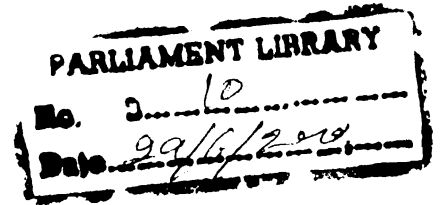


LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Third Session
(Twelfth Lok Sabha)



(Vol. VII contains Nos. 11 to 20)

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

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CONTENTS

Twelfth Series, Vol. VII, Third Session, 1998/1920 (Saka)

No. 13, Wednesday, December 16, 1998/Agrahayana 25, 1920 (Saka)

SUBJECT	COLUMNS
WELCOME TO PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION FROM PORTUGAL	1
ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS :	
*Starred Questions Nos. 241—243	2—25
SHORT NOTICE QUESTION NO. 1	25—28
WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS :	
*Starred Questions Nos. 244—260	28—71
Unstarred Questions Nos. 2713—2942	71—395
PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE	396—404, 519—521
MESSAGE FROM RAJYA SABHA	405
RAILWAY CONVENTION COMMITTEE	
First Report-Presented	405—458
MATTERS UNDER RULE 377	
(i) Need to ensure proper functioning of Telephones in Jamnagar district, of Gujarat	
Shri Chandresh Patel	458
(ii) Need to defer release of amount for Ganga Action Plan Phase-II at Varanasi till the matter is fully agreed to by the concerned organisations	
Shri Anand Ratna Maurya	458
(iii) Need to ensure proper maintenance and modernisation of canals of Chambal irrigated areas	
Shri Ram Narain Meena	459
(iv) Need to provide reservation facilities to the Members of Muslim community doing similar vocation as being done by SC and STs in Hindu community	
Dr. Shakeel Ahmed	459

* The sign + marked above the name of a Member indicates that the question was actually asked on the floor of the House by that Member.

SUBJECT	COLUMNS
(v) Need to expedite electrification work of the railway lines in Ranaghat-Gede and Ranaghat-Bongaon sections in West Bengal Shri Ajoy Mukhopadhyay	460
(vi) Need to provide adequate funds to Government of Maharashtra to compensate people affected by cyclone in Raigarh district Shri Ramsheth Thakur	460
(vii) Need to change the name of Vidyapati Nagar railway station in Samastipur district of Bihar as 'Vidyapati Dham' railway station Prof. Ajit Kumar Mehta	460
(viii) Need to sanction Maisajhar and Arpa irrigation projects of Bilaspur district, Madhya Pradesh and release adequate funds for the purpose Shri Punnu Lal Mohale	461
(ix) Need for speedy implementation of rural electrification programme in Begusarai Parliamentary constituency in Bihar Shri Rajo Singh	462
(x) Need to declare 'Puri' in Orissa as B-2 class city Shri Braja Kishore Tripathy	462
COFFEE (AMENDMENT) BILL— <i>Contd.</i>	462—485
Motion to Consider	491
Shri Sompal	463—467, 482—485
Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan	467—468
Shri V. Dhananjaya Kumar	469—471
Shri P.C. Chacko	471—477
Shri Bikram Keshari Deo	477—479
Shri Mohan Singh	479—480
Shri V.V. Raghavan	480—481
Motion to consider—Adopted	485
Clause 2 to 25 and Clause 1, enacting formula & Long Title.	485
Motion to Pass	485
DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193	491—513
ATROCITIES COMMITTED ON MINORITIES IN VARIOUS PARTS OF THE COUNTRY— <i>Contd.</i>	
Prof. P.J. Kurien	491—493
Shri L.K. Advani	493—513

SUBJECT	COLUMNS
HIGH COURT AND SUPREME COURT JUDGES (SALARIES AND CONDITIONS OF SERVICE) AMENDMENT BILL— <i>Contd.</i>	486—491, 513—520, 522
Motion to consider	486
Shri M. Thambi Durai	486—488
Shri Motilal Vora	488—490
Vaidya Vishnu Datt	513—5, 6
Shri Ajay Chakraborty	516—520
Shri Prabhunath Singh	522—524
Shri Hira Lal Roy	524—525
Shri Chandrashekhar Sahu	525—530
Prof. P.J. Kurien	530—533
Prof. Jogendra Kawade	533—535
Shri Thawar Chand Gehlot	535—537
Shri N.K. Premchandran	537—540
Shri Konijeti Rosaiah	540—542
Shri Satya Pal Jain	542—544
Shri T.R. Baalu	544—546
Shri B.M. Mensinkai	548—549

LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Wednesday, December 16, 1998/Agrahayana 25, 1920
(Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

[English]

WELCOME TO PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION FROM PORTUGAL

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

On my own behalf and on behalf of the hon. Members of the House, I have great pleasure in welcoming His Excellency Dr. Antonio De Almeida Santos, President of the National Assembly (Parliament) of Portugal and Mrs. Margarida De Almeida Santos and other Members of the Portuguese Parliamentary Delegation who are on a visit to India as our honoured guests.

The other hon. Members of the Delegation are :

1. Dr. Artur Rodrigues Pereira Dos Penedos, M.P.
2. Dr. Aergio Paulo Mendes De Sousa Pinto, M.P.
3. Dr. Pedro Jose Da Vinha Rodrigues Costa, M.P.
4. Dr. Lino Antonio Marques De Carvalho, M.P.
5. Dr. Luis Afonso Cortez Rodrigues Queiro, M.P.

They arrived Delhi on Tuesday, 15 December, 1998. They are now seated in the special box. We wish them a happy and fruitful stay in our country. Through them, we convey our greetings and best wishes to the President, the Parliament and the friendly people of the Portuguese Republic.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

11.01 hrs

[Translation]

Flood Control

241. SHRI SHAKUNI CHOUDHARY :
SHRI SURENDRA PRASAD YADAV
(Jhanjharpur) :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether several farmers in the country were affected by the recent floods and heavy rains;

(b) if so, the States which were affected by recent floods;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to contract the floods which has become a regular feature every year;

(d) whether the constant breach in embankments causes regular floods;

(e) if so, the financial assistance sought by the affected States for construction and repair of embankments; and

(f) the assistance made available to each affected State during the last three years?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) to (f) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Nineteen states were affected by heavy rains and floods during monsoon of 1998. List of states affected is enclosed as Annex-I.

(c) Planning and implementation of flood management works is primarily the responsibility of the States. Various flood management measures have been formulated and implemented by the State Governments in the successive five year plans. So far 16200 km. of embankments, 32003 km. of drainage channels, 906 town protection works have

been implemented providing protection to 14.374 million hectares out of the flood prone area of 40 million hectares.

For the severe flood prone basins of Ganga and Brahmaputra, Central Organisations of Ganga Flood Control Commission and Brahmaputra Board have prepared Comprehensive Master Plan for flood management which have been sent to State Governments for formulating detailed schemes and their implementation. Government of India had also constituted various committees from time to time to study the flood problems and make recommendations which have been sent to the concerned States for follow up action. Also, Central Government is operating 157 flood forecasting stations on various interstate rivers for providing timely flood forecasting services to the State Government for mitigating flood damages. Central Government is also providing financial assistance to carry out important flood management works in Assam and border States of North and North Eastern India. Central assistance is also provided to State of Bihar for carrying out flood proofing programme and to the States of both Uttar Pradesh and Bihar for flood protection works on Gandak and Kosi near their border in Nepal.

(d) High and unprecedented flow conditions during floods in the rivers occasionally cause breaching of embankments in vulnerable reaches and consequent flooding.

(e) Request for financial assistance specifically for construction and repair of breached embankments have not been received.

(f) Assistance provided by the Central Government to various States for flood management works in the last three years is as under:

State	Amount in Rs. Crores		
	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98
Assam	25.00	10.09	18.00
Bihar	11.00	2.36	3.26
Punjab	1.90	20.00	4.56
West Bengal	0.50	—	0.95

ANNEXURE

States affected by heavy rains and floods during 1998 monsoon.

