'C' and Group 'D' and that is why there is confusion. I would urge upon him to delink both, only then we would be able to reach at a conclusion.

The recruitment of Group 'C' used to take place through Railway Recruitment Board. The Group 'D' employees used to be appointed on temporary basis as casual labourers and later on after a long period their regularisation used to be done. This continued for years. The posts used to be filled up directly at local level or on compassionate ground. Initially this continued to happen. Then all the casual labourers were regularised by the

Government probably in 1996-96. The Government decided not to appoint the casual labourers and to appoint on regular basis. Then the recruitment did not take place at large scale through openly advertising the posts. The appointments had been taking place on compassionate ground and the General Managers used to appoint the persons at their own sweet will and the transparency in this whole exercise was lacking. When the recruitment used to take place at zonal level or G.M. Level, it never took place through open advertisement. In the meantime, DOT, the nodal Ministry to decide about the modalities of the recruitment in the Government of India issued a circular which I would like to quote because it is being repeatedly said that the recruitment that used to take place through employment exchanges was stopped during my tenure and it is being projected as if I have committed an offence.

[English]

I would like to cite an example of an Office Memorandum dated 18 May 1998 issued by the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, Department of Personnel and Training, New Delhi. Its subject was : "Recruitment of staff through employment exchange"

[Translation]

It has been mentioned in the first paragraph as to how the recruitment used to take place through employment exchange. In the present scenario, I consider it essential to quote the second paragraph.

[English]

"The scheme of employment exchange procedure came under the judicial scrutiny of Supreme Court in the matter of Excise Superintendent, Malkapatnam, Krishna District, Andhra Pradesh Vs K.B.N. Vishveshwar Rao and other 1996 (6)/676. . .

The Supreme Court, *inter alia*, directed as follows :

"It should be mandatory for the requisitioning authority/ establishment to intimate the Employment Exchange, and Employment Exchange should sponsor the names of the candidates to the requisitioning department

[Shri Nitish Kumar]

by selection strictly according to seniority and reservation as per requisition. In addition, the appropriate department or undertaking or establishment, who call for the names by publication in newspapers having wider circulation and also displaying on their office notice boards or announce on radio, television and employment news bulletins and then consider cases of all candidates who have applied."

[Translation]

Names should be called from the employment Exchange and it should be given wider publicity. All the cases be considered collectively. It is office Memorandum of May, 1998 which has been circulated to all the Ministries. Naturally, it would have been sent to the Railways as the Railway is also a department under the Government of India. Being the Ministry under the Government of India, vacancies in it are of the Central Government. The same rules and regulations which are issued by the DOPT are applicable in this department. The entire procedure has been changed. It was provision of pre 1998 employment exchange. I will express my reaction later on. After all we are discussing about the employment exchange. How many names were sent by the employment exchange and when were they dispatched? The employment exchange that sent name was not a sacred cow and the name whatever it is, was sent by them was appropriate. The different Ministries have been receiving thousand types of complaints. It is our and not their subject. I would not like to get involved in that.

After May 1998 guideline, the Railway issued instructions accordingly. Now it is irrespective of pay-scale. As per the order wider publicity is mandatory in all circumstances for those department and undertakings which want to conduct recruitment. It is not All India Recruitment. If the posts are advertised even by the Division, be it Rangia Division, the recruiting agency will be set up. The Railway Recruitment Board has been set up by the Government. Even if advertisement is given by the Zonal Railway or by the Division it will be mandatory

for them to advertise it everywhere and all the applications received are required to be considered collectively on merit basis. This is the law of the land. I have discussed it on many occasion.

I had gone to Assam on the occasion of inauguration of Rangia Division. I came to know, one of the MLAs of my party informed me as to what was told about me in Assam Assembly. I would not like to repeat it here as that is a different House. Regarding me, a State Minister alleged that when he, alongwith the delegation, came to meet me he was insulted. I have never misbehaved with anyone in my whole life. Neither it is essential nor one should do such thing. Will I misbehave with anyone who comes to meet me at my residence? At that time dozens of people belonging to every party were present there. Since it was pointed out so I explained my position. If you call it a misbehaviour then it is misbehaviour. The moment I came to know about it, I gave explanation in the function organised on the eve of formation of Rangia Division and other functions. I gave explanation before the press and also to the hon'ble Chief Minister. Even after that, if such things are being propagated, then what can I do. This is the law of the land. The Minister of Railway committed mistake, the recruitment policy of Railway is faulty. If there is any policy of the railway, it is that recruitment to group 'D' employees should be made through Railway Recruitment Board.

You should also understand why did I say so. I had duly announced in my speech on Railway Budget. I would not like to take more time, however, I would like to submit that I had also discussed while I had presented Railway Budget for 1998-99. It was also discussed while I had presents Railway Budget for 1999-2000. Paragraph twelve of my speech delivered at the time of presentation of Budget for 1999-2000 mentions the recruitment to group 'D' employees. I can quote it. However, I do not find it essential. You may yourself read it. I had given speech at the time of Railway Budget for the year 2002-03. In paragraph 57 of that speech too, I had mentioned it. I gave speech in 2003-04. I also mentioned about this matter in paragraph 63 of the speech. It is not an accidental thing, we are continuously repeating it. Why are we doing so?

