

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Twelfth Session
(Thirteenth Lok Sabha)



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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Monday, May 05, 2003/Vaisakha 15, 1925 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

[*Translation*]

SARDAR BUTA SINGH (Jalore) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, atrocities are being committed against the dalits. . . .
(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, dalits are being killed in Uttar Pradesh. . . .
(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : Please resume your seat.

SARDAR BUTA SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, atrocities are being committed against dalits and nobody pays any heed to the. . . .(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, how long it would continue. . . .(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : I have seen all those notices given by your people. I have disallowed all the notices for adjournment motion and I cannot even suspend the Question Hour. I accept that it is an important subject. I will allow you to speak on the subject during Zero Hour. Buta Singhji, I will give you preference in raising this subject during Zero Hour. Now you resume your seat.

(*Interruptions*)

SARDAR BUTA SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the people are dying there. People are being killed by the police. . . .(*Interruptions*)

11.02 hrs.

(At this stage Sardar Buta Singh, Shri Ramdas Athawale, Prof. A.K. Premajam, Shri Ram Sagar and some other hon. Member came and stood near the Table)

MR. SPEAKER : All of you resume your seats. I will give you opportunity to speak during Zero Hour.

(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER : I have received several notices of Adjournment Motions. All the issues are no doubt important issues.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down. All the issues are important. But I cannot allow them during the Question Hour.

(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER : I would like to remind you that Zero Hour is meant to allow you to raise important subjects. I will give you an opportunity to raise this subject during Zero Hour. You will have to resume your respective seats. Buta Singhji, you are a very senior Member. I will give you an opportunity to speak on this subject during Zero Hour. You and all other hon. Members resume your respective seats.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : I will not allow anyone of you to speak now. I will allow you to speak during Zero Hour.

(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER : I have not accepted your Adjournment Motion. I will allow you during 'Zero Hour'.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : Please go to your seats. It is time for Question Hour. I have already decided that no such issues could be raised during the Question Hour. Please go to your seats. Let me go to the Question Hour.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : Q. No. 603. Shri N. Janardhana Reddy, you can ask your question.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : I request you to go to your seats. This is not fair in the House.

(*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : You please resume your respective seats.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I telling you am again telling you that I will not succumb to your pressure in this way. I will not allow you to raise this subject now. I will not listen you. I have to complete the Question Hour first.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please go to your seats. I have repeatedly requested you. You must behave properly in the House. This is not a fair behaviour. Please go to your seats.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I am sorry, I will complete the Question Hour today.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : This is not a good thing. Hon. Members please resume your respective seats. I will allow you to speak during Zero Hour.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Janardhana Reddy, you ask the Question.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : All of the hon. Members resume their respective seats. I am ready to listen your views.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Ramdasji, your behaviour of this kind in the House is not decent. You will have to resume your seat. Business of the House cannot be run like this. Whatever question you want to raise can be raised from your seat and not from here. You please resume your seat.

11.06 hrs.

(At this stage Sardar Buta Singh, Shri Ramdas Athawale, Prof. A.K. Premajam and some other hon. Members went back to their seats)

[English]

SHRIMATI SONIA GANDHI (Amethi) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is a matter of great urgency. It is the second time that such incidents of atrocities on the Dalits have taken place in a short spell in Haryana and, therefore, we seek your protection. We would like that our colleagues be allowed to speak on this issue now. Thank you.

[Translation]

SARDAR BUTA SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, five more persons were killed in the police station in Dulina even before the funeral fire of dalits could go out. The recent incident of Harsola village in district Kaithal is also not less gruesome than that. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajanj, Bihar) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, why is he disturbing in the Question Hour ? . . .(Interruptions)

[English]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi) : Sir, you have said that you have not accepted the Adjournment Motion. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down. I have already informed them that I have not accepted the Adjournment Motion.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, either you accept his notice on adjournment motion or allow him to speak during Zero Hour. . . .(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : But, let me tell, you that I have not accepted the Adjournment Motion. I am going to permit him during 'Zero Hour'. I have already told him that it is a 'Zero Hour' notice and I am going to permit him during the 'Zero Hour'.

I just want to know what is it that he wants to say. I am not permitting him.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Let me know what he says.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SARDAR BUTA SINGH : Sir, through the House, I would like to tell the entire country that Guru Ravidasji's birthday falls in the month of February. . . .*(Interruptions)* A number of Harijans and dalit people were performing 'kirtan' in the temple at Harsola village. . . .*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Let me know the subject. . . .*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SARDAR BUTA SINGH : The upper caste people who favour casteism, started beating the people of 'bhajan mandali'. Pelting of stones took place over there and they tried to damage the idol of God. When people gathered over there were pushed out of their temple and the people of entire village attacked them with lathis and other weapons. 300 families who were holding kirtan over there were injured. . . .*(Interruptions)* They got head injuries. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Buta Singh ji, your issue is very important, I will allow you first of all to speak during 'Zero Hour'. But now please sit down.

(Interruptions)

SARDAR BUTA SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, religious bigots went to the temple to attack innocent poor and harijan who were chanting 'bhajan'. . . .*(Interruptions)* The people who had not caused any harm were attacked with lathis and were killed. A young girl and a boy were killed, but till now the administration has done nothing. . . .*(Interruptions)*

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : When does the incident took place? He is talking about February's incident. . . .*(Interruptions)* Mr. Speaker, Sir, have you accepted the adjournment motion?

SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA (Meerut) : I know that a very serious incident took place over there. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SARDAR BUTA SINGH : Even today, atrocities are being committed by the people who favour casteism in Kaisar village. Nobody listen to them and not even district Magistrate, Collector, S.P. or MLA of the area. The MLA of that area is Chief Parliamentary Secretary in the State Government. Newspapers have reported that he is behind this incident. The Government of Haryana is giving protection. Therefore, the DSP and the Magistrate over there are supporting the casteist people who are killing Harijans and Dalits. . . .*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I have permitted you to speak now. You have already raised the issue. Now you can put it in detail during the 'Zero Hour'.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SARDAR BUTA SINGH : Therefore, I would like to request you that discussion on this issue should be held by adjourning the listed business, so that there is peace and tranquility in Haryana. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN (Hazipur) : I support the demand of the hon. Member. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I too have given notice of adjournment motion.

SARDAR BUTA SINGH : They should be protected and their leaders should be given opportunity to express their views. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down. Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Last time also a discussion was held in this regard, but reply has not been given. This is a very serious matter. Such type of incidents are taking place in Haryana. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Atrocities on Harijans should be stopped. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Haryana is adjacent to Delhi. First incident took place in Jhajjar and then two incidents took place in Kaithal. First incident took place in February and then another happened in April. Atrocities are continuously taking place. . . .*(Interruptions)*

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : He is saying that incident took place in February. Then, whether adjournment motion regarding the incident of February would be raised in May, what is this. . . .(Interruptions)

SARDAR BUTA SINGH : Even today, these kind of incidents are taking place over there. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down. I have listened to you. Ram Vilasji, please sit down.

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, this incident took place in the month of February so what new has been added to it? New thing is that by-election is taking place over there and with an eye on the by-election the time of the House is being wasted. . . . (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You know very well that I am not going to allow discussion on this issue.

SARDAR BUTA SINGH : The discussion on it should be held. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I am listening to you, please sit down.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : His Party is opposing the Government of Haryana and here he is supporting them. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Ram Vilasji, please sit down. Your leader is speaking. Please let him speak.

(Interruptions)

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (Sambhal) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I support the views of Shri Buta Singhji and the leader of the opposition in regard to the incident which took place in Haryana. We too are facing a serious problem. Just now, Malhotraji was saying that matters related to States should be raised in State Legislative Assemblies. But when Legislative Assemblies are not in session, then besides you who will give us protection? All of you are aware that Lucknow Bench of Uttar Pradesh High Court has given stay order regarding Samajwadi Yuvjan Sabha Party's office. However, even after the issuance of stay order they took the possession of office between 11 p.m. to 3 a.m. in the night and seized all the items. Same thing happened with Lok Shakti party also. If High Court's decision is violated, it means the

Government of Uttar Pradesh is not following constitutional norms and Uttar Pradesh Government is having full support of the Union Government. Malhotraji, please tell, when Legislative Assembly is not in session, then where the issue would be raised? Lok Sabha session is on. The question is of implementation of High Court's decision? On the one hand the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh has taken possession of six bungalows by spending crores of rupees and on the other hand that dilapidated office, which was running there since 1977, has been acquired. When it was observed that the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh wanted to acquire that office, the leader of the Opposition raised this matter, the High Court began hearing at 8 p.m. The hearing was to take place next day at 11. a.m. but the bench of two judges began the hearing immediately and immediate ruling to maintain status quo was given at 9.15 p.m. Even after that the belongings were looted from 11.30 p.m. in the night to 4 a.m. in the morning. About one lakh rupees, papers and chairs etc. were looted. Earlier whenever goods were taken, these were kept outside, but till now it is not known where chair, table papers records or cash has vanished. We come to know that cash was not even deposited in the account. Mr. Speaker, Sir, we want your protection in regard to this incident of looting and violation of High Court's order.

This Government is behaving in an unconstitutional manner and its acts of omission and commission cannot be ignored. This is a serious matter. If discussion is not held here, then where would it be held? If the High court's decision is not followed, then this issue is no more a State matter. I also know what is a State matter. However, what does it mean if the High Court's ruling is not followed? This is a very important issue and we want your protection. It is a question of violation of court's order by U.P.'s Government. Therefore, the discussion on forceful acquisition of office of Samajwadi Party in Uttar Pradesh should be held.

[English]

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil) : Sir, Kerala is a State known for communal harmony. Ironically, and very unfortunately, day before yesterday, nine innocent people were murdered by terrorists, and 17 people, who were seriously injured, have been admitted in the hospital and they are breathing their last. The offence was committed by a set of Muslim fundamentalist organisations,

which have connections with Muslim fundamentalists. They have come over to Kerala and organised this offence. It is unknown in the history of Kerala. Such a thing never happened in Kerala. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You can raise this issue during 'Zero Hour'.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : In this matter, the Kerala Police has been very ineffective. It is due to the reckless attitude of the State Government. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I am going to allow you during 'Zero Hour' and you can speak at that time. I will permit you to speak during 'Zero Hour', please sit down now. Now, I give the floor to Shri Ram Vilas Paswan.

(Interruptions)

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN The Kerala Government is taking sides and they are encouraging communal disharmony in Kerala. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down.

(Interruptions)

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : It is a very serious matter. The UDF Government is having a honeymoon with the communalists in Kerala. The UDF Government is encouraging communalism in Kerala. So, I ask the Central Government. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I will not take on record what you say from now onwards.

(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Only the submission of Shri Ram Vilas Paswan and nothing else will go on record.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I am going to permit you during 'Zero Hour'.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (Mavelikara) : Sir, I may be permitted to speak because. . . .(Interruptions)

*Not Recorded

MR. SPEAKER : I have not taken that on record. I have removed that from the record. Please sit down.

[Translation]

Please sit down. Ram Vilasji please speak.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I support the views expressed by Shri Mulayam Singhji. My party's office was forcefully evacuated even after Court's decision. Sushree Vimla Singh, State President of my party is being framed up in criminal cases and is hiding.

Secondly, I would like to submit that day before yesterday on 22nd May, I went to Mumbai. Shrimati Savita Ambedkar wife of Babasaheb Ambedkar is very ill and her condition is critical. She is admitted in J.J. Hospital, a Government Hospital. She is being given good treatment. All of us hold Baba Saheb Ambedkar in high esteem and his wife who is 93-94 years old is ill. Therefore, I would like to request the Government of India that it must have courtesy to depute at least the representative of the Government of India or Health Minister to visit her, if the hon. Prime Minister or the hon. Deputy Prime Minister cannot visit her. . . . (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You should raise this issue in 'Zero Hour'.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : One should pay regards to her. . . .(Interruptions) They should definitely visit her. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMI (Jaunpur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the incident of Kerala is very unfortunate. The people were sitting peacefully at Marad beach of Kozikode. The people of a particular community who were supported by NDF. . . .(Interruptions) They are inspired by Muslim League and brutally killed the workers of BJP. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You may raise this issue in 'Zero Hour'.

(Interruptions)

SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMI : A Minister of UDF is involved in it. When the incidents of other States are raised over here, then why Kerala's incident is ignored. . . . (Interruptions) Hindus are being killed over there. . . . (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : You can raise it during the 'Zero Hour'. You have already given notice of it.

[Translation]

SARDAR BUTA SINGH : I demand that the Government should give full assistance for the treatment of Mai Saheb Ambedkar. . . .(Interruptions) Mai Saheb Ambedkar's life should be saved. . . .(Interruptions) My leader has expressed concern in this regard and has prayed may God bless her with long life. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, these people are being supported by Muslim league and NDF. NDF people are involved in those killings. NDF is alliance partner of UDF Government over there. . . . (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I will ask the Government to pay immediate attention towards the matter because issue of health of Mai Saheb Ambedkar is very important.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I will ask the Government to look into the matter raised here.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I will give you permission in Zero Hour.

SARDAR BUTA SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, they are being coerced to compromise. The Government has not done justice with the poor. Dalits are being victimised again and coerced to agree to compromise. . . .(Interruptions) Today, people owing allegiance to 'Janhit Sewa Sangathan' are taking out a big rally. . . . (Interruptions) I urge you to direct the Government to save life and property of these people. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Janardhana Reddy ji, please ask question.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I have gone to the Question Hour now.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SHANKAR PRASAD JAISWAL (Varanasi) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, BJP workers in Kerala were killed. . . . (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You belong to the ruling party. Please cooperate with the Chair. The House wants Question Hour or not ? Please sit down.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, change of Government is imminent after one year and a half. Let them make hullabaloo. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Athawaleji, you are president of Republican party. I will urge them to join your party.

(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : Sir, this is a very vital issue. The House will have to take notice of it.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan, this is more than enough. I have told you that I am going to permit you during 'Zero Hour'. Why are you taking the time of the House? Please sit down.

(Interruptions)

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : Nine innocent people were murdered in broad daylight by communal elements. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Sh. N. Janardhana reddy. Q. No. 603.

11.24 hrs.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Decline in Foreign Tourists' Arrival

*603. SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been a decline in foreign tourists during the last three years;

(b) if so, the factors attributed thereto;

(c) whether the foreign tourists are likely to increase during 2003-2004;

(d) if so, the assessment made about the number of foreign tourists arrival and the foreign exchange likely to be earned therefrom;

(e) whether the Government have formulated any plan to popularise Indian places of tourist interest abroad; and

(f) if so, the details alongwith steps proposed by the Government to attract foreign tourists ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN) : (a) to (f) A Statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement

(a) The tourist arrivals during the year 2000 registered a growth rate of 6.7% as compared to the year 1999. However, the tourist traffic in the year 2001 and 2002 declined by 4.2% and 6.9% respectively as compared to the corresponding previous years. On account of various infrastructural and promotional initiatives the trend has been reversed from October, 2002 onwards. From October, 2002 to February end 2003, there has been a growth of around 15.5% as compared to same period in the previous year.

(b) The tourist traffic in the year 2001 and 2002 declined due to a number of reasons including overall global economic down trend, September 11 incident in the USA, war in Afghanistan, terrorist attack on Indian Parliament, tension on Indo-Pak border and the travel advisories issued by a number of foreign Governments.

(c) With the revival trend observed in the flow of tourist traffic since October 2002, it is envisaged that the number of foreign tourists may increase during the year 2003-2004.

(d) In view of the uncertainty in the international travel and tourism market particularly on account of the Iraq War and the impact of SARS it is not possible to make projections for the present financial year.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) Various steps taken by the Government to popularise Indian places of tourist interest and to attract foreign tourists include :-

- (i) Direct approach to the consumers through Electronic and Print media through new and catchy messages.
- (ii) Creation of World Class Collaterals.
- (iii) Centralized Electronic Media Campaign.
- (iv) Direct co-operative marketing with the Airlines, tour operators and wholesalers overseas.
- (v) To attach greater focus in the emerging markets particularly in the region of China, North East Asia and South East Asia.
- (vi) Participation in Trade Fairs and Exhibitions.
- (vii) Optimize Editorial PR and Publicity.
- (viii) Use of Internet and web marketing.
- (ix) Generate Tourist Publications.
- (x) Re-enforced hospitality programmes including grant of air passages to Invite the media personnel, tour operators on familiarization tour to India to get first hand knowledge on various tourism products.

In addition to the above, the Department of Tourism, Government of India has the following short-term and long-term plans to promote tourism thereby attracting foreign tourists :

- Positioning and maintaining tourism development as a National priority activity;
- Enhancing and maintaining the competitiveness of India as a tourism destination;
- Improving India's existing tourism products and expanding these to meet new market requirements;
- Creation of world class infrastructure;

- Developing sustained and effective market plans and programmes;
- Special thrust to rural and small segment tourism;
- Attention to civilizational issues and issues pertaining to civic administration, good governance and also of social and cultural values; and
- Development of tourism circuits and tourism-cum-cultural hubs.

SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY : Sir, the Minister has accepted in his statement that tourism has come down after September 11 and after the various wars in different countries of the world. He has given a list of actions taken to improve tourism. May I know from the Minister as to what is the specific role our Embassies abroad play in the matter? What are the steps taken by the Government to ensure that the cultural fabric of the country is not disturbed?

SHRI JAG MOHAN : Sir, we have our own Tourist Offices at the most important points from where tourists normally come to India. Help of our Embassies or High Commissions is always taken whenever any conference is held or any big mart is held and mutual co-operations is already there. However, our departmental activity takes place through the Tourist Office.

So far as our cultural fabric is concerned, as I have indicated to this House on many occasions, we have recently set new trends in this area. We are developing a very large number of hubs in which the elements of culture, tourism, clean civic life, history, heritage and environment, all these elements, are synthesised not only to get better tourist response from abroad but also to present a very good, elevating image of India's culture and life.

SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY : Sir, India is a country where Lord Buddha was born. So, I would like to know from the hon. Minister, that what are the steps taken in States like Bihar, Orissa and Andhra Pradesh to attract the pilgrims from various parts of the world. I would particularly like to know about the steps taken in Andhra Pradesh to improve tourism.

SHRI JAG MOHAN : Sir, let me first explain about the steps being taken to improve the tourism in Andhra Pradesh. In Andhra Pradesh, we have sanctioned a very large number of projects. We have sanctioned Rs. 1 crore for the Tourist Bhawan; Rs. 2.4 crore for the National Institute of Tourism; and Rs. 1 crore for the rural tourism. Then, in Nagarjuna Konda, which is also a very important Buddhist site, we are developing a very big hub at a phenomenal cost, which will also promote Buddhist tourism, to which the hon. Member has made a reference.

Apart from that, we are doing a lot of work around the hub of Bodh Gaya in Bihar. In Bihar, we have sanctioned not less than Rs. 25 crore for various projects which are connected with tourism especially with pilgrim tourism.

In Orissa also, all the old Udayagiri caves and the other caves which are related to Buddhism, are being given restoration treatment and conservation treatment, and encroachments are being removed. We are creating a big hub of Buddhist tourism in Orissa also.

So, these are all issues that we have taken up, and this is bound to have good effect in times to come.

SHRI A.P. ABDULLAKUTTY : Sir, Kerala is known to be 'God's own country' in the Tourist Map of India. Will the hon. Minister be pleased to furnish the details regarding development of tourism in that State? Is there any project pending sanction for renovation of Bekal Fort, submitted by the Government of Kerala?

SHRI JAG MOHAN : Sir, recently, we have sanctioned a large number of projects for Kerala, totalling around Rs. 2.5 crore. The hub that we have taken there is the Fort Kochi. We are giving prominence to that area. We will be taking up some important temple towns also.

We have also a big project, which is called 'Sankara Yatra', like Vivekananda Yatra and Gandhiji Yatra, from Kaladi to Kashmir. Kaladi will be a very focal point, and that is also in Kerala.

So far as any fort project is concerned, we will certainly consider it in this year's Budget if there is a proposal from the State Government.

[Translation]

SHRI SHANKAR PRASAD JAISWAL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to what are the various schemes which have been formulated by the Government to woo the tourists to the famous Buddhist pilgrimage Sarnath, the oldest cultural city Varanasi and also to attract the tourist to Uttar Pradesh and especially the eastern Uttar Pradesh?

[English]

SHRI JAG MOHAN : Sir, I have personally been to Sarnath twice. Only recently, about 15 days ago, we have started a very large number of projects there. For example, the Sarnath Museum itself is being upgraded. Buddha's Tooth is being placed there, and it will be a big tourism attraction for the Buddhists from all over the world. We are upgrading this museum. We are air-conditioning it. There is a very large Deer Park area, and around that area, a very large number of hubs are being created. Lights are being put up.

As regards Varanasi, in Varanasi, we are putting up a very big cultural centre at the cost of Rs. 6 crore.

There is a proposal, and we have started implementing certain projects on the *ghats itself* so as to improve the *ghats* and to throw the tourist traffic to Varanasi. We have already done some work for the cleanliness of the cities. As I have mentioned, our endeavour is to produce a total effect which synthesizes the element of culture and also clean civic life. Cleanliness is the top priority that we are giving right from railway stations to airports.

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN : Thank you, Speaker, Sir, We have a number of tourist spots in India. I want to know whether the Government has done anything to publicise in all Embassies to get tourists into our country.

When our Committee visited Andmans, we were able to see that Andmans is also a very good tourist spot. If there is a communication through waterways with the adjacent countries like Thailand, Myanmar, Singapore and Malaysia, it will be very good. Waterways will be a short way.

I would like to ask the Minister whether he will comprehend the proposal to announce other tourist spots

in our country. Even in Tamil Nadu, we have a number of tourist spots. When we went to Tiwoli in Rome there was a small water fall having the flow equivalent to half horse power motor. Still lot of tourists are being attracted there. In Kuttalam, there are five falls. Nowhere in India, and in the world will we get five falls, but in Kuttalam, which is in my district, we have five falls. Thousands of tourists are attracted every year. As there are lot of medicinal plants on the hills of Kuttalam, the water coming from the hills get medicinal value and the people get cured of their diseases, who take bath there. In Tamil Nadu, there are a number of other historical places like Mahabalipuram, Rameshwaram and Kanyakumari. Kanyakumari is an important tourist spot. It is a land of rising sun. We can see the sun-rise and sun-set from there.

So, I would like to ask the Minister whether he will sanction more funds to Tamil Nadu to attract tourists and to develop other tourist spots.

SHRI JAG MOHAN : I have already announced that one of the greatest hubs that we are developing is Mahabalipuram. Mahabalipuram is in Tamil Nadu. Kanyakumari is, of course, not in Tamil Nadu. It is in Kerala.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN : It is in Tamil Nadu you know - from Cape Comorin to Cap Town.

SHRI JAG MOHAN : I am sorry, it is in Tamil Nadu, but, it is approachable through Kerala also. I put it the other way round. So, the point is that most of the people go via Kerala to that place. I have myself been there twice. We are developing it as one of the hubs. I have mentioned about *Vivekananda Yatra*. We are developing from Kanyakumari to Kolkata, and all other places which are associated with Swami Vivekanand, including Chhattisgarh. For Kanyakumari, we have sanctioned a lot of money. I have also notified, under Section 4 of the Ancient Monuments Act, about that rock itself. This will enable us to spend a lot of money for the preservation of the rock and improvement of the environment around that rock. So, this is going to be a very big project. Kanyakumari is on the top of our agenda. Other projects have also been sanctioned for a number of tourist spots in Tamil Nadu. I will send you the list of projects totalling an amount of Rs. 80 crore. . . (Interruptions)

SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH : Hon. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to know from the Minister whether he is aware that due to 32 to 34 kms of bad road connectivity, infrastructure and other basic amenities lining up from Rajgir to Bodh Gaya, we have lost a lot of foreign tourists in the last four years. I would also like to know from the hon. Minister whether he is aware that there is a beautiful landmark spot called Pawapuri which is around 32 kms from Bodh Gaya, which is a tourist spot where the Jains, especially Lord Mahavira attained *Nirwana* and also died there. Is there any possibility of that area being developed?

SHRI JAG MOHAN : Let me first say about Pawapuri. An amount of Rs. 1.2 crore has been sanctioned for the area, particularly the temple complex around that place.

So far as road is concerned, the hon. Member asked whether I am aware of it. I am very much aware because once I travelled on that road and I had back problem after that. So, for that area, money was sanctioned to the Bihar Government. That created some problem. The road-work was not done. We are re-doing that. The entire circuit of Bodh Gaya, Rajgir, Nalanda is being developed. I am finding that another hon. Member is raising his hand. I would say that the total amount sanctioned in the area coming under Bihar Government for the year 2002-03 is Rs. 25 crore, including for a large number of Jain monuments and others.

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : Sir, some countries in the world are attracting tourists more than the population of their countries. But so far as our country is concerned, it sometimes decline and some other times increases, depending on so many reasons. But India has a rich culture and rich heritage. We have 100 crore population, like Europe and North America. India is not a small country. We need not have to depend on foreign tourists. They will come and go. Due to Iraq war and 11th September incidents, fluctuations will be there. But we have to develop tourism within our country and we can attract a lot of domestic tourists. There is no policy with the Government of India. The Budget is also meagre. We should have a policy like other Ministerial programmes. I would like to tell the hon. Minister, through you Mr. Speaker, Sir, that the Government of India may prepare a policy to the effect that if any State Government comes forward with 50 per cent

amount, the Government of India may provide another 50 per cent, without saying 'no' to any proposal to develop tourism, like other drinking water schemes and agricultural schemes. But we find that there is no Centrally-sponsored schemes in this respect. Due to lack of money, some States are not able to develop tourist spots. So, I request him that if any State Government is willing to come forward with 50 per cent of money to develop any project, the Government of India should provide another 50 per cent, without saying 'no' to that. The Government may provide adequate budget for this purpose.

SHRI JAG MOHAN : The hon. Member has raised three issues. One is about domestic tourism. I entirely agree with him and we lay special emphasis on domestic tourism. All the hubs about which I have been talking about, and about which I have a map which I will supply to every hon. Member who wants to know, have been primarily developed to attract domestic tourists.

Let me explain this. . . .(Interruptions) Please listen to me. Sir, let me invite the attention of hon. Members that during the last one year, our domestic tourism has gone up phenomenally by about four crores – that is, from 234 million to 272 million. It is a record achievement, primarily because we are developing all these hubs – from Kurukshetra in Haryana to Chittoargarh, to Kumbalgarh, to Mahabalipuram, etc. Even in the State of the hon. Member, I have mentioned about Nagarjuna Konda. We have Ajanta and Ellora also. As the other hon. Member mentioned, we have Pandharpur also for which he had also come along with me. We have Alandi Dehu and many other places which are on that very route of Pandharpur Yatra. So, all this domestic tourism is there.

So far as the suggestion about bearing the 50 per cent amount is concerned, we would very much welcome it. But there are a very large number of circuits which we are developing, where we are meeting 100 per cent expenditure, including those concerning his State.

MR. SPEAKER : There are several hon. Members who want to put questions. In the next Session, I will request the hon. Members to take up this issue in the BAC for a special discussion because this issue is extremely important. We will take it up in the next Session for a detailed discussion. Now, we will go to the next Question.

Damage to Mango Trees

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*604. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA :
SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the unusual cold spell this year has caused enormous damage to mango trees in Punjab, Uttar Pradesh and some other parts of North India;

(b) if so, the details of mango fields of different varieties effected this year as compared to the last three yeas; and

(c) The Central assistance sought and provided to mango growers to cope up with the loss?

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

Statement

(a) There has been some loss in production of mango in certain areas like Hoshiarpur, Punjab due to the unusual cold spell this year. However, no such losses of mango trees has been reported from other parts of North India, especially in Uttar Pradesh

(b) The level of loss and area under different varieties of mango affected in Hoshiarpur districts is as under :—

| Level of Loss (%) | Area Affected (Ha.) | | |
|-------------------|---------------------|---------|-------|
| | Desi | Grafted | Total |
| 80 | 95 | 380 | 475 |
| 60 | 16 | 90 | 106 |
| 40 | 4 | 60 | 64 |

(c) No Central assistance has been sought by any State Government to help the mango growers to cope up with the loss.

[Translation]

SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA : Mr. Speaker, Sir,

India has a share of 10 per cent in the mango export in the world. Mango growers are in a bad condition today. The mango growers are also in the bad patch like the farmers in agriculture sector. Mango growers are committing suicide due to large debts. I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to how much assistance will be given by the Union Government to the mango producers in mango producing States? The second part of my question is that whether any delegation of mango-growers had come to Delhi to meet the hon. Minister and if so, what were the demands put forth by it and the reaction of the Government in regard thereto?

SHRI AJIT SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the original question is in regard to the nature of problem that has emerged in Punjab in regard to mango cultivation. However, hon. Members is taking about mango export. I would like to tell him that this year a bumper mango crop is expected.

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH : The day before yesterday, the mango crop was devastated due to hailstorm in my constituency and you are saying that the record production has taken place.

SHRI AJIT SINGH : The mango export has also declined but the decline has been caused by Iraq war. This year the price of mango has been keeping low in all markets. As far its production is concerned, the Government has received no report from anywhere except district Hoshiarpur in Punjab that problem is being faced in mango production.

SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA : It is ironical that while on one hand, as has been said by hon. Minister that the production of mango has increased on the other its export has declined a lot. I would like to know as to whether less or more mango production vis-à-vis previous years is expected and also what steps are proposed to be taken by the Government to boost its export? As bulk of the mango export is made to Iraq and Gulf countries, hence I would like to know whether its production and export will be affected due to Iraq war?

SHRI AJIT SINGH : As per the figures available with me, mango export has not registered any decrease. An export of Rs. 7,914 lakh was made in 1998-99 which

increased to reach Rs. 8099 lakh in 2001-2002. Hon. Member himself is saying that the Iraq war has affected its export a little bit but I hope that the problem will not persist.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, our Konkan region in Maharashtra is the large producer of the Alfonso variety of mango. However, it could not be exported in large quantities due to Iraq war resulting in heavy losses to the mango growers. I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to whether he will consider providing any compensation to such growers?

SHRI AJIT SINGH : We have not received any information or demand in this regard from the State Government.

SARDAR BUTA SINGH : Hon. Minister is aware that both mango crop and wheat crop ripen at the same time. Punjab has recorded the loss of mango crop on one hand and even a bigger loss to the wheat growing farmers on the other. A decline of 5 to 10 per cent in the yield of wheat crop has been recorded. Punjab Government has sent a memorandum to the hon. Minister in this regard. The hon. Minister is aware of the sensitivity factors of cropping in Punjab. The farmers were expecting high yield of wheat but it did not happen due to unusual cold spell this year. I would like to know as to whether the Government propose to provide some compensation to the farmers under heavy debts? Punjab Government has sought in writing the assistance of the Union Government. Whether the Union Government have received any proposal in this regard?

SHRI AJIT SINGH : It is true that some crops have been damaged due to the unusual cold spell and haze this year. However, more production of wheat has been recorded in the wheat producing States like Punjab, Haryana etc. Still I will certainly consider providing compensation as per the Government of India's norms in this regard on the demand of the State Government.

Irregularities in Forest Conservation and Management Committee

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

(a) the procedure for the formulation of Forest Conservation and Management Committees;

(b) the number of villages, State-wise, where the said Committees are operational;

(c) the number of Committees against whom cases have been filed for their alleged involvement in unlawful felling of trees and irregularities during last three years; and

(d) the steps taken by the department to check the irregularities committed by the said Committees?

[English]

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

Statement

(a) National Forest Policy, 1998, envisages people's involvement in the development and protection of forests. Accordingly, Central Government had issued detailed guidelines on 1st June, 1990 to all the States and requested them to work out the modalities to involve Voluntary agencies/NGOs and the village communities with the State Forest Department for protection, development of degraded forest lands, afforestation and usufruct sharing by adopting Joint Forest Management. On the basis of these guidelines, various State Governments have formulated their own set of procedures for the constitution of Joint Forest Management Committees. Generally all the village adults are the members of the General Body of the Joint Forest Management Committee, while the Executive Body is an elected body.

(b) State-wise data regarding the number of Joint Forest Management Committees is given in the enclosed Annexure.

(c) Central Government has not received any report from any State Government regarding unlawful felling of trees by the Joint Forest Management Committees. However, operational aspects of protection of forests are the responsibility of the State Governments which are dealt under various Forest Acts as applicable within the State.

(d) Does not arise.

Annexure

| S. No. | State | No. of JFM Committees | Area under JFM (in ha) | Total no of families involved in JFM |
|--------|-------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 6726 | 1718940.00 | 659305 |
| 2. | Arunachal Pradesh | 226 | 19757.00 | 15004 |
| 3. | Assam | 245 | 6970.00 | 4674 |
| 4. | Bihar | 296 | 74139.50 | 0 |
| 5. | Chattisgarh | 6687 | 3200000.00 | 471522 |
| 6. | Goa | 26 | 13000.00 | 336 |
| 7. | Gujarat | 1417 | 159064.00 | 95044 |
| 8. | Haryana | 471 | 65852.42 | 9562 |
| *9. | Himachal Pradesh | 914 | 186000.00 | 45230 |
| 10. | Jammu and Kashmir | 1895 | 79546.00 | 0 |
| **11. | Jharkhand | 1652 | 631500.00 | 4091 |
| 12. | Karnataka | 2620 | 185000.00 | 69600 |
| 13. | Kerala | 232 | 131570.00 | 3622 |
| 14. | Madhya Pradesh | 13303 | 5200000.00 | 1612000 |
| 15. | Maharashtra | 4231 | 1220200.00 | 482563 |
| 16. | Manipur | 82 | 507292.00 | 0 |
| 17. | Mizoram | 256 | 26170.00 | 0 |
| 18. | Nagaland | 55 | 150000.00 | 550 |
| 19. | Orissa | 12317 | 783467.00 | 0 |
| 20. | Punjab | 567 | 164000.00 | 9366 |
| 21. | Rajasthan | 3446 | 324000.00 | 272498 |
| 22. | Sikkim | 158 | 600.00 | 3268 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|--------------|---------------|--------------|--------------------|----------------|
| 23. | Tamil Nadu | 1107 | 408718.00 | 391038 |
| 24. | Tripura | 194 | 35365.00 | 12443 |
| 25. | Uttar Pradesh | 945 | 91738.00 | 209442 |
| 26. | Uttaranchal | 9098 | 796768.00 | 270000 |
| 27. | West Bengal | 3545 | 488095.00 | 0 |
| Total | | 72711 | 16667751.92 | 4641158 |

*Cover 1899 Revenue Villages

**Cover 2439 Revenue Villages

[Translation]

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : Hon. Minister Sir, I would like to know whether any forest act is in vogue or not to check the illegal felling of trees and other illegal activities in forests, if so, whether it is properly being complied or not? My second question relating to it is that the Government should provide assistance and confer rights on those panchyats which have good track record in this direction. You have stated that not even a single complaint from the States in regard to felling of trees in forest has been received. I am of the opinion that this is not true whether you will further clarify the position on the subject.

[English]

SHRI T.R. BAALU : Sir, the hon. Member is mentioning about the felling of trees. He has not mentioned any particular area or what is the details of the complaint. I do not have any information about that. If the hon. Member sends to me a letter pertaining to the felling of trees in a particular area, we will definitely take action. As far as the Joint Forest Management is concerned, it is taking care of felling of trees also. There is nothing else that I can say.

[Translation]

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : Sir, it is wrong to say that no complaint from anywhere has been received. In my opinion, the complaints of gross irregularities from many State have been received. I would like to know as to what action has been taken by the Government in these

areas where gross irregularities have taken place and what concrete steps are proposed to be taken by the Government to check the deforestation in future?

[English]

SHRI. T.R. BAALU : Sir, the question is of a general nature. I cannot answer it.

DR. (SHRIMATI) BEATRIX D'SOUZA : Hon. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know whether there is any reservation for women in the Forest Conservation and Management Committees. It must be remembered that the famous *Chipko* Movement was started by women. Women are the ones who have actually protected the forest trees.

SHRI T.R. BAALU : Sir, there is 50 per cent reservation for women as far as the General Body of the Joint Forest Management is concerned, and there is 33 per cent reservation for women in the executive Committee, which is a must.

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY : Thank you very much for giving me this opportunity. I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister that all these Committees were created in different regions and States under the 1988 Forest Policy. They were created with a view to raise the trees. Besides that, these Committees had entered into an agreement with the various States where they had a share and they were allowed to raise trees. In my State, the share was 80:20. When these trees matured – I am talking of Gujarat – the State Government decreased the share from 80:20 to 70:30 and then further decreased it to 50:50. Now, the State Government is not allowing the Committee to cut trees as they have matured. These people were not even paid and when they cut the trees, cases were filed against the members of the Committee under the Forest Act for illegally felling the trees. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the State Governments are honouring all the agreements with the Committees and allowing them to cut the trees and share the benefit as per the various clauses of the agreement. You may say that this is a State subject.

MR. SPEAKER : Why do you anticipate his reply?

SHRI T.R. BAALU : Sir, the hon. Member is correct. As far as the sharing of the benefit is concerned, it is decided

by the State Government. I cannot insist them as to how much share should be with the Committee. Anyhow, the hon. Member has said about Gujarat. We can advise them.

Cash Crop System

*606. SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have examined whether the cash crop system in India will be helpful or will adversely affect the agriculture in future; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AJIT SINGH) : (a) and (b) While no specific study or examination has been made, the importance of cash crop system prevailing in India can not be over-emphasised. There are three major cash crops viz.; Cotton, Jute and Sugarcane and the cultivation and promotion of all the three crops are essential for the economy of the country as well as from the point of view of farmers' income. Therefore, the cultivation of cash crops will not adversely affect the agriculture of the country.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to what does he mean by cash crop in context of the information provided by him about three main cash crop? Secondly whether tobacco, chilli, banana, mango and litchi do not come under the cash crop category? The second part of my same question is whether the comment made by hon. Prime Minister in Punjab or at some other place in that the farmers should shift/start the cultivation of cash crop instead of foodgrains, has been made without the Government not making any specific study or examination in regard to the cash crop?

SHRI AJIT SINGH : Hon. Prime Minister has asked for increasing the diversification in cultivation in the areas where paddy and wheat is grown in plentitude. You are talking of the definition of cash crop. You also mentioned of labour. Whatever is produce by the farmer for his subsistence is not included in cash crop. Hon. Prime Minister has urged the farmers to cultivate those crops

which can earn cash for them. Besides some commercial crops are also there. The plantation of some crops is known as commercial crop. It does not involve the question of definition. A cash crop is that crop which is cultivated by the farmer not for the subsistence but for earning cash by selling it.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, he has said in his reply that the cultivation and promotion of three cash crop is essential for not only the economy of the country but also from the point of view of the earning of the farmer. In reply he has mentioned cotton, jute, sugarcane farmers are facing the worst condition and are in crisis in regard to these three crops. The farmers producing these three crops are getting ruined on account of the wrong policies of the Government. I would like to know as to what action is proposed to be taken by the Government to improve the condition and encourage the farmers.

SHRI AJIT SINGH : If you are asking about crop-development your question is different.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : I am asking about providing encouragement.

SHRI AJIT SINGH : If you are asking about providing encouragement and increasing yield then it is different question. Mr. Speaker, Sir, the problems being faced by the farmers in producing there crops is a different question.

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the sugarcane farmers are dying in Uttar Pradesh. I would like to know as to when will the Government provide the remunerative price of Rs. 95 to Rs. 100 per quintal to the farmers. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I have not permitted anyone to speak. Let the hon. Minister complete his reply first. You resume your seat.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : The farmer is not getting the price announced by the Government for sugarcane.

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH : The Sugarcane farmer is in a very bad condition in Uttar Pradesh. Three farmers have been shot dead by police. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA : Same is the condition in Bihar also. The farmers are not getting the MSP announced by the Government. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL : Hon. Minister of Agriculture had made this statement in this House itself that the sugarcane farmers would be paid their outstanding dues as soon as possible. Four months passed but they have yet to get their outstanding amount. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Five minutes are left to finish Question Hour. Let the hon. Minister's reply come. You ask the Question when I permit you.

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH : The sugarcane crop of the farmers of Maharajanj and Padrauna is standing in the field. Sugar mills are being closed and the mill owners are saying that the sugarcane will not be processed. The farmers are not getting the price fixed by the Government.

SHRI AJIT SINGH : Big encouragement to the farmers. Hon. Ram Vilas Paswan meant the problems being faced by the farmers.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Both are interrelated. If the Government does not provide encouragement, yield will not take place and if the yield is not there how can they be encouraged. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL : You should also take the statement of the sugarcane farmers. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Minister wants to say about sugarcane and you keep on interrupting him, how will it go on.

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL : The payment to the sugarcane farmers is not being made anywhere.

SHRI AJIT SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the debate on the MSP of sugarcane has already taken place in the House and the Food Minister has told about situation. As far as the question asked by hon. Members about Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Maharashtra are concerned, the meeting has been convened this month. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL : The reply of the discussion was given but neither any conclusion was arrived at not any clear cut situation has emerged. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI AJIT SINGH : Sir, a separate debate has been held on sugarcane. As far the question asked by Ram Vilasji is concerned, the Government is trying to ensure that the farmers get the appropriate price. . . .
(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Only those permitted can ask the questions as per the rules of the House. You are the Chairman of the Panel. You know it better than me.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the House is more concerned about the sugarcane farmers. I also would like to say the hon. Minister question related to the problem of the farmer. He has replied that the farmers are not being adversely affected but the truth is that today the farmers are being adversely affected. The reason for it is that a less payment of Rs. 22 per quintal sugarcane vis-à-vis the price of previous year is being made to the farmers in Bihar this year. A committee was set up after a meeting with the hon. Prime Minister and three Union Ministers and Minister of Development of Uttar Pradesh are the members of that Committee, but it seems that the Committee will only look into the problems being faced in Uttar Pradesh. Hence through you, I would like to know as to whether the hon. Minister in consultation with the hon. Prime Minister would try to resolve the problems being faced by the farmers in various parts of the country especially by the farmers in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh by taking up those issues in the Committee?

SHRI AJIT SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon. Member has said that there is some problem in Bihar also. I will certainly discuss the problems of the sugarcane farmers in Bihar with the hon. Prime Minister. The Chairman of federation had attended the meeting of the Committee that had taken place this month. The problem of all the States are on the agenda of the Committee and it is not concerned with Uttar Pradesh alone. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Question No. 607 Shri Kamalnath.

(Interruptions)

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH : Hon. Minister is making a wrong statement. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : If it is so, you can address from your seat and can give notice of breach of privilege against the Minister. What is the need to come into the well. No

permission will be given to you in breach of the rules of the House. You can give privilege notice.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL : House cannot run by breaking rules.

MR. SPEAKER : It is what I am saying.

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL : All right, house cannot run but the assurances given are not fulfilled. . . .
(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You can give privilege notice.

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the sugarcane farmers in Uttar Pradesh. . . .(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

(Interruptions)*

Testing of Polluting Vehicles

+

*607. SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA

SHRI KAMAL NATH :

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

(a) whether the Centre for Science and Environment has criticised the Union Government for failing to put in place an effective system to test polluting vehicles;

(b) if so, whether the existing system to check pollution of vehicles is not found fit; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to remove the various shortcomings in the system?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) and (b) The Centre for Science and Environment has pointed out some deficiencies in the existing pollution under control (PUC) Certificate system.

(c) The PUC Certificates are issued under Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989 as amended from time to time by the agencies authorized by the State Governments. The

*Not recorded.

PUC System, in Delhi, has been strengthened by introduction of web camera for recording number plates of vehicles.

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon. Minister has told about the steps taken for the preservation of the environment. On the other hand we are also witnessing as how the forests are depleting and their area, shrinking. In a way the waste land area is increasing. I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to whether any scheme for the conservation of forests has been implemented by the Union Government.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Ban on Use of Asbestos

*608. SHRI AKBOR ALI KHANDOKER : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government had set up an Inter-Departmental Committee on banning the use of asbestos in various products;

(b) if so, the number of meetings held by the Committee so far and when it is likely to submit its report?

(c) whether the Government are aware that UNEP/WHO/ILO in their reports from time to time considered all forms of asbestos as carcinogenic; and

(d) if so, the steps the Government propose to take to create public awareness in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, an Expert Committee consisting of Director, National Institute of Occupational Health, Director, Industrial Toxicology Research Centre, Director General of Mine Safety, Member Secretary, Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) and

others was constituted to formulate a strategy on Indian asbestos industry from environmental angle. The Committee held one meeting and subsequently the matter was referred to CPCB for examining the issues comprehensively. CPCB has submitted its report in August 2002.

(c) The UNEP/ILO/WHO in its report on Chrysotile Asbestos (1998) has, inter alia, concluded that exposure to chrysotile asbestos poses increased risks for asbestosis, lung cancer and mesothelioma in a dose-dependent manner and no threshold has been identified for carcinogenic risks.

(d) Steps taken for prevention and control of pollution of asbestos and creation of public awareness include the following :

- Public hearing has been made mandatory for all new/expansion/modernization projects in asbestos sector, prior to environmental clearance under the provisions of Environmental Impact Assessment Notification, 1994 and its subsequent amendments;
- A Comprehensive Industry Document On Asbestos Products Manufacturing Industry including guidelines for environmental management has been prepared and widely disseminated for creating awareness; and
- Emission limits have been stipulated for all types of asbestos manufacturing units (including all processes involving the use of Asbestos) under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.
- The Bureau of Indian Standards has published several documents on guidelines relating to asbestos sector.

Smuggling of Shahtoosh Wool

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

(a) whether the Government are aware of the seizure of 215 kg. Shahtoosh wool as reported in the 'Times of India' dated April 07, 2003;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether the Government have identified the persons involved in this racket;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the connivance of wildlife officials in the racket is also being investigated;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to curb this growing illegal trade in the country?

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

(b) A truck bearing number UP 14 R 2967 was caught by the enforcement officials of the Department of Forests and Wild Life, Government of NCT of Delhi on 5.4.2003 as per report received from the Delhi Administration. The truck that was coming from Haldwani was intercepted at Shahadra border. During the search operations, 11 bundles of shahtoosh wool having a total weight of 215 kgs were seized from the truck.

(c) and (d) The truck driver, Shri. Raje Singh and two other persons viz., Shri. Inder Singh Garbyal, a resident of village Garbyang, District Pithoragarh, Uttranchal and Shri. Baljeet Singh of village Rafla, Dharchula, Nepal, were arrested.

(e) and (f) As reported by the State Government of NCT of Delhi, no connivance of wild life officials has been reported.

(g) The measures taken by the Government to curb the illegal trade are as follows :

I. State level

(i) The State Government of Jammu and Kashmir has amended its Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1978, including the Tibetan Antelope in Schedule I, thereby providing it highest degree of protection.

(ii) State level and District level coordination committees have been set up in several States to prevent poaching and illegal trade in wild life.

(iii) State Wild Life Authorities carry out regular checking of the stocks of dealers of animal products and birds.

II. National Level

(i) The Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 has been amended and the punishments to the offenders have been enhanced including forfeiture of their property.

(ii) Government of India has set up Regional and Sub-Regional offices for wild life preservation in major export and trade centres of the country to prevent smuggling of wild animals and their products.

(iii) Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has been empowered under Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 to apprehend and prosecute wildlife offenders.

(iv) Financial and technical help is being extended to the States under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes, viz, Project Tiger, Project Elephant and Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries for enhancing the capacity and infrastructure of the State for providing effective protection of wild animals. Assistance is also provided for giving rewards to the informers for eliciting information about poachers and smugglers.

(v) A special coordination and enforcement committee has been set up under the chairmanship of Secretary, Environment and Forests, Government of India, for control of poaching and illegal trade in wild life.

(vi) Export of wild animals and their derivatives is prohibited under EXIM Policy.

III. International level.

(i) Government of India is a signatory to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES) for control of illegal trade in wild life items.

- (ii) Bilateral agreements have been signed with Nepal and Republic of China for controlling trans-boundary illegal trade in wild life.

CISF at Airports

*610. DR. MANDA JAGANNATH : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

- (a) the reasons for inducting the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) into airport Security;
- (b) whether the CISF is fully equipped to deal with special requirements of airports and to handle emergencies; and
- (c) if so, the facts and details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN) : (a) After the hijacking of Indian Airlines' flight IC-814 in December, 1999, the Central Government decided to deploy CISF in place of State/ Union Territory Police for airport security, in a phased manner in all operational airports in the country, to bring in uniformity in procedures and practices and as a dedicated force for aviation security duties.

(b) and (c) Before induction, CISF personnel are given pre-induction training for Aviation Security duties. One month on-the-job training is imparted to CISF personnel. Refresher courses are also conducted at regular intervals/ They are provided with sophisticated and modern weapons and communication equipments. Their performance at airport is monitored periodically by officers of Bureau of Civil Aviation Security.

To meet emergencies, Quick Reaction Teams (QRTs) of CISF have been placed at all major airports and they are adequately briefed about their role in such situations. The State Police also assist CISF to tackle emergencies.

[Translation]

Helicopter Service for Holy Places

*611. SHRI PADAM SEN CHOUDHRY : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

- (a) whether any proposal to introduce helicopter service for holy places of Badrinath, Kedamath, Gangotri and Yamunotri is under consideration of the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the names of holy places in India for which helicopter service already exists; and

(d) the time by which helicopter service is likely to be introduced for Badrinath, Kedamath, Gangotri and Yamunotri?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN) : (a) to (d) Pawan Hans Helicopters Limited has plans to operate helicopter services to Kedamath, on experimental basis, from middle of May, 2003 till the end of June, 2003.

M/s. Deccan Aviation Private Limited has been providing helicopter services for passengers visiting Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine.

[English]

Sale of Land by IA

*612. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH :
SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Indian Airlines has sold some of its assets to meet its day-to-day expenses;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Indian Airlines has sold some land in Chennai recently;

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

(e) the extent to which such sales helped the Indian Airlines to meet its operational expenses;

(f) whether a more rational commercial approach will help Indian Airlines reduce losses and increase their cash flow; and

(g) if so, the details of steps proposed to avoid selling assets for meeting its day-to-day expenses?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN) : (a) to (e) Indian Airlines has not sold any assets to meet its day-to-day expenses. Efforts

were made to dispose of land which was lying unutilized for long at Laxmi House, Chennai. But this could not materialize since no financial bids were received against the tender issued for the purpose.

(f) and (g) Most of the losses of Indian Airlines can be attributed to rise in the cost of inputs like ATF, Insurance, Landing and Navigational charges etc. while are beyond the control of Indian Airlines. These losses are further aggravated due to its operations on commercially unviable routes in order to discharge its social obligations as a Public Sector Undertaking. This not only adds to the losses, but also prevents Indian Airlines from deploying its capacity on the more profitable trunk routes. However, Indian Airlines has been taking steps to improve its business performance and to bring about qualitative and quantitative improvements in its customer related services. There is no proposal from Indian Airlines to sell its assets for meetings its day-to-day expenses but the proposed sale of Chennai was basically to dispose of a non-performing asset of the Company.

[Translation]

Policy on Soil Erosion

*613. SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have formulated any policy to check soil erosion by the rivers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) names of States where cases of soil erosion by the rivers has come to the notice of the Government in the recent past; and

(d) the funds provided by the Union Government to the State Governments to check soil erosion during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The National Water Policy, 2002 states that the erosion of land, whether by the sea in coastal areas or by river waters inland, should be minimised by suitable cost effective measures. The State and Union Territories are also required to undertake all requisite steps to ensure that indiscriminate

occupation and exploitation of coastal strips of land are discouraged and that the location of economic activities in areas adjacent to the sea are regulated. Each coastal State needs of prepare a comprehensive coastal land management plan, keeping in view the environmental and ecological impacts and regulate the developmental activities accordingly.

(c) The States of Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Assam, Kerala, Orissa, Himachal Pradesh and Maharashtra are most vulnerable to river erosion.

(d) Anti river erosion works are integral part of flood management works are planned and executed by the State Governments and provisions are made in their State Plan for execution of such work according to the priorities assigned by the States. Besides the State plan funds, central assistance has been provided to various States under Centrally Sponsored Scheme/Central Sector Scheme/ Non Lapsable Central Pool of Resources during the last three years :-

Centrally Sponsored Schemes, Critical Anti erosion in Ganga Basin States

(Rs. in Crore)

| Sl. No. | Name of the State | 2000-01 | 2001-02 | 2002-03 |
|---------|-------------------|---------|---------|---------|
| 1. | Bihar | 8.50 | 13.58 | 12.8325 |
| 2. | Uttar Pradesh | 4.00 | 6.89 | 5.44 |
| 3. | Uttaranchal | 1.00 | Nil | 0.95 |
| 4. | West Bengal | 6.50 | 11.38 | 5.60 |

[English]

Tourism Potential in States

*614. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of huge tourism potential in some States particularly in Orissa;

(b) if so, the areas identified where the Union and State Government could jointly develop the tourists complexes in the States;

(c) whether any comprehensive action plan has been formulated in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) The Department of Tourism provides financial assistance for development of tourism infrastructure projects in the country. In the Tenth Five Year Plan, the Department of Tourism has launched the following schemes for this purpose :

- i) Scheme of Integrated Development of Tourist Circuits,
- ii) Scheme of Product/infrastructure and Destination Development, and
- iii) Scheme of Assistance for Large Revenue generating projects.

(Projects under these schemes are executed jointly by the Central and the State Governments)

(c) and (d) The Planning Commission has indicated an allocation of Rs. 885.00 crores for the scheme of Integrated Development of Tourist Circuits; Rs. 476.50 crores for the scheme of Product/Infrastructure and Destination Development and Rs. 98.00 crores for the scheme of Assistance for Large Revenue generating projects in the Tenth Five Year Plan. Projects are formulated in consultation with the State Governments based on their proposals and field inspections. One Tourism Destination in each State/Union Territory where elements of tourism, culture and good civic governance are synthesised will be sanctioned every year. Six tourist circuits will also be sanctioned every year.

Domestic Servant Recruiting Agencies

*615. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA :
SHRI BHASKARRAO PATIL :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that several domestic servant recruiting agencies are reported to have mushroomed in the capital recently as appeared in the Statesman dated April 9, 2003;

(b) if so, whether these recruiting agencies are flouting various labour norms;

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

(d) whether any norms have been prescribed for opening and registration of such agencies;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether the Government have investigated the functioning of such recruiting agencies;

(g) if so, the details thereof; and

(h) the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SAHIB SINGH VERMA) : (a) to (h) It is fact that a report appeared in the Statesman dated 9.4.2003 under the caption 'servant agencies flout all labour norms'.

Private Placement Agencies including Domestic Servant Recruiting Agencies are operating in various States/Union Territories. There is no system of granting permission/registration/recognition to such private placement agencies by the Government, excepting for Private Manpower Exporting Employment Agencies which come under the Emigration Act, 1983 and Labour Contractors who come under the Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1970 and under Inter State Migrant Workmen (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1979. Such Agencies are small establishments employing less than 10 workers and fall within the purview of the unorganized sector. Cases of cheating, flouting of various labour norms, if any, are dealt with under the normal provisions of the law by the respective State/UT Governments.

[Translation]

Irrigation Potential

*616. SHRI RAMANAND SINGH :
SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE :

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the present position of cultivable land and irrigation potential created at the end of Ninth Plan, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government propose to provide additional assistance to the State Governments so that they could develop their untapped irrigation potential;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether certain districts in Madhya Pradesh remain drought-hit in the absence of irrigation;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether the Union Government have formulated any action plan with the cooperation of State Governments to increase irrigation capacity in the drought prone areas; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI) : (a) State-wise position of cultivated land (Net Sown Area) as per Land Use Statistics of the Ministry of Agriculture for the year 1998-99 (latest) and the irrigation potential created upto the end of the Ninth Plan as per provisional assessment made by the planning Commission is given in the enclosed Statement-I.

(b) and (c) Central assistance is provided to the State Governments in the form of block loan or block grant and the same is not tied to any specific problem or criteria. However, Government of India is providing Central Loan Assistance (CLA) to the States under the Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP) for expeditious completion of ongoing Irrigation projects. The quantum of CLA to a State is decided on the basis of the State's matching share and capacity to absorb the funds provided. Government of India has also introduced a Fast Track Programme under the AIBP with effect from February 2002 to provide 100% loan assistance for projects which are in advanced stage and can be completed in one year's time (two working seasons). Under the programme, CLA amounting to Rs. 11541.73 crore including Rs. 859.715 crore provided under the Fast Track Programme, has been released upto the end of March 2003 to 28 States for 172

major and medium projects and over 5200 minor irrigation schemes.

(d) and (e) According to criteria of drought adopted by the Central Water Commission for identification of drought prone areas 26 Talukas in 8 districts of undivided Madhya Pradesh covering 37307.93 Square Km are regarded as drought prone.

(f) and (g) Water being a State subject, schemes are planned, investigated, implemented and funded by the State Governments out of their own resources and as per their own priorities. During the Tenth Five Year Plan 79 major and 76 medium irrigation/multipurpose schemes are under construction which benefit the drought prone areas in the country fully or partially. State-wise details of the projects, benefiting drought prone areas is at Statement-II. Besides, a special programme of drilling and construction of exploratory wells was launched during the Ninth Plan in five drought-affected States viz. Rajasthan, Orissa, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Chattisgarh. In addition to this, National Water Development Agency have formulated National Perspective Plan for water resources development which envisages interlinking Peninsular rivers and Himalayan rivers for transfer of water from surplus basins to water deficit basins.

Statement-I

(In thousand hectares)

| No. | States/UTs | Net Sown Area (NSA) | Irrigation Potential created upto the end of Ninth Plan (Provisional) |
|-----|-------------------|---------------------|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 10978.00 | 6325.50 |
| 2. | Arunachal Pradesh | 185.00 | 101.80 |
| 3. | Assam | 2701.00 | 775.60 |
| 4. | Bihar | 7431.00 | 8181.96 |
| 5. | Goa | 142.00 | 39.55 |
| 6. | Gujarat | 9674.00 | 4129.90 |
| 7. | Haryana | 3628.00 | 3796.70 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|-----------------------|-------------------|-----------|----------|
| 8. | Himachal Pradesh | 549.00 | 169.65 |
| 9. | Jammu and Kashmir | 733.00 | 561.48 |
| 10. | Karnataka | 10489.00 | 3627.00 |
| 11. | Kerala | 2259.00 | 1166.20 |
| 12. | Madhya Pradesh | 19839.00 | 4056.20 |
| 13. | Maharashtra | 17732.00 | 5706.40 |
| 14. | Manipur | 140.00 | 167.70 |
| 15. | Meghalaya | 221.00 | 50.90 |
| 16. | Mizoram | 109.00 | 4.90 |
| 17. | Nagaland | 261.00 | 76.00 |
| 18. | Orissa | 6048.00 | 3238.00 |
| 19. | Punjab | 4238.00 | 5916.20 |
| 20. | Rajasthan | 16073.00 | 4905.88 |
| 21. | Sikkim | 95.00 | 30.70 |
| 22. | Tamilnadu | 5635.00 | 3672.80 |
| 23. | Tripura | 277.00 | 71.05 |
| 24. | Uttar Pradesh | 17585.00 | 33253.00 |
| 25. | West Bengal | 5440.00 | 5322.00 |
| Total of all States | | 142462.00 | 95347.37 |
| Total UTs | | 136.00 | 58.51 |
| All India Grant Total | | 142598.00 | 95405.88 |

Statement-II*Projects benefiting drought Prone Areas
(State-wise)*

| Name of State | Ongoing Projects | |
|----------------|------------------|--------|
| | Major | Medium |
| 1 | 2 | 3 |
| Andhra Pradesh | 9 | 3 |
| Bihar | 4 | 4 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|----------------|----|----|
| Jharkhand | 3 | 1 |
| Gujarat | 1 | 12 |
| Haryana | 5 | 0 |
| Karnataka | 10 | 9 |
| Madhya Pradesh | 9 | 2 |
| Maharashtra | 22 | 28 |
| Orissa | 3 | 2 |
| Rajasthan | 5 | 0 |
| Tamilnadu | 1 | 2 |
| Uttar Pradesh | 3 | 0 |
| West Bengal | 3 | 16 |
| Total | 79 | 76 |

*[English]***Duty Exemption for Oil Transport**

*617. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are considering any proposal to exempt foreign airlines, operating to and from India or passing through the country from payment of all levies and duties on upliftment of petrol and other lubricants in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government are also contemplating to amend the Aircraft Act, 1939 to put this into effect;

(d) if so, the details thereof and by when the final decision is likely to be taken in this regard; and

(e) the total loss of revenue likely to be suffered on this amount?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN) : (a) to (e) Government has already decided to exempt foreign airlines, operating to/ from India or passing through the country from payment

of all levies and duties on uplift of fuel and lubricants in India. Accordingly, Parliament has enacted the Foreign Aircraft (Exemption from Taxes and Duties on Fuel and Lubricants) Act, 2002 and the relevant notification was issued on 18.11.2002. Indian carriers are similarly exempted from the payment of duties on fuel and lubricants in foreign countries. The notional loss of revenue on account of this is likely to be about Rs. 125 crores per annum on an average.

Reorientation of Agricultural Education

*618. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH :
DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have decided to reorient the agricultural education to make it relevant to the new challenges in the context of globalisation;

(b) if so, the details of concrete steps Government propose to take in this direction;

(c) whether the inadequate knowledge on agricultural education is posing serious concerns on various agricultural issues; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to face the challenges in agricultural education and improve the quality?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AJIT SINGH) : (a) and (b) Agricultural education is a State subject and the fundamental responsibility to support education lies with the State Governments. However, the ICAR as an Apex body at the national level is involved in the process of planning, undertaking, aiding, promoting and co-ordinating agriculture education in State Agricultural Universities (SAUs), Central Agriculture University (CAU) and Deemed Universities (DUs). Keeping this in view, it is providing supplementary support for updating and bringing uniformity in academic curricula of various degree programmes, support for modernization of laboratories and infrastructural development, strengthening of instructional farms, computerization, faculty competence improvement, students' educational tours, establishment of counselling and placement cell and strengthening partnership between

scientific institutions, industries and rural development institutions etc.

(c) and (d) Education is a dynamic process and to keep pace with national and global developments, ICAR in collaboration with SAUs, DUs, and CAU is continuously striving to maintain quality of education. The ICAR is supporting SAUs to develop excellence and towards this end the Council has established an Accreditation Board. The Board has implemented an accreditation process which is comprehensive, rigorous and periodic. All these efforts are expected to improve and sustain the quality and relevance of Agricultural Education in the country to face future challenges.

[Translation]

Schemes under AIBP

*619. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether a number of schemes have been received from various States under Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP) during the last three years;

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

(c) whether the Government of Bihar has submitted Baleshwar Pump Canal Scheme Phase-I under this Programme to the Union Government for clearance;

(d) if so, by when it is likely to be cleared; and

(e) the assistance provided by the Union Government to the State Government for its implementation?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI) : (a) and (b) The State-wise details of number of schemes and the amount of Central Loan Assistance (CLA) provided under Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) during the last three years are given in the enclosed statement-I and II.

(c) to (e) Probably the Hon'ble Member is referring to the Baleshwar Pump Canal Project submitted by the Government of Bihar to the field unit of the Central Water Commission (CWC) as no scheme by the name Baleshwar Pump Canal Scheme Phase-I has been received in the

CWC. Bateshwarasthan Pump Canal Project estimated to cost Rs. 212 crore envisaging to irrigate 25.4 thousand hectare was submitted to the field unit of CWC at Patna for CLA under AIBP during 2002-2003. Field unit of CWC, Patna after examination requested clarifications from the State Government on environmental clearance of the Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India, concurrence of the Government of Jharkhand on removing

command area lying in Jharkhand from the scope of the project and provision of adequate funds for the project in the Tenth Five Year Plan. As the State Government did not comply with these observations, as per the criteria for inclusion of projects under AIBP, Bateshwarasthan Pump Canal project did not qualify for CLA under AIBP during 2002-2003. The scheme can be included for CLA under AIBP on satisfying the AIBP criteria.

Statement-I

| S.No. | State | No. of Schemes provided with CLA under AIBP | | | | | |
|-------|-------------------|---|-------|------------------|-------|------------------|-------|
| | | 2000-2001 | | 2001-2002 | | 2002-2003 | |
| | | Major/ Medium | Minor | Major/ Medium | Minor | Major/ Medium | Minor |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 10 | | 4 | | 3 | |
| 2. | Arunachal Pradesh | | 532 | | 385 | | 288 |
| 3. | Assam | 6 | 46 | 6 | 5 | 7 | 58 |
| 4. | Bihar | 6 | | 2 | | 2 | |
| 5. | Chhattisgarh | 2 | | 3 | | 5 | |
| 6. | Goa | 2 | | 2 | | 0 | |
| 7. | Gujarat | 5 | | 3 | | 4 | |
| 8. | Haryana | | | | | 1 | |
| 9. | Himachal Pradesh | 3 | 60 | 1 | | 3 | |
| 10. | Jammu and Kashmir | 7 | | 9 | | 9 | |
| 11. | Jharkhand | 5 | | 3 | | 4 | |
| 12. | Karnataka | 4 | | 7 | | 8 | |
| 13. | Kerala | 2 | | 1 | | 1 | |
| 14. | Madhya Pradesh | 10 | | 6 | | 10 | |
| 15. | Maharashtra | 8 | | 4 | | 16 | |
| 16. | Manipur | | 108 | 2 | | 3 | 118 |
| 17. | Meghalaya | 1 | 47 | 1 | 34 | 1 | |
| 18. | Mizoram | | 10 | | 7 | | 5 |
| 19. | Nagaland | | 468 | | 74 | | 61 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
|-------------------|---|------------|-------------|-----------|------------|------------|-------------|
| 20. Orissa | | 6 | 23 | 9 | | 9 | |
| 21. Punjab | | 3 | | 3 | | 3 | |
| 22. Rajasthan | | 8 | | 7 | | 7 | |
| 23. Sikkim | | | | | 76 | | 62 |
| 24. Tripura | | 3 | 335 | 3 | 335 | 3 | 268 |
| 25. Uttar Pradesh | | 9 | | 8 | | 8 | |
| 26. Uttaranchal | | | | | | | 193 |
| 27. West Bengal | | 5 | | 5 | | 4 | |
| Total | | 105 | 1629 | 89 | 916 | 111 | 1053 |

Statement-II

(Rs. Crore)

| S.No. | State | CLA released under AIBP during | | | | | | Total CLA Released |
|-------|-------------------|--------------------------------|-------|------------------|--------|------------------|-------|--------------------|
| | | 2000-2001 | | 2001-2002 | | 2002-2003 | | |
| | | Major/ Medium | Minor | Major/ Medium | Minor | Major/ Medium | Minor | |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 95.020 | | 281.660 | | 33.186 | | 409.868 |
| 2. | Arunachal Pradesh | | 7.500 | | 15.000 | | 1.500 | 24.000 |
| 3. | Assam | 18.300 | 5.777 | 13.416 | 1.105 | 12.300 | 3.974 | 54.872 |
| 4. | Bihar | 148.440 | | 3.420 | | 14.481 | | 166.341 |
| 5. | Chhattisgarh | 13.930 | | 48.200 | | 104.000 | | 166.130 |
| 6. | Goa | 61.650 | | 58.000 | | 0.000 | | 119.650 |
| 7. | Gujarat | 421.850 | | 581.690 | | 1000.330 | | 2003.870 |
| 8. | Haryana | 0.000 | | 0.000 | | 18.000 | | 18.000 |
| 9. | Himachal Pradesh | 13.720 | 4.295 | 3.244 | | 8.150 | | 29.409 |
| 10. | Jammu and Kashmir | 10.460 | | 11.070 | | 34.999 | | 56.529 |
| 11. | Jharkhand | 9.050 | | 10.820 | | 9.670 | | 29.540 |
| 12. | Karnataka | 171.000 | | 492.500 | | 620.850 | | 1284.350 |
| 13. | Kerala | 22.400 | | 11.275 | | 5.665 | | 39.340 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
|--------------------|---|-----------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------|-----------------|
| 14. Madhya Pradesh | | 151.328 | | 215.410 | | 220.000 | | 586.738 |
| 15. Maharashtra | | 97.020 | | 39.100 | | 133.134 | | 269.254 |
| 16. Manipur | | | 1.500 | 9.360 | | 18.500 | 1.000 | 30.360 |
| 17. Meghalaya | | 1.280 | 4.232 | 1.220 | 3.250 | 1.500 | | 11.482 |
| 18. Mizoram | | | 1.433 | | 2.000 | | 0.750 | 4.183 |
| 19. Nagaland | | | 5.000 | | 5.000 | | 2.659 | 12.659 |
| 20. Orissa | | 74.500 | 25.820 | 168.475 | | 179.570 | | 448.365 |
| 21. Punjab | | 55.620 | | 113.690 | | 36.660 | | 205.970 |
| 22. Rajasthan | | 78.467 | | 96.315 | | 174.385 | | 349.167 |
| 23. Tripura | | 4.845 | 9.038 | 2.063 | 19.000 | 2.625 | 10.770 | 48.341 |
| 24. Uttar Pradesh | | 315.900 | | 354.690 | | 359.000 | | 1029.590 |
| 25. Uttaranchal | | 0.000 | | 0.000 | | | 25.163 | 25.163 |
| 26. West Bengal | | 26.825 | | 38.608 | | 28.133 | | 93.566 |
| 27. Sikkim | | 0.000 | | | 2.400 | | 0.750 | 3.150 |
| Total | | 1791.605 | 64.595 | 2554.226 | 47.775 | 3015.137 | 46.565 | 7519.884 |

[English]

Price Reduction of ATF

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

(a) whether the price of Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) has been reduced recently;

(b) if so, the steps being taken by Indian Airlines to reduce its fares accordingly;

(c) whether Indian Airlines raises its fares whenever there is a rise in price of ATF; and

(d) if so, the steps proposed to reduce the fare simultaneously with the reduction in price of aviation fuel?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN) : (a) The price of Aviation Turbine

Fuel has been marginally reduced from an all time high of Rs. 25,200 per kilolitre in March, 2003 to Rs. 24,200 per kilolitre in April, 2003.

(b) to (d) The price of Aviation Turbine Fuel which constitutes about 30% of the operating cost, so far as Indian Airlines domestic operations are concerned, is not the only factor for determining domestic fares. Fares in Indian Airlines are determined with reference to the overall increase in operating cost which inter-alia include Engineering Cost, Landing and Route Navigation Charges, Insurance Premium, Security related costs etc. Efforts are made to absorb the increase in the input costs to the extent possible and increase in fare is resorted to only when it is absolutely unavoidable. Indian Airlines did not increase its fares when the price of ATF was increased by 16.3% in March, 2000 and further increased by 25% in September, 2000.

Maintenance of National Zoological Parks

*621. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have conducted any survey of the functioning of zoos and deer parks in the country keeping in view the aspects of environment, health care and living conditions of the animals;

(b) if so, the details of zoos and deer parks which are functioning in small areas, grossly over-populated with poor sanitation and lack of technical staff like veterinarians;

(c) the remedial steps taken by the Government in this regard; and

(d) the action taken by the Government against the zoos and deer parks which are functioning without the approval of Central Zoo Authority ?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) Yes, Sir. The Central Zoo Authority has conducted survey of 346 zoos and deer parks in the country.