1. Andhra Pradesh
2. Arunachal Pradesh
3. Assam
4. Bihar
5. Gujarat
6. Haryana
7. Himachal Pradesh
8. Kamataka
9. Kerala
10. Madhya Pradesh
11. Maharashtra
12. Meghalaya
13. Orissa
14. Punjab
15. Rajasthan
16. Sikkim
17. Tripura
18. Uttar Pradesh
19. West Bengal

MR. SPEAKER : This is a very important question. So, I want to give chance to many hon. Members. But please allow me to give chance to as many members as possible. I am looking at every body.

[Translation]

SHRI SHAKUNI CHOUDHARY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to know from hon. Minister through you that whether he is aware of the terrible flood in Bihar this time in which 158,000 hours washed away. Riped crops in 14 Lack Hectare land destroyed completely. Accroding to details 11 crores rupees was allowed for flood control in 1995-96 when their Government was not ruling. In

1996-97 the amount was 2.36 crore. This year the flood problem is 20-25 times more severe but the amount allotted is 3 crore and 26 lakhs. It seems that injustice and stepmotherly treatment is done with Bihar.

Where as Bihar Government has demanded 700 crore rupees whether central Government want to give relief to Bihar by providing enough money.

SHRI SOMPAL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, The amount made available to Bihar for flood management in Bihar is not utilised fully. Still they have a balance of one crore, which is not utilised. It is true that this year the flood was such terrifying as it was never in past except 1988. The relief fund is allocated after the discussion between planning commission and State Government for allocation of resources tailing the view of the need of State Government and availability of resources with Central Government. The fund provided in this regard is not utilised properly. It is true that this time a big damage is done in Bihar and for this Prime Minister has permitted by announcing to utilise 75 crore rupees from the plan out lay. The team, we had sent there and the recommendations it had made, after the meeting of N.C.R.C. Committee the fund provided to them in last two years, in that 1.7 crore rupees was given last year and 0.87 crore in 1997-98. From that 10.57 crore rupees is utilised so that they still have one crore rupees balance.

SHRI SHAKUNI CHOUDHARY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Hon. Minister has said in his booklet that he is preparing the master plan of Ganga and Brahmaputra rivers. Perhaps he does not know that rivers who originate from Nepal flows with high speed through Bihar. Since they flow from top and Bihar's land are plane, they cause devastation in Bihar. I want to ask from hon. Minister whether the master plans of rivers like Kosi, Gandak, Bagmati, Burhi Gandak and Murai are sadoy or not and whether this Government has any plan to make master plan or not? All these rivers originate from Nepal valley. Whether the Government propose to stop them by making embankments at the boundry of India and Nepal or have made any effective plan to stop them.

SHRI SOMPAL : Mr. Speaker Sir, Hon Member said it truly that rivers flowing in Bihar especially in North Bihar mainly come from Bihar and originates from Himalaya. Till effective river management is not implemented in Nepal, proper arrangement to control their disaster can not be made. Talks have been made to Nepal Government far it. We are not only having discussion with Nepal Government to check these projects but also for the storage of water of Kamla and Bagmati rivers under Saptkosi multipurpose scheme. But we have not received any proper answer from Nepal Government.

Central Government is continuously trying for the acceptance of Nepal Government through foreign affairs and water resources ministry so that these plans could be prepared.

SHRI SHAKUNI CHOUDHARY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, this question relates to my constituency ...(*Interruptions*). Mr. Speaker, Sir, there are nine rivers in my Parliamentary constituency, khagaria, which wreck havoc in the entire area. These rivers have destroyed all the embankments and the roads. One feels ashamed that although our party is a part of the Government, nothing has been done by the Government so far. Has our Government no plans to get rid of our constituency of the flood menace? What has the Government to say in this regard?

SHRI SOMPAL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, as far as the question of flood management is concerned, it is basically the responsibility of the States. And the Central Government provides assistance only to those schemes which are sent by the State Governments. Flood management is basically the responsibility of the States. If related financial assistance, technical information or technical assistance is required, it is provided by the Centre otherwise it is the responsibility of the State Government. Therefore, I would request the hon. Member to contact the State Government in this regard and if any special scheme is sent, the centre certainly looks into it.

SHRI SHAKUNI CHOUDHARY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, if Bihar has to be saved, the Centre would have to provide full assistance for the entire scheme. This is the only way to save Bihar ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER : There is a second name also.