Now let us see. When I speak railways I mean zonal railway. Earlier they were authorised to advertise and fill up the vacancies. I have figures relating to this. In 1998-99 in Agra Division notification was issued regarding the group 'B' vacancies. Panel was prepared in 2003. One Division took year in preparing a panel.

[English]

Kharakpur Division-notification issued in 1998. Physical efficiency test held in June 2003. Khurda Raod-notification issued in 1998, Panel not yet announced.

[Translation]

Now they are demanding that this task should be assigned to Division, Railway. My submission in this regard is that it has already been given to them. Vacancies are not being filled even in five years. It was said that the posts in safety category are lying vacant. I also inquired about it as to how many posts for safety categories are lying vacant. I came to know that roughly 20,000 posts are lying vacant. I suggested that once again it should be handed over to the Railway Recruitment Board. I did so but later on it was stopped. I said that it should be given at the earliest as the Railway Recruitment Board has been continuously filling up the vacancies in group 'C'. Similarly, it will fill up vacancies for group 'D'. Lakhs of people apply for it. Zonal railway is not competent. It feels that they cannot handle such large number of applications. Allegations are levelled at every level. The people want to escape from their responsibility. They are concerned about their promotion. The officials feel that vigilance inquiry will be held and they will be caught in trouble. The people remain involved in unhealthy rivalry so they think that it is better not to act. That is why they did not advertise vacancies so it remained vacant. I informed the House that recruitment to group 'D' employees will be conducted through Railway Recruitment Board. I inquired whether reservation can be provided in recruitment at the local level in the matter of Group 'D' posts. Mr. Speaker, Sir, with your permission. I would like to quote the opinion of the legal advisor. He said that we cannot do so at all. Then I wanted to know as to what can be done in this regard. I found that it is a Central Government service. Competitive examinations are being

conducted in Hindi and English medium. Then I decided that examination should be conducted in all the languages included in eighth schedule of the Constitution. Our services are of the Division Level. Recruitment to the post of group 'C' and group 'D' should be done at the division level as these posts belong to them and selected candidates normally serve in the same division throughout their service career. They are not transferred out of the division unless they do not commit grave mistake or they seek transfer voluntarily. Competitive examination will be conducted in those languages also which are spoken in the division concerned. I had announced about it in Budget Speech for the year 2003-2004. Till now, the provision is that the objective type of question paper for written examination conducted by the Railway recruitment Board for recruitment to Group 'D' employees are prepared in Hindi as well as English. Since the recruitment to group 'D' is conducted at the Division level, now it has been decided to prepare question papers in those languages included in the eighth schedule of the constitution and are spoken at local level in the railway Division where recruitment is to be made. This is the only way through which the people who know only regional language can get employment in group 'D' service of Railways. We have made an announcement in the Railway Budget 2003-04 to facilitate those who are well versed in vernaculars. A lot of debate has taken place in the House on language issue. It was done by us and this provision did not exist before. If it has been done, it should be appreciated. I fail to understand as to how the recruitment policy is faulty? If it is wrong to encourage the fast and transparent recruitment. I don't want to comment on it. Why was the decision to set up Railway Recruitment Board taken. Railway Recruitment Board Chennai issued a notification for conducting recruitment examination for 320 posts. The panel was prepared in 2000. When this work of recruitment was entrusted to the Railway Recruitment Board in 1999-2000, the recruitment work started at great pace. Railway Recruitment, Board, Trevendrum issued an employment notice in December, 2002 and prepared the panel in May 2003. The Railway Recruitment Board is expediting the recruitment work which we have to undertake. We decided

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to do recruitment through Railway Recruitment Board and the rest of the policies remain the same. There should not be any objection about the DOPT guidelines issued prior to 1998. I also explained to people innumerable times that I am helpless till these guidelines do exist. There is no fault of Railways in it. The only fault of Railways is that we have openly announced that we intend to undertake recruitment drive and to till up the existing vacancies and the ongoing examinations are meant to fill up not 20 thousand but 173-48 posts for which we have received 72 lakh applications. The number of illegible applicants was found to be 51 lakhs and the number of candidates that actually appeared as keeping in trend of 50-60 percent should be around 30 lakhs. This is the scenario. The people should thank the Railways for making clear the unemployment situation in the country by virtue of indicating as to how many applicants applied for the Railway Recruitment Board examination. The rising problem of unemployment be tackled by all of us collectively. Why to blame Railways for this? In this context of the hon. Prime Minister's declaration about generating employment for the 1 crore persons, it is being said that our effort is like a drop in the ocean. However, excuse me to say that would it be better if it is stopped completely?