(b) 190 zoos and deer parks did not conform to the standards and norms for health, hygiene and other parameters for proper animal upkeep prescribed by the Central Government as detailed in Recognition of Zoo Rules 1992. List of such zoos and deer parks is in the attached statement.

(c) and (d) 180 zoos have been refused recognition by the Central Zoo Authority out of which 90 have been closed down and State Governments have been asked to review the status of the balance 90 derecognized zoos to find out the possibility of their revival or closure as may be appropriate. Recognition of 10 zoos has been withheld pending compliance of conditions for improved animal health care and upkeep.

Statement

List of closed zoos in the country as on 31.3.2002

| Current Position | | Closed | |
|------------------|----------------|--|--------------|
| S.No. | State | Zoo name | Location |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | Alisagar Deer Park | Alisagar |
| 2. | | Bhel Deer Park | Hyderabad |
| 3. | | Deer Breeding Farm, Pakhal | Warangal |
| 4. | | Deer Park | Kandaleru |
| 5. | | Deer Park Research Station, Vampally | Sirpur |
| 6. | | Deer Park, Air Force Station, Hakimpet | Secunderabad |
| 7. | | Deer Park, Begumpet | Hyderabad |
| 8. | | Regional Science Centre | Tirupati |
| 9. | | Anarpathi Educational Society | Anarparthi |
| 10. | Assam | Bijni Park Cum Mini Zoo | Guwahati |
| 11. | Bihar | Ajanta Tourist Zoo, Mirshikar Toli | Patna |
| 12. | | Amar Tourist Zoo | Patna |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|-----|----------------|--|-------------------------|
| 13. | | Bajrang Zoo | Durbhanga |
| 14. | | Bharat Zoo, Gutzar Bagh | Patna |
| 15. | | Diamond Tourist Zoo | Patna |
| 16. | | Gemini Tourist Zoo | Patna |
| 17. | | Jaiprakash Park | Bodh Gaya |
| 18. | | New Janta Travelling Zoo, Mirshikar Toli | Patna |
| 19. | | New Ramond Tourist | Patna |
| 20. | | Ramond Tourist Zoo, Mirshikar Toli | Patna |
| 21. | | Sri Pramod (Touring Zoo) | Muzaffarpur |
| 22. | | Tourist Janta Zoo | Patna |
| 23. | Chattisgarh | Bailadia Deer Park | Bastar |
| 24. | Daman and Diu | Deer Park | Daman |
| 25. | Gujarat | Narmada Wildlife Complex | Narmada Nagar |
| 26. | Haryana | Deer Park, NFL, | Panipat |
| 27. | | Mini Zoo, H.A. P. | Madhuban |
| 28. | | Mini Zoo, Abubshahar, Dist. Sirsa | Abubshahar, Dist. Sirsa |
| 29. | | Mini Zoo, Bhiwani | Bhiwani |
| 30. | | Mini Zoo, Jind | Jind |
| 31. | | Mini Zoo, Pinzore | Pinzore |
| 32. | Jharkhand | Chacha Nehru Island | Tallaiya |
| 33. | Karnataka | Childern's Park Mini Zoo | Shimoga |
| 34. | | Deer Children and Snake Park at Kadri Hill | Mangalore |
| 35. | | Deer Park at Jijihal RF | Bellary |
| 36. | | Lalbagh Deer Park | Bangalore |
| 37. | | Mini Zoo Maharaja Park | Hassan |
| 38. | Madhya Pradesh | Bharda Zoo | Raisen |
| 39. | | Forest Training School, Wildlife Park | Betul |
| 40. | Maharashtra | Crocodile Centre, Tadoba | Chandra Pur |
| 41. | | Dadasaheb Vagre Snake Park | Yavatmal |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|-----|---------------|--|----------------|
| 42. | | Deer Park | Gangapur |
| 43. | | Hatatma Bag Prani Sangrahalya | Solapur |
| 44. | | Jawaharlal Nehru Van Udyan, Pandavlene | Nasik |
| 45. | | Nehru Garden | Sangamner |
| 46. | | Rambagh Cheetal Park | Chandrapur |
| 47. | | Sameer Udyan Zoo, Sakarwadi | Ahmed Nagar |
| 48. | | Shantinikatan Student Nature Club and Zoo | Sangli |
| 49. | | Shivaji Udyan | Nashik |
| 50. | | Shri Ganjanan Vatika | Buldana |
| 51. | | Snake Park | Nagpur |
| 52. | | Vayu Sena Nagar Zoo | Nagpur |
| 53. | | Vivekanand Vidya Mandir Zoo | Buldana |
| 54. | Orissa | Palm Beach Zoo, Gopalpur | Ganjam |
| 55. | | Science Corner of Bal Bhawan, NCSTC | Bhubaneshwar |
| 56. | Punjab | Agarsar Athanve Nature Park | Patiala Cantt. |
| 57. | | Guest House Mini Deer Park, Thermal Colony | Bhatinda |
| 58. | | Mini Zoo at Rose Garden | Ludhiana |
| 59. | | Mini Zoo, Aram Bagh | Amritsar |
| 60. | | Mini Zoo, Bansar Bagh | Sangrur |
| 61. | | Mini Zoo, Sector 6 | Chandigarh |
| 62. | Sikkim | Baguwa Pheasant Farm | Gangtok |
| 63. | Tamil Nadu | Deer Park | Mukkombu |
| 64. | | Montfort School Mini Zoo, Yercaud | Salem |
| 65. | | St. Joseph's Mini Zoo | Coimbatore |
| 66. | Tripura | Deer Park, Patichari | Patichari |
| 67. | Uttar Pradesh | Azad Chirya Ghar (Touring) | Varanasi |
| 68. | | Bajrang Touring Zoo | Varanasi |
| 69. | | Bharat Mini Zoo, Chilkana | Saharanpur. |
| 70. | | Bharatiya Touring Zoo | Lalbaug |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|-----|-------------|--|----------------|
| 71. | | Bina Kamal Golden Zoo | Buland Shahar |
| 72. | | Chetna Kendra, Ridhani Range | Meerut |
| 73. | | Mrig Vihar Van Chetna Kendra – Moth | Jhansi |
| 74. | | NAWAB Tank Mrig Vihar | Banda |
| 75. | | Nehru Van Chetna Kendra, | Etah |
| 76. | | New Pardesi Touring Zoo | Hardoi |
| 77. | | Pardeshi Chirya Ghar, Sitapur, Avodh | Hardoi |
| 78. | | Shukratal Chital Park | Muzaffar Nagar |
| 79. | | Van Chetna Kendra | Massoriy |
| 80. | | Van Chetna Kendra, Mukandpur | Aligarh |
| 81. | | Van Chetna Kendra, Nagal | Saharanpur |
| 82. | | Van Chetna Kendra, Narora | Buland Shahar |
| 83. | | Van Manoranjan Kendra | Rampur |
| 84. | | Wyndhum Fall Mini Zoo | Mirzapur |
| 85. | Uttaranchal | Sanjay Gandhi Mrig Vatika, Mangalore | Haridwar |
| 86. | West Bengal | Anita Mobile Zoo, Baruipur | Parganas South |
| 87. | | Birla Industrial and Technological Museum | Calcutta |
| 88. | | Deepak Mitra's Sanke House, Hindustan Park | Calcutta |
| 89. | | Famous Mobile Zoo | Howrah |
| 90. | | Jaya Mobile Zoo | Howrah |

List of derecognised zoos in the country as on 31.3.2003

| Current Position | | NOT GRANTED RECOGNITION | |
|------------------|----------------|--|---------------|
| S.No. | State | Zoo name | Location |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | |
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | Deer Park, Municipal Park | Rajahmundry |
| 2. | | Deer Park, Tirumala Hills | Chittoor |
| 3. | | Himabindu Deer Park (Pullaiah Deer Park) | Kurnool |
| 4. | | Sabari Mini Zoo, Prathipadu | Minerva Nagar |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|-----|------------------------|--|------------------------|
| 5. | Arunachal Pradesh | Mlao Mini Zoo | Mao |
| 6. | | Mini Zoo | Roing |
| 7. | Bihar | Chitrakoot (Runkun Vihar) Park, Paharpur | Gaya |
| 8. | | Jaiprakash Udyan | Bhagalpur Town |
| 9. | Chattisgarh | Indira Udyan | Bilaspur |
| 10. | Dadra and Nagar Haveli | Khanvel Deer Park | Silvassa |
| 11. | | Mini Zoo Silvassa | Khanvel |
| 12. | Daman and Diu | Deer Park | Diu |
| 13. | | Deer Park | Dilshad Garden |
| 14. | | | Jhilmil |
| 15. | Gujarat | Balbhavan Zoo | Rajkot |
| 16. | Himachal Pradesh | Mini Zoo, Kalapul | Dharmasalla |
| 17. | | Nehru Pheasantry | Manali |
| 18. | | Rawalsar Wildlife Zoo | Mandi |
| 19. | Jharkhand | Mugger Breeding Centre | Muta |
| 20. | Karnataka | Antharagange Children Park | Kolar |
| 21. | | Childrens Mini Zoo | Dharwad |
| 22. | | Children's Park Sirsi Division | Sirsi |
| 23. | | Deer Park at Haliyal Town | Uttar Kannada District |
| 24. | | Deer Park at Shri Kshetra Sogal | Soundattti |
| 25. | | Kaiwara Tapowana Chintamani Talluk | Kolar |
| 26. | | Karadigudda Deer Park | Karjagi |
| 27. | | Kempambudi Deer Park | Bangalore |
| 28. | | Kempegowda Vanadhana, Savanadurga, | Magadi Taluk |
| 29. | | Mini Deer Park | Chickmaglur |
| 30. | | Mini Zoo at Induval Nature Park | Mandya |
| 31. | | Mini Zoo at Kondajji Deer Park | Chitradurga |
| 32. | | Mini Zoo at Minakanagurkai | Kolar |
| 33. | | Nature Park | Raichur |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|-----|----------------|--|-----------------------|
| 34. | | Sorakayalahalli Children and Deer Park | Kolar |
| 35. | Kerala | Crocodile Farm | Calicut |
| 36. | | Crocodile Farm at Nayar Dam | Thiruvananthapuram |
| 37. | | Deer Park, at Calicut | Calicut |
| 38. | | Deer Park, Ponmudi | Thiruvananthapuram |
| 39. | | Mini Zoo | Kodanadu |
| 40. | | Parassinikkadavu Snake Park | Kannur |
| 41. | Madhya Pradesh | Gharial Rearing Centre, Deori | Morena |
| 42. | | Katayghat Soormya at Katni | Katni |
| 43. | | Mignayani Deer Park | Panchmarhi |
| 44. | | Nandan Van | Raipur |
| 45. | | S.F.R.I. Zoo | Jabalpur |
| 46. | | Vikram Vatika, M.C. Ujjain | Ujjain |
| 47. | Maharashtra | Amita Zoo and Breeding Farm | Bombay |
| 48. | | Amte's Animal Park | Gadchiroli, Allapalli |
| 49. | | Aviculture and Captive Breeding | Thane |
| 50. | | Esselworld Snake Park | Worii, Mumbai |
| 51. | | Suryavan Zoo | Raigad |
| 52. | | Tikuji-ni-Wadi Zoo | Thane |
| 53. | Meghalaya | Ram Krishan Zoo | Shilong |
| 54. | | Tura Zoo | Akhongini Tura |
| 55. | Orissa | Chilka Deer Park | Puri |
| 56. | | Deer Park, Papadahandi | Nawarangpur |
| 57. | | Harishankar Deer Park | Balangir |
| 58. | | Municipality Deer Park | Cuttack |
| 59. | | Panthanivas Deer Park, Chandipur | Balasore |
| 60. | | Regional Science Centre, Bhubaneswar | Bhubaneswar |
| 61. | | Taptapani Deer Park | Parlakhemundi |
| 62. | | Tribal Museum | Koraput |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|-----|---------------|---|------------------|
| 63. | | Deer Park, Berhampur University | Berhampur |
| 64. | Rajasthan | Kota Zoo | Kota |
| 65. | | Mrig Van | Chitorgarh |
| 66. | Tamil Nadu | Manjunatha Mini Zoo (Mobile) | Madras |
| 67. | | Mini Zoo | Courtallam |
| 68. | Uttar Pradesh | Cheetal Grand Motels Pvt Ltd. | Muzaffar Nagra |
| 69. | | Deer Park, Air Force | Memaura |
| 70. | | India Park | Bijnor |
| 71. | | Katemiaghat Gharial Rehabilitation Centre | Bahraich |
| 72. | | Laxman Pahari Mrig Vihar, (Deer Park) | Banda |
| 73. | | Little Scholars Academy, Amroha | Amroha |
| 74. | | Mini Zoo and Breeding Farm | Meerut Cantt. |
| 75. | | Van Chetna Kendra | Agra |
| 76. | | Van Chetna Kendra, Kumarganj | Faizabad |
| 77. | | Van Chetna Kendra, Vrindavan | Mathura |
| 78. | | Van Vihar | Jaunpur |
| 79. | Uttaranchal | Van Chetna Kendra, Brook Land Estate | Musoorie |
| 80. | | Vanya Janti Vihar, Dak Pathar | Dehradun |
| 81. | West Bengal | Bellilius Park | Howrah |
| 82. | | Chitra Touring, J.N. Sarkar Street | Calcutta |
| 83. | | Corporation Park, Jogmaya | Howrah |
| 84. | | Deer Park, Belari Sri Ram Krishna Ashram | Howrah |
| 85. | | Gar Chumuk (Ulughata) Deer Park | Ulughata |
| 86. | | Garmandaran Hooghly Zila Parishad | Hooghly |
| 87. | | Krishna Sayar Park Snake Park | Burdwan |
| 88. | | Ramakrishna Mission Vidyalaya | Narendrapur |
| 89. | | Rapheal Academic and Vocational School | Darjeeling |
| 90. | | SPR, Research and Snake Bit Treatment | Digha, Midbapore |

Zoos whose Recognition has been Withheld

1. Rajkot Zoo, Gujarat
2. Bellary Zoo, Karnataka
3. Hill Palace Zoo, Ernakulam, Kerala
4. Pratap Sinh Udyan Zoo, Sangli Maharashtra
5. Peswe Park Zoo, Pune, Maharashtra
6. Lady Hydari Park, Zoo, Shillong, Meghalaya
7. Bikaner Zoo, Rajasthan
8. Jodhpur Zoo, Rajasthan
9. Jaipur Zoo, Rajasthan
10. Udaipur Zoo, Rajasthan

**Development of Horticulture and
Agriculture in North-Eastern States**

*622. SHRI KHAGEN DAS : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the Central funds allocated, released and utilized for the development of horticulture and agriculture in North-Eastern States during the Ninth Five Year Plan, State-wise;

(b) the targets set and achievements made during the said period, State-wise; and

(c) the steps being taken/proposed to be taken to increase the allocation of funds of the said States for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AJIT SINGH) : (a) to (c) The total funds allocated/released and utilized for development of horticulture and agriculture in North-Eastern States under the scheme implemented by the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation during the Ninth Five Year Plan are given in the enclosed Statement.

The Government have taken several measures to increase allocation of funds for development of agriculture and horticulture in the North-Eastern States as detailed below.

The Government has introduced a scheme on Technology Mission for Horticulture for North-Eastern States to promote horticultural development in the region. Ten percent of the annual outlay of the Plan schemes is also earmarked for the North-Eastern States. The Government has also launched a comprehensive Macro-Management Scheme by merging 27 centrally sponsored schemes in order to give flexibility to the State Governments to formulate work plan proposals as per their regional requirements. In this scheme, the 100% allocation is given by Government of India for the North-Eastern States and no contribution is required to be made by the North Eastern States as is the case with other States. An 'On Farm Management' Scheme is also being implemented in Assam for construction of tubewells, pumping sets and community lift irrigation pumps for a group of farmers.

Statement

Development of Horticulture and Agriculture in North Eastern States

(Rs. in lakhs)

| State | 1997-1998 | | 1998-1999 | | 1999-2000 | | 2000-2001 | | 2001-2002 | |
|-----------|-----------|---------|-----------|---------|-----------|---------|-----------|---------|-----------|---------|
| | Releases | Expend. | Releases | Expend. | Releases | Expend. | Releases | Expend. | Releases | Expend. |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| Assam | 175.58 | 583.66 | 540.19 | 189.04 | 386.91 | 456.97 | 1099.27 | 192.67 | 1798.80 | 1858.57 |
| Arunachal | 291.05 | 349.29 | 473.63 | 355.46 | 475.05 | 243.63 | 761.31 | 794.35 | 1216.81 | 1398.70 |
| Manipur | 809.55 | 269.97 | 571.95 | 613.26 | 984.03 | 686.41 | 935.68 | 716.32 | 938.27 | 1241.08 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
|-----------|--------|--------|---------|---------|---------|--------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Mizoram | 417.02 | 360.75 | 961.45 | 796.16 | 894.94 | 740.23 | 1089.99 | 1010.77 | 1766.82 | 1928.22 |
| Meghalaya | 129.08 | 170.80 | 431.65 | 421.26 | 601.02 | 56.22 | 724.74 | 293.75 | 969.27 | 1431.49 |
| Nagaland | 561.46 | 470.29 | 1142.08 | 1102.11 | 1223.07 | 990.76 | 1489.72 | 1416.60 | 1717.66 | 1588.19 |
| Sikkim | 341.17 | 332.42 | 475.81 | 492.26 | 541.89 | 330.36 | 825.29 | 755.17 | 1292.44 | 1495.89 |
| Tripura | 418.65 | 268.46 | 570.09 | 565.84 | 951.07 | 779.39 | 817.25 | 1002.11 | 1609.10 | 1438.10 |

**Human Resource Export Development
Council**

5965. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government propose to set up a Human Resource Export Development Council very soon;
- (b) if so, the details in this regard and the reasons therefor; and
- (c) by when it is likely to be established?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI VIJAY GOEL) : (a) The Government has introduced a bill in the Lok Sabha on 21.11.2002 seeking to amend the Emigration Act, 1983 to provide for setting up of Central Manpower Export Promotion Council.

(b) The Council will promote employment opportunities for emigrants; projection of manpower services, collection of statistics and information relating to employment opportunities and matters connected therewith; collection and maintenance of statistics and information in respect of persons seeking employment; liaison with other export promotion agencies; recommendations to the Central Government about the standards and guidelines for overseas employment; and administration of Indian Overseas Workers' Welfare Fund.

(c) Given the procedure involved it is not possible to indicate specific timeframe.

National Dairy Research Institute

5966. SHRI SAIDUZZAMA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to refer to the reply given to

the Unstarred Question No. 960 dated February, 24, 2003 regarding National Dairy Research Institute (NDRI), Karnal and state :

- (a) the details regarding the nature of follow-up work that has been undertaken on the earlier studies reported some 25 years ago on both cow and buffalo milk or any other supporting work done thereafter;
- (b) whether the workers who did the pioneering work at National Dairy Research Institute (NDRI), Karnal have in anyway been recognised in any manner; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) The earlier research work done during 1960-61 at NDRI related to lacterins in Cow and Buffalo milk which inhibited certain pathogens. Further work on this aspect was not undertaken because the lacterins are highly heat sensitive and get inactivated during boiling.

The related work on characterization of natural antimicrobial ingredients has been undertaken to explore their commercial value as food grade bio-preservatives for enhancing shelf-life of milk and milk products.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The research work received due recognition through their publications/reports;

Revival Plan of ASP and SSP

5967. SHRI SUNIL KHAN : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether unions and management of Alloy Steel Plant (ASP) of Durgapur and Salem Steel Plant (SSP)

submitted a revival plan to make both the units profitable within few months;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is huge order of stainless steel sheet from China which can be executed jointly by SAIL units of ASP and SSP;

(d) if so, whether M/s. Jindal, a small steel producer want to execute huge Chinese order of stainless steel by taking over SAIL units of SSP and make ASP permanently sick;

(e) if so, whether few officials of Steel Ministry are in hand in glove to handover SSP violating the norm of not to negotiate with single bidder in disinvestment scheme;

(f) if so, whether unions of ASP and SSP jointly fighting against privatisation and promised revival with every possible effort; and

(g) 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) to (g) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha.

Inclusion of Palani in Tourism Circuit

5968. SHRI P. KUMARASAMY : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to include Palani under Tourism Circuit in Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the assistance provided to the State Government for the development of pilgrim centres in the country?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) In the Tenth Five Year Plan, there is no separate scheme for development of pilgrim centres in the country.

However, creation of infrastructure at pilgrim centres is permissible under the scheme of Product/Infrastructure and Destination Development and Integrated Development of Tourist Circuits. Based on the proposals received from the State/Union Territories, 212 tourism projects have been sanctioned for an amount of Rs. 11121.10 lakhs for different States/UT Administrations in the year 2002-2003. These include projects for development of facilities at pilgrim centres.

[Translation]

Funds for Upgradation of Meat Plans

5969. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL : Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) the programmes being implemented by his Ministry under the scheme "Upgradation of Meat Plants" and the criteria for providing loans, grants and financial assistance/aid alongwith details of contribution of State Governments therein; and

(b) the funds allocated to the States including Rajasthan during the last three years, year-wise and programme/scheme-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM) : (a) Ministry of Food Processing Industries is operating a Plan Scheme for Technology Upgradation, Establishment and Modernisation of Food Processing Industries including Meat and Poultry Processing Plants. Financial assistance in the form of grant upto 25% of the cost of plant and machinery and technical civil works subject to a maximum of Rs. 50 lakhs in general areas and 33.33% upto a maximum of Rs. 75 lakhs in difficult areas is provided by this Ministry. Contribution by State Government is their prerogative.

(b) The schemes of Ministry of Food Processing Industries are project oriented and not State or area specific. There is therefore no direct allocation of funds to States. However, the following approvals have been given in the State of Rajasthan :-

- (1) Setting up of Food Park at Kota.
- (2) Setting up of Food Park at Jodhpur.

**Development of Lakes and Rivers
in Jammu and Kashmir**

5970. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government have made any efforts for funding the schemes for the beautification and development of lakes and rivers in Jammu and Kashmir;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the success achieved so far in this regard?

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

(b) and (c) From 9th Plan onwards, the Department of Tourism, Government of India has sanctioned 50 projects for Rs. 1432.44 lakhs in Jammu and Kashmir including those for development of lakes and rivers. Out of sanctioned 50 projects, 20 have been completed so far.

[English]

Air Connectivity for North-Eastern Region

5971. SHRI M.K. SUBBA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government propose to provide air-connectivity to more towns in the North Eastern Region;
- (b) if so, the same of the towns to which air-connectivity is proposed to be provided during 2003, 2004 and 2005 alongwith the details of the flights to be introduced in this regard;
- (c) whether Haj flights are proposed to be provided from Guwahati and other towns in the region; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK) : (a) and (b) At present, Indian Airlines/Alliance Air are operating to Guwahati, Dibrugarh, Jorhat, Lilabari, Silchar, Tezpur, Imphal, Aizwal, Shillong, Dimapur and Tripura in the North Eastern Region. Jet Airways is operating to Jorhat, Guwahati and Imphal. Sahara Airlines is operating to Dibrugarh and Guwahati.

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 in different regions of the country including North-East Region. It is, however, up to the airlines to provide air services to specific places depending upon the traffic demand and commercial viability subject to compliance of Route Dispersal Guidelines issued by the Government of India.

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

Dry Lease of Five Additional Airbus

5972. SHRI S. MURUGESAN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government have approved the dry-lease of five additional A-320 aircraft for a period of three years; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK) : (a) and (b) The Board of Indian Airlines approved induction of five A-320 aircraft, on dry lease, from Debis (three A-320 aircraft) and Boullion (two A-320 aircraft) for a period of three years, extendable by two years. One of these aircraft has already been inducted in the fleet.

**Workshop of Research Methodologies
in Social Sciences**

5973. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether a workshop was held on Research Methodologies in Social Sciences recently;
- (b) if so, the details of the recommendations made therein; and
- (c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

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

(b) Not applicable

(c) Not applicable.

[Translation]

Irregularity in Krishi Vigyan Kendras.

5974.SHRIMATI RENU KUMARI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether reports of administrative and financial irregularities in many Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) of the country have been received by the Government;

(b) if so, the effective steps being taken by the Government to check these irregularities;

(c) whether the Government and constituted Chaturvedi Committee to inquire into these irregularities;

(d) if so, the details of the report of this committee; and

(e) the reaction of the Government in regard to staff suspended on the basis of this report?

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

(a) Some reports of irregularities in KVKs have been received.

(b) The procedure of release of funds has been linked to performance review. Funds are released by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) to the Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) after receiving the Audit Utilization Certificate and its verification by the Zonal Coordinating Units.

(c) The Committee under the Chairmanship of Shri A.K. Chaturvedi, Deputy Secretary, ICAR was constituted to investigate only one complaint relating to the functioning of KVK which is at Sironj, Vidisha, Madhya Pradesh.

(d) The Committee has made detailed comments about recruitment, financial procedure, award of contract/ purchase, and maintenance of records.

(e) The staff of the KVK have filed cases in the Hon'ble High Court of Gwalior and the matter is subjudice.

[English]

Groundnut Cultivation in Orissa

5975.SHRI ANANTA NAYAK : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a vast scope to promote groundnut cultivation in Orissa.

(b) if so, the steps taken to bring additional areas under groundnut cultivation during the last three years;

(c) whether the Central Assistance has been extended for groundnut cultivation in the State; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(a) Yes, Sir. There is a scope for promoting groundnut cultivation in Orissa.

(b) In order to bring additional area under groundnut cultivation in Orissa, the following strategy has been adopted :-

(i) Promotion of groundnut cultivation in Paddy fallows.

(ii) In Kharif, replacement of low yielding minor millets with groundnut in up land areas of Orissa.

(iii) Replacement of rabi/summer paddy with groundnut in Orissa.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. A Centrally Sponsored Oilseeds Production Programme (OPP) is under implementation in the State of Orissa to increase the production of oilseeds including groundnut. Under the scheme, financial assistance is provided to the State on various inputs like production and distribution of seeds, distribution of minikits, rhyzobium culture/PSB, gypsum/pyrite, improved farm implements, sprinkler sets etc. Besides this for transfer of improved production technology frontline demonstrations by ICAR and block demonstrations by State Department of Agriculture are organized.

The amount released to the State during three years is as under :-

(Rs. in lakhs)

| Year | Amount released |
|-----------|-----------------|
| 2000-2001 | 145.50 |
| 2001-2002 | 69.97 |
| 2002-2003 | 25.00 |

Pending Hydro Electric Project

5976.SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Maharashtra had sent a memorandum to the Union Government for obtaining 'No Objection Certificate' for Chikhaldara Pumped Storage Hydro Electric Project in January 1998; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV) : (a) and (b) A proposal was received from the Government of Maharashtra for Chikhaldara Pumped Storage Hydro Electric Project. In view of the rich floral and faunal wealth and proximity to Melghat Tiger Reserve, the proposal was not found to be acceptable.

[Translation]

Agency for Maintenance of Patna Airport

5977.SHRI RAJO SINGH : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Bihar Government has sent any proposal to the Union Government for setting up of an agency for the maintenance of Patna Airport;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK) : (a) Airports Authority of India has not received any proposal from State Government of Bihar for setting up of an agency for maintenance of Patna Airport.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

SCs/STs and OBCs Officials Working in Various Departments

5978.SHRI BAL KRISHNA CHAUHAN : Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) the number of group A, B, C and D officials working in different departments and undertakings under his Ministry, category-wise; and

(b) the details of the number of Other Backward Classes, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes officials out of the total number of officials separately, category-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI SANGH PRIYA GAUTAM) : (a) and (b) Ministry of Agro and Rural Industries came into existence on 01.09.2001. It does not have any department and Public Sector Undertaking. The group/category-wise details of the number of officials working in the Ministry of Agro and Rural Industries are as follows :-

| Group | Total No. of Staff | SC | ST | OBC |
|-------|--------------------|----|----|-----|
| A | 3 (1 Vacant) | - | - | - |
| B | 7 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| C | 7 | 4 | - | - |
| D | 3 | 1 | - | - |

[English]

Oilpalm Processing Plants

5979.SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to provide heavy subsidy for machinery required for oil palm processing plants like tractors, power tillers etc.;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(a) to (c) At present, the Central Government does not provide heavy subsidy for tractors and power tillers etc.; for oil palm processing plants. However, under the Scheme of Macro Management of Agriculture, subsidy is available on tractors and power tillers as given below:-

- (i) Tractors upto 35 PTO HP :- 25% of the cost or Rs. 30,000/- whichever is lower per tractor.
- (ii) Power tillers of 8-15 HP fitted with Rotavator- 25% of the cost or Rs. 30,000/- whichever is lower per tiller.

Further, under the Central Sector Scheme entitled "R and D in Post Harvest Technology in Oilseeds, pulses and Maize" among others a project for "Setting up of 4 demonstration units of palm oil mill", each of 2.5 tonnes fresh fruit bunches (FFB) per hour capacity, one each in the States of Goa, Gujarat, Orissa and Tamil Nadu was approved in IX Plan. Of which, one each in the States of Goa and Gujarat have been commissioned and two, one each in the State of Orissa and Tamil Nadu, are under implementation. The subsidy for these Palm Oil Mills demonstration units is provided @ 60% of the project cost of Rs. 240.00 lakhs per such demonstration unit for plant and equipment whichever is lower, based on technology developed by Regional Research Laboratory-Trivandrum.

Heritage Sites in West Bengal

5980.SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

- (a) the number of heritage sites in West Bengal; and
- (b) the steps being taken by the Government for their maintenance?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) and (b) There are 118 Centrally protected monuments and 105 State protected monuments/sites in West Bengal. In addition to regular upkeep and structural repairs, chemical treatment and environmental development are carried out as per the archaeological norms, depending upon availability of resources and manpower.

Setting Up of Livestock Development Corporation

5981.SHRI SUBODH MOHITE : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government are considering to provide financial and other assistance to Maharashtra Government to set up Livestock Development Corporation in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the financial assistance provided/to be provided for the purpose;

(d) whether the Government propose to set up Livestock Research Centre in Chandrapur; 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. However Government of Maharashtra is setting up a State Implementing Agency namely "Maharashtra Livestock Development Board" to implement the National Project for Cattle and Buffalo Breeding.

(c) No fund have been provided for the purpose. The State Government has been requested to submit the utilisation certificate in respect of the central grant provided earlier and also to supply the notification on constitution of the Livestock Development Board.

(d) and (e) No, Sir.

[Translation]

Utilisation of Water Resources

5982.SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the percentage of water resources utilised in Bihar, till-date;

(b) the schemes formulated by the Government to increase water resources in the State;

(c) the expenditure likely to be incurred on each scheme; and

(d) the percentage of cultivable land likely to be irrigated as a result thereof?

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

(a) Water Resources is assessed according to river basins/sub-basins are units. However, out of the Ultimate Irrigation Potential of 13.35 million hectare in the erstwhile undivided Bihar (including Jharkhand), irrigation potential of 8.18 million hectare (61%) has been created by the end of the Ninth Five Year Plan.

(b) There are 8 major and 7 medium irrigation projects going on at present in the State of Bihar (excluding Jharkhand). In addition, 4 new proposals for major irrigation projects have been submitted by the Government of Bihar to Central Water Commission for techno-economic appraisal.

(c) and (d) The estimated cost and irrigation benefit of each of the proposed new projects are as under :

| S. No. | Name of Project | Estimated Cost (Rs. crore) | Irrigation Benefit (Thousand hectare) |
|--------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. | Tilaiya Dhadhar | 220.11 | 38.99 |
| 2. | Kadwan Reservoir Project | 1111.14 | 221.27 |
| 3. | Punpun Barrage | 102.26 | 13.90 |
| 4. | Upper Mahananda Irrigation Scheme | 124.0 | 26.80 |

[English]

Development of Tourism in Maharashtra

5983. SHRI SHIVAJI MANE : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have drawn up any specific plan for the development of tourism in Maharashtra during the last financial year; and

(b) if so, the measures taken by the Government and the amount earmarked/released for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN) : (a) and (b) During the 10th Five Year Plan, Department of Tourism, Government of India has decided to identify Integrated travels circuits in the country each year. These circuits are finalised and developed in close coordination and partnership with the State/UT Governments and the concerned Government of India Departments. In addition to this it has also been decided to identify one major destination in each State/UT Administration, each year in consultation with them for overall development including the State of Maharashtra.

On the basis of project proposals received by the Department of Tourism, Government of India during the year 2002-03 from the Government of Maharashtra, 8 projects were sanctioned for central financial assistance of Rs. 623.46 lakhs. The Department of Culture has sanctioned 10 projects for Rs. 285.30 lakhs.

[Translation]

Airports in Uttar Pradesh

5984. SHRIMATI RAJKUMARI RATNA SINGH : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the details of schemes of civil aviation introduced in Uttar Pradesh during the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(b) the status of each of the schemes as on date; and

(c) the amount of funds sanctioned and spent on these schemes so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK) : (a) During Ninth Five Year Plan, following major schemes of Civil Aviation were introduced in the State of Uttar Pradesh.

(i) Expansion of terminal building and apron, construction of link taxi way etc. at Agra airport.

(ii) Extension of runway and apron, re-surfacing of taxi-track, construction of boundary wall etc. at Lucknow airport.

(iii) Extension of runway, special repair of turning pad, construction of boundary wall, residential quarters etc. at Varanasi airport.

(b) all the above works are completed, except works of extension of runway and apron and re-surfacing of taxi track at Lucknow airport, and extension of runway at Varanasi airport.

(c) So, far, Rs. 48.61 crores have been spent, out of Rs. 92.03 crores sanctioned on the above schemes.

[English]

Production of Mangoes

5985. SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the varieties of mango identified as 'exportable quality mango'; and

(b) the area of said mango groves and the production of export quality mango during each of the last five years, State-wise?

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

(a) The major varieties of mangoes having export potential are Alphonso, Kesar, Baganpalli, Neelam, Suvarnrekha, Chausa, Dushehari, Totapuri and Langra.

(b) The State-wise production of mangoes for the last five years is given in the statement enclosed. However, information on variety-wise mango grooves and production of export quality mango State-wise are not separately available.

Statement

State-wise Production of Mangoes for the Last Five Years

(Production in 000' MT)

| S.No. | State | 1996-97 | 1997-98 | 1998-99 | 1999-2000 | 2000-01 |
|-------|----------------|---------|---------|---------|-----------|---------|
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 3256.3 | 3314.4 | 2269.6 | 2379.6 | 2449.5 |
| 2. | Bihar | 910.4 | 1838.9 | 1858.1 | 1871.9 | 1112.5 |
| 3. | Gujarat | 288.9 | 366.2 | 382.6 | 382.2 | 364.2 |
| 4. | Karnataka | 1106.7 | 1176.4 | 1176.5 | 1179.9 | 1291.4 |
| 5. | Maharashtra | 196.5 | 65.5 | 196.9 | 500.5 | 500.5 |
| 6. | Orissa | 409.4 | 417.4 | 490.6 | 343.5 | 363.3 |
| 7. | Tamil Nadu | 413.9 | 135.9 | 559.2 | 701.4 | 736.5 |
| 8. | Uttar Pradesh | 2418.7 | 1659.5 | 1775.1 | 1915.0 | 2250.3 |
| 9. | West Bengal | 211.7 | 502.3 | 339.4 | 560.0 | 380.3 |
| 10. | Others | 502.4 | 491.4 | 484.1 | 669.5 | 788.5 |

[Translation]

Use of Cultivable Land

5986. SHRI MANIBHAI RAMJIBHAI CHAUDHRI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether cultivation has not been done even on the cultivable land in several parts of the country during 2002-03;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government have taken any steps for cultivation on the cultivable land in future;

(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) The country witnessed severe drought spanning over a number of States during monsoon 2002 (June-September). The moisture stress experienced during monsoon continued during post-monsoon (October-December), and thus the area coverage under various kharif and rabi crops remained low during 2002-03.

(c) to (e) The net area sown under agriculture has remained almost constant at around 142 million hectares during the last few years. The Government have issued a 19-point National Land Use Policy Outline and Action Points to the States for implementation. The action points include, inter-alia, restructuring of urban policy in such a manner as to ensure that highly productive land is not taken away. Further, to promote agriculture in the rainfed regions, Central Government have accorded very high priority of the holistic and sustainable development of these areas through watershed approach. A large number of schemes are being implemented in rainfed areas. These include National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas (NWDPPRA), Soil Conservation in the catchments of River Valley Projects (RVP) and Flood Prone Rivers (FPR), Watershed Development Project in Shifting Cultivation Areas (WDPPSCA) and Externally Aided Projects on watershed development. These schemes have been subsumed under the macro-management mode of operation since November, 2000.

[English]

Joint Inspection of Mithi Nadi

5987.SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a joint visit/inspection of Mithi Nadi, Mumbai has been conducted by Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) and Maharashtra State Pollution Control Board during April, 2003;

(b) if so, whether severe violation and encroachments have been observed during the joint visit;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Environment activists and local Member of Parliament have lodged complaints against the pollution and encroachments;

(e) if so, the details thereof indicating the impact of such encroachments and pollution; and

(f) the action taken by the Government against the industrial units, encroachers etc. involved in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV) : (a) A team of the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) and Maharashtra State Pollution Control Board (MSPCB) inspected Mithi Nadi at Mumbai on March 4th-5th, 2003.

(b) and (c) It has been observed that nearly 3000 unauthorized cottage scale units are operating along the river and discharging wastewater into the river. Besides this, a population of about 1.2 lakh is staying in the hutments along the river and it is estimated that about 5 million litres per day (mld) of sewage is discharged into the river from this source.

(d) and (e) Complaint about the pollution in Mithi Nadi has been raised by local Member of Parliament. It has been stated in the complaint that Mithi Nadi has become a gutter-Nullah. It has been further pointed out that all the nearby industries are throwing their garbage into the river. In addition, wastewater of some areas of the Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai is also discharged into this river through drains. As a result, the river has become over polluted.

(f) State Pollution Control Board has been asked to take necessary action in this matter.

Examination for Assistant Account Manager

5988.SHRI RAMSINH RATHWA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Airports Authority of India had conducted an examination for the post of Assistant Account Manager in December, 2002;

- (b) if so, the details of the vacancies;
- (c) the reasons for not declaring the result of the test so far; and
- (d) by when the result is likely to be declared?

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

(b) There are 28 vacancies for the post of Assistant Account Manager.

(c) and (d) The results of the written examination is linked to the filling up of vacancies from the Departmental candidates. Results are likely to be declared after completion of this exercise which is expected to be completed by June, 2003.

Restoration of Ecology of Chilka Lake

5989.SHRI PARSURAM MAJHI : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether there has been any proposals to set up a task force to restore the ecology of Chilka lake in Orissa;
- (b) if so, whether the task force has been set up;
- (c) if so, the details of works assigned to the said force; and
- (d) the steps taken by the task force to restore the ecological balance of the said largest blue lagoon in Asia?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV) : (a) to (d) Chilka Development Authority has been constituted for restoring ecology of Chilka lake in Orissa by undertaking conservation activities like catchment area treatment, fisheries development, biodiversity conservation, weed control, community participation, education awareness, etc. for which financial assistance is provided by Government of India. They have also set up two units of Task Force at Balugaon and Satpada under the control of District Magistrate to curb activities like unauthorized encroachment of shrimp culture, violation of State Marine Fisheries Regulation and Wildlife Protection Act. So far, this task force has removed unauthorized encroachments of shrimp culture from an area of 6965 hectare during 2002-03.

Post of Chairman in Kendriya Bhandar

5990.SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI :
SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether all the members of the Kendriya Bhandar (KB) are Government servants;

(b) if so, whether the Government servants are debarred from taking part in any cooperative society for commercial purposes or to hold any office on remuneration or without remuneration under the CCS rules;

(c) if so, whether as per the provision of the Multi-State Cooperative Act, 2002 the Chairman is to be elected from the elected directors of the Kendriya Bhandar and is not to be nominated by the Central Government;

(d) if so, whether the elected director can hold the office of the Chairman of Kendriya Bhandar without violating the provisions of the CCS (Conduct) Rules;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether there is any proposal to bring about amendment in the said Act to evade nomination of Chairman from serving bureaucrat; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) Yes, Sir. As per the Bye-laws of Kendriya Bhandar, employees working in Central Government, Government of NCT of Delhi, Union Territory Administration and those of subsidiary/autonomous organizations set up by Government of India or by Government of Union Territories and NCT of Delhi may become members of the Society.

(b) Rule 15 of CCS Conduct Rules does not provide for holding an elective office by a Government Servant without the previous sanction of the Government. Hence, a Government Servant should obtain previous sanction of the Government before getting elected for holding elective office in Kendriya Bhandar.

(c) Yes, Sir. As per provisions of Multi State Cooperative Societies Act, 2002 and rules made thereunder,

the Chairman is to be elected out of the Members of the Board once the Board is reconstituted as per provisions of the bye-laws of Kendriya Bhandar.

(d) and (e) The Elected Director shall be able to hold the Office of the Chairman, Kendriya Bhandar with the previous sanctions of the Government

(f) No, Sir.

(g) Does not arise.

Growth of FPI

5991. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL : Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the growth of food processing industries has been showing a declining trend;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to make maximum use of available fruits and vegetables in the country in the promotion of Food Processing Industries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) The Ministry of Food Processing Industries gives financial assistance by way of grant upto 25% of the cost of plant and machinery and technical civil works subject to a maximum of Rs. 50 lakhs in general areas and 33.33% of the cost of plant and machinery and technical civil works subject to maximum of Rs. 75 lakhs in difficult areas for the setting up/modernisation/expansion of food processing industries. Approval of financial assistance is given on the basis of technical and financial viability of the proposals received.

The Ministry of Food Processing Industries has requested all State Governments to conduct detailed studies, which could assist them in formulating action oriented policies for the development of processed food sector as also for devising action plan and strategies for

the development of the sector and to utilise to the maximum the available fruits and vegetables.

DMS Blacklisted NCCF

5992. SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 3242 dated August 5, 2002 and state :

(a) whether the preliminary inquiry has been completed to ascertain the facts;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) to (c) The preliminary inquiry is in progress. The appropriate action will be taken as soon as the report is received.

[Translation]

Project and Technical Consultation Centres of KVIC

5993. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK :
SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE :

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

(a) whether Khadi and Village Industries Commission has decided to open project and technical consultation centres in all the districts;

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

(c) the amount invested for achieving these objectives; and

(d) the number of persons targeted to be provided jobs by the commission in the Tenth Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI SANGH PRIYA GAUTAM) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

(d) During the Tenth Five Year Plan 21.50 lakhs additional employment is targeted by the Commission.

[English]

**Implementation of Committee
Recommendations**

5994.SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to refer to Unstarred Question No. 3550 dated August 14, 2000 and state :

(a) whether the R.C. Jain Committee which was appointed by the Central Government to inquire into the accident that occurred at IGI Airport, New Delhi on December 13, 1999 made a number of recommendations;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken by the Union Government on each of these recommendations;

(d) the details of recommendations that have not been implemented; and

(e) the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK) : (a) and (b) A High Level Inquiry Committee constituted by the Ministry of Civil Aviation made major recommendations such as organizational set up, operational issues, Air Traffic Management and Communication, Navigation and Surveillance systems, Security, Emergency procedures, Customs, Cargo, Immigration, Airport facilities, Coordination in its report submitted on 14th July 2000. The report was sent to the Airports Authority of India, Director General of Civil Aviation, Commissioner of Security [Civil Aviation], Ministry of Home Affairs, Customs, Immigration Department, etc. for implementing the recommendations, wherever feasible. In so far as matters relating to the Airports Authority of India were concerned, a sub-committee was constituted to look into major recommendations and take necessary steps to implement them. The Ministry of Civil Aviation has also reviewed the implementation of the recommendations, from time to time.

(c) to (e) Information will be collected and laid on the table of the Sabha.

Competition in Steel Industry

5995.SHRI C. SREENIVASAN : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the steel industry of India has been facing stiff competition from other Asian countries.

(b) if so, the countries which have posed a serious threat to the Indian Steel Industry;

(c) whether the Union Government have prepared any action plan for the steel industry in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY) : (a) and (b) There does not exist any serious threat to the Indian steel industry. Low-priced imports, especially of flat products, from South Korea and Taiwan, to some extent have created a disturbance in the Indian domestic markets.

(c) and (d) In a deregulated and decontrolled era, the Government does not have a direct role in improving the competitive edge of the steel industry. Steel units are expected to devise their own strategy aimed at providing competitive price, quality, products and for developing their market. The Government monitors the general condition within which the industry operates and provides general incentives through the budgetary process and other policy programmes.

Fishing Harbours

5996.SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA :
SHRIMATI REENA CHOUDHARY :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether some fishing harbours are under construction in Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details and latest position thereof, location-wise;

(c) the funds allocated for the purpose so far; and

(d) the amount of central assistance extended for the said harbours?

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

(a) Yes, Sir. One fishing harbour at Agrao in Raigadh District of Maharashtra is under construction. Since the Centrally Sponsored Scheme has been implemented only in coastal States and Union Territories, construction of fishing harbours in the States of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh does not arise.

(b) Development of the fishing harbour at Agrao in Maharashtra envisaged construction of Jetty, Approach Road, Fish Drying Platform, Open Shed and other ancillary facilities. Constructions of platform, open shed have been completed.

(c) and (d) Against total cost of Rs. 414.00 lakhs for the project, Central assistance at 50% amounting of Rs. 207.00 lakhs has already been released to the Government of Maharashtra.

Unauthorised Operation

5997. SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH RAJUKHEDI :
SHRIMATI REENA CHOUDHARY :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether a Cessna 172 aircraft bearing registration number VT-CNA was cleared for flight from Indore to Mumbai vide FIC No. 66, 67 and ADC : M 304 on 02.03.2003 without collecting the parking charges;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the pilot in command had furnished incorrect information regarding the operator; and

(d) if so, the action taken against the pilot?

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

(b) The aircraft was under possession and operation of Madhya Pradesh Flying Club Ltd. As per existing guidelines Aircraft in possession and operated by M.P. Flying Club are not charged.

(c) As per information furnished by M.P. Flying Club Ltd., the Cessna 172 aircraft VT-CNA was leased to MP Flying Club until 2nd March, 2003.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Scheme for Maintenance of Ponds and Reservoirs

5998. DR. MAHENDRA SINGH PAL : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have formulated any scheme for maintenance and upkeep of ponds and reservoirs in the country;

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

(c) the funds proposed to be spent, on the maintenance of ponds and reservoirs; and

(d) the number of ponds reservoirs in Uttranchal covered under the said scheme?

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

(a) to (d) Irrigation being a State subject, irrigation projects are planned, investigated, formulated, implemented and funded by the State Governments out of their own resources and as per their priorities. The Union Government has not formulated any scheme for maintenance and upkeep of large ponds and reservoirs in the country.

Labour Reforms

5999. SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN :
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether labour reforms in the country are imperative to make the foreign trade of the country competitive in the international trade;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government in this regard;

(c) whether the Government have also formulated any proposals for reforms in the labour sector; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF

STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI VIJAY GOEL) : (a) to (d) Review/updation of labour laws is a continuous process in order to bring them in tune with the prevailing situation and emerging needs of the economy. Taking into consideration the requirement of productivity, competitiveness, investment, foreign trade and employment generation, a need has been felt to make amendments in certain labour legislations and steps initiated. Accordingly, the process of labour reforms has been initiated and amendments in certain labour legislations viz. the Trade Unions Act, 1926, the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923 and the Cine Workers' Welfare Fund Act, 1981 carried out.

Meanwhile, the Second National Commission on Labour has submitted its report to the Government. The Commission has made wide-ranging recommendations on various facts of labour, viz. review of laws, social security, women and child labour, skill development, wages, labour administration, unorganised sector etc. The Report of the Commission was discussed at the 38th Session of Indian Labour Conference held on 28-29 September 2002, a National Seminar on Unorganised Sector Workers on 7-8 November 2002 and a Tripartite Committee Meeting held on 18-19 February 2003. Such initiatives are necessary for evolving consensus on important matters relating to labour. The amendments to various labour laws would be brought about keeping in views the requirements of social partners and after ensuring that the workers' interests are fully protected. Given the procedure involved, it is, however, difficult to state any time limit.

Package for Water Supply Programmes

6000.SHRI RAM SINGH KASWAN :

YOGI ADITYA NATH :

SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN :

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to give any special package for water supply programmes during the current year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the expenditure incurred by the Government on water supply programmes in the country during the last three years; and

(d) the number of villages benefited in Rajasthan under the said programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY) : (a) and (b) Drinking water supply being a State subject, schemes for providing drinking water facilities to rural habitations are implemented by the State Governments with their own resources. The Government of India supplements the efforts of the States by providing financial assistance under the Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP). Powers have been delegated to the States to plan, sanction and implement individual rural drinking water supply schemes.

The Swajaldhara Programme has been launched by the Prime Minister on 25th December, 2002 for Drinking Water Supply Swajaldhara scheme is a special effort to provide drinking water to all the rural areas by March, 2004. The special feature of Swajaldhara scheme is that this will be implemented, maintained and owned by the community. In these projects, the participation of community is a major factor which is to ensure planning, implementation, operation and maintenance for all times to come. 10% contribution is made by the community and 90% funds are provided by the Government of India. So far 4912 projects with an outlay of Rs. 293.79 Crore have been sanctioned by the Ministry of Rural Development.

Also, the Prime Minister on his Independence Day Address-2002 made the following announcements with regard to rural drinking water supply sector :

- One lakh hand pumps will be installed in water scarce areas;
- One lakh primary schools in rural areas will be provided with drinking water facilities.
- One lakh traditional sources of drinking water will be revived.

Government of India has agreed to provide an amount of Rs. 700 Crore for the above purposes.

(c) The amount released to the States Governments under ARWSP during the years 2000-01, 2001-02 and 2002-03 are Rs. 1896.55 Crore, Rs. 1943.05 Crore and Rs. 2100.70 Crore respectively.

(d) 88986 Rural habitations out of 93945 habitations in Rajasthan are fully covered under the ARWSP. The remaining 4960 habitations are not covered.

National Mineral Development Corporation

6001.SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN :
YOGI ADITYA NATH :

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) the profit earned by the National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC) during each of the last three years;

(b) whether (NMDC) has earned profit during last year;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the annual target fixed for the production by NMDC during the Ninth Five Year Plan alongwith the quantum of minerals produced;

(e) whether the Government have formulated any scheme to increase the production of minerals; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY) : (a) Profit (before tax) earned by NMDC during last three years is as under :

(Rs. in crores)

| 2002-03 | 2001-02 | 2000-01 |
|----------------------|---------|---------|
| 394.48 (Provisional) | 343.94 | 316.04 |

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The details are given at (a) above.

(d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the Lok Sabha.

(e) and (f) No, Sir. However, Government has taken action to remove bottlenecks in grant renewal of leases, cutting delays at various levels, opening of mineral sector further to private enterprise etc. by bringing necessary amendments in Mineral Concession Rule and Mines and Mineral (Development and Regulation) Act. All these steps are in conformity with the New Mineral Policy and will contribute towards increased mineral production.

Cow Slaughter

6002.SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH :
SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 173 dated March 03, 2003 regarding Cow Slaughter and state :

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce any bill regarding protection of cows or prevention of cow slaughtering;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any directions have been issued to State Governments to prevent cow slaughter in near future; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) and (b) Preservation of cattle is a matter on which the State Legislatures have exclusive power to legislate, the relevant entry being – 15 of List-II which reads as follows :-

“Preservation protection and improvement of stock and prevention of animal diseases; veterinary training and practice.”

Even then the Government of India is examining the matter.

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

Computer Scam in ICAR

6003.SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether CBI inquiry report against former Director-General and other high ranking officers of ICAR has since been received;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the names of officers found guilty in the computer scam; and

(d) the action taken or proposed to be taken in this regard?

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The CBI had registered a PE (Preliminary Enquiry) No. 1(A)/2001/ACU-VI against Dr. Paroda and others allegedly involved in the purchase of computers and other equipment under NATP. The CBI vide its report received on 08.05.2002 informed the Council that the case had been closed as the inquiry did not reveal any malafides on the part of any officials of the ICAR. The matter was duly informed to the Central Vigilance Commission.

(c) None.

(d) Not applicable.

World Bank Loan for River-Linking Project

6004. SHRI AKHILESH YADAV : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to seek World Bank loan to execute river-linking project;

(b) if so, the amount of loan sought for the purpose;

(c) whether the Government propose to sell the rivers of the country under international pressure; and

(d) if so, the objectives behind such sale?

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

(a) Presently, there is no proposal under consideration of the Government to seek world Bank loan for execution of the river-linking project.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Herbal Tea Sanjivani

6005. SHRI SAVSHIBHAI MAKWANA :
SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to provide aid for the production and marketing of a herbal tea 'Sanjivani';

(b) if so, whether a decision had been taken to launch this tea in the market from August 15; and

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

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

(a) There is no proposal with the Government to provide aid for the promotion and marketing of herbal tea 'Sanjivani'.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

Jobs for Aircraft Engineers and Technicians

6006. SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether there are adequate number of jobs for aircraft engineers and technicians in the Government owned airlines; and

(b) if not, the measures proposed to be taken by the Government to provide employment opportunities to the unemployed trained aircraft engineers and technicians?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK) : (a) and (b) Government as well as private airlines employ adequate number of aircraft engineers and technicians as per the requirement of the business.

As the economy of the country grows, there will be more demand for air travel resulting in requirement of more numbers of aircraft engineers and technicians.

Gender Discrimination among AI Crew

6007. SHRI A. NARENDRA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government directive allowing air hostesses to serve till the age of 58 years treating them

at par with male crew has been implemented by Air India;

- (b) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) the steps being taken to ensure that these directives are implemented by Air India;
- (d) whether the air hostesses in Air India are denied in the flight career progression;
- (e) if so, the measures contemplated to end this discrimination;
- (f) whether the Government are aware that the air hostesses in Air India in the age group of 45 to 50 years have to under go medical examinations whereas the same is not applicable for male crew; and
- (g) if so, the steps being taken to remove this gender discrimination?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK) : (a) to (c) Government directive allowing air hostesses to serve till the age of 58 years treating them at par with male crew is sub-judice in the Supreme Court of India. As per the order of the Supreme Court, Air India is allowing air hostesses to fly upto 58 years age subject to medical fitness.

(d) to (g) No, air hostesses are allowed career progression in accordance with settlement dated 5th June, 1997. However, the issue of hierarchy on board the aircraft is subjudice before the Supreme Court. Similarly the issue of undergoing annual medical examination and weight checks irrespective of sex is also subjudice.

Report of Sardar Singh Johal Committee on Diversification of Crops

6008.SHRI BHAN SINGH BHAURA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government have received the Sardar Singh Johal Committee report on Diversification of crops; and
- (b) if so, the details of the action taken on the report?

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

- (a) Yes, Sir.
- (b) The proposal has been examined and the Government of Punjab has been advised that it needs careful consideration, keeping in view the food security as well as problems of soil fertility and water conservation in the State.

[Translation]

Setting Up of Farmer Assistance Centres

6009.SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

- (a) the details of the farmer assistance/counselling centres being run presently in the country, state-wise;
- (b) No of farmer assistance/counselling centres being run in Bihar and Jharkhand and the locations thereof;
- (c) whether the Government propose to set up more such centers in the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; State-wise;
- (e) the names of the districts especially of Jharkhand where such centres are proposed to be opened; and
- (f) by when these centres are likely to be made functional?

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

(a) The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) have sanctioned for establishment of 44 Agricultural Technology Information Centres (ATICs) in the country with 28 State Agricultural Universities (SAUs) and 16 ICAR Research Institutes under National Agricultural Technology Project (NATP) with the financial support of World Bank to provide technology products, diagnostic and advisory services, and information to the farmers and other end-users through a single-window delivery system.

Details of such centres, State-wise is attached as statement.

(b) One ATIC each in the State of Bihar and Jharkhand is being run at Rajendra Agricultural University, Samastipur and Birsa Agricultural University, Ranchi respectively.

(c) At present, no such proposal is pending under NATP.

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

Statement

State-wise Location of ATICs

| State | Sl. No. | Centre |
|------------------|---------|--|
| 1 | 2 | 3 |
| Andhra Pradesh | 1. | Acharya NG Ranga Agricultural University, Hyderabad |
| Assam | 2. | Assam Agricultural University, Jorhat |
| A and N Islands | 3. | Central Agricultural Research Institute, Port Blair |
| Bihar | 4. | Rajendra Agricultural University, Samastipur |
| Chhattisgarh | 5. | Indira Gandhi Agricultural University, Raipur |
| Delhi | 6. | Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi |
| Gujarat | 7. | Gujarat Agricultural University, Banaskantha |
| Haryana | 8. | National Dairy Research Institute, Karnal |
| | 9. | Chaudhary Charan Singh Haryana Agricultural University, Hisar |
| Himachal Pradesh | 10. | Chaudhary Sarwan Kumar Krishi Vishwa Vidyalyaya, Palampur |
| | 11. | Dr. Y.S. Parmar University of Horticulture and Forestry; Solan |

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|-------------------|-----|--|
| | 12. | Central Potato Research Institute, Shimla |
| Jammu and Kashmir | 13. | Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Science and Technology, Srinagar |
| Jharkhand | 14. | Birsa Agricultural University, Ranchi |
| Kerala | 15. | Kerala Agricultural University, Thrissur |
| | 16. | Indian Institute of Spices Research, Calicut |
| | 17. | Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute, Ernakulam |
| | 18. | Central Plantation Crops Research Institute, Kasargod |
| | 19. | Central Institute of Fisheries Technology, Cochin |
| Karnataka | 20. | University of Agricultural Sciences, Bangalore |
| | 21. | University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad |
| | 22. | Indian Institute of Horticultural Research, Bangalore |
| Madhya Pradesh | 23. | Jawaharlal Nehru Krishi Vishwa Vidyalyaya, Jabalpur |
| | 24. | Central Institute of Agricultural Engineering , Bhopal |
| Maharashtra | 25. | Marathwada Agricultural University, Parbhani |
| | 26. | Mahatma Phule Krishi Vidyapeeth, Rahuri, Ahmednagar |
| | 27. | Dr. Panjabrao Deshmukh Krishi Vidyapeeth, Akola |
| | 28. | Central Institute of Cotton Research, Nagpur |

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|---------------|--|---|
| | 29. Bala Sahib Sawant Konkan Krishi Vidyapeeth, Dapoli, Ratnagiri | |
| Meghalaya | 30. ICAR Research Complex for NEH Region, Barapani | |
| Orissa | 31. Central Institute of Freshwater Aquaculture, Bhubaneshwar | |
| | 32. Orissa University of Agriculture and Technology, Bhubaneshwar | |
| Punjab | 33. Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana | |
| Rajasthan | 34. Central Arid Zone Research Institute, Jodhpur | |
| | 35. Rajasthan Agricultural University, Bikaner | |
| | 36. Maharana Pratap University of Agriculture and Technology, Udaipur | |
| Tamil Nadu | 37. Tamil Nadu Veterinary and Animal Sciences University, Chennai | |
| | 38. Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore | |
| Uttar Pradesh | 39. Chandra Shekhar Azad University of Agriculture and Technology Kanpur | |
| | 40. Narendra Dev University of Agriculture and Technology, Faizabad | |
| | 41. Indian Veterinary Research Institute, Izatnagar, Bareilly | |
| | 42. Indian Institute of Vegetable Research, Varanasi | |
| Uttaranchal | 43. G.B. Pant University of Agriculture and Technology, Pantnagar | |
| West Bengal | 44. Bidhan Chandra Krishi Vishwa Vidyalaya, Nadia | |

Development of Tribal Areas in Maharashtra

6010.SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to launch any project for the development of tourism in tribal areas of Maharashtra during the Tenth Five Year Plan; and

(b) if so, the details and assistance proposed to be provided to the State Government for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN) : (a) and (b) During the 10th Five Year Plan, Department of Tourism, Government of India has decided to identify integrated travel circuits in the country each year. These circuits are finalised and developed in close coordination and partnership with the State/UT Governments and the concerned Government of India Departments. In addition to this it has also been decided to identify one major destination in each State/UT Administration, each year in consultation with them for overall development including in the State of Maharashtra. These schemes cover tourism projects in tribal areas also.

On the basis of project proposals received by the Department of Tourism, Government of India during the year 2002-03 from the Government of Maharashtra, 8 projects were sanctioned for Central financial assistance of Rs. 623.46 lakhs. The Department of Culture sanctioned 10 projects for Rs. 285.30 lakhs.

[English]

Development Expenditure on Agriculture

6011.SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of development expenditure incurred by the Government on agriculture during the last three years;

(b) whether the Government are aware that farmers are not getting remunerative prices of their farm products;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the action taken by the Government to encourage farmers to continue with farm production so as to prevent unemployment?

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

(a) The details of expenditure incurred by the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation on Plan schemes during the last three years are as follows :-

(Rs. in Crores)

| Year | Expenditure |
|----------------------------|-------------|
| 2000-01 | 1666.04 |
| 2001-02 | 1776.56 |
| 2002-03 (Revised Estimate) | 1687.00 * |

*The expenditure for the year 2002-03 is yet to be finalized.

(b) and (c) The Government's price policy for agricultural produce aims at ensuring remunerative prices to the farmers for their produce. The Government fixes each season the Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) of major agricultural commodities and organizes purchase operations through public and Cooperative agencies such as Food Corporation of India (FCI) (Paddy, wheat and Coarse Cereals), Jute Corporation of India (JCI) (Jute), Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) (Cotton), National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation (NAFED) (pulses and Oilseeds) and Tobacco Board (tobacco), besides other agencies designated by the State Governments. The designated Central Nodal Agencies are required to intervene in the market for undertaking purchase operations in case the prices fall below the MSPs fixed by the Government. There has been record procurement of agricultural commodities in recent years.

(d) The Government has taken various steps based on regionally differentiated strategy like on-farm water management, Macro Management in Agriculture, Technology Mission on Horticulture Development in North East and Technology Mission on Coconut. Besides these programmes, other major programmes like promotion of micro irrigation techniques for optimal utilization of water, dissemination of agricultural technologies, oilseed production programme, National pulses development programme, Cooperative sector reforms, seed sector reforms and watershed

development programme have been undertaken to increase the production and productivity of the agricultural crops in the country to prevent unemployment.

[Translation]

Protection of Tibetan Deer

6012.KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) the State-wise locations wherein Tibetan deers are found along with their present number;

(b) whether these deers are reportedly being poached in large number in order to smuggle their skin; and

(c) if so, the details of action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government against poachers and for protection of 'Chirus'?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV) : (a) In India, the presence of the Tibetan antelope has been reported from the State of Jammu and Kashmir, where it occurs in areas of Ladakh bordering Tibet. No scientific census has been conducted, in the recent years for Chiru. However, the census conducted in 1996 by State Forest Department of Jammu and Kashmir and Wildlife Institute of India estimated their population between 250-300 individuals.

(b) No incident of poaching of Chiru for procuring its skin has been reported from Indian side of its range.

(c) The measures taken for protection of Chiru include :

1. Chiru has been listed in the Schedule I of the Jammu and Kashmir Wildlife (Protection) Act and the Wild Life (Protection) Act 1972 and therefore has been provided highest degree of protection under law.
2. A comprehensive programme has been initiated to rehabilitate Kashmiri Shatoosh artisans to wean them away from Shatoosh based trade.

[English]

**Union for Protection of New Plant
Varieties Convention**

6013.SHRIMATI PRABHA RAU :

SHRI J.S. BRAR :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have applied for membership of Union for the Protection of New Plant Varieties Convention;

(b) if so, the terms and conditions applicable for the same;

(c) the benefits expected for the Indian farmers therefrom;

(d) whether option will be available to protect the interest of farmers in case of adverse impact; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) :
(a) Yes, Sir. India has applied for membership of the International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants (UPOV) Convention, 1978.

(b) the terms and conditions for membership of UPOV stipulated that the domestic law on the subject should broadly conform to the provisions of the UPOV Convention.

(c) Accession to UPOV will facilitate greater investment in plant breeding activities which will help in making available quality seeds to the farmers.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) The Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmer's Rights Act, 2001 provides for payment of compensation to farmers in case the variety does not perform to the expected level.

Eligibility for Bank Finance under KVIC

6014.SHRI CHINTAMAN WANAGA : Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have increased eligibility for bank finance under KVIC's Rural Employment Generation Programme;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether self help group has also been covered under the purview of the scheme; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) The eligibility for availing Bank finance under Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP) in the case of institutions is Rs. 25 lakhs since the inception of REGP. In the case of individual entrepreneurs, the eligibility for availing bank finance has been increased from Rs. 10 lakhs to Rs. 25 lakhs with effect from 22.01.2002 under the Rural Employment Generation Programme.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The REGP has been extended for the benefit of Self Help Groups (SHG). Initially, it was made applicable on selected basis in Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Orissa, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh, Later with effect from 21st April 2003, the same has been extended throughout the country. Under the scheme, the SHGs can approach Banks for availing financial assistance with margin money component from KVIC. For SHGs formed by rural women, margin money to the extent of 30% of project cost upto Rs. 10 lakhs and 10% of project cost over and above Rs. 10.00 lakhs upto Rs. 25 lakhs is provided under the scheme.

[Translation]

Amendment in EPF Policy

6015.SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have any plan to amend its policy regarding Employees Provident Fund;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government are contemplating to take any safety measures to safeguard the interest of employees as well as their deposits; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI VIJAY GOEL) : (a) No, Sir.

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

(c) and (d) Stringent actions against the defaulting establishments have already been provided in the Employees Provident Fund and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952 so that interests of the employees are well protected. Whenever any default is detected, actions, under the sections 7A, 8F, 8B to 8G, 14(1)(A), 14(B) and 7Q of Employees Provident Fund and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952, under Section 406/409 of IPC and under Section 110 of CrPC, are taken against defaulters.

Funds for Infrastructural Development of Agriculture

6016. SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the budgetary allocation made for the infrastructural development of agriculture in the year 2003-2004;

(b) whether the Government propose to formulate any scheme to make the agriculture sector as the engine of growth; and

(c) the steps likely to be taken for the development of rural areas?

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

(a) The Budgetary allocation of Rs. 2187 crores has been made for the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation for their Plan Schemes during the year 2003-04 for the development of agriculture including infrastructural development.

(b) and (c) The Tenth Five Year Plan approved by National Development Council has given major thrust on

basic rural infrastructure for agriculture which inter-alia include creation and strengthening of storage/cold storage infrastructure, construction of rural godowns, strengthening of marketing and processing, development of minor irrigation, rainwater harvesting and conservation for the development of rainfed areas through watershed approach. The Tenth Five Year Plan strategies/thrust areas have been taken into consideration by the Government of India while formulating their schemes related to agriculture in all the States.

[English]

Subscribers covered under EPF

6017. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state the total number of EPF subscribers in the country as on December 31, 2002 and thereafter, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI VIJAY GOEL) : The total number of EPF members in the country as on 31.12.2002 was 372.83 lakhs. The State-wise detail is attached as Statement.

Statement

Total Membership upto December 2002

| S. No. | Name of State/ Region | Total Membership upto December 2002 |
|--------|--------------------------|--|
| 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 2990131 |
| 2. | Bihar | 325377 |
| 3. | Chhattisgarh | 281734 |
| 4. | Delhi | 2089142 |
| 5. | Goa | 200817 |
| 6. | Gujarat | 3317463 |
| 7. | Himachal Pradesh | 190528 |
| 8. | Haryana | 1445981 |
| 9. | Jharkhand | 647151 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|--------------------|---|-----------------|
| 10. Karnataka | | 3193193 |
| 11. Kerala | | 1246008 |
| 12. Maharashtra | | 7081920 |
| 13. Madhya Pradesh | | 1356205 |
| 14. N.E. Region | | 207771 |
| 15. Orissa | | 667461 |
| 16. Punjab | | 1919678 |
| 17. Rajasthan | | 1394113 |
| 18. Tamil Nadu | | 5001688 |
| 19. Uttaranchal | | 193209 |
| 20. Uttar Pradesh | | 1349215 |
| 21. West Bengal | | 2184166 |
| Total | | 37282951 |

Seizure of Mongoose's Hair

6018.DR. B.B. RAMAIAH : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether huge stock of mongoose's hair has been seized from a factory in Gurgaon district of Haryana recently;

(b) if so, the estimated number of killed animals therefor; and

(c) the action taken against the persons involved therein?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. On 29.1.03 Gurgaon police have sized about 25 kilograms of mongoose hair including manufactured brushes from Chawla Brush Factory, Gurgaon, About 2000 mongoose may have been killed to obtain 25 kilograms of hair.

(c) Five persons have been arrested in the case the Haryana Police, Gurgaon is prosecuting them under

various provisions of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 and Indian Penal Code.

Baglihar Hydro-Electric Project in Jammu and Kashmir

6019.SHRI RAJIAH MALYALA : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the progress made in the construction of Baglihar Hydro-Electric Project in Jammu and Kashmir; and

(b) the measures taken to complete the said project early to provide more electricity to the people of Jammu and Kashmir?

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

(a) As informed by the State Government of Jammu and Kashmir, 37% of civil works and 46% of electro-mechanical works have been completed upto March, 2003.

(b) The State Government is taking appropriate measures to ensure smooth flow of funds to the project for its early completion.

[Translation]

Funds for National Pulses and Oilseeds Production Programme

6020.SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the State Governments have demanded more funds from the Union Government to implement the National Pulses and Oilseeds Production Programme;

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

(c) the funds that would be allocated to the State Governments by the Union Government including Madhya Pradesh during the current financial year for implementation of the said scheme?

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

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise. However, State-wise details of release of funds both for the implementation of

National Pulses Development Project (NPDP) and Oilseeds Production Programme (OPP) during the last year are given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) The funds are allocated to the States in the Administrative Approval issued for the implementation of Oilseeds Production Programme (OPP) and National Pulses Development Project (NPDP), respectively. During the current year a budgetary provision of Rs. 93.00 crores has been provided in the BE 2003-04 in the Demand for Grants for the implementation of OPP and similarly a budgetary provision of Rs. 36.00 crores has been provided in the BE 2003-04 in the Demand for Grants for the implementation of NPDP. This is, however, subject to the funds being voted by Parliament.