[*Translation*]

SHRI SURENDRA PRASAD YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is true that Bihar, specially north Bihar, has suffered gravely due to the flood havoc. Crops and houses were destroyed, traffic was disrupted and the roads were damaged, but no assistance was provided by the Union Government. The reply given by the hon. Minister is not correct. I would like to know through you the suggestions made by the Ganga Flood Control Commission to stop the floods in Bihar and the draft of master plan? I also want to know, the time by which the Government plans to construct high dams at the Barrage area, Noonthur and at Sisompali, which are the source of Kosi, Kamala, Bagmati, Gandak and group of Adhwora inter-state rivers, so that permanent solution can be found for the damage caused by these rivers by floods every year? As long as,

the Government does not construct high dams at these places, the problems caused by flood in Kamala river in Bihar would continue. I want to know the time by which the Centre propose to provide financial assistance to strengthen the eastern and western embankments of Kosi river, the eastern and western embankments of Udiplaan river and the embankments of Bagmati river, so that the life and property of the people can be secured?

SHRI SOMPAL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Ganga Flood Control Board and under it, the Ganga Flood Control Commission was constituted in 1972. This Commission had prepared detailed schemes to control flood for all the 23 river systems of river Ganga, by 1990. Now all those schemes are being amended and updated. These detailed schemes have been sent to all the Ganga Basin states, including Bihar, and they are preparing detailed schemes under this. After these schemes are received, the Centre would consider these ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SURENDRA PRASAD YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, people have been rendered homeless, roads have been blocked. But this problem is not being taken seriously and my question, has not been replied to ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, please understand that we are going to discuss national calamities also during this Session.

SHRI P. SHIV SHAKER : The recent rains have devastated at least about half a dozen districts of Andhra Pradesh. The floods that occurred in the River Krishna have totally devastated lakhs and lakhs of people, in the lanks which are adjacent to the river. Particularly in my constituency, Tenali, 22 lankas in the Guntur district have been totally devastated; equally, nine lankas in Avanigadda and Nidumolu Assembly segments, which fall in Krishna district, have been devastated. This is the situation.

The Government of India have come forth with an aid of Rs. 200 crore. I request the hon. Prime Minister—I gave him a memorandum—that these Rs. 200 crore should be released as a grant and not as an advance. That is my first request. I requested him personally by writing a letter and giving it to him because my constituency has been badly affected. Secondly, I requested the hon. Prime Minister that under the IAY scheme, at least 150 houses in each lanka should be got constructed. The Prime Minister was pleased to send a team. The questions that I now ask are, after the team submitted its report, what action has been taken on the

report of the team that had gone there; whether adequate compensation has been paid; and would it be in the form of a grant? I request the hon. Prime Minister to announce her that the Rs. 200 crore that he has given after having seen those devastated areas is by way of a grant what monitoring is taking place about the amount spent? What advice is being given by the Centre with regard to the adequate compensation that is to be paid to agriculturists who are very badly affected and the labour who have lost their jobs? What is being done about the housing under the IAY? I have already taken this up by way of a representation to the hon. Prime Minister. These are the questions which I like should be answered. May I also request the hon. Prime Minister to say something on the memorandum that I personally submitted to him?

[Translation]

SHRI SOMPAL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is true that this time there was severe flood in the Krishna river. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER : I want the reply in English because my people understand only English and not Hindi. So, please reply in English.

SHRI SOMPAL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the flood this time in the River Krishna was really quite devastating. Having been informed about it by the hon. Chief Minister and also the hon. Member, Shri Shiv Shanker, our hon. Prime Minister visited this area. I also accompanied him. We had a vast, extensive aerial survey of those areas, probably, on the 23rd October. We saw that on both the sides of the River Krishna in Guntur and other districts which were submerged, houses got demolished and crops were damaged. Then and there, the hon. Prime Minister announced an assistance of Rs. 200 crore.