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Who is saying that it be stopped? . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Then why do they say so? If our effort to give employment is like a drop in the ocean then why any objections are being raised? . . . (Interruptions) I would like to know as to which of our recruitment policy is faulty? The faulty recruitment policy be scrapped but I am very hurt. . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE (Mumbai South-Central) : We can debate on the Assam violence. I have been fighting for three years. The recent judgement of the Supreme Court was a three bench judgement. Several judgements have already been delivered prior to it. I would like to know as to why it hadn't been put in practice in line with the judgement. . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : All have expressed their viewpoints. I have urged upon the House to at least listen someone once completely. The rhythm gets broken if someone is interrupted. One must be given an opportunity to make one's point of view clear. If it is intended to find a solution by holding a debate then. . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : The way would be found out. . . . (Interruptions) The candidates should be selected through the local employment exchange and the Supreme Court has also stated the same through its judgement. The two judge bench has stated that review petition in this regard be filed, else from where would the youth get the job? Acharia ji you had also said that the candidates should be selected through local employment exchange from where would the youth get the job? . . . (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : See when you were given an opportunity to speak, you delivered your speech. Now hon. Minister is giving reply. When hon. Minister is giving reply every Member should listen to it attentively. Why do you keep on interrupting? If you don't agree with what he says, You can again initiate the discussion by submitting other device.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : No, no hon. Minister, you speak.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : We have also listened you patiently. Hon. Speaker, is regulating the proceedings of the House. I am listening to each and every thing being said here. You should also have the patience to listen others. We have come to the House to express our views and listen to those of others. What else for make us here? . . . (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : It is not the only subject to be discussed in the House but there are many more subjects also.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : We are representing 10-12 lakh persons to exchange our views. However, I have the right to be heard patiently when I have myself done so. I would resume my seat when Mr. Speaker asks me to do so. It is my duty to explain and provide facts about any development that takes places e.g. what happened in

Assam? RRB's are holding the recruitment examinations throughout the country. Where does the root cause of the problem exist? The problem is in Assam and Maharashtra. The examination is being held at rest of the places. It should be kept in mind that our country is very big.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I was in Bihar on an unofficial visit. The by-election in one of the assembly in my parliamentary constituency was taking place and I had gone there for campaigning on an unofficial visit. Meanwhile I had visited rural areas and several incidents had been taking place and I was in that remote area where connectivity was poor and it is not possible to get desired information quickly. Due to modal code of conduct coming into force we are not accompanied by officers, rather by the workers of party. They remain accompanied by officers, rather by the workers of party. They remain engrossed in local development and don't know what is happening outside. When I came to Patna in night. I came to know of it and I sought full information in this regard. The riots and agitations started to take place in Katihar and other places due to what happened in Assam on 9th or prior to it wherein the candidates from Bihar were stopped for appearing in the examination. It was conveyed to me that something be done to pacify the agitating crowds. I had a telephonic conversion with Shri Nikhil Choudhary.

21.00 Hrs.

I talked to the officers of the Railway Board in Delhi. I got this information that there is a procedure of holding re-examination when such incidents of stopping the candidates from appearing in examination take place. I okayed the move. However the people of the Katihar wanted the written assurance to be given not the oral one. I reiterated that the re-examination be held as per rule. I was not aware of all these development as I was in rural areas. It was reported in the Patna edition of the Hindustan Times dated 17th November that—

[English]

"Nitish inflames passions."

[Translation]

I was taken aback to read all this.

[English]

"While some youths prevented Bihari candidates from taking tests for Group 'D' posts of North-East Frontier Railway in Guwahati a week ago, little did they know that, that would snowball into a major conflict. Spiral of violence now threatens to engulf the entire North-East with militant groups targeting Hindi speaking residents in general and Biharis in particular."

[Translation]

This is the role being played by the media. It is reported in the newspaper.

[English]

"The candidates returned to Bihar and complained to the Railway authorities there."

[Translation]

Who is returning to Bihar, to whom have they complained ?

[English]

"Railway Minister, Shri Nitish Kumar told the Hindi newspaper that they should have fought back."

[Translation]

It is written about me.

[English]

"The Newspaper reported the comments and the incident in detail sparking attacks against rail commuters from North-East."

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker, Sir, there cannot be anything more irresponsible and false than this. I did not say anything to anybody. I also cannot say, however, it was reported that I advised them to fight back. What kind of responsible act they are doing, what is going on, who confirmed it. I found that the entire issue is very sensitive. It has been reported about the Minister of Railways. I immediately called press conference and gave clarification in this regard. I asked

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them how did they publish it, what type of news items are being published. I would not like to quote more about it. There is one paper 'Assam Tribune' which is publishing –

[English]

"Nitish Kumar denies role in violence, Guwahati, November 17"

[Translation]

On 17th, I called all the media persons who were available in Patna and told them that the said news item was not true. Thereafter, I rang up Tarun Gogai, the Chief Minister of Assam and told him that whatever was published about me in media was not true. Through you, I would like to tell the people of Assam that I did not say anything to this effect. It is absolutely false. I have denied whatever is being published.

[English]

"Union Railway Minister, Shri Nitish Kumar today denied instigating violence against the Railways Passengers from North Eastern region. The denial of the Railway Minister has been carried by a press release of NF Railway this evening."

[Translation]

From Patna I gave release to PTI, UNI all. N.F. Railway also carried the press release. Thereafter paper writes –

[English]

"It may be mentioned that several quarters, including the Rashtriya Janata Dal Chief, Lalu Prasad Yadav have been alleging instigating by the Railway Minister and some other politicians of Bihar behind heinous attacks on the Railway passengers from NE region.