Statement

Funds released to the States for the implementation of Oilseeds Production Programme and National Pulses Development Project during 2002-03

(Rs. in lakhs)

| S.No. | State | Amount released | |
|-------|-------------------|-----------------|--------|
| | | OPP | NPDP |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 760.00 | 25.00 |
| 2. | Bihar | — | — |
| 3. | Chhattisgarh | 70.00 | 45.00 |
| 4. | Goa | 3.00 | 1.00 |
| 5. | Gujarat | 615.00 | 50.00 |
| 6. | Haryana | 130.00 | 10.00 |
| 7. | Himachal Pradesh | 15.05 | 2.50 |
| 8. | Jammu and Kashmir | 5.00 | 4.50 |
| 9. | Jharkhand | 5.00 | 2.50 |
| 10. | Karnataka | 456.95 | 67.00 |
| 11. | Kerala | 25.00 | 4.00 |
| 12. | Madhya Pradesh | 675.00 | 132.50 |
| 13. | Maharashtra | 575.00 | 147.00 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|-------|-----------------------------|---------|---------|
| 14. | Orissa | 25.00 | 10.00 |
| 15. | Punjab | — | — |
| 16. | Rajasthan | 815.00 | 254.00 |
| 17. | Tamil Nadu | 420.00 | 93.00 |
| 18. | Uttar Pradesh | 100.00 | 60.00 |
| 19. | Uttaranchal | 25.00 | 4.50 |
| 20. | West Bengal | 95.00 | 4.50 |
| 21. | Andaman and Nicobar Islands | — | 0.50 |
| 22. | Delhi | — | 1.00 |
| 23. | Arunachal Pradesh | 15.00 | 5.00 |
| 24. | Assam | 110.00 | 15.00 |
| 25. | Manipur | 72.00 | 40.00 |
| 26. | Meghalaya | 24.00 | 15.00 |
| 27. | Mizoram | 79.00 | 51.00 |
| 28. | Nagaland | 90.00 | 37.00 |
| 29. | Tripura | 60.00 | 37.00 |
| 30. | Sikkim | 50.00 | 10.00 |
| Total | | 5315.00 | 1128.50 |

Yield Rate in Different Regions

6021. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :
DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the highest and lowest yield rate of wheat, paddy, sugarcane and cotton in the beginning and at the end of the nineties, State-wise; and

(b) the yield rate fixed for aforesaid produces by the end of the Tenth Five Year Plan?

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

(a) The highest and lowest yield rates of wheat, paddy, sugarcane and cotton in 1990-91 and 1999-2000 amongst the States producing these crops in significant quantity, are given in the Statement attached.

(b) No specific yield rate targets at the end of the Tenth Five Year Plan have been fixed. However, National Agriculture Policy envisages an annual growth rate in excess of 4% for the agriculture sector.

Statement

Highest and Lowest Yield Rates of Wheat, Paddy, Sugarcane and Cotton in 1990-91 and 1999-2000

(kg./hectare)

| Crop | 1990-91 | | 1999-2000 | | |
|-----------|--------------------|--------|----------------|--------|----------------|
| | Yield Rate | State | Yield Rate | State | |
| Wheat | Highest Yield Rate | 3715 | Punjab | 4696 | Punjab |
| | Lowest Yield Rate | 630 | Karnataka | 833 | Karnataka |
| Paddy | Highest Yield Rate | 4843 | Punjab | 5222 | Tamil Nadu |
| | Lowest Yield Rate | 1682 | Madhya Pradesh | 1338 | Nagaland |
| Sugarcane | Highest Yield Rate | 100817 | Tamil Nadu | 108360 | Tamil Nadu |
| | Lowest Yield Rate | 35320 | Madhya Pradesh | 39828 | Assam |
| Cotton | Highest Yield Rate | 463 | Punjab | 408 | Haryana |
| | Lowest Yield Rate | 111 | Madhya Pradesh | 145 | Madhya Pradesh |

[English]

Sale of River to Private Company in Chhattisgarh

6022.SHRI S. AJAYA KUMAR : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

- whether any river has been sold to a private company in Chhattisgarh;
- if so, the details thereof;
- whether the bore-wells of the farmers on the banks of the said river are taxed;
- if so, the details thereof; and
- the action taken to protect the interests of the farmers by exempting the bore-wells from tax?

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

(a) and (b) No, Sir. However, the Government of

Chattisgarh have intimated that before the division of the State (prior to 1.11.2000), a corporation named Madhya Pradesh Audyogik Kendra Vikas Nigam Raipur, a State undertaking of Government of Madhya Pradesh, had entered into an agreement on 5.10.1998 with M/s Radius Water Ltd. for water supply project at River Shivnath for supply of water to industries situated at Industrial Growth Center BORAI in District Durg. No ownership right has been given to this company for the river.

(c) and (d) In the vicinity of this project, no taxes have been levied no farmers.

(e) Does not arise.

Excavation at Religious Sites

6023.SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have decided to undertake excavations at different sites in the country

connected with religious/mythical importance and disputes; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN) : (a) No, Sir. The Government undertakes excavation at a site on the basis of its archaeological merit.

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Hike in Prices of Mother Dairy Full-Cream Milk

6024.DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA :
SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the price of Mother Dairy's full-cream milk has been increased from Rs. 17/- to Rs. 18/- in Delhi during April 2003;

(b) whether this increase has reduced the loss being incurred by the Mother Dairy;

(c) if not the reasons therefor;

(d) whether cost of milk production has increased recently; and

(e) if so, the extent thereof?

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

(b) and (c) Mother Dairy operations are viable. The price increase has been made to maintain viability of the Dairy.

(d) and (e) There has been an increase of cost of production by about Rs. 1/- per litre in the cost of full-cream milk in poly pack.

[English]

Encroachment in Tughlakabad

6025.SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the land at Tughlakabad Fort which was cleared of squatters in April 2001 is being re-encroached upon by land mafia;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for failure to prevent such incidents; and

(d) the response of the Government thereon and the steps taken to prevent such incidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN) : (a) and (b) No encroachment has come up on the land which was cleared of squatters in April, 2001 (9th and 10th). However, a part of the land which was cleared of squatters on 17.3.2001 had been re-encroached upon immediately after the operation, by raising semi-permanent structures by the same persons who were evicted.

(c) and (d) As the pocket made free from encroachment on 17.3.2001 was located within the heavily encroached area, which could not be cleared during the one-day operation, the said pocket was re-encroached due to hostile attitude of the inhabitants. Since the matter is sub-judice in the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India, the Central Government is not in a position to initiate immediate steps to make the land encroachment-free, raise boundary wall around and develop the land aesthetically to prevent such incidents in future.

Linking of Rivers

6026.SHRI Y.V. RAO : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the present status of river-linking project in the country;

(b) whether areas have since been identified for the inter-linking;

(c) if so, the manner in which the rivers are proposed to be inter-linked; and

(d) the targets being fixed, both fiscal and monetary?

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

(a) and (b) National Perspective Plan for transferring water from water surplus basins to water deficit areas was prepared in 1980. National Water Development Agency (NWDA) was established in 1982 as an autonomous society to carryout water balance and other studies and prepare feasibility reports. NWDA has identified 30 links under the National Perspective Plan for preparation of the feasibility reports. The list of such links is attached as Statement-I. NWDA has prepared feasibility report of 8 links. The list of such links is attached as Statement-II.

(c) The interlinking of rivers involve construction of canal between the rivers which are intended to be inter-linked. Besides, construction of storage/diversion structures on the river at the head and outfall of the canal as well as construction of head regulators, cross regulators and cross drainage works along the alignment of the canal is also involved.

(d) The Central Government has drawn up Milestone Dates/Time Table for various activities relating to interlinking of rivers as follows :-

1. Completion of Feasibility Studies by 31.12.2005
2. Completion of Detailed Project Reports by 31.12.2003
3. Implementation of the Project (10 years) by 31.12.2016

Statement-I

List of Water transfer links identified for Preparation of Feasibility Report by NWDA

Peninsular Rivers Development Component

1. Mahanadi (Manibhadra)-Godavari (Dowlaiswaram) link
2. Godavari (Polavaram)-Krishna (Vijayawada) link
3. Godavari (Inchampalli Low Dam)-Krishna (Nagarjunasagar Tali Pond) link
4. Godavari (Inchampalli)-Krishna (Nagarjunasagar) link
5. Krishna (Nagarjunasagar)-Pennar (Somasila) link
6. Krishna (Srisaillam)-Pennar link
7. Krishna (Almatti)-Pennar link

8. Pennar (Somasila)-Cauvery (Grand Anicut) link
9. Cauvery (Kattalai)-Vaigai (Gundar) link
10. Parbati-Kalisindh-Chambal link
11. Damanganga-Pinjal link
12. Par-Tapi-Narmada link
13. Ken-Betwa link
14. Pamba-Achankovil-Vaippar link
15. Netravati-Hemavarti Link
16. Bedti-Varda link

Himalayan Rivers Development Component

1. Kosi-Mechi link
2. Kosi-Ghagra link
3. Gandak-Ganga link
4. Ghaghra-Yamuna link
5. Sarda-Yamuna link
6. Yamuna-Rajasthan link
7. Rajasthan-Sabarmati link
8. Chunar-Sone Barrage link
9. Sone Dam – Southern Tributaries of Ganga link
10. Brahmaputra-Ganga link (Manas-Sankosh-Tista-Ganga)
11. Brahmaputra-Ganga link (Jogighopa-Tista-Farakka)
12. Farakka-Sunderbans link*
13. Ganga-Damodar-Subernarekha link
14. Subernarekha-Mahanadi link

*Survey and Investigation to be done by Government of West Bengal

Statement-II

List of the links with Feasibility Reports completed

A. Peninsular Component

1. Ken-Betwa link

2. Par-Tapi-Narmada link
3. Pamba-Achankovil-Vaippar link
4. Godavari (Polavaram)-Krishna (Vijayawada) link
5. Krishna (Srisaillam)-Pennar link
6. Krishna (Nagarjunsagar)-Pennar (Somsila) link
7. Daman ganga-Pinjal link

B. Himalayan Component

1. Sarda-Yamuna link

Destruction of Coastal Resources

6027. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether due to urbanisation and tourism, industrial waste, chemical waste from fertilizer and pesticides silt from degraded catchments, increased population, economic and industrial growth have created pressure on coastal resources with some stretches in the country becoming highly polluted;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government are considering to bring out certain guidelines for coastal aquaculture; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV) : (a) and (b) Under a programme of the Department of Ocean Development, coastal water quality is monitored in order to mitigate the adverse impacts of pollution on marine environment. The Government issued the Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) Notification dated 19.2.1991 to protect the country's coastal environment by regulating activities in CRZ. The Government has also constituted the National and State/Union Territories level Coastal Zone Management Authorities under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and delegated to them powers to take necessary measures for protecting and improving the quality of the coastal environment and preventing, abating and controlling environmental pollution in coastal areas, besides taking appropriate action regarding violations of the CRZ Notification.

(c) and (d) In accordance with the directives of the Supreme Court the Aquaculture Authority has been set up to regulate shrimp farming activities in coastal areas. The Authority has evolved guidelines for adopting improved technology for increasing production and productivity in traditional and improved traditional systems of shrimp farming in an eco-friendly manner.

Workers In Organised and Unorganised Sector

6028. SHRI LAKSHMAN SETH : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether any assessment has been made by the Government in respect of number of workers working in the organised and unorganised sectors in the country by the end of Ninth Five Year Plan and thereafter;

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

(c) the ratio of unorganised and organised workers; and

(d) the details of policies and programmes to protect the interests of unorganised workers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI VIJAY GOEL) : (a) and (b) Estimates of number of workers for selected States and All India in the organised and unorganised sector during 1999-2000 (latest available) are given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) Around 7% of the workers are in the organised sector and the remaining 93% in the unorganised sector.

(d) The Government has taken several steps for the welfare of labourers in the unorganised sector. A large number of existing labour laws like the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923, the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, the Payment of Wages Act, 1936, the Employees' State Insurance Act, 1948, the Maternity benefit Act, 1961, the Payment of Gratuity Act, 1972, the Equal Remuneration Act, 1976, the Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1970, the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976 and Inter-State Migrant Workmen (RE and CS) Act, 1979, the Building and other Construction Workers (Regulation

of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1996 and Building and other Construction Workers' Welfare Cess Act, 1996 are applicable to the workers in unorganized sector. These Acts look after the interests of the workers in terms of wages, working hours, social security, etc.

Statement

Employment in organised and unorganized sectors for major States and All India

| S. No. | Major States | 2000 (in thousand) | | |
|------------------|----------------|--------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| | | Total Employment | Organised Sector | Unorganized Sector |
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 36148 | 2071.6 | 34076.4 |
| 2. | Assam | 9357 | 1084.5 | 8272.5 |
| 3. | Bihar | 36437 | 1613.9 | 34823.1 |
| 4. | Gujarat | 22931 | 1690.3 | 21240.7 |
| 5. | Haryana | 7159 | 651.6 | 6507.4 |
| 6. | Karnataka | 23599 | 1863.3 | 21735.7 |
| 7. | Kerala | 12444 | 1209.8 | 11234.2 |
| 8. | Madhya Pradesh | 34424 | 1593.7 | 32830.3 |
| 9. | Maharashtra | 41241 | 3759.8 | 37481.2 |
| 10. | Orissa | 14981 | 797.9 | 14183.1 |
| 11. | Punjab | 9885 | 845.8 | 9039.2 |
| 12. | Rajasthan | 23212 | 1275.7 | 21936.3 |
| 13. | Tamil Nadu | 28895 | 2524.5 | 26370.5 |
| 14. | Uttar Pradesh | 58924 | 2552.7 | 56371.3 |
| 15. | West Bengal | 28237 | 2352.3 | 25884.7 |
| All Major States | | 387950 | 25887.4 | 362062.6 |
| All India | | 1397000 | 27959.7 | 369140.3 |

Investment by EPFO

6029.SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the details of investment made by the Employees Provident Fund Organisation;

(b) whether the Government are considering to bring more establishments under EPF Scheme; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI VIJAY GOEL) : (a) The details of investment made by the Employees Provident Fund Organisation, as on 31.03.03, are as under :

| | Rs. in crores |
|---|---------------|
| 1. Central Government Securities | 13451.73 |
| 2.(a) State Government | 6547.87 |
| (b) Government Guaranteed Securities | 1203.41 |
| 3. Special Deposit Scheme | 53187.54 |
| 4. Public Sector Financial Institutions | 15657.57 |
| 5. Public Account | 23889.64 |
| Total | 113937.76 |

(b) and (c) The coverage of more establishments under the Employees Provident Fund and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952 is a continuous process, and during the year 2001-02, 18321 new establishments have been covered under the Employees Provident Fund and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952.

Encroachment on Monuments in Andhra Pradesh

6030.DR. N. VENKATASWAMY : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of historical sites preserved and maintained by ASI in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether the land under these monuments is being increasingly encroached upon, particularly Golkonda Fort in Hyderabad;

(c) if so, the details of the monuments alongwith the total area of land encroached upon; and

(d) the steps the Government have taken or propose to take to evict the illegal occupants?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN) : (a) There are 136 monuments of national importance in Andhra Pradesh under the protection of Archaeological Survey of India.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. As per the information furnished by the field office, 15 monuments of national importance

including the area around Golconda Fort have been encroached upon in the State of Andhra Pradesh. The details of encroachments are given in the Statement enclosed.

(d) State Government of Andhra Pradesh and District Authorities have been requested to co-operate in removing the encroachments in and around protected monuments and requisite legal action as per law is underway.

Statement

The encroachments in and around the Monuments in Andhra Pradesh

| S. No. | Name of Monument | Place and District | Total protected area | Total area encroached upon |
|--------|---------------------------------|--|--|--|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 1. | Large bastion and Old Gateway | Madakasira, Anantapur Distt. | 0.22 Ac. | Appr. 150 Sqm |
| 2. | Hill Fort | Penukonda, Anantapur Distt. | 15.39 Ac. | 1 Acre. |
| 3. | Ruined Fort | Dharanikota, Amaravati, Guntur Distt. | 17.08 Ac. | 500 Sqm. |
| 4. | Rock cut caves | Mogalrajapuram, Vijayawada, Krishna Distt. | 1.31 Ac. | 400 Sqm. |
| 5. | Golconda Fort | Golconda, Hyderabad Distt. | Attarah Sidi: Government land 49.00 Ac. 318.04 Ac. Private land between inner and outer fortification walls. 9.36 Government land near Fateh Darwaja | Attarah Sidi area 4 Ac. 318.04 Ac. Abadi area. 9.36 Ac. Government land fully encroached |
| 6. | Gateway and bastion of Old Fort | Kurnool Town, Kurnhool Distt. | Gateway to Gopal Darwaja 2.70 Sqm. Pani-Ki-Diddi 49.31 sqm. | Encroachments around the Gateway. Encroachments all around this structure. |
| 7. | Sri Umahameswara Swamy temple | Yagnti, Kurnool Distt. | 12.82 Ac. | 240 Sqm. |
| 8. | Srinivasa Mangapuram | Mangapuram, Chittoor Distt. | 1.70 Ac. | 10,000 Sqm. |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|-----|------------------------------|------------------------------|------------|-------------|
| 9. | Chandragiri Fort | Chandragiri, Chittoor Distt. | 25.50 Ac. | 80.00 Sqm. |
| 10. | Gurramkonda Fort | Gurramkonda, Chittoor Distt. | 251.62 Ac. | 2.25 Sqm. |
| 11. | Sri Soumyanadha Swamy temple | Nandalur, Cuddapah Distt. | 2.16 Ac. | 100.00 Sqm. |
| 12. | Sri Kodandarama Swamy temple | Vontimitta, Cuddapah Distt. | 3.66 Ac. | 500 Sqm. |
| 13. | Sri Kodandarama Swamy temple | Peddamudiam, Cuddapah Dist. | 0.58 Ac. | 300 Sqm. |
| 14. | Warangal Fort | Warangal, Warangal Distt. | 8.00 km. | 945.00 Sqm. |
| 15. | Thousand Pillared temple | Hanumakonda, Distt. Warangal | 2.41 Ac. | 100.00 Sqm. |

Assistance to States for Fairs and Festivals

6031. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have prescribed any guidelines for sanctioning financial assistance to State Governments for organizing fairs and festivals;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any of the State Governments has been denied financial assistance during the last three years for not observing those norms; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) As per the existing guidelines, financial assistance upto Rs. 10.00 lakhs is provided to the State Governments/ Union Territories for a maximum of two festivals in a year. Assistance is provided for creation of permanent/semi permanent structure, production of posters, pamphlets, advertisements, production of film, remuneration to artists, lighting, sound, seating arrangements etc.

(c) and (d) A list of States where fairs and festivals were not sanctioned during the last three years is enclosed as statement. The main reasons for not sanctioning fairs and festivals in these States during the last three years are non-receipt of proposals from the State Governments,

receipt of incomplete proposals, non-furnishing of utilisation certificates for funds sanctioned during the previous years etc.

Statement

List of States where Fairs and Festivals were not sanctioned during 2000-01, 2001-02 and 2002-03

| Year | State |
|---------|---|
| 2000-01 | Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Goa, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram Nagaland, Orissa, Punjab, Tamil Nadu Uttaranchal and West Bengal |
| 2001-02 | Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Manipur, Sikkim, and Uttaranchal |
| 2002-03 | Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Goa, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Meghalaya, Orissa, Uttaranchal, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. |

Funds for Agricultural Development Work

6032. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of allocation of funds earmarked by the Government for launching various agricultural development works in the country particularly in Rajasthan during the last three years, project-wise and State-wise; and

(b) the present status of such projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) :
(a) and (b) The State-wise details of funds released under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes implemented by Department of Agriculture and Cooperation during the last three years are given in the enclosed Statement. All the on-going Centrally Sponsored of Ninth Plan are currently under implementation.

Statement

Details of Funds Released under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes during the last three years

(Rs. in lakhs)

| S. No. | Name of the Scheme | Funds Released | | |
|--------|--------------------|----------------|-----------|----------------------|
| | | 2000-2001 | 2001-2002 | 2002-2003 (Prov.) |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 3914.84 | 4235.45 | 3129.74 |
| 2. | Arunachal Pradesh | 761.31 | 1216.81 | 1547.46 |
| 3. | Assam | 1099.27 | 1798.80 | 2319.80 |
| 4. | Bihar | 419.59 | 1844 | 4891.00 |
| 5. | Jharkhand | 0.00 | 1175.49 | 1779.60 |
| 6. | Goa | 49.12 | 222.15 | 178.50 |
| 7. | Gujarat | 4713.47 | 3108.33 | 2544.74 |
| 8. | Haryana | 1833.74 | 1988.36 | 1860.91 |
| 9. | Himachal Pradesh | 1338.17 | 1896.97 | 1718.34 |
| 10. | Jammu and Kashmir | 917.87 | 916.43 | 1959.33 |
| 11. | Karnataka | 7180.52 | 7039.95 | 6264.22 |
| 12. | Kerala | 3724.72 | 2698.61 | 3118.42 |
| 13. | Madhya Pradesh | 5506.89 | 6813.06 | 5262.20 |
| 14. | Chhattisgarh | 963.00 | 1610.05 | 1826.70 |
| 15. | Maharashtra | 10633.31 | 10598.78 | 8812.44 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|-------------------|---|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| 16. Manipur | | 935.68 | 938.27 | 1249.44 |
| 17. Mizoram | | 1088.99 | 1766.82 | 1989.72 |
| 18. Meghalaya | | 724.74 | 969.27 | 1382.50 |
| 19. Nagaland | | 1489.72 | 1717.66 | 1713.00 |
| 20. Orissa | | 1680.81 | 2073.05 | 3062.88 |
| 21. Punjab | | 849.49 | 1083.00 | 889.50 |
| 22. Rajasthan | | 8133.23 | 6763.15 | 7947.91 |
| 23. Sikkim | | 825.29 | 1292.44 | 1277.85 |
| 24. Tamil Nadu | | 5665.59 | 5416.38 | 4093.14 |
| 25. Tripura | | 817.25 | 1609.10 | 1887.05 |
| 26. Uttar Pradesh | | 7068.83 | 7938.74 | 9050.12 |
| 27. Uttaranchal | | 882.00 | 1515.35 | 1348.91 |
| 28. West Bengal | | 1595.47 | 2913.80 | 2493.36 |
| Total | | 74812.71 | 83140.28 | 85611.78 |

[Translation]

Swaranrekha Irrigation Project

6033. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY :
SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO :

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have made any efforts to receive financial assistance from the World Bank or the A.R.B.P. for Swaranrekha Irrigation Project;

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

(c) the success achieved so far in this regard; and

(d) the extent of work completed on the project?

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The first phase of the Swaran Rekha Irrigation Project (Bihar) was implemented with the World Bank assistance of US\$ 127 million during January, 1983 to April, 1989. The Swaran Rekha Irrigation Project Phase-II proposal (estimated cost Rs. 473.15 crore) was posed to the World Bank on 23.6.1997. However, there has been no response from the World Bank. An amount of Rs. 102.24 crores has been released to Government of Orissa for Swaran Rekha Multipurpose project as Central Loan Assistance (CLA) under the Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP). The irrigation potential created under AIBP is 2.5 thousand hectare against the ultimate potential of 187.4 thousand hectare.

Illegal Poaching of Tigers

6034. SHRI LAXMAN GILUWA :

SHRI MANSINH PATEL :

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

- (a) the number of tigers in the country at present;
- (b) whether despite the three laws enacted for protection of tigers illegal poaching of tiger is on the increase;
- (c) if so, whether one Indian tiger is killed everyday and is exported illegally for its various organs;
- (d) if so, whether the Government have conducted any analysis regarding impact of illegal poaching of tigers on environment and if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to contain this trend?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV) : (a) According to the estimation carried out during 2002, the estimated number of tigers in our country is 3642.

(b) to (d) No Sir. The 27 Tiger Reserves and many other Protected Areas in our country from natural habitats harbouring a viable, breeding population of tigers, which have responded well to managerial interventions aimed to foster its recovery. However, some 'spill-over' population from such areas cause man-wild animal interface

problems, which at times may result in the mortality to tiger. The body parts of some such animals may also end up in the grey market.

(e) The steps taken by the Government to prevent this illegal trade are as below :

- i) Legal protection has been provided to wild animals including tigers against hunting and commercial exploitation under the provisions of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.
- ii) Financial and technical help is being extended to the States under Centrally Sponsored Schemes for enhancing the capacity and infrastructure to provide effective protection to wild animals.
- iii) Central, Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has been empowered under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 to apprehend and prosecute wildlife offenders
- iv) Ministry of Home Affairs has written to all State Governments to lend a helping hand to the field formations to curb poaching and illegal trade in wildlife.
- v) A Special Coordination and Enforcement Committee has been set up under the chairmanship of Secretary (Environment and Forests), Government of India for control of poaching and illegal trade in wildlife.
- vi) In the recent meeting of Indian Board on Wildlife, it was resolved to declare the wildlife and forest as a priority sector and fill up all the vacant posts of the frontline staff immediately and also to provide basic infrastructure necessary for efficient discharge of duties by them.

Review of Forest Policy

6035. PROF. DUKHA BHAGAT :

SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA :

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

- (a) whether the Government propose to review or have reviewed the forest policy;

- (b) if so, the details alongwith background thereof;
- (c) whether the Wildlife (Protection) Act and the Environment (Protection) Act are proposed to be updated under this review;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the said review and update is likely to benefit the common man and ensure the availability of additional Central financial assistance for the proper and speedy implementation of environmental projects; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV) : (a) Yes, Sir. The Government of India has set up the National Forest Commission to review the working of the forest and wildlife sector.

(b) to (f) The details of the constitution of National Forest Commission along with the background are enclosed as Statement. The Commission shall review the forests and wildlife sector with the five terms of reference mentioned in the Annexure. The recommendations of the Commission are likely to benefit the forestry and wildlife sector as well as local communities including tribals.

Statement

The Government of India has constituted the National Forest Commission on 7th February, 2003 to review the working of the forests and wildlife sector with the following terms of reference :

- i. Review and assess the existing policy and legal framework and their impact in a holistic manner from the ecological, scientific, economic, social and cultural viewpoint.
- ii. Examine the current status of forest administration and the forestry institutions both on all India and State level to meet the emerging needs of the civil society.
- iii. Make recommendations indicating policy options for achieving sustainable forest and wildlife management and development, bio-diversity conservation and ecological security.

- iv. Suggest ways and means to make forest administration more effective with a view to help to achieve the above policy options.
- v. Establish meaningful partnership and interface between forestry management and local communities including tribals.

The composition of the Commission is as follows :-

| | |
|---|----------------------------------|
| Shri Justice B.N. Kirpal, Ex-Chief Justice of India | Chairman (Part time) |
| Director General of Forests and Special Secretary in the Ministry of Environment and Forests | Member-ex-officio |
| Prof. J.S. Singh Banaras Hindu University | Member-Part-time |
| Shri Chandi Prasad Bhatt | Member-Part-time |
| Dr. M.K. Ranjitsinh | Member-Part-time |
| Shri A.P. Muthuswami | Member-Part-time |
| Additional Director General of Forests, Ministry of Environment and Forests | Member-Secretary (ex-officio) |

The time prescribed for the Commission to complete its assigned task is two years.

Background

The forests are vital natural resources for the sustenance of life on the planet the livelihood issues of around 70 million tribals and more than 200 million non-tribal rural population are indirectly linked with the forests. The forests have a direct play in poverty irradiation and sustainable development with the bearing of economic and social development, protection of environment and conservation of biological resources.

The burgeoning human and cattle population has increasingly stressed the nature and functioning of the forest ecosystems. In the circumstances, sound and efficient management of the forests is imperative and has critical implications for the availability of water and food and for ecological security.

It is also necessary that the demand for wood for commercial and industrial purposes is met through the agro-forestry and plantations. Further the increasing demand for medicinal plants makes it necessary to evolve an appropriate strategy and knowledge base for in-situ conservation and ex-situ propagation.

The knowledge relating to the structure, function and management of forest ecosystem has globally assumed special significance in the context of climate change, desertification and conservation of biodiversity. As a result following the Stockholm Conference (1972) and Rio Conference (1992), there has been a paradigm shift in the tenets of forest management from timber primacy to ecological and stakeholder oriented forestry.

The Indian Forest Act, 1972 and State Forest Acts provide legal framework for the protection and conservations of forests. The Wildlife (Protection) Act came into being in 1972 and after which the subject of forests and wildlife found a place in the concurrent list of the Indian Constitution since 1976. The Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 was brought into being to regulate diversion of forests lands for non-forest purposes. However, in spite of above forest and wildlife continued to be subjected to the activities of the encroachers and poachers.

The fringe areas of national parks and sanctuaries harbour more than 4 crores of people in about the 1.73 lakh villages and whose participation and involvement in the management of such areas is proving to be indispensable. It is also recognized that the growing demand of the wood requirements for bonafide consumption for rural households namely for fuel, fodder and timber is catered through joint forest management. The community/people's participation with gender equity is vital for sustenance and conservation of other protected areas including reserved forests. Thus community based activities in the forest and wildlife sectors need to be further strengthened and emphasized.

It is also to be recalled that the Central Government while drawing up the Approach Paper to the 10th Five Year Plan has desired an increase in the forest and tree cover to 25% by 2007 and .33% by 2012. The attainment of this target calls for special steps.

The Indian Board of Wildlife under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Prime Minister at its XXI Meeting held on 21st

January, 2002, recommended that Forest Commission should be set to look into restructuring, reform and strengthening the entire forest set up and affiliated institutions in the country.

It is, in fulfillment of the said recommendation, the National Forest Commission has been constituted.

[English]

Guidelines for CRF and NFCR

6036. SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO :
SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of operational guidelines and funding from Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) and National Fund for Calamity Relief (NFCR); and

(b) the assistance sought from both the funds and the amount released to each State during each of the last three years and the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) :
(a) and (b) The information is being collected from the Ministry of Home Affairs which is the modal Department in the matter.

Assistance from Japan for Tourism Development

6037. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Japan has agreed to provide assistance to India in the form of soft loan for conservation of cultural heritage and tourism;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the package from Japan for 2002 had been announced by Japanese Foreign Minister during his visit in January, 2003; and

(d) if so, to what extent the Government propose to utilize this fund?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN) : (a) and (b) Ministry of Finance and Company Affairs has informed that Japan Bank for International Cooperation has approved loan assistance of approximately Rs. 4417 crores to India for following seven projects out of which one at Sl. No. 7 is in tourism sector :

| Sl. No. | Name of the Project | Loan amount (in Million Yen) |
|---------|---|---------------------------------|
| 1. | Simbhadri Thermal Power Station Project (IV) | 5,684 |
| 2. | Bakreswar Thermal Power Station Units Extension Project | 36,771 |
| 3. | Delhi Mass Rapid Transport System Project (IV) | 34,012 |
| 4. | Punjab Afforestation Project (II) | 5,054 |
| 5. | Rajasthan Forestry and Bio-Diversity Conservation Project | 9,054 |
| 6. | Yamuna Action Plan Project (II) | 13,333 |
| 7. | Ajanta-Ellora Conservation and Tourism Development Project (II) | 7,331 |

(c) Japanese Foreign Minister during her visit to India in January 2003 had conveyed the decision of Government of Japan to provide the above mentioned loan assistance to India.

(d) The utilization of these loans would depend on the progress in implementation of the projects.

APEX Fare Scheme of Sahara

6038.SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware about Air Sahara's new five-slab fare structure under advance purchase excursion scheme (APEX);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have decided to introduce similar scheme for its air services in the near future;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) by when the said scheme is proposed to be implemented?

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

(b) Air Sahara has introduced a new five slab fare structure under the Advance Purchase (APEX) Scheme. The five slabs of fare structure under the APEX Scheme are : 5-9 days; 10-14 days, 15-19 days, 20-29 days and 30-45 days.

(c) to (e) Indian Airlines had introduced "APEX" fares under Advance Purchase scheme on select domestic sectors in Economy Class for travel between 1.8.2002 to 31.10.2002. This scheme has since been extended upto 31.3.2004. Indian Airlines is presently offering APEX Fares on 55 sectors.

Setting Up of New National Parks and Sanctuary

6039.SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set up new National Parks and sanctuary during 2003-04; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV) : (a) and (b) Setting up of national parks and sanctuaries is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments. National parks and sanctuaries are notified by the States from time-to-time depending upon the ecological, floral, faunal, geomorphological, etc. importance of the site. No information concerning plans for setting up of national parks and sanctuaries by the States has been received by the Central Government for the year 2003-04.

[Translation]

Irrigation Schemes

6040.SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Central Water Commission has received any irrigation schemes from Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh for drought prone areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

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

(a) and (b) Four irrigation projects namely Mahan, Rajghat Canal, Upper Narmada Project and Punasa Lift Irrigation Scheme benefiting drought prone areas of Madhya

Pradesh have been received in the Central Water Commission from the Government of Madhya Pradesh for techno-economic appraisal. The details of these projects are given in the statement enclosed. No project proposal benefiting drought prone areas of Chhattisgarh has been received in the Central Water Commission for techno-economic appraisal from the Government of Chhattisgarh.

(c) The appraisal/clearance of the projects depends upon the promptness with which the State authorities arrange the compliance to the observations of the Central appraising agencies.

Statement

| Sl. No. | Name of Project | Estimated Cost (Rs. in crore) | Area benefited (in thousand hectare) | Date of receipt in CWC | Status of appraisal |
|---------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. | Mahan | 155.10 | 19.04 | 17.05.2002 | B |
| 2. | Rajghat Canal | 309.21 | 121.45 | 08.02.1990 | D |
| 3. | Upper Narmada | 211.92 | 18.61 | 16.09.1996 | A |
| 4. | Punasa Lift Irrigation Scheme | 157.00 | 36.758 | 12.03.2003 | A |

A. Project under various stages of appraisal.

B. Accepted by the advisory Committee of Ministry of Water Resources subject to certain observations.

D. Recommended to Planning Commission for investment clearance.

[English]

CRZ Clearance for Construction of Minor Fishing Harbour

6041. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI :

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA :

SHRI G.J. JAVIYA :

SHRI SAVSHIBHAI MAKWANA :

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

(a) whether the Government of Gujarat has submitted a proposal for CRZ clearance for construction of a Minor Fishing Harbour at Dholai in Navsari district of Gujarat in September, 2002;

(b) if so, whether the State Government have replied to the queries raised by the Ministry in November 2002;

(c) if so, whether the Union Government have cleared the proposal;

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

(e) the time by when it is likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e) Clarifications and additional information were sought by the Ministry, followed up by reminders thereto.

The Government of Gujarat has since furnished the requisite information in March, 2003 including the map indicating the High Tide Line for the project area duly prepared by Space Application Centre, Ahmedabad. Decision on proposals is taken within 90 days from the date of receipt of complete information.

Disappearance of Wetlands

6042. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR :
SHRI V. VETRISELVAN :

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

(a) whether wetlands are fast disappearing from all over the country;

(b) if so, whether the Government have conducted any study to find out the reasons/factors responsible for it;

(c) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(d) the action plan prepared by the Government to conserve and protect them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV) : (a) Due to encroachment, siltation, weed infestation, catchment erosion, surface run-off carrying pesticides and fertilizers from agricultural fields and discharge of sewage and industrial effluents, the wetlands become prone to degradation and shrinkage.

(b) to (d) Studies and research projects are undertaken from time to time examine the problems of ecological degradation of the wetlands. Realizing the importance of wetland for providing food, fodder and water, and also for maintaining biodiversity, helping in regulating hydrological regimes, flood control and re-charging of aquifers, Government of India operationalised National Wetland Conservation Programme. 24 wetlands have been identified for conservation and management under National Wetland Conservation Programme where 100% financial assistance is provided to the concerned State Governments for executing management action plans which include activities like survey and demarcation, catchment area treatment, desiltation, community participation etc.

More Funds for Development Projects in Tamil Nadu

6043. SHRI P.D. ELANGO VAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have allocated more funds for various existing development projects in Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the details of the funds allocated and disbursed for various Centrally assisted schemes in Tamil Nadu during the last three years;

(c) whether the funds allocated for various schemes and projects in Tamil Nadu during the last three years have not been utilized completely; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(a) to (d) The details of the funds released and expenditure incurred by the Government of Tamil Nadu under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes implemented by the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation during the last three years are as follows :-

| Year | (Rs. in Crores) | |
|-------------|-----------------|-------------|
| | Funds Released | Expenditure |
| 2000-01 | 56.66 | 43.24 |
| 2001-02 | 54.16 | 60.69 |
| 2002-03 (P) | 40.93 | 5.66 * |

*Utilisation Report for the complete year 2002-03 is awaited from the State.

World Commission Report on Dams

6044. SHRI RAMSHETHH THAKUR : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the World Commission on Dams (WCD) in its report stated that the impact due to big dams are more negative than positive and have led to the impoverishment and sufferings of millions of people; and

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

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The findings of the WCD are based on a limited knowledge base conveniently ignoring the all round development brought about by large water resources projects. It has ignored the contribution made by the irrigation and multipurpose projects in ushering the green revolution in the country and making India self sufficient in foodgrains and meeting fifteen per cent of the total energy needs of the country through hydropower, which is the cheapest and most sustainable source.

The assessment of the performance and development effectiveness of big dams made by the WCD in its report is based on a limited number of case studies conveniently chosen to draw preconceived conclusions. It is not a true representative of the ground realities as a number of success stories of big dams have been conveniently ignored. Options of development are either not explored or their efficacy itself is not time tested. The recommendations of WCD for planning, implementation and operation of dams are utopian in nature and are incompatible with our national development imperatives.

Development of Animal Husbandry

6045. SHRI DANVE RAOSAHEB PATIL :
SHRI MANSINH PATEL :
SHRIMATI RAJKUMARI RATNA SINGH :
SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY :
DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV :
SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN :
SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the schemes for development of animal husbandry implemented in Rajasthan, West Bengal, Jammu and Kashmir, Gujarat and Uttar Pradesh during the last three years;

(b) the targets set and achievements made in this regard during the said period, State-wise; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government for setting up of cow sheds (Gaushalas) in the said States including Maharashtra and providing grants in this regard?

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

(a) and (b) The Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying is implementing various schemes to assist the State Governments in the development of Animal Husbandry. Under these schemes funds are released to the State Governments on the basis of viable proposals received from them. A statement indicating the details of the funds released to Rajasthan, West Bengal, Jammu and Kashmir, Gujarat and Uttar Pradesh during the last three years is enclosed.

(c) The Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying has not provided any assistance for setting up of cowsheds in the States of Rajasthan, West Bengal, Jammu and Kashmir, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra during the last three years.

Statement

Funds released to the States of Jammu and Kashmir, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal for the development of Animal Husbandry

(Rs. in Lakhs)

| S. No. | Name of the State | 2000-01 | 2001-02 | 2002-03 |
|--------|-------------------|---------|---------|---------|
| 1. | Jammu and Kashmir | 30.91 | 117.91 | 59.42 |
| 2. | Gujarat | 298.78 | 217.41 | 146.48 |
| 3. | Maharashtra | 226.84 | 184.00 | 190.82 |
| 4. | Rajasthan | 279.88 | 716.99 | 167.68 |
| 5. | Uttar Pradesh | 205.61 | 344.03 | 1593.91 |
| 6. | West Bengal | 144.20 | 875.19 | 153.10 |

Irrigation Potential

6046. SHRI V. VETRISELVAN : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

- (a) the average annual growth in irrigation potential;
- (b) the present Ultimate Irrigation Potential assessed by the Government in the country;
- (c) the details of schemes launched by the Government to increase the irrigation potential;
- (d) the extent to which the success has been achieved during Ninth Plan over Eight Plan; and
- (e) the target fixed for Tenth Plan?

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

(a) The average annual growth in irrigation potential during the Ninth Five Year Plan period has been about 1.8 million hectare per year (provisional).

(b) The assessed Ultimate Irrigation Potential in the country at present is 139.9 million hectare.

(c) Creation of irrigation potential takes place through major, medium and minor irrigation schemes conceived, planned and implemented by different State Governments as per their financial resources and according to their own priorities. However, the Union Government, with a view to assist the States to complete ongoing irrigation and multipurpose projects, is providing Central Loan Assistance (CLA) to the States under the Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP). Under the programme CLA amounting to Rs. 11541.73 crore has been released upto the end of March 2003 to 28 States.

(d) As per provisional assessment made by the Planning Commission additional irrigation potential of about 9.15 million hectare has been created during the Ninth Plan against 8.33 million hectare created during the Eighth Plan.

(e) As per targets proposed by the State Governments in their Tenth Five Year Plan proposals, additional Irrigation Potential of 14.24 million hectare is proposed to be created during the Tenth Five Year Plan period subject to availability of adequate Plan allocations for the States.

Pollution in Ganga

6047.DR. M.V.V.S. MURTHI :

SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE :

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

(a) whether the Union Government have received memoranda from various quarters regarding increasing pollution in the river Ganga;

(b) if so, the details of the memoranda with the demands and suggestions given therein;

(c) the details of funds earmarked for the purpose; and

(d) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV) : (a) to (d) The requests for taking up new proposals for pollution abatement works in the river Ganga are being received from the concerned State Governments. The requests received so far and their status are in the enclosed Statement. An allocation of Rs. 1417 crore has been made for National River Conservation Plan (NRCP) in the X Plan. Action on the memoranda/requests received from the State Governments is taken on the basis of pollution status of the water body and availability of funds in the Plan.

Statement

| S. No. | Name of the Projects | State | Estimated Cost (Rs. in crore) | Action Taken by the Union Government/ Current Status |
|--------|--|-------|-------------------------------|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 1. | Integrated Development Plan of Patna (Sewerage, Drainage and | Bihar | 1285.00 | The outlay provided for the NRCP under the X Plan is not adequate to take up new projects at present. |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|----|--|---------------|--------|--|
| | Solid Waste Management along river Ganga) | | | |
| 2. | Revised pre feasibility report (PFR) for Ganga Action Plan (GAP)-II works at Allahabad | Uttar Pradesh | 234.80 | Priority works amounting to Rs. 31.63 crore have been sanctioned out of the available approved cost of Rs. 32.72 crore for GAP-II in the town. The proposal for additional works amounting to around Rs. 200 crore cannot be taken up at present due to non-availability of adequate funds for NRCP in the X Plan. |
| 3. | Revised PFR for GAP-II works at Varanasi | Uttar Pradesh | 236.28 | Priority works amounting to Rs. 41.61 crore have been sanctioned so far out of the available approved cost of Rs. 45.05 crore for the town. The proposal for additional works amounting to around Rs. 190 crore cannot be taken up at present due to non-availability of adequate funds for NRCP in the X Plan. |
| 4. | Proposal for additional works of pollution abatement of river Ganga at Haridwar – Rishikesh during Arth Kumbh Mela | Uttaranchal | 26.00 | The State Government has been informed that it would not be possible to fund these new works due to non-availability of adequate funds for NRCP in the X Plan. |
| 5. | Revised cost estimate of GAP-II work in Kanpur. | Uttar Pradesh | 207.37 | Present Cost of works is Rs. 85.70 crore. The proposal for additional works cannot be taken up at present due to non-availability at adequate funds for NRCP in the X Plan. |

[Translation]

**Employees of Media Organisations
covered under EPF**

6048.SHRI ARUN KUMAR : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the number of employees of media organisations of Bihar covered under the Employees Provident Fund Scheme;

(b) the number out of them paying P.F. contribution regularly; and

(c) the names of organisations against whom legal action is being taken for recovery of P.F. contributions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE

IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI VIJAY GOEL) :

(a) and (b) There are 912 employees belonging to Media Organisation of Bihar covered under the Employees Provident Fund and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952, out of which, 907 are contributing under the Employees Provident Fund and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952.

(c) Action has been initiated against M/s News Paper and Publications (P) Ltd. for recovery of Employees Provident Fund dues.

[English]

Irrigation Potential

6049.SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAIISI : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the extent to which irrigation potential has been increased in the country including Andhra Pradesh in 2002-2003 as compared to 1999-2000;

(b) the allocation made during the last three years, year-wise; State-wise;

(c) whether most of the State Governments have not utilised the allocated amount for increasing irrigation potential;

(d) if so, the names of States which are yet to utilise the allocated amount for the purpose; and

(e) the directions issued by the Union Government to the State Governments in this regard?

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

(a) As per figures reported by the State Governments to the Planning Commission, increase in the irrigation potential during 1999-2000 to 2002-2003 is likely to be of the order of 5.6 million hectare in the country as a whole and 0.40 million hectare in Andhra Pradesh.

(b) State-wise allocations made during 2000-01, 2001-02 and 2002-03 for the irrigation and flood control sector are given in the attached Statement-I

(c) and (d) Actual expenditure as reported by States for the year 2000-01 is given in the attached Statement-II. Expenditure for the year 2001-02 and 2002-03 have not yet been reported.

(e) Does not arise.

Statement-I

State-wise allocation made during 2000-2001, 2001-2002 and 2002-2003 for the Irrigation and Flood Control Sector

(Rs. in crore)

| S. No. | Name of the Scheme | Allocation for the Irrigation and Flood control sector | | |
|--------|--------------------|--|-----------|-----------|
| | | 2000-2001 | 2001-2002 | 2002-2003 |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 1131.70 | 1277.98 | 1639.06 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|--------------|-------------------|----------|----------|----------|
| 2. | Arunachal Pradesh | 50.92 | 52.78 | 28.68 |
| 3. | Assam | 150.62 | 160.64 | 126.26 |
| 4. | Bihar | 392.91 | 697.12 | 762.34 |
| 5. | Chhattisgarh | 0.00 | 244.85 | 400.38 |
| 6. | Goa | 123.01 | 98.05 | 82.91 |
| 7. | Gujarat | 1749.30 | 1320.64 | 1258.07 |
| 8. | Haryana | 307.01 | 315.51 | 210.0 |
| 9. | Himachal Pradesh | 69.77 | 69.78 | 87.36 |
| 10. | Jharkhand | 0.00 | - | 360.00 |
| 11. | Jammu and Kashmir | 150.56 | 154.19 | 128.4 |
| 12. | Karnataka | 2016.60 | 2399.05 | 2790.78 |
| 13. | Kerala | 190.25 | 142.5 | 136.00 |
| 14. | Madhya Pradesh | 673.50 | 748.28 | 848.52 |
| 15. | Maharashtra | 3819.70 | 2620.9 | 3720.89 |
| 16. | Manipur | 78.95 | 57.93 | 122.00 |
| 17. | Meghalaya | 12.90 | 13.1 | 9.85 |
| 18. | Mizoram | 9.31 | 6.45 | 6.11 |
| 19. | Nagaland | 8.50 | 8.55 | 15.25 |
| 20. | Orissa | 447.53 | 565.04 | 553.79 |
| 21. | Punjab | 190.44 | 474.82 | 321.85 |
| 22. | Rajasthan | 382.76 | 398.75 | 570.57 |
| 23. | Sikkim | 4.94 | 7.45 | 7.70 |
| 24. | Tamil Nadu | 356.20 | 434.43 | 377.73 |
| 25. | Tripura | 29.76 | 61.28 | 44.46 |
| 26. | Uttar Pradesh | 897.71 | 826.95 | 963.60 |
| 27. | Uttaranchal | 0.00 | 44.66 | 76.81 |
| 28. | West Bengal | 270.30 | 562.36 | 284.24 |
| Total States | | 13515.00 | 13763.94 | 15894.28 |
| Total UTs | | 40.87 | 47.23 | 57.82 |
| Grand Total | | 13550.0 | 13811.17 | 15952.10 |

Statement-II

*State-wise Expenditure made during 2000-2001,
for the Irrigation and Flood Control Sector*

(Rs. in crore)

| S. No. | Name of the States | Exp. for 2000-2001 |
|--------|--------------------|--------------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 1279.79 |
| 2. | Arunachal Pradesh | 30.17 |
| 3. | Assam | 150.62 |
| 4. | Bihar | 476.59 |
| 5. | Chhattisgarh | — |
| 6. | Goa | 110.78 |
| 7. | Gujarat | 542.34 |
| 8. | Haryana | 312.51 |
| 9. | Himachal Pradesh | 69.77 |
| 10. | Jharkhand | — |
| 11. | Jammu and Kashmir | 76.54 |
| 12. | Karnataka | 2016.6 |
| 13. | Kerala | 190.25 |
| 14. | Madhya Pradesh | 576.35 |
| 15. | Maharashtra | 4401.29 |
| 16. | Manipur | 38.8 |
| 17. | Meghalaya | 12.37 |
| 18. | Mizoram | 3.41 |
| 19. | Nagaland | 8.21 |
| 20. | Orissa | 510.57 |
| 21. | Punjab | 213.16 |
| 22. | Rajasthan | 355.88 |
| 23. | Sikkim | 8.53 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|--------------|---------------|----------|
| 24. | Tamil Nadu | 371.65 |
| 25. | Tripura | 32.27 |
| 26. | Uttar Pradesh | 861.26 |
| 27. | Uttaranchal | 22.3 |
| 28. | West Bengal | 488.85 |
| Total States | | 13160.86 |
| Total UTs | | 36.55 |
| Grand Total | | 13197.41 |

Protection to Farmers

6050.SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL :
SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state the effective steps being taken by the Government to protect the Indian farmers from the adverse impact of WTO agreement on agriculture?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : Under the existing provisions of the WTO Agreement on Agriculture India's domestic policy for the agriculture sector has by and large not been constrained by the commitments. India has undertaken to bind its primary agricultural products at 100%; processed foods at 150% and at 300% for some edible oils. Following the removal of quantitative restrictions on imports, India has negotiated upwards the tariff bindings in respect of some agricultural products like skimmed milk powder, maize, rice, spelt wheat, and millets, which were bound at zero or at low bound rates during earlier negotiations.

India has not been required to reduce domestic subsidies to the agriculture sector since the total Aggregate Measurement of Support (AMS) is negative and remains well within the de minimis.

In order to protect the interest of the farmers market interventions are made to procure agricultural commodities covered under MSP scheme and Market Intervention Scheme (MIS), if their prices fell below MSP or the price

fixed under MIS. The Government is implementing scheme for various crops in which farmers, including small and marginal farmers are given assistance of various types. The Government has been monitoring import of sensitive agricultural commodities and takes action to regulate the import and also to increase import duties as and when considered necessary.

Funds under MLF

6051. SHRI ASHOK ARGAL : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received funds under Multilateral Fund (MLF) to phase out CFCs;

(b) if so, the total fund received by the Government so far;

(c) the amount disbursed out of this fund upto December 31, 2003; and

(d) the amount paid to UNDPs, Indian consultant as consulates fee upto December 31, 2002 out of this fund?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV) : (a) and (b) The four Implementing Agencies appointed by the Multilateral Fund namely, World Bank, United Nations Development Programme, United Nations Industrial Development Organization and United Nations Environment Programme have received US Dollars 110.90 million (US Dollars One Hundred and Ten million and Nine Hundred Thousand) only, for phasing out CFC production and consumption in 501 (Five Hundred and One) enterprises in India.

(c) US Dollars 85 million (US Dollars Eighty Five million) only out of the above funds have been utilized by the Implementing Agencies up to 31st December, 2002.

(d) No payment has been made to any consultant out of the above funds received from the Multilateral Fund.

Special Agricultural Policy to NERs

6052. SHRI M.K. SUBBA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether farmers of Assam through their representatives have been demanding the formulation of

a Special Agriculture Policy for the North East Regions (NERs) giving due stress to the resources in the regions and the rich prospects of horticulture therein;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) to (c) No, Sir. However, considering the specific requirements of the North Eastern Region, a Technology Mission on Horticulture for the North Eastern States has been launched since 2001-02.

[Translation]

Office Expenses

6053. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

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

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

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK) : (a) to (d) Necessary information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

[English]

Upkeep of Museums

6054. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Museums of National Importance functioning under Union Government/State Governments/ or any autonomous body recognised by State Governments;

(b) whether several Museums of National Importance like the Victoria Memorial and Rabindra Bharati Museums in Kolkata have been left at the mercy of State finances; and

(c) if so, whether the Government propose to take over such Museums of National Importance like Gandhi Darshan and other Ex-Prime Minister's museums housed at New Delhi functioning under the Union Government?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN) : (a) The Department of Culture, Government of India administers museums/galleries of national importance such as the 1) National Museum, New Delhi; 2) Salar Jung Museum, Hyderabad; 3) Indian Museum, Kolkata; and 4) Allahabad Museum, Allahabad; 5) National Gallery of Modern Art, New Delhi with branches at Mumbai and Bangalore; 6) Victoria Memorial Hall, Kolkata; and 7) National Council of Science Museums, Kolkata with its 27 Science Centres/Museums;

(b) Victoria Memorial is under the administrative control of the Government of India and is fully funded by it. The Rabindra Bharati Museum is under the administrative control of the Rabindra Bharati University, which is a State University of West Bengal.

Museums of national importance are already fully funded by the Government.

(c) Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti and Nehru Memorial Museum and Library are under the administrative control of Government of India and fully funded by it.

There is no proposal to take over other Ex-Prime Ministers' museums at New Delhi.

Tissue Culture

6055. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to promote tissue culture in the country;

(b) if so, the centrally sponsored scheme through which the promotion of tissue culture is propagated;

(c) the major fruit crops identified for tissue culture propagation;

(d) whether any such tissue culture was promoted in Orissa under Central scheme during the last three years;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the funds allocated for the purpose?

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

(a) and (b) The Government is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Macro Management in Agriculture – Supplementation/Complementation of State Efforts through Work Plans, under which the State Governments can take up various programmes for development as per their felt needs and requirements. Establishment of tissue culture units in the Public as well as private Sector is one of the components of the scheme.

(c) The major fruit crop which is propagated through tissue culture in the country is banana.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. Under the Macro Management Scheme the Government of Orissa has covered 28.16 hectares under tissue culture banana at an expenditure of Rs. 8.45 lakhs during 2001-02 and 2002-03.

(f) A sum of Rs. 30.00 lakhs has been earmarked for covering 100 hectare under tissue culture banana during the year 2003-04 in Orissa.

[Translation]

Assistance for Tourism Projects

6056. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL :
SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADODA MANDLIK :
SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE :
DR. M.V.V.S. MURTHI :

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

(a) whether the State Tourism Departments have sent a number of proposals to his Ministry seeking financial assistance for completion and development of various tourism projects including historical places particularly in Tamil Nadu and Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the response of the Government on those proposals?

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

(b) and (c) Tourism projects are identified in consultation with the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations and sanctioned on merits. A statement showing number of projects sanctioned in various States including Tamil Nadu and Rajasthan and UTs during 2002-03 is enclosed.

Statement

State-wise Projects Sanctioned during the year 2002-03

(Rs. in Lakhs)

| S. No. | Name of the State/UTs | No. of Projects Sanctioned | Amount Sanctioned |
|--------|-----------------------|----------------------------|-------------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 2 | 507.50 |
| 2. | Assam | 9 | 768.13 |
| 3. | Arunachal Pradesh | 5 | 41.30 |
| 4. | Bihar | 8 | 505.00 |
| 5. | Chhattisgarh | 9 | 308.00 |
| 6. | Goa | 1 | 0.50 |
| 7. | Gujarat | 2 | 197.12 |
| 8. | Haryana | 8 | 332.25 |
| 9. | Himachal Pradesh | 30 | 779.32 |
| 10. | Jammu and Kashmir | 3 | 94.38 |
| 11. | Jharkhand | 0 | 0 |
| 12. | Karnataka | 6 | 902.49 |
| 13. | Kerala | 11 | 861.36 |
| 14. | Madhya Pradesh | 18 | 711.18 |
| 15. | Maharashtra | 8 | 623.46 |
| 16. | Manipur | 2 | 5.24 |
| 17. | Meghalaya | 3 | 70.35 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|--------------|---------------------|------------|-----------------|
| 18. | Mizoram | 6 | 141.16 |
| 19. | Nagaland | 5 | 360.50 |
| 20. | Orissa | 2 | 47.50 |
| 21. | Punjab | 3 | 23.00 |
| 22. | Rajasthan | 13 | 1098.70 |
| 23. | Sikkim | 13 | 348.24 |
| 24. | Tamil Nadu | 5 | 559.00 |
| 25. | Tripura | 5 | 216.13 |
| 26. | Uttaranchal | 3 | 548.00 |
| 27. | Uttar Pradesh | 3 | 295.00 |
| 28. | West Bengal | 5 | 201.10 |
| 29. | Andaman and Nicobar | 0 | 0 |
| 30. | Chandigarh | 3 | 7.75 |
| 31. | Dadar Nagar Haveli | 2 | 8.07 |
| 32. | Delhi | 14 | 504.00 |
| 33. | Daman and Diu | 3 | 49.50 |
| 34. | Lakshadweep | 0 | 0 |
| 35. | Pondicherry | 2 | 7.87 |
| Total | | 212 | 11121.10 |

Release of Fund for Implementation of NPCBB in Bihar

6057. SHRI RAJO SINGH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have received any proposal from the Government of Bihar to release funds for implementation of National Project for Cattle and Buffalo Breeding (NPCBB);

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

(c) by when, the requisite funds are likely to be released?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government of Bihar has submitted an incomplete project proposal seeking Central assistance for implementation of the National Project for Cattle and Buffalo Breeding. The State Government has been requested to submit a revised project proposal as per the guidelines of Government of India.

(c) It will be considered after the State Government submits the revised proposal as per the Central guidelines.

[English]

Drip Irrigation System

6058. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under the consideration of the Government to encourage drip sprinkler irrigation system with a view to boost agricultural production;

(b) if so, whether any experiment has been made in any State;

(c) if so, whether the Government have sought any foreign technology in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(a) Yes, Sir. Ministry of Agriculture, Horticulture Division is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme on "Macro Management in Agriculture Supplementation/Complementation of State Efforts" through work plans under which the State Governments can take up programmes for as per their felt needs and requirement. Activities like Drip and Sprinkler Irrigation for horticulture crops are also covered under the scheme.

(b) Experiments on plasticulture applications including drip irrigation are being conducted through 17 Precision Farming Development Centres, located at different agro-climatic regions of the country.

(c) No.

(d) Not applicable.

[Translation]

Reservation for OBC

6059. SHRI BAL KRISHNA CHAUHAN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of employees in the Grades A, B, C and D in all the departments and undertakings under his Ministry; grade-wise;

(b) the number of employees belonging to OBC, SCs and STs out of the total number of employees, separately; and

(c) the grade-wise details of employees belonging to OBC, SCs and STs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK) : (a) At present, a total of 12891 employees in Group A, 16342 in Group B, 12625 in Group C and 18515 in Group D are working in Ministry of Civil Aviation and its various organisations.

(b) Out of the total of 60373 employees, 2381 employees belong to OBC, 13585 to SC and 3496 to ST categories.

(c) There are a total of 217 OBC, 1904 SC and 590 ST employees in Group A posts; 305 OBC, 2979 SC and 1127 ST in Group B posts; 1022 OBC, 2395 SC and 712 ST in Group C posts; and 1548 OBC, 6307 SC and 967 ST in Group D posts.

[English]

Declaration of Oil Palm as Plantation Crops

6060. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to declare oil palm as a plantation crop considering it as a perennial crop;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(a) to (c) Due to difference in the revenue laws from State to State, the subject for declaring oil palm as a plantation crop comes under the purview of State Government. It has, therefore, been let to the discretion and judgment of the State Governments to decide whether they could declare oil palm as a plantation crop in their respective States.

However, State Government of Gujarat has reported that there is no such provision under the State Government's revenue laws.

Target of Production in Public and Private Sector

6061. SHRI SUNIL KHAN : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) the target set for production of steel in different public sector undertakings and private sector in the country during 2003-04;

(b) whether each units of Hindustan Steelworks Construction Limited are not getting tender paper from the management of SAIL;

(c) if so, the detail thereof; and

(d) the details of employees working in SAIL and HSCL?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY) : (a) The targets of production of saleable steel set for public sector steel companies i.e. Steel Authority of India Ltd. (SAIL) and Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd. (RINL) for the year 2003-04 are as under :

(in '000 tonnes)

| Name of the Company | Target |
|--------------------------------------|--------|
| Steel Authority of India Ltd. (SAIL) | 10580 |
| Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd. (RINL) | 2900 |

Ministry of Steel do not monitor the targets set and production of steel with reference to these targets of the private sector steel companies.

(b) and (c) SAIL plants are, in general, issuing tender papers to HSCL with exception of a few cases. Durgapur

Steel Plant (DSP) has not given tender papers to HSCL in the following two cases.

(i) Category II repair work of BFI

(ii) BOF Pump house work

(d) The details of employees of SAIL and HSCL, as on 31.3.2003 are as under :

| Employees | SAIL | HSCL |
|---------------|----------|------|
| Executive | 15,078 | 407 |
| Non Executive | 1,22,418 | 2364 |
| Total | 1,37,496 | 2771 |

Preservation of Megalithic Caves

6062. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) has been drawn towards the set of rock cut caves belonging to Megalithic period in some districts of Vidarbha region of Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the steps taken by ASI to preserve these caves; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN) : (a) No, Sir. No Megalithic caves have been reported from Vidarbha region of Maharashtra so far.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Development of Fishermen

6063. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Jammu and Kashmir has submitted any proposal to the Union Government for development of fishermen and to provide them other facilities in the State; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Union Government on the said proposal?

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) On receipt of proposals seeking Central assistance from the Government of Jammu and Kashmir in 2002-03, a sum of Rs. 44.75 lakhs has been provided as Central share for construction of 220 houses and installation of 5 tubewells for the benefit of fishermen and Rs. 3.93 lakh for training and extension activities including training of 250 fish farmers, publication of extension manual and organization of workshop in the State.

Production of Onion

6064. SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the area of land under cultivation of onion and total production of onion during each of last five years, State-wise; and

(b) the steps taken by the Government to support the cultivators in case of fall in prices during the each of last five years?

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

(a) The State-wise estimates of area and production of onion during the years 1997-98 to 2001-02 are given in enclosed as Statement.

(b) At the request of State Governments, Government of India procure onion from the farmers under Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) through National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Limited (NAFED) and the concerned State agencies when the price falls below the economic level. During last five years, only during 1999-2000 procurement was undertaken for onion. The Government had allowed procurement of 65,000 tonnes of onion in Maharashtra under MIS in that year.

Statement

State-wise Area and Production of Onion during 1997-98 to 2001-02

| State | Area (Thousand Hectares) | | | | | Production (Thousand Tonnes) | | | | |
|-------------------|--------------------------|---------|-----------|---------|---------|------------------------------|---------|-----------|---------|---------|
| | 1997-98 | 1998-99 | 1999-2000 | 2000-01 | 2001-02 | 1997-98 | 1998-99 | 1999-2000 | 2000-01 | 2001-02 |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| Andhra Pradesh | 21.0 | 31.1 | 35.1 | 30.3 | 31.8 | 328.0 | 478.3 | 522.7 | 536.5 | 559.5 |
| Assam | 7.8 | 8.0 | 7.4 | 7.4 | 7.5 | 17.9 | 18.0 | 17.2 | 17.2 | 17.5 |
| Bihar | 18.1 | 20.4 | 20.0 | 13.8 | 14.9 | 137.9 | 193.0 | 212.3 | 140.8 | 134.4 |
| Chhattisgarh\$ | | | | 3.3 | 3.7 | | | | 26.5 | 32.8 |
| Gujarat | 20.9 | 52.2 | 19.9 | 6.4 | 24.2 | 619.0 | 1462.1 | 450.7 | 131.2 | 640.2 |
| Haryana | 1.7 | 2.9 | 4.1 | 12.2 | 14.9 | 26.9 | 44.1 | 60.1 | 153.9 | 236.9 |
| Himachal Pradesh | 0.8 | 0.8 | 0.8 | 0.7 | 0.7 | 2.9 | 2.9 | 2.9 | 7.5 | 7.5 |
| Jammu and Kashmir | - | - | - | 0.4 | 0.5 | - | - | - | 0.8 | 1.2 |
| Karnataka | 91.0 | 93.6 | 125.7 | 120.3 | 124.3 | 517.4 | 508.4 | 594.7 | 665.4 | 692.8 |
| Madhya Pradesh | 22.3 | 25.3 | 27.5 | 19.4 | 21.5 | 281.8 | 337.6 | 366.3 | 272.7 | 307.5 |
| Maharashtra | 96.7 | 103.9 | 112.6 | 118.1 | 107.7 | 907.7 | 1183.6 | 1392.6 | 1687.5 | 1306.5 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
|---------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Manipur | - | - | - | 0.4 | 0.6 | - | - | - | 0.7 | 1.4 |
| Meghalaya | - | - | - | 0.4 | 0.4 | - | - | - | 2.9 | 3.0 |
| Mizoram | - | - | - | Neg. | 0.1 | - | - | - | 0.1 | 1.2 |
| Nagaland | - | 0.9 | 0.9 | 2.0 | 2.0 | - | 11.8 | 11.8 | 26.4 | 26.4 |
| Orissa | 45.0 | 45.8 | 46.4 | 4.2 | 3.9 | 165.4 | 360.0 | 368.4 | 24.4 | 19.0 |
| Punjab | 2.5 | 0.8 | 0.8 | 1.2 | 6.9 | 48.2 | 18.1 | 18.1 | 25.1 | 14.7 |
| Rajasthan | 19.7 | 20.2 | 25.4 | 24.6 | 28.3 | 113.5 | 120.7 | 173.3 | 165.1 | 208.4 |
| Tamil Nadu | 24.8 | 37.2 | 38.4 | 30.9 | 31.5 | 187.7 | 289.7 | 315.7 | 302.8 | 282.4 |
| Tripura | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.1 | 0.2 |
| Uttar Pradesh | 25.5 | 24.9 | 28.2 | 24.0 | 25.2 | 262.8 | 303.0 | 392.3 | 338.2 | 278.5 |
| Uttaranchal\$ | | | | 1.8 | 1.7 | | | | 24.5 | 24.0 |
| Pondicherry | Neg. | Neg. | Neg. | Neg. | Neg. | 0.1 | 0.4 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.3 |
| Delhi | - | - | - | 0.0 | 0.2 | - | - | - | 0.0 | 1.5 |
| All India | 397.9 | 468.1 | 493.3 | 421.9 | 452.5 | 3617.4 | 5331.9 | 4899.5 | 4550.5 | 4796.3 |

Neg. - Negligible

\$Area, Production and productivity estimates are available from the year 2000-01 for newly carved-out States.

Crocodile Park

6065. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any representations for the creation of a Crocodile Park in Andhra Pradesh;

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

(c) whether any discussions has been held with the State Government;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the assistance being offered to State Government for development of the said park?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Cargo Operations of Indian Airlines

6066. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Indian Airlines (IA) carries an average of 8500 tonnes of Cargo on domestic routes and 250 tonnes on International routes;

(b) if so, whether in-efficient operations restricts its ability to carry more cargo;

(c) the details of potential of growth in cargo handling with improved service and competitive charges by IA;

(d) whether IA proposes to modernise its cargo

- (e) if so, the details of proposed changes along with the level of automation proposed for IA;
- (f) the cost of such modernisation;
- (g) by when it is likely to be completed; and
- (h) The benefits likely to accrue to IA through such modernisation drive?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) No, Sir. Indian Airlines has carried 70929 tonnes of cargo on domestic routes and 20403 tonnes on international routes during 2002-03.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The sub-group appointed by the Government to review the performance during Ninth Five Year Plan and projected traffic growth for the Tenth Plan period has estimated the likely growth rate in cargo traffic for the next five years – for domestic cargo carriage by 5.9% and for international cargo carriage by 7.2 per annum.

(d) to (h) Indian Airlines is samarily a passenger airline. The cargo carriage is limited to the space available after payload accounting for passenger, their baggage and mail. Indian Airlines has invested funds in separate cargo warehouses. There are cold storage facilities at some airports for perishable cargo. Indian Airlines offer attractive rates for air freight. In view of its user friendly systems, services and rates, it remains the lead airlines in India for movement of air freight. The airline has also obtained ISO

9002 Certification for its cargo marketing and handling activities.

Financial Irregularities in DMR

6067.DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the total funds allocated to the Directorate of Maize Research (DMR), Pusa, New Delhi during each of the last three years and the amount spent, with head-wise breakup, during the same period;

(b) whether the Government are aware of the reported mismanagement and financial irregularities in Directorate of Maize Research, Pusa, New Delhi;

(c) if so, the nature of irregularities noticed and the details of officials involved therein during the last three years, year-wise; and

(d) the action taken against the persons found guilty?

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

(a) The details of funds allocated (head wise) and Expenditure (head-wise) incurred during the last three years by the Directorate of Maize Research (DMR) Pusa, New Delhi, are given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) No such incident has been noticed so far.

(c) Not applicable

(d) Not applicable

Statement

Non Plan

| S.No. | Heads | 2000-2001 | | 2001-2002 | | 2002-2003 | |
|-------|-----------------------|----------------|-------------|----------------|-------------|----------------|-------------|
| | | Fund Allotment | Expenditure | Fund Allotment | Expenditure | Fund Allotment | Expenditure |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| 1. | Establishment Charges | 75.5 | 75.235 | 90 | 82.24213 | 108 | 92.12092 |
| 2. | OTA | 0.4 | 0.39351 | 0.5 | 0.49154 | 0.5 | 0.45253 |
| 3. | TA | 0.4 | 0.39723 | 0.5 | 0.41499 | 0.5 | 0.44609 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
|-------|------------------------------------|-----|----------|------|-----------|-----|-----------|
| 4. | Other Charges including equipments | 8.5 | 8.28583 | 62.5 | 62.18637 | 110 | 106.99323 |
| 5. | Works | 5.2 | 5.13789 | 1.5 | 1.3223 | 75 | 74.13923 |
| Total | | 90 | 89.44946 | 155 | 146.65733 | 294 | 274.152 |

Plan

| S.No. | Heads | 2000-2001 | | 2001-2002 | | 2002-2003 | |
|-------|------------------------------------|----------------|-------------|----------------|-------------|----------------|-------------|
| | | Fund Allotment | Expenditure | Fund Allotment | Expenditure | Fund Allotment | Expenditure |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| 1. | Travelling Allowance | 2.5 | 2.46756 | 4 | 3.98055 | 3 | 2.9147 |
| 2. | Other Charges including equipments | 95 | 9481852 | 162.11 | 161.28136 | 135 | 129.86442 |
| 3. | Works | 11 | 28.38058 | 240 | 238.99006 | 85 | 84.9418 |
| 4. | HRD One time catch up grant | 17.5 | | | | 2 | |
| Total | | 126 | 125.66666 | 406.11 | 404.25197 | 225 | 217.72092 |
| 1. | P Loans and Advances | | | 10 | 3.88 | 22 | 10.96 |

Improvement in Quality of Onion

6068.SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the onion produced in the country is facing a stiff competition from the Chinese onion;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the varieties of Indian onion produced in the country, State-wise; and

(d) the steps taken by the Union Government to improve the quality of the onion to face the challenge of Chinese onion and thus protect the interests of the farmers?

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

(a) and (b) Onion exports from India are on higher scale

as compared to China. During 2000-01 China exported 1.69 lakh MT of onion as compared to India's export of 3.43 lakh MT.

(c) A statement indicating major onion producing States and major varieties grown is enclosed.

(d) Government of India implemented a scheme on Integrated Development of Vegetables including Roots and Tuber Crops for promoting improved cultivars of vegetables including onion, dissemination of improved technologies for production, Post Harvest Management and storage of onion. Besides, the scheme envisaged development of varieties of onion for meeting international competition. Since October 2000 the scheme has been subsumed in the Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Macro management of Agriculture - Supplementation/Complementation of States' Efforts through Work Plans. Under the scheme States have greater flexibility to prioritize their needs which includes growing improved varieties of onion.