So far as converting the assistance into a grant is concerned, it is being considered. So far as the assistance on other counts like damage to house, labour and crop is concerned, we had sent a team and that team has reported back to the Ministry. This was referred to an Inter-Ministerial Group. This is a procedure to be followed as per the recommendations of the Tenth Finance Commission, which have been accepted by the National Development Council. According to the norms laid down by the NFCR and the Tenth Finance Commission, these are being processed. As soon as the National Committee on Relief meets—it is proposed to be called very soon—a decision will be taken to look into the grants which are likely to be released for the State. They are to be done

according to the norms laid down by the Tenth Finance Commission. We do not have much discretion there. These norms should be followed. The Inter-Ministerial Group has already firmed it up. It will be placed before the NCRC and then only we will be able to let you know how much is being released.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER : What about the houses under the IAY scheme to the poor people about which I had requested the hon. Prime Minister? You may kindly sanction it. I had requested 150 houses for each lanka to the poor people.

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAÏEE) : A suggestion has been made that houses which are being constructed under Indira Awas Yojana should be utilised for those who have lost their shelters and who are totally in a devastated condition. This proposal is being considered.

Yes, Shir Shiv Shanker met me; he had written to me; and if he says something we do take it seriously.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Surendra Singh.

[*Translation*]

SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, from M: dha Pradesh you took ...(*Interruptions*) But no action has been taken so far ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SURENDRA PRASAD YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, heavy loss was caused by flood in Bihar. A list has been received ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Please allow us to ask ...(*Interruptions*)

Hear us also. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER : They are asking about Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Prime Minister is on his legs. Please take your seat. You do not know even that.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : No please take your seat.

[*Translation*]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is difficult to hold a separate discussion on each state individually. I have come to know that you have already accepted a discussion in this regard. All the issues can be raised in that detailed discussion and the Government can also give satisfactory reply.

MR. SPEAKER : Now, Q. 242. Shri Shankar Prasad Jaiswal.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SURENDER SINGH (Bhiwani) : Sir, you had called me.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : What is this?

...(*Interruptions*)

11.23 hrs.

(*At this stage, Shri Rajo Singh and some other hon. Members came and stood near the Table*)

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat. What is this?

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SURENDER SINGH : Sir, you had called me.

MR. SPEAKER : We are going to have a discussion on this. Please go back to your seats.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : Q. 242. Shri Shankar Prasad Jaiswal.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : Please go back to your seats. Every time you are disturbing the House. Please go back to your seats. The hon. Prime Minister has replied. We are also going to discuss the matter.

...(*Interruptions*)

11.24 hrs.

(*At this stage Shri Rajo Singh and some other Hon. Members went back to their seats*)

MR. SPEAKER : I am appealing to the hon. Members to please take their seats. The hon. Prime Minister has replied to the question and we are going to have a discussion on this issue also. Please take your seats.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Prime Minister went there twice. ...(Interruptions) But no financial assistance was provided. ...(Interruptions) It is the Government's misfortune. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Bihar suffered heavy floods but the Government did not help the flood-affected people. ...(Interruptions) The reply too is not satisfactory. ...(Interruptions) We walk out in protest.

11.25 hrs

(Shri Raghuvansh Prasad Singh and other Hon. Members then lift the House)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I am appealing to the hon. Members to please take their seats.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : We have decided in the BAC to have a discussion on national calamities. Please understand.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please understand that. Please take your seats. I am appealing to you to please take your seats.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Basu Deb Acharia, please take your seats.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI T.R. BAALU : Standing crops have been perished in Tamil Nadu. Bridges have been affected. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : There had been devastating floods in the State of West Bengal also. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I have called the number of the next Question. Please sit down. Madam Suryakanta Patil, you are always disturbing the House. Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Acharia, please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SURESH KURUP : Sir, this is not proper. You have to allow the hon. Members from the affected States to put supplementary questions. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Prime Minister is on his legs. Please take your seat. You are always disturbing the House.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Every time you are disturbing the House, this is not good.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Prime Minister is replying. Please take your seats.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Now please take your seats. What is this?

...(Interruptions)

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS : Sir, you should allow us to put supplementaries. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI T.R. BAALU : Lakhs and lakhs of huts had been washed away. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat. What is this?