[Translation]

When I received this fax, I immediately rang to the President of Rashtriya Janta Dal, Shri Laloo Prasad Yadav. Normally I do not do so, however the issue was sensitive. The statement was reported to be given by him in which

it was said that the Minister of Railways, Nitish Kumar and some other politicians were involved in it. I asked him whether he had said whatever has been published in newspaper. He said that it was not true and that he had said contrary to that. Wherever he had given statement he had said that the Minister of Railways had also talked and had made efforts in this regard. When I told him that such things have been published in newspapers of Assam, he said that he would invite media persons and would condemn it. He also did so. It is not appropriate to publish such news without considering its consequence and public reactions. Such news were published. I do not stay in Guwahati. So, I do not have full information as to who is writing and what is being written about me. One after the other press release is being issued by the Railway regarding the recruitment process in railway. However, rumors are spreading and such news are being published. What can one do if any paper is adamant to publish false news. I am not talking about the entire media, however, it can be said that the role of certain section of media has been irresponsible. I am condemned that I did to refute. In fact I have not been available as I have been on un-official tour. I have been visiting in rural areas where there is no phone facility. The moment I got opportunity I refuted it. I am shocked to read such news. I am being involved in matters I have no concern. My fault is only this that I announced in Railway Budget that grade 'C' and 'D' posts will be filled up. My fault is that I decided that transparency will be maintained in filling these posts. My fault is that I did not merely announced rather started working on it. If it is my fault then I am guilty.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, things do not stop here. The process of recruitment to group 'D' was going on and appointment to group 'C' has already been completed. The panel has been prepared and the appointees are getting training. I would like to extend my thanks to hon'ble Members of Assam that they met me as delegation. They informed me that the panel was full with candidates having kumar after their names and is being alleged that that was the handiwork of the Minister of Railway. I told that kumar was not a surname nor does it signify any particular area or caste. Kumars are everywhere. Immediately I called for report. It was reported to me that the candidates of previous

pannel have already taken training and are going to join the service. It is being published about me that I had given secrete instructions to the zonal manager and company to do such things. I challenge everyone to prove that I had given any such instruction regarding the appointment. The Ministry of Railway and the post of the Minister of Railway is very insignificant for me, I am ready to leave politics. What is this? I would like to appeal to my colleagues from Assam that I am a human being and a nationalist. If such things are published it shocks me and I am emotionally hurt. I am being blamed for the thing that I did not do. I do not belong to a party that has wide base in that State. There is only one MLA of my party. So who will give clarification for me when such things are published there and when any clarification is given in this regard by me that will be published in a distorted form. I have political difference with hon'ble Laloo Prasad Yadav however I was sure that he would not make any such allegation against me. He told me that he did not make any allegation to this effect Politically motivated allegations and counter allegations are on an ongoing process, however, such false allegations are not made. Who says that politicians remain involved in mudslinging on each other. I would like to know as to who are doing mudslinging? In one paper it was published that some one went there posing as my son-in-law? I do not have any Son-in-law as I do not have any daughter. There can not be anything more irresponsible that this that media persons made some one my son-in-law. I remained in jail for one month for fighting for the freedom of press and I honour the freedom of press. But what kind of freedom it is? If they do not awake in time and such things are not checked, I would like to warn them that the situation will be out of control. Railway Minister may change presently it is from Bihar so target is Bihar. If the Minister were from some other States that State would have been targeted as it is not the issue of recruitment. The recruitment can not be an issue. We are recruiting persons all over the country. We have stopped recruitment on the request of Assam Government. . . .(Interruptions) Some incidents happened in Maharashtra and it was due to that we stopped recruitment process there. The decision will be taken later on. . . .(Interruptions) I am grateful to you and extend my thanks to you.

MR. SPEAKER : Hon'ble Minister has not blamed the Members.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : I am grateful to my colleagues in the House who have noticed these things and protected an innocent person like me. Hon'ble Shri Shivraj Patil is sitting in the House, he knows that I also have come to the Parliament for the fifth time. Every Member of the House knows about each other. But I do not do that. Since I have been elected to this House, therefore, I will maintain transparency in my work otherwise, I would quit. As a Member of Parliament I have earned a good reputation and I do not want to be infamous. Allegations are levelled upon me in Bihar and also my political friends charge me that I am doing nothing regarding serious problem of unemployment. Why it is being advocated that the appointments should be made on merit basis. We are already doing it. I have been blamed for what I have not done. Injustice is being done to me. Today, through this House, I would like to assure that full transparency has been maintained in the appointments. If recruitment is not to be done through the Railway Recruitment Board, then what would be the procedure for the recruitment. A decision has to be taken if local people are to be given priority in recruitment. When it was in my hand, I included the regional language. However, we have to ponder over as to how more and more regional people can be recruited in group 'D' posts.

Sir, I want to state one more things. An understanding of the railway work is essential for local recruitment. Earlier local people used to be appointed as trackmen for the track passing through their area. It was a good practice. Such trackmen were committed for the railways. Officers of lower level used to appoint them as casual labourers. Gradually, they were made permanent and their commitment remained for the railways. Then a new procedure was started but we did not follow it. We have experienced several systems. We experienced the system of recruiting casual labour and open recruitment systems also but later on we discontinued those. On the basis of all these experiences and by the discussion being held on it, a way out should be evolved and we would follow it.