Statement

Major Onion producing States and major varieties grown

| State | Major Varieties grown |
|------------------|--|
| 1 | 2 |
| Andhra Pradesh | Agrifound Dark Red, Agrifound Light Red. |
| Bihar | Agrifound Dark Red, Agrifound Light Red, Patna Red, Pusa Red |
| Gujarat | Agrifound Dark Red, Agrifound Light Red, Pusa White flat, Pusa White Round, Udaipur-102. |
| Madhya Pradesh | Agrifound Dark Red, Agrifound Light Red, Pusa Red, Agrifound White. |
| Maharashtra | Agrifound Dark Red, Agrifound Light Red, N-2-4-1, Nasik Red, Baswant 780 Agrifound White. |
| Orissa | Agrifound Light Red, Agrifound Dark Red, Pusa Red, Agrifound White |
| Rajasthan | Agrifound Dark Red, Agrifound Light Red, Pusa Red |
| Tamilnadu | Agrifound Dark Red, Agrifound Light Red, CO-1, CO-2, CO-3, MDU-1, CO-4, Agrifound Red. |
| Uttar Pradesh | Agrifound Dark Red, Agrifound Light Red, Pusa Red, Nasik Red, K.red Round, |
| Karnataka | Agrifound Rose, Arkabindu, Arkaniketan, Arkakalyan, Agrifound Light Red, Agrifound Dark Red. |
| Haryana | Agrifound Light Red, Agrifound Dark Red, Pusa Red, Hissar-2. |
| Himachal Pradesh | Agrifound Dark Red, Agrifound Light Red. |
| West Bengal | Agrifound Light Red, Pusa Red, Patna Red. |

1

2

Punjab Agrifound Dark Red, Agrifound Light Red, Punjab Red round, Pusa Red.

Assam Agrifound Light Red, Pusa Red.

Ban on Import of Asbestos

6069.SHRI SAIDUZZAMA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) the salient findings of the work done on asbestos at ITRC, Lucknow and NIOH, Ahmedabad and other bodies like Toxics Links, New Delhi;

(b) whether asbestos has been banned in many countries across the world;

(c) if so, names of these countries and reasons for such a ban; and

(d) the steps proposed by the Government to ban the import of asbestos and safeguard the public health from the ill effects of asbestos?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV) : (a) Studies conducted by ITRC, Lucknow, NIOH, Ahmedabad, Toxics Link, New Delhi have indicated, inter alia, incidences of Asbestosis (fibrosis of the lungs) among workers due to exposure to asbestos.

(b) and (c) As per the available information, countries such as Norway, Denmark, Sweden, Austria, Netherlands, Finland, Italy, Germany, France, Poland, Belgium, U.K. have introduced partial ban/restrictions in the use and manufacture of asbestos fibre-based products due to its potential health impacts.

(d) Import of asbestos waste (dust and fibre) is banned by the Government of India vide Notification S.O. No. 899(E) dated 13.10.1998. Further, Blue Asbestos (crocidolite), which is the most harmful form of asbestos fibres, has been placed in the negative list of imports under the EXIM Policy.

Neem Based Fertilizer

6070. SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE :
SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether Neem has been proved to be an organic and eco-friendly fertilizer which has increased crop yields to a large extent;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether extensive tests have been conducted in this regard;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) by when neem mixed urea is likely to be used in large scale in the country;
- (f) whether the Government have secured any overseas assistance and technical know-how to develop the neem based pesticides and manures; and
- (g) if so, the details of prototype production facilities set up so far?

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

(a) and (b) The yield increases with Neem Mixed Fertilizers are marginal (4-7%) and inconsistent.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. Limited multi-locational trials have been conducted on few crops like rice, wheat and maize.

(e) At present, some companies are producing and marketing Neem Coated Urea and Neem Coating Agents on a limited scale. The large scale use of neem mixed or coated urea would depend on its field performance, pricing and availability of neem extracts.

(f) and (g) Yes, Sir. As informed by the Ministry of Chemicals and Petrochemicals they are executing one UNDP sponsored collaborative programme to develop two neem processing plants, one each in West Bengal and Maharashtra, for promoting neem based pesticides in agriculture. During 2002, nearly 50 tons of raw neem fruits were collected and processed for field demonstrations on various crops.

Reconstruction Package for Steel Industry

6071. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government have come out for any reconstruction package for Steel Industries including Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) in the month of January, 2003;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether all major steel plants, Government and private have performed badly during the last two years;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the Steel Ministry and Finance Ministry are coordinating among themselves;
- (f) if so, whether various financial institutions have agreed to bring down the rate of interest on old loans;
- (g) if so, the details about the recently announced package of lowering of interest provision of subsidies in this regard;
- (h) whether it will benefit the private steel industries also; and
- (i) if so the extent to which it is likely to be helpful to save India's Steel Industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. While the performance of the public sector steel plants and some of the private sector steel plants was affected during 2001-02 due to a variety of factors such as low demand, excess capacity of steel production, decline in steel prices, high cost of input materials, etc., their performance improved considerably during 2002-03 resulting in reduced losses in the case of SAIL from Rs. 1707 crores in 2001-02 to about Rs. 550 crores in 2002-03 and turnaround in the case of RINL from a net loss of Rs. 75 crores incurred in 2001-02 to an expected net profit of Rs. 450 crores in 2002-03. The performance of the private sector companies has also generally improved in 2002-03 as compared to 2001-02.

(e) to (i) Under the aegis of the Corporate Debt Restructuring (CDR) mechanism instituted by the Reserve Bank of India, the CDR Empowered Group has worked out a package for the steel industry which provides for writing down of equity by the borrowers, furnishing of personal guarantees, fixing rate of interest of rupee loans at 14% per annum against higher document rate, conversion of compound interest over dues into zero coupon debentures, conversion of part of the loan into equity capital, etc. Essar Steel Ltd., Ispat Industries Ltd. and Jindal Vijaynagar Steel Ltd. in the private sector have availed of the arrangements under this package. The CDR mechanism is expected to improve the financial health of the companies that avail of the benefits of debt restructuring provided for under this mechanism.

Cotton Production

6072. SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

- (a) the total cotton production in the country during the last three years, year-wise;
- (b) the total share of Gujarat Exports in the World in terms of percentage; and
- (c) the details of factories/units targeted to upgrade through technology mission on cotton since its inception in 2000?

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

(a) The total cotton production during last three years is as below :

(Lakh bales of 170 kg each)

| Year | Production |
|---------|------------|
| 2000-01 | 95.23 |
| 2001-02 | 100.94 |
| 2002-03 | 85.70 |

(b) Figures of cotton export State wise including from Gujarat are not available, as such data is not maintained.

(c) So far about 207 Ginning and Pressing factories upgraded the target of 350.

[Translation]

Sambhar and Salgars Killed by Forest Officers

6073. SHRI AKHILESH YADAV : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether forest officers of Takhni sanctuary in Punjab Killed a Sambhar and two Salgars for their consumption;
- (b) if so, whether the Government have conducted any inquiry into the matter;
- (c) if so, the outcome thereof; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Government to ensure protection of wildlife and check the recurrence of such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV) : (a) to (c) No, Sir. Forest Officers of Takhni-Rehmapur Sanctuary have not killed Sambar or Salgar for their consumption. However, carcasses of a Sambar and a Salgar were found in Takhni-Rehmapur Sanctuary, Hoshiarpur and after preliminary enquiry the Inspector, incharge of the sanctuary, has been suspended for dereliction of duty.

(d) The steps taken by the Government to ensure protection of wildlife include :

- (i) The Wild Life (Protection) Act 1972 has been amended providing for more stringent punishment in wildlife related offences.
- (ii) Government of India has set up Regional and Sub-regional Offices for wildlife preservation in major export and trade centers of the country to prevent smuggling of wild animals and their products.
- (iii) Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has been empowered under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 to apprehend and prosecute wildlife offenders.
- (iv) Financial and technical help is being extended to the States under various Centrally Sponsored

Schemes, viz. Project Tiger, Project Elephant and Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries for enhancing the capacity and infrastructure of the States of providing effective protection to wild animals.

- (v) Export of wild animals and their derivatives is prohibited under EXIM policy.
- (vi) Ministry of Home Affairs has written to all the State Governments to lend a helping hand to the field formations to curb poaching and illegal trade in wildlife.

Balancing the Prices of Industrial and Agricultural Products

6074. SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

- (a) the steps taken by the Government to maintain balance between the prices of industrial products and agricultural produces;
- (b) the details of the subsidy given to industries; and
- (c) the measures taken by the Government to make agriculture remunerative vocation in view of constant increase in power and water tariff and agricultural equipments and also reduction in subsidy on agriculture?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) According to the Wholesale Price Index (1993-94=100), the increase in WPI for the year ended April 19, 2003 in respect of agricultural commodities was 6.4% compared with 6.1% for non-agriculture products during the same period. The factors affecting supply and demand, especially seasonal variations including the behaviour of weather, have a larger role in the behaviour of agricultural prices, vis-a-vis, industrial prices. In order to ensure that the terms of trade between agricultural and non-agricultural sectors do not adversely affect the farmers, the Government has been announcing Minimum Support Prices for a number of important agricultural commodities.

(b) The subsidy schemes/package of incentives given to industries include transport subsidy, capital investment subsidy, interest subsidy and package of

incentives for special category States, namely, Jammu and Kashmir, Sikkim, Himachal Pradesh and Uttranchal. Under the Transport Subsidy Scheme, subsidy ranging from 50% to 90% is admissible on transportation cost incurred by an entrepreneur on the movement of raw materials and finished goods from the designated rail-head/ports upto the location of industrial units and vice-versa, for a period of five years from the date of commencement of commercial production.

Under the Capital Investment Scheme Subsidy @ 15% of the investment in plant and machinery subject to a maximum ceiling of Rs. 30 lakhs is admissible to the units to be set up in the identified locations.

Under the Interest Subsidy Scheme for the North-Eastern Region, subsidy @ 3% is payable to the industrial units on the working capital loans.

Under the Central Comprehensive Insurance Scheme insurance premium paid by the eligible units is reimbursable through a revolving fund maintained by the nodal insurance company which is the National Insurance Company (NIC). All industrial units set up in the North Eastern Region after 24.12.1997 and included in fire policy 'C' (as per All India Fire tariffs) are eligible for subsidy under the Scheme.

(c) The Government ensures remunerative prices of agricultural produces to farmers through the mechanism of Minimum Support Prices which cover cost of production including reasonable margin of profit.

[English]

Use of CNG

6075. SHRI KAMAL NATH : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Tata Energy Research Institute (TERI) has stated that there is no significant, consistent and uniform improvement in capital's air quality even after the implementation of Supreme Court's order on the use of CNG;

(b) if so, whether the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) proposes to take any further action to improve the quality of air in the capital; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV) : (a) The Tata Energy Research Institute (TERI) in an analysis of Air Quality data collected during April 2000 – March 2001 had observed that a while there was slight improvement during short period at certain locations, there is no significant improvement in the Air Quality of Delhi. The analysis also observed that it was too early to evaluate the impact of CNG as the entire public transport fleet had not been converted to CNG at that time.

(b) and (c) Several steps have been initiated in Delhi for containing Air Pollution. These include progressive tightening of emission norms, improvement in fuel quality, introduction of cleaner fuels and improved procedure for issuance of pollution under control certificate.

Air Link for Kandla, Gandhi-Dham

6076. SHRI SAVSHIBHAI MAKWANA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to airlink Kandla-Gandhi-Dham (Gujarat) to Mumbai, Delhi and Ahmedabad;

(b) if so, by when this service is likely to be started; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK) : (a) to (c) No, Sir. Indian Airlines has no plans to airlink, Kandla-Gandhi Dham in the State of Gujarat to Mumbai, Delhi and Ahmedabad due to constraint of smaller aircraft available in its fleet. However, Airline operators are free to operate air services to any places including Kandla depending upon the traffic demand and their commercial judgement subject to compliance of Route Dispersal Guidelines issued by the Government.

Maharashtra Elektros melt Limited

6077. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) the number of employees and workers in the Maharashtra Elektros melt Limited (MEL) (a wholly owned subsidiary of Steel Authority of India);

(b) the profit/loss of the company recorded during each of the last three years;

(c) the number of employees and workers working as permanent and as casual workers separately and since when;

(d) whether the Management of MEL makes wage settlements every three years only with recognised union of permanent employees and casual workers are not given any wage hike;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(f) by when the wages of casual workers are likely to be revised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY) : (a) The total number of employees and workers in Maharashtra Elektros melt Limited (MEL), a subsidiary of Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL), as on 30.4.2003 was 864 consisting of 131 executives and 733 non-executives

(b) The profit/loss of the company recorded during each of the last three years are given below :

| Year | (Rupees in lakhs) |
|--------------------------------|--|
| 2000-2001 | 1784.31 (loss) |
| 2001-2002 | 838.10 (loss) |
| 2002-2003 (Apr' 02- Feb'03) | 125.00 (profit) [Provisional unaudited] |

(c) The number of permanent employees are 864. No casual labour is working in the company as on date.

(d) and (e) Wage settlement of permanent employees at MEL is based on wage settlement done by SAIL. The present wage settlement is for a period of 10 years w.e.f. 01.9.1997.

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

Bird Hit Menace

6078. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the bird menace is causing a serious problem at several airports;

(b) whether the bird hit has caused several accidents in the past;

(c) if so, the details thereof during the last three years; and

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

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

(b) No accident to an aircraft has taken place due to bird hit during last ten years.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Air field Environment Management Committees have been constituted at all airports having scheduled flights operations to identify sources of bird attraction and take the necessary steps for prevention of bird strikes. The major steps taken to reduce bird hits are as under :-

- (i) Grass cutting and checking water logging inside the airport.
- (ii) Scaring and shooting of birds.
- (iii) Wire meshing of hangars.
- (iv) Garbage dumping in covered bins and early removal thereof.
- (v) Regular joint inspection of areas around airport.
- (vi) Establishment of modern abattoirs.

[Translation]

**Restarting of Artificial Insemination
Centres in Bihar**

6079. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to restart the artificial insemination centres in Bihar to improve the breed of cows and buffaloes;

(b) if so, whether any scheme has been formulated to provide this facility to the farmers at their door steps; and

(c) if so, the action taken to implement the said scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government of Bihar has submitted an incomplete project proposal on National Project for Cattle and Buffalo Breeding. The State Government has been requested to submit a revised project proposal as per guidelines of Government of India. The project has already been launched since October 2000 and it envisages to provide quality breeding inputs at farmers' door steps.

(c) The Central assistance has already been provided to 18 States since October 2000 under the National Project for Cattle and Buffalo Breeding.

[English]

Emergency Landing by Aircraft

6080. SHRI A. NARENDRA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the details of occasions when the aircraft of Indian Airlines and Alliance Airlines were forced to make emergency landing due to various technical snags during the last six months alongwith the reasons therefore;

(b) whether any in depth investigations into the causes of emergency landings have been conducted;

(c) if so, whether any cases of use of suprious material in the maintenance of aeroplanes have come to the notice of the authorities;

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

(e) the losses suffered by IA and its allied services due to emergency landing of their flights?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK) : (a) There has been no emergency landing involving Indian Airlines and Alliance Air's aircraft during the last six months.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No information regarding use of spurious material in the maintenance of aeroplanes has come to the notice of the Government.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Does not arise.

Interest Rate on EPF

6081. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the sub committee appointed by the Government to examine the question of interest to be paid to the employees on their Provident Fund have submitted its report;

(b) if so, the recommendations made, by the Committee;

(c) whether the Government have since examined the recommendations of the committee; and

(d) if so, the decision taken by the Government about the interest rate to be paid on the EPF?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI VIJAY GOEL) : (a) The Finance and Investment Committee, a Sub-Committee of the Central Board of Trustees, Employees Provident Fund, considered the issue of declaration of rate of interest to the Employees Provident Fund subscribers for the year 2003-2004. The Committee is yet to take final decision.

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

Damage to Coconut Trees

6082. SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether large-scale damage has been caused to coconut trees in Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Orissa, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu due to mite infestation; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to control the same?

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

(a) The incidence of mite in coconut which was first noticed in 1998 in Kerala spread to other States, viz. Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Pondicherry. The infestation has been recently reported in Orissa and Maharashtra. The State-wise estimated number of coconut trees infested by the mite is as under :

| State | No. of coconut plams infested (In lakhs) |
|----------------|---|
| Kerala | 589.00 |
| Karnataka | 185.00 |
| Tamil Nadu | 211.96 |
| Andhra Pradesh | 48.00 |
| Orissa | 2.42 |
| Pondicherry | 1.95 |

(b) The steps taken by the Government to control eriophyid mite are as follows :

(i) Coconut Development Board sponsored a research project costing Rs. 3.00 lakh through Project Directorate of Biological Control, Bangalore for developing bio-agents for control of mite through biological measures. A bio-agent called "MYCOHIT" has been developed. The Board has also released Rs. 6.65 lakhs to Project Directorate of Biological Control, Bangalore for further research on this aspect;

(ii) Awareness compaigns/seminars/group discussions among farmers were organized by Coconut Development Board in association with Central Plantation Crops Research Institute and State Agricultural Universities;

(iii) Coconut Development Board has conducted trainings for departmental staff and farmers;

- (iv) An amount of Rs. 142.45 lakh has been provided under National Agricultural Technology Project (NATP) for research work on coconut mite;
- (v) A Steering Committee was constituted to review and coordinate efforts for developing suitable control measures on management of coconut mite. The committee has recommended holistic approach including improvement of nutrient status, use of botanical and bio-pesticides for managing mite affected coconut gardens.
- (vi) Recently, an International Workshop on Management of Eriophyid Mite of Coconut was conducted by Coconut Development Board in association with Asian and Pacific Coconut Community and Government of Karnataka to assess the latest research work relating to mite and develop strategic plan for effective management of coconut mite through exchange of information and technologies among the countries of Asia and Pacific region.
- (vii) The central assistance provided during 1998-99 to 2000-2001 through Coconut Development Board, to States for control of coconut mite is given below :

| State | Assistance provided (Rupees in Crores) |
|----------------|---|
| Kerala | 30.09 |
| Karnataka | 13.50 |
| Tamil Nadu | 10.54 |
| Andhra Pradesh | 3.70 |
| Orissa | 0.16 |
| Total | 57.99 |

[Translation]

Wildlife Tourism in Jharkhand

6083.SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether there is vast scope to promote wildlife tourism in Jharkhand; and

- (b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to exploit the tourism potential in the State?

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

- (b) Rest Houses and Wild Life Viewing facilities are being provided by the National Park Management in the State.

[English]

Tourism Projects

6084.SHRI CHINTAMAN WANAGA : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

- (a) the number of tourism projects sanctioned by the Government during the Ninth Five Year Plan;
- (b) whether all the projects have been completed during the said period;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether the Government propose to complete the remaining projects during Tenth Plan; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN) : (a) During the Ninth Five Year Plan 1563 tourism projects were sanctioned to the State/UT Governments.

- (b) and (c) Out of 1563 projects, 571 have been completed up to 31.12.2002 Delay in transfer of land by State Revenue Departments to State Tourism Developments/ State Tourism Corporations, delay in release of State share of sanctioned projects etc. are some of the main reasons for non-completion of the remaining projects.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. Review meetings have been held with the concerned State/UT Governments and they have been advised to expedite implementation and completion of such projects.

[Translation]

Diversion of Narmada Stream in Madhya Pradesh

6085.SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have formulated any scheme to divert Narmada Stream in Madhya Pradesh to the areas where there is scarcity of water; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time schedule fixed in this regard alongwith budget earmarked for the purpose?

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

(a) Yes, Sir. The Government of Madhya Pradesh has formulated three schemes namely Bargi Diversion Project, Upper Narmada Project and Punasa Lift Irrigation Scheme on the main stream Narmada for diverting Narmada waters to the water scarce areas in the districts of Jabalpur, Katni, Satna, Rewa, Mandla, Shahdol and Khandwa in Madhya Pradesh.

(b) The Bargi Diversion Project approved by the Planning Commission in the year 1998 for Rs. 1101.26 crore (at 1995 price level) envisages diversion of water from Bargi Dam through Right Bank Canal to irrigate 245 thousand hectare in the districts of Jabalpur, Katni, Satna and Rewa. The project started during 1988-1989 is likely to be completed in 2012. Some parts of the project are receiving Central Loan Assistance (CLA) under the Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) and an amount of Rs. 163.03 crore (100% CLA) has been released to the State Government till date.

The Upper Narmada Project estimated to cost Rs. 211.92 crore envisages annual irrigation of 18.61 thousand hectare in the districts of Mandla and Shahdol is under various stages of appraisal in the Central Water Commission. The project is likely to be completed in 2007.

The Punasa Lift Irrigation Scheme to lift water directly from the Indira Sagar Reservoir estimated to cost Rs. 157 crore envisages annual irrigation of 36.758 thousand hectare and drinking water provision to 110 villages in the district of Khandwa is under various stages of appraisal in the Central Water Commission. The project is likely to be completed in 2006.

Irrigation being a State subject, irrigation projects are planned, investigated, formulated, implemented and funded by the State Governments out of their own resources and as per their priorities.

Creation of New Employment Opportunities

6086.DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the annual target set to create new avenues of employment under each scheme/programme being implemented by the Government;

(b) since when each scheme/programme has been implemented; and

(c) the average amount spent on implementation of each scheme/programme during each year since commencement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI VIJAY GOEL) : (a) The special group headed by Dr. S.P. Gupta, Member, Planning Commission, in its report has targeted creation of 5 crore job opportunities (1 crore per year) during the 10th plan period. Out of these, nearly 3 crore will come from the normal growth process in the economy and 2 crore from the implementation of special employment generation programmes during the 10th plan period.

(b) and (c) The date of implementation of some of the schemes/programmes and the year-wise amount spent under these programmes are given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

A. Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY)

| Name of the Scheme | Date of Launching | Fund Released | |
|--|-------------------|---------------|--------------|
| | | Year | Rs. in lakhs |
| Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY) | 1.12.1997 | 1997-98 | 9862.87 |
| | | 1998-99 | 15847.00 |
| | | 1999-2000 | 11877.29 |
| | | 2000-01 | 8513.00 |
| | | 2001-02 | 3831.00 |
| | | 2002-03 | 10091.77 |

B. Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY)

| Name of the Scheme | Date of Launching | Year | Plan Target (NOS) | Amount Spent (Rs. in Crore) |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------|-----------|-------------------|-----------------------------|
| Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY) | 2.10.1993 | 1993-94 | 40000 | 34.79 |
| | | 1994-95 | 220000 | 120.05 |
| | | 1995-96 | 220000 | 145.00 |
| | | 1996-97 | 220000 | 114.98 |
| | | 1997-98 | 220000 | 94.86 |
| | | 1998-99 | 220000 | 135.50 |
| | | 1999-2000 | 220000 | 190.00 |
| | | 2000-01 | 220000 | 201.00 |
| | | 2001-02 | 220000 | 193.50 |
| | | 2002-03 | 220000 | 168.10 |

C. Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP)

| Name of the Scheme | Date of Launching | Year | Target | Employment Generated (Lakh Persons) | Fund Utilised (Rs. in Crore) |
|--|-------------------|---------|--------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP) | 1.4.1995 | 1995-96 | - | 1.67 | 0.00 |
| | | 1996-97 | - | 0.79 | 57.85 |
| | | 1997-98 | - | 2.46 | 54.81 |
| | | 1998-99 | - | 1.98 | 88.71 |
| | | 1999-00 | - | 3.05 | 101.74 |
| | | 2000-01 | - | 3.50 | 112.54 |
| | | 2001-02 | - | 3.43 | 191.62 |

D. Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana (SGRY)

| Name of the Scheme | Date of Launching | Fund Utilised | |
|--|-------------------|---------------|---------------|
| | | Year | Rs. in Crores |
| Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana (SGRY) | 1.4.2002 | 1999-2000 | 4217.87** |
| | | 2000-2001 | 3868.94** |
| | | 2001-2002 | 3792.86** |
| | | 2002-2003* | 3698.82 |

**Under JGSY and EAS (merged into SRGY)

*Upto February, 03

E. Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY)

| Name of the Scheme | Date of Launching | Fund Utilised | |
|---|-------------------|---------------|---------------|
| | | Year | Rs. in Crores |
| Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) | 1.4.1999 | 1999-2000 | 959.86 |
| | | 2000-2001 | 1116.27 |
| | | 2001-2002 | 969.78 |
| | | 2002-2003* | 659.53 |

*Upto February, 03

F. Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY)

| Name of the Scheme | Date of Launching | Fund Allocated | |
|--|-------------------|----------------|---------------|
| | | Year | Rs. in Crores |
| Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) | 25.12.2000 | 2000-01 | 2500.50 ** |
| | | 2001-02 | 2500.00 |
| | | 2002-03 | 2500.00 |

**Rs. 0.50 crore for roads in special problem areas

**Agricultural Agreement between
India and America**

6087. SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN :
SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMI :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether India and USA recently signed an agreement in the field of agriculture; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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

(a) No such agreement has been entered into recently.

(b) Does not arise.

Support Price of Agricultural Products

6088. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :
SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have not increased the support price of various agricultural products as per the average increase in the production cost witnessed in the country during the last decade;

(b) if so, the reasons therefore;

(c) the extent to which the production cost of wheat, paddy, cotton, sugarcane oilseeds and pulses have increased in the country during the nineties;

(d) the extent to which the support price for the above said products increased/decreased during abovesaid period.

(e) whether the agriculture has become an unprofitable industry due to ignorant policy of the Government; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) :
(a) and (b) Cost of Production is the most important factor in fixing the Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) of major agricultural commodities. While formulating its recommendations on price policy of major agricultural commodities, the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) considers various factors in addition to cost of production. These include changes in input prices, input/output price parity, parity between prices paid and prices received by farmers (Terms of Trade) etc. The Government decide on the Minimum Support Prices for various agricultural commodities taking into account the recommendations of CACP, the view of State Governments and Central Ministries as well as other relevant factors considered important in the fixation of Minimum Support Prices.

(c) A statement-I showing the increase in cost of production of wheat, paddy, cotton, sugarcane, oilseeds and pulses during the nineties is enclosed.

(d) Statement-II showing the increase in the Minimum Support Prices of the commodities under reference during the nineties is also enclosed.

(e) and (f) The price policy for agricultural commodities followed by the Government has paid rich dividends by way of higher production and productivity leading to increase in investment and income in agriculture.

Statement-I

Percentage increase in cost of production

| Crops | Cost of Production (Rs. per quintal) | | % increase in 2000-01 over 1991-92 |
|--------|---|---------|--|
| | 1991-92 | 2000-01 | |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| Paddy | 228.71 | 472.98 | 106.8 |
| Cotton | 803.62 | 2026.93 | 152.2 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|-----------------------|--------|---------|-------|
| Arhar(Tur) | 554.22 | 1105.51 | 99.5 |
| Moong | 743.80 | 1764.97 | 137.3 |
| Urad | 836.60 | 1358.76 | 113.4 |
| Groundnut-In Sheel | 704.83 | 1376.69 | 95.3 |
| Soyabean | 592.74 | 748.13 | 26.2 |
| Wheat | 221.92 | 449.65 | 102.6 |
| Rapeseed/Mustard | 489.38 | 896.61 | 83.2 |
| Sunflower Seed | 692.70 | 1462.09 | 111.1 |
| Sugarcane | 25.09 | 56.60 | 125.6 |

Statement-II*Percentage increase in Minimum Support Prices*

| Crops | MSP (Rs. per quintal) | | % increase in 2000-01 over 1991-92 |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|---------|--|
| | 1991-92 | 2000-01 | |
| Paddy | 230 | 510 | 121.7 |
| Cotton | | | |
| F-414/H-777 | 695 | 1625 | 133.8 |
| H-4 | 840 | 1825 | 117.3 |
| Arhar(Tur) | 545 | 1200 | 120.2 |
| Moong | 545 | 1200 | 120.2 |
| Urad | 545 | 1200 | 120.2 |
| Groundnut-In Sheel | 645 | 1220 | 89.1 |
| Soyabean (Black) | 395 | 775 | 96.2 |
| (Yellow) | 445 | 865 | 94.4 |
| Wheat | 275 | 610 | 121.8 |
| Rapeseed/Mustard | 670 | 1200 | 79.1 |
| Sunflower Seed | 670 | 1170 | 74.8 |
| Sugarcane | 26.00 | 59.50 | 128.8 |

*[English]***Illegal Ground Handling Agencies**

6089.PROF. DUKHA BHAGAT :

SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether several agencies are mushrooming at the airports in Delhi;

(b) whether these agencies are reportedly handling ground activities both at the domestic and Indra Gandhi International Airport with an access to terminal building;

(c) if so, the details thereof indicating the number of such unauthorised agencies alongwith the details of authorised agencies;

(d) whether any stringent security measures have so far been taken against them by the Airports Authority of India;

(e) the recommendation made by the Airport Security Committee in this regard; and

(f) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK) : (a) to (c) Airports Authority of India (AAI), Air India Limited (AIL), Indian Airlines Limited (IAL) and Cambata Aviation Private Limited are authorized to do ground handling at airports under the Airports Authority of India (General Management), Entry for Ground Handling Services) Regulations, 2000. Besides, various airlines or their majority holding subsidiary companies are authorised to do ground handling on their own flights only on self-handling basis. There are 7 private agencies whose services are used by airlines for providing ground handling services to their flights.

(d) These private agencies are required to meet conditions laid down by the Airports Authority of India and are issued temporary passes by Bureau of Civil Aviation Security on the recommendations of AAI and airlines after due scrutiny.

(e) Recommendations have been received for placement of regular agency for providing ground handling services at Delhi airport.

(f) Government has taken a decision to suitably revise the Airports Authority of India (General Management, Entry for Ground Handling Services) Regulations, 2000 to provide a system wherein only Air India Limited, Indian Airlines Limited and Airports Authority of India will from separate companies to carry out ground handling activities having a minimum of 51 per cent by share holding either directly or through their subsidiaries in Joint Venture with an international operator of foreign airlines subject to security clearance from the Government.

[Translation]

**Involvement of Forest Officials with
Forest Mafia**

6090. SHRI SHIVAJI MANE :
DR. M.P. JAISWAL :

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

- (a) whether the Government have identified forest personnel having connections with forest mafia;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the action taken by the Government against these personnel; and
- (d) the outcome thereof after taking action against them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV) : (a) There is no report with the Central Government regarding forest personnel having connections with forest mafia.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

**Losses due to Non-Availability of
Modern Storage Facility**

6091. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY :
DR. M.P. JAISWAL :

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

(a) whether the Food Processing Industry is incurring losses and is not getting promotion for want of modern storage facility;

(b) if so, the details of the losses incurred during the last three years as a result thereof; and

(c) the measures taken by the Government to minimise the losses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM) : (a) to (c) While Food Processing Industries have grown at a rate higher than overall GDP growth in IX Plan, infrastructure constraints including for modern storage facilities has been identified as one of the inhibitors to greater growth of Food Processing Industry in the country which also affects the better utilization of different crops. According to a Working Group on Post-harvest Management, Marketing and Exports set up in 1995, post-harvest Management, Marketing and Exports set up in 1995, post harvest losses in different crops range from 8% to 37%. These occur during different stages after harvest.

To promote development of infrastructure including modern storage facilities for food processing industries, the Ministry of Food Processing Industries provides financial assistance for setting up of value added centres, food parks, cold storages/cold-chain, irradiation facilities, packaging centres etc. Besides, assistance is also provided by other agencies like National Horticulture Board (NHB), Agricultural and Processed Food Export Development Authority (APEDA), National Co-operative Development Corporation (NCDC) etc. under their respective schemes.

Pending Cases with Environment Courts

6092. SHRI LAXMAN GILUWA :
SHRI MANSUKHABHAI D. VASAVA :

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

(a) whether several cases are pending with the Environment Courts;

(b) if so, the break-up of such cases pending since last five, four and three years respectively, State-wise:

(c) the steps taken by the Government to ensure early disposal of these cases; and

(d) the extent of success achieved by the Government as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV) : (a) Several cases are being filed and disposed of under the Air and Water Acts, in the Courts, Special Courts and Green benches set up in some High Courts.

(b) Statement of cases pending since last five, four and three years respectively are enclosed.

(c) and (d) All possible efforts are made by the Pollution Control Boards/Committees to get the cases disposed of at the earliest. As a result of this, about 50% of the cases have been disposed of by the Courts.

Statement

Status of Court Cases Pending Since Last 5 Years, 4 years, 3 Years respectively

| State/Union Territory | Cases pending in the year 1998 | Cases pending in the year 1999 | Cases pending in the year 2000 |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| Assam | - | - | - |
| Arunachal Pradesh | - | - | - |
| Andhra Pradesh | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Bihar | 212 | 212 | 212 |
| Chhattisgarh | - | - | - |
| Goa | - | - | - |
| Gujarat | 1747 | 1685 | 1643 |
| Haryana | 460 | 460 | 460 |
| Himachal Pradesh | 35 | 35 | 35 |
| Jammu and Kashmir | 39 | 39 | 86 |
| Jharkhand | - | - | - |

| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|-----------------------------|---|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Kerala | | 4 | 4 | 4 |
| Karnataka | | 61 | 92 | 116 |
| Maharashtra | | 120 | 120 | 120 |
| Madhya Pradesh | | 137 | 137 | 137 |
| Meghalaya | | - | - | - |
| Manipur | | - | - | - |
| Mizoram | | - | - | - |
| Nagaland | | - | - | - |
| Orissa | | 68 | 77 | 80 |
| Punjab | | 296 | 296 | 296 |
| Rajasthan | | 239 | 239 | 239 |
| Sikkim | | - | - | - |
| Tamilnadu | | 154 | 128 | 120 |
| Tripura | | - | - | - |
| Uttar Pradesh | | 57 | 57 | 15 |
| Uttaranchal | | - | - | - |
| West Bengal | | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Andaman and Nicobar Islands | | - | - | - |
| Daman, Diu and Dadar | | - | - | - |
| Nagar Haveli | | - | - | - |
| Lakshadweep | | - | - | - |
| Delhi | | 9 | 1 | 1 |
| Chandigarh | | - | - | - |
| Pondicherry | | - | - | - |
| Total | | 3642 | 3586 | 3568 |

[English]

Agriculture Summit

6093.SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) has organized an 'Agriculture Summit' on April 3, 2003 in Mumbai;

(b) if so, the details of participants and the issues discussed therein; and

(c) the outcome of the discussion?

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

(a) The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) organized an Agriculture Summit on 3rd April 2003 in Mumbai to highlight the successes made by few States and Corporates in the Agriculture Sector that could be replicated across India and to give an impetus to the growth of the Agriculture Sector.

(b) As per information given by CII there were over 200 participants in the Summit from Agriculture Input Companies, Supply Chain and Processing Companies including Farmers organizations, Mr. Ajit Singh, Union Minister of Agriculture, Government of India delivered the keynote address. Capt. Amarinder Singh, Chief Minister of Punjab, Mr. V. Shobanadreeswar Rao, Minister of Agriculture, Government of Andhra Pradesh, Mr. Mahendra Singh, Minister of Agriculture Government of Maharashtra, Mr. S.S. Ahuja, Principal Secretary, Food Processing Industries and Horticulture, Government of West Bengal represented their respective States.

The issues discussed therein included diversification of crops, measures to improve crop productivity, improvements in the Supply Chain to reduce losses, measures to modernize markets and mandis so that farmers get better prices, creating infrastructure including irrigation and specific plans for the next two years. Farmers and industry need to play a complimentary role to the Government efforts in all the areas of agriculture development.

(c) CII has informed that the following action points emerged during the discussion :-

- Reduction of interest rates for the agriculture Sector especially agriculture machinery,
- Need to revitalize the co-operative system for efficient credit delivery system and marketing;

- Bring Regulations in Contract Farming.
- Kickstart investments in Agriculture Infrastructure especially irrigation,
- Need for Reforms in laws to kickstart growth of the food processing sector – Food laws, Tax laws, Markets, etc.,
- Create hybrid-banking infrastructure in rural areas,
- Establish Future Markets and Warehouse Advance Receipts mechanism which shall benefit small farmers.
- Access and upgrade traditional local Rainwater Harvesting Structures,
- Collaborate across multiple levels and players including small farmers and
- Focus on Applied Research.

[Translation]

Payment for Cellular Phone Bills

6094. SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the total amount paid by Airports Authority of India (AAI) to M/s Bharti Cellular Limited (Airtel) from April 2002 till date for the payment of the mobile phone bills;

(b) the total number of mobile phones in operation with the AAI for which the payment was made; and

(c) the 'details of the persons/officers using the said mobile phones?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK) : (a) Total amount paid to M/s Bharati Cellular Ltd. by Airports Authority of India (AAI) for mobile phone charge during Financial year 2002-03 was Rs. 11,68,591/-

(b) 57

(c) Board level officers, Executive Directors, officials looking after certain key departments in Airports Authority of India and Ministry of Civil Aviation are using the said mobile phones.

[English]

**Diversion of Profit Earned through
Sale of Wood**

6095.SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the diversion of the entire profit earned from the sale of teak and bamboos to the forest wellers in some States particularly M.dhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the diversion is likely to have adverse implications with regard to the scientific management of forests; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV) : (a) and (b) The Joint Forest Management (JFM) Resolution of Central Government envisages communities' participation in protection and development of forests. Hence, in lieu of their participation, they are being provided a sharing of usufructs in a manner specified by the State Forest Departments. In Madhya Pradesh, it has been decided to distribute 10% of net profit from harvesting of Timber and 20% of net profit from that of Bamboo from the profits of the past three years i.e. 2000-01, 2001-02 and 2002-03 to the JFM Committees, considering District as a unit for calculation of net profit. The State Government have also decided to distribute 100% net profit to the JFM Committees from harvesting of timber and bamboo from profits earned for the year 2003-04.

(c) and (d) The diversion of profit to the community is not expected to have adverse implications with regard to the scientific management of forests.

[Translation]

Forest Area under Central Act

6096.SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Hon'ble Supreme Court has issued an order to bring the entire forest area of the States under the Central Act;

(b) if so, the action being taken to implement the above order;

(c) the steps being taken to cover more areas under afforestation; and

(d) the action being taken against illegal felling of trees in the forest areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV) : (a) Yes, Sir. The Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in its order dated 12.12.1996 in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 202 of 1995 has directed that the provisions enacted in the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for the Conservation of forest and the matters connected therewith must apply clearly to all forests irrespective of the ownership or classification.

(b) Pursuant to the Supreme Court's order dated 12.12.96 in W.P. (C) No. 202 of 1995 the State Governments have formed expert committee for identification of such forests and have filed the affidavit in the Hon'ble Supreme Court.

(c) During the 10th Five-Year Plan, the Ministry has launched National Afforestation Programme with focus on people's participation. The programme is implemented through decentralised Forest Development Agencies (FDA) formed at forest division level. During the year 2002-03, Rs. 174.38 crores have been released to 24 States for 292 FDAs.

(d) The action is taken by the State Governments against illegal felling of trees under Indian Forest Act, 1927 or respective State Forest Acts.

[English]

Flouting of Safety Norms by AAI

6097.SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware about the attempt by an Airports Authority of India official to enter the

cockpit of the Jet Airways plane on flight from Guwahati to Kolkata;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is permissible under the rules to allow anybody other than the crew members to enter the cockpit;

(d) if not, the reasons for contravention of safety regulations by the said officers;

(e) whether any inquiry into this episode has been conducted;

(f) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. On 15th April, 2003, an employee of Airport Authority of India, a passenger to Jet Airways, Flight No. 9W-207, operating on Guwahati-Kolkata sector, tried twice, to enter the cockpit during the flight.

(c) For the purpose of securing safety of aircraft operations, no person shall enter the cockpit during the flight time, other than the persons authorised as per DGCA's Aeronautical Information Services No. 21/1985 dated 20th February, 1997.

(d) to (g) The matter was enquired into by a Deputy Commissioner, Bureau of Civil Aviation Security. Since the person was not allowed to go into the cockpit, the question of contravening safety regulations does not arise.

Shortage of Accommodation in Cities.

8098.SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the present status of each hotel project under construction in the country;

(b) whether there is shortage of accommodation for tourists in various cities in the country including Eastern States; and

(c) if so, the steps taken to complete the Hotel projects under construction within the prescribed time-frame?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN) : (a) The construction of hotels is a private sector activity. The Government of India, Department of Tourism only gives approval at the project stage of those who approach it.

(b) Subsequent to the various international events such as the 9/11 attack on W.T.C., the Iraq War, etc., the hotel industry has been facing low occupancy. However, due to the seasonal nature of tourism, there may be shortages of hotel rooms at some places during peak season.

(c) Does not arise.

Setting Up of Steel Plants by NMDC

6099.SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC) propose to set up some steel plants in the country;

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

(c) the estimated amount to be incurred thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. National Mineral Development Corporation Ltd. (NMDC) proposes to set up Pig Iron Plant based on Romelt Process to produce 0.3 million tonnes per annum liquid hot metal (premium grade Pig Iron) for steel making. The plant shall also produce 1.96 million tonnes slag per annum which can be made use of in Cement Plants. The plant is proposed to be set up at Nagamar which is around 16 KMs from Jagdalpur in Chhatisgarh State. The estimated cost to be incurred on the plant is Rs. 298.68 crores including a foreign exchange component of Rs. 34.98 crores.

Funds to Tamilnadu for Developmental Projects

6100.SHRI P.D. ELANGO VAN : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have allocated more funds to Tamil Nadu for existing developmental projects;

(b) if so, the details of funds disbursed under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes to Tamil Nadu during the last three years;

(c) whether the amount has not been completely utilized by the State Government; and

(d) if so, the reasons alongwith steps taken by the Governments utilize the allocated amount?

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

(a) and (b) The Ministry of Water Resources is providing Central assistance to irrigation projects and not for any other developmental projects. Central Loan Assistance (CLA) under the Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) is provided for completion of such approved on-going major/medium irrigation projects which are in an advanced stage of completion and an amount of Rs. 20 crore has been provided to the Government of Tamil Nadu during 1996-97. Under the centrally sponsored Command Area Development Programme with the objective of bridging the gap between irrigation potential created and that utilized through efficient utilization of created irrigation potential and optimizing agricultural production/productivity from irrigated lands as sustainable basis. Central assistance of Rs. 16.77 crore, Rs. 15.61 crore and Rs. 23.05 crore during the year 2000-2001, 2001-2002 and 2002-2003 respectively was provided to the Government of Tamil Nadu.

(c) and (d) As there was shortfall in expenditure and CLA of Rs. 11.060 crore was pending with the State as on 1.4.2002, further CLA under Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) was not provided to the Government of Tamil Nadu. Central assistance under Command Area Development Programme (CADP) is released to the State Government on the basis of physical progress achieved upto last quarter, on reconciliation of expenditure under CADP norms for the previous year as well as utilization certificate furnished for the amount released during last year.

Linking of Rivers

6101.SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the number of villages and communities likely to be displaced on completion of river-linking project; and

(b) the measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to rehabilitate those people?

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

(a) As per the pre-feasibility studies of National Water Development Agency (NWDA), over 1000 villages are likely to be submerged and about 4.80 lakh people are likely to be displaced on completion of inter water transfer link projects.

(b) A Task Force on interlinking of river under the Chairmanship of Shri Suresh P. Prabhu, Member of Parliament(LS) has been constituted on 13.12.2002 to inter alia provide guidance on norms of appraisal of individual projects in respect of economic viability, socio-economic impact, environmental impact and preparation of resettlement Plans.

Excavation during Ninth Plan

6102.SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR :

SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK :

SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL :

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

(a) whether the excavation conducted by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) during the Ninth Five Year Plan is far less than that conducted during the Eighth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether a number of survey reports on excavations have not been recorded which render the entire excavation process useless;

(d) if so, the reasons for not recording the important data;

(e) the expenditure incurred on excavation during the last three years; and

(f) the funds earmarked for excavation during the year 2003-2004?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN) : (a) No, Sir. During the Ninth Five Year Plan, the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) conducted excavation at 72 sites whereas during the Eighth Five Year Plan only 38 sites were attended; thus, actually there has been an increase in the number of sites.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Mandatory reports under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Rules, 1959, on the excavations conducted upto 1997-98 have been published in the issues of the Indian Archaeology-A Review (IAR), an ASI annual report. The IAR for 1998-99 is in press while the remaining ones are under preparation and editing.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The expenditure incurred on excavation during the last three years was Rs. 804 lakhs.

(f) Rs. 300 lakhs has been earmarked for excavation during the year 2003-04.

[Translation]

Construction of EPF Building in Wazirpur Industrial Area

6103.SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the status of building to be constructed on the Employees Provident Fund office land in Wazirpur Industrial Area in Delhi as on March 31, 2003;

(b) by when construction of the said building is likely to be completed and the time by which offices in this building are likely to start functioning; and

(c) the amount already spent and estimated to be spent on the said building with details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI VIJAY GOEL) : (a) As on 31.03.2003 approximately 18.21% of the total construction work is complete.

(b) The date of completion is tentatively fixed to be 30.06.2004. The offices in the building are likely to start functioning thereafter.

(c) Amount already spent :

| | | | |
|----------------------------------|---|-----|-----------------------|
| Total cost of land | : | Rs. | 7,27,55,054/- |
| Amount paid towards construction | : | Rs. | 3,86,28,539/- |
| Total | : | Rs. | <u>11,13,83,593/-</u> |

[English]

Scope in Production of Pulses in Orissa

6104.SHRI PARSURAM MAJHI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the vast scope in the production of pulse in Orissa;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to increase pulses production in the State during the last three years; and

(d) the details of Central assistance extended to Orissa for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) and (b) There is good scope for production of pulses in the State of Orissa. The experiment conducted in the State indicate that Green/Black Gram can be successfully cultivated in rice fallows. In uplands substantial scope exists for short duration Pigeon Pea.

The ICAR in association with State Agricultural University has developed improved varieties of pulses for the State of Orissa. Some prominent varieties for Green Gram at Pusa 9072, TARM-1, PDM-54, Black Gram DPU-1, Pigeon Pea ICPL 87119.

(c) To enhance the pulses production in the State of Orissa, a scheme of National Pulses Development Project (NPDP) is being implemented for this purpose. Under the scheme, assistance is being provided for

different inputs like production and distribution of seeds, seed minikits, improved farm implements, rhyzobium culture, micro-nutrients, Integrated Pest Management, distribution of sprinkler sets, Gypsum/Prite, etc. In addition, frontliine and block demonstrations are also organized on farmers' fields for transfer of technology.

(d) The details of the central assistance extended to Orissa under the scheme of National Pulses Development Project (NPDP) during last three years are given below :

| Year | (Rs. in lakh) |
|---------|---------------|
| 2000-01 | 145.50 |
| 2001-02 | 58.50 |
| 2002-03 | 10.00 |

Amendment in Labour Act

6105.SHRI V. VETRISELVAN : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to amend the Labour Act to open the Core and Non-core sector for the contract labour and improvement in the service conditions of the workers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Group of Ministers has also recommended for this amendment; and

(d) if so, the other recommendations of Group of Ministers in regard to welfare of workers and insurance cover?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI VJAY GOEL) : (a) to (d) In the wake of economic liberalisation, judgement of various courts and experience gathered in the administration of the Act, the Government have undertaken a review of the Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1970. The amendments which may be carried out in the Act have not yet been finalised.

[Translation]

Flights to Bihar

6106.SHRI ARUN KUMAR : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the cities of Bihar where regular service of the Indian Airlines and private airlines is available at present;

(b) whether there is a proposal to commence air service in some more cities in the near future;

(c) if so, the cities where airports are being developed for this purpose;

(d) the estimated cost thereof; and

(e) by when the construction/development work is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK) : (a) and (b) At present, in the State of Bihar, regular air services of Indian Airlines, Alliance Air and Air Sahara are available at Patna. Indian Airlies and Air Lanka flights are available to/from Gaya. While there is no proposal to commence services to more cities at present, Government has laid down Route Dispersal Guidelines with a view to achieve better regulation of air transport sevices taking into account the need for air transport services of different region of the country. It is however, up to the airlines to provide air services to specific places depending upon the traffic demand and commercial viability. Therefore operators are free to operate on any routes subject to compliance of Route Dispersal Guidelines issued by Government.

(c) to (e) Airport Authority of India has no plans at present to develop new airport in Bihar.

[English]

Super Speciality Treatment for ESI Beneficiaries

6107.SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAIISI : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether ESIC has requested State Governments/ UTs to make contractual arrangements with local reputed

medical institutions to ensure super speciality treatment to ESIC beneficiaries;

(b) if so, the arrangements made by ESIC for reimbursement to insured persons in lieu of getting the treatment in these hospitals;

(c) whether ESIC employees are facing difficulty in getting super speciality treatment due to delay in prior permission to them by ESIC; and

(d) if so, the steps taken or being taken by the Government to grant timely permission to ESIC beneficiaries to get super speciality treatment in time?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI VIJAY GOEL) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The ESI Corporation has set up a Revolving Fund in each Regional Directorate for giving advance/reimbursement to eligible persons for super-speciality treatment on accord of the sanction by the concerned State Governments.

(c) and (d) There is no necessity of obtaining prior permission of ESI Corporation for obtaining super – speciality treatment by eligible persons. State Governments have been given the powers to sanction expenditure on such treatment.

Dairy Plants

6108.SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether certain dairy plants across the country are mixing non-edible oil like butter milk imported from Australia and other countries in the Desi Ghee manufactured by them; and

(b) if so, the action taken against such dairy plants and to ensure adulteration free manufacturing of Desi Ghee by all dairy plants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) Government of India has not received any such report regarding mixing of buttermilk in the Desi Ghee.

(b) All the food items including Desi Ghee come under the purview of Prevention of Food Adulteration act,

1954, administered by Ministry of Health. Under this Act, sale of milk and milk products containing the substances not found in milk except as provided in the rules is prohibited. Action in respect of samples found adulterated is taken as per the provisions of the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954.

Decline in Cargo Handling

6109.SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the cargo handling in international and domestic sectors has been showing a declining trend;

(b) if so, the details thereof particularly the cargo handling from Mumbai Airport during the last three years; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to increase cargo handling?

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

(b) At Mumbai Airport during the year 2000-2001, there has been increase of 1.44% and 13.23% in international and domestic cargo traffic handled respectively over 1999-2000. However in the year 2001-2002, there was a drop of 5.68% and 1.29% in international and domestic cargo respectively as compared to 2000-2001. During the period April, 2002 to January, 2003, international and domestic cargo traffic have shown growth of 11.9% and 12.1% respectively as compared to corresponding period of last year 2001-2002.

(c) For augmenting/modernising the cargo handling facilities at the airports for faster clearance of cargo matching with growth of cargo, Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) and Integrated Cargo Management System (ICMS) has been introduced at Mumbai, Delhi, Chennai and Kolkata, At Mumbai airport, Airports Authority of India and Air India have started running Parallel Cargo Terminal functions w.e.f. 3.11.2002. The State-of-the-Art centres for perishable cargo at Mumbai has been constructed and inaugurated on 21.3.2003. An area measuring 2500 sqm has been added for storage of 1690 Metric Tonne cargo for smooth handling of Import Cargo in New Heavy shed at Mumbai airport.

*[Translation]***Impact of SARS on Tourism**

6110. SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH :

SHRI NARESH PUGLIA :

SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH :

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY :

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

(a) whether the World wide scare created by Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) has an adverse impact on tourism industry;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is decline in foreign tourists on this account from Asian countries; and

(d) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN) : (a) to (c) Although some reports of sporadic cancellations have been received, no mass cancellations have been reported on account of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS).

(d) Taking into account the current tourism scenario, the Department of Tourism is continuing with its publicity and promotion programme which includes advertising on print and electronic media, participation in fairs and exhibitions, organizing of workshops and seminars, inviting of media personalities under the hospitality programme, web marketing etc.

*[English]***Oilseed Production**

6111. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have released any funds to NAFED and other agencies to increase the oilseeds production;

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last three years;

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to reduce the gap between oilseed supply and demand in the market;

(d) whether the farmers are switching over to other cash crops; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) and (b) NAFED is a central nodal agency for carrying out purchase operations on Minimum Support Price (MSP) in respect of oilseeds only and not involved in the implementation of Oilseeds Production Programme (OPP) to increase the production of oilseeds in the country. However, the other central agencies which are involved in the implementation of Oilseeds Production Programme (OPP) to increase the production of oilseeds have been given the financial assistance during the last 3 years as under :

(Rs. in crores)

| Year | I.C.A.R. | NSC/SFCI/KRIBHCO |
|---------|----------|------------------|
| 2000-01 | 2.66 | 10.37 |
| 2001-02 | 2.65 | 14.95 |
| 2002-03 | 3.25 | 19.45 |

(c) In order to increase the production of oilseeds in the country and to reduce the gap between oilseeds supply and demand, a Centrally Sponsored Oilseeds Production Programme (OPP) is under implementation in 28 States covering 408 selected districts. Under the programme financial assistance is provided to the farmers for production and distribution of seeds, distribution of minikits, rhizobium culture/PSB, gypsum/pyrite, improved farm implements, sprinkler sets etc. Besides this for transfer of improved production technology frontline demonstrations by ICAR and block demonstrations by State Department of Agriculture are organized.

(d) There is no report that the farmers are switching over to other cash crops from oilseeds. However, the area under oilseeds has been affected due to severe drought conditions prevailing in the major oilseed producing States during the last 3 years.

(e) In order to encourage the farmers to go in for cultivation of oilseeds on a large scale incentives are being provided under the scheme of Oilseeds Production Programme (OPP) on different components. Besides, this in order to give the remunerative prices to the oilseeds growers, the Government has been announcing Minimum Support Prices (MSP) for major oilseeds and NAFED is the central nodal agency to carry out purchase operations on Minimum Support Price (MSP) in case the market price falls below the MSP.

Grants to Industrial Units Through UNDP

6112.SHRI ASHOK ARGAL : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of industrial units with names and address of manufacturing premises whose projects have been approved upto December 31, 2002 in Delhi, Haryana, Punjab and Uttar Pradesh who have received grant through UNDP under Montreal Protocol Fund to phase out CFC-11 (ozone depleting substance);

(b) the number of such industrial units which have utilized the said grant and have been certified by the

Ozone Cell of the Government to make them entailed for import of 141b (being on negative list to replace CFC-11);

(c) the number of such industrial units which have been issued import license on certificate of his Ministry for import of 141b and number those who have actually gone into production of end material; and

(d) the details of those units which have not gone into production after import of 141b indicating the reasons for the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV) : (a) The details of 62 (Sixty Two) enterprises in respect of whom UNDP has received grant from the Multilateral Fund for phasing out CFC-11 is given in the list enclosed as Statement.

(b) 46 (Fourty Six) only

(c) None

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

Statement

List of Industrial Units Implemented by UNDP upto 31.12.2002

DELHI

| Name and Address of Companies | Implementing Agency | ODP Mt | Approved Grant US\$ | Status |
|--|---------------------|--------|---------------------|-----------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| AEROSOL SECTOR | | | | |
| 1. Mr. Sanjay Malhotra Managing Director M/s Aerol Formulations P. Ltd. Flat No. 202, Shivam House, Karampura Commercial Complex Opp. Milan Cinema New Delhi – 110 015 | UNDP | 31.0 | 78,479 | Completed |
| 2. Mr. Rajesh Gupta Managing Director M/s Sunder Chemical and Agarbatti Works P. Ltd. HD-30, Vishakha Enclave, Pitampura, Delhi – 110 034 | UNDP | 15.0 | 67,678 | Completed |

| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|---|---|------|------|---------|-----------|
| 3. Smt. M. Kaur Proprietor M/s Maja Cosmetics A-61/4, G.T., Karnal Road Industrial Area, Delhi - 110 033 FOAM | | UNDP | 31.3 | 141,521 | Completed |
| 4. MR. deepak Singh President and Director M/s Inalsa Limited Surya Kiran Building 19, Kasturba Gandhi Marg New Delhi - 110 001 | | UNDP | 28.9 | 138,990 | Completed |
| 5. Mr. Deepak Mukim M/s Shri Krishna Polyurethane Industries P. Ltd. E-812, DISC, Narella Industrial Area Delhi | | UNDP | 19.1 | 217,949 | Completed |
| 6. Mr. Sanjay Mukum Proprietor M/s Legend Interiors E-813, DISC, Narella Industrial Area Delhi | | UNDP | 9.0 | 140,120 | Completed |
| 7. Mr. Jenender Jain Chief Executive M/s Jayson Industries S-109, Badli Industrial Area Phase-I, Delhi - 110 042 | | UNDP | 12.9 | 100,457 | Completed |
| 8. Mrs. Anu Mukim Chief Executive M/s Puff Insulators E-813, DISC, Narella Industrial Area Delhi | | UNDP | 10.6 | 93,960 | Completed |
| 9. Ms. Suman Bansal Partner M/s Bansal Plastic Industries C-7, Wazirpur Industrial Area Delhi - 110 052 | | UNDP | 20.4 | 77,777 | Completed |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|--|------|------|---------|------------|
| 10. Mr. Gopal Arora Proprietor M/s Baba Insulator 171, G-23, Sector-7, Rohini, Delhi – 110 085 | UNDP | 14.4 | 66,778 | Completed |
| 11. Mr. K.K. Bhatia Proprietor M/s Shree Nath Plastics 902/290, Gali No. 2 Shalimar Village Delhi – 110 052 | UNDP | 13.9 | 63,348 | Completed |
| 12. Ms. Sanjana Goel Proprietor M/s R.S. Insulators C-7, Wazirpur Industrial Area Wazirpur, Delhi | UNDP | 10.3 | 61,924 | Completed. |
| 13. Mr. Ashok Kumar Gupta Proprietor M/s Ashoka Metals C-56/2, Wazirpur Industrial Area Delhi – 110 052 | UNDP | 12.5 | 76,915 | Completed |
| 14. Mr. Om Prakash Kapur Proprietor M/s O.K. Industries. B-73, Naraina Industrial Area Phase-II, New Delhi – 110 028 | UNDP | 11.7 | 74,837 | Completed |
| 15. Mr. S.J. Salwan Chief Executive M/s Devisons P. Ltd. A-116, Wazirpur Industrial Area Delhi – 110 052 | UNDP | 15.3 | 129,882 | Completed |
| 16. Mr. V.B. Banga Proprietor M/s Supertek International Main Ranhaura Bus Stop Near Janta Clinic Ranuauula Village, Najafgarh Road, Delhi – 110 041 | UNDP | 10.6 | 94,018 | Completed |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|--|------|------|---------|-------------------------|
| 17. Mr. Bhupinder Singh Yadav Partner M/s N.D. Plastics A-320 and A-287, Banjaro Wali Gali Haiderpur Village Delhi – 110 052 | UNDP | 12.9 | 114,457 | Completed |
| 18. Mr. Deepak Gambhir Director M/s Primrose Multiplast P. Ltd. 112-B, DDA Flat, Ekta Enclave, Pira Garhi New Delhi – 110 034 | UNDP | 9.6 | 132,329 | Completed |
| 19. Mr. J.M. Bhatia Director M/s Mayur Jug's P. Ltd. BC-25, Mangolpur Industrial Area Phase-II, New Delhi – 110 034 | UNDP | 16.9 | 134,936 | Completed |
| 20. Mr. P. Jaiswal Proprietor M/s Jaiswal Industries 70, Najafgarh Road (Rama Road) Delhi – 110 015 | UNDP | 14.2 | 171,839 | Completed |
| 21. Mrs. Anu Verma Proprietor M/s M-Plast 9/22, Bazar Gali, Vishwas Nagar, Shahdara Delhi – 110 032 | UNDP | 14.1 | 105,405 | Completed |
| 22. Mr. Vipin Gupta Chief Executive M/s Ramakrishna Moulders 5211, Kohlapur House, Kohlapur Road, Delhi – 110 007 | UNDP | 17.0 | 88,681 | Under Implementation |
| 23. Mr. Wadi Singh Partner M/s Coolwels Automobile Engineers C-87, Mayapur Industrial Area New Delhi – 110 064 | UNDP | 15.8 | 150,540 | Completed |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|--|------|--------------|------------------|-------------------------|
| 24. Mr. Shammi Kumar Chief Executive M/s SR Ploymers and Printers A-28, Naraina Industrial Area Phase-1, New Delhi – 110 028 | UNDP | 19.6 | 107,352 | Under Implementation |
| 25. Mr. Dayanand Singh Proprietor M/s Apollo Steel Craft (India) B-68/2, Wazirpur Industrial Area Delhi – 110 051 | UNDP | 13.7 | 86,925 | Under Implementation |
| 26. Mr. A.K. Bawa Chairman and Managing Director M/s Poly Glass Fibre Industires P.Ltd. 265, Okhla Industrial Estate New Delhi – 110 020 | UNDP | 17.1 | 151,689 | Under Implementation |
| 27. Mr. J.M. Bhatia Partner M/s Bhatia Plastics BC-25, Mangol Puri Industrial Area Phase-II New Delhi – 110 034 | UNDP | 11.1 | 98,389 | Under Implementation |
| 28. Mr. Ferozuddin Proprietor M/s Naorang Plast 8931, Gali Masjid Wali Naya Mohalla, Pul Bangash Delhi – 110 006 | UNDP | 41.6 | 60,083 | Completed |
| Total | | 443.5 | 2,942,858 | |

HARYANA**FOAM**

| | | | | |
|---|------|------|---------|-----------|
| 1. Mrs. Manju Kumar Proprietor M/s Duab International 23/7, Mathura Road Near Govt. School, Jharsantly, Sector 58, Ballabgarh – 121 004 Haryana | UNDP | 13.4 | 118,074 | Completed |
|---|------|------|---------|-----------|

| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|----|---|------|------|---------|-------------------------|
| 2. | Mr. N.M. Sharma General Managar M/s Galaxy FRP P. Ltd. 183, Udyog Vihar, Phase-I, Gurgaon Haryana | UNDP | 18.5 | 163,633 | Completed |
| 3. | Mr. Yash Bhutani Chief Executive M/s Delite Foam and Ploymers 87, Industrial Development Colony Mehrauli Road, Gugaon (Haryana) | UNDP | 11.2 | 213,380 | Completed |
| 4. | Mr. Gurpal Singh Managing Director M/s Premium Mouldings and Pressings P. Ltd. 185, Udyog Vihar, Phase-1, Gurgaon Haryana | UNDP | 17.7 | 156,428 | Completed |
| 5. | Mr. C.L. Singhi Chief Executive M/s SR Poly Steel P. Ltd. 598, M.I.E., P.O. : Bahadurgarh-124507 Haryana | UNDP | 14.9 | 163,058 | Completed |
| 6. | Mr. Subhash Satge Managing Director M/s Sun Steering Wheels Ltd. Plot No. 35, HUDA Industrial Area Gurgaon - 122 015 Haryana | UNDP | 15.6 | 163,148 | Under Implementation |
| 7. | Mr. Rupesh Jain Director M/s Flexo Foam P. Ltd. Daulatabad Road Gurgaon - 122 001 Haryana | UNDP | 19.4 | 209,372 | Under Implementation |
| 8. | Mr. Sunil Bishoi Managing Director M/s Malvika Polymers 136/40, Near Rajendra Park Near Baba Prakash Puri Ashram Gurgaon (Haryana) | UNDP | 20.0 | 222,169 | Under Implementation |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|--|------|-------|-----------|-------------------------|
| 9. Mr. K.L. Bhutani Managing Director M/s NU-Foam Rubber Industries Pvt. Ltd. 92, Industrial Development Colony Mehrauli Road, Gurgaon – 122 001 Haryana | UNDP | 15.6 | 180,970 | Under Implementation |
| 10. Mr. S.K. Khanna M/s Viking Engineers P. Ltd. Plot No. 71, Sector-24, Faridabad, Haryana | UNDP | 13.3 | 163,737 | Under Implementation |
| 11. Conversion from CFC-11 to water-blown technology in the manufacture of flexible molded PU foam at Oto Industries P. Ltd. (Ballabhgarh, Haryana) | UNDP | 12.7 | 157,879 | Under Implementation |
| 12. Mr. Sanjay Sawhney Chief Executive M/s Sawhney Seating Systems Piao, Maniyari, Narella Road, Kundli District : Sonipat, Haryana | UNDP | 28.0 | 273,029 | Under Implementation |
| 13. Mr. Pawan Jindal Managing Director M/s K J Polymer P. Ltd. 39 K.M. Stone, Delhi – Jaipur Highway Narsingh Pur, Gurgaon Haryana | UNDP | 30.0 | 144,132 | Completed |
| 14. Mr. B.K. Agarwal Chief Executive M/s Nindra Foam BE-6, Old Industrial Area Opp. Gajraj Hotel, Bahadurgarh, Haryana AEROSOL | UNDP | 11.0 | 168,149 | Completed |
| 15. Mr. Sandeep Arora Proprietor M/s Ruby Aerosols F-304, Sudershan Park, Near Moti Nagar, New Delhi – 110 015 | UNDP | 22.2 | 51,754 | Completed |
| Total | | 263.5 | 2,548.912 | |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|---|------|-------------|------------------|-------------------------|
| PUNJAB | | | | |
| FOAM | | | | |
| 1. Mr. G. Gulati General Manager M/s Punjab Scooters Ltd. Nabha Factory Punjab | UNDP | 30.0 | 352,786 | Completed |
| 2. Mr. Rajinder Singh Sabharwal Proprietor M/s Santech Industries D-168 Phase-7, Industrial Area, SAS Nagar, Mohali Punjab | UNDP | 14.7 | 130,064 | Completed |
| 3. Mr. Niraj Tayal Proprietor M/s R.H. Industries C-28, Industrial Area Phase-II, SAS Nagar Mohali – 160 051 Punjab | UNDP | 11.3 | 173,901 | Completed |
| 4. Mr. Tejinder Singh Executive Director M/s Sutlej Coach Products, P. Ltd. 6th KM. Stone, Kapurthala Road, Village Sangal Sohal Jalandhar – 144002 | UNDP | 18.0 | 211,862 | Under Implementation |
| RAC | | | | |
| 5. Mr. Kanwarji Singh M/s Sandlas Air-con Systems P Ltd. 538 – Mota Singh Nagar Jalandhar City Panjab | UNDP | 23.3 | 258,224 | Under Implementation |
| Total | | 97.3 | 1,126,837 | |

| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|----------------------|---|------|------|---------|------------|
| UTTAR PRADESH | | | | | |
| FOAM | | | | | |
| 1. | Mr. S.K. Singhania Managing Director M/s Amlt Polyseats Ltd. 113/8, Swarup Nagar Kanpur – 208 002 Uttar Pradesh | UNDP | 19.3 | 274,590 | Completed |
| 2. | Mr. P. Singhania Director M/s Venus Auto P. Ltd. 113/A/8, Swaroop Nagar Kanpur – 208 002, Uttar Pradesh | UNDP | 21.0 | 155,093 | Completed |
| 3. | Mr. Ashok Gandhi Director M/s Ganga Thermoware "Ganga House" 4-5 Km. Delhi Road, Saharanpur (Uttar Pradesh) | UNDP | 10.1 | 89,116 | Completed. |
| 4. | Mr. M.K. Jain Managing Director M/s Nav Taxfeb P. Ltd. C-11, Sector-22, Meerut Road, Ghaziabad – 201 003 | UNDP | 32.4 | 185,300 | Completed |
| 5. | Mr. Ashish Gupta Director M/s Varivar Plast Products P. Ltd. "Kamla Kunj", 62/193 A, Canal Road Kanpur – 208 001 (Uttar Pradesh) | UNDP | 12.3 | 108,688 | Completed |
| 6. | Mr. Vinod Kumar Proprietor M/s Crystal Electronics and Plastics B-1, Secto-IV, Noida Ghazianad (Uttar Pradesh) | UNDP | 18.3 | 139,378 | Completed |

| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|---|---|------|------|---------|-------------------------|
| 7. Mr. Bharat Bhushan Jain Director M/s Enkay Foam P. Ltd. Village Khekra Delhi-Bagpat Road Teshil Bagpat, Dist. Bagpat Uttar Pradesh | | UNDP | 17.7 | 183,443 | Completed |
| 8. Mr. Anil Gupta Director M/s Evershine Plasti Industries P. Ltd. A-25, Sector-59, Noida – 201301 Dist. Gautam Budh Nagar (Uttar Pradesh) | | UNDP | 17.5 | 80.060 | Completed |
| 9. Ms. Santosh Kumar Jain Chief Executive Officer M/s Alka International Ltd. 19/37, Jain Puri, Aligarh – 202 001 | | UNDP | 18.5 | 195,665 | Completed |
| 10. Mr. Ashok Kumar Goel Chief Executive M/s Pyarelal Coir Products Ltd. 340, Kishanpura, Baghpat Road Meerut – 250 002 (Uttar Pradesh) | | UNDP | 18.5 | 189,141 | Completed |
| 11. Mr. R.K. Agarwal Managing Director M/s Net Plast Ltd. 2 and 4, Uptron Estate Panki, Kanpur – 208 022 (Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh) | | UNDP | 18.0 | 200,263 | Under Implementation |
| 12. Mr. Rakesh Kumar Singh General Manager M/s Caryaire Equipments India P. Ltd. A-10, Sector – 59, Nodia – 201 301 Uttar Pradesh | | UNDP | 17.0 | 150,865 | Under Implementation |
| 13. Mr. Sanjay Soni Chief Executive M/s Meenakshi Polymers P. Ltd. 25 KM Stone, Bulandsher Road, P.O. Dadri, Distt. Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh | | UNDP | 15.0 | 241,820 | Completed |

| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|--|---|------|-------|------------|-----------|
| RAC | | | | | |
| 14. Mr. H.J. Kewalramani Executive Director M/s Fedders Lloyd Corporation Ltd. C-4, Phase-II, Dist. Gautam Budh Nagar Nodia (Uttar Pradesh) | | UNDP | 21.2 | 290,894 | Completed |
| Total | | | 256.8 | 2,4484,316 | |

[Translation]

Office Expenses

6113. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) the amount spent by various departments and Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) under his Ministry during each of the last three years on publicity, advertisements, receptions, refreshments, inaugurations, seminars, conferences, tours (including foreign), telephone bills, including STD and ISD calls, electricity bills (especially airconditioner's and cooler's bills) and other office expenses separately under above heads;

(b) whether the Government propose to launch any drive for economy in expenditure under the above heads;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI SANGH PRIYA GAUTAM) : (a) The Ministry of Agro and Rural Industries was created on 1st September, 2001. The budgetary requirement of this newly created Ministry continues to be met out of office expenses budget of the Ministry of SSI. No separate budget on this account is earmarked for this Ministry. There are no Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) or Departments under the Ministry of ARI.

(b) to (d) In order to curb wasteful expenditure, instructions for austerity in Government expenditure are issued by the Ministry of Finance, Department of Expenditure to all the Ministries/Departments from time to

time. The austerity measures include ban on the creation of posts, reduction in the number of sanctioned posts, restrictions on the filling up of vacant posts, reduction in office expenses, restrictions on purchase of vehicles, restrictions on foreign travel and entertainment/hospitality expenses, reduction in per diem allowance for travel abroad etc., and these instructions are being followed in the Ministry of Agro and Rural Industries.