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : I can understand the feelings of the Members, who come from the flood-affected areas. We are also not satisfied with the steps initiated by the Government with limited resources. If the Members and the House want to have a separate discussion on each state, we have no objection to it. They can raise questions, we will answer their questions. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJO SINGH : It is strange ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : When I am on my legs, is it not your duty to take your seat?

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : First of all, you may please take your seat. What is this?

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : You must take your seat now. This is not good.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Member, I am appealing to you to please take your seat. First of all, you may please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SURESH KURUP : Sir, with great respect I would like to say that we are here to ventilate the grievances of the people.

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Member, I am once again appealing to you to please take your seat.

SHRI SURESH KURUP : Sir, Kerala is the State which was affected by the floods the most.

MR. SPEAKER : This is not good. Please take your seat.

SHRI SURESH KURUP : You have not allowed us to put supplementaries. I am not going to sit down.

MR. SPEAKER : You must take your seat. What is this?

SHRI SURESH KURUP : We should be allowed to put questions.

MR. SPEAKER : No, please take your seat.

SHRI SURESH KURUP : Andhra Pradesh is not the only State which was affected by the floods.

MR. SPEAKER : Unnecessarily you are creating disturbance. Please take your seat. Hon. Prime Minister has said about all the States including West Bengal and

Tamil Nadu. Hon. Prime Minister has mentioned about every State.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat. What is this?

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : All the States had been affected by the recent floods.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I told that all the States which have been affected by the recent floods would be discussed in this House.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I am appealing to Dr. Asim Bala that all the States which have been affected by the recent floods would be discussed.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA : Sir, the loss suffered by the State of Karnataka is Rs. 1000 crore. So, Half an Hour discussion may kindly be allowed on this subject.
...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Jalappa, please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri, Jalappa, all the States, including Karnataka, which have been affected by the recent floods would be discussed.

...*(Interruptions)*

Declaration of Pakistan as Terrorist State

*242. SHRI SHANKAR PRASAD JAISWAL : Will the MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have been considering to declare Pakistan as a Terrorist State,

(b) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken to bring around a global-international recognition to the fact of Pakistan being a Terrorist State, perpetuating cross border terrorism in India; and

(c) the outcome of the efforts taken by the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) to (c) Pakistan has been actively sponsoring terrorism in Jammu & Kashmir and other parts of India. For several years, terrorists recruited, trained, financed and armed in Pakistan and POK have been infiltrated into India. Pakistan has also provided sanctuary to known anti-Indian elements and those declared as fugitives from the law in India. Pakistan has been provided detailed documentary evidence to establish the incontrovertible and irrefutable fact of its sponsorship of terrorism in India. We have consistently demanded of Pakistan that it should forthwith cease these activities and take practical steps on the ground to demonstrate its sincerity in this regard. Pakistan has also been asked to close down its training camps in Pakistan and Pak Occupied Kashmir (POK) and hand over terrorists and fugitives who have been given sanctuary in Pakistan. This demand was reiterated during the discussions between the Foreign Secretaries of India and Pakistan in October 1998 and between the Home Secretary and the Interior Secretary of Pakistan in November 1998. Regrettably, official Pakistan support to terrorists and organisations operating in Jammu & Kashmir and other parts of India continues. Government remains firm in its resolve to take all measures necessary to fully safeguard the country's security and territorial integrity.

Government have made known Pakistan's sponsorship of official terrorism to the international community. As a result of our efforts, there is widespread international recognition of these activities by Pakistan.

[Translation]

SHRI SHANKER PRASAD JAISWAL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, whether the Minister of External Affairs will be pleased to state the details of the facts contained in the documentary evidences substantiating the involvement of

Pakistan in terrorist activities in India which were submitted to Pakistan? And whether the Government propose to lay the same on the Table of the House in the form of a document.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, those documents pertain to the "state sponsorship of terrorism by Pakistan". On 12th of November, our Home Minister held talks with Pakistani Internal Security secretary wherein these documents were given to him. The Home Minister is busy in collecting the documentary evidences against Pakistani activities. Hon'ble member knows and the Home Minister has also issued a statement wherein it has been said that the documents would be submitted before the House as soon as it is finally ready.

SHRI SHANKER PRASAD JAISWAL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, with due respect and great humility I, through you, request our