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I want to state one more thing without which my speech is incomplete. Shri Basu Deb Acharia is a very senior and competent Member. There is no two opinions that he has deep knowledge of railways. So far as I remember, he had been the Chairman of Standing Committee on Railways. He raised a question that corruption is prevailing in recruitment be it is done through Railway Board or through any other system. Place the incidents of corruption, action will definitely be taken against them. A complaint was made when recruitment was being done by the Agra Division of railways. I had given orders for investigation regarding that complaint. People made a complaint to me when I went to Ranchi. I stopped the recruitment process and Penal operation at once and ordered the General Manager to investigate the matter. As per the investigation report submitted, no irregularities were found in this regard. By chance Shri Basu Deb Acharia came to meet me again on the same day. He gave me a letter regarding the irregularities took place there. Earlier also, he had written me a letter on the same issue. He gave me two unsigned letters also with that letter. I asked him about the purpose of unsigned letters. CVC has some guidelines. Shri Basu Deb Acharia is a Senior Member. Railway Vigilance submitted its report in which no irregularities were found. Even then, in view of his letter and two unsigned letters, investigations were done again but nothing was found. As per the official procedure, the matter is referred to CVC and after the report submitted by it, the matter gets closed. I gave reply to Shri Basu Deb ji but he should have placed the facts. I initiated the inquiry on his request but he did not say anything in this regard. Punishment cannot be awarded merely be levelling allegations. There are some rules for investigations. One cannot go beyond that. He is more knowledgeable and senior to me, but he did not mention about it. I would like to read the reply, which I gave to Shri Basu Deb Acharia on 30th September, 2003—

[English]

“Dear Shri Achariaji,

Kindly refer to your letter dated 4th June, 2003 and 3rd July 2003 regarding alleged irregularities of favouritism in recruitment to the depots under Agra Division.

I have had a thorough and sustained investigation conducted into the allegation of irregularity in the selection. No irregularity in the conduct of selection has, however, been found in the course of investigation.

I hope you will kindly appreciate the position.”

[Translation]

I replied orally as well as in writing also. If any irregularities have taken place, investigation would definitely be conducted. However, I will not be the part of investigating agency. The day Minister will become investigating agency, all allegations would be levelled upon him that it is malafied and investigating agency was pre-fixed. If vigilance find some irregularities and an outside agency is to be involved, then the matter is handed over to CBI. CBI conducts all inquiries regarding that matter. I would like to mention it in lighter vein. If some one gets the authentic information regarding the pay off, then the complaint should be made immediately so that the culprit could be apprehended by using decoy. Later on no proof can be traced. Full investigation was made but what can I do when nothing comes out. No Minister has any right to take action against anybody who is not found guilty in CBI inquiry. Even then, if I do, then I myself will be in the dock. I have tried to follow the procedure. I can only assure the House that if there is any flaw in the present policy, we are ready to rectify it. We are ready to adopt any other procedure better than it. So far as the issue of local recruitment is concerned and the reasons of which we have discussed here at length, I personally feel that we would definitely try to evolve a solution in this regard. One thing, which I had mentioned that earlier also local people used to be appointment but now, we would try to adopt the best procedure on the basis of our experience in the past. The same procedure would be adopted in Railways which is prevailing in Central Government. It would be our endeavour to find out a way to recruit more and more people on local level. A solution should be evolved on the

basis of the result of the discussion being held here. Besides, I do not agree that there is any fault in the system of recruitment being done by Railway Recruitment Board. If anyone feels, it is only a misunderstanding which cannot be removed.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, we can wake up a sleeping person but not a person who is already awoken. However if we want to take advantage of the situation, then it is another thing. I do not have any tricks or remedy for it. However, I would say that regional aspiration should be welcomed but regionalism should be condemned. There are different States in our country where we see diversity in language, dialect, dress and food habits but there is unity in diversity. It is good to have local aspirations at some places, but it will affect the country if local aspiration turns into regional sovereignty. I would like to tell my friends from Assam that we may raise the local issue but keep it in mind that Railways unites the whole country. There are 16 zones in Railways. There is no zone which is confined to only one State. There are 67 divisions under 16 zones. Out of these, there are only 18 divisions which are in one State and rest 49 divisions are such which cover more than one State. If regional aspirations are highlighted on the basis of the State, then it would break in to parts. Earlier there were so many rail companies. After independence, leaders of the country constituted Bhartiya Rail by integrating all the rail companies. Now we should not do anything which would affect the integrity of Bhartiya Rail. Local aspirations should be given consideration in Railways but we cannot give more importance to it than railways. Railway promotes art, culture, sports etc. Different people travel in the same coach. It shows the national unity. Please do not harm this live example of country's unity, rather we should make all efforts to save it. Bhartiya rail is for the whole country. Whosoever holds the charge of Railway Minister, is for the entire nation. Therefore, for God's sake, please do not humiliate the Railway Minister if he belongs to Bihar.

Mr. colleagues mentioned about Bihar. I also represent a backward area of Bihar. All the people of the country should help each other. Our colleagues from Maharashtra are present here. Their party is doing well, they can

continue to raise slogans but I would like to request them that they should not cross the limits.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, please allow me to express my personal views on it. I would like to say something to Shri Rawale ji not as a Minister of Railways but as a Member. Shri Rawaleji, I am sorry to say but please do not go beyond the limits. If you continue to do so, then such agitations can be started in other States also like Bihar. Shri Ramvilas Paswanji has rightly stated that Mumbai is a business and Financial capital. Not only Rawale ji but the entire country feel proud on it. Therefore, please do not destroy its structure. Please allow me to express my views as a Member. If we have to run the country within those limits, then we will have to give importance to regional aspirations. If any changes are made in the recommendations that will be unanimously welcomed. . . . (Interruptions) I am not saying so as a Minister but as a friend. Rawale ji no one can stop you from speaking in the House. You quoted the previous things, I also mentioned them. But a way should be paved out of it. There is no problem in the country which cannot be solved. Violence cannot solve any problem. It is not a solution to any problem. Please shun the path of violence when a solution can be evolved by the way of dialogue.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, so far as recommendations are concerned, we want to generate employment for the unemployed so that they could earn their bread and butter. Many a pickle makes a mickle. Poor people are living in pitiable conditions. They have been rendered jobless for some time. Who will be responsible for it? They are not having money to buy food. We should solve this problem immediately. Till now it has been done for 18 thousand people and more is yet to be done. We want that concrete steps be taken to evolve a new system for these recruitments.