Programmes for Floriculture and Training in Plan Protection

6114. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the programmes implemented by the Ministry for training in plant protection and commercial floriculture under Scheme for the Farmers and criteria for providing loan, grants or financial aid alongwith contribution of State Government therein;

(b) the name of the agency entrusted with the taks of implementing these programmes; and

(c) the funds allocated to Rajasthan for the purpose during the last three years, since April 01, 2000, year-wise and programme-wise

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) and (b) A Central Sector Scheme on Commercial Floriculture was implemented during IX Plan till October, 2000. The scheme has now been subsumed in Centrally Sponsored Scheme 'Macro Management in Agriculture – Supplementation/Complementation of States efforts through work plan.' The scheme provides greater flexibility to States

in prioritizing their needs. The States can pursue the programmes relating to training on commercial floriculture under the scheme. There is a component on training for which a provision of Rs. 1000.00 per trainee has been made under the scheme with the objective to improve human resource capability for growing flowers scientifically.

In respect of training in plant protection, 26 Central Integrated Pest Management Centres under the Directorate of Plant Protection, Quarantine and Storage spread in 22 States and one Union Territory provide general training in plant protection and Integrated Pest Management to the Agricultural Extension Officers (AEOs) and farmers through Farmers' Field Schools (FFSs). Annually, 520 FFSs are conducted in different States covering 2600 AEOs and 15,600 farmers..

Further, National Plant Protection Training Institute (NPPTI), Hyderabad under the Directorate of Plant Protection, Quarantine and Storage organizes 25-30 training courses of short and long durations in respect of general plant protection, quality control of pesticides etc. A copy of the training schedule of the NPPTI circulated to all States is given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) An amount of Rs. 213.15 lakh was released to the State during 2000-2001 under the Central Sector Scheme on Commercial Floriculture which is an Integrated scheme having a component for training in Commercial Floriculture. There is no scheme for grants-in-aid to States for training in plant protection. Therefore, in respect of the same, question of allocation of funds to Rajasthan does not arise.

Statement

National Plant Protection Training Institute

HYDERABAD

Training Schedule 2003-2004

| S.No. | Name of the Course | Duration | Period | |
|----------------------------------|--|-----------|--|---|
| | | | From | To |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| A. Regular Courses | | | | |
| 1. | Post Graduate Diploma Course in Plant Protection | 10 months | 01.07.2003 | 30.04.2004 |
| 2. | Pesticide Residue Analysis | 3 months | 01.07.2003 | 30.09.2003 |
| 3. | Pesticide Foundation Analysis | 3 months | 01.10.2003 02.02.2004 | 31.12.2003 30.04.2004 |
| B. Short Duration Courses | | | | |
| 1. | Pesticide Application Techniques and Maintenance of Plant Protection Equipment | 8 days | 24.06.2003 07.10.2003 03.02.2004 | 01.07..2003 14.10.2003 10.02.2004 |
| 2. | Safe and Judicious use of pesticides | 7 days | 24.06.2003 | 30.06.2003 |
| 3. | Integrated Pest Management in Rice | 10 days | 04.08.2003 10.2.2004 | 13.08.2003 19.02.2004 |
| 4. | Integrated Weet Management in Major Field Crops | 8 days | 19.08.2003 | 26.08.2003 |
| 5. | Workshop on Vertebrate Pest Management | 4 days | 25.08.2003 | 28.08.2003 |
| 6. | Rodent Pest Management | 7 days | 02.09.2003 | 08.09.2003 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|---|--|---------|------------|------------|
| 7. | Pest Surveillance | 7 days | 10.09.2003 | 16.09.2003 |
| 8. | Disease Management in Major Crops | 8 days | 17.09.2003 | 24.09.2003 |
| 9. | Integrated Pest Management in Cotton | 8 days | 15.10.2003 | 22.10.2003 |
| 10. | Workshop on Integrated Weed Management in Sugarcane | 4 days | 03.11.2003 | 06.11.2003 |
| 11. | Integrated Pest Management in Pulses and Oilseeds | 12 days | 17.11.2003 | 28.11.2003 |
| 12. | Workshop on Pesticide Application Technology | 4 days | 01.12.2003 | 04.12.2003 |
| 13. | Integrated Pest Management in Vegetable Crops | 10 days | 09.12.2003 | 18.12.2003 |
| 14. | Instrumental Analysis of Pesticides | 19 days | 05.01.2004 | 23.01.2004 |
| 15. | Audio-Visual-Aids and Communication Techniques | 7 days | 06.01.2004 | 12.01.2004 |
| 16. | Workshop on Neem-and-Eco-Friendly Pest Management Tool | 4 days | 01.03.2004 | 04.03.2004 |
| 17. | Workshop on Problems of Pesticides Residues in Agriculture | 4 days | 15.03.2004 | 18.03.2004 |
| 18. | Apex Level Training on Rodent* Control | 3 days | | |
| C. Courses to be conducted in States** | | | | |
| 1. | Instrumental Analysis of Pesticides | 14 days | | |
| 2. | Rodent Pest Management for Uttar Pradesh | 4 days | | |
| 3. | Rodent Pest Management for Jammu and Kashmir | 4 days | | |

* In collaboration with Acharya N.G. Ranga Agricultural University, Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh. Date of commencement to be intimated later.

**Based on response from the States. Date of commencement to be intimated later.

Development of Tourism in Bihar

6115.SHRI RAJO SINGH : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), agencies and trusts of Bihar have submitted proposals to the Union Government in tourism sector;

(b) if so, the details of such proposals received during the last three years; and

(c) the action taken thereon and the amount sanctioned/released to the State Government, proposal-wise?

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

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

[English]

World Bank Aid for Water Supply Schemes of Maharashtra

6116.SHRI SUBODH MOHITE : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the World Bank had provided Rs. 1600 crore financial aid for implementation of pending water supply schemes of Maharashtra;

(b) if so, whether any amount has been spent in Vidarbha region; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

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

(a) The proposal "Second Maharashtra Rural Water Supply and Environmental Sanitation Project" for implementation in 16 districts of the State at an estimated cost of Rs. 1656.20 crore has been recommended by the Ministry of rural Development (Department of Drinking Water Supply) to the Department of Economic Affairs for seeking World Bank assistance.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Production of Potato

6117:SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the total area of production, productivity and cost of production and sale price per quintal of potato during each of last five years, State-wise;

(b) whether there is any mechanism to reduce the cost of production and increase the productivity of potato;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether potato growers are facing immense difficulties for not getting remunerative prices;

(e) if so, whether the Government have introduced any Market Intervention Schemes with Minimum Support Price for potato; and

(f) if so, the details thereof during the last five years, year-wise?

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

(a) The required information is given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) and (c) Central Potato Research Institute (CPRI), Shimla has taken up a project entitled "Development of low cost technology for potato production" for last 4 years. Some recommendations have emerged from this project, which have been released for adoption by the farmers. CPRI has several projects to increase the productivity of potatoes, namely, through breeding varieties, management of diseases and pests and optimal use of natural resources and supply of quality seed to State Department and Farmers.

(d) to (f) In order to minimize the difficulties faced by farmers, the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Limited (NAFED) has been asked by the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation to procure potatoes at Rs. 190 per quintal under the Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) in Uttar Pradesh (UP). For the 2002-03 season, NAFED has procured 7340 quintals of potato in UP under the MIS scheme. State agencies have procured 1515 quintals, thereby raising the total procurement to 8855 quintals. Presently, the market rates of graded potatoes of fair average quality (FAQ) generally rule above the MIS price of Rs. 190 per quintal. As regards the previous four years, potatoes were procured under MIS only in one year i.e. 2000-01.

Statement

Area, Production and Productivity of Potato in Major Potato growing States during 1997-98 to 2001-02

A-Area in '000 Hectares
P-Production in '000 Tonnes
Y-Yield in Kg/Hectare

| State | | 1997-98 | 1998-99 | 1999-2000 | 2000-01 | 2001-02 |
|-------|---|---------|---------|-----------|---------|---------|
| 1 | | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| Bihar | A | 167.8 | 178.4 | 183.5 | 144.6 | 140.8 |
| | P | 1465.6 | 1722.3 | 1717.9 | 1400.4 | 1432.3 |
| | Y | 8734 | 9564 | 9362 | 9685 | 10173 |

| 1 | | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
|---------------|---|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Punjab | A | 54.7 | 79.0 | 75.5 | 59.4 | 70.5 |
| | P | 852.0 | 1523.4 | 1563.4 | 1187.2 | 1413.9 |
| | Y | 15576 | 19284 | 20707 | 19987 | 20055 |
| Uttar Pradesh | A | 398.4 | 429.2 | 447.7 | 394.1 | 389.9 |
| | P | 5844.1 | 9793.7 | 10109.1 | 8398.2 | 9570.0 |
| | Y | 14669 | 22818 | 22580 | 21310 | 24545 |
| West Bengal | A | 284.0 | 318.2 | 315.9 | 299.7 | 299.8 |
| | P | 5949.3 | 6689.6 | 7482.3 | 7673.1 | 7822.3 |
| | Y | 20948 | 21023 | 23686 | 25603 | 26092 |
| All India | A | 1205.9 | 1320.5 | 1340.0 | 1221.9 | 1218.2 |
| | P | 17648.1 | 23610.7 | 24713.2 | 22488.4 | 24082.0 |
| | Y | 14635 | 17880 | 18443 | 18404 | 19769 |

Cost of Production of Potato in Selected Major Potato growing States in India

| State | Cost of Production (Rs/Qtl.) | | | | |
|---------------|------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|-----------|
| | 1995-96 | 1996-97 | 1997-98 | 1998-99 | 1999-2000 |
| Uttar Pradesh | N.A. | N.A. | N.A. | 200.53 | 170.28 |
| West Bengal | 178.75 | 189.62 | 215.95 | 239.23 | 229.24 |
| Bihar | N.A. | 221.55 | 248.78 | 242.64 | 257.35 |

N.A. Not available.

*Wholesale Prices of Potato in India during
1998-99 to 2002-03*

| Year | (Rs. per quintal) | | | |
|-----------|-------------------|-------|---------|------------------------|
| | Delhi | Patna | Kolkata | All India (Average) |
| 1998-1999 | 224 | 343 | 354 | 307 |
| 1999-2000 | 193 | 250 | 316 | 253 |
| 2000-2001 | 126 | 246 | 274 | 215 |
| 2001-2002 | 427 | 433 | 370 | 410 |
| 2002-2003 | 231 | 353 | N.A. | 292 |

**Revitalisation of Animal Husbandry and
Veterinary Sector in Assam**

6118.SHRI M.K. SUBBA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Assam had requested the Union Government to change the funding pattern to the 90:10 ratio in order to revitalise the Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Sector in the State;

(b) if so, the details of schemes pending for funding under the revised pattern, indicating the cost of each scheme;

(c) when the request from the State Government was received;

(d) the reasons for their pendency; and

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

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

(a) No, Sir.

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

**ASI Agreement with Aga Khan
Foundation**

6119.SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) has signed an agreement with the Aga Khan Foundation for upkeep of some heritage buildings and tombs;

(b) if so, the details of the agreement;

(c) whether the ASI has selected some monuments for upkeep by the foundation; and

(d) if so, the details of such monuments, State-wise and location-wise?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Archaeological Survey of India had signed an agreement with the Aga Khan Foundation in 1998 for the environmental development of Humayun's Tomb. Th details of the agreement are enclosed as Statement.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Question does not arise.

Statement

*Highlights of the Details of the Agreement
Environmental Development of Humayun's Tomb*

The Archaeological Survey of India to prepare the project on "Environment Development of Humayun's Tomb" in India;

Trust to raise funds for the implementation of the project as per Archaeological principles.

The National Cultural Fund agreed to receive the funds raised by the Trust and to channelise them through the Archaeological Survey to India for the execution of the various components of the project:

Purpose and Description

1. The project aims at the restoration of the water channels, improvement of the landscape of the monument.

(a) In the Humayun's Tomb Complex, the water channels and cisterns which have become unusable with the passage of time, to revive the flow of the water in the channels, examine the levels of the channels and restore to the original levels and patterns, where necessary.

(b) The development of the garden by way of re-tuffing of lawns and laying of hedges around the developed lawns, development of shrubberies and plantation.

(c) Provisions of public amenities including information center, cafeteria and briefing facility, toilet facility and entry control.

Archaeological Survey of India

(a) Work to a detailed pre-agreed budget and work schedule.

(b) Obtain all necessary clearances from the Indian authorities;

(c) Manage the works, materials and labour at the site;

(d) Make all necessary arrangements, appropriate assistance to the project including the provision of physical facilities, project support staff and institutional and infrastructural support.

(e) Ensure that monitoring and periodical evaluations are carried out according to a work plan.

(f) Ensure the sustainability of the project by planning for sufficient staff and self-generated funds for the ongoing maintenance of the works.

(g) Endeavour to increase the revenue generated at the site for the purpose of its continued enhancements and ongoing renovation;

(h) All equipment material and supplies provided in the project shall be devoted exclusively to the execution of the project and will remain the assets of the ASI.

National Cultural Fund

(a) Manage the funds paid by the Trust, use solely for the purpose and release to the ASI.

(b) Setup a separate bank account for the purpose of receiving the foreign currency and Indian rupee donations of the donors;

(c) Provide monthly banks statements of the above dedicated bank account;

(d) Provide/channalise funds to the ASI received from the Trust;

(e) Intimate to the ASI all communication on financial matters received from the Trust.

(f) Render necessary support for the execution of the project.

Trust

(a) Raise funds to cover the agreed works, to the satisfaction of all parties to this Agreement;

(b) Advance funds to the NCF to cover the works.

(c) Promote the project and the parties to this Agreement via appropriate publicity;

(d) Assist in the ongoing renovation and enhancement of the site for further fund raising efforts.

Decrease in Population of Vultures

6120. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the population of vultures has come down drastically in the country over the last 10 years;

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

(c) the names of agencies assigned the job of observing reduction in the population of wild animals and birds;

(d) the action taken by such agencies or the Government to regenerate the population of vultures; and

(e) the details of other such steps proposed by the Government to restore the balance in nature?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Drastic decline in the

population of mainly two species of vultures, namely, White-backed vulture and Long-billed vulture, was first observed in 1997. No definite cause for this decline has been ascertained. However, the main causes suggested by the experts are as under :

1. Adverse impact of pesticides and insecticides in the food chain of vultures.
2. Contagious disease of viral origin.

(c) and (d) Conservation of wildlife including monitoring population of wild animals and birds is primarily the responsibility of the forest departments of the States. Also, Government/Non-Government organisations like Wildlife Institute of India, Bombay Natural History Society, World Wide Fund for Nature, etc. carry out wildlife conservation research project including inter-alia, studies on population status of various species.

The specific measures taken by the Government to regenerate the population of Vultures include :

- I. Protection status of White-backed vulture and Long-billed vulture has been upgraded from Schedule IV to Schedule I of the Wild Life (Protection) Act 1972 providing them the highest degree of protection under the Act.
- II. An international workshop was organised in New Delhi in September 2000 to work out a strategy for conservation of vultures.
- III. Bombay Natural History Society in collaboration with the Haryana State Forest Department has taken up a project on vultures. A 'Vulture Captive Care Facility' has been established at Panchkula.

(e) The steps taken for effective conservation of wildlife and its habitat thereby maintaining the ecological balance include :

- I. Crucial habitats of various species of wild animals and birds have been notified as National Parks and Sanctuaries. Important National Parks and Sanctuaries are also notified as Ramsar Sites and World Natural Heritage Sites.
- II. Management of the Wildlife Habitats is planned on scientific lines, allowing only such activities

in the National Parks and Sanctuaries which are for betterment of Wildlife.

- III. Supporting scientific research for monitoring the population status of various species and evolving strategies for in-situ and ex-situ conservation of various species.
- IV. National Wildlife Action Plan, 2002-16 and Wildlife Conservation Strategy 2002 have been framed and adopted in January 2002.
- V. Financial assistance is provided to State Governments for effective management of National Parks and Sanctuaries.

Demand of Steel

6121. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the demand for steel has been increasing in the domestic as well as international market;

(b) if so, the demand and supply of steel in the domestic market during the last three years, year-wise; and

(c) the steps taken by the Union Government to save the steel industry in public as well as the private sector?

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

(b) Demand for steel is estimated by the proxy variable 'Apparent Consumption of Steel' defined as 'Production + Imports-Exports' adjusted for changes in stocks. Supply of steel, on the other hand, depends primarily on production and imports. The following table shows movements in these categories during the last three years.

Demand and Availability of Finished Steel between 2000-01 and 2002-03

| Categories | (Million Tonnes) | | |
|------------|------------------|---------|---------|
| | 2000-01 | 2001-02 | 2002-03 |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| Production | 29.267 | 30.635 | 32.916 |
| Imports | 1.417 | 1.271 | 1.550 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|----------------------|--------|--------|--------|
| Exports | 2.664 | 2.704 | 3.700 |
| Interplant Transfers | 1.369 | 1.875 | 2.050 |
| Variation in Stock | 0.125 | -0.111 | -0.250 |
| Apparent Consumption | 26.526 | 27.438 | 28.966 |

(c) In tune with its policy, function and role in a liberalized economy, the Union Government monitors the general conditions within which an industry operates and through its budgetary process and other policy programmes, it provides benefits/general incentives to various sectors of the economy, including steel. The incentives are based on the assessment of the problems faced by the industry and the growth prospects of that sector.

[Translation]

Subsidy to Farmers

6122. SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the acreage of land possessed by average farmer in India;

(b) the average size of land holding in America and Europe; and

(c) the subsidy provided by the Government to its farmers and also the subsidy given to farmers in America and Europe?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) The average size of operational holdings in India during 1995-96 is as follows :

(In Hectares)

| Sl. No. | Size Group | Average Size of Operational holdings |
|---------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 1. | Marginal (below 1.0 hectare) | 0.40 |
| 2. | Small (1.0 to 2.0 hectare) | 1.42 |
| 3. | Semi-Medium (2.0 to 4.0 hectare) | 2.73 |
| 4. | Medium (4.0 to 10.0 hectare) | 5.84 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|---------------------------------|---|-------|
| 5. Large (10 hectare and above) | | 17.21 |
| All size groups | | 1.41 |

(b) The average size of land possessed by average farmer in USA and European Union Countries is 176.6 hectares and 18.4 hectares respectively.

(c) Total subsidies provided to Agriculture Sector in India through inputs during 1999-2000 to 2001-02 is given in the enclosed Statement.

As per the World Trade Organization's document No. G/AG/NG/S/12/Rev. I dated 12.3.2001, the total domestic support given by America and European countries was 58,295.7 US\$ million and 100,698.2 US\$ million in 1997 respectively.

Statement

Subsidies to Agriculture Sector

| | | (Rs. crore) | | |
|--------|--|----------------------|----------------------|----------------|
| S. No. | Item | 1999-00 (Actuals) | 2000-01 (Actuals) | 2001-02 (+) |
| 1. | Fertilizer (Total) | 13244 | 13800 | 12595 |
| 1.1 | Indeginous fertilizers | 8670 | 9480 | 8044 |
| 1.2 | Imported Fertilizers | 74 | 1 | 47 |
| 1.3 | Sale of decontrolled fertilizer with concession to farmers | 4500 | 4319 | 4504 |
| 2. | Electricity** | 4276 | 6449 | NA |
| 3. | Irrigation## | 11487 | 13681 | 11645 |
| | State Governments | 11361 | 13544 | 11498 |
| | Local Bodies | 126 | 137 | 147 |
| 4. | Other subsidies given to marginal farmers and farmers' Cooperative Societies in the form of seeds, development of oil seeds, pulses etc. | 1811 | 1019 | NA |

Source : 1. Fertilizer : Expenditure Budget 2002-03, Vol. I of Central Government

2. Electricity and Irrigation : Central Statistical Organization

NA : Not available

** : Includes all subsidies to Electricity Boards and Corporation, Separate estimates of Electricity subsidy accountable exclusively to agricultural sector are not available.

: The rates for supply of water to farmers are kept low a matter of policy, resulting in losses to the Government irrigation system. The excess of operating costs over the gross revenue is treated as impusted irrigation subsidy.

+ : Quick estimates.

[English]

Appointment of Presiding Officer

6123. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Presiding Officer of the CGIT-cum-labour Court, Nagpur Bench has resigned;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether a new Presiding Officer has since been appointed; and
- (d) if not, by when the Presiding Officer is likely to be appointed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI VIJAY GOEL) : (a) and (b) The Presiding Officer of CGIT-cum-Labour Court, Nagpur submitted his resignation on 25.2.2003 on health grounds. The Government has accepted the resignation.

(c) and (d) Appropriate action in accordance with the rules and procedures have already been initiated for appointment of a new Presiding Officer in CGIT-cum-Labour Court, Nagpur.

Operational Cost of IA and AI

6124. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

- (a) whether, the operational cost of Indian Airlines and Air India is higher than that of the other airlines;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether any scheme has been formulated by the Government to reduce the operational cost; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK) : (a) and (b) It is difficult to compare operational cost of Airlines as it depends upon their distinct operational requirements/constraints, route network, age and mix of aircraft fleet and input prices. The operational cost in respect of Air India and Indian Airlines is higher because of higher maintenance

cost on old aircraft, high Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) prices, inadequate fleet size and mix of aircraft for optimum development, Indian Airlines having to undertake substantial operations in far flung and remote areas of the country and linking State capitals and Air India having to undertake short-haul domestic hub and spoke operations to fill bigger aircraft.

(c) and (d) Both Air India and Indian Airlines have undertaken various measures for reducing their operational cost which include comprehensive budget control system, induction of additional aircraft on dry lease, replacement of short haul flights to Gulf from bigger B-747 aircraft to smaller A-310 aircraft by Air India, fuel monitoring and tankering, review of uneconomic flight etc. Both the airlines are also planning to acquire new aircraft. Government has also proposed to treat ATF used in international operations as "deemed export" thereby exempting it from Sales Tax. Government is also in consultation with State Governments for treating ATF as "declared goods" so that Sales Tax may be levied only at the rate of 4% instead of the present average rate of about 20-25%.

[Translation]

National Integrated Development Scheme

6125. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Planning Commission has cleared National Integrated Development Scheme for revival of Gandak river system;
- (b) if so, whether the State Government has submitted an estimate to the Union Government for sanction; and
- (c) if so, the details and by when the Assistance is likely to be released to the State Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY) : (a) The Planning Commission has not received the scheme namely National Integrated Development Scheme for revival of Gandak river system from the Government of Bihar.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

[English]

Flood Management in West Bengal

6126. SHRI BIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the total amount allocated/released during the Ninth Plan from the Plan and Non-Plan Fund for Flood management, river erosion protection programme and other works of flood prone zones to the West Bengal Government; and

(b) the amount utilized/unutilized in the districts of West Bengal during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY) : (a) and (b) As per the information furnished by Government of West Bengal, the total amount allocated/released during the 9th Plan (1997-2002) by Government of India in favour of Government of West Bengal from Plan/Non-Plan for Flood Management, River Erosion, Protection Programme and other works of Flood Prone Zones, the details are as under :-

Rs. in crore

| Sl. No. | Head under which amount released | Amount released | Amount utilised | Total expenditure incurred | Remarks |
|---------|---|-----------------|-----------------|----------------------------|---|
| 1. | Special Grant problem and recommendation of Experts (Kaskar) Committee | 30.00 | 30.00 | 78.57 | Rs. [78.57-(30.00+4.42(Sl.No. 2))]= Rs. 44.15 crore was spent by Government of West Bengal |
| 2. | Award of 10th Finance Commission (TFC) | 19.4171 | 19.4171 | 20.1907 * | *This is inclusive of Rs. 4.4207 crore booked against works in Sl. 1 |
| 3. | Award of 11th Finance Commission (EFC) | 26.13 | 3.71 | | Works continuing |
| 4. | Critical anti-erosion works in the Ganga basin States under CSS (75:25) | 17.88 | 17.88 | 25.44 | The balance fund of Rs. 7.56 crore was provided by Government of West Bengal as State's share |
| 5. | Works on Common border rivers | 2.98 | 2.91 | | |

Land Disputes

6127. SHRI A. NARENDRA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether a large number of cases of land disputes are pending with the Airports Authority of India;

(b) if so, the details thereof as on January 1, 2003 alongwith the reasons therefor, region-wise; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to settle these cases with the concerned parties?

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

(b) There are 80 cases of land disputes presently pending with Airports Authority of India (AAI). The break up of land disputes in Western Region, Northern Region, Southern Region, Eastern Region and North East Region is 50, 10, 5, 5 and 10 respectively, due to encroachment and dispute relating to ownership and title of the land.

(c) Most of the cases are pending in the court. AAI has taken over possession in two cases and in some cases

matter has been taken up with District Collector, State Authorities etc.

Amnesty Scheme

6128. SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKÉ :

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether EPF arrears amounting to Rs. 2200 crores are locked up in litigation against the defaulting employers;

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

(c) whether the Government propose to launch an Amnesty Scheme for the defaulting employers with waiver on penalties and immunity from prosecution;

(d) if so, the details of the scheme; and

(e) by when the scheme is proposed to be announced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI VIJAY GOEL) : (a) As on 31st March 2002, a sum of Rs. 801.34 crores, only, was locked up in litigation.

(b) State-wise detail will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) The Central Board of Trustees, Employees' Provident Fund at its meeting held on 28th March 2003 has considered an Amnesty Scheme. The scheme is not yet finalized.

(d) and (e) Do not arise in view of (c) above.

[Translation]

Development of Animal Husbandry

6129. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of funds allocated for the development of animal husbandry to the States including Jharkhand and Bihar during the last two years, State-wise;

(b) the State Governments whose proposals regarding the development of animal husbandry are lying pending with the Union Government as on date; and

(c) the status of these proposals?

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

(a) The Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying does not make any statewise allocation of funds under any scheme of the Department. The funds are released to the State Governments on the basis of viable proposals received from them.

(b) and (c) No proposals of the State Governments relating to development of Animal Husbandry are pending with the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying as all the proposals received from the State Governments so far have been examined and decided upon.

[English]

Population of White Tigers

6130. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARISTE : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) the percentage of the total population of white tigers that inhabit the forests of Madhya Pradesh;

(b) whether financial assistance is being provided by some foreign countries to increase the population of the white tigers;

(c) if so, the extent thereof along with the names of countries; and

(d) the measures taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to increase the number of white tigers in the forests of Madhya Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV) : (a) to (d) There are no free ranging wild white tigers in our country, and hence the questions do not arise.

Import of Fruits, Juices and Ketchups

6131. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether import of fruits, juice ketchups, meat products etc. are freely allowed despite ample potential for substantial production of the same in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government has assessed the impact of such imports in domestic food processing units; and

(d) if so, the steps that have been taken to protect domestic sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM) : (a) and (b) As per extant EXIM Policy, fruits and processed food such as juices and ketchup, etc. are allowed to be freely imported subject to their compliance with the provisions of relevant laws, orders and rules in respect of each, for the time being in force.

(c) and (d) The impact of such imports on domestic industry is regularly monitored. Wherever necessary, action under relevant provisions of EXIM Policy is taken to protect interests of domestic food processing sector.

Notification issued for Contract Labourers

6132. SHRI SUNIL KHAN : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the number of notifications issued by the Ministry under section 10 of Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, since 1995;

(b) the number of notifications challenged by the employees/management in different courts and the reasons behind non-implementation of the notifications;

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to implement these notifications;

(d) the implementation status of the notifications where the employees/managements have not challenged;

(e) whether employers are still using the contract system as a camouflage and engaging contract labours in permanent and perennial jobs; and

(f) if so, the steps being taken to ensure that the workers are made direct employees of the employers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI VIJAY GOEL) : (a) 41 notifications have been issued by the Ministry under section 10 of the Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, since 1995;

(b) to (d) 14 notifications issued since 1995 have been challenged by employee/management in different courts. The Central Industrial Relations Machinery enforces the notifications issued under Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1970. The establishments are, from time to time, inspected by the prescribed authorities under the Act and wherever, instances of violations of the notifications come to their notice, prosecution cases are filed against employers of such establishments.

(e) and (f) Instances of engagement of contract labour in permanent and perennial jobs brought to the notice of Government by way of complaints or inspection of establishments by the enforcement authorities or directions of different courts are examined in accordance with the provisions of Section 10 of the act and notifications prohibiting employment of contract labour are issued wherever considered necessary. The Act does not provide for absorption of contract labour as direct employees of the principal employer on abolition of the contract labour system.

[Translation]

Feasibility Study on hiring Aircraft

6133. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN :
SHRI LAXMAN GILUWA :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether any feasibility study is carried out before hiring aircraft on lease for Indian Airlines and Air India;

(b) if so, the details and basis for such study;

(c) whether results have been in accordance with the study; and

(d) the details of estimate and result during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In Indian Airlines, the feasibility studies of offered aircraft are undertaken in terms of their technical suitability with the laid down DGCA requirements and its commonality with the existing fleet maintenance and training infrastructure, manpower resources. In Air India feasibility study is undertaken before the aircraft are leased (i) to evaluate the technical and operational feasibility and the proposed pattern of operations with the aircraft after leased, and (ii) to evaluate economic viability of the proposed induction based on estimates of incremental revenues, costs and profit that are expected to result from the proposed induction.

(c) and (d) It is difficult to have separate results for each dry leased aircraft. Aircraft are not dedicated to a particular route and all the aircraft (both owned and leased) are treated as an integrated fleet. Consolidated cash margin earned on the dry lease A-310 fleet of Air India are as under :-

| Year | No. of flights | Cash Margin Rs. in lakhs |
|--------------------|----------------|-----------------------------|
| 2000-01 | 280 | 1685.30 |
| 2001-02 | 2333 | 11200.02 |
| April – Sept. 2002 | 1335 | 3998.21 |

As regards Indian Airlines the information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Single Legislation for Co-operative Societies

6134.SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the task force appointed by the Agriculture Ministry to implement a National Policy on co-operatives has examined the need for a single legislation for co-operative societies; and

(b) if so, by when the task force is likely to submit its report?

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

(a) Yes, Sir. The Task Force has recommended a single liberalised Co-operative Societies Act for States.

(b) The Task Force has since submitted its report.

[Translation]

Private Institutions Registered for Trading of Imported Garlic

6135.SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of private institutions registered in the Government co-operative body NAFED from the year 2000 till date which have been contracted for trading in imported garlic;

(b) the names of the five major private institutions which have been allocated more quota for the purpose of said trade; and

(c) the details of private institutions which have been contracted more than once by the NAFED for the said trade?

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

(a) NAFED has registered fifty private institutions for trading of imported garlic.

(b) The 5 major private institutions to whom supplies of fresh imported garlic were made included M/s. Jayanti Lal Mangaldas and Sons Pune. M/s. IFC Overseas Delhi, M/s. Rohan Export Mumbai, M/s. D.K. Brokers Mumbai and M/s. Noble Exports Mumbai.

(c) M/s. Jayanti Lal Mangaldas and Sons Pune and M/s. Chillies and Garlic Commission Co. Mumbai were contracted more than once by NAFED during the year 2001-02 and 2002-03.

[English]

Production of Finished/Saleable Steel

6136.SHRI ANANTA NAYAK : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state the targets set and achievements made by the steel plants for production of finished steel/ saleable steel and pig iron during the Ninth Five Year Plan, Plant-wise and year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY) : The details of the targets and actual production of saleable steel and pig iron of public sector steel plants during 9th Five Year

Plan is given plant-wise and year-wise in the Statement. Government do not monitor the production targets and achievements with reference to the targets of the private sector steel plants.

Statement

The targets and actual production of steel during 9th Five Year Plan of steel plants, plant-wise and year-wise

(in thousand tonnes)

| Plant | 1997-98 | | 1998-99 | | 1999-2000 | | 2000-01 | | 2001-02 | |
|---------------------------|---------|--------|---------|--------|-----------|--------|---------|--------|---------|--------|
| | Target | Actual | Target | Actual | Target | Actual | Target | Actual | Target | Actual |
| Saleable Steel | | | | | | | | | | |
| Bhilai Steel Plant | 3360 | 3524 | 3815 | 3352 | 3270 | 3411 | 3500 | 3307 | 3450 | 3383 |
| Durgapur Steel Plant | 1370 | 1259 | 1588 | 1319 | 1532 | 1402 | 1520 | 1496 | 1510 | 1527 |
| Rourkela Steel Plant | 1240 | 1181 | 1390 | 1115 | 1238 | 1170 | 1490 | 1294 | 1450 | 1354 |
| Bokaro Steel Plant | 3310 | 2748 | 3062 | 2541 | 3210 | 3246 | 3430 | 3313 | 3310 | 3200 |
| Alloy Steel Plant | 180 | 154 | 145 | 99 | 70 | 148 | 90 | 79 | 85 | 84 |
| Salem Steel Plant | 120 | 177 | 225 | 119 | 120 | 148 | 120 | 129 | 105 | 53 |
| VISL | 84 | 50 | 72 | 57 | 60 | 69 | 65 | 85 | 90 | 87 |
| IISCO | 377 | 315 | 327 | 285 | 242 | 250 | 305 | 277 | 297 | 302 |
| Visakhapatnam Steel Plant | 2656 | 2250 | 2580 | 1933 | 2305 | 2382 | 2217 | 2507 | 2411 | 2757 |
| Pig Iron | | | | | | | | | | |
| Bhilai Steel Plant | 228 | 324 | 332 | 232 | 332 | 223 | 450 | 200 | 308 | 103 |
| Durgapur Steel Plant | 140 | 69 | 115 | 68 | 31 | 55 | 28 | 34 | 27 | 23 |
| Rourkela Steel Plant | 31 | 30 | 35 | 33 | 0 | 17 | 0 | 15 | 9 | 11 |
| Bokaro Steel Plant | 100 | 346 | 321 | 399 | 385 | 280 | 45 | 109 | 75 | 216 |
| VISL | 78 | 31 | 57 | 44 | 42 | 32 | 30 | 26 | 23 | 21 |
| IISCO | 422 | 406 | 342 | 375 | 401 | 377 | 324 | 331 | 309 | 288 |
| Visakhapatnam Steel Plant | 301 | 521 | 346 | 240 | 675 | 251 | 530 | 258 | 308 | 374 |

Prices of Onions

6137. SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the prices of onions will shoot up if export restrictions are removed in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the production recorded during 2000-01 and 2002-03; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to hold the price line so that the poor man's consumption and pocket are not badly hit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) to (c) The removal of export restrictions will not have any adverse impact on onion prices due to higher production and easy availability at reasonable prices. The mechanism of canalization of exports through the National Agricultural Co-operative Marketing Federation of India Ltd. (NAFED) and other State designated agencies and the Inter-Ministerial Review Committee (IMRC) to review periodically the availability, prices and export of onion have been retained to protect the interest of the consumers.

The production of onion during 2000-2001 has been estimated by the Government at 45.51 lakh tonnes while the production for 2002-2003 has been placed at 54.89 lakh tonnes by the National Horticultural Research Development Foundation (NHRDF).

Watershed Developmental Projects of Madhya Pradesh

6138. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Watershed Developmental Projects are under construction in Madhya Pradesh with the assistance of the Union Government;

(b) if so, the details of projects completed during the last three years; and

(c) the assistance released to the State Government for the said projects so far?

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

(a) Yes, Sir. Ministry of Rural Development and Ministry of Agriculture are implementing Watershed Development Schemes in Madhya Pradesh through Centrally Sponsored Schemes. The Ministry of Rural Development is implementing Watershed Development Projects under Integrated Watershed Development Programme (IWDP) and Drought Prone Area Programme (DPAP) on Watershed basis and Ministry of Agriculture is implementing National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas (NWDPA).

(b) Four projects under IWDP and 861 projects under DPAP have been completed under these programmes in Madhya Pradesh State during the last three years.

(c) An amount of Rs. 76.24 crore under IWDP and Rs. 188.12 crore under DPAP has been released for implementing the Watershed Projects under these programmes from 1995-96 to 2002-03. The Ministry of Agriculture has released Rs. 40.0075 crore during last three years under National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas.

Kudremukh Iron Ore Company Limited

6139. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Kudremukh Iron Ore Company Limited (KIOCL) propose to set up some pig iron plant in Karnataka;

(b) if so, the sources from which raw material is going to be arranged by KIOCL;

(c) the total amount of Investment involved therein;

(d) whether allocation for Karnataka for KIOCL has been drastically reduced in the budget;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor;

(f) whether the State Government has been urging not to reduce these allocations; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY) : (a) Kudremukh Iron Ore Company Limited (KIOCL), in joint venture with M/s. MECON and MSTC, has floated a separate company called M/s. Kudremukh Iron and Steel Company Limited (KISCO) for setting up of a Pig Iron and Ductile Iron Spun Pipe Plant at Mangalore in the State of Karnataka.

(b) At present, the raw material for the Pig Iron plant is procured from M/s. NMDC, Donimalai, M/s. Mineral Enterprises (Pvt.) Limited and M/s. Tungabhadra Minerals Limited.

(c) The total cost of setting up of the Pig iron component of the project is Rs. 305.79 crores.

(d) to (g) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of Lok Sabha.

Harrassment of Passengers

6140. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR :
SHRI K.E. KRISHNAMURTHY :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether there have been a number of cases of alleged misbehaviour and harassment of passengers by the staff of the airlines, both private and Government;

(b) whether the Government ordered an enquiry into the recent incident of alleged misbehaviour by the private airline staff with a VVIP; and

(c) if so, the outcome of the enquiry alongwith the action taken by the Government thereon?

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

(b) and (c) There has been a news report about an incident involving a Union Minister with the staff of a private airline at Mumbai on 25.3.2003. The incident is being enquired into by the Joint Director General of Civil Aviation.

SARS at Airport

6141. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether his Ministry has taken note of international warning issued by WHO regarding occurrence of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome disease in Asian Countries;

(b) if so, whether air passengers flying from Hong Kong and China through Indian Airports can transfer the virus to other passengers and staff;

(c) the steps taken to monitor such passengers alongwith other precautionary measures;

(d) whether any enquiry has been conducted regarding such incidents at Mumbai Airport; and

(e) if so, the outcome thereof?

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

(b) Only Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) affected passengers can transfer the virus.

(c) Suitable instructions have been issued in consultation with Ministry of Health and Ministry of Home Affairs to all airlines to sanitize all aircrafts coming from affected countries. Director General of Health Services (DGHS) has positioned doctors at Health Counters set up at 12 international and 9 Customes airports in India. Health Forms have been made available to Airlines and in immigration areas of above Airports to be filled in by all persons disembarking in India to screen symptoms of suspected/probable Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) cases. Cabine crew of all airlines have been issued instructions to extend cooperation in filling up the Health Forms on board and also keep vigil on the passengers to detect SARS affected cases. The health care facilities at international airports have been strengthened by deploying additional doctors and evolving a standard operating protocol. As per contingency plan, all the suspected cases are to be isolated to the designated local hospitals for suitable action. Masks have been supplied at international/custom airports for the immigration and other staff performing duty at the Arrival side. Further, World Health Organisation recommended case definition has been adopted for India and circulated to all concerned organisations. National Institute of Communicable Diseases, Delhi and National Institute of Virology, Pune have been identified as the nodal agencies for investigation of any suspected/probable case. Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has obtained the required primers for preparing reagents to diagnose the viruses believed to be casuing SARS. Media is being kept informed on the efforts made by the Government to prevent SARS entering the country and to create public awareness.

(d) No Sir. However, screening, supervision and monitoring are being done by the health authorities.

(e) Does not arise.

Punad Irrigation Project of Maharashtra

6142. SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is inordinate delay in providing financial assistance to Maharashtra Government for Punad Irrigation Project under Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP);

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the time by when the assistance would be released to the State Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY) : (a) to (c) The Central Loan Assistance (CLA) under Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) is provided for such major/medium irrigation projects, which have been given investment clearance by the Planning Commission and are in an advance stage of completion. As the Punad Irrigation Project has not received investment clearance from the Planning Commission, it does not fulfil the norms of AIBP.

Holiday Package by IA

6143. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the holiday packages introduced by the Indian Airlines;

(b) the routes on which these packages have been introduced;

(c) whether the Government are considering a proposal to extend the holiday packages to other routes also;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken thereon so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK) : (a) and (b) Indian Airlines has introduced holiday packages for Goa, Kerala, Rajasthan (Jaipur, Jodhpur and Udaipur), Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh in India. Kathmandu in Nepal and Yangon in Myanmar offering :

- Discount upto 25% on the basic fare.
- Specially negotiated hotel rates.
- Pick and drop from the Airport.
- Welcome drink.
- 3 nights/4 days hotel stay.
- Breakfast and major meals.
- Sight seeing.
- Free use of health club and swimming pools.
- Entertainment facilities.

(c) to (e) Indian Airlines is in the process of extending holiday packages to approximately thirty destinations like Khajuraho, Lonawala, Mahabaleshwar, Shirdi, Gangtok, Varanasi, Darjeeling, Coimbatore, Ooty, Kodaikanal, Agra, Dibrugarh, Chandigarh, Shimla, Manali, Mysore, Bhubaneshwar, Puri etc.

Vacancy of Reserved Posts

6144. SHRI P.D. ELANGO VAN : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have strictly followed the reservation policy in appointments and promotions in autonomous institutions as well attached offices coming under his Ministry particularly in Gazetted jobs or class I and class II employments;

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

(c) the steps taken by the Government to fill up the vacant posts in the reserved category;

(d) whether the Government find it difficult to fill up the Class I and Class II vacancies designated for the persons belong to SC/ST and OBC; and

(e) if so, the reasons thereof and the steps taken by the Government to fill up such vacant posts immediately?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI VIJAY GOEL) : (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Subsidy to Coir Pith Cake Units

6145. SHRI V. VETRISELVAN : Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have earlier provided subsidy to small industrialists to set up Coir Pith Cake Units keeping in view the use of pith cake in increasing the fertility of soil and its growing demand in foreign countries;

(b) if so, whether the Government had withdrawn said subsidy later on;

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

(d) whether the Government have received representations to re-start the said subsidy; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI SANGH PRIYA GAUTAM) : (a) Yes, Sir. The Government had on 7th April, 1999 enlarged the scope of the scheme for extension of financial assistance to the coir units in the Brown Fibre Sector by including coir pith processing units also. Under the scheme financial assistance to the tune of 25% of the cost of equipment and infrastructure facilities, subject to a maximum of Rs. 1 lakh is available for a new a coir pith processing unit and Rs. 50,000/- for modernisation of existing units by installing new machinery and putting up new work shed etc.

(b) to (e) No, Sir.

National Policy on Cooperatives

6146.SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI :

DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have finalized the National Policy on cooperatives in consultation with State Government;

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

(c) the amount allocated/proposed to be allocated to the cooperative sector during Ninth and Tenth Five Year Plan period; State-wise?

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

(c) State-wise outlays of funds for the co-operative sector during Ninth and Tenth Five Year Plan is enclosed as Statement.

Statement

| | | Rs. in Lakhs | |
|--------|-------------------|------------------------------------|--|
| S. No. | State/UTs | 9th Five Year Plan (Agreed Outlay) | 10th Five Year Plan (Projected Outlay) |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 1500.00 | 5068.00 |
| 2. | Arunachal Pradesh | 996.00 | 1955.00 |
| 3. | Assam | 9000.00 | 6239.00 |
| 4. | Bihar | NA | 20889.00 |
| 5. | Chhattisgarh | — | 9573.00 |
| 6. | Goa | NA | 2000.00 |
| 7. | Gujarat | 1500.00 | 11700.00 |
| 8. | Haryana | 7277.00 | 4971.00 |
| 9. | Himachal Pradesh | 2200.00 | 1990.00 |
| 10. | Jammu and Kashmir | 541.00 | 2775.00 |
| 11. | Jharkhand | — | 7900.00 |
| 12. | Karnataka | 16000.00 | 7854.00 |
| 13. | Kerala | NA | 10000.00 |
| 14. | Madhya Pradesh | 11833.00 | 21989.00 |
| 15. | Maharashtra | 32678.00 | 83114.00 |
| 16. | Manipur | 1000.00 | 847.00 |
| 17. | Meghalaya | 2400.00 | 1700.00 |
| 18. | Mizoram | 1140.00 | 1398.00 |
| 19. | Nagaland | 2000.00 | 550.00 |
| 20. | Orissa | NA | 7221.00 |
| 21. | Punjab | 2736.00 | 3655.00 |
| 22. | Rajasthan | 12220.00 | 1790.00 |
| 23. | Sikkim | 1600.00 | 1200.00 |
| 24. | Tamil Nadu | NA | 4230.00 |
| 25. | Tripura | 1260.00 | 1802.00 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|--------------------------------|---|---------|---------|
| 26. Uttar Pradesh | | 4885.00 | 6500.00 |
| 27. Uttaranchal | | — | 990.00 |
| 28. West Bengal | | 5942.06 | 8995.00 |
| 29. Andaman and Nicobar Island | | 695.00 | 2510.00 |
| 30. Chandigarh | | 36.00 | 55.00 |
| 31. Dadra and Nagar Haveli | | 184.00 | 53.50 |
| 32. Daman and Diu | | 34.00 | 84.00 |
| 33. Delhi | | 417.00 | 300.00 |
| 34. Lakshadweep | | 589.83 | 2730.27 |
| 35. Pondicherry | | NA | 4800.00 |

Production of Oilseeds

6147. SHRI PARSURAM MAJHI :
SHRI SURESH CHANDEL :
SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the projected demand and actual production of pulses and oilseeds including mustard during the last two years and also in the current year along with their year-wise import;

(b) the projection of the production and demand of oilseeds and pulses in the country for the coming two years;

(c) whether there is a gap between demand and production of these commodities; and

(d) if so, the details of the schemes implemented to boost the production of oilseeds, mustard and pulses to meet the domestic requirement of the country particularly in Orissa?

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

(a) The Planning Commission has fixed the production targets of pulses and oilseeds including mustard during the last 2 years and also in the current year. The details

of production targets of these crops along with actual production and import is given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) As per the National Agriculture Policy, the production targets for oilseeds and pulses have been fixed on the basis of growth rate for the coming two years in the country which are as under :

(In lakh tonnes)

| Year | Target for Oilseeds | Target for Pulses |
|---------|---------------------|-------------------|
| 2003-04 | 247.00 | 148.00 |
| 2004-05 | 262.00 | 153.00 |

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) In order to meet the domestic requirement of oilseeds/edible oils including mustard and pulses in the country including Orissa, two Centrally Sponsored Schemes, namely, Oilseeds Production Programme (OPP) and National Pulses Development Project (NPDP) are under implementation in the country. Under both these schemes financial assistance is provided to the farmers for production and distribution of seeds, distribution of minikits, rhizobium culture/PSB, gypsum/pyrite, improved farm implements, sprinkler sets etc. besides this for transfer of improved production technology, frontline demonstrations by ICAR and block demonstrations by State Department of Agriculture are organized. In addition, Government, also fixes the Minimum Support Prices for major oilseeds and pulse crops and market support is provided through National Agriculture Cooperative Marketing Federation of the India Limited (NAFED).

Statement

Production target of pulses and oilseeds during the last 2 years and also in the current year along with actual production and import of pulses and edible oils

Quantity in Lakh tonnes

| Year | Pulses | | |
|---------|--------------------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| | Target as per Projected Demand | Actual Production | Import of Pulses |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 2000-01 | 150.00 | 110.75 | 3.49 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|---------|----------------------------|--------|--|
| 2001-02 | 150.00 | 131.90 | 21.77 |
| 2002-03 | 160.00 (Adv. Estimates) | 118.10 | 16.81 (April, 2002 to Jan, 2003) |

| Year | Oilseeds | | |
|---------|--------------------------------------|----------------------|--|
| | Target as per Projected Demand | Actual Production | Import of Edible Oils |
| 2000-01 | 270.00 | 184.37 | 41.77 |
| 2001-02 | 280.00 | 204.61 | 42.14 |
| 2002-03 | 270.00 (Adv. Estimates) | 155.70 | 36.17 (April, 2002 to Jan, 2003) |

**Loan/Grants and Technical Assistance
to Poor Farmers**

6148. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR : Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) the details of food processing units producing Mango Juice, Chavyanpras, Pickle, Murabba (Jam) and Amla being run at present in the country including Maharashtra, location-wise;

(b) whether the Government propose to provide loans/grants and technical assistance to the poor farmers and tribals for setting up of such units all over the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the places where such units are proposed to be set up; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM) : (a) 2822 units in the country including 452 units in Maharashtra have been licensed under the Fruit Products Order (FPO) 1955 for production of either Mango juici or Pickle or Jam or Preserve. Chavyanpras is not licensed under (FPO) and the data of such units is not available with Ministry of Food Processing Industries.

(b) to (d) Under the Plan Scheme of the Ministry, financial assistance in the form of grant is provided for setting up food processing industries and their modernization and expansion. Assistance is also provided to private industries, public sector undertakings, non-governmental organizations, cooperatives, for technically feasible and financially viable projects. Higher quantum of assistance is provided for projects in difficult areas including Integrated Tribal Development Project Areas.

[Translation]

**Establishment of Regional Resource
Agencies**

6149. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) the name of schemes being implemented for setting up Regional Resource Agency for National Environmental Awareness compaign under Welfare Schemes for Others run by the Ministry and the parameters for providing loan, grants or other economic assistance for its; and

(b) the total number of Regional Resource Agencies established in the country from April 01, 1998 to till date and the total amount provided as loan, grants or economic assistance to each of them, State-wise and year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV) : (a) For creating environmental awareness in campaign mode the National Environment Awareness Campaign (NEAC) Programme under the Environment Education and Training scheme is being implemented since 1986. To conduct the campaign and to coordinate and monitor the activities of participating organisations 28 Regional Resource Agencies (RRAs) have been identified covering the whole country. Under the programme, registered NGOs, educational institutions, State Government Organisations etc. working in the field of environment and sustainable development are eligible for participating in the campaign. The financial assistance granted to above organisations is disbursed through the RRAs. For coordinating the above activites the RRA receives a fee.

(b) A Statement showing the financial assistance disbursed under the programme to registered NGOs, educational institutions, State Government Organisations etc. through RRAs in different States/UTs is enclosed.

Statement

| S. No. | Name of R.R.A. | Region Assigned | 1998-99 | 1999-00 | 2000-01 | 2001-02 | 2002-03 |
|--------|---|---|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| 1. | C.P. Ramaswamy Aiyar Foundation, No. 1-A, Eldams Road, Chennai - 6000 018 | Tamilnadu, Pondicherry, Andaman and Nicobar Islands | 15,90,019 | 15,93,123 | 22,16,325 | 22,54,375 | 24,78,175 |
| 2. | Vikram Sarabhai Centre for Development Interaction (VIKSAT), Nehru Foundation for Development, Thaltej Tekra, Vastrapur Road, Ahmedabad - 380 054 | Gujarat Daman and Diu | 6,36,500 | 7,18,000 | 21,23,243 | 10,33,425 | 12,81,518 |
| 3. | Sewa Mandir, Old Fotehpura, Udaipur -313 001. | Rajasthan | 6,44,500 | 7,71,383 | 10,33,162 | 13,33,000 | 13,52,925 |
| 4. | Punjab State Council for Science and Technology, Chandigarh Punjab State Council for Science and Technology (PSCST), MGSIPA Complex, Near Sacred Heart School, Sector-26, Chandigarh - 160 019. | Punjab | 3,95,000 | 4,94,250 | 5,48,700 | 5,88,250 | 6,64,200 |
| 5. | Indian Environmental Society, U-112, Vidhata House Shakarpur, Vikas Marg, Delhi - 110 092. | Delhi, Western Uttar Pradesh | 19,44,000 | 19,33,500 | 31,72,475 | 35,75,000 | 38,00,925 |
| 6. | Shohratgarh Environmental Society, 9, Adarsh Colony, Shohratgarh, Siddharth Nagar Distt. 272 205 (Uttar Pradesh) | Eastern Uttar Pradesh | 13,59,750 | 11,65,100 | 15,69,000 | 21,46,850 | 22,37,400 |
| 7. | Environmental Society of India, Karuna Sadan, Sector-11-B, Chandigarh - 160 011 | Haryana, Chandigarh | 8,47,750 | 6,17,750 | 2,61,600 | 9,17,625 | 10,74,600 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
|-----|--|---|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 8. | Uttaranchal Sewa Nidhi, Paryavaran Siksha Sansthan, Almora Uttarakhand Sewa Nidhi Paryavaran Shiksha Sansthan, Jakhn Devi, Mall Road, Almora - 263 601 (Uttaranchal) | Uttaranchal | 8,49,963 | 7,52,325 | 8,12,800 | 9,38,125 | 9,99,980 |
| 9. | Deccan Development Society, A-6, Meera Apartment, Basheer Bagh, Hyderabad - 500 029 (Andhra Pradesh) | Andhra Pradesh | 19,23,800 | 19,31,250 | 18,67,750 | 21,62,625 | 31,11,650 |
| 10. | School of Fundamental Research, 29, Pratapaditya Road, Calcutta - 700 026 | West Bengal | 14,66,250 | 13,16,650 | 14,11,475 | 13,91,375 | 16,49,475 |
| 11. | Gram Vikas Kendra, K-3/57, Hans Stoehr Road, TELCO Town, Jamshedpur - 831 004. | Jharkhand and All districts of Bihar except North Bihar | 18,44,470 | 19,98,550 | 28,83,030 | 28,27,875 | 29,32,200 |
| 12. | Rural Youth Coordination Centre Ujala Campus, Near Bahuria Kothi, Chandrika Singh Path, Katra, P.O. - Chapra, Distt. Chapra, Pin - 841 301. | All district of North Bihar | 7,48,450 | 10,11,750 | 11,42,750 | 13,87,375 | - |
| 13. | Centre for Environment Studies, Bhubaneswar | Orissa | 19,20,000 | 18,78,711 | 26,63,505 | | 38,70,515 |
| 14. | State Committee on Science Technology and Environment, Sasthra Bhavan, Pattom, Thiruvananthapuram - 695 014. | Kerala, Lakshwadeep and Minicoy Islands | 12,03,000 | 14,00,250 | 12,98,000 | 15,38,300 | 13,63,765 |
| 15. | Bhartiya Agro-Industries Foundation (BAIF), BAIF Bhawan, Dr. Manibhai Desai Nagar, National Highway No.4, Warje, Pune - 411 029 | Goa, Dadra and Nagar Haveli Maharashtra | 8,78,000 | 12,37,500 | 2,95,775 | 21,48,625 | 25,29,000 |
| 16. | Environmental Planning and Coordination Organisation (EPCO), "Kachnar", Paryavaran Parisar, E-5, Arera Colony, Bhopal - 462 | Madhya Pradesh and Chattisgarh | 18,12,000 | 22,58,000 | 23,79,600 | 15,38,300 | 13,63,765 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
|-----|---|--|----------|----------|----------|-----------|-----------|
| 17. | Assam Science Society, Lamb Road, Lataasil, Guwahati – 781 001. | Assam | 6,82,250 | 7,69,550 | — | 9,56,000 | 57,70,775 |
| 18. | World Wide Fund for Nature – India Jammu and Kashmir State Office, Deptt. of Environmental Sciences, University of Jammu and Jammu (Tawi) – 180 004 | Jammu Region of J and K | 2,52,000 | 6,68,500 | 4,95,625 | 3,79,000 | 4,57,200 |
| 19. | Deptt. of Environment and Forests, Government of Manipur, Porompat, Near D.C. Office, Imphal (East) – 795 001. | Manipur | 31,000 | 1,06,500 | 60,000 | 11,20,000 | 15,54,000 |
| 20. | State Department of Environment, Government of Nagaland, Kohima – 799 001 | Government of Nagaland | — | — | 4,00,000 | 46,500 | 6,99,000 |
| 21. | Tripura State Pollution Control Board, Ker Choumohany, Agartala – 799 001 | Tripura | 2,26,000 | 4,36,000 | 4,41,800 | 5,66,000 | 10,16,975 |
| 22. | Department of Environment, Government of Sikkim, Gangtok – 737 103 | Sikkim | 2,55,000 | 2,72,000 | — | — | — |
| 23. | Environment and Forests Department, Forests Extension Division, Government of Mizoram, Aizawal – 796 001. | Mizoram | 1,62,000 | 2,73,000 | 3,14,000 | — | 2,36,000 |
| 24. | State Department of Environment Government of Meghalaya Meghalaya Shillong – 793 001 | Government of Meghalaya | 40,000 | 32,000 | — | 8,11,350 | 3,50,000 |
| 25. | Department of Environment, State Government of Arunachal Pradesh Itanagar – 791 111 | Government of Arunachal Pradesh | 1,00,000 | 89,000 | — | — | — |
| 26. | State Council for Science, Technology and Environment, H.P. 34, SA Complex, Kasumpti, Shimla – 171 001 | Himachal Pradesh | 4,24,000 | 4,91,000 | 48,750 | 6,15,250 | 8,98,000 |
| 27. | Karnataka Raja Vijnana Parishat, Indian Institute of Science Campus, Bangalore – 560 012. | Karnataka | 7,10,000 | 5,24,000 | 6,02,250 | 9,02,064 | 7,75,800 |
| 28. | Department of Environment and Remote Sensing Jammu Kashmir and Laddakh Regions of J and K | Kashmir and Laddakh Regions of J and K | — | — | — | 11,40,000 | 17,97,300 |

Irrigated/Unirrigated Land

6150. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the irrigated/unirrigated land belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Separately, till date State-wise;

(b) the number of persons which who have neither irrigated nor unirrigated land State wise;

(c) whether the Government propose to take any effective steps to provide irrigated or unirrigated land to SC/ST (person); and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(a) to (d) Land being a State subject, the details of irrigated/unirrigated land, belonging to Scheduled Castes (SC)/Scheduled Tribes (ST), number of persons having irrigated/unirrigated land are maintained by the respective State Governments. The steps to provide irrigated/unirrigated land to SC/ST persons are also taken by concerned State Governments.

[English]

Use of International Terminus by IA

6151. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Airports Authority of India (AAI) has decided to direct all Indian Airlines planes to use the international terminus at Delhi during winters; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) Does not arise.

Cultural Tourism

6152. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to promote culture tourism in the country; and

(b) if so, the action plan formulated by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Department of Tourism, in its National Tourism Policy, 2002 has emphasized the development of integrated tourism circuits giving emphasis on the culture and heritage of the country. Different aspects of India's heritage and culture are also promoted through a variety of promotional programmes.

Buy India Steel Act

6153. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to enact "Buy India Steel Act" to protect the Indian Steel Industry which is passing through severe crisis;

(b) if so, by when such an Act is proposed to be enacted; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to help the steel industry to tackle the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Through the major producers have supported the Draft legislation with minor modifications, the Dept. of Economic Affairs has not supported the proposed legislation. Department of Commerce has suggested to pend the proposal for the time being and DGFT has suggested including other products also in the draft legislation. However, it may be noted that the proposal was mooted at a time when the domestic industry had been passing through a severe crisis caused by low price and poor demand. The situation has shown improvement since January 2002 with the price of steel products on an increase and a fair possibility of price stability at the levels reached till August 2002.

(c) The Ministry of Steel, acting as a facilitator, is providing leadership in association with the industry to raise the consumption level, boost exports and introduce measures to improve the profitability of Indian steel companies. Important strides have been made on several fronts and the major ones include :

- Constitution of a National Campaign Committee to promote consumption of steel in general and enhance penetration of steel in the rural market in particular.
- Formation of Institute for Steel Development and Growth to improve the technology through better utilization of steel in the construction sector.
- Setting up of a strong directorate under the Ministry of Commerce with adequate power to meet anti-dumping charges instituted by developed nations on Indian steel exports and thereby safeguard the interest of Indian exporters.
- Support extended by the Steel Exporters Forum to boost exports, disseminate information pertaining to global trade and WTO related issues, organization of seminars/workshops to facilitate greater interaction between the exporting community etc.
- The medium term export strategies of the Government emphasize exploring alternate export markets and improved export incentives under the DEPB/DEEC scheme provided by the Government of India.
- Government is also supporting the industry through R and D to minimize the cost of production and to become globally competitive. Special emphasis is being given on innovative applications of steel to boost demand.
- Of late, the Global Environment Facility (GEF) – a project with UNDP support has been initiated to help the secondary sector, particularly the re-

rollers to become more environment-friendly and energy efficient.

Sea Beach Tourism

6154.SHRI A. NARENDRA : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of proposals received from State Governments during the last three years to promote beach tourism;

(b) the financial assistance provided to the State Governments for the purpose during each of the last three years and current year, proposal-wise;

(c) whether the potential available on sea beaches and towns nearly coastal States has not been tapped; and

(d) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken to tap tourism potential?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN) : (a) and (b) There is no separate scheme for promotion/development of beach tourism. However, development of beach tourism activities are permissible under the schemes of Integrated Development of Tourist Circuits and Product/Infrastructure and Destination Development. Tourism projects are identified in consultation with the State Governments/UT Administrations and sanctioned on merits. A statement showing State-wise number of projects including projects for beach/coastal areas sanctioned during the last three years is enclosed.

(c) and (d) There is scope for further development and the Department of Tourism continues to extend financial support to State Governments/UT Administrations for tourism projects in beach/coastal areas.

Statement

State-wise Projects Sanctioned in the Country during the years 2000-01, 2001-02 and 2002-03 (Including Projects for Beach/Coastal Areas)

(Rs. in Lakhs)

| S. No. | State/UT | 2000-2001 | | 2001-2002 | | 2002-03 | |
|--------|----------------|----------------------------|-------------------|----------------------------|-------------------|----------------------------|-------------------|
| | | No. of Projects Sanctioned | Amount Sanctioned | No. of Projects Sanctioned | Amount Sanctioned | No. of Projects Sanctioned | Amount Sanctioned |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 13 | 299.50 | 6 | 167.85 | 2 | 507.50 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
|-------------------------|---|----|--------|----|---------|----|---------|
| 2. Assam | | 12 | 338.35 | 7 | 397.50 | 9 | 768.13 |
| 3. Arunachal Pradesh | | 6 | 49.75 | 14 | 321.90 | 5 | 41.30 |
| 4. Bihar | | 13 | 324.48 | 1 | 1.35 | 8 | 505.00 |
| 5. Chhattisgarh | | 4 | 120.28 | 3 | 35.00 | 9 | 308.00 |
| 6. Goa | | 10 | 93.30 | 9 | 93.73 | 1 | 0.50 |
| 7. Gujarat | | 18 | 469.20 | 11 | 305.50 | 2 | 197.12 |
| 8. Haryana | | 6 | 123.31 | 7 | 125.44 | 8 | 332.25 |
| 9. Himachal Pradesh | | 19 | 397.29 | 12 | 157.64 | 30 | 779.32 |
| 10. Jammu and Kashmir | | 12 | 474.93 | 3 | 65.50 | 3 | 94.38 |
| 11. Jharkhand | | 6 | 206.49 | 2 | 80.00 | 0 | 0 |
| 12. Karnataka | | 19 | 489.30 | 8 | 254.76 | 6 | 902.49 |
| 13. Kerala | | 14 | 717.60 | 11 | 680.08 | 11 | 861.36 |
| 14. Madhya Pradesh | | 12 | 262.33 | 11 | 256.37 | 18 | 711.18 |
| 15. Maharashtra | | 10 | 282.69 | 10 | 1128.20 | 8 | 623.46 |
| 16. Manipur | | 18 | 782.77 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 5.24 |
| 17. Meghalaya | | 5 | 105.59 | 5 | 87.87 | 3 | 70.35 |
| 18. Mizoram | | 14 | 311.19 | 6 | 73.25 | 6 | 141.16 |
| 19. Nagaland | | 8 | 156.53 | 5 | 41.54 | 5 | 360.50 |
| 20. Orissa | | 4 | 156.94 | 4 | 38.05 | 2 | 47.50 |
| 21. Punjab | | 6 | 203.50 | 3 | 17.50 | 3 | 23.00 |
| 22. Rajasthan | | 22 | 454.96 | 2 | 5.00 | 13 | 1098.70 |
| 23. Sikkim | | 31 | 368.62 | 5 | 108.83 | 13 | 346.24 |
| 24. Tamil Nadu | | 9 | 122.83 | 20 | 533.67 | 15 | 559.00 |
| 25. Tripura | | 12 | 333.23 | 5 | 114.40 | 5 | 216.13 |
| 26. Uttaranchal | | 7 | 70.19 | 3 | 65.51 | 3 | 548.00 |
| 27. Uttar Pradesh | | 18 | 423.74 | 5 | 55.74 | 3 | 295.00 |
| 28. West Bengal | | 23 | 432.99 | 17 | 229.85 | 5 | 201.10 |
| 29. Andaman and Nicobar | | 1 | 1.78 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 30. Chandigarh | | 5 | 22.13 | 2 | 8.00 | 3 | 7.75 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
|----------------------------|---|------------|----------------|------------|----------------|------------|-----------------|
| 31. Dadra and Nagar Haveli | | 1 | 8.00 | 1 | 3.70 | 2 | 8.07 |
| 32. Delhi | | 2 | 17.70 | 6 | 55.01 | 14 | 504.00 |
| 33. Daman and Diu | | 0 | 0 | 1 | 5.00 | 3 | 49.50 |
| 34. Lakshadweep | | 0 | 0 | 1 | 17.00 | 0 | 0 |
| 35. Pondicherry | | 3 | 26.18 | 3 | 78.61 | 2 | 7.87 |
| Total | | 363 | 8647.67 | 209 | 5609.35 | 212 | 11121.10 |

Offer from Ilyushin Company*[Translation]*

6155. SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Air India (AI) is considering an offer from Ilyushin Aviation Company of Russia for its fresh fleet acquisition;

(b) if so, whether AI is still undecided on the earlier offers of Boeing and Airbus A-320;

(c) if so, whether Ilyushin has offered a comparable version at a cheaper price;

(d) if so, the extent of difference in prices;

(e) whether Ilyushin Aircraft are in operation with any International Carrier other than Aeroflot of Russia; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK) : (a) No offer has been received from Ilyushin Aviation Company of Russia for evaluation of its Aircraft.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

(e) and (f) Amongst the Airlines operating passenger services to/from India, apart from Aeroflot, Uzbekistan Airways has deployed IL 62 Aircraft on the sector Teshkent/Delhi. As per available information, a total of 11 IL Aircraft were delivered to Aeroflot (6), Atlant Soyuz (1) Domodedovo Airline (3) and Rossiya (1).

Utilisation of Land

6156. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to formulate a timebound programme for optimum utilization of land in view of rising population in Jharkhand and Bihar;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of area of land available in both States which will be kept for optimum utilization;

(d) the details of cultivable and eroded land available particularly in Jharkhand and Bihar;

(e) whether the Government propose to assess the extent erosion of land in next ten years; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the remedial steps being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) and (b) The Working Group on Watershed Development, Rainfed Farming and Natural Resources Management for the Tenth Five Year Plan constituted by Planning Commission has formulated a perspective plan for development of an area of 88.5 million ha. in 20 years through Watershed Development programmes in the country, including Jharkhand and Bihar.

(c) and (d) Total geographical area of Jharkhand and Bihar is about 17.4 million ha., out of which, an area of

about 6.55 million ha. is suffering from various kinds of land degradation and can be brought for optimum utilization after reclamation/development. Net area available for cultivation in both the states is about 7.4 million ha.

(e) and (f) It is estimated that about 173.6 million ha., out of total reported area of about 306 million ha., is subjected to various kinds of land degradation and about 5300 million tonnes of top soil is being lost every year through water erosion. For development and management of degraded lands, Government of India is implementing various watershed development programmes. An area of about 27.5 million ha. has been treated under these programmes by the end of the Ninth Five Year Plan in the country, including Jharkhand and Bihar.

[English]

Upper Krishna Dam

6157.SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether water level in Upper Krishna Dam has come down by 10 meters;

(b) if so, whether water has been released from Upper Krishna Dam to Andhra Pradesh and from Indi Canal to Maharashtra; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

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

(a) The State Government of Karnataka has reported that the water level at Almatti Reservoir in Upper Krishna Project has come down by 10 metre.

(b) and (c) As reported by the State Government water has not been released from Upper Krishna Project to the State of Andhra Pradesh, but on the request of the Government of Maharashtra about 0.08 thousand million cubic feet of water was released to meet the emergency use on the eve of local festival in Sholapur city during the month of January, 2003 from Indi Branch Canal to Auz barrage on the river Bhima from where water is drawn for drinking purpose in Sholapur city.

World Bank Assistance

6158.SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the World Bank is assisting India regarding growth of agriculture in the country;

(b) if so, the details of the financial assistance being provided annually for the last three years;

(c) whether the World Bank has also laid down certain guidelines/suggestion for revising the agricultural policy and strategy to overcome constraints in its growth;

(d) if so, the salient features thereof; and

(e) the reaction of the Government thereon?

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Relevant information is being collated.

(c) No communication on the subject has been received in the Ministry of Agriculture.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Conference of Vice-Chancellors

6159.PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have organised a conference of Vice-Chancellors of all Agricultural Universities in the country recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof including recommendations made, if any;

(c) whether the Government have agreed to extend additional funding to all Universities on an agreed pattern; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Conference of the Vice-Chancellors (VCs) of the State Agricultural Universities (SAUs), Central Agricultural University (CAU) and Directors of the Deemed to be Universities (DUs) was held at the National Agricultural Science Centre, New Delhi during 1-2 April 2003.

The following salient recommendations emerged from the conference :

- Revision of Model Act for uniform adoption by all SAUs.
 - Restructuring of UG curricula
 - Statutory powers to ICAR
 - Strengthening of ICAR-SAUs linkages
- (c) No, Sir.
- (d) Not applicable, Sir.

**Diversion of Cultivation from
Foodgrains to Oilseeds**

6160. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government propose to divert the area from foodgrains cultivation to oilseeds;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken to increase the oilseed production in view of its acute shortage?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) For increasing the production of oilseeds, a Centrally Sponsored Oilseeds Production Programme (OPP) is under implementation in 28 States covering 408 selected districts. Under the scheme financial assistance is provided on various inputs like production and distribution of seeds, distribution of seed minikits, distribution of improved farm implements, sprinkler sets, rhizobium culture and micro-nutrients etc. Further, in order to disseminate the production technology amongst the farmers frontline demonstrations by the ICAR and block

demonstrations by the State Departments of Agriculture are also organized.

**Functioning of Common Effluent
Treatment Plants**

6161. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Nagpur based NEERI has been chosen to assess the functioning of the Common Effluent Treatment Plants in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any of the plant has been closed in Maharashtra for assessment; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Six Common Effluent Treatment Plants in Maharashtra have been chosen for assessment which are Dombiwali, Thane-Belapur, Tarapur, Taloja, Navi Mumbai Ambarnath and Jaisingpur.

[*Translation*]

Employment to Unemployed Youth Abroad

6162. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN :
SHRI MANSINH PATEL :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government propose to set up any overseas employment corporation to help unemployed youths in economically backward areas in getting employment abroad;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN

THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI VIJAY GOEL) : (a) No, Sir. However, the Government has introduced a Bill in the Lok Sabha on 21.11.2002 seeking to amend the Emigration Act, 1983 to provide for setting up of a Central Manpower Export Promotion Council.

(b) The proposed Council will promote employment opportunities for emigrants; projection of manpower services; collection of statistics and information relating to employment opportunities and matter connected therewith; collection and maintenance of statistics and information in respect of persons seeking employment; liaison with other export promotion agencies; recommendations to the Central Government about the standards and guidelines for overseas employment; and administration of Indian Overseas Workers' Welfare Fund.

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

Water Conservation

6163.SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether on the World Water Day on 22 March 2003, the people's movement for water conservation has been intensified in the country;

(b) if so, whether under this campaign, people in every village and town would be encouraged to contribute voluntary labour for water conservation;

(c) if so, the States where this campaign had taken place;

(d) whether this Save Water Campaign launched in 2001 still continues in 2003 also; and

(e) if so, to what extent it has proved beneficial?

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

(a) In order to focus attention on various issues relating to water resources development and management and create awareness, observance of Water Resources Day every year was started in India in 1987. Subsequently, taking cue from India the United Nations (UN) has declared in 1993, March 22 every year as "World Water Day". Since

then a Joint National ~~Curtain Raiser~~ function by UN and Ministry of Water Resources, is being organized every year on 22nd March at New Delhi to mark the beginning of series of Water Resources Day and World Water Day programmes throughout the country. The theme for World Water Day for the current year is "Water for Future" and that for Water Resources Day is "Conservation of Water in Agriculture and Industrial Sectors". These themes become the basis for country wide discussions and people's participation in water related activities including Water Conservation in all States in the country.

(b) and (c) The campaign for mass awareness/action is open to all organizations/institutions/citizens of the country in both rural and urban areas. The participation of the people is often in the form of observance/implementation of the water conservation measures in their daily life. In addition to the Government organizations, various Non-Governmental organizations, water users' associations also participate in various activities focusing on awareness about value of water including conservation etc.

(d) and (e) In year 2001, the theme for Water Resources Day was "Management of Floods and Droughts" and that for World Water Day was "Water and Health". Though these themes were selected for 2001, their implementation need not be restricted to that particular year only. They can still continue alongwith the new themes in subsequent years also. The year 2003 has been declared as Year of Freshwater in consonance with the UN Resolution declaring the year 2003 as the International Year of Freshwater, in order to increase awareness of the importance of sustainable freshwater use, management and protection. The programmes include awareness campaign through mass media, organizing workshops/seminars and action for initiating innovative methods by NGOs and other groups for water conservation, use etc.

Irrigations Projects of Karnataka Under AIBP

6164.SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the number of projects launched under "Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme" in Karnataka during the last three years;

(b) the funds sanctioned/released to the State Government for such projects; and

(c) the irrigation potential created thereby?

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

(a) Eight major/medium irrigation projects of Karnataka have been included under Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) during the last 3 years.

(b) and (c) An amount of Rs. 1284.35 crore has been released to these projects as Central Loan Assistance (CLA) under AIBP during the last three years and an irrigation potential of 94.601 thousand hectare has been created by these project upto March, 2002.

[Translation]

Mokama Water Scheme of Bihar

6165.DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Bihar has submitted Mokama Water Scheme to the Union Government for approval and financial assistance; and

(b) the time by when the approval is likely to be accorded?

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

(a) and (b) No scheme by the name "Mokama Water Scheme" has been received from Government of Bihar. However a scheme for raising and strengthening of 74 Zamindari Bunds for improvement of drainage in the Mokama Tal area received from Government of Bihar is under consideration of Government of India for providing central assistance for which the memorandum for consideration of Expenditure Finance Committee is under formulation.

[English]

Global Warming

6166.SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) the impact of war between America and Iraq on environment;

(b) whether there is any possibility of more global warming on earth as a result of the said war; and

(c) if so, the measures taken by India to reduce the ill effects of the war on environment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV) : (a) Impact of the war between America and Iraq on environment is not significant as the event is localized.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

National Veterinary Biological Quality Control Centre

6167.SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to set up the National Veterinary Biological Quality Control Centre in the country;

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

(c) the reasons for the delay in the establishment of the centre?

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) It has been decided to establish National Veterinary Biological Quality Control Centre at Baghpat, Uttar Pradesh and the civil works are in progress.

National Mission for Manuscripts

6168.SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Mission for Manuscripts is facing many snags because of the linguistic complexity of manuscripts, copyright problems, etc;

(b) if so, whether all these complications have been sorted out with a view of carry on the work assigned to this mission;

(c) if so, whether any permanent office has been established and the staff appointed for its effective functioning;

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) A National Empowered Committee under the Chairmanship of Minister-in-Charge of Culture and the Executive Committee under the Chairmanship of Secretary (Culture) have been constituted to achieve the objectives of the National Mission for Manuscripts and oversee its implementation.

(c) and (d) A permanent office of the National Mission for Manuscripts has been set up in Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts. A full time Mission Director with a supporting team have been put in position for effective functioning of the Mission.

**Drawing of Water from Rivers by
Private Companies**

6169.SHRI SUNIL KHAN :
SHRI SUBODH ROY :
SHRI MOINUL HASSAN :
SHRI A.P. ABDULLAKUTTY :

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the names and number of private companies granted permission for drawing of river water for commercial use;

(b) whether any conditions have been laid down for drawing of water from rivers;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether allowing drawing of huge quantities of water from these rivers would adversely effect the farming community in the surrounding areas; and

(e) if so, the measures taken by the Government to safe-guard the interests of the farmers?

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

(a) to (c) No permission has been granted to any private company for drawing of river water for commercial use by the Ministry of Water Resources. Water being a State Subject, planning, formulation, funding and execution of water resources projects including granting permission for drawing of river water for commercial use rests with the respective State Government.

(d) and (e) Utilization of water from rivers for irrigation is done through minor, medium and major irrigation/ multipurpose projects. Minor schemes are cleared by the State Governments and major and medium (inter-State) projects are cleared by the Central Government after taking into account the techno-economic feasibility of the project as well as water availability.

Production of Sandalwood

6170.SHRI P.D. ELANGO VAN : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have any statistical data on the production of sandalwood trees in our country;

(b) if so, the details of the past five years, State-wise;

(c) whether India is the largest producer of sandalwood in the world;

(d) if so, whether the Government propose to set up more sandal tree growers in the country particularly in Tamil Nadu and Karnataka; and

(e) if so, the details of the funds allocated and disbursed during the last five years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV) : (a) and (b) Sandalwood is mainly found in the States of Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh. State-wise statistical data on the production of sandalwood in these States is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e) Raising Plantation of sandalwood on large scale has not been successful and the past experience in raising sandalwood artificially has not proved better than natural regeneration. At present, augmentation of

sandalwood areas by promoting natural regeneration, tending works including bush sowing and protection of selected areas are being undertaken by the State Governments.

Drip Irrigation

6171.SHRI NARESH PUGLIA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

- (a) the amount allocated for Drip Irrigation in the country during the last three years;
- (b) the details thereof, State-wise;
- (c) the provision made for Drip Irrigation in the country during 2003-2004;
- (d) the quantum of water saved as a result thereof;
- (e) whether there is a proposal to increase allocation for Drip Irrigation; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) to (c) With the amalgamation of Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Development of Horticulture through Plasticulture Intervention with effect from October 2000 under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Macro Management in Agriculture – Supplementation/ Complementation of State Efforts through Work Plan, separate allocation are not being made by the Central Government for drip irrigation.

(d) No survey has been conducted to assess the total water saved in the country so far due to drip irrigation. However, experimental studies conducted by various Precision Farming Development Centres (PFDC) in the country reveal that there is saving of water ranging from 5 to 60 percent depending upon the crops under drip irrigation.

(e) and (f) Under the Macro Management Scheme the State Government have been given the freedom to take up programmes as per their felt needs and requirement through the Work Plan. Hence, the allocation for drip irrigation are made by the State Government depending upon their priority.

Steel Authority of India Limited

6172.SHRI V. VETRISSELVAN : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the financial condition of the Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) has been adversely affected due to depression in the international market;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the efforts made/being made by the Government to improve its condition?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The financial performance of Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) during the last three years is as under :

(Rs./Cr.)

| Year | Net Profit (-)/Loss (-) (PAT) |
|---------|-------------------------------|
| 2000-01 | (-) 729 |
| 2001-02 | (-) 1707 |
| 2002-03 | (-) 500 (Prov.) |

(c) The major steps being taken to improve the profitability of SAIL Plants/Units are as under :

- Business restructuring envisaging divestment of non-core assets
- Intensive cost control
- Control on capital expenditure
- Market oriented product-mix, reinforcing sales and marketing efforts, greater focus on customer satisfaction etc. resulting in better sales realisation.
- Rightsizing Manpower
- Prudent funds Management

Destruction of Casurina Trees

6173.SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the growing destruction of Casurina trees in coastal Orissa;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to save the Casurina trees from destruction with a view to balance the ecology in those areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV) : (a) Yes, Sir. Destruction of Casurina trees in the coastal areas of Orissa has been reported.

(b) Destruction of Casurina trees has been mainly due to cyclones, heavy biotic pressure as the local inhabitants are entirely dependent on Casurina plantations, use of Casurina saplings by floating population of fishermen for cooking and fishing purposes, smuggling by miscreants and inadequate infrastructure for forest protection.

(c) Steps taken by the Orissa Forests Department to save the Casurina trees include :

- (i) Constitution of Van Samrakhyana Samitis for protection of coastal plantations.
- (ii) Setting up of wireless stations for immediate communication to combat smuggling.
- (iii) Frequent patrolling along the sea coast.
- (iv) Organising awareness campaigns for the local inhabitants to save the coastal plantation areas from encroachment, felling and smuggling of trees. People are also being encouraged to use kerosene, LPG and solar energy instead of fuelwood.
- (v) Raising of Casurina plantations in coastal areas to balance the ecology of the area.

Grants to Difficult Areas

6174. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH : Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) the criteria adopted by the Government for providing the grants to difficult areas;

(b) whether the Government have a scheme to offer grants upto 25 percent of the capital cost with a maximum of Rs. 50 lakhs in difficult areas where Food Processing Industries (FPI) are set up;

(c) if so, the details indicating the grants released for the purpose during the last three years and thereafter, State-wise;

(d) whether these grants have been utilised properly;

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

(f) the steps taken by the Government to ensure the fully utilisation of grants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM) : (a) and (b) The criteria adopted by the Ministry of Food Processing Industries for extending financial assistance is the technical and financial viability of proposals received by the Ministry. Under the existing Plan Scheme of the Ministry, for the setting up/modernisations/expansion of food processing units, higher quantum of financial assistance is extended for projects in difficult areas, which is 33.33% of the cost of plant and machinery and technical civil works subject to a maximum of Rs. 75 lakhs, as opposed to 50% or Rs. 50 lakhs applicable for general areas.

(c) The details of financial assistance extended to the areas covered under 'difficult areas' are given in the statement enclosed.

(d) to (f) By and large, the financial assistance extended by the Ministry have been utilised for the purpose for which they were released. Requests for the release of second and/or subsequent instalments are considered by the Ministry only after receipt of the utilisation certificate from the firm in the prescribed format and duly authenticated by Chartered Accountants/Auditors. Where utilisation certificate is not received, the matter is pursued vigorously by the Ministry to obtain the same. In case of failure to furnish the utilisation certificates, the Ministry initiates action to recall the assistance extended.

Statement

Details of financial assistance extended to States covered by the definition 'difficult areas' by the Ministry of Food Processing Industries

| State | (Rs. in lakhs) | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------|-----------|-----------|
| | 2000-2001 | 2001-2002 | 2002-2003 |
| Andaman and Nicobar Islands | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Arunachal Pradesh | 0.00 | 0.00 | 43.56 |
| Assam | 278.79 | 87.54 | 218.46 |
| Chhattisgarh | 0.00 | 200.00 | 0.00 |
| Himachal Pradesh | 0.00 | 0.00 | 112.36 |
| Jammu and Kashmir | 200.00 | 190.15 | 513.21 |
| Lakshadweep | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Manipur | 334.39 | 232.42 | 342.89 |
| Meghalaya | 0.00 | 0.00 | 58.10 |
| Mizoram | 0.00 | 217.10 | 4.24 |
| Nagaland | 97.25 | 36.60 | 0.00 |
| Sikkim | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Tripura | 231.05 | 0.00 | 82.75 |
| Uttaranchal | 0.00 | 17.35 | 3.53 |

Ground Water Recharge Schemes in Andhra Pradesh

6175. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAIISI : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether 10 schemes launched by the Union Government to recharge ground water have been completed in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details of thereof;

(c) the total funds allocated by the Government to Andhra Pradesh for implementation of schemes;

(d) whether any new proposals have been received by the Union Government from Andhra Pradesh for ground water recharge; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and by when these proposals are likely to be cleared?

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Details including the cost of completed recharge projects under the Central Sector Scheme on "Study of Recharge to Ground Water" in Andhra Pradesh are given in the enclosed Statement.

(d) and (e) The Union Government has received 14 new proposals for ground water recharge at an estimated cost of Rs. 546.48 lakh from Andhra Pradesh. Presently, there is no approved scheme under which these proposals can be considered.

Statement

Details of Artificial Recharge Projects undertaken in Andhra Pradesh under CGWB'S Central Sector Scheme on "Study of Recharge to Ground Water"

| Sl. No. | Name of the Recharge Project | Cost (Rs. in lakh) |
|---------|--|--------------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 1. | Scheme proposal for artificial recharge of ground water in Abhangapatanam village, Koilkonda Mandal, Mahaboobnagar District. | 2.50 |
| 2. | Scheme proposal for artificial recharge of ground water in Malkapur village, Koilkonda Mandal, Mahaboobnagar District. | 2.75 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|--------------|--|--------------|
| 3. | Scheme proposal for artificial recharge of ground water in Ananthpur village, Koilkonda Mandal, Mahaboobnagar District. | 2.40 |
| 4. | Scheme proposal for artificial recharge of ground water in Keshavpur village, Koilkonda Mandal, Mahaboobnagar District. | 2.20 |
| 5. | Scheme proposal for artificial recharge of ground water in Mallapur village, Koilkonda Mandal, Mahaboobnagar District. | 2.90 |
| 6. | Project of conservation of water at Khammam district. | 30.00 |
| 7. | Scheme proposal for artificial recharge of ground water in Bora Banda Wadika, Thimmannapally H/O Revelly village, Midjil Mandal, Mahaboobnagar District. | 3.00 |
| 8. | Scheme proposal for artificial recharge of ground water in Tekula Wadika, Thimmannapally H/O Revelly village, Midjil Mandal, Mahaboobnagar District. | 1.57 |
| 9. | Scheme proposal for artificial recharge of ground water in Mondoni Kunta Wadika, Thimmannapally H/O Revelly village, Midjil Mandal, Mahaboobnagar District. | 1.75 |
| 10. | Scheme proposal for artificial recharge of ground water in Revelly village, Midjil Mandal, Mahaboobnagar District. SY No. 62 Check Dam across Yatakirosi Chelka Wadika of 2nd order of stream. | 2.75 |
| Total | | 51.82 |

Promotion of Floriculture in Orissa

6176.SHRI PARSURAM MAJHI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the soil and the climatic condition in Orissa are favourable for floriculture;

(b) if so, the steps taken to promote floriculture in State;

(c) whether the Union Government have received proposals from the State Government for financial assistance for the purpose; and

(d) if so, the funds allocated to the State?

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

(a) and (b) Soil and climatic conditions of Orissa are suitable for growing various types of flowers. The Government of Orissa has, therefore, been promoting floriculture through work plans in the State.

(c) and (d) The Government of India has received work plan from the State for the year 2003-04, funds for which have been allocated. The State has planned to take up floriculture programmes during the year with an outlay of Rs. 104.41 lakhs.

[Translation]

Propagation of Low Cost Preservation Technology

6177.SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL : Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) the programme being implemented by his Ministry under the propagation of the low cost preservation technology and criteria for providing loan, grants and financial assistance aid alongwith details of contribution of State Governments; and

(b) the funds allocated to Rajasthan under the propagation of the low cost preservation technology

during the last three years, year-wise and programme/scheme-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM) : (a) The Ministry of Food Processing Industries is not operating any scheme specifically for the propagation of low cost preservation technology. The Ministry promotes food-processing industries through a combination of policy initiatives and plan scheme. Through its plan schemes the Ministry extends financial assistance by way of grant upto 25% of the cost of plant and machinery and technical civil works subject to a maximum of Rs. 50 lakhs in general areas and 33.33% of the cost of plant and machinery and technical civil works subject to a maximum of Rs. 75 lakhs in difficult areas. The criteria adopted by the Ministry of Food Processing Industries for extending financial assistance is the technical and financial viability of proposals received in the Ministry. Financial assistance extended under the Plan schemes of the Ministry is limited and does not preclude the project getting finances from external agencies including from State Governments. Details regarding contributions made by State Governments to projects are not being maintained.

(b) No application was received from Rajasthan for financial assistance for propagation of low cost preservation technology during the last three years.

Illegal Sale of Artefacts

6178. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any enquiry has been conducted into the illegal sale of rare artefacts from the office of the Archaeological Survey of India located in Sunder Nagar and from some other parts of Delhi during March, 2003;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the value of the above mentioned rare artefacts?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. No such sale took place from the office of Archaeological Survey of India which is not located in Sunder Nagar. However, the Central Bureau of Investigation with the assistance of officers of the Archaeological Survey of India conducted a surprise check relating to illegal sale of antiquities and rare artefacts by

M/S Bowring's Fine Art Auctioneers Pvt. Ltd., 69, Sunder Nagar and C-331, Defence Colony, New Delhi on 21.3.2003. During the surprise check, nine paintings of Raja Ravi Verma and one painting of P. Gerhardt, which were meant for auction were seized. Investigation so far has revealed that 65 antique objects were sold, through auctions, for an amount of Rs. 2.80 crores approximately. The Central Bureau of Investigation has registered a case on 22.03.2003 against M/s Bowring's Fine Art Auctioneers Pvt. Ltd. u/s 25(2) read with Section 5 of the Antiquities and Art Treasures Act, 1972.

[English]

Direct/Indirect Subsidy to Farmers

6179. SHRI A. NARENDRA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the direct and indirect subsidies being provided to the farmers alongwith its impact noticed during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the subsidies which are extended to the small and marginal farmers and comparatively weaker section of the farming community;

(c) whether any study has been conducted to ascertain whether such subsidies reach the targeted farmers;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to ensure that the subsidies actually reach the said farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) and (b) Subsidies given to agriculture are both product and non - product specific. These include subsidies on fertilizers, diesel, electricity, water etc. and also support in the form of research, extension and market intervention. The subsidies percolate down also to the small and marginal farmers and weaker sections of the farming community. The total support to agriculture cannot be meaningfully segregated State-wise. A statement showing total subsidies given to agriculture sector through inputs during 1999-2000 - 2001-02 is enclosed.

(c) to (e) Yes, Sir. A study on 'Agricultural Input Subsidies in India - Impact on Small and Marginal

Farmers' has been conducted by the Institute of Economic Growth, Delhi at the instance of Ministry of Agriculture. The findings of the study in brief are as under :

- (i) The adoption of improved seeds, irrigation and higher level of fertilizer use go together and that size of the holding is not a significant determining factor in this relationship. However, the study also notes that fewer of the smaller holdings are located within the Canal Commands. This implies that small farmers have less access to infrastructure and technology itself.
- (ii) As regards credit, small and marginal farmers appropriate a large part of total institutional

credit per hectare. However, they take more short term credit and a large part of it in cash. Long term credit is accessed more by large farmers and mechanization is undertaken to a larger extent by farmers with larger operational holdings. Government has taken a number of steps to provide subsidies to farmers through various schemes aimed at promoting agricultural production and productivity in the country. While the concessions/benefits under some of the schemes are not exclusively meant for small and marginal farmers, the benefits under other schemes flow to small and marginal farmers including farmers from weaker sections.

Statement

Subsidies to Agriculture Sector

(Rs. crore)

| S. No. | Item | 1999-00 (Actuals) | 2000-01 (Actuals) | 2001-02 (+) |
|--------|--|----------------------|----------------------|----------------|
| 1. | Fertilizer (Total) | 13244 | 13800 | 12595 |
| 1.1 | Indeginous fertilizers | 8670 | 9480 | 8044 |
| 1.2 | Imported Fertilizers | 74 | 1 | 47 |
| 1.3 | Sale of decontrolled fertilizer with concession to farmers | 4500 | 4319 | 4504 |
| 2. | Electricity** | 4276 | 6449 | NA |
| 3. | Irrigation## | 11487 | 13681 | 11645 |
| | State Government | 11361 | 13544 | 11498 |
| | Local Bodies | 126 | 137 | 147 |
| 4. | Other subsidies given to marginal farmers and farmers' Cooperative Societies in the form of seeds, development of oil seeds, pulses etc. | 1811 | 1019 | NA |

Source : 1. Fertilizer : Expenditure Budget 2002-03, Vol. I of Central Government

2. Electricity and Irrigation : Central Statistical Organization

NA : Not available

** : Includes all subsidies to Electricity Boards and Corporation, Separate estimates of Electricity subsidy accountable exclusively to agricultural sector are not available.

: The rates for supply of water to farmers are kept low a matter of policy, resulting in losses to the Government irrigation system. The excess of operating costs over the gross revenue is treated as impusted irrigation subsidy.

+ : Quick estimates.

Decrease in Traffic on Scheduled Airlines

6180. SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

- (a) whether International Air Traffic Association has released its annual compilation of data for the year 2002;
- (b) if so, whether international air traffic on scheduled airlines has recorded a decrease;
- (c) if so, the extent of decrease; and
- (d) whether this has caused several unviable flights to be pruned off?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK) : (a) to (c) According to the International Air Transport Association (IATA), international passenger traffic on IATA carriers witnessed a net increase of 0.06% during the year 2002. During the same period, international freight traffic increased by 6.5%.

(d) Does not arise in view of the above. However, restructuring/redeployment of capacity to more high-yielding sector is a continuous process followed by airlines world-over.

[Translation]

Dairy Development in Jharkhand and Bihar

6181. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether there is a huge potential of dairy development in Jharkhand and Bihar; and
- (b) if so, the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) and (b) Apart from various Dairy development Schemes/programmes being implemented by the respective State Governments, the Ministry of Agriculture is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme namely "Integrated Dairy

Development Project" (IDDP) in Non Operation Flood, hilly and backward areas of the country on 100% grant-in-aid basis to the State Governments. Based on their requirements, six projects have been sanctioned for the State of Bihar under IDDP since 1993-94 at a total outlay of Rs. 1384.17 lakhs and Government of India has released an amount of Rs. 641.72 lakhs upto 31.3.2003. The projects are at various stages of implementation. A project under IDDP which was earlier sanctioned for undivided Bihar, included four districts of Jharkhand, has since been separated and is currently being implemented by the Government of Jharkhand with a total approved outlay of Rs. 364.50 lakhs against which Government of India has released Rs. 264.59 lakhs upto 31.3.2003. A project proposal under the scheme National Project for Cattle and Buffalo Breeding in Bihar with an estimated cost of Rs. 4347.03 Lakhs was received but was not in conformity with the guidelines of the Scheme. The State Government has been requested to revise the proposal. For fodder development, this Ministry has provided 15000 and 6600 minikits to the States of Bihar and Jharkhand respectively, during 2002-03. National Dairy Development Board has reported that they have entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Government of Jharkhand to support dairy development.

[English]

International Flights from Bangalore

6182. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

- (a) whether direct flights are being introduced between Bangalore and the United Arab Emirates, Singapore and Mauritius;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) by when they are likely to become operational?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK) : (a) to (c) Indian Airlines operates four times a week from Bangalore to Sharjah in UAE whereas Air India operates thrice-weekly services between Bangalore and Dubai. Indian Airlines are also operating a daily flight from Bangalore to Singapore. Besides Bangalore is available as a point of call to the

designated airlines of Singapore and they are likely to commence operations to Bangalore effective June, 2003. So far there is no direct flight between Bangalore and Mauritius.

Beedi Workers

6183. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE :
SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the number of beedi workers are increasing in the country since 1998;

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

(c) whether the funds allocation is not commensurate with the increase in the number of beedi workers;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to allocate more funds for the welfare of beedi workers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI VIJAY GOEL) : (a) The State Governments are furnishing the figures of estimated beedi workers in their respective States on regular basis. Accordingly, estimated beedi workers were 43.99 lakh in 1998 and 45.16 lakh in 2002.

(b) A statement is enclosed.

(c) No, Sir. The fund allocation of Beedi Workers Welfare Fund was Rs. 31.96 crore in the year 1997-98 which has increased to Rs. 92.36 crore in 2002-2003 against an increase of the number of beedi workers during the same period by 1.17 lakh only.

(d) and (e) Does not arise in view of answer to the part (c) above.

Statement

Number of Beedi workers estimated since 1998 till 2002

| Sl. No. | Name of the State | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 |
|---------|-------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 6,25,050 | 6,25,050 | 6,25,050 | 6,25,050 | 6,25,050 |
| 2. | Assam | 7,725 | 7,725 | 7,725 | 7,725 | 7,725 |
| 3. | Bihar | 3,91,500 | 3,91,500 | 3,91,500 | 3,91,500 | 3,91,500 |
| 4. | Gujarat | 50,000 | 50,000 | 50,000 | 50,000 | 50,348 |
| 5. | Karnataka | 3,60,000 | 3,60,000 | 3,60,000 | 3,60,876 | 3,60,876 |
| 6. | Kerala | 1,36,416 | 1,36,416 | 1,36,416 | 1,36,416 | 1,36,416 |
| 7. | Madhya Pradesh | 7,50,000 | 7,50,000 | 7,50,000 | 7,50,000 | 8,27,194 |
| 8. | Maharashtra | 2,56,000 | 2,56,000 | 2,56,000 | 2,56,000 | 2,56,000 |
| 9. | Orissa | 1,60,000 | 1,60,000 | 1,60,000 | 1,60,000 | 1,67,466 |
| 10. | Rajasthan | 1,00,000 | 1,00,000 | 1,00,000 | 1,00,000 | 1,00,000 |
| 11. | Tamil Nadu | 6,20,950 | 6,20,950 | 6,20,950 | 6,20,950 | 6,41,188 |
| 12. | Tripura | 5,000 | 5,000 | 5,000 | 5,000 | 5,000 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
|-------|---------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 13. | Uttar Pradesh | 4,50,000 | 4,50,000 | 4,50,000 | 4,50,000 | 4,50,000 |
| 14. | West Bengal | 4,87,000 | 4,87,000 | 4,87,000 | 4,97,758 | 4,97,758 |
| Total | | 43,99,641 | 43,99,641 | 43,99,641 | 44,11,275 | 45,16,521 |

Houses for Plantation Labourers

6184. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to construct homes for plantation labourers considering that such labour is heavily concentrated in Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI VIJAY GOEL) : (a) and (b) According to Plantations Labour Act, 1951, all welfare facilities, including housing accommodation are to be provided by the employer to the plantation worker.

(c) Do not arise in view of answer to (a) and (b) above.

Upgradation of Airports

6185. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have not come up with a scheme to upgrade metro airports or finalise the model of privatisation and the structure for routing the private investment;

(b) if so, whether the budget for 2002-03 and 2003-04 had provision for Delhi and Mumbai Airports only; and

(c) if so, by when the final decision for upgradation of these airports is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK) : (a) The Government of India, in January 2000, approved the

restructuring of the airports of Airports Authority of India (AAI) through long term leasing route as and when found suitable. At the first instance, the international airports at Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata were taken up for this exercise. A comprehensive Bill, namely AAI (Amendment) Bill 2003 is being introduced in the Parliament to include an enabling provision in AAI Act for leasing of the airports.

(b) Hon'ble Finance Minister, in his Budget speech 2002-03 had, inter-alia, stated that the international Airport at Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata would be upgraded to the standards of world class airports by inducting private sector management and investment through long term leasing. In the Budget 2003-04, it has been announced that in addition to the existing initiative for leasing of major airports, Delhi and Mumbai Airports, as the principal hubs of international travel to India, will be taken up for modernisation to international standards. Two separate companies will be formed with initial equal equity participation from the Airports Authority of India. These two companies could also take joint venture partners.

(c) A specific time frame cannot be indicated at this stage.

Adventure Tourism in Karnataka

6186. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have taken any steps to promote adventure tourism in Karnataka;

(b) if so, the number of projects sanctioned in the State during the last three years; and

(c) the funds sanctioned/released to the State Government for the projects?

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

(b) The Department of Tourism, Government of India sanctioned nine Adventure Tourism related projects in the State of Karnataka during the last three years.

(c) An amount of Rs. 110.59 lakhs was sanctioned and Rs. 77.21 lakhs was released to the State Government of Karnataka for the nine Adventure Tourism related projects during 2000-01, 2001-02, 2002-03.

Pending Check-Dams Projects

6187. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any representations/proposals/projects from tribals in Andhra Pradesh for seeking clearance for check-dams in their area;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of such projects cleared and pending clearance as on date;

(d) the reasons for not clearing the pending projects; and

(e) by when the same are likely to be cleared/ approved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A representation from tribals of Sunnalagnadi, Vinjiram Panchayat, West Godavari District for construction of a check dam has been received. However, proposal for diversion of forest land in the prescribed format as per Section 2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act 1980 from the State Government of Andhra Pradesh has not been submitted.

(c) to (e) Does not arise.

Failure of BT. Cotton

6188. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Bt. Cotton Crop in Andhra Pradesh has failed due to menace of pests;

(b) if so, the action taken thereof;

(c) whether the Government are reconsidering to take back the approval of GEAC for commercialization of GM technology;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV) : (a) and (b) The report of the Andhra Pradesh Government on the performance of Bt. cotton indicate that the bollworm infestation was low to moderate during the Kharif 2002 and hence the advantage of Bt. cotton could not be assessed.

(c) to (e) No, Sir. The GEAC has approved commercial cultivation of Bt. Cotton only for a period of 3 years and therefore its performance would be evaluated during this period. In view of the varying agro climatic conditions, the performance of Bt. Cotton cannot be assessed on one year data.

[Translation]

Production of Maize

6189. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether 16 lakh tonne maize is production every year in Bihar;

(b) if so, whether the farmers have sown maize seed namely 'Kargil' developed by Montesso Multinational Company; and

(c) if so, the action the Government propose to take to provide compensation of farmers and penalise the seed company after conducting an inquiry into it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) On an average, 15.43 lakh tonnes of maize (three years' average (1999-2000 to 2001-02) is being produced every year in Bihar.

(b) As per information received from Department of Agriculture, Government of Bihar and M/s Monsanto India

Limited, as such, no quantity of maize seed in the brand name of "Kargil" has been sold by M/s Monsanto India Limited in Bihar during the year 2002-03. As per information received from Monsanto Company, the Kargil Seeds India Limited was acquired by Monsanto Technologies India Limited, renamed as Monsanto India Limited, on 1st April 1999 and the "Kargil 900 M" seed of maize was sold upto the year 2001. After that, the brand name was changed as "ASGROW 900 M" and finally in May, 2002 the brand name was again changed to "Super 900 M"

(c) A Team of Experts to assess the reasons for failure of maize crop due to non-filling of grains in the cob of maize crops in Bihar has already been constituted by the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India and a Committee was constituted by ICAR in the matter. Finally, the Committee, after investigating the matter in details, has concluded that the poor grain setting and failure of maize crop is attributed to unfavourable weather conditions which have impacted other crops also in the region (Bihar) like pigeon pea and mustard. Grain set in crop planted during last week of September, to 1st Week of November were adversely affected by unusual temperature variations and cold stress in the areas where the flowering coincided with prolonged extreme cold waves irrespective of varieties/hybrids. Degree of seed set varied from hybrid to hybrid depending upon the flowering time and its coincidence with cold wave period.

In the context of above findings, the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture, is of the view that there was nothing wrong with the quality of seed of the particular hybrid, viz; "Super 900 M" sold by M/s Monsanto India Limited in the State of Bihar. Accordingly, the Department neither proposes to penalize the Seed Company nor provide any compensation to the farmers.

**SCs/STs and OBCs Officials Working
in various Departments**

6190. SHRI BAL KRISHNA CHAUHAN : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the number of group A, B, C and D officials working in different departments and undertakings under his Ministry, category-wise; and

(b) the details of the number of Other Backward Classes, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribe officials out of the total number of officials separately, category-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI VIJAY GOEL) : (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Production of Pulses

6191. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state the details of Central assistance provided by the Government to increase the pulse production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : For increasing the production of pulses in the country, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme of National Pulses Development Projects (NPDP) is under implementation. Under the scheme, assistance is provided to the farmers on different components like production and distribution of seeds, distribution of seed minikits, distribution of gypsum/pyrite, improved farm implement, rhizobium culture/PSB, distribution of sprinkler sets, micro-nutrients etc. However, the details of the Central assistance provided by the Government to different States for increasing the production of pulses during 2002-03 is enclosed as Statement.

Statement

The funds released to the States for the implementation of National Pulses Development project during 2002-03

(Rs. in lakh)

| S. No. | State | Amount released under NPDP |
|--------|----------------|----------------------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 25.00 |
| 2. | Bihar | — |
| 3. | Chhattisgarh | 45.00 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|-----|----------------------------|--------|
| 4. | Goa | 1.00 |
| 5. | Gujarat | 50.00 |
| 6. | Haryana | 10.00 |
| 7. | Himachal Pradesh | 2.50 |
| 8. | Jammu and Kashmir | 4.50 |
| 9. | Jharkhand | 2.50 |
| 10. | Karnataka | 67.00 |
| 11. | Kerala | 4.00 |
| 12. | Madhya Pradesh | 132.50 |
| 13. | Maharashtra | 147.00 |
| 14. | Orissa | 10.00 |
| 15. | Punjab | — |
| 16. | Rajasthan | 254.00 |
| 17. | Tamil Nadu | 93.00 |
| 18. | Uttar Pradesh | 60.00 |
| 19. | Uttaranchal | 4.50 |
| 20. | West Bengal | 4.50 |
| 21. | Andaman and Nicobar Island | 0.50 |
| 22. | Delhi | 1.00 |
| 23. | Arunachal Pradesh | 5.00 |
| 24. | Assam | 15.00 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|-------|-----------|---------|
| 25. | Manipur | 40.00 |
| 26. | Meghalaya | 15.00 |
| 27. | Mizoram | 51.00 |
| 28. | Nagaland | 37.00 |
| 29. | Tripura | 37.00 |
| 30. | Sikkim | 10.00 |
| Total | | 1128.50 |

Kumarakam Package

6192.SHRI P. RAJENDRAN : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Hon'ble Prime Minister had announced Kumarakam Package during his visit to Kerala during the year 2000 to promote tourism in the State; and

(b) if so, the progress made therein so far and the amount sanctioned and utilised by the State Government?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) During his visit to Kumarakam on 26.12.2000, the Hon'ble Prime Minister had announced that there is immense scope for further development of tourism in the State. There is a need especially to promote high value tourism and to protect the State's ecology. The Centre will extend full support to any proposal that the State Government brings for the development of infrastructure and facilities for tourism.

(b) Necessary information is given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

Tourism Projects Sanctioned for Development and Promotion of Tourism in Kerala after the visit of the Hon'able Prime Minister

| Sr. No. | Name of the project | Amount Sanctioned (Rs. in lakhs) | Amount Released (Rs. in lakhs) |
|---------|--|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 1. | Improvements to road streetlighting in Mattancherry to Synogouge | 15.00 | 4.50 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|-----|--|--------|--------|
| 2. | Improvements to river ghats at Shankarcharya | 25.00 | 7.50 |
| 3. | Production of CD Roms | 40.75 | 36.67 |
| 4. | Touch scree kiosks and production of CD roms on Kerala | 42.00 | 37.80 |
| 5. | Development of watersports walkway at Veli | 50.00 | 15.00 |
| 6. | Wayside amenities at Punolur | 50.00 | 15.00 |
| 7. | Eastfort in Thiruvananthapuram Museum and improvements to surroundings | 50.00 | 15.00 |
| 8. | Walkway along backwater shore | 57.00 | 16.10 |
| 9. | Development of jetties in Kochi backwater | 100.21 | 50.00 |
| 10. | Water-sport equipments and power boats | 245.00 | 99.00 |
| 11. | Southern circuit | 780.36 | 780.36 |
| | (i) Pathway lighting and signages at Kovalam | | |
| | (ii) Development of Highmast Lighting and Signages at Varkala | | |
| | (iii) Restoration of East Fort heritage area at Thiruvananthapuram | | |
| | (iv) Refurbishment of Travancore Palace | | |
| | (v) Facilitation centre at Kochi | | |
| | (vi) Construction of boat jetty complex at Erankulam | | |
| | (vii) Pay and Use toilets at Kumarkam | | |
| 12. | Elephant festival | 5.00 | 4.00 |
| 13. | National Book Show at Kochi | 15.00 | 15.00 |

**Assistance to West Bengal for
Irrigation Projects**

6193. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to provide additional assistance to West Bengal Government for irrigation projects during the current year as well as next financial year; and

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

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

(a) and (b) Union Government is providing additional Central Assistance as Central Loan Assistance (CLA) under Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP) launched in 1996-97 to Major/Medium Irrigation Projects which are either in advance stage of construction or are beyond the resource capability of the State. The Central Government has released CLA of Rs. 16.538 crore for Teesta Barrage, Rs. 0.267 crore for Tatko, Rs. 0.090 crore for Hanumata and Rs. 11.238 crore for Subernarekha Barrage Project to State Government of West Bengal in the year 2002-2003. The amount of the CLA is finalized after receipt of the proposal from the State Government as per the norms and eligibility criteria of the Programme.

[Translation]

**Officials under OBC, SC and ST
Categories**

6194. SHRI BAL KRISHNA CHAUHAN : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) the number of group A, B, C and D officials working in different departments and undertakings under his Ministry, category-wise; and

(b) the details of the number of Other Backward Classes, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribe Officials out of the total number of officials separately, category-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY) : (a) and (b) Insofar as the Ministry of Steel (Secretariat) is concerned, a statement is enclosed.

Insofar as the DCI and S organization (an attached office) and the public sector undertakings under the Ministry of Steel are concerned the information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

Incumbency Statement as on 1.5.2003

| Classification of Post | No. of Employees in position | SC | ST | OBC |
|------------------------|------------------------------|----|----|-----|
| A | 36 | 6 | 1 | — |
| B | 85 | 14 | 5 | 2 |
| C | 73 | 16 | 5 | 5 |
| D | 67 | 32 | 9 | 3 |
| Total | 261 | 68 | 20 | 10 |

12.00 hrs.

[English]

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY) : I beg to lay on the Table :-

(1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619 A of the Companies Act, 1956 :-

(i) Review by the Government of the working of the Hindustan Steelworks Construction Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2001-2002.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT. 7626/2003]

(ii) Annual Report of the Hindustan Steel works Construction Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2001-2002, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

(2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT. 7627/2003]

[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 of the National Seeds Policy-2002 (Hindi and English versions).

[Placed in Library, See No. LT. 7628/2003]

(2) A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the State Farms Corporation of India Limited (SFCI) and the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture for the year 2003-2004.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT. 7629/2003]

(3) A copy of each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (6) of section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 :-

(i) The Fertilizer (Control) Second Amendment Order, 2003 published in Notification No. S.O. 373 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 1st April, 2003.

(ii) The Fertilizer (Control) Third Amendment Order, 2003 published in Notification No.

S.O. 413 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 7th April, 2003.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT. 7630/2003]

- (4) A copy of the Coconut Development Board (Chief Coconut Development Officer) recruitment Rules, 2003 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 331(E) in Gazette of India dated the 10th April, 2003 under section 21 of the Coconut Development Board Act, 1979.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT. 7631/2003]

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI VIJAY GOEL) : I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Financial Estimates and Performance Budget (Hindi and English versions) of the Employees' State Insurance Corporation New Delhi, for the year 2003-2004

[Placed in Library, See No. LT. 7632/2003]

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJBHAI CHIKHALIA) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table :-

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Victoria Memorial, Kolkata, for the year 2001-2002, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Victoria Memorial, Kolkata, for the year 2001-2002.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT. 7633/2003]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the South Central

Zone Cultural Centre, Nagpur, for the year 2000-2001, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the South Central Zone Cultural Centre, Nagpur, for the year 2000-2001.
- (4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT. 7634/2003]

- (5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Eastern Zonal Cultural Centre, Kolkata, for the year 2000-2001, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Eastern Zonal Cultural Centre, Kolkata, for the year 2000-2001.
- (6) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (5) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT. 7635/2003]

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK) : I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Commission of Railway Safety, Lucknow, for the year 2001-2002 under section 10 of the Railways Act, 1989.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT. 7636/2003]

12.02 hrs.

PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES – SUMMARY OF WORK

[English]

SECRETARY-GENERAL : I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the 'Parliamentary Committees (Other than Financial and Departmentally related Standing Committees) – Summary of Work' (Hindi and English versions) pertaining to the period from 1st June, 2001 to 31st May, 2002.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Only if the hon. Members cooperate I will be able to give chance to each one of you to raise issues. Till all the issues are disposed I won't take up any other matter. Please cooperate.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Now we may go to the 'Zero Hour'.
Shri P. Mohan.

*SHRI P. MOHAN (Madurai) : Sir, recently both BSNL and MTNL have announced an enormous tariff hike hitting hard the consumers. These public sector telecom companies have revised their tariff rates which will rise to huge escalation in telephone bills. Private operators have also revised upwardly the user charges. Four different tariff packages have been announced for landline connections sounding like incentive schemes. But this will only lead to a situation where the rich alone can afford the essential communication facility. The number of free calls has been reduced. This will only benefit and facilitate the private operators in the long run. These schemes are like getting an elephant free when you buy a balloon at an enormous cost. In the name of charges for landline and mobile phone connectivity, the consumers are sought to be fleeced. What was Rs. 1.20 for 3 minutes will henceforth be the fare for a mere 30 seconds when it is from one mode to the other.

Long distance call facility given to the PCOs operated by the blind and the unemployed youth must continue to get the '91' and '95' dialing facility given to the private subscribers.

So I urge upon the Government to restore the telecom tariff structure that was their till 30th of April.

[English]

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri V.S. Sivakumar, your name will be associated with Shri P. Mohan.

(Interruptions)

*Translation of speech originally delivered in Tamil.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Krishnaswamy, Shri Adhi Sankar and Shri Jayaseelan may also associate with what Shri P. Mohan has said.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Dr. Saroja and Shri Dalit Ezhilmalai may also associate with Shri P. Mohan.

(Interruptions)

12.04½ hrs.

SUBMISSION BY MEMBERS

- (i) **Re : Atrocities on dalits in the State of Haryana and other parts of the country**

[Translation]

SARDAR BUTA SINGH (Jalore) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the incident of atrocities on dalits in Haryana have proved that there is no law and order in the State. Recently, at a police station in Dulina, five dalits had been killed in front of Magistrate, Collector and senior police officer. In front of those people who are responsible for maintaining law and order, five people were killed mercilessly. They were killed by the people who promote casteism. No action has been taken against them till date. In this regard a discussion took place in the House and all the hon'ble Members participated in the discussion. However, despite that no action has been taken against the culprits by the Haryana Government as well as the Ministry of Home Affairs. Today, this sort of situation is prevailing in Haryana. Immediately after this incident another incident took place in Harsaula village in Kaithal district.

In the month of February, on the occasion of Guru Ravidas Jayanti the dalits of village were collectively doing bhaja-kirtan and at that time the casteist people brutally beat them in the mandir. With some courage the dalits collectively repulsed the attackers. After 10 days of this incident the attackers again came and attacked the dalits with lathis and spears and later on they came to their colony and beat up women, children and elderly people after pulling them out of their houses. Around 3-4 dozen people were injured. On 2nd February, a young girl called Rajni died in the hospital. Besides that another child called

Jaswant died because of improper treatment. This is the saga of the atrocities committed against those people. After this incident the entire mohalla left the colony and shifted to district camp. They are living like refugees.

Shri Malhotraji wanted to know when this incident took place and why this matter is being raised today. This incident took place in the month of February. The third attack on dalits was organised by all those people under the leadership of local M.L.A. and Chief Parliamentary Secretary. They were forcibly taken away from their village and beaten up and forced to sign agreement. They were made to write that nothing untoward happened between them. The police officials registered cases against 20 people and out of them 12 people were challaned. However, Chief Parliamentary Secretary got them released. Now according to the case file not a single accused is there and not a single case is pending.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, 275 families of the colony are living on the roads. There is no arrangement of food and water for them. The Government announced that it will give Rs. 10 lakh as compensation and the Collector announced that Rs. 25,000 will be given to the injured, but till date not a single penny has been given. A rally of those people under the banner of Jana Seva Sanghathan and under the leadership of Congress Vice President, Shri K.R. Punia, is being held at Jantar Mantar. Sir, with your permission today I am raising this matter. I demand that Rs. 5 lakh compensation should be paid to all those who were killed. All the people of that colony should be sent back under police security and the safety of their life and belongings should be assured. All the people against whom cases have been registered should be punished. In this regard I would like to request the hon'ble Minister of Home Affairs that it is not an ordinary case but is the second major incident. In Haryana B.J.P. is supporting the State Government. I would like to tell Shri Malhotra ji that if the BJP is actually concerned about the welfare of dalits, then they should take immediate action against the people who are killing dalits in U.P. otherwise these people will come on to the roads and give a befitting reply to the Government. Therefore, I would like to submit that dalits should be protected.

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA (Delhi Sadar) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, for quite some time Delhi is facing drinking water problem. Along with it the problem of power cuts is worsening day by day. . . .(Interruptions) Hue and cry for water can be seen every where in Delhi and people have come on to the roads. For handling the crisis the Government should have made preparations at least 3-4 months before, but the Delhi Government did not do any such thing. I would like to submit that the water and power crisis in Delhi is the result of corrupt and criminal negligence of Delhi Government.

I would like to cite an example. Today you must have read in the newspapers. . . .(Interruptions) today a photograph has been published in the newspaper regarding the inauguration of the Munak Canal by the Chief Minister of Delhi near Panipat. When I was the Chief Minister of Delhi, at that time on 12 June 1994 Yamuna canal water pact was signed. Earlier Delhi used to purchase water from Haryana, but after I came to power within six months Delhi got its share of water. In the agreement a provision was made that Munak Canal would be got cemented. Otherwise, 30 percent water gets wasted en-route. At that time its estimated cost was Rs. 85 crore and I had released Rs. 5 crore for this purpose. However, recently after eight years the Chief Minister of Delhi inaugurated the canal and said that water will flow only after another three years. I would like to know why the pact, which was signed five years back, could not be implemented? Therefore, I would like to submit that the current water crisis of Delhi is due to the lackadaisical approach of the Delhi Government.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, moreover Delhi is also facing power crisis. Shri Chandra Shekharji is not present here. You might be remembering that in the month of March, I had raised this issue that in Delhi around 60 lakh people live in poor colonies, Jhuggi-jhoparis and unauthorised colonies. Some one thousand contractors supply them power in the name of single point. Electricity is being supplied by the Government, but the money charged against this power supply does not go to the Government exchequer. The Bill supplied to them are private bills and it is printed on the bills that-late fee is Rs. 50 daily.

[Shri Madan Lal Khurana]

Rs. 6500/- are being taken as development charges. Since the colonies have not been regularised therefore they have to pay this amount again. At that time I had shown those receipts when Shri Chandra Shekharji had said. . . .
(Interruptions)

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL (Patan) : Leave something for the elections. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : That is what I would like to say that those one thousand contractors for elections. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA (Meerut) : Who did this. . . .(Interruptions) today you are raising the issues pertaining to Delhi with an eye on the elections but look at the U.P. scenario. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : After looking at those receipts Shri Chandra Shekhar ji had commented that it seems there is Jungle Raj in Delhi. What is the result of privatising power sector. When power was under the State the loss was never more than Rs. 1,000 crore in a year but during the last nine months, ever since power was given to private companies, the power sector has suffered the loss to the tune of eighteen thousand five hundred crore rupees. Next year it will go up to Rs. 3600 crore. Before privatisation the losses were never more than Rs. 1,000 crore a year and now they are considering to increase the electricity charges. Through you, I would like to submit that a CBI enquiry should be conducted in this matter. The way these one thousand private contractors are looting Delhi and poor people without giving them receipts should be enquired into by the C.B.I.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : On the same issue, I have received a notice from Shri Lal Bihari Tiwari. Shri Tiwari, your name will be associated with it. However, I will give you only one minute to speak.

[Translation]

SHRI LAL BIHARI TIWARI (East Delhi) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I associate myself with the concern expressed by Shri Madan Lal Khurana and would like to submit that out of

1.5 crore population of Delhi about 40-50 lakh people live in juggi-jhopri, unauthorised colonies and rehabilitation colonies. In these colonies, the Sheela Dixit Government of Delhi have not laid the drinking water pipelines. There water is supplied through tankers. Even then people are not getting water. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL (Kanpur) : Sir, it is a matter pertaining to Delhi State and you have given the permission to raise it here. . . .(Interruptions) six months are left for elections. Therefore, internationally efforts are being made to raise this matter here. . . .(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : No State matter should be permitted.

[Translation]

SHRI LAL BIHARI TIWARI : People are not getting water and whatever water is being provided is spreading diseases. Through you, I would like to demand that arrangements should be made to provide drinking water to the people of Delhi. Tankers are not being supplied on people's demand. People are craving for water. During the period of BJP Government there was a plan to built a 140 M.G.D. treatment plant in Sonia Vihar, but two years have elapsed since that and that plan was not materialised. According to the demand of East Delhi 200 M.G.D. water should be supplied but only 50 M.G.D. water is being supplied. Through you, I would like to request the immediate arrangements to supply drinking water to Delhi must be made.

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to associate myself with the matter raised by Shri Madan Lal Khurana and Shri Tiwari ji. A hue and cry has erupted for water in Delhi. The 1.5 crore people of Delhi are facing the water and power scarcity. There is corruption everywhere. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL : Look at U.P. There is a severe crisis of water and power. . . .(Interruptions)

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : Sir, through you, I would like to submit that the Sheela Dixit Government of Delhi should immediately resign and if she does not resigns then the Union Government should intervene in the matter. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL : Why do not you talk about U.P. People of U.P. are craving for a single drop of water. . . .(Interruptions) Delhi has one of the best Government. Next time we will win with two third majority. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down. Ramji Lal Sumanji now you can raise your subject.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Ramdas Athawale's name will also be associated with this.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, under the aegis of Vishwa Hindu Parishad a Trishul Diksha programme is being organised in the various regions of the country. It was organised in Rajasthan. Yesterday, it was organised in Delhi and it was organised at the time. . . .(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : He came first and gave his notice. I have got the names of all.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Congress is at the brink of trishul. Therefore, let the Congress speak first on trishul programme. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, regarding this Trishul Diksha programme, the Union Minister of Home Affairs had given instructions to Togadia of Vishwa Hindu Parishad that no Diksha programme should be organised. Newspapers have widely reported today that Togadia has ignored the instructions of Shri Advani. The programme was organised in Delhi and Delhi police comes under the Union Government. In a very peaceful manner environmentalist Vimal Bhai, writer Gayatri and student Durga were holding posters and shouting slogans that not trishul but we need employment and not trishul but we need water but they were beaten mercilessly. The

atmosphere of fear and terror is being created in the entire country. The hon. Minister of Home Affairs should tell how these diksha programmes are being organised in defiance of his instructions. . . .(Interruptions) elections are due in Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Delhi. Therefore intentionally communal passions are being whipped up. The hon. Minister of Home Affairs instructed that no Diksha programme is to be held. Even after that the programme was held and that too very much at the instance of the Government. The person called Praveen Togadia should be arrested under POTA. If there is any appropriate case for POTA, it is of Praveen Togadia. I demand that the hon'ble Minister of Home Affairs should give a statement and POTA should be used against Praveen Togadia. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down. I have the notices of Shri Pravin Rashtrapal, Shri Raghunath Jha and Shri Madusudhan Mistry on the same subject. I am allowing Shri Pravin Rashtrapal to speak.

[English]

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL : Sir, this is the issue which has a bearing on law and order in the capital of the country, which is the main responsibility of the Central Government. The Deputy Prime Minister, who is holding the portfolio of Home Minister, has totally failed in maintaining law and order in his constituency, that is, Ghandi Nagar in the State of Gujarat from where he is elected. Yesterday, he miserably failed in maintaining law and order in Delhi, which is the responsibility of the Central Government. . . .(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, please call the hon. Minister of Home Affairs. Despite the instructions of the hon. Minister of Home Affairs the Trishul Diksha programme was held. Togadia should be arrested under POTA. . . .(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL : Sir, the leader of the Delhi City Youth Congress was arrested from his residence by the Delhi Police. I want to know from Shri Arun Jaitely and Shrimati Sushma Swaraj, who are sitting here, what

[Shri Pravin Rashtrapal]

was the offence committed by the Youth Congress President of Delhi and under which section he was arrested from his home. He just wanted to stage a demonstration for peace. On the other side three people, whose names were mentioned by my colleague Shri Ramjilal Suman, were simply sitting with posters that they want water and not *Trishul*. They were not protected by Delhi Police and they were mercilessly beaten and have been admitted to hospital.

I would like to know from the Central Government whether it is in favour of a man who is creating problems all over the country by conducting the programme of distribution of *Trishul* and charging Rs. 50/-, Rs. 75/- and Rs. 250/-. In fact, it is not a distribution, it is a sale of arms and ammunition. And whether it is in Rajasthan or Gujarat or Madhya Pradesh or Delhi. I would like to know under what rule that man is creating law and order problems in this country. The Deputy Prime Minister should inform the House about the failure of the Central Government. . . .
(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Col. (Retd.) Sona Ram Choudhary, Shri K.A. Sangtam, and Shri Satyavrat Chaturvedi have also given notices on this subject. May I now request Shri Satyavrat Chaturvedi to speak?

(Interruptions)

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL : Sir, I want a reply from the Central Government. . . .(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA (Gopalganj) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, we have also given in writing. . . .(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I allow all these Members to associate themselves with the main issue.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI (Khajuraho) : Mr. Speaker, Sir. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have also given notice. POTA should be used in this case, and not in the case of Shri Vaiko. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Shri Pravin Togaria, Vishwa Hindu Parishad and some of his friends allegedly organised Trishul Diksha Programme in Delhi yesterday.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, all these programmes are being organised by Rashtriya Swayam Sevak Sangh and other organisations of the Sangh. Now it is quite clear that Bhartiya Janata Party and Central Government are supporting and giving full patronage to them. The Trishul Diksha Programme organised in Delhi yesterday clearly shows that BJP led Government is disturbing the atmosphere of communal harmony and peace in the entire country by organising such hypocritical political programmes. A conspiracy is being hatched to divide the people on religious ground for getting political mileage.

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, he is projecting them as hero. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI : Through you, I would like to warn the Government and request to impose a ban on this programme. Otherwise, the person like Pravin Togadia* . . .(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I remove that word from the record.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, legal action should be taken against them. It should be declared as crime against the nation and he should be arrested immediately. . . .(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I will expunge unparliamentary words from the records.

*Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, in spite of the instruction issued by the Home Minister, this programme was held in Delhi. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Prabhunath Singh, please make your submission.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon'ble Home Minister had issued instruction that the Trishul Diksha Programme should not be organised in Delhi. Despite, this programme was organised here. Had he given his silent approval to organise this programme? Sir, action should be taken against Shri Togaria. . . .(Interruptions)

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, in this context, I want to tell that no incident has taken place in Delhi due to Trishul Diksha programme. Even then he is saying time and again to arrest him. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the people who were demanding food and water beaten brutally. FIR was lodged against them. Police harassed them. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, in that incident, a writer, Gayatri and a girl student were beaten. . . .(Interruptions)

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is no ban on any weapon like knife (Chaku), dagger (Chhuri) etc. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Prabhunath Singh, do you not want to speak?

(Interruptions)

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, our party has nothing to do with the distribution of tridents. . . .(Interruptions) We do not have any such programme. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to request Shri Malhotra ji not to harm the country by doing such acts. I would request all the

members not to divide the country for the sake of politics of vote. . . .(Interruptions)

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Aurangzeb had imposed a ban on trident but he could not stopped the distribution of tridents. Will you be able to stop the distribution of tridents by saying such things. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Hon'ble Minister can reply if he wants but I can not force him.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : There are several other issues to be taken up in the House.

(Interruptions)

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY (Sabarkantha) : Sir, I also associate.

MR. SPEAKER : I have associated all the members.

(Interruptions)

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajganj, Bihar) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Vishwa Hindi Sammelan is going to be organised in the capital of Surinam "Paramaribo" from June, 5th to June, 9, 2003 in which representatives from 25-30 countries of Indian origin will participate. The population of Surinam comprises or 30-40% people of Indian origin. Some people from Eastern Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and other parts of the country were landed in Surinam in 1873 as Girmitya labour. Out of the total Indians living in Surinam, 80% are from Eastern Uttar Pradesh, 18% from Bihar and 2% are from other parts of the country. It means out of the total Indian population settled in Surinam, 98% people speak Bhojpuri and Avdhi. Scholars of Hindi language are participating in this Sammelan.

Sir, through you, I would like to request the Government to include the scholars of Bhojpuri-Hindi and Avdhi-Hindi also among the representatives going to participate in the Sammelan so that the people of Indian origin settled there and the people living here an exchange cultural relations with each other. Besides Avadhi and

[Shri Prabhunath Singh]

Bhojpuri language artists be sent there as large number of people living in Surinam speak these languages. This is our submission to you. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA : Sir, Shri Prabhunath Singhji is stating rightly, I also support him. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE : Sir, I also associate. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : A detailed discussion has taken place on it, I have associated names of all the members.

(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil) : Sir, in the morning, I referred to the Marad tragedy. The immediate cause for this tragedy is the inaction of the Kerala police. It is strange that we have a DGP who holds Press conferences to declare the policy. He also address Press Conferences. The DGP is on the verge of retirement. That gentleman is always speaking out of the way. So, unfortunately we are having such a person as the DGP. He had declared that the Intelligence Wing of the police did not work. This is not an isolated incident. Last year also, five people lost their lives. The police ought to have been present in that place, but they were not there when the tragedy, took place. It is reasonably suspected that the persons behind this tragedy belong to a new Party, called NDS. They are the followers of Madani who is detained. The new followers of Madani have given a new name to the Party called NDF. Unfortunately, the present UDF leadership is in honeymoon with the communalists for electoral gains. This is the reasons for such a catastrophe. They are in honeymoon with the communalists. Shri A.K. Antony and others are in honeymoon with the communalists. They will speak about maintaining law and order and secularism, but that is mere boasting. . . . (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Who will speak about?

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : It is because of their action and because of their conciliatory attitude towards communalists, this incident took place. Otherwise,

it could not have happened. This is an incentive for the communalists. The Muslim fundamentalists are behind this attack and the Hindu fundamentalists were behind the previous attack. So, all this happens in Kerala State either because of the Hindu communalists or because of the Muslim communalists. They are behind this tragedy that has happened in Kerala which is unheard of in our history. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down now.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Prof. A.K. Premajam, I will give you a chance. One of you can speak and not all the Members.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : We are here for the communal harmony. But unfortunately such a thing happened during the regime of UDF and finally the UDF Government is responsible for this incident.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (Mavelikara) : Sir, the incident that took place at Marad, in which nine people were killed and many others are in the hospital, is a matter of serious concern. This is a matter of grave concern. In Kerala, we never thought that such an incident would take place. Every section of the society is living peacefully and there is total amity in the State. There are certain elements trying to creates communal disunity in the State. This is the handiwork of those sections. The Chief Minister of Kerala visited the place. He has gone to every house and the situation is now under control. It is very unfortunate that Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan is attributing political motives. . . .(Interruptions) Even the CPI(M) General Secretary Shri Vijayan was obstructed by the local people and they told him that he was responsible for this incident. The CPI(M) leaders were not permitted by the local people to go to their houses. This shows who are involved in this incident and who are trying to create communal disunity and disharmony in the State of Kerala. All sections of the Society should condemn this. Taking political mileage out of this incident is totally unfortunate and it should be condemned. . . .(Interruptions) Today, all political parties should come together and see that peace is brought back to the area. . . .(Interruptions)

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM (Badagara) : Hon. Speaker, Sir, thank you very much for this opportunity. It is indeed very unfortunate that a very sorry incident had taken place in Kerala, at Marad in Kozhikode district. This incident involving the killing of nine people and serious injuries to thirteen others reveals the inefficacy and inefficiency of the UDF Government in Kerala. The DGP has declared that there is no policy as such and they would govern just according to the rules. This is something which has to be questioned by the Government but the Chief Minister is supporting the DGP. It is because of the inaction and inefficiency of the police force that this incident has taken place. This is a continuation of the incident which took place in the beginning of last year, on 3rd January. The police, instead of keeping alert, had taken off a police aid post from there. It was actually known to the police that something was going to go wrong in that area but the police did not act with alertness. It is because of the inefficiency and inaction of the police that this incident has happened. I request this House to condemn that incident in Kerala. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI E. AHAMED (Manjeri) : Hon. Speaker, Sir, the incident which took place in my constituency is quite unfortunate and most condemnable. We all not only condemn but also say that it is a heinous crime and it should not have happened. We should not just score political gains out of this unfortunate incident. All of us should join hands to put down such incidents in future. This area is a communally sensitive area. Every time, there would be communal clashes. Last year also, there were communal clashes in which five people were killed. We had made all efforts and since then there has been a perfect peaceful atmosphere. What has happened is quite unfortunate. Some people say that these were revenge killings; some people say these are communal killings. Some people say that there is a deep-rooted hate behind the killings and even now there is a communal divide. Those who create the communal divide are dividing the very hearts of the people. We should not only not allow it but also put it down.

Yesterday, the Chief Minister was there. We all had a meeting to ensure that the situation is not allowed to

precipitate because the CPI(M) Secretary had been sent away. So, the Chief Minister decided that he would go alone.

He went there. Even now the hon. Chief Minister is camping there. The Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs, Shri I.D. Swami, has gone there. . . .(Interruptions)

Sir, Kerala has a history of communal amity and religious harmony. Everybody is proud of that. . . .(Interruptions) We are all trying to continue that tradition and whoever are trying to disturb it, they should not be allowed and they should be put down. We want to make peace there. Let us bring normalcy there. . . .(Interruptions) I invite every one of you to join us in our effort. That is what we want to do. We have to bring communal amity and harmony and peaceful coexistence of all the communities. It is easy to use any words, but it is difficult to control its reaction at the ground level. It is not a time to score political points.

Hon. Member, Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan has said about Shri Madhani and his fundamental groups. Is it not a fact that the Communist Party of India (Marxist Group) had joined hands with Shri Madhani and his people in the Ottapalam by-election to Parliament? Is it not the same party, which had jointed hands with Shri Madhani in the Guruvayur by-election? When you want, you will seek help from them and when they oppose, you accuse others. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Ahamed, please conclude.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down.

(Interruptions)

SHRI E. AHAMED : Communism or Communalism should not divide people. Those who are making divide among the people are going to divide the very heart of the people. It should be avoided. So, let us join hands to bring peace and amity in the State. . . .(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMI (Jaunpur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have to speak on the same subject also. . . .
(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Chinmayanand Swami, do you want to speak on Kerala issue?

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, please let me speak first, as his subject is different. . . .
(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Will you speak on the same subject?

SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMI : Yes, Sir. I have to speak on the same subject. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Ram Vilas Paswan, please sit down. He has to speak on the same subject.

(Interruptions)

SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the incident of Kozhikod Marad beach should be condemned in strongest terms. But it would be wrong to say that peace is prevailing there. As Shri E. Ahamed said, communal tension also built up there. One year ago, on January 3, 2002, Six persons were killed there. The incident took place when some persons, including women, were relaxing on the beach. In the meantime a few people armed with knives attacked them which led to the death of nine persons on the spot and 15 have been admitted to hospitals in injured condition. The suspicion is against an organisation named NDF which have its roots in UDF and which is patronised by the Muslim league. Due to the pressure of a Muslim League Minister the Government did not take any action against some of the persons involved in last year's incident. If action had been taken against them last year, this year's incident would not have taken place. Such incidents are now taking shape of terrorism there. They are committed at the behest of foreign powers.

Mr. Abdul Nasser Madni, the leader of PDF, which gets funds from abroad, is a close friend of the Chief Minister Mr. Antony.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please do not take the name.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMI : He is pressuring the Government. I would like the Government to give a statement on the issue and the involvement of Muslim League in the incident should be investigated by the CBI. . . .(Interruptions) This demand has been made by the local BJP workers. . . .(Interruptions) Government should give Statement. . . .(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Why is he saying all these things?. . .(Interruptions)

SHRI E. AHAMED : Sir, please give me only one minute. Our party is functioning as bulwarks against extremists. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You all know the rules that in Zero Hour, there is no debate allowed in the House.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMY : He is the colleague of Mr. Madni. . . .(Interruptions) The Congress has trouble on this account, but when people are killed in Kerala, the UDF Government keeps quiet and takes no action. . . .
(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I am going to the next subject. Shri Ram Vilas Paswan.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down.

(Interruptions)

[*Translation*]

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT (Shajapur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Kozhikod – Marad is mini Pakistan. . . . (*Interruptions*) They are protecting them. It is a 'virtual mini Pakistan. . . . (*Interruptions*) I have stayed in Kozhikod Marad for four months and I have seen all. They have made it a mini Pakistan. . . . (*Interruptions*) It should be condemned, but they are supporting it. It is wrong. . . . (*Interruptions*) Sir, I want your protection. You should speak on it. . . . (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing else of any other Member will go on record except what Shri Ram Vilas Paswan says.

(*Interruptions*)*

12.40 hrs.

(ii) **Re. Reported deaths due to poverty
in Uttar Pradesh**

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN (Hajipur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the House towards such a serious issue as poverty. I had given my notice five days ago, and I had also met you. You had said that the matter is serious and you will call the Minister so that a meaningful discussion may take place on this issue.

It is Delhi and like Ghaziabad, Meerut is also near Delhi. There are reports that 22 persons died in 13 days, they were not murdered but five or six members of the same family have been poisoned to death by their own kin and after that they committed suicide. They did so on account of their abject poverty. I have a number of paper cuttings including those of 'Hindustan' and 'Amar Ujala' which I have submitted. You can see that a resident of Indira puri extension colony of Loni on Ghaziabad district, on the night of 26th April, first poisoned his four children, a daughter, a 12 year old son, an eight year old son and a five year old daughter and his wife and then hanged himself. In his suicide note, he wrote, I wanted to kill only myself but I felt if I kill only myself, my children would be orphaned and my wife would be a destitute. That is why

*Not Recorded.

I am taking this step. After killing my whole family I am killing myself. Similarly, in Ghaziabad on 16th April, a woman killed herself after killing here there children. Similar incident took place in Kanpur on 23rd when a family of 8 members including six children, died. A family in Meerut district died in the same manner on 5th April. On 14th April in Ghaziabad, four children of a family were killed by their parents who later killed themselves.

On the one hand, we say that we are developing and attaining prosperity while on the other hand such incidents are taking place. Ghaziabad, Western Uttar Pradesh Haryana, Punjab are considered as prosperous area. When such incidents are taking place in prosperous areas, then the condition of our villages can be easily imagined. We discuss trishul here, but the House should seriously consider the problems of the common men and the Government should also take it seriously.

We live here in comfort, enjoy the air conditioner, and thus we forget about the pains being suffered by dying, the poor and the unemployed. The issue that I have raised is very serious. It is not far from here, only 12-14 kms. away. Entire House need to ponder over it. That is why I have drawn the attention of the House. . . . (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : As I have said, I have requested the hon'ble Minister, and he is present here. He will respond to it but before that Shviraj ji would like to speak on the issue.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL (Latur) : Sir, I would like to thank you for giving me time to speak on this subject. Ram Vilas Paswanji has raised a very important issue. I fully support and associate myself with what he has said here on my own behalf and on behalf of my party. It is true that the hon'ble Minister is present in the House today and this issue has been brought to his notice repeatedly. I know it that he is the Minister who takes care of the problems being faced by the poors.

He has reiterated in the House time and again that there is no dearth of foodgrains in the country and the Government will keep on providing the foodgrains. He is in favour of providing foodgrains and there is no shortage of it. It is something which we have to ponder over as to

[Shri Shivraj V. Patil]

why such tragic incidents are taking place in the country, despite the fact that there is no dearth of foodgrains. I am of the opinion that despite the availability of foodgrains and willingness of the hon'ble Minister to distribute it, the foodgrains are not reaching upto the targetted section of people. One of the reasons for it is that the people concerned are not taking initiative and they will have to come to the forefront and co-operate. The State Government will have to take measures in this regard and alongwith the PDS will have to be strengthened. If we don't do it we will be labelled as incompetent. I won't hold responsible hon'ble Minister and the Union Government for it. It is the systemic fault and there is a need to rectify it. Merely expressing the sympathy for them here won't help. Merely saying that there is enough foodgrains will not do, rather it is also the responsibility of the Government to ensure that the foodgrains reaches the needy persons. It does not matter whether it is sent there by the Centre or the State Government or PDS or through any other new scheme. However nothing can be more unfortunate than the fact that the huge stock of foodgrains are getting rotten on one hand and the starvation deaths are taking place on the other.

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it was ordered by you through the notice today and I have also read the news of Kanpur in the newspaper which has also been mentioned by Shri Ram Vilas Paswan. People committed suicide in Kanpur due to financial hardships. Through you, I would like to tell Shri Shivraj ji that all those matters have been included in it. I would like to submit that the above family does not come under BPL category. The entire family has committed the suicide due to economic hardships, I don't have confirmed information regarding it. I will certainly seek information in this regard. Ram Vilas Panswanji have the proper information about the background of the family and also, whether they come under the BPL category or not. The families living under the poverty line are included in BPL and 25 percent of the BPL families come under the very poor families. I agree with Shivrajji that the system be

improved and I have been trying my best during the recent past.

I would like to request very humbly that the news of starvation deaths has not been reported in the newspapers for the last three months. I have tried to get the problems identified through constituting a task force and I am of the opinion that there is a need to further improving the system. Hon'ble Prime Minister has stated in the upper House that an all party meeting will be called to consider the issue of strengthening PDS. He has given assurance in this regard that a meeting will be called as soon as possible. However, Shri Ram Vilas Paswanji has rightly pointed out that issues of Lathi rally, Talwar rally and Trishul rally are being raised and the attention is distracted from the real issues like poverty, unemployment and starvation which has been mentioned by Shri Ram Vilas Paswanji, I have read in the newspapers that the entire family has committed suicide by consuming poison. They have committed suicide due to financial hardship arising due to losing the employment as I have read in the newspaper, and I am not claiming it authentic. However, I will try to collect the entire information in this regard and pass it to Shri Ram Vilas Paswanji and also to the entire House if you direct me to do so. As has been said by Shri Shivraj ji the responsibility for it certainly lies with Government and the Government sincerely want of resolve this problem and it has very generously allocated foodgrains. Despite large scale allocation if the poors commit suicide in case they do not get employment, it is certainly a stigma on the House and the entire country.