With these words, I would like to thank all those Members who participated in this discussion. Please forgive me if I committed any mistake out of emotions.

MR. SPEAKER : Now this discussion is about to be completed. All of you keep on sitting. In the beginning of the discussion, I had submitted that this is a very delicate

subject and the discussion that is to take place on it should be of good quality. I would like to thank all the Members for maintaining the standard of the debate. The replies given by the hon. Minister during the discussion were also quite satisfactory. I do not want to continue this discussion further but during the discussion I had agreed that the Members can ask their questions from the Minister of State of Home Affairs or from the Minister of Railways. I expect the Members to ask the questions in a decent way that would also ensure that their replies are given properly. We are already late. Now all of you resume your seats. I would give an opportunity to all of you one by one. It is upto me to decide as to who has to be given the chance to speak. Hence I would like that the Members only ask one question so that the proceedings of the House could be furnished on time. Then I propose to put up a resolution in the House on behalf of the hon. Members, I expect that all the hon. would support the resolution. This Resolution has been proposed to be brought by the leaders of various political parties. The Resolution would be brought at the end of the discussion. I am allowing Shri Prabhunath Singhji to ask the question first and I would like him to be precise in his question so that the reply could also be precise.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon. Minister of State of the Ministry of Home Affairs has mentioned a few things while replying. He told that CRPF personnel were on guard when the motorcyclist launched the attack in which six persons were killed. He said that more personnel should have been deployed there but some negligence has taken place at some point or the other. He has also visited Assam and has been trying his best to restore peace and order in the violence hit districts. I would like to know as to on what level the negligence occur as had been mentioned by him? Was negligence on the part of police administration? As it is regularly being reported in newspaper that the police remained a mute spectators to the entire episode. It also gave the impression as if the police personnels equipped with rifles and carbines remained a mute spectator to the killing. So, whether one must consider that the police and the administration remained mute spectator to the incident as a part of conspiracy? Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have put up a signed newspaper dated 6th Oct. 2002 before you which

has a statement of one of the Minister of State who had talked of expelling the Biharis from Assam. It was admitted by the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs of Assam that the statement was given in the presence of the Chief Minister. I have put up the newspaper cutting before you. I would like to know whether the hon. Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs is aware of it or not? If so, whether this incident of violence against the persons of Bihar happened spontaneously or it was the outcome of a planned conspiracy? Besides I would also like to suggest to hon. Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs that the 2600 personnels that are proposed to be deployed in CRPF and other forces, not be engaged for the purpose of maintaining the security of the Lok Sabha because Lok Sabha is a very sanctified place and those 260 personnel never be allowed to come here.

While concluding I would like to ask whether the Center is expected to play any role when such incidents take place in a State? And if there is any role that is to be played by the Center then. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You can not ask three to four questions.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Minister, the convention says that the reply be given once all the questions are submitted by Shri Mohan Rawale.

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : I would like to welcome the hon. Minister for giving the assurance that some formula would be devised in order to give some kind of preference to the locals in the recruitment examinations. The tri-language formula was given by the Committee headed by Shri Gajendra Gadkar. The Committee recommended for giving the priority to the locals and this was agreed on by all the Chief Ministers. Through you, Sir, I would like to state that the Government of India had issued a notification about which you have asked.

[English]

Similarly, through an order made by the hon. President of India under the Ministry of Home Affairs Notification No. 2/8/60-01 dated 27th April, 1960, in para 7(b) directed

that the recruitment methods be revised on regional basis. The Ministry of Railways has not revised such methods as yet."

[Translation]

The notification was issued in regard to the law framed in 1959.

[English]

"In pursuance of the provisions contained in the said Act, it is mandatory for the establishment. . ."

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : You can give its copy to the hon. Minister later on.

(Interruptions)

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : I am again talking about the circular of 1998 that was issued in pursuance of the Supreme Court Judgement. This situation has arisen after 1998. Now we would consider it fresh. Let bygones be bygones.

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : I have with me the copy of the judgement delivered by the Supreme Court. I would like to quote one thing with your permission.

[English]

"It is common knowledge that many a candidate is unable to have the names sponsored, though their names are either registered or are waiting to be registered in the employment exchange, with the result that the choice of selection is restricted to only such of the candidates whose names come to be sponsored by the employment exchange. Better view appears to be that. . . ."

[Translation]

Two judges have referred to the wider scope. . . .
(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : The discussion has not started. You just raise your point. There is no need to quote. Hon.

Minister should also pay attention towards this subject and take some clue from it if possible

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : I would like to ask only one question.

MR. SPEAKER : No, no long discussion would be allowed on it.

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will you consider to give priority to the locals?