The entire House should cooperate to remove this stigma. We are trying our best to improve the condition. I will try to provide the detailed information to Shri Ram Vilas Paswanji after collecting it from the State Government as has been asked by Shri Ram Vilas Paswanji.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN (Hajipur) : I would like to give some suggestions. The employment guarantee scheme is being implemented in several States. At this juncture, I don't demand that right to work be made fundamental right but it should be made later on. There

is no dearth of employment opportunity in my State. I am of the opinion that this problem could be resolved if all the scheme of Government of India are interlinked to provide guarantee of employment. I would like to know as to whether the Government would hold talks with the State Governments to start the employment assurance scheme.

MR. SPEAKER : Your subject is very important. No more discussion can be held on this subject during Zero Hour. You have given suggestions and hon'ble Minister has noted them. What more can be done then this?

SHRI SHARAD YADAV : Self employment scheme and food for work scheme are the schemes of the rural areas. It is the responsibility of the Centre to implement them.

MR. SPEAKER : Hon'ble Minister has given a quite intelligent reply.

SHRI SHARAD YADAV : The issue raised by you come under the department of Urban Development. I will talk to my colleague in this regard. I will also put up the suggestions given by you before him and will ask him to take care of the poor and starving people even in the urban areas.

MR. SPEAKER : Paswanji, your subject is serious. Hon'ble Minister came here and replied. He has also stated that hon. Minister will discuss the matter by convening an all party meeting. It is a very good thing.

12.53 hrs.

(iii) Re: Non-Compliance of Guidelines Issued under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana In the State

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH (Maharajganj, U.P.) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, an Half an Hour Discussion was allowed to be held on the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana on Friday and discussion was held on it. In the last session also. I had raised the issue of the violation of the guidelines issued by the Government of India regarding the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana. At that time the Hon'ble Minister of the Parliamentary Affairs Shri Pramod Mahajan

had assured in the House that if any matter of violation of the guidelines of Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana comes to the notice of the Government anywhere, stringent action would certainly be taken in that regard. I brought to the notice of the district administration of my constituency Maharajganj regarding the violation of guidelines of the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana being committed there. One of the State Minister of our State performed the foundation laying ceremony of the three roads. The district Magistrates and the Executive Engineer informed me through letter that as this foundation laying programmes has not been organised by their department, it was illegal programme. Yesterday the proposed foundation laying ceremony was publicised by circulating printed cards and I had also participated in that programme. The Executive Engineer had come to me then in the evening the day before yesterday and told me with very heavy heart that he is being pressurised by the district administration to cancel the programme as they are asking as to whom he consulted before fixing the date of foundation laying.

He gave me in writing that the tomorrow's programme is postponed due to some unavoidable reasons. Under the influence of that Minister of State, the station house officer Kolhui police station took the contractor to the police station who was erecting pillar there. If any guidelines issued by the Government of India is violated then it is highly objectionable. Either the role of the Members of Parliament in the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana should be done away with by the Government of India or the compliance of the guidelines should be ensured. You please ask the hon'ble Minister of Parliamentary Affairs to give reply in this regard. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI BRAHMA NAND MANDAL (Monghyr) : In Bihar not a single rule under the said scheme is being complied with. The entire fund is lying unused. . . .(Interruptions)

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH : The Right of the Members of Parliament are being breached.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Even not a single K.M. road has been constructed under this scheme in my parliamentary constituency.

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH : If the Government is not able to give reply then you should instruct the Government to withdraw its guidelines so that we may not get insulted on account of this.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : If the State Governments are not ready to spend under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sarak Yojana then that amount should be transferred to the MPLAD Scheme. We will get the roads constructed.
 . . .(Interruptions)

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH : Sir, the rights of Members are being violated. If the Government are in a position to give reply. Then they should be instructed to withdraw their instructions. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : If the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana is brought under MPLAD Scheme then we will get the road constructed. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : All of you please take your seats, hon'ble Minister wants to speak.

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : My colleagues in the House probably do not know that in current session a calling Attention Motion on the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana was moved in the House and the Minister of Rural Development had duly replied in this regard. Despite if they want that I should bring this matter that has been raised here by the hon'ble Members to his notice then I will certainly speak to him.

SHRI BRAHMA NAND MANDAL (Monghyr) : What is use of bringing this to the notice? Can you take action in this regard, can you set up any Committee? Whether any inquiry can be conducted, do you have any measures to all these things?

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw your attention to a very important issue. Mahatma Gautam Buddha gave the message of peace to the world. He taught the lesson of "Yuddha Nahin

Buddha" to the world which means he preached for peace instead war. Some 2500 years back he gave the slogan of 'Bahujan Hitaiya Bahujan Sukhaiya'. It was the period when democracy came in existence in India. We do not need to learn democracy from America or England. India has taught the lesson of democracy to the world. Today the entire world needs peace and non violence.

MR. SPEAKER : It is also essential for the House.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : I demand that as the status of Basweshwar Maharaj, Shivaji Maharaj, Mahatma Gandhi has been installed, similarly the statue of Mahatma Buddha should also be placed in the Parliament premises. . . .(Interruptions) If the status of Buddha is put here then Bush will know as to what is peace. So I demand from you and the Government of India that the statue of Buddha should be installed in and out of premises to teach the lesson of peace to the world.

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it does not fall under the jurisdiction of the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs. You are addressing the most appropriate person. Hon'ble Speaker is in the chair Mr. Speaker, has right to take decision in this matter after discussing on it in the General Purposes Committee. I am supporting you on this matter.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : This is the demand of the entire House.

MR. SPEAKER : The expenditure to be incurred on it will be born by Athawale ji. He will also bear the expenditure of statue.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : I will bear.

MR. SPEAKER : I have addressed Ramdas Athawale ji and not you.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Sir, I will give.

[English]

SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR (Vadodara) : Thank you, Sir, for permitting me to raise during 'zero hour' this matter pertaining to New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP).

The Government of India had formulated the New Exploration Licensing Policy and had requested the Government of Gujarat to concur with it. Accordingly, the Government of Gujarat had concurred with it along and sent a detailed note dated 18th September, 2000, on justification for its claim of sharing of profit petroleum. Unfortunately, no decision has been taken by the Central Government on the issue so far. I, therefore, urge upon the Central Government that the decision on the issue of sharing of profit petroleum be taken very soon.

12.59 hrs.

(iv) Re : Need to provide security to Members of Parliament in the States

[English]

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL (Latur) : Thank you, Sir. I raise an issue which has been brought to our notice by many hon. Members of this House. Unfortunately, we lost one of the Members of this House. She was short dead. Shri Haren Pandya also lost his life. Shri Janardhana Reddy was the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh. When he was touring his Constituency, he was asked not to go to certain areas.

13.00 hrs.

When those areas were examined by the police, it was found that the mines were put on the road.

So, this question of providing security to the hon. Members is coming up every now and then, on the floor of the House. The security is provided by the Union Government when the Members are in Delhi. It is provided by the State Governments when they are touring or living in the State. This issue of providing security has not been fully examined at this level in order to see that the proper security is provided in Delhi as well as in the States.

As far as security in Delhi is concerned, I do think that

the Home Ministry is doing its best – and at least, do not have any objection to what the Home Ministry is doing to provide security to the hon. Members.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : But we have problems. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL : Yes other Members may have objections.

But when they go to the States, the problem is arising every now and then.

May I, therefore, request your goodself and the hon. Parliamentary Affairs Minister also, that let us sit together, let us consult the Home Ministry here and then consult the other State Governments also to see that a proper security cover is provided to MPs. It is not that the lives of MPs are more important. The lives of other citizens are also important. About the lives of the citizens and the lives of the MPs, there should not be any distinction between the two. But when an elected Member is assaulted and he loses his life, the confidence in the governance of the country is lost. This is one of the important aspects which has also to be considered.

So, my simple request, Sir is that at your level, at any time convenient to your goodself and others, if this matter is properly looked into, it would be better.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, The Government has no objection to it. Hon'ble Shri Shivraj Patil ji has raised a very serious issue in the House. You may fix time according to your convenience and I will bring this to the notice of the hon'ble Minister of Home Affairs.

SHRI RAMCHANDRA PASWAN (Rosera) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to draw the attention of the House to a very important issue. Even after 55 years of independence atrocities are being committed against

[Shri Ramchandra Paswan]

Dalits. This matter is related to the Meerut Medical college Hospital dated 20.9.2002. The students belonging to the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes were maltreated here. The Central and the State Government are talking about the upliftment of Dalits and we are finding that SC/ST students are being ill-treated. The scholarships which are given to the students are being stopped. Through you I would like to raise in the House the issue of injustice being done to them. In Meerut during an Viva-Voce held on 20.9.2002. Prof. Shri Rukma Idnani telling right answer wrong insulted Shri Kiranpal Singh, 1995 batch final year MBBS student belonging the SC Community in the name of Caste. Through you I would like to demand the House that strict punitive action should be taken against such officers. Proper justice should be done to the poor students. The Government should assure that such incidents would not occur in future.

13.04 hrs.

CONSTITUTION (NINETY-SEVENTH
AMENDMENT) BILL*

(Amendment of articles 75, 164, insertion of
new article 361B and amendment of the
Tenth Schedule)

[English]

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

MR. SPEAKER : Motion moved :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India."

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL (Latur) : Sir, the hon. Minister is seeking the permission of this House to introduce this Bill, and we support it. We have no objection to it.

*Published in the Gazette of India Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2, dt. 5.5.2003

I had the occasion to go through the Bill also. There are many salutary provisions. But we may have different views on different provisions. So, my only request at this stage is that this Bill, as all other Bills, should go to the Standing Committee.

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH (Maharajganj, U.P.) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to give a suggestion to the hon'ble Minister regarding the bill to be introduced that if parties are banned from crossing the floor, defection would stop automatically. Political Parties give way to the defection. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You may speak on it when the bill is presented in the House.

[English]

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY : There is absolutely no objection; hon. Member Shri Shivraj Patil has made a very valid suggestion. It is a Constitution Amendment Bill of an immense significance. It obviously cannot be taken up in this Session. The Government itself is committed to have a larger consensus on this issue. So, this may go to the Standing Committee.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL : Thank you.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN (Hajipur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Government is using its power through this bill but it should discharge its duties also. Political parties should implement the manifesto on which they win elections. It should not happen that you take a 'U' turn after getting into power. No single party is in power in the centre. Members are bound to support any law enacted by the Government even if they are against it. We are not opposing the bill. It is inappropriate that a party functions against its election manifesto and when other members. Oppose it, they simply say that they have to do it. Under such a situation each and every Member of Parliament from all parties have to cast his vote otherwise their membership would be cancelled. It is not a healthy trend. There is a need to ponder over it. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You may speak on it at the time of discussion.

[English]

The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY : I introduce the Bill.

13.07 hrs.

(The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till Fourteen of the Clock)

14.04 hrs.

(The Lok Sabha reassembled at four minutes past fourteen of the clock)

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

- (i) **Need to set up sub-marine cable landing station for internet in Gujarat**

[Translation]

SHRI RATI LAL KALIDAS VARMA (Dhandhuka) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, almost all the States are agree to the guidelines issued by the Government on the request of several States including Gujarat to set up sub-marine cable landing station related to international gateway. Landing station is a Primary station from where the entire country is connected through sub-marine cable. This station would be operated by gateway for internet traffic with the permission of Telecom Authority through I.P.S.

As per section 13 of the newly announced guidelines, landing stations can not be set up in sensitive areas due to security reasons. The list published in this regard includes Punjab, Rajasthan, Andaman and Nicobar, Gujarat and coastal areas of Tamil Nadu Inclusion of Gujarat in the list of unsafe sensitive areas may cause

heavy losses to the State as most of the economic activities like sea ports and CNG terminals being operated by Central Government are situated in these areas. As large number of economic activities are being undertaken here, there is a urgent need of a strong bandwidth with a view to database communication system.

Through this House, I request the hon'ble Minister of Communications' that in the interest of the Gujarat State, its name may be deleted from the list of unsafe sensitive areas and priority be given to set up landing station in coastal areas of the State.

- (ii) **Need to allocate additional quota of wheat and rice for distribution among BPL families in Gujarat**

[English]

SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR (Vadodara) : The Government of India is allotting BPL quota (wheat and rice) on the basis of 21.20 lakh BPL families. The total number of households and BPL families have increased over the year. At present, there are 35.52 lakh BPL ration card holders in the State. Thus the State Government is not able to distribute the foodgrains as per scale determined by the Government of India.

I, therefore, urge the Centre that the State Government should be allocated foodgrains for all the 35.52 lakh BPL ration card holder of Gujarat.

- (iii) **Need to solve acute drinking water problem in Gujarat**

SHRI P.S. GADHAVI (Kutch) : The drinking water crisis in Gujarat is worsening once again and more and more villagers need their water supply augmented through tanker or some other means.

Many parts of Gujarat State, namely, Kutch, Saurashtra, North Gujarat are facing third consecutive year of drought and thus more than 8000 villages out of 18000 villages are facing severe water scarcity. People have to walk miles and miles to fetch a bucket of water.

Two water trains with 70 wagons each are travelling from Hapa to Bhatia in Jamnagar District and similar demand is in many other districts.

[Shri P.S. Gadhavi]

I, therefore, urge the Central Government to kindly have a special package for water availability for Gujarat and the Narmada Project be directed to be completed as early as possible and this project be declared as a National Project.

(iv) Need to revive sick/closed industries in Bihar.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJO SINGH (Begusarai) : Mr. Deputy, Speaker, Sir, most of the remainin industrial units in Bihar are facing the closure. For example, two units of Bharat Wagon Limited situated in Muzaffarpur and Mokama are on the verge of closure in the absence of supply orders for the last four years. A unit of IDPL in Muzaffarpur has been made sick. Similar is the situation of NTC spinning and weaving mill of Mokama in Patna district. In this area of Bihar, Rohtas group of Industries in industrial complex Dalmia Nagar of private sector is lying closed for a long time. Similarly there is a need to revive Barauni Fertilizer Factory which is closed for the last many years. There is a need to revive Phosphates and Pirates Chemical Limited in Amjhor. There is also an urgent need for the expansion of Barauni Refinery and to complete Haldia-Barauni crude pipe line. There is a need to set up Gas Bottling Plants at all three places-Barauni, Buxar and Bhagalpur.

Through this House. I would like to request the Government to revive the closed industries in Bihar so that Bihar could emerge as a self-reliant State.

(v) Need to waive off the condition of 5 per cent limit of employment to the dependants of deceased Central Government employees appointed on compassionate grounds

[Translation]

SHRI P. RAJENDRAN (Quilon) : There is a provision in the Central Government Rules to give appointments on compassionate grounds to the wards of Central Government employees; died in harness. This is limited to five per cent of the recruitment. By and large the wards are employed in those departments in which the officials was working when he died.

Since the recruitment is almost nil or very minimal in most of the departments, the wards of the expired officials are not at all considered for compassionate appointment. Five per cent of the recruitment does not count for anything when there is no recruitment or only very less recruitment. In each and every department there are hundreds of applications pending requesting for appointment on compassionate ground.

In the present circumstances, when large recruitment is not taking place, it is necessary that the five per cent condition should be removed. Since the order is based on a Supreme Court judgement, the Government should take necessary steps to get the rules changed through legislation.

(vi) Need to run proposed Gorakhpur-Durg train via Mau-Azamgarh-Shahganj and Jaunpur

[Translation]

SHRI BAL KRISHNA CHAUHAN (Ghosi) : Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards the train proposed in Railway Budget, 2003-2004 between Gorakhpur and Durg via Allahabad twice a week.

My submission is that Gorakhpur-Durg train via Allahabad should run via Mau-Azamgarh-Jaunpur because on the alternative railway route Gajipur odiyari which is between Mau and Varanasi, 5159/5160 Sarnath Express is running daily between Chhapra and Durg via Varanasi. If the new train runs on the proposed route, then the people of Mau, Azamgarh and Jaunpur would avail the facility of this train. It would also be beneficial to railway commercially. People are demanding this service for a long time.

Therefore, I requested the Government that the proposed train between Gorakhpur and Drug should run via Mau-Azamgarh, Shahganj-Jaunpur.

(vii) Need to provide railway halts at Belari and Basadia villages in Bihar

SHRI MANJAY LAL (Samastipur) : Sir, there is a long standing demand of the people to provide railway halts at Belari village on Samastipur-Ujjiyari railway line between

Samastipur-Barauni railway stations and at Basadia village between Narsingari-Daising Sarai on the same line under Central-East railways. For several times local people have launched agitation also for these halts. Actually it is in the interest of the local people to provide railway halts at both the places. A survey has already been done by the Department for Basadia village. Only the orders are required to be issued in this regard. I request the hon'ble Railway Minister to issue the orders immediately for providing halts at both Belari and Basadia village in the interest of the people.

(vii) Need to clear the proposal of Orissa Government regarding project on river Aung

[English]

SHRI PRASANNA ACHARYA (Sambalpur) : Padampur sub-division in Bargarh district of Orissa is one of the most backward sub-divisions in the whole country. This area is adjacent to the KBK districts of Orissa. Even 54 years after Independence, neither a single industry in a big scale has come up in the area nor irrigation facilities have been provided. As a result, both industrially and agriculturally, it is lagging far behind in comparison to other areas of the State and the country.

Forty-five years back, one major irrigation proposal was mooted on the river Aung which is the only river flowing through this area but the proposal is still pending. Had this been implemented, the scenario would have changed much before because this major irrigation project is bound to give a big boosting to the agricultural and industrial growth of the area. The Technical Advisory Committee under the Ministry of Water Resources of the Union Government has given technical sanction for this project two years back but other necessary steps like forest, environment and financial clearance by the State Government are still pending.

I would urge upon the Central Government to clear the project and also include Padampur sub-division of Bargarh district in the KBK scheme for which the State Government of Orissa has already sent its proposal.

14.15 hrs.

THE INFANT MILK SUBSTITUTES, FEEDING BOTTLES AND INFANT FOODS (REGULATION OF PRODUCTION, SUPPLY AND DISTRIBUTION) AMENDMENT BILL, 2002

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT, MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI) : Sir, I beg to move - "That the Bill to amend the Infant Milk Substitutes, Feeding Bottles and Infant Foods (Regulation of Production, Supply and Distribution) Act 1992 be taken into consideration."

Sir, it became necessary because earlier the Government had enacted an Act in this very House in 1992 which provided for breast feeding the babies by mothers and nutritious food. Later on, WHO, several doctors and experts recommended that for the first six months infants must be breast-fed and during that period only mother's milk and no supplementary food should be given to them. Earlier, it was recommended only for four months but subsequently, it was recommended that babies up to the age of two years should be breast fed and some other food also should be given with that. Breast feeding a baby upto 2 years is appropriate and good for baby's health.

Sir, keeping above facts in view, we have introduced a new Bill in 2002 in place of old one. All the amendments proposed by World Health Organisation were incorporated in it. The House forwarded it to the Parliamentary Standing Committee. The Standing Committee accepting all the amendments suggested for another minor amendment that Infant Food Substitute should be substituted by Infant Milk Substitute. I am introducing this Bill to incorporate this amendment. Sir, it is quite clear that the words-Infant Food Substitutes should be replaced by Infant Milk Substitute. Thus, this Amendment Bill has been introduced for substituting those words at two places. Discussion on this Bill has already taken place. The Standing Committee has accepted all the amendments and also suggested for

[Dr. murli Manohar Joshi]

another minor amendment, which have been accepted by the Government. Therefore, I am introducing this Bill. I hope the House will consider it and pass it unanimously.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Motion moved :

"That the Bill to amend the Infant Milk Substitutes, Feeding Bottles and Infant Foods (Regulation of Production, Supply and Distribution) Act, 1992 be taken into consideration."

The time allotted for this Bill is one hour.

SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN (Sivaganga) :
Sir, the original Bill was introduced by Shrimati Margaret Alva. We are happy that this Bill is again considered by way of an amendment.

Here, we appreciate the intention of the Government to propagate the importance of breast-feeding. But, at the same time, we have to consider why breast-feeding is not accepted even by the mother herself. That aspect has to be considered. It may be the recommendation of the World Health Organisation that people who are interested in seeing that their children should be brought up well should have mother's milk for six months to two years. We know very well that children in villages used to have milk from their mothers even for three years but they were healthy at that time. Mothers were having proper food at that time. But what is the position now? Are they having sufficient food to eat? Only if they eat properly, the mother can give her child the advantage of her milk.

What steps has the Government taken in this regard? During Shri Rajiv Gandhi's regime and subsequently also, there were schemes in order to feed the pregnant mothers and also the child after it is born. That is, for eighteen months, the mothers were fully protected by the schemes of the Government. They were given nutritious meals and they were protected by other amenities also. These amenities should be provided throughout the country through the Central Government schemes. Money should not be a criterion, but the health of the human beings of

the nation is more important. We should have children who have got all the potentiality of carry the nation forward. Scientists are telling that up to the age of five, a child asks about five lakh questions. If those five lakh questions are not properly answered, to that extent the children become inefficient. How are we going to provide those facilities to the children? Simply bringing in an amendment is not sufficient. The Government should focus on mothers.

In the modern work, mothers feel very hesitant to say that they want to feed the children. It is because they want to keep up their beauty. That means we have to go to beauty parlours in order to create awareness. We have to give the doctors, that is the paediatricians, more responsibility to educate mothers that feeding the children will not reduce their beauty; on the contrary, it increases the beauty of the women. We have to educate them. This aspect should also be considered. When we are prohibiting certain advertisements, that is a negative attitude. We are giving punishment for them for about three years and Rs. 2,000 fine. Where does that money go? For what purpose is that money being utilised? I would like to know whether that is going to be utilised for propagating breast-feeding. Are we going to propagate it in the same way the tenders do for selling the milk powder?

We have to educate the women that this type of feeding of the child till the age of two years increases its capacity. It increases the health of the child, that is, it increases its ability mentally, psychologically and physically and it increases the overall potentiality of the child. We have to see to it that women have a choice to decide whether they should feed or not. To which extent are we allowing them to make that choice? This particular enactment may be used negatively also. There are many mothers who are not able to feed the child because they do not have that kind of health. Many mothers are not able to feed the child because they do not have the capacity to get the milk out of them. How are you going to view the working mothers in this particular enactment? We have to see all these things. Penal provision alone will not make the things proper. We have to see that sociologically also. We have to find out how we can educate the people. The enactment should be coming forward for these purposes.

But we feel that this enactment has been brought in for the purpose of satisfying the international obligations. We are attending the seminars and conferences and signing covenants, and we can say that we have also done it.

I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister. Through this is the subject of the Ministry of Health, and though he is the Minister of Human Resource Development, I would like to draw his attention to this point. Many young women, modern women and middle class people go in for caesarean delivery. When pregnant women go in for delivery. The medical officers create such a situation so that they do not go in for natural delivery. I have this experience in my own home. This happened to my daughter and daughter-in-law. They do this because they can charge more money, like Rs. 20,000 or Rs. 30,000. But for a normal delivery, they can charge only Rs. 2,000 or Rs. 5,000. This point has to be taken into consideration. When a mother gives birth to a child, just like a rocket is launched, in her body, more than two lakh blood vessels are thrown open at that particular moment so that the child is delivered totally and fully.

At the same time, the mother also gets a new health for feeding the child. But that is lost nowadays because of the modern medical practice; that is lost in the caesarian cases. Nowadays, women are not going in for the natural delivery. We are not appreciating the natural delivery system. The doctors who are having nursing homes are not encouraging this. We have to compel them to do it. If they want to go in for caesarean operation, they should compulsorily prove the need of it. They have to prove it legally, mentioning what makes the particular medical official to go in for caesarean operation. Why should the doctors have to take recourse to this type of a thing?

We have the Gynaecologists. They should have the responsibility to prove that this type of unnatural delivery by operation, alone can save the child and the mother. They should give such a declaration. If they are doing it only for the purpose of getting more money, then we have to punish such type of people. This type of punishment of the medical officials may be having opposition, but they are doing a wrong thing now. They are not protecting the health and wealth of the nation. They are not protecting

the mothers. Generally, doctors become sick when they are not having operations. Due to the unnatural delivery, the child becomes sick. The entire nation will be having sick people only by this process.

In the same way, I would like to draw the attention of the House to another matter. In many States, even young girls of thirteen or fourteen years of age are married off. It is against the law, But in the villages, they are doing it. In which way are they going to be protected? How is the mother going to be protected? Therefore, we have to see that those who are in Government service should have maternity leave for at least six months. We have extended the period for feeding by the mother. How can the mothers feed the children for two years when they are not getting any leave? They have to be working in the office. At the same time, they have to feed their children also. Can they carry the child along with them? Every office should have a child caring centre. I would like to know whether such a provision would be made that in each and every office, this facility should be there. We have to make provision for these things. Many of the young mothers are becoming anaemic. They should have proper help for healthcare by way of medical aid etc. That should be freely provided. I stress it again because mother's health and the child's health is the health of the nation.

With these words, I conclude.

[Translation]

SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA (Ambala) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to speak in support of Infant Milk Substitute Bill, 2002 presented by hon. Minister of Human Resource Development.

In India, mother's milk has been preferred for thousands of years. People have been recognising its importance for long. It can be judged by famous saying related to challenge, that if you have taken your mother's milk come and face me. Similarly it is linked with the commitments made. When a son goes to Kargil to fight the enemy his mother says that, My son, respect my milk. It is an evidence that we have been recognising its importance. Western and European cultures brought about

[Shri Rattan Lal Kataria] Some progressive changes in our culture but Western Culture also crated some negative impacts on our culture whereby these days Urban women prefer bottled milk to breast-milk and they use it for feeding the baby. But it is totally wrong. Hundreds of years ago movements were launched to promote breast milk. The matter was first time raised in the World Health Assembly in 1981 and a code was framed in this regard. About 188 countries had supported it. But America was the only country which opposed it. There were some reasons behind it. MNCs have an annual market of around 6 billion and tinned milk worth thousands of rupees in consumed every year. In 1983, India initiated efforts in this regard and adopted the rules made by WHO. A law to this effect was enacted in 1992 which came into effect on 31 July, 1993. But some shortcomings were felt in the Bill. For this purpose, a Task Force was constituted in consultation with Women and Child Welfare Department, Women Commission and several NGOs. The Bill has been introduced keeping in view the recommendations of the Task Force. A provision has been made in the Bill for three years imprisonment or a penalty of Rs. 2000 for Carrying out publicity for providing/feeding milk, other than breast milk to, infants of less than six months and violating health care system, circulating posters to promote infant milk substitute or distribute educational material to this effect. And it was much needed. Every year, 1st to 7th August is observed as Breast Milk Week in the country for creating awareness among masses in association with people from organised and unorganised sector.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Bill has gained more importance today as every year 2 crore 46 lakh 7 thousand children are born in India. Out of these, 17,1000 children die each year of malnutrition. 20 lakh 50 thousand children die before attaining the age of 5 years. Out of 11 crore 5 lakh children in our country, 53 percent children are under weight and 52 percent are of short height. It means there is a need to further promote the importance of breast milk and to further promote the importance of breast-milk in the country.

of Thought breast-milk cannot be judged in terms of value, but if we take it from economic point of view, a mother feeds her baby as much milk in a year in our country as much the baby consumes cow/buffalo milk or bottled milk. And its total value is almost equal to the Budget allocation for Power and Industry in a year, three times to the allocation made for Ministry of Health and ten times to the Budget allocation for Women and Child Development. Thus, we can say that we spend Rs. 6662 in six months for providing bottled milk to the infant. If we promote breast milk, we can buy 220 kg wheat, 40 dozen oranges and 50 kg vegetables for mother out of this amount. We have received recommendations of World Conference on Child Right. We have accepted those recommendations and have adopted Article 24 there of we are making publicity of it.

We will have to take care of children as they are the future of India. While supporting this Bill, I would like to congratulate Hon. Joshi ji since he has introduced a Bill to this effect. Prior to this, the NDA Government have passed a Bill regarding foeticide. As I have mentioned just now that every year seventeen lakh infants die of malnutrition before attaining the age of one year. Innumerable female-babies in this country are not able to take birth as foeticide is committed on the basis of gender. It is a matter of grave concern for us. If it is not enforced stringently many social evils are likely to take place.

It is surprising that in 1901 in India there were 972 females per 1000 males but in 2001 there is only 933 females for the same number of males. Just law making is not enough to prevent foeticide, for that the religious leaders will have to come forward. The media has to play major role in this regard. Media has to publish more articles to give more news and air more programmes on T.V. and radio in this regard. Seminars and conferences are organised but their outcome is limited to the libraries for research scholars and has no benefit for common man. For this, unconventional media has to play major role. The subjects which are related to villages, have to be published and propagated through media, drama troupes will have to perform in villages and small documentaries should be shown there on this subject.

We need to make it mandatory for all the semi-Government agencies, corporate bodies, and employees associations and also for unorganised sector to protect the rights of the mother.

(English)

It should be respected; it should be protected; it should be facilitated; and we should fulfil all these ambitions of the children.

(Translation)

For this we, along with the Governments, will have to come forward and if anyone fails to comply with it, then it should not be considered as the breach of law but as breach of commitment. I would like to congratulate hon'ble Joshi ji for presenting this Bill. It was under his leadership that revolutionary steps have been taken in the field of education which have changed the education scenario of the country. I hope that the current amendment will brighten the future of cores of our children. Mother's feed is best for children. I can speak for any length of time on this subject but I would only like to say that hon'ble Minister has brought a revolutionary legislation and I support it.

(English)

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM (Badagara) : Hon. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I thank you very much for giving me this opportunity.

The Infant Milk Substitutes, Feeding Bottles and Infant Foods (Regulation of Production, Supply and Distribution) Amendment Bill is intended to amend the Act of 1992. As is evident from the Statement of Objects and Reasons, the principal Act of 1992 was passed with a view to protecting and promoting breast feeding and ensuring proper use of infant food. I support the Bill, of course with certain reservations and apprehensions.

The present amendment aims at fulfilling an international obligation. The Organisation of World Health Assembly Resolution No. 475 dated 9th May 1994 had called upon all member States to make certain amendments in this regard. So, it is primarily to fulfil this obligation that is, protecting and promoting breast feeding up to the age

of six months instead, of four months and continue to give breast milk up to the age of two years along with appropriate feeding practices for the infant with safe and adequate local food, and prohibit all forms of advertisements and promotion in relation to infant milk substitute, feeding bottles and infant food.

Of course, the aim is laudable. But here I would like to submit that mere enactment will not ensure the laudable objects of this Bill. Penal clauses alone will not actually achieve the aim also. A holistic approach to the entire problem is essential.

While trying to protect and promote breast feeding with safe and adequate amount of local food until the infant attains the age of two, we must analyse the current Food Policy and also the food situation in the country. Actually, the present Food Policy is dictated by the World Trade Organisation, the World Bank, and the International Monetary Fund. It goes along with liberalisation, globalisation and privatisation policy. It is economically unsound and morally bankrupt. As a part of this Food Policy, there is a targeted system. APL and BPL have all completely disrupted the Public Distribution System.

Even in a State like Kerala, the statutory rationing is completely dismantled. When such a situation arises at the food front, who is the worst sufferer? That is the main question here. Actually, in our traditional system of feeding and taking food, what had actually happened hundreds of years ago is still continuing. Only certain other circumstances have changed. Here, the traditional pattern is that the men will be fed first in the house. A major portion of all the food items will be given to them. Then the male children come, then the daughters come and then lastly, the mother comes. The mothers quite often do not get any substantial food at all. I do not think this situation has changed considerably in any part of the country. This has worsened now with the present state of affairs at the food front and also with the food policy. So, the women eat last and they eat less also. Along with these women, that is, the mothers, the daughters also suffer. They also do not get the minimum food required. They are also made to or constrained to remain in waiting till all the male members eat, including the male children.

[Prof. A.K. Premajam]

As per the official survey, 80 per cent of the poor women are famished, anaemic and deprived. Malnutrition is prevailing among them. How can we expect such women to feed their children properly with breast milk? I am strongly in favour of breast-feeding. There are certain women who are actually more concerned about their figures. There are certain women who are actually more concerned about their figures, but they are very small in number. They are actually going in for bottle milk and other substitute food items for their children. Otherwise, a majority of the Indian women is actually going in for breast-feeding not merely for six months but even beyond that. They actually want to do that, but the conditions are such that even those willing mothers are not able to do that because of the constraint of circumstances and the conditions in which they are living. They actually do not go in for feeding bottle and infant food. But what happens to them when they are pregnant and are famished, deprived and starving? Where is the milk in their breasts? Even if they try very hard to give milk, they will not be able to give sufficient quantity of milk to their infant children. This is the condition. Some of the children are born underweight also. So, all these are problems which are alive to this issue. I am not undermining or devaluing the legislation. Of course, legislation is absolutely necessary. At the same time, we must view the whole thing in a holistic manner. The other problems alive to this issue also should be solved.

My suggestion is that universalisation of the Public Distribution System should be implemented. Food accessibility to these poor people should be made at cheaper rate. There should be right to freedom from hunger. We must make India free from hunger and it should be made a right. Similarly, breast-feeding should be made a right of the child.

Another suggestion is that when the food policy is framed, it should be a life cycle programme, that is from birth to death. That food policy should be able to give the required nourishment and nutrition value food to the people at large.

Another thing is, we have to strengthen the *Anganwadis*. On this occasion, I congratulate the hon. Minister for having increased the emoluments of the *Anganwadi* workers and teachers. If this institution is strengthened all over India, definitely the situation of breast-feeding can be improved much more than with the legislation itself.

We have to strengthen the health delivery system and also the general education system. Of course, partly it comes under the Ministry of the Hon. Minister. The other thing comes under the Health Department. Here, what is found nowadays is that the Government is slowly but steadily withdrawing from the health and education sectors. This should be stopped. General education is very important to encourage breast-feeding. Similarly, the health system should be made stronger, especially at the rural level. Reproductive and child health care system is basically required to improve the health of the women and children and that should be strengthened as much as the *Anganwadis*.

Another aspect relates to creche for children of working women. We say that mothers should breast-feed the child for minimum six months, but they are constrained to go to their workplaces much earlier than that. So, there should be creches attached to work establishments. That would take us a long way in implementing the provisions of this Act.

The maternity leave benefit must be extended to six months. This would help women who are working and they would be in a position to comfortably feed their children with breast milk. In this connection, I would like to quote the example of Kerala. Kerala has been recently declared a baby-friendly State by the UNICEF. We have achieved this by many-pronged action, that is, the health system is very strong, the general education system is very strong and along with that, certain NGOs like the Kerala Shastra Sahitya Parishad have spread the message for promoting breast feeding through a very large-scale campaign in the State of Kerala. Along with that, the paediatricians of Kerala have also rendered a yeoman service in this area. This example could be followed by other States also. In Kerala, diarrhoea death of children has been very much reduced

because of the many-pronged action taken and the large-scale campaign undertaken by the Government of Kerala.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA (Canara) : Sir, I just have a couple of points to make. I have been hearing the speeches that have been made. I am glad that my colleague the lady Member has spoken.

I think, there are certain issues where women are very deeply involved as mothers. I think, we are as concerned about the health of children or even more concerned than anyone of you could be, but I think women have to be given the right to choose. It is not by law that you tell women that have to feed their children for so long whether they like it or not. I think, women also have the right. We have reached a stage where we say women have the right to decide what they feel is good for their children and for themselves. They have problems, they feel, which you have to respect. Men cannot just sit and dictate by passing a law and saying: 'You will do this because the law says so.'

I would point out three or four issues here. There is the question today of girls getting married at nine or ten years of age in Rajasthan. I saw a ceremony of infant marriages in the afternoon live on T.V. I watched it when it was shown live. I am not saying that it is in just one State; I am saying that this has been the custom. At 13 or 14 years of age, girls are producing children and you are saying that those girls must nurse the children. The girl is anaemic and under-nourished. She is a teenager who should be playing in school but she is a mother and you are saying that that girl must feed that child and keep the baby healthy. Is it possible? There are limitations. Most of these girls are anaemic. In the villages, they are under-nourished and over-worked. Just after she has finished with on childbirth, she is already pregnant with another child in her womb. So, what should she do? It is easy to pass a law and say what should be done and what should not be done but is it practicable when we actually come to the ground realities? The WHO has set international standards, which even developing countries and everybody else has to simply follow.

I want to just point out that with the spread of AIDS,

TB and communicable diseases, mothers are told not to feed the children because the diseases are communicable. There are cases where a mother is on drugs or maybe on alcohol in urban areas. The children get the ill effects of those drugs or alcohol through the mother's milk. So, they are told not to feed the children.

I now come to the more practical side. This country is full of poor people who cannot afford tin boxes and so on to feed the children. In most of our homes, traditionally, we give cow's milk as a supplement. All the advertisements are not needed. The tin boxes or banning of them is not needed because in 90 per cent of the homes, the first substitute is cow's milk, which is never advertised but which is from our own backyards. There is also *daliya*, which is again not advertised through tins and boxes.

So, this is for the urban elite who are not going to follow any of these things.

I would request the hon. Minister to please extend the maternity leave from six months to two years. The mother can sit at home and feed the baby. If they are going to work in their offices, how are they going to feed the baby. They get not even three months' of Maternity Leave. How do they feed and nurse the baby for six months or for two years, if they are at work for eight hours or six hours a day? So, these are all impracticable things when women are working. Now, more and more women today, by sheer necessity of poverty, have to go out to work. How do you fit this into the parameters?

Sir, of course, a number of suggestions have been made. I would say that we must introduce a scheme for subsidised food for nursing mothers as an incentive. You can give the nursing mother a card when the baby is born, may be for one year or six months, whereby she can get subsidised food in the ration shop, so that she is able to get the nutrition she need to be able to nourish the baby. It is because there is not enough milk produced that the child is also going to be under-nourished for lack of enough nourishment from the mother's milk. Therefore, I think, we need to look at the wider perspective today and make, maybe, further amendments, and not believe that

[Shrimati Margaret Alva] ... just be, banning advertisements and banning this and boxes, the problem is going to be solved.

DR. (SHRIMATI) BEATRIX D'SOUZA (Nominated) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Bill. I do not think that this Bill forces the women to breast-feed. It only endorses WHO's recommendation and it is only in the form of a recommendation and a support.

I have also noticed that two men have inaugurated this discussion and we, women, certainly welcome their academic and theoretical support and suggestions.

14.50 hrs.

[SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA in the Chair]

I would like to make a few suggestions. At present, infant foods are required to have an ISI certification and they also have to mark the date of manufacture and the expiry date. Now, there should be a constant check on infant foods that are being sold so that infant foods are not sold after the date of expiry. It is because then we would have contaminated infant food, just as we have contaminated bottled water. I would also suggest that monitoring would be much more convenient if we had infant food sold through medical shops and not through general food stores.

Secondly, plastic milk bottles should be banned and replaced with glass bottles because they can be easily sterilised. I notice that the hon. Chairperson is raising her eyebrows. I feel that if there is a ban on plastic, why should we have the plastic bottles to harm our children? Plastic bottles certainly accumulate germs etc. The rubber nipples also should be regulated. There are certain things called pacifiers that are used to keep children quiet and to prevent them from crying. Now, these pacifiers are banned in foreign countries, particularly in France, because these pacifiers, which are constantly sucked by children, lead to problems with the children's lungs and, I believe, even with the supply of blood to the brain. They lead to malformation of their mouth, their teeth and the gums. Sometimes it has been found in France that when one pacifier was cut open,

it was full of maggots. So, this is my suggestion. As has been pointed out by the earlier speakers, if we encourage women to breast-feed for six months, we should also pass a law to extend the maternity leave for at least six months in the organised sector. And in the organised sector, all the offices, starting with Government offices, should have creches and day care centres for women where women can go and peacefully and quietly breast-feed their children.

15.00 hrs.

In the unorganised sector we should have mobile creches, mobile clinics and also make it mandatory for the persons who are constructing the buildings etc. For example, at the site they should have a rest room for women to feed their children.

Certainly nutrition is also linked with the breast-feeding. It has already been extensively spoken of and I will not speak about it. But I would like to say, as everybody else has said, that I know that the Ministry has pre and post pregnancy nutrition programmes. I would advocate that these programmes are strengthened. I would also say that women's food rights should be strongly protected.

I would like to mention one important thing. The Government needs to control the import of free milk powder. We get a lot of milk powder coming into the country for charitable purposes. This milk powder is, sometimes, used to substitute the baby food. As the hon. Member, Shrimati Margaret Alva was saying, we generally do not use baby food and most people use good cow's milk. We should look into this fact.

Sometimes we have genetically modified food coming into the country. For example, we have genetically modified soy milk powder that has come into the country. Recently there was a scandal about this soy milk powder coming in. We have to find out about it and a research should be done as to whether this soy milk is a substitute to breast milk and can be given to children or not. There are two or three views about this subject.

Finally, I think that research should be conducted on the link between breast cancer, procreation and breast-

feeding. It has been stated that women without children, who do not breast-feed are more prone to breast cancer. I think more research should be done on this subject.

It is a woman's right to feed her child herself. A child breast-fed is less likely to get certain infections. Of course, it is a different matter in the case of the mother having HIV or otherwise. What cannot be over-emphasised is the special bonding between the mother and the child when the mother feeds her child. Though a woman goes out to work, by nature a woman is a nurturer and should be given all encouragement by the Government and the work place to fulfil the duties nature intended her to perform. We are all looking forward to the next Bill to be introduced by the hon. Minister and that Bill is to be introduced for a Commission for children

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad) : Madam Chairman, I support the Infant Milk Substitutes, Feeding Bottles and Infant Foods (Regulation of Production, Supply and Distribution) Amendment Bill, 2002 introduced by Dr. Murlu Manohar Joshi but I would say that there is scope for further improvement therein. This Bill says that breast feeding is essential for a child upto six months of age and thereafter until he attains the age of two years, the breast feeding should be coupled with food supplements. This thing is reiterated by the Government time and again. On 9th May, 1994, World Health Organisation in its Health Meeting resolution No. 475 had appealed to all countries of the world to promote breast feeding. According to a UNICEF report, every year 15 lakh children in the world die prematurely as a result of irresponsible breast feeding practices. I would like to make a request to Shri Joshi ji that monitoring of mother's health is very necessary, even the hon'ble Chairperson was saying so.

At present, common man is suffering from three ill-helplessness, handicap and poverty. Body could get milk only if mother's health is good. At it was said, in our country, children are married early and even a girl of only 15-16 years of age becomes a mother. The Bill lays down that the baby should be breast fed upto 6 months of age and upto two years of age the breast feeding may be

accompanied by food supplements. My question is what to do if another child is born within a year of the birth of the first one. I request the Government to make the people aware that there should be a gap of at least two years between two children. For this the advertisements should be stopped. They cannot do it.

Madam Chairman, we talk about education. As a worker in rural areas, I can say with conviction that, in the matter of breast feeding, the uneducated women are more aware than the so called urban women. The percentage of rural women is more but the urban women are more concerned to maintain their attractiveness and want to look young. That is why they are not very generous in breast-feeding. Therefore, I not only suggest about banning on advertisements but also launch of public awareness campaign. I am saying this because at the time when family welfare programme was launched, there was an impression among the illiterate women that it leads to weakness among men which could dissipate only after a long awareness campaign. That is why I believe, that in the case of breast-feeding, people can be made aware only through a sustained campaign. Only then it will bear fruit. As I have already submitted the illiterate women of rural areas are more aware about the need for breast-feeding in comparison to urban women. Good health of mother is necessary to keep the infants healthy. Therefore, our work cannot be accomplished unless and until we make it a movement.

[English]

DR. V. SAROJA (Rasipuram) : Hon. Madam Chairperson, thank you very much for giving me this opportunity. The World Health Assembly had adopted an International Code on the Marketing of Breast Milk Substitutes in 1981. The Government of India recognised its importance and the code was adopted through the Indian National Code for Protection and Promotion of Breast Feeding in December, 1983, and to give effect to provisions of this Code, the Government of India had enacted rules on 31st July, 1993.

Madam, we are now discussing the Infant Milk Substitutes, Feeding Bottles and Infant Foods (Regulation

[Dr. V. Saroja]

of Production, Supply and Distribution) Amendment Bill, 2002. The Government of India is contemplating amendments to this Act to strengthen the provision of exclusive breast feeding up to the age of six months and continued breast feeding with complementary food up to the age of two years. It is of foremost importance for us to define the 'balanced diet', irrespective of age. The term 'balanced diet' defines the adequate amount of major food components like carbohydrates, proteins and fats in addition to essential amino acids and other elements of sodium, potassium, calcium and phosphorus for the development of bones, brain, metabolism and other systems in the body.

What is the importance of breast-feed? Why do we want to substitute it? In fact, we do not have a substitute for the breast-feed. What is the important chemical component which plays an important role in the development of the child? It is the cholestrum. I would like the hon. Minister to enlighten this House, the whole of India and the whole world about the composition of cholestrum in that. Even among the elements and composition of the breast-feed, it is the lactoprotein, which is present only in mother's milk and not in any other milk or milk products, which contains lact-albumin, whose mechanism protects the intestines of the new baby from all sorts of infections. It facilitates better absorption of the breast-feed and it also promotes health. Instead of having a vague opinion about the breast-feed and the composition of the breast-feed, is it not our duty to see that every person, right from the child, adolescent, to the elderly person, knows about the composition, and its importance? It is not only the Parliamentarians, but also every mother, every individual, every student, in all walks of life, ought to know the composition of the breast-feed.

Madam, infant mortality and morbidity are directly proportional to the composition of the nutrition that the baby was given during the first six months of life. The diet that the baby gets during the first six months will be the sheet-anchor for the development of the child. I would urge upon the Government to see that this message reaches every individual. We are committed to take this message

to every individual. We ought to carry this message not only to the breast-feeding mothers, but also put it in the school curriculum.

As the hon. Chairperson rightly pointed out, in case breast-feeding is not adequate, then we can, at least, substitute it with cow's milk, which is available at home. Even in this case, every child, above the age of five years, should know and be able to differentiate the composition and the cholestrum between mother's milk and cow's milk.

We are introducing the 'Noon-meal Scheme'. In the 'Noon-meal Scheme', we totally forgot about balanced diet. Balanced diet means, one should calculate the calorie aspect, and the whole world should know what to take and what not to take. In the modern era, fast food has become a craze, and we are totally neglecting the naturally available foods, seasonal foods and other easily available foods. Our younger generation is focussing more on fast food. In that context, I would urge upon the Government to tackle this problem of the adolescent community of our country.

As our hon. Chairperson has rightly pointed out, most of the adolescent girls are suffering from anaemia. I endorse that view as a medical doctor. We have forgotten that adolescent group totally. However, when she gets married and becomes pregnant, she conceives a baby whose haemoglobin level is less than eight per cent, or gives birth to a baby whose weight is much less or gives birth to a dead-borne child. We should not only protect the child's health, but also the mother's health.

Madam, all of you may be knowing it, under the leadership of the hon. Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Dr. Puratchi Thalaivi *Amma*, the Government has specifically introduced anti-anaemic treatment where de-worming is done and all the adolescent girls are given the anti-anaemic treatment.

Girls in adolescent ages were given treatment for anaemia. Now, there is a report that their haemoglobin levels are increasing and the menstrual cycles are getting regularised. I would urge upon all the State Governments to adopt these measures. Pre-conception counseling and treatment must be made available.

Madam Chairperson, as you have rightly pointed out, supply of food at subsidised rates through the PDS is essential, especially for people living below the poverty line. Through the self-help groups, we can spread the message of right food habits, anti-anaemic treatment and also economic empowerment. We must take this message across to the people. We have to educate the people and make them consume more and more naturally occurring foods which contain a lot of nutrients. That would help in milk secretion to some extent and we will be able to curtail this problem of lack of lactation.

I would like to place my appreciation for the National Commission for Women on record for conducting this study and presenting a report on it. I would like the Government of India to adopt the recommendations made by the National Commission for Women in this regard.

Whenever we discuss family welfare and family planning programmes, it is our duty to concentrate on the antenatal – in adolescent as well as normal cases – checkups. Proper identification of the antenatal mother should be done at an early stage. Blood chemistry examinations have to be conducted for proper and critical evaluation of the antenatal mother in time, in case of high-risk pregnancies. That would result in reduction of infant morbidity and mortality rates. We must encourage breast-feeding through the self-help groups involving the Panchayati Raj system.

Last but not least, without public participation, no Government scheme will ever succeed. So, I would urge upon the Government to publish information brochures on these aspects in regional languages. Then only the message can be spread to every nook and corner of the country. That is the method through which the objective of the Bill can be achieved.

MADAM CHAIRMAN : Shrimati Kanti Singh, you are the last speaker on this.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJO SINGH (Begusarai) : Each of the women Member has spoken, on one is left.

MADAM CHAIRMAN : If you want to speak, I will give you time.

SHRI RAJO SINGH : No, I support the Bill.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali) : I have given my name.

MADAM CHAIRMAN : Kanti Singh ji may speak on your behalf.

SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH (Bikramganj) : Madam Chairman, I support the infant Milk substitutes, feeding Bottle and Infant Foods Amendment Bill, 2002. Madam, breast feeding is considered best for infants and we have a centuries old tradition of breast feeding in our country. Attention of the people is being drawn towards this aspect by WHO and also through legislation in our country.

Madam, I would like to categories women into two—those living in rural areas and those living in urban areas. I would like to say as people's representative and not as a doctor, that women living in rural areas are more desirous of breast feeding their infants but for that they need to keep themselves health. Unless women get hygienic and nutritious food, they won't be able to feed their infants even if they so desire. In such a scenario, it is the responsibility of the Government to ensure proper food supplements to pregnant women. This should be started right from the time they conceive. The nutrition aspect should be attended to right from the start. After birth, breast feeding is essential for infants. Breast-feed is like nectar for infants but there are women, who do not enjoy good health as some of the Members here pointed out, that those who are anaemic and do not get proper food which results in the lack of lactation, what they should do? They want to feed their children but cannot do so because of malnutrition and sickness. What they should do if they don't have location? What arrangement Government have for them?

Madam, the legislation stipulates that Mothers may breast feed their infants upto two years of age, but whether any thought has been spared for those women, who are physically not capable of that. The rural women, who suffer from this problems, give their infants cow's milk-

[Shrimati Kanti Singh]

but today conditions have changed. Cows have to wander here and there in search of fodder and they eat polluted things which affect their milk. It causes disease among infants.

Madam, my suggestion is that the services of "Aanganwadi" sevikas working in villages should be secured to propagate the idea of breast feeding and using cow's milk when women suffer from lack of lactation. But milk of only those cows should be used which gets fodder within the house hold and does not have to wander in search of that. A number of women are not aware of the right way of feeding their infants through bottle which causes disease among infants. Again anganwadi sevikas should be used to create awareness in this regard. Now indecent advertisements have been stopped but the advertisements need to be remodelled to enable the rural women to comprehend them. Keeping this in view the do's and don'ts should be publicised in Hindi and other regional languages.

Madam, the rural women don't have any means but the women living in urban areas do have them and all materials are available for them, but there is a misconception prevailing among them that breast feeding would adversely affect their beauty. That is why they do not want to breast feed their infants. They don't feed their infants to protect their charm and beauty. Therefore they also need to be made aware. They need to be educated that breast feeding guards infants against many diseases.

Madam, the legislation has been introduced, but I am very much concerned about its implementation. I can't understand as to how many people would be responsible for its implementation and also the manner of its implementation. Besides, the multinational companies advertise their products so aggressively that one becomes helpless. Their propaganda about their product is so well managed and they term their product as full of vitamin and protein and thus their products sell like hot cake but if their food is closely analysed, it is revealed that the promised vitamins and proteins are not there and the products are not upto the mark. But they are advertised in such a

manner that people spend freely to buy them. The aspect to stopping such practices and proper analysis of the products of multinational companies should also be addressed. They sell their product by giving false information. This should be monitored and checked. The people in general and women in particular need to be educated in this regard. Our country could develop only if the women are educated.

Madam, the women of our country definitely want to breast feed their infants but for that some facilities need to be provided and those facilities could be provided through health centres and sub-centres. It could be done through joint efforts of Health and Child welfare Department and Health Department. Periodically, one woman may be provided all the information relating to food supplements through health sub-centres and they could also be distributed from there. The vaccination could also be organised there. In this way, they could be protected against a number of diseases. All these materials should be available in health sub-centres in abundance. After the Bill is passed, all the issues that I have raised should be attended to otherwise it would just remain a Bill. With these words, I conclude.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Madam Chairperson, what is the name of the Bill?

MADAM CHAIRMAN : I do not have time to tell you. Please sit down.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MADAM CHAIRMAN : Thank you very much.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MADAM CHAIRMAN : Right now, there is paucity of time, therefore, please leave it.

(Interruptions)

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Mr. Minister, first of all please state the name of the Bill. . . . *(Interruptions)*
You may tell the name of the Bill. . . . *(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN : Please go through the papers

you have It is written there.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Madam, what purpose the Bill would serve when one cannot remember its name. The name of the Bill is "Infant Milk Substitutes, Feeding Bottles and Infant Foods (Regulation of Production, Supply and Distribution) Amendment Bill, 2002." The name which is not easy to understand and remember by the people. The name comprises of 16 words. Cannot there be a simple name which could be remembered by us. In Hindi, its name is "Shishu Dugdh Anukalp, Poshan Bottle aur Shishu Khadya (Utpadan, Praday aur Vitran Viniyaman) Sanshodhan Vidheyak, 2002". The nomenclature of the Bill should be simple and easy to understand. However, the present name of the Bill would create confusion only and would not create any awareness among the people. . . . (Interruptions)

MADAM CHAIRMAN : Raghuvansh ji, you should have give the notice for amendment.

(Interruptions)

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Madam, nobody is ready to listen, who is going to consider the notice for amendment. . . .(Interruptions)

MADAM CHAIRMAN : There is no time now. Debate has already been concluded. Please take your seat. The hon'ble Members of your party have spoken so much on this subject. An hour's time was allotted for this discussion and already one and a half hour has passed.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Madam, I will conclude in a minute. . . .(Interruptions)

Madam, Law should be enacted but its name should be simple and easy to understand. They are saying that UNO, WHO passed a resolution in 1981 and the law was enacted in 1992. Today some amendments are being made to that. It is being said that the mother should feed the infants for more than 6 months upto two years. I want to know whether this law is in force since 1992. . . . (Interruptions)

MADAM CHAIRMAN : Yes, it is in force.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : I want to know where it has been implemented. . . .(Interruptions) how many cases of violation have come to light and the action taken in this regard: This law was not implemented even at a single place. . . .(Interruptions) On the recommendation of UNO and Women Commission, a task force was set up and a law was enacted. But this law has no significance. It is simply ridiculous. It has been the tradition in our villages that mother's feed is given to the infants but this law had to be enacted for the urban society only. There is no significance of enacting this law. There is no use of time spent on it. . . .(Interruptions)

Hon'ble Minister may please state the places where this law has been implemented since 1992 till date. The Hon'ble Minister may please state the names of places where publicity was done in this regard and awareness created. Multinational companies are advertising "Milk powder, a substitute for Mother's feed". Multinational companies are exporting the people of our country and making false propaganda. . . .(Interruptions) How will you stop it. . . .(Interruptions)

MADAM CHAIRMAN : This Bill has been brought for this very purpose only.

(Interruptions)

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : The hon'ble Minister may state the action taken in this regard since 1992 till date. He may clarify who took the action and against how many people?. . . .(Interruptions) Several hon'ble Members have spoken on this Bill but they are not fully aware of it. . . .(Interruptions)

[English]

MADAM CHAIRMAN : Hon. Minister, I would like to point out that this Committee of 52 people, who have looked at the Bill, there are only six women, If this Bill had come to the Committee on Empowerment of Women, maybe it would have got a little more attention from the women Members.

(Interruptions)

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : Madam, that is your privilege. . . .(Interruptions)

MADAM CHAIRMAN : It does not come to the Committee. It is the men who sit and decide.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : It is the Chair which decides it not me. I have also absolutely no objection to that. . . .(Interruptions) I have absolutely no objection. But it is the privilege and the powers of the Chair. I am helpless there.

MADAM CHAIRMAN : We are made into machines, who must speak. Whether we like it or not.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT, MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI) : Madam Chairman, I am grateful to the hon'ble Members of this House for seriously participating in the discussion on this amendment Bill. Undoubtedly, the points raised during the discussion are very important but before inviting attention of the House towards those points, I would like to clarify one thing that this Bill is meant for enacting a law against the companies, the manufacturers of infant food and advertisers who give advertisements for the marketing of food supplements for mother's feed for the infants before the age of six months. This law is not meant for imposing a ban of any kind to restrict mother's choice. This is not the objective of this Bill. Just now, the hon'ble Members who generally create much heat in the House rather than throw light on the subject while they speak, stated in this regard. . . .(Interruptions) Sometimes they generate such heat that they also get heated to the extent that they reach the boiling point. There is need of light rather than heat in the House. Lungpower is no substitute for logic. Reasoning should be backed by weight and facts that speak for themselves.

I would like to tell you that action is still being taken under this law. I want to give a few examples in this regard. There is an organisation-ACASH-Association for Consumer Action on Safety and Health. This organisation filed a petition under Section 6(i) a and 6(1) e of the earlier law read with rule 6 and 7 against a multinational company,

NESTLE that they are making false claims in their advertisements regarding infant foods which they are providing in the market. This case is still sub-judice in the Court. The date of 19th May has been fixed for hearing in Delhi itself. Now the Court will decide the matter and further action in this regard.

Similarly, a criminal case was filed against Johnson and Johnson Limited Company. Some of the companies have apologised and given assurance that they will not indulge in such practices in future. Another petition filed by the NESTLE company against the union of India is pending with the Delhi High Court. Proceedings are taking place in that case also. I think both the cases would be decided by the Court as and when they come up before it.

The action has also been taken against Work Hard Limited and others as they have done false propoganda in the market violating these rules. Besides this legal action is being taken against all other companies like Jaslok hospital, Baby line Pharma, Thums Up, Arya Company, Star India, Evening Management Private Limited, Producer Ekata Kapoor for her serial 'Quonki' Sas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi', Repta Kas Brits Company, Wokhart Company, Nestle Company, Mahananda Dairy, Work Hard Company, Wipro company, Urban Health Care and the cases are going on in the courts. There will be follow up action after the decision of the Court.

Now the House is not for agitation but for peace. If you get agitated then the time of the House will be wasted and you will not be able to get the required information. If you say anything after reading and with understanding then it will be beneficial for all. First you should understand that this law is against such companies as the Presiding Officers has said just now. It is against the multinational companies. It is against those producers who spread false propoganda and through advertisement gradually promote bottle-feeding, medicine or other types of food for children, instead of breast feeding.

It is not about mothers like punishing them on account of this or nothing will be done to any one, it is about those companies.

The main questions that have been raised are not about this Bill, however it is very important. I accept that the breast feeding by mother will be fruitful and the children will get nutrition only when the mother is healthy. It is absolutely right. You will find that the food that is given to the mother who breast-feed their children is still served in some families in rural areas. That is highly nutritious food so that the children may get sufficient quantity of nutritious food and the mothers may also get nutritious food. However it is difficult for the mothers below poverty line, to get even the normal diet what to speak of nutritious food. The Members have expressed their concern in this regard. That is why, schemes have been launched under the women and children development programme for the pregnant mothers and adolescent girls who are would be mothers. Today there is paucity of time to hold discussion on it however, I would like to tell you that there are several such programmes which are attracting my attention, that there should be a standard diet for pregnant mothers and mother who breast feed their children and adolescent girls. Unless they get sufficient diet the children will not be healthy. Since I am concerned with the education so I know that unless the child is healthy his or her brain will also not function properly. The underweight child whose weight is less than the optimum limit becomes handicapped not only physically but also mentally. So, I have always requested and our Ministry is requesting at all levels that we should make arrangement in this regard.

You will be glad to know that under the Prime Minister's rural schemes Rs. 391 crore has been allocated so that the children between the age group of 0-3 years living below poverty line may get money to arrange proper diet for their children. Along with this, I would also like to inform that the Government have remarkably increased the quantity of ration provided at lower price to the people living below poverty line. It has been increased three-fold so that they may get sufficient quantity of foodgrains. It proves that we have paid sufficient attention to the people and the mothers living below poverty line who are in need. The Ministry of Health and our Department jointly take care of the mothers so that they may get sufficient quantity of folic acid and vitamins.

Anganwadi women workers are very vigilant in this respect and le.Jy workers from the Health Department are also employec for the same job. You will be gland to know that the results of all these efforts have started coming in. The data collected by international agencies show that there is reduction in the incidents of death of mothers at the time of delivery. There is also decline in the death rate of the children due to malnutrition. I have figures with myself regarding the decline in death rate of the children aged 0 to 1 year and 5 years of age. We are paying attention to all these things. However the Government had inherited a very big problem from the previous Governments. The shortcomings of last 50 years can not be resolved in one stroke, however we are continuously paying attention towards all the problems. So we have doubled the honorariums paid to Anganwadi women workers who extend help to us in this work and are very important. Some State Governments have also helped in this matter. We are witnessing good results in those States where the State Governments have increased the honorarium of health workers. I hope that hon'ble Members will make efforts in their respective States to persuade State Governments to increase the honorarium a little more. There are some States like Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and some other States where honorarium is not given. If it is given in those States also and some more facilities are provided to the Anganwadi women then it will be productive and we will be able to provide better diet to the mothers and children more efficiently and conveniently.

One more point has been mentioned just now. Dr. Saroja ji has explained it in a very comprehensive manner. She has explained it from the point of view of medical science. I would like to submit that she has explained us as to what type of proteins and other elements are found in mothers milk and in what way do these help in the growth of children. It is absolutely correct. The benefit of early breast-feeding has been found on the basis of research conducted. If breast-feeding is done properly it will delay in the birth of second child. The longer the breast-feeding is done, longer will be the interval in the birth of two children. I would not like to go in details in this regard. I have all facts with me. It is being I studied quite extensively as to how much the cholestrom element

[Dr. Murlī Manohar Joshi]

is useful and contributes to the immunity of the children and their growth. All these things are studied thoroughly and there is a need for such studies. Although, studies have been conducted in our country for last thousands of years on the breast feeding and the diet of mothers and children.

A problem towards which attention has been drawn is what is option before mothers who do not get food. I did not say that it is essential for her to breast-feed their children. How will they feed their children if they do not have it? In this situation alternate arrangements are made. However it should be kept in mind that the child does not fall sick and his or her immunity may increase. The training is required for this as to how such diet should be served, how sterilisation is done and what should be the ingredients of that diet. However the number of such mothers who do not have breast milk is very less. All these things will be covered under this programme. In the event of untimely death of mother of a child, that child will not get mother's milk. There is a need to pay proper individual attention to such situation. . . .(Interruptions) How can a working mother breast feed their children for six months? I would like to humbly submit that the number of women in the country working in the organised sector is not so high. It is a fact that in the circumstances that we have, undoubtedly their number may go up. But this problem is confined only to those mothers who are employed in organised sector. Those mothers, who work as labourers and are employed in building construction works and their nature of job is of shifting nature cannot more with their children.

We will formulate schemes for such places and it would be good, if Anganwadi programme is started in slums. There are some difficulties in it. Secondly the awareness in regard to primary responsibility of mother in society is required. Some times mishap occur and mother has to work. If there is nobody in family to earn livelihood, she has to work. She works as for instance in police, where it is difficult do to so. I consider the two areas different. Sometimes, natural accidents take place and mother has no other option but to work. I feel that some arrangement

should be made in such circumstances. But in the families where both husband wife and other members of family are also earning money, that family too has to pay attention in this regard so that the infants are breast-fed and mothers may breast-feed them properly. The family too has some responsibility in this regard.

Maternity Leave has also been discussed. Paternity Leave is also related to it. If it is feasible to increase the period of maternity leave, the Government and department would certainly pay consideration towards it if the House is of opinion that it is necessary to increase maternity leave, this is the only way out, then it could be considered. But the matter has no concern with this Bill.

We have to see that in our country where family is an important institution and where the sole of mother has long been recognised, there is a need to realise primary responsibility of mother. If we want that our children have bright future, they have good health and strong immunity to fight disease, it is essential that infants are breast fed at least for six months. We have to create awareness in this regard not only in women but in the society as a whole. We will have to appeal to the women organisation to create such feeling among people that others should be able to feed their infants for six months. If minor changes are required, we are ready for it, because healthy mother and healthy children are the future of the nation. We want that mother and child should have good health and their future should be bright. A comprehensive consideration is needed in this regard. I do not deny the fact that attention is needed in this regard we are giving attention, but it is not possible for any Government to resolve all problems at once. This problem is very important and serious. We will definitely pay attention in this regard and we have been doing so.

I would like to express my gratitude to all of you for supporting this bill keeping in view the actual intention of this bill. I would also like to thank the House for giving useful suggestions for the health of mother and child. This is not a political issue. This is a question of country's future. Everybody has to pay consideration in this regard, and everybody's cooperation is required to accomplish this task. The role of Union Government, State Government and

all Non Government Organisations, particularly Women's organisation would be very important. With cooperation of all of them, we will move to attain the motive of this bill.

I would like to thank all of you and submit to unanimously pass this bill.

[English]

MADAM CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That the Bill to amend the Infant Milk Substitutes, Feeding Bottles and Infant Foods (Regulation of Production, Supply and Distribution) Act, 1992, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 2

Amendment of Section 2

[Translation]

SHRI RAJO SINGH (Begusarai) : I beg to move :

Page 2

Line 13

for "two years" substitute "three years" (5)

Page 2

Line 15

for "two years" substitute "three years" (6)

[English]

MADAM CHAIRMAN : I shall now put amendment nos. 5 and 6 moved by Shri Rajo Singh to the vote of the House.

The amendments were put and negatived.

MADAM CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That clause 2 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 2 was added to the Bill.

Clause 3 to 5 were added to the Bill.

Motion Re : Suspension of Rule 80(1)

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : Madam, I beg to move :

"That this House do suspend clause (i) of rule 80 of the Rules of procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha in so far as it requires that an amendment shall be within the scope of the Bill and relevant to the subject matter of the clause to which it relates, in its application to Government amendment No. 3 to the Infant Milk Substitutes, Feeding Bottles and Infant Foods (Regulation of Production, Supply and Distribution) Amendment Bill, 2002 and that this amendment may be allowed to be moved."

MADAM CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That this House do suspend clause (i) of rule 80 of the Rules of procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha in so far as it requires that an amendment shall be within the scope of the Bill and relevant to the subject matter of the clause to which it relates, in its application to Government amendment No. 3 to the Infant Milk Substitutes, Feeding Bottles and Infant Foods (Regulation of Production, Supply and Distribution) Amendment Bill, 2002 and that this amendment may be allowed to be moved."

The motion was adopted.

New clause 5A

Amendment of Section 6

Amendment made :

Page 1, line 3,—

after line 31 insert—

In section 6 of the principal Act, i sub-section (2), for the words "infant milk substitute", at both the places where they occur, the words "infant milk substitute or infant food" shall be substituted. (3)

(Dr. Murti Manohar Joshi)

MADAM CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That new clause 5A be added to the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

New clause 5A was added to the Bill.

Clause 6 was added to the Bill.

Clause 7

Amendment of Section 9

[Translation]

SHRI RAJO SINGH (Begusarai) : I beg to move :

Page 3,—

after line 6, insert

"Provided that any producer, supplier or distributor can give any contribution to Non-Profit Organisations/ Societies engaged in the promotion of health of infants." (7)

[English]

MADAM CHAIRMAN : I shall now put amendment No. 7 moved by Shri Rajo Singh to the vote of the House.

The amendments was put and negatived.

MADAM CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That clause 7 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 7 was added to the Bill.

Clause 8 to 9 were added to the Bill.

Clause 1

Short title and Commencement

Amendment made :

Page 1, line 3,—

for "2002" substitute "2003" (2)

(Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi)

MADAM CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That clause 1, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 1, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Enacting Formula

Amendment made :

Page 1, line 1,

for "Fifty-third" substitute "Fifty-fourth" (1)

(Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi)

MADAM CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That the Enacting Formula, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

The Enacting Formula as amended, was added to the Bill.

The long Title was added to Bill.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : I bag to move :

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

MADAM CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

The motion was adopted

15.54 hrs.

DELHI HIGH COURT (AMENDMENT) BILL

[English]

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : I beg to move :

"That the Bill further to amend the Delhi High Court Act, 1996 be taken into consideration."

Madam Chairman, there is only a nominal amendment to the Delhi High Court Act, 1966 which has been proposed. In the law, the jurisdiction of the Delhi High Court, for the purposes of its pecuniary jurisdiction, relates to all cases where the monetary value is Rs. 5 lakh or above.

15.55 hrs.

[DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH *in the Chair*]

It is now proposed to substitute this jurisdiction of Rs. 5 lakhs with Rs. 20 lakhs. The result of this amendment would be cases upto Rs. 20 lakhs would be filed before the Subordinate Courts in Delhi and not before the Delhi High Court. The principal reason which has persuaded this amendment is that the Delhi High Court is already clogged with a large number of arrears and the pendency is more than 1.5 lakh cases and, as far as the courts of the District Judge and Additional District Judge are concerned, there are only 18,387 cases pending as on 1st March, 2003. Therefore, there is a possibility of much quicker disposal of cases so far as District Judges and Additional District Judges are concerned rather than the Delhi High Court. This was originally proposed or suggested by the Delhi High Court and a decision was taken on the administrative side by the High Court.

The State Assembly of Delhi had approved this particular law but, upon challenge on the basis of legislative jurisdiction, it was found that the legislative jurisdiction to amend this is just in Parliament and not in the Delhi Assembly and that is the reasons why this Bill has been proposed before the Lok Sabha. The object is larger jurisdiction as far as Subordinate Court is concerned and this means much quicker and expeditious disposal of the cases.

With these few words, I propose to the hon. House that this Bill be adopted.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Motion moved :

"That the Bill further to amend the Delhi High Court Act, 1966, be taken into consideration."

SHRI A.C. JOS (Trichur) : Sir, I have a preliminary objection. Section 4 is given in the amended Act. It appears that Section 4 is a new Section. But where will it fit in? It is because Section 4 is not there in the original Act. I pointed it out of the hon. Minister that, if this Bill is passed, it would create a problem because in the original Act, Section 4 should be there. If it is not there, it should be

an amended Act. So, Section 4 has come here. It is a new one.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You may take it up at the time of discussion.

SHRI A.C. JOS : This practice is wrong and the hon. Minister should clarify it. I am not opposing the Bill. What I am asking is the position of Section 4.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You may raise this point during discussion.

SHRIMATI MARGRAET ALVA (Canara) : Mr. Chairman Sir, I stand up to support the Bill. Of course, there is nothing much in the Bill. It is only the question of jurisdiction financial limits which are being enhanced. As the Minister pointed out the reasons which, I suppose, are very justified. But I think, what we are looking at today is not just the question of jurisdiction of a court but the very functioning and the entire challenge to the judicial system which we are watching particularly these days with a judge being dragged in and out of the court, in the hands of the CBI, on bail or not on bail, etc. What has really come before the nation on the television screen in an enactment of the rot that has set in into our entire judicial processes starting from the lowest court in the remotest area to the highest bench in the country.