MR. SPEAKER : I have asked the hon. Minister to do so. What is the point in saying it again.

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : I would like to say to the Minister of State of Home Affairs that the entire youth and students of Bihar had been discussing the incidents of violence that are taking place against the people of Bihar in other States. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether or not the Union Government have directed the State Government whether it be Bihar, Delhi, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Jharkhand or Assam, to put a check on the kind of incidents of violence that are taking place?

Sir, I demand that recurrence of such incidents of violence against youth could be stopped. Second thing I would like to know from the hon. Minister is that as to what steps are proposed to be taken in pursuance of the assurance given by him and further I would like to know from Minister of Railways as to what would be the modalities for providing employment on the local level i.e. by giving priority to the locals in recruitment. The Katihar division is in Anga, Samastipur division is in Mithila and Hazipur division is in Magdha. I would like to know whether the hon. Minister has evolved any formula to provide any priority to the locals in the recruitment examinations or not. If not, the reasons therefore and if so, by when?

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have mentioned it in my budget speech. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know that. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : No, Pappu Yadavji, you sit down. I had given you an opportunity to ask only one question but

you have already asked two question. Now you please sit down.

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know only one thing from the hon. Minister of Railways and would like to urge upon him that protection be given to the people of Bihar whenever they go to face examination.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Member as to how can we ensure the foolproof security for the candidates of Bihar everywhere they go to face examination? There is no such provision in the Constitution nor do we have any layout to ensure it. It would be better for hon. Pappu Yadavji to accompany them and he be sent alongwith them. . . .
(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Then who would provide security to them from Pappu Yadavji.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I on behalf of my party and on my own behalf would like to give this assurance in the House that our Governments would provide free protection to the candidates of Bihar or of any other State wherever they are in power.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to say that a lot of discussion on it has taken place but whether the Government of India have formulated any scheme to provide compensation to the kiths and kins of those who have lost their lives during the violence. Certain people died in this violence who had nothing to do with the recruitment examination etc. The Government pay thousands of crores of rupees in case of natural calamity. I would like to know as to whether any scheme has been formulated by the Government to provide assistance to the family Members of those who have been rendered homeless due to these incidents of violence.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, my second question is that what steps are being taken by the Government to check the recurrence of such incidents? National Integration Council

is there in our country. I would like to know whether the hon. Prime Minister would convene its meeting in which the Chief Ministers of all the States or those who are also its Member, be present and discuss this very pertinent issue there so that the recurrence of such incidents could be checked?

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon. Minister of Railways is not sitting here.

MR. SPEAKER : He was present here a few moments ago. He would be back soon. You ask your question. What you are saying is going on record.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, when I had started to speak, I had given a suggestion that the issue of unemployment. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Basu Deb Achariaji. You do not deliver the speech. Just ask your question very precisely.

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : He has also referred to DoPT's Circular and also Supreme Court's judgement of 1996. After 1996, DoPT issued a Circular to all the Departments and to all the PSUs. In that Circular, which he referred, it was mentioned that the names from the employment exchange along with wider publication should also be obtained. But, this is not being followed. This is my first point.

Secondly, I make one suggestion that already a number of people, maybe two thousand, three thousand, have received training in the Railways and they are all local people. Even in the year 2000, these boys were recruited in the Railways in different workshops.

If you recruit these boys who are skilled and trained, I think, there will be no problem and the local boys will get employment.

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Minister, please.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : I would reply the question of Achariaji.

[English]

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY (Kokrajhar) : Sir, would you allow me to put a question? . . .(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Minister, Bwiswmuthiaryji want to ask one question from you?

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to ask hon. Railway Minister what is the reaction of the Ministry of Railways and the Government of India to the request seeking 100 percent reservation for jobs in all Government bodies including the Railways for the unemployed youth of North-East States?

[English]

What is the response of the Government of India in regard to the demand being raised by the North Eastern people for 100 per cent reservation in jobs including the Railway Department? In 1978, the reserved quota for Scheduled Tribes was 18 per cent and it was reduced to 7.5 per cent. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : What is your question ?

[Translation]

Whatever you ask, only that much will go on record.

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY : There was a permission for 18 percent reservation for tribals in 1978. . . .(Interruptions)

[English]

It was reduced to 7.5 per cent. Why has this sort of a thing been done?

SHRI MADHAB RAJBANGSHI : On 5th December, I mentioned about an accident in Rongia division in

between Udalguri and Routa stations. I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to what action has been taken and also what financial assistance has been given to the injured persons from the Railway Ministry. . . .(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, three questions have been put up to me. Shri Basu Deb Acharia has asked whether information has been sent to the employment exchange. But, he should know that a form is required to be filled up for this purpose and merely sending names will not serve the purpose. Individuals will have to fill up the form and pay the prescribed fee also. . . .(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : No cross talks please.

[Translation]

Hon. Minister, please reply.

[English]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : You asked a question and I am clarifying it. . . .(Interruptions)

[Translation]

I have sought information, after your statement and that's why I am making a mention of it. An application is required to be submitted for this purpose. It is submitted on receipt of a notice from employment exchange. He has given a list. They will have to submit an application form and write the examination to be conducted by the Railway Recruitment Board. It is not that they would be considered for selection only on the basis of sending their name. An admit-card is sent with individual's photo. Due process is followed to avoid hassles like impersonation. Secondly, he asked about absorption of apprentices. The Railway train people both in public as well as private sector but it does not absorb them as there is no such provision. Therefore, Railways are not bound to absorb them. I have already asked to fill up the posts of gangemen in group D. Due process and the rules are to be followed. Large number

Shri Nitish Kumar

of people have been trained in workshops. However suitable employment has not been provided to them. Now we have to see what sort of training has been given to them as we cannot ask everyone to do the job of Gangman and ask them to carry 50 kg load. . . .(Interruptions)
Introduction of concrete slippers have further reduced the scope. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Jobs be provided as per their trade. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Under these circumstances we will discuss everything, we will find some way out. We will have to ponder over all these aspects as to how the posts be filled up and how the names be called or whether the casual workers be engaged or conduct open recruitment. Against the backdrop of today's discussion we will consider all these things and find out some way out. He told that I have replied to the question. As far as vacancies under NF Railways are concerned there are five divisions under NF Railways and Rangia Division has also become operational. In addition, there is Tinsukia, Lumding, Aliporedwars and Katihar. Katihar falls under Bihar and West Bengal, Aliporedwards under West Bengal and Assam. Rangia, Lumaling and Tinsukhia fall in Assam. He would be glad to know that when me introduced provision for opting local language, 46 percent candidates opted medium of examination as regional language. It was seen as a good experiment.

He raised one more point but did not ask as to why no Centre was created in Tripura. There was a centre in Tripura but before on set of the examination, RRB Guwahati postponed all of its examinations. He made a mention of an accident at a level-crossing. I will collect all relevant information and give to hon. Member. But it has not concern with the recruitment. Though I have received information relating to it but I do not consider it fully authentic at this stage. Until and unless, I receive full information on the file. Why should I disclose it in the House. We are finding out about the Gateman on duty there, whether he was absent. We are inquiring it and

when I get full information I would give it to hon. Member. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMI : Three questions are relating to my Ministry. First question by hon. Prabhunath Singh ji is relating to absence of policemen on duty at Bongaigaon. The Government of Assam has taken action against them and put them behind bars for negligence of duty and further action is being taken in this matter. I would request hon. Prabhunath Singh ji to withdraw his comments made by him regarding bodo tribals who had surrendered as they are similar people who surrendered in Kashmir and are helping our armed forces. Making such comments against them. . . .(Interruptions) I request him to withdraw his comments. With regard to the question put up by Shri Rajesh Ranjan was alias Pappu Yadav, I would like to say that on receipt of Kamataka incident, I immediately contacted State's Home Secretary and DG and they reached there and brought the things under control. They assured me that they are making special security arrangement in the areas where students from Bihar or other States are staying. So, there is nothing to worry. As far as Andhra's incident is concerned some Navodya Vidyalaya students had been there for some months. Therefore, they have nothing to do with then incident. And no incident took place with them. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : What are you talking? The incident took place and I have the photos. A student was stabbed in his back. That student is from my constituency and I have shown the photo also. He has been beaten. It is different that it has not been reported. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMI : If we discuss that thing the discussion will be stretched too far. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : We will raise the question.

MR. SPEAKER : Let hon. Minister reply, you may raise the question later on.

SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMI : Why is he making a fun, whatever report, I received I conveyed to him. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : So you doubt the report then I can bring and produce that child before hon. Speaker. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Yadav ji, if the report is wrong then this question can be raised later on.

SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMI : What can I do in this regard. Whatever report the State Government has submitted I am telling the same. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : It is right, it is the version of State Government.

SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMI : It is same. With regard to the question raised by hon. Ram Vilas Paswan ji, I would like to say that dependents of those killed have been provided compensation of rupees one lakh each, Rs. 25 thousand to seriously injured one, rupees three thousand to injured and rupees 25 thousand to those whose house has been burnt. The Central Government reimburses this compensation amount fully. Hon. Chief Minister has sought a grant of Rs. 10 crore just two days ago. He met hon. Prime Minister and sought compensation of rupees 10 crore. We would examine the case and then make the payment.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : The State Government has done everything that is possible.

SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMI : The State Government makes payment and the Central Government reimburses it.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : You mean funds are provided by the Central Government and the payment is made by the State Government.

SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMI : Yes, it happens so.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Now, I place the Resolution with the consent of the House.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMI : I will convey his message to the hon. Prime Minister, hon. Prime Minister may do so.

[English]

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please listen to the Resolution. The Resolution, which is being placed before the House today, reads like this.

"This House express its deep sense of anguish over the recent incidents of violence in Bihar, Assam, Maharashtra and some other parts of the country in the wake of Railway recruitment examinations in which many innocent lives have been lost and properties destroyed. Such incidents of parochialism should be countered unitedly and with determination.

This House unanimously appeals to all to promote harmony and the spirit of common brotherhood amongst all the people of India transcending religious, linguistic, regional or sectional diversities. All issues that have a potential for promoting divisive tendencies and regional discord can and should be resolved through discussion, dialogue and other democratic means, and not through violent means.

Let us resolve to protect the regional harmony, unity and integrity of the country and rededicate ourselves to this cause."

I hope the House agrees.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS : Yes.

The Resolution was unanimously adopted.

MR. SPEAKER : The House now stand adjourned till 11.00 am tomorrow.

21.46 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Tuesday, December 16, 2003/ Agrahayana 25, 1925 (Saka).

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