Sir, a case filed today, we are told, will probably be settled at the time of our grandson, if at all it gets settled by then. The judiciary, the legal processes and the legal fora, if I may say so, have become playgrounds and the fora of the rich and the super rich because no ordinary citizen can afford to go from court to court and reach the Supreme Court.

I also belonged to the legal fraternity but now, of course, without a brief as I do not practise nowadays. But I had practised in the Supreme Court. I know that clients come from our States. The charge of a senior lawyer for one appearance is Rs. 1 lakh in the Supreme Court. I do not know for how much the bills are made and for how much the receipts are given. That is the minimum for appearance and most often, it gets adjourned or postponed or the judge is not available.

[Shrimati Margraet Alva]

16.00 hrs.

This has become the game of the rich and the super rich. Besides this, I do want to point out that our entire Constitution and the functioning of our democracy stand on three pillars – an elected Parliament, an independent judiciary and, of course, a free Press. These are the foundations of a real vibrant democratic system. I must say that the independence of the Judiciary and its functioning has to come under some kind of scrutiny. I would say, there should be judicial reform.

The moment you criticise the judiciary, you have to face contempt of court. I can say that what has happened in the Karnataka High Court is a disgrace, if I may say so, in the history of the Judiciary in this country. Judges were found, we are told, in a compromising position. When somebody wrote about it, they were summoned before the courts. Then they set up their own committee to inquire into the incident. Then everybody is said to be absolutely innocent. Those who reported it or wrote about it were summoned for contempt of judges, who misbehaved somewhere and about which they wrote.

I will tell you today about an incident. That is why specifically today I stood up to speak. As Members of the Rajya Sabha, Shri Vayalar Ravi and I, during a discussion, criticised the judiciary and pointed out certain lacunae. Both of us were issued contempt of court notices by the Allahabad High Court for having spoken under our rights inside Parliament. Then the Prime Minister had to take up the issue with the Chief Justice. We are under scrutiny by the judges even when we are in the Parliament. One of those judges is supposed to have said, "Why has she stopped practising. I wish she would come to the court and we would deal with her here". Thank God, I do not have to go to them! But on some day if I have to be in the dock. I do not know what will happen, with Shri Jaitley's legal processes.

All that I am saying is that today the judges have begun to believe that they are above the law and that they are above any norms. I dare say in this House that the

Judiciary is more corrupt than bureaucracy or what we find in the political arena. But nobody talks about it. Benches are fixed; dates are fixed and manipulated through their own processes. I can tell you that judges are also fixed in many courts. We know that payments are made; we know where they are made and how they are made. We all are aware of it. But if we talk about it, we are in trouble. That is why nobody wants to talk about it. But lawyers do tell us how benches are fixed. They say, this is the pro-management judge, so do not fix it before him. This is pro-labour judge, so fix it before him and you will get a favourable judgement; this is the pro-tenant judge, so go before him. These are the types of ways in which the cases are manipulated.

I do want to say that it is high time the Executive decided who is running this country. We are told what kind of buses must run on the road. In a State, the State Government was told that every judge's car must have a red right. The court decides everything. When we were in Government, we were given an order, which I want to cite here, that in Delhi, no bungalow should be allotted to anybody till all the judges, whose list was given to us, were provided with bungalows. I was a Minister in the then Government. Only then could we give the bungalows to the Ministers or MPs or others who were waiting for bungalows. This was an order from the court. These kinds of orders are being given. If their salary has to be increased, they decide it. If something else has to be done, they decide it.

We went through a long process of impeachment in Parliament. I was Minister of Parliamentary Affairs then. I know what we went through trying to see that balance was maintained. Of course, there were many who said that you should have taught them a lesson once and for all and they would have behaved. I do not want to go into the kind of charges that were made. We were discussing about the size of carpets which were missing, we were discussing about how many cars were used for his daughter's wedding in Madras.

The cars were supposed to have been driven from Chandigarh to Chennai as if there were no lawyers in Chennai to provide cars to that Judge. But there were

various things. So, we felt that they were not really something which required an impeachment. Hence, it was dropped. But I am saying today that there is a need for judicial reform. I must congratulate Shri Arun Jaitely that on a number of occasions, old Bills were amended. Of course, in-between he took a different *avatar* and disappeared. Now, he has re-appeared. He changes his *avatar* every six months! But, as the Law Minister, he took steps to see that a number of old Bills were amended, taken away when they were considered redundant. I am glad that steps were taken to review a number of laws which had outlived the purpose. I would like the Government to look at the entire question of overhauling and restoring the credibility of the Judiciary in this country.

Sir, we are talking about an independent Judicial Commission. Somebody is talking about selection of Judges and so on. I have a couple of suggestions to make. I plead for them. One is that no Judge, appointed from the Bar, should serve in the State in which he was practising. He should go to the Bench outside the State and not work there. We have seen the sons and daughters or juniors of his own office appearing before the same Judge the day he becomes a Judge. The cases of that office are brought before them. His own juniors are appearing before him. I have known of a Chief Justice's official residence being used as an office by his own daughter as a practising lawyer in the very same court. The Chief Justice's house becomes the daughter's chamber as a practising lawyer. Can you expect them to be fair in dealing with the cases of the Chief Justice's daughter where the clients are met in the Chief Justice's own official house? These are the types of things which are happening today and we are talking about an independent Judiciary!

Next, even in the case of appointment of Judges, it is not the quality or the capacity which play a role but it is the political pulls and counter pulls which play a role. I am told that the hon. Minister was warned when Justice Mukherjee was to be appointed. Today, he is all over the news. Nobody looks at the background of the Judges. Nobody looks at what they have been up to. They are just appointed for various considerations. One is somebody's

junior. One is somebody's son-in-law, and somebody's relation becomes a Judge. Then, the rot sets in. There is the question of who is to choose whom and on what basis it is to be done.

I would like to say in this connection that about adjournments, earlier, we had suggested in a whole range of measures. I do not know how much of them were accepted for judicial reform. They included the number of adjournments, limit on the hours of argument by lawyers, question of fixing of fees, etc. But I would certainly say that Tribunals, like the Administrative Tribunals and Tax Tribunals, have been set up which meant taking away the burden from the regular courts to the order fora. Of course in Delhi, I think, till today the Family Courts have not been set up, thank to the pressure of the influential lawyers of Shri Jaitely's fraternity in Delhi. They do not want the Family Court because the Family Courts have debarred the lawyers. So, they say that they would not allow the Family Courts to function because they cannot appear before the courts; their cases are taken away. But the whole idea behind the Family Courts is to have an atmosphere in which the family problems, women's problems and certain issues could be sorted out without the wrangling between the lawyers and the fees to be paid. We, from the Committee on the Empowerment of Women, have been to almost all the States. We have visited the Family Courts with and without notice. The lawyers are appearing in all the Family Courts in the country. In the Mumbai High Court, they have been given the lawyers chambers in the premises of the Family Courts while the social workers, who are supposed to be the counsellors, have no room to sit. There are other places where, till today, rules notifying the appointment of the counsellors have not been issued by the State High Courts. There are still other places where the counsellors in the Family Courts are paid Rs. 30 per case.

A sum of Rs. 30 is not even the minimum wage for a labourers in the field and they are supposed to do counselling for women. We have discussed the question of free legal aid repeatedly. As somebody said recently in an interview, those lawyers take up free legal aid who have no other cases to take up. So, it is all bungled. There is

[Shrimati Margraet Alva]

hardly any help for poor women and others who want legal aid. The lawyers, who do not have any other work, get experience at the cost of the Free Legal Aid Cell and get paid by the court. What is the result of that for the poor people is another question. There are problems with that.

I would certainly say that the time has come when, as a legislative body, we should draw a line stating what are the areas for judicial review and what are not. From CNG buses, drinking water, to the cleaning of river, there are judgements. Today, I saw a Judgement saying that within three months something is to be done. Everyday the Government is being told what to do and what not to do. I can quote one example. I can speak here because I cannot speak outside, otherwise I will be charged with contempt. There were oral orders given in the Supreme Court that so and so person should be appointed, otherwise the Chief Secretary and the Chief Minister would have to pay the price and this came as a warning. It was not an order in writing but it was an oral order. It was a threat to the Government and my Government had replaced that officer and appointed the one whom the Judge from the Bench said that 'if this is not done, you will be hauled up'. So, on oral orders a man had been released and another one had been appointed. Yesterday, in my own constituency, the CAT said 'transfer a Chief Engineer in the Taluk Panchayat and ordered them to appoint so and so'. So, this Chief Engineer is to be relieved and the man that the CAT decides must be appointed. But what is happening today. When I was Minister for Personnel, I was faced with orders from the Tribunals and even from a High Court telling us to change the cadre of an IAS trainee who was selected. Cadre selection is the prerogative of the Government of India Ministry of Personnel. I refused to accept it. I was told that it is a judicial order. I went and met the Chief Justice of India. I told him that we are in trouble. We cannot run the cadre. We filed an appeal and luckily for us the order was struck down and it was upheld that the prerogative of the Ministry of Personnel for cadre allotment cannot be taken away. If he is somebody's son-in-law, I must give him the cadre of his choice. Is this how the Government of India works? Are

the courts going to decide the rights of an elected democratic system in which you have elected the Government? The court issued an Order for the arrest of a Speaker. This happened when we were in Government. It was in one of the North-Eastern States.

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY : It was in Manipur.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA (Canara) : Yes, in Manipur. That day I pleaded as I plead today. 'If we do not stand up today, our future generations will blame us for having submitted to the tyranny of the Judiciary.' We did nothing at that time and the Speaker was arrested and taken out on the orders of the court. This was a total violation of the supremacy of the legislature and, therefore, I say that unless we are strong enough to stand up on issues, irrespective of party and across party lines, and reassert the primacy of the Houses of Parliament, we cannot reform the system. We make the laws. If they are unconstitutional or if they have violated the Constitution, let them strike them down, but they cannot tell whose cars will have red lights. Why is it that only Delhi needs CNG buses? Is it because the Supreme Court sits here? What about CNG buses for the rest of the people of this country? Can they die? Can Mumbai, Chennai and Bangalore die without CNG but Delhi must have CNG because the Supreme Court sits here?

What is this? Do the rest of them have no right to clean air? I do not understand how and why we are bowing to every single diktat that is being thrown at us. In this Amendment, the hon. Minister is raising the limit of original civil jurisdiction of the lower Court. I feel that we may also have to fix some rates which have to be paid here and there. Besides fees, we may have to put a limit on the bribes to be paid in the lower courts, middle courts and higher courts. If that too would be imposed, it would be all right it would be regularised. But I would like to say that the time has come for Parliament and the Government to take all into confidence and look at the functioning of our judicial system and ensure that justice is truly done because 'justice delayed is justice denied.' The way we are going now, it seems there is no justice done to the common people in the law courts. It is a maze. All kinds of wrong things are happening. The wrong people get convicted, the

wrong people get away and unfortunately, we are sitting back as spectators and hardly ever reacting because we are afraid of what the Judiciary will do tomorrow.

I think this terror has to end. While I support this Bill, I think the time has come for us to look at this in a very cool manner. I have brought these issues and spoken here. I know I am speaking on behalf of hundreds and hundreds of people who feel this way, but cannot speak outside because they will be hauled up before the courts. But I can say this, at least, as a Member of Parliament, on the floor of this House since I am protected under the Rules and I thank you for the time given to me.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajanj, Bihar) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to make submission. I heard that the Constitution Amendment bill in regard to Women Reservation would be brought tomorrow. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : At present this subject is not before us. Now, the discussion on the bill is going on.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : I am on point of order, please listen to me. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, this is a very serious matter. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : I would like to submit that this is a very serious bill and it is not appropriate to bring this bill in the House without giving the prior notice of 48 hours to the House. You are on Chair. At least 48 hours prior notice should be given to the House, then, this Bill should be brought, this is my submission.

MR. CHAIRMAN : This subject is not before us. Just now, discussion on Delhi High Court Amendment Bill is going on in the House.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is a very serious matter. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Please understand the gravity of the matter.

MR. CHAIRMAN : This subject is not before us.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : What we are submitting may kindly be considered as an issue. Yesterday, the Government requested to consider the oral motion of Shivraj ji, and you were ready to take oral motion. Now, when we are saying it orally, you are saying it is not the issue.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA : Prabhunath ji, if you continue to speak in the same way, then we too will have to go to Delhi High Court for justice. . . .*(Interruptions)* The notice is of 4 years, it is pending for last 4 years, and you are talking of 48 years. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : You have come here by contesting election, not because of reservation. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA : Mulayamji, is assuming that it has to be done. He is with us, why are you objecting. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (Sambhal) : You give such a good speech and are saying such things. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : The House should be taken into confidence, and then only the bill should be brought. Why are you in hurry? . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN : This is a very serious matter. This bill should be brought after taking the House into confidence. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : It is still in air.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : That is not the question. It is not appropriate to bring this bill without taking the House into confidence. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : At present, discussion on High Court Bill is taking place. That subject is not the topic of discussion.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Mr. Chairman, Sir, this is a very serious matter. You should consider it as the subject. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN : This is a very sensitive issue. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : The meeting of BAC would be held at 4.30 p.m.

[English]

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil) : Sir, I support the Bill. Now, the Bill, as it is, is a very simple one. The purpose is to enhance the pecuniary jurisdiction.

In the normal course, nobody will object to it because in the changed situation, the court fee will have to be enhanced and it so happened that it has to be dealt with by the Lok Sabha due to some legal difficulties. Normally, it would have come before the Delhi Vidhan Sabha and they could have passed the legislation. But now, some very serious questions have come up before the House.

Madam Alva has raised certain important issues. We all know that the Judiciary is also in a crisis. Two days back I had the occasion to read a news item. A lawyer was practising before the Kerala High Court and he was a good lawyer. After some time, he was elevated to the Bench. He became a judge of that High Court. When he was a lawyer, he was appearing for a particular case – I do not want to name those matters. He was appearing in a case for a particular party when he was a lawyer in that court. Afterwards when he was elevated to the High Court Bench, the very same case came before him in an appeal in another context. The judge did not hesitate to dispose it of. Normally, he ought to have transferred the case. He was the advocate who was appearing for one party in a case at that time and in the normal course he ought to have transferred it to some other Bench. He did not do it. He disposed of the case and gave a judgement in favour of the party for whom he was appearing as a lawyer previously. This happened in our land, in our country.

There is a specific Supreme Court ruling that the advocate, who is appearing for a particular case, should not hear the case when it comes to him as a judge. But the hon. Judge did not find any hesitation in disposing of

the case in favour of the party for whom he was appearing when he was a lawyer. This has happened.

The Kerala High Court is one of the best High Courts in India. They have a tradition, they have an integrity and all those things are there in favour of the court. That judge is now a Chief Justice of a particular High Court. This appeared two days before in a Press report in *The Pioneer* newspaper giving all these details. So far, to my knowledge, nothing has happened. Is it proper in the normal course? So, many things are taken biased in the Judiciary.

In that Paper, in another context, in another part of the Paper, I happened to read that a judge, who has retired from the High Court was arrested by the CBI in a corruption case. The very same judge. In another news item, a judge of the Delhi High Court had resigned. The reason given was the illness of his wife. But as a matter of fact, subsequently, it was brought out that he was involved in a corruption case. A case of crime was registered against him. He was taken into custody. He was questioned by the CBI and he was brought before a judge.

This has also happened. So, in one case, a judge who appeared for a particular party as a lawyer is hearing the case in an appeal. In another case, a judge who has recently retired is arrested by the Police for questioning in a particular case. This is what is happening in our country. That is why, I submit that Judiciary is also in a crisis. We want an independent Judiciary. We want an honest Judiciary. It is highly essential for our democratic life that Judiciary must be impartial. It must have integrity, and no influence should be exerted on Judiciary. But things are taking place otherwise. So many instances were referred to by Shrimati Margaret Alva. As a lawyer, she knows. I have certain knowledge. What is the remedy for this?

Indian Judiciary is given a blanket protection. Is it necessary in a democratic State to give blanket protection in the form of a Contempt of Court Act? Nobody can speak a word against a judge outside, otherwise he will be booked. This Contempt of Court Act was passed or came into effect when India was a Colony. When the Britishers

were administering India as a Colony, they had given a statute, that is, the present Contempt of Court Act. Now, even after 50 years of our experience as a democratic Republic, we have not changed the Contempt of Court Act. It is still there. It has not been given any change at all. Nothing can be said against a judge. Nothing can be spoken against a judge. Nothing can be written against a judge or even a fair criticism is not permissible. And that is the present law of our land. So, until and unless this law is changed, the judges may go wrong. In a democratic set up, the judges are amenable to criticism. I do not say that they must be put to personal criticism but the people must have right to criticise the merits and demerits of the case. The conduct of a judge must be put to criticism. Until and unless we do this, we would not be able to have an independent and a fair judiciary.

Now, the Supreme Court judges have instituted in-house proceedings, which is more or less a farce. Whenever any judge is erring, it would be looked into by a Committee of Judges appointed by the Chief Justice. This is the procedure. Will it do any good? In-house proceedings will be of no avail in dealing with the cases in which judges are involved. So, I would humbly request the hon. Law Minister to immediately take steps to have the Contempt of Court Act amended. Why should there be a delay? It is much more important than any other amendment because this law is there for more than 50 years, and India became Independent 53 years before.

To speak of pecuniary jurisdiction is of no use. It is said that the number of cases pending before the courts is high and it would get reduced by this amendment. I do not think so. Accumulation of case files is one of the evils of our judicial system. There are about three crore cases pending before the courts without being decided. A poor man in the street is finding it difficult to get justice. India is one of the countries in the world having the costliest system of Judiciary.

Our judicial system is very costly. It is costlier than in any other country. We could not reduce the cost because we always increase it. We even pass legislation to increase the court fees, stamp duty and all those things but no effort is made to decrease the number of

accumulated cases. That is the present situation and that is the irony of fate in our country. Nobody is taking any step to reduce the number of cases and cases are going on accumulating.

Even the Judge who was arrested the other day did not give a judgement even after six months. Many of the Judges hear cases but they would not write the judgement. Judges would not give a judgement at the appropriate time. So, there must be some statutory provision compelling Judges to deliver judgements within two or three days after the hearings are completed. After hearing the case, they would take the file home and keep it there. When the CBI raided the house of the judge who was arrested the other day in Delhi, they could get files where the Judge did not write judgements for long. Even if some judgements were written, they were on the basis of money that was received. That was the police report. So, they would not write the judgement at the proper time. The judgement would never be declared in the open court. They would simply say : 'The judgement would follows.' This is the position in our country.

We all speak of judicial accountability but there is no statute to ensure that. Even in today's newspaper I could read that a Judicial Commission would be appointed. But there is some difference of opinion with the Law Ministry and in the Law Ministry also there is some difference of opinion on what powers are to be given, whether it should be independent, whether it should be appointed by the Chief Justice or in consultation with the Prime Minister and so on. These are matters of dispute about which I would not go into detail. But one thing is certain. There must be a law for judicial accountability and the National Judicial Commission should come into existence, making the Judiciary independent and making the Judiciary liable to people; and the Contempt of Court Act should be amended for lawful criticism against the Judiciary also.

With these words, I support the Amendment Bill.

[Translation]

SHRI C.N. SINGH (Machhlishahar) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, regarding the objective and reasons for moving the High Court (Amendment) Bill the Government have submitted

[Shri C.N. Singh]

that it has been moved with a view to expedite the disposal of pending cases in the High Courts. I do not feel that this thinking of the Government is going to help the people in any way. When the country was not independent the people especially Mahatma Gandhi wanted that the poor people should get justice. That is why he advocate for the Gram Panchayat so that the cases may get disposed at the Panchayat level, however in Indian democracy Gram Panachayat and Niyay Panchayat have completely failed. Not even a single case is being disposed off. Today the issue is not that the cases involving more than twenty lakh rupees should be accepted in the High Court so that comparatively lesser number of cases are filed in the High Court. I feel that 95 percent people of the country will not be benefited by it as there are many poor people in the country while the justice is very costly, lawyers are very costly. The Minister of Law is also a very costly lawyer and the poor people cannot afford to hire such costly lawyer for fighting their cases. The poor people who cannot afford to fight law suit and who have no money to fight cannot get justice in the country. Even after 55 years of independence they are not getting justice. Justice is meant for those who have resources, who have money. What is thinking of the NDA Government in this regard? I would submit that the poor person who does not have money to hire lawyer or to pay the fare and has lost everything cannot approach any court if there is land dispute and he is illegally lodged.

Today the judicial system of the country has collapsed. Through you, I would like to inform the House that when the lawyer comes to court he finds that though judge is in his chamber but he is not in mood to attend the court. The lawyer is giving Rs. 100 to court clerk to get desired next date. The judge turns his face in other direction and lawyer gives the money. When money is collected till the evening then the court clerk visit judges residence and gives his share. I have personally seen all these things. That is why I would like to raise this issue in the House and know from the hon'ble Minister of Law whether efforts will be made to check such practice so that the poor persons may get justice?

There are lakhs of such cases in the country which are pending in the courts for 20 years. There are several reasons for this. I would like to submit to the hon'ble Minister of Law that there are various reasons that these cases are not being disposed off in the courts. The most important thing is that strikes have become a common practice in the courts. What are the reasons for these strikes? On 19th of the month an officer in my district Pratapgarh threatened lawyers to kill them with pistol. No FIR was lodged on behalf of the lawyers. Since then lawyers are on strike and courts are not functioning. Similar situation prevails in every districts. How many courts are functioning in Uttar Pradesh under the BJP and BSP coalition Government of Ms. Mayawati. If the strikes continue for two months clients will come to the court and will get next date. He will again come in ten five days and will again go back. So the Government should think in this regard too. The court should function. The strikes are taking place sometimes in Pratapgarh and sometimes in Lucknow, Allahabad and Farrukhabad. The cases will certainly remain pending in the courts for twenty years if the cases are not disposed off, judges do not attend courts and the posts of judges remain vacant. There are instances where the same case was fought by the father, his son and thereafter son's son is fighting the same case and that too in the same court. There is no need to approach the High Court. The present Government has been bringing so many Bills. The hon'ble Minister is a very learned person and pondered over right thing. He is also an expert of law however he should also ponder over this that though he is moving the Bill and this Bill is also good but I would like to know from the Government whether the Government propose to prescribe a time limit for the disposal of cases so that the person may get justice within five years or three years. People get exhausted in frequent visit to the court and drop the idea of fighting case. Sometimes the cost of legal battle related to land becomes more than the cost of the land itself. Whether the court or the Government propose to provide financial assistance to those people who do not have money? The Government have been continuously increasing the Court fee. If someone wants of file a case he will have to pay Rs. 2 thousand as a fee. From where will a person pay Rs. 2

thousand if he does not have that amount? Probably the Government are not aware of the fact that there are many people in the country who do not have food to eat, shelter to live in and clothes to wear. Sometimes such people are also caught in such cases and sometimes they are also lodged in jail. A child was sent to Pratapgarh jail in connection with the theft of a bicycle. Nobody is there to fight his case. There are many such children who have been in jails for 7-8 years. Nobody is there to advocate their cases. I would like that the number of courts should be increased. It is not that only the limit from Rs. 5 lakh to Rs. 20 lakh should be increased. The posts of judges which are lying vacant should be filled up. There should be time limit regarding the disposal of the cases whether it is revenue case or civil or criminal cases. The Government should also be considerate to ensure that justice is not expensive. A persons who has to fight the court case for four years is forced to sell out all his belongings and goods ornaments, and is shattered at the end. Presently there is common perception that those who visit courts sell all his household goods and ornaments, even then he does not get justice. If there is no solutions to all these problems in the present Bill then this Bill is not going to be beneficial. I would like to submit even this that present Government is incapable to provide justice. Only the Government which provide justice to the poor people will be considered good. During five years the present Government have not worked towards providing justice to the poor people. So I condemn the Government. The Minister of Law is a learned person. I would like to request him to move such a Bill that may provide justice to the poor people and access to justice is easy and less expensive. But the present Government have not pondered over it. I will congratulate the hon'ble Minister if he ponders over this.

[English]

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN (Tirunelveli) : Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Sir, I rise to support this Bill. There was a debate about the appointment of judges of the High Courts. It is crystal clear under article 217 that every judge of the High Court shall be appointed by the President in consultation with

the Chief Justice of India, the Governor of the State and the Chief Justice of the High Court. Wherever the word 'Governor of the State' is there in the Constitution, we can read it as 'Council of Ministers'. The Governor has no independent discretion at all, except under article 163.

The judgement passed by the Supreme Court of India in *Advocates-on-record Association case*, taking away this right of appointment of judges by the Executive from the hands of the Executive, has not yet been amended in the Constitution. Article 141 cannot override this article 217. Under article 141 of the Constitution, the law declared by the Supreme Court shall be binding on all courts within the territory of India – not on the Constitution, not on Parliament and not on any Government. So, till date, this provision of article 217 has not been amended by Parliament. So, the right of appointment, the primacy of the appointment of a judge of the High Court by the Executive has been taken away or removed. Consultation with the Executive has been given a go-by. Now, by virtue of the judgement in the *Advocates-on-record Association case*, there is a collegium of five judges, with the Chief Justice of India as head, who will forward the names to the President. So also, there is a collegium in the High Courts, with its Chief Justice as head, and they will directly forward the names to the Chief Justice of India for approval. So, the Governor of the State, the Council of Ministers, the Chief Minister and the Government have no say in the appointment of judges.

When the primacy is taken away in the matter of appointment of judges of the High Court, the background of the judges is not known to the Chief Justice of India who is sitting in Delhi. Only the Government in that particular State will be able to collect information and they will know who is the right person, who is the best person and who is best qualified to be forwarded for appointment. So, it is high time that article 217 of the Constitution needs an amendment. The hon. Minister of Law and Justice, who is a lawyer, will be able to appreciate this point.

Sir, as far as criticism is concerned, anybody can criticise the judgement of a judge. When there is the question of attacking personally the judge, the contempt of court comes in. You can attack the judgement saying

[Shri P.H. Pandian]

that it is foolish, it has no substance and it is null and void, and that he has not applied his mind. We the lawyers take these grounds of appeal in every appeal saying that the judgement is perverse. It is not contempt of court. So, when a matter relating to personal attack on a judge comes, the question to contempt comes in.

As far as appointment of judges is concerned, in USA, the whole Parliament debates the names. There is a debate about forwarding of names. If the Congress refuses to forward a name in USA, that person cannot be appointed as a judge. There is a judicial committee also. Similarly, the name of the highest law officer is also routed for appointment through the House of Representatives. Now, when the consultation has been taken away, when the power of the State Government has been taken away, the selection of individuals for appointment as judges is done by a collegium. In that way, when the appointments were made on the basis of recommendation of Chief Ministers of States, they selected the best people, the cream, because they knew their background and took into consideration the social philosophy. One Member was pointing out that one judge is pro-labour judge, pro-tenant judge, etc. All that depends upon social background. So, social background should be the criteria for appointment of judges and also the social philosophy.

SHRI S. BANGARAPPA (Shimoga) : After this change, is there any improvement?

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN : No.

As far as the Supreme Court is concerned, only 24,000 cases are pending, I think, there are 24 or 25 judges. So, each judge will have only 1,000 cases pending.

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY : There are 27 judges in all. This figure had come down to 21,000. The average filing in the Supreme Court was about 32,000 to 33,000 and that was also the disposal. So, the arrears' position was being maintained, but now it is gradually going up to about 26,000 because last year about 42,000 cases have been filed. The filing has substantially increased and we have

to think of a strategy to cope up with it *vis-à-vis* judges strength in that regard.

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN : Filing has increased, but the appeals are dismissed at the doorstep. SLPs will be dismissed in one minute. In a case of murder, wherein about seven appellants had preferred an SLP, it was dismissed in one minute. It was not entertained. When an appeal relating to life was not entertained in the Supreme Court, why should there be the Supreme Court in India? To decide an appeal relating to life, there should be the highest court in the land. The late Chief Justice of India, Shri Gajendragadkar had said "If there was a court above the Supreme Court, half of the judgements would have been reversed." That is different. Every citizen should have the right to move the Supreme Court as a matter of right. It should not be a matter of favour or a matter of discretion. So, in that way, the Law Minister may look into this aspect of article 217.

He said that about 26,000 cases or 27,000 cases are pending. Each judge will have only 1,000 cases. Lawyers have 1,000 cases in hand, and the judge of the Indian Supreme Court will have 1,000 cases in hand for his entire term. Every year, he will dispose of the cases.

In that way, the cream, the best brain should be drawn from the bar. For that, the Chief Minister, the Prime Minister and the Law Minister should have primacy. The Executive should have primacy. Now, they do not have a say. They can tell them indirectly. They must have a constitutional say in the matter to the Supreme Court.

You should be in a position to say, 'Look! You are all our candidates'. Judges were packed to the Supreme Court in USA overnight. That is how the packing of judges was followed. Now, there is no packing of judges.

This provision of article 217, cannot be overwritten by article 141. Will the Law Minister say that article 141 can overwrite article 217? A law declared by the Supreme Court shall be binding on all courts in India. Can it be overwritten by article 217, which says that the Governors in States – that is the Council of Ministers – should be consulted? Can the provision of Executive consultation be

taken away by a judgement? Suppose they say in a judgement that Parliament should meet only for one month can we take that up? This is a Constitutional provision. This Constitutional provision cannot be altered; it can be interpreted. Under the guise of interpretation, the Constitutional provisions cannot be altered by virtue of article 141. We are experiencing this in so many ways in different Governments.

As far as conduct is concerned, I will cite an example. There was a friend of mine who was a High Court Judge. He later became the Chief Justice of the High Court. He was to come to the Supreme Court as a judge. He was at number one in the seniority list. However, his name was not preferred just because he could become the Chief Justice of India, if he came to Supreme Court immediately. So, to scuttle his progress, they selected the junior persons, whose names were below him in the list, and appointed those people as Supreme Court judges first. When a person is competent to be a High Court Judge, when a High Court judge is competent to be the Chief Justice of a High Court, how is it that he cannot be competent to be a judge of the Supreme Court of India? It is high time there is mutual discussion between the Chief Justice and the Government in order to evolve, to overcome the 'Advocate on Records Association' case. That case is not a Constitutional provision. It cannot remove the Constitutional power of the Executive.

I will come to article 145. Shri Sahu is sitting here. We deliberated article 145 in the Standing Committee or Home Affairs. I wish to read that provision out. It says :

"Subject to the provisions of any law made by Parliament, the Supreme Court may from time to time, with the approval of the President, make rules for regulating generally the practice and procedure of the Court including. . . . the grant of bail, the grant of stay. . . ."

It is all there. But did the Supreme Court ever frame rules with the approval of the President so far? Did the Supreme Court frame rules subject to the provisions of any law made by Parliament? We have not made any law so far. Have

we applied our mind to this article 145 till date since the beginning of this Constitution? The Supreme Court frames its own rules. As per the doctrine of 'Indoor Management', they frame their own rules. This article 145 has a meaning. . . .*(Interruptions)* We will tell them now? All right. Thank you. Parliamentary control should be there.

We have the Parliament, the seat of the President and the seat of the Supreme Court, all the three located in Delhi. When we went to South Africa, we found that the three capitals were different. There was a Judicial capital, there was a Parliamentary capital and there was an Administrative capital there. In our country, all the three capitals are situated in Delhi. There was an International Bar Association Conference held in Vigyan Bhawan in 1984.

In a Committee, the present Attorney-General had said that 'the Parliament, the administrative seat of the Central Government is in Delhi. That is why, the Judges talk too much, mix too much with the politicians, with the Ministers. So, the Capital should be taken away.' Sir, he had advised in this way to the Government in the Association's meeting at Vigan Bhawan.

I would say that all the constitutional matters should be looked into seriously. In a Bill like this, we would be able to say it. About the functioning of the courts, I would not elaborate more, because much has already been said by many hon. Speakers.

With these few words, I support this Bill.

SHRI A.C. JOS (Trichur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I also want to support this Bill, in general.

At the outset, as I have pointed out earlier also, the Amendment is a defective Amendment. Clauses 1, 2 and 3 are enumerated here. Clause 4 has also been enumerated. But I do not know how section 4 will fit into the original Act. There is a Section 4 in the Original Act as well. After this Amendment Bill is passed, which we are going to do today, there will be two Sections 4. I do not understand the scheme of the things. I have never heard of such a position. And, the explanation given is that this is only a temporary thing. Even if it is a temporary thing,

[Shri A.c. Jos]

how would two Sections 4 be there? So, my submission to the hon. Law Minister is to kindly check it up. I do not agree with him that this will ultimately get absorbed just like sutures. At least, for some time, there would be two sections.

So, my preliminary objection, which I am pointing out, is that this Amendment is a defective Amendment. On this, more deliberation is necessary. Otherwise, it will not serve the purpose.

Sir, another point is that even Rs. 25 lakh as the pecuniary limit in the present set-up is not sufficient. They are not raising it everyday. So, it can be made either Rs. 35 lakh, Rs. 40 lakh or Rs. 50 lakh. Same is the case with the other States also. Everybody, the States are also raising this pecuniary limit of Munsif courts, Sub courts, District courts, etc. So, my submission to the hon. Law Minister is that there should be some mechanism to be found out by which the pecuniary limits are regularly enhanced. I do not know how to do it, but it should be given a serious thought. Even now, small courts are there, Munsiff courts are there, Sub courts are there. All of them have set the pecuniary limits. But because of the eroding of the value of the money, the amount is going up. That is one of the main reasons why a large number of cases are pending.

So, they can raise this limit in the Munsif courts. Many of the cases can be transferred to the Munsif courts and disposed of. It is not only in the case of the Delhi High Court. I know that the subject comes under the purview of the State List.

So, they can raise this limit in the Munsif courts. Many of the cases can be transferred to the Munsif courts and disposed of. It is not only in the case of the Delhi High Court. I know that the subject comes under the purview of the State List.

17.00 hrs.

It can be amended only by the State. But that has to be viewed seriously.

Another thing which hon. Shri Pandian has mentioned is about the appointment of judges. My submission to the hon. Law Minister – who himself is an eminent lawyer – has to think every seriously about it.

Sir, a situation has arisen. Now, the appointments have totally been taken over by the collegium of judges of the Supreme Court and the High Courts. The Supreme Court interprets the law. I would request the Minister to refer this matter to the Supreme Court alone. This article 217 is not subservient to article 141. It is because the law passed by the Parliament is applicable to the Courts in India. So, the power of appointments of judges is totally vested with the President. That means, the Executive is advising him. It is very, very clear. I do not know as to why every judge of a High Court shall be appointed by the President by warrant under his hand and seal after consultation with the Chief Justice of India, the Governor of the State; and in case of the appointment of a judge other than the Chief Justice, the Chief Justice of the High Court appoints. Like that it goes. So, how can the collegium take over the powers of the President under the Constitution? In a country like India where we need many reservations, communal balance, social equity, all these things are to be considered. They can be considered only by the Executive. So, my requested to the hon. Minister is that whatever may be the legal position under article 141 and 217, they are all to be referred to the Supreme Court itself for their opinion in order to see the implications of their own judgement. There is a position that the question of appointment of judges is to be restored back to the 1963 position.

17.02 hrs.

[SHRI P.H. PANDIAN *in the Chair*]

Even the opinion of the judges is that the decision taken in the present situation is not good and conducive to the healthy conduct of the judicial system. So, Sir, we have urgently to look into the situation as to how the judges can be appointed, and what are the definite positions regarding articles 141 and 217. This matter has to be addressed by the Law Minister immediately without any delay.

Everybody even my colleague Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan has mentioned about the Conduct of the Courts. We are ashamed that till even today we do not have an exhaustive Contempt of Court Act. You yourself have mentioned in your speech that we can criticise a judgement. We are doing it everyday. But we cannot criticise a judge of his personal character. I do not agree with it. If we see the situation of the judges of Karnataka, as the hon. Member has mentioned, they were found in compromising situation with women lawyers. Is it a part of the judgement? It is a question of character. The retired judge was arrested for bribery and corruption. Is it a part of the judgement? The earlier Lok Sabha was about to impeach a judge, because some carpets were taken away by a judge. Is it a part of the judgement? If we cannot criticise it, if the general public cannot criticise, it, what can we do? If a politician or an Executive is corrupt, or if he is otherwise wrong, he can be criticised.

Can we not criticise the judges for their personal character also? I did not want to mention this earlier, but I will do it. Today I was travelling from Cochin to Delhi.

MR. CHAIRMAN : If you allow that to happen, no judge will be safe; no litigant will spare the judge. He will lose the case. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI A.C. JOS : You have to have some safeguards for that. I agree with you.

Today I was travelling from Cochin to Delhi. A lawyer from another State was sitting by my side. I got myself introduced and as a lawyer I took interest and asked him. He said that there is no legal battle there, but it is all fixing! . . .*(Interruptions)* I was ashamed. As he mentioned, there are certain pro-labour judges and pro-corporate judges. At least, I can understand that. But if a particular lawyer appears before a particular judge, the outcome can be forecast. But then you say that they cannot be criticised. I know that they are in a very vulnerable situation. So, criticism should be very careful and the judges should also be careful. Day in and day out, newspapers are full of corruption cases of judges, the partiality shown by the judges, prejudices of judgements, etc.

Another thing is that they do not know what their limitations are. In all matters of executive actions, they interfere; they pass orders. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA : Tomorrow, they can pass an order saying that he would not be allowed to sit in the Chair!

SHRI A.C. JOS : What can we do? We cannot limit it as it is. We want an independent judiciary; as you yourself said, we want a judicial capital; I agree with you. We, as people, should have come trust in it and faith in it, as also conviction in it. When we approach a judge or a court, there should be some justice done to us. We have to keep them in tact; we have to protect them everywhere. But things are going out of our hands because of their wholesome protection, because of their immunity from anything. They are also going out of hands. The Government should come forward to do something in this regard.

Another thing is this. I am from Kerala, which is thousands of miles away from Delhi. If a client or a litigant has to come for a Supreme Court case, how much money he has to spend and how many days he has to stay here, leave alone the fee for lawyers? So, justice is not given equitably, because a person from Delhi or nearer to Delhi can come and attend the Supreme Court as often as needed. So, It is very expensive for a person from the South. My submission to the Government is this. I am not asking for Benches everywhere. I say that at least the Supreme Court shall have a Bench in Bangalore or in Tamil Nadu. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SURESH KURUP (Kottayam) : Bangalore will be an ideal place. . . .*(Interruptions)*

DR. M.V.V.S. MURTHI (Visakhapatnam) : We can just mention that there should be a Bench in South India. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI A.C. JOS : I can as well ask for a Bench in Trivandrum in Kerala, but I will not do it. . . .*(Interruptions)* I only submit that there should be a Bench in South India with original jurisdiction with the right of filing. Otherwise, we are not providing justice to the citizens of India equally.

MR. CHAIRMAN : On two occasions, the issue of establishment of a Bench of the Supreme Court in the South was taken up before the Supreme Court. Do you know what did it say? It said that it would affect the integrity of the Supreme Court, and so there could not be an establishment of a Bench. Even in the last sitting of the Standing Committee on Home Affairs, we had recommended it.

(Interruptions)

They did not want to split the Supreme Court. That is the view of the whole Court. The full court of the Supreme Court had written to the Government saying that it cannot be split. You can ask the Minister.

SHRI A.C. JOS : The Supreme Court is worried about the integrity of the Supreme Court but we are worried about the integrity of the nation.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The Law Minister will answer about it.

SHRI A.C. JOS : I still have hopes in him.

MR. CHAIRMAN : He can speak only if he is given an opportunity to reply. So, please do not take more time.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA : Maybe, if we have a Law Minister from the South, he will think of having a bench there.

SHRI A.C. JOS : It is very-very difficult for a litigant, for an ordinary citizen, to travel all the way for Trivandrum, Ernakulam. Tamil Nadu or Bangalore to Delhi to argue his case. When he comes here, suppose the Bench says that it is adjourned for tomorrow or it will meet after two weeks, then he has to go and come back again. The situation is very-very difficult.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The hon. Minister will once again take it up with the Supreme Court.

SHRI A.C. JOS : A Bench with original jurisdiction, with filing rights should be established in the Southern part of the country. For keeping up the integrity of the country, I generally support this Bill.

DR. M.V.V.S. MURTHI : Mr. Chairman, Sir, we are today discussing about the Bill No. 7 of 2003, amending certain provisions in the Delhi High Court (Amendment) Bill, 2003. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Hon. Minister wants 15 minutes' time to reply.

DR. M.V.V.S. MURTHI : We will give him more time. We would like to give more time to the hon. Minister of Law so that he could consider all the requests made by the hon. Members of the House. We have ventilated a number of our grievances and we will be happy if he takes into consideration all the problems raised by us.

SHRI S. BANGARAPPA : You should make a recommendation for the Judicial Commission. . . .*(Interruptions)*

DR. M.V.V.S. MURTHI : For that purpose only I have chosen to speak on this Bill.

We are always going piece-meal. We are always being told that a comprehensive legislation will come at a later date. I do not see any urgency to bring an amendment Bill only to enhance the pecuniary limits. Instead of this, the Government should have come up with a comprehensive Bill. Sections 25 and 30 of the Punjab Courts Act, 1980 are applicable to the judicial courts of the districts and Delhi High Court Act, 1966 applies to the High Courts. Instead of that there should have been a comprehensive Bill which would have given the latest position so that the things would not be complicated further.

As the hon. Members have pointed out, they will be inserting two clauses in section 4. I do not know how it can be taken care of. Today, going to the High Court only up to Rs. 20 lakh is nothing. If there is a civil litigation on a small piece of land, they should take into consideration various Registration Acts while fixing the limit, as to whether Rs. 20 lakh is sufficient or not. At least in the past two years, what was the limit for a piece of land being registered? If there is a dispute about the house plot, where will the person go?

He has to go to the Supreme Court. Kindly take this into consideration so that a practicable and a realistic limit could be fixed while enhancing the limit and the time of the House is not taken by the amendments of this sort. Likewise in the District courts also – today this may not be a relevant thing – even after filing the case how much time is taken to give justice. The number of judges also has to be enhanced. There should not be any backlog beyond three years like in income tax or sale tax. Everywhere there is a limit and within three years if you do not take it up, whatever you have filed, it will become the accepted matter. But in the case of courts, even after 30 years, one could get into these things. The hon. Minister is not only a Minister here but he is a very enlightened advocate also. He knows the practical difficulties. So, he should propose remedial measures for the future before the 13th Lok Sabha is dissolved. He should bring out a comprehensive enactment taking this into consideration so that your name remains in the history, and it would benefit the people also. Kindly take that into consideration.

Sir, Shri Soli Sorabji, the Attorney-General of India and the President, Bar Council of India, Shri D.V. Subbarao have emphasised the urgency of a National Judicial Commission keeping in view the number of scandals that are coming out involving the judges, their corrupt practices, their behavioural aspects and their morality. Everything is affected. I am only mentioning what they have stated. Both of them have given their opinion and it had appeared in the Press. So, these things need to be taken into consideration urgently so that there could be a check on our judicial system. Otherwise, if the morality and judicial system is affected, the whole country will be affected. If it is in any other Department, it would only affect a part of Administration and it could be dissected. But as far as judiciary is concerned, you cannot separate it. Kindly take urgent steps in this regard. Further, it is not the question of only the Supreme Court bench and dispensing justice alone. The justice should be dispensed with speedily. Moreover, it should be available to the ordinary people. In the present scenario, Governments are working for the people's needs and they are going to the houses of the people. Whereas, for the Supreme Court, one has to go

to Delhi. How many people could go to Delhi? Only rich people could go there. There is every need that a Supreme Court Bench should be started in the South. It could be anywhere in the South. Let the Supreme Court decide about the location. We are not very much interested in having it in Hyderabad or Bangalore or Trivandrum or Chennai. It should be at a centrally located place which is approachable for everybody. So, please consider that.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude. The Minister has to answer and we have to take up Half-an-Hour Discussion at 5.30 p.m.

DR. M.V.V.S. MURTHI : Sir, I will not take much time. There is an observation that the Supreme Court cannot have any Branches. But the High Court is having Branches. Is there a different law for the Supreme Court and the High Court.

Sir, in some States there are two benches of the High Court. In the same way, the Supreme Court could also have its benches in some States. If the Parliament makes a law in this regard, then the Supreme Court would abide by it. The hon. Law Minister should consider this aspect and should not leave it to the Supreme Court to decide as to whether a bench of the Supreme Court is required in some States or not. We, as representatives of the people, know better the problems being faced by the people. Let the Supreme Court dispense justice to people and not decide every other administrative matter. With these words, I support the Bill and I would like to request the hon. Law Minister to take into consideration all these aspects. I would like to request him to take steps in order that the morality of the Judiciary is retained. This is very important.

SHRI K. MALAISAMY (Ramanathapuram) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the sum and substance of the entire debate is that the Judiciary is getting an upper hand and is encroaching upon the powers of the other limbs of democracy. Is it due to the weakness and spineless nature of Parliament or the Executive?

MR. CHAIRMAN : This is tolerance of the Parliament and the Executive.

Now, Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, please conclude within two to three minutes. The hon. Minister has to reply to the debate.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the issue of supremacy of the Judiciary and Parliament has been a matter of debate from time to time. In the history of our Parliament a case of impeachment was initiated against a judge who was found guilty. But no action was taken against him because of groupism amongst Members and the feeling of North versus South India. History will never forgive us for that.

"Jyon nahi dand karo Khal toda,
Bhrust hai shruti Marg mora."

It means impeachment proceedings against a judge could not take place in the Parliament who was found guilty by judicial inquiry, it is a grave mistake. It is on account of this thing the dignity or supremacy of the Parliament has lowered which is a matter of concern. Everybody approaches judiciary for getting justice. There are three pillars of democracy, now journalism or media has come up as a fourth pillar. I remember once a judge had said that 20 percent judges are corrupt. I would not like to disclose what would be percentage amongst common men. The Government had decided that cases valuing Rs. 5 to 20 lakh and more would be taken up in Delhi High Court. Now a judge of Delhi High Court has resigned out of fear, who is in jail now and has not been granted bail. He has become Minister of Law. Otherwise he would have helped in getting bail. How will he plead for him? As Shri Ramjethmalaniji is free, he can take up the case. . . .*(Interruptions)* In total, over two-and-a-half crore case are pending in the country. Maximum cases are pending in district courts. Almost 2½-3 thousand posts of judges are vacant in district courts and 400-500 posts of High Court Judges are vacant.

[English]

In Chennai High Court, 229 cases, after hearing on these cases has been completed, are pending for six months for judgement. . . .*(Interruptions)* Not a single case is pending in Bihar. . . .*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

17 cases are pending for more than six months for judgement in Supreme Court though the hearing in those cases has been completed, but judges have no time to write the judgement. 82 such cases are pending in Supreme Court wherein hearing has been completed but judges have no time to deliver the judgement. Similarly, Madras High Court is the first court where only judgement is pending in 229 cases. Second comes Kolkata where 17 such case have been pending for the last 4 months. How strange it is that the hearing is over but judgement has not been written. And, if the judge has retired, hearing will be taken up afresh. How the people would get justice and judiciary will be improved in this way?

There is lot of hue and cry over judicial reforms. I do not know when will National Judicial Commission be constituted. Every now and then we find statements regarding National Judicial Commission, Judicial Reforms, but no idea, what hon'ble Law Minister is doing? Several cases, including involvement in sex, are pending against many judges of Delhi High Court.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude. The Minister has to give reply.

SHRI E.M. SUDARASANA NATCHIAPPAN : He can give reply tomorrow because we rarely get a chance to speak on the judiciary.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Except on a substantive motion, you cannot discuss this matter. Actually, we have now deviated from that principle.

SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN : But we are only speaking on the Bill.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : One lakh and seventy – eight thousand time barred cases are pending in Delhi High Court. Now, the Government are going to make a provision of monetary ceiling between Rs. 5-20 lakh which will increase the number of pending cases. I

want to ask hon'ble Minister how a poor person will get justice and what action the Government propose to take regarding National Judicial Commission, Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and women. If hon'ble Minister tells this all, then only we can support it.

[English]

SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN : Sir, I may be given just two minutes to speak on the Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please cooperate with the Chair. The Minister has to reply Only two-three minutes are left before the Half-an-Hour Discussion is taken up. He is going to give a Bench of the Supreme Court in Tamil Nadu!

SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN : I am going to make some important submission, Sir. How can you know that I am going to speak?

MR. CHAIRMAN : But only two-three minutes are left.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA : You can ask the House to give ten more minutes for passing of this Bill before Half-an-Hour Discussion is taken up. You can do it with the consensus of the House.

MR. CHAIRMAN : In that case, as soon as Shri Natchiappen finishes his speech, the Minister can give the reply

SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN (Sivaganga): Mr. Chairman, Sir, We are happy that the pecuniary jurisdiction is increased. But this kind of increase should have the focus at least for ten years taking into consideration the cost of the land, the cost of the asset or the cost of the value of the property and other things. On that basis, it can be increased to Rs. 50 lakh or Rs. 1 crore.

At the same time, the lower judiciary is more burdened because now all the cases will be transferred to it. We know that by the direction of the Supreme Court, the Delhi High Court has formulated the civil rules of practice and the criminal rules of practice very lately. That is one of the reasons for the delay in criminal and civil proceedings.

In the same way, the issue of appointment of judges is very important. There are plenty of vacancies and proper representation to all the groups is not given throughout India. I have the information from reliable persons that only twelve lady members are appointed as High Court judges. Women are not properly represented in the judiciary.

SHRIMATI MARGAET ALVA : Mr. Minister, you may please note that only twelve women judges are there in High Courts in the entire country.

SHRI E.M. SAUARSANA NATCHIAPPAN : In the same way, OBC, SC and ST representation also should be there.

These things should be considered.

In the same way, the subordinate judiciary is burdened with a lot of work. We know that Chief Justice of the Madras High Court has given a direction to the Government of Tamil Nadu to fill up the vacancies in the subordinate judiciary. But the Government wants to say that they do not have money to face this situation. These type of things are coming up. Simply by getting a letter from the Home Minister. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : You leave that. This is not with that background. Mr. Minister, a representation was given by the Registrar to the Government and the Registrar's letter was treated as a writ petition by the Chief Justice.

SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN : That is what I am telling. Simply that letter is taken as a writ petition.

MR. CHAIRMAN : It cannot be treated like that. It is an administrative letter.

(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA : Sir, how can you answer to a debate?

MR. CHAIRMAN : I do not want to expunge it.

SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN : Sir, I am also speaking in the same spirit. Simply the letter is treated as a writ petition. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, I want to take the sense of the House. Shall we extend the time of the House for about 20 minutes more? Let the hon. Member complete and then the Minister will answer. I want to take the sense of the House.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS : Yes.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Till the subject is over, I extend the time of the House.

SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN : Therefore, the executive burden of paying the salary should also be considered. Regarding the lawyers, the Legal Services Authority Bill is made but the entire Indian Bar Association had gone on strike and the hon. Law Minister, at that time, as Shrimati Alva was saying, "different Avtar" had also participated as a lawyer and found out some solution. At the same time, the lawyers who are at the grass-roots are afraid that their opportunity to practise is totally in a perilous position. Therefore, this point should be answered.

I am asking this for the cause of lawyers only. At the same time, the legal services authority should be presided over by the practising lawyer. A lawyer should be made as judge for legal services authority and one of the members should also be from the bar, that is, the lawyers. Only then any two-member judgement will be binding. That is the law we have made. Therefore, lawyers should be allowed for it.

Finally, nowadays, a lot of tribunals have begun to be made functional by our enactment. But they are not paying any court fee. The rich people are enjoying without paying any court fee and through the tribunal, they are getting the verdict. But the poor people are asked to pay the court fee but the judiciary is delaying every proceeding. Therefore, poor people should also be free from court fee and should be allowed to have verdict under article 39 (a) which was brought under the 20-Point Programme by Shriamti Indira Gandhi. Ordinary people should have free justice throughout India, especially at the starting of the judiciary level.

I would conclude by saying that the legal services authority system is started in every district of Tamil Nadu.

The present Chief Justice, Justice Subash Reddy and Justice Sirpurkar are implementing it. We are giving money under MPLAD Scheme and it is very successful throughout Tamil Nadu. At the same time, if lawyers problem is also solved, the legal services authority will help them a lot. Arbitration should also be brought into practice. Even a Supreme Court judge has commented that arbitration is now a costly one and that should also be considered by a proper amendment to the Arbitration Act. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY : Mr. Chairman, Sir, even though the Bill relates to a very smaller issue, that is an amendment to the Delhi High Court Act, it has triggered and sparked off a lively debate and the debate has extended to several facets of the state of the Indian Judiciary. As far as the Bill is concerned, some questions have been raised. Let me first deal with them.

[Translation]

Raghuvansh Babu had raised this question that the Government are increasing pecuniary jurisdiction of the High Court from Rs. 5 lakh to 20 lakh. It is not so but the fact is that the cases of value over Rs. 5 lakh are taken up in High Court. Normally, there are 27-28 judges in High Court whereas 100-125 judges in District and Additional District Courts. He has stated that 1,78,000 cases are pending in High Courts and 18,000 cases in District Court. Therefore, after the proposed amendment cases valueing Rs. 20 lakh and above only would be taken up in High Court and cases of less value will be taken up in Districts. Additional District Court or Lower Courts. Therefore, now less time will be required for disposal of cases in High Court which was earlier ten years and people will get justice expeditiously.

[English]

The second question which Shri A.C. Jos had raised was procedural. H wanted to know as to what happens to section 4, as to how section 4 fits into the structure and body of the parent legislation of 1966. Section 4, in fact, says that the effect of this is the jurisdiction of the High Court is being raised to Rs. 20 lakh and, therefore, a large number of original suits pending before the Delhi High Court will have to be transferred as a result of this

amending Act to the lower court. In accordance with the drafting procedures – I have seen the past practice also – section 4 is the transferring section which enables the Chief Justice to transfer. Transfer of cases is an one-time act. Therefore, section 4 is section 4 of the amending Act. Subsequent to the transfer taking place, section 4 will lose its relevance because nothing remains to be transferred. Thereafter, subsequently section 4 is taken away by a repeal Act.

SHRI A.C. JOS : At least for the time being, two section 4s will be hanging there.

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY : Two section 4s won't exist. One is section 4 of the amending Act and the other is section 4 of the past Act. Wherever such jurisdiction has been raised, we have checked up the precedent, it is a settled legislative practice which we always follow, which is the drafting practice itself.

In regard to some of the largest issues which have been raised, I must, first of all compliment Shrimati Margaret Alva for using this as an opportunity to trigger off a debate which has been of interest to the entire country in the last few days. I do not see it merely – indeed we should not see it merely – as an incident where the legislature is reacting to certain events which has taken place. But we see this as an issue of concern arising out of several issues which are of contemporary in nature.

We are all concerned with the speed and quality of justice. We are concerned with the accountability of the judicial institution. We are also concerned with what we perceive somewhat as obliteration of the separation of powers. Separation of powers is one of the essential fundamental features of our Constitutional functioning. The Executive has its own jurisdiction; the legislature has its own sovereign domain; and the adjudication powers and the powers to interpret the law and the Constitution are with the Supreme Court.

When the whole institution of judicial activism was propagated 25 years ago, one of the positive aspects was that in cases where the Executive is not acting, there must be some check on the Executive and direct the Executive to act as per the law and the court, as an activist court,

would pass directions. Therefore, the society came to accept this. Activism extended its features because it is an unchartered course and it is an undefined course. Activism and restraint have always to be two sides of the same coin. Both have to co-exist. When they cease to co-exist, and you find that what essentially an Executive domain and a policy domain is being usurped in the name of activism, then consequences of it are felt all over the country. Some of the illustrations which the hon. Members have given is in relation to this. But we must remember that this is not an issue of what suits us on what occasion. We must continue this debate and it is a debate where we need an extent of legislative vision.

We also need judicial statesmanship to realise as to where the dividing line in the separation of powers is to be because once the dividing line is lost, then, you result in a confrontationist situation which weakens the basic democratic edifice and that is something which we really have to avoid. What is of deeper concern is when even Legislative authority is, to some extent, interfered with.

We have been discussing the CVC Bill. The CVC Bill is an example. In the CVC matter, the judgement of the Supreme Court was an excellent idea. But to make the CVC a statutory agency, the issue whether it must be by the Executive act or the Legislative Act is wholly within the purview of this House. Can there be a judicial direction to this House to make a statutory exercise which, in effect, is a mandamus to the House to legislate? What would happen when the House gets up and says that it does not legislate? I know there is some alternative opinion which has been expressed in various sections of the House. I am again not questioning the desirability of the recent judgement relating to the prerequisites at the time of contesting elections. But there are several questions which are thrown up. Which is the final arbiter to decide what are the pre-qualifications for contesting an election? Is it the Legislature or is it a Judicial mandate? What should be the requirements at the time of contesting an election? Is it the House to decide or is it the judicial institution to decide? Is it the Legislature to decide or the Judiciary to decide it? If the judiciary's power is taken away in the name of right to information, then I ask myself a

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question. Does the right to information relate only to knowing my and my family's assets? Why does the right to information not extend to the other four organs which Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh was referring to?

[Translation]

If there are four organs, then it includes executive, judiciary and also media. Then the right of information exists only for political parties and not others. Now the issue is that legislature accepts such type of decisions.

[English]

then today, for some reason, you may accept it. I do not mind if in this Session or in the next Session, you keep an exclusive debate on this issue. When history is written, a question would be asked like this : "When an abdication of legislative jurisdiction was taken away, at that time you were Members of the House and what did you do? "Twenty or thirty years later, this question is going to be put to each one of us who is a Member of this House or the other House today. . . .(Interruptions) Therefore, this is a serious concern. I join and appreciate the concern of the House that this is a concern which we must all share.

The second question which arises in this context is about judicial appointments. Every Member has said about this while speaking. The hon. Chairman, himself has read out the provision of the Constitution. The point is that the appointment of Judges will be made by the President, that, is the Government, in consultation with the Chief Justice and such other Judges as you consider necessary. The appointment is to be made by the Government. In the first twenty years, what happened? Let us just look back and see what happened in this regard in the first twenty years. In the first twenty years, the judiciary recommended it; the Government expressed its opinion and, after consultation between the judicial institution and the Executive, the judicial appointments were made. There was never a confrontation. You had some of the best quality appointments made during that period.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur) : There should be reservation also in it.

[English]

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY : Then came the debate in the early 70s. I am glad that today that debate is no longer alive. The question is this. Should the Judges have a social philosophy or a political philosophy? That debate was carried on. Finally, that debate came to an end. The larger consensus in this country is that we need a detached Judiciary. We need an independent and a strong judiciary. 1982 was a turning point. In 1982, the court said that the eventual power of making judicial appointments is with the Executive but on the recommendation of the Court. But the last word was of the Executive.

If we look back post-1982, till 1993 we had three separate Governments. So, I am not holding one or the other responsible. When the last world went to the Executive and three separate political parties ruled this country for smaller or larger periods, the character of recommendations was almost in consonance with the character of the Government in power. There was one suggestion made during that period and that was; was some element, if not a very large element, of political influence in appointments now creeping in? In 1993, the court interpreted the word 'consultation' in the Constitution and said: "the word must be interpreted in the context in which it is used". Consultation normally means advisory consultation, but because this is consultation for the purposes of appointment of judges, advice given by the court, advice given by the Chief Justice to the Government must be considered as binding. So, when a Chief Justice gives advice, the Government is bound by it. In 1998, that power of the Chief Justice became the power of the collegium. Where do we stand today?

Sir, I will just make four statements. Today, advice are given by the collegiums in the High Court and by the Supreme Court. There are some nominal views of the Chief Minister and the Government which are taken into consideration, but finally the say or the advice of the court

is a binding consultation. The effective power to recommend names is with the court as an institution. The accountability is of the elected Government and people ask : "what kind of persons have you appointed?" But the Government of the day, after giving its advice, finally has to do the ministerial job of only notifying the appointments. The binding advice is given by the court.

Sir, this leads us to another question. If I look back at the present system and compare it with the earlier one, perhaps, in the present system the element of political influence is much lesser. That is a credit to the system, but the process is much slower. If one were to ask as to whether the quality of appointment has improved over pre-1993, I cannot convince myself to say to that. The mechanism itself has absolutely no accountability in it, because the whole process is, some advice is given by the collegium and the Government has to act, after consultation with the court, as per the advice.

There is a second question which also arises here. What happens when complaints of misdemeanours come up? When complaints of misdemeanours come up, impeachment is a near impossible procedure, as we have witnessed in the early 1990s. There is no transparent mechanism to deal with it and in the absence of any transparent mechanism to deal with it, a debate has taken place in which it was said that we require an independent judiciary. Does accountability in any way interfere with that judicial independence? If it was accountability to the Executive, perhaps, it would be interference with the independence of the Judiciary. But if the accountability is to an in-house mechanism, the normal argument in favour of giving power only to the Judiciary is that the Judiciary must have an in-house mechanism and this accountability must be to that in-house mechanism of the Judiciary. But experience has shown, and the experience of the last 10 years categorically is, that in-house mechanisms have not functioned effectively. Now, on account of some cases which have come to surface, somebody has had to resign in some court or the other. There was a resignation in Rajasthan and there was a resignation in Delhi. But the facts never came to light on account of these in-house mechanisms. The facts came to light only because some

investigative agency or some wing of the Executive was investigating somebody else and they found a judge sitting in the middle. So, it was purely by coincidence that investigative wings hit upon some convincing evidence and therefore it was not the in-house mechanism which has been able to really discover, this. In such a situation, what do we do about accountability?

Sir, I said this in the other House on Friday in a similar discussion and I take the liberty of repeating it here. When we are in political activity, we are normally at the receiving end of a lot of criticism on several questions. But let us introspect on our accountability standards despite this criticism.

Today, as a Minister in the Government, if I pass an order in file, I nervously pick up the newspapers as how the public comment on my order has been. When I go to my party, I have accountability because my party asks me questions about every decision I take. This House, through Questions, through Resolutions, through debates grills me and every now and then when we have to face elections, we have to answer the people, even though, the general perception is that the politicians are held to be unaccountable. Each one of us, to our constituents, to our party, to the Parliament, to the media are almost accountable by every minute.

At times, I ask those other four limbs that Shri Raghuvansh Prasad Singh spoke about, compare these accountability standards with what accountability each one of the other has. I say this, not to say that we any better off. We are all humans, we are not born perfect, each one of us may have weaknesses, we may have fault lines in our characters. Responsibility of office can mature us. Accountability can make us more cautious.

On the contrary, when you deal with the judicial institution, maturity on account of office, responsibility because of office, there are a large number of judges, hundreds and hundreds of them, who lay down exemplary standards, by conducting themselves outside and in court. They lay down the best standards, they can be almost considered role models, but then they are small in number, in a minority. There is constitutional immunity. There is

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absence of accountability and therefore, the office, instead of maturing you, can actually make you more brazen.

Some of these cases, which are now in the area of public debate across the country, perhaps are a result of this. Therefore, we, as the legislative institution, the media, the entire society, the judiciary itself, has to actually realise this when the percentage of those who are falling in terms of their own ethical yardsticks is increasing. Do we then raise our accountability norms in order to make sure that this fall rate actually comes down, even if it cannot be absolutely checked?

Now, this debate has been on. How do we improve upon polity? The eventual answer is, we have tried a system where the Executive had the last say. When the Executive had the last say, we saw a debate where people spoke of social and political philosophy of judges. We saw a situation where people were superseded. We witnessed the situation where people were transferred. We saw a situation where there was an element of politics getting into the process of appointment.

When the Judiciary had the last word, we witnessed that not all of these problems are gone and the accountability measures have not been raised. As a result of which aberrations have increased. Therefore, what is the eventual answer that we are looking for?

These two systems were not perfect. They have not served us well. Therefore, as a dynamic democracy, do we think of some further step? One step which has been suggested by a large number of jurists, by a lot of former judges, by a large number of political parties – in fact, when I went through the manifestos and agendas of a large number of political parties, one of the items on which, if there is no unanimity, at least a broad convergence – was let there be a National Judicial Commission.

The National Judicial Commission deals with appointments. The National Judicial Commission deals with, not removal, complaints of deviant behaviour which do not require a removal. The National Judicial Commission's composition must not be lopsided. It must

not speak of primacy of one institution over the other institution. But it must be such that it is finally aimed to give us the best quality of judgements and the best yardsticks of accountability. Therefore, one of the great advantages of National Judicial Commission is, if baseless allegations are made against a judge, and judges can also be subjected to baseless allegations, and a clout is created over him, then a body with such credibility when it exonerates him, it adds to the credibility of a judge.

So, accountability is being strengthened. It is actually going to strengthen the quality of justice and the dignity of the judicial institution as also their independence. There is no basic fundamental conflict between the two. The Government has been committed to this. I am extremely grateful to the hon. Members for having made several suggestions. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI A.C. JOS (Trichur) : What about a conflict between article 217 and article 141? . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY : Shri Jos, it is in my mind.

The Government has been committed to this and the Government, therefore, is seriously seized. When I say 'seriously seized', it is at a very advanced stage. It may be a matter of days before the Government formulates its final opinion on the subject and comes before this House. I can also assure this House that on what the composition will be, the Government will give its opinion in its wisdom. This is a very sensitive matters which has to go even eventually to the Standing Committee It is a matter on which we are prepared to have a larger discussion and accommodate various viewpoints.

There were several other issues which have been raised. One of the issues which was raised was, is there a conflict between article 217 and article 141? Sir, I do not think that there is an issue of article 141 because article 141 says that the law declared by the Supreme Court will be binding on all Courts. That shows the width of jurisdiction and enforceability of the Supreme Court's decisions. The effect of article 141 is that even an erroneous decision of the Court will be binding on everybody. That is the effect of article 141. Article 217 spoke

in terms of appointments. And on appointments if the Supreme Court had given one interpretation in 1982, that interpretation was enforceable under article 141. If it gave a completely contrary interpretation in 1993, that is also enforceable under article 141.

Article 141 is intended to actually have the effect of preserving a rule of law and law being what the Supreme Court eventually declare the law to be. You have rightly said that the Supreme Court may not be infallible but the Supreme Court is final. Therefore, in a society governed by a rule of law, we have to accept even incorrect judgements hoping fully well that the wisdom of future generation some day will correct those errors. It had happened many a time in the past.

There were several such issues which were raised. I will refer to only two of them and complete. One was about the Contempt of Courts Act, which was raised by several Members. The Government has already taken a decision to amend the Contempt of Courts Act. The decision has been taken by the Cabinet. The decision is being introduced before this House. This House will get an opportunity to loosen the rigours of the Contempt of Courts Act. One of the amendments that we have proposed is that whereas truth was a permissible defence in libel and defamation, truth was not a permissible defence in contempt. This somehow seems an issue of great concern which has been raised by several jurists. The Commission headed by Justice Venkatchelliah also suggested that this required to be changed, this view is anachronic. The media had a strong opinion on this. Therefore, the Government has taken in principle a decision in the Cabinet. We will be introducing that Bill before this House. . . .*(Interruptions)*

I will take up the last two matters. Due to constraint of time, I am not taking other small matters. With regard to the matter – National Legal Services Authority Act – which was raised, there is no bar against lawyers appearing before *Lok Adalats*. When Dr. Raghvansh Babu spoke, he spoke about the cost of the justice. Several Members spoke about that. What is the amendment? It is one of the most salutary laws that this Parliament has passed. Lawyers are not debarred from appearing in this but instead of taking every dispute to court, those who want to litigate, those who want to file appeals after appeals,

spend lakhs of rupees and spend 10 years in court, can go to a civil court, they can go to a writ court but against public authorities and Governmental bodies, there will be *Lok Adalats* located therein. You have a facility of going there through you lawyer, having a conciliation or having an adjudication before that Authority. It is only an alternative route which has been given. It does not bar any other route.

18.00 hrs.

It does not bar any other route which have been given to you. It is an additional facility given to the litigant.

As far as the last question with regard to the setting up of the Bench in the South is concerned, let me just deal with it in two-three minutes. Article 130 of the Constitution clearly mandates that the Supreme Court would sit at Delhi and at such other places which the Supreme Court would decide. In this matter, the view of the Central Government and the view of this Parliament, as conveyed through the Report of the Standing Committee, has very clearly been that we need Benches of the Supreme Court outside Delhi. There are two areas where a Bench is eminently needed. One is the South and the other is the North-East. As far as the North-East is concerned, for all reasons you have given and particularly for reasons for distance and economy, the position of the North-East is precarious. Besides that it sends out a very powerful signal to have a Bench of the Supreme Court. If not a Regular Bench, even a Circuit Bench would do because the quantum of cases is not much. We have been regularly requesting the Supreme Court but unfortunately this view has not found favour with the Supreme Court. Therefore, the matter stands at that. The issue was really out of a relatively more innocuous amendment increasing the jurisdiction of the subordinate courts in Delhi but again I am very grateful to Shrimati Margaret Alva and other hon. Members who have triggered off a larger debate on the subject.

With regard to the appointment of women, Scheduled Castes and weaker sections as Judges, I have to admit that it is a legitimate issue. We have been repeatedly requesting the Chief Justices of High Courts. In fact, in

[Shri Arun Jaitley]

every letter I have sent to the Chief Justices of High Courts, the last paragraph reaffirms that we request them to take special endeavour to see that Scheduled Castes, weaker sections, backward classes as also women get adequate representation as far as the judiciary is concerned. It is our endeavour to increase this quantum of appointment. I am sure, one day, we would see that the National Judicial Commission would be a more effective forum for the Government to sit in and express that view.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, the House will take up the motion for consideration.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI C.N. SINGH : Mr. Chairman, Sir, hon. Minister of law has replied several questions, but he has not replied to any of my question. I would like to ask since the Government are increasing pecuniary limit from 5 to 20 lakh rupees whereby now High Courts will take up cases of the value of Rs. 20 lakhs and above. Consequently, it will put more burden on Lower Courts, so how Lower Courts will deal with so many cases? . . .*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That the Bill further to amend the Delhi High Court Act, 1966, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Let us now take up clause by clause consideration of the Bill.

The question is :

"That clauses 2 to 4 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 to 4 were added to the Bill.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the long

Title were added to the Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The Minister may now move that the Bill be passed.

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY : Sir, I beg to move :

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, the House will take up the Half-an-Hour Discussion to be raised by Shri Kirit Somaiya.

[Translation]

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA (Mumbai North East) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, before starting Half-an-Hour discussion on Illegal immigration, I would like to ask hon. Minister . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI C.N. SINGH (Machhlishahar) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Quorum is not complete. . . .*(Interruptions)*
the Members be counted, 48 Members are present now . . .*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI A.C. JOS (Trichur) : I am on a point of order. There is no quorum in the House.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The bell is being rung. . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN : Since there is no quorum in the House, the House stands adjourned to meet again at 11 a.m. on 6th May, 2003.

18.14 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Tuesday, May 6, 2003/
Vaisakha 16, 1925 (Saka).*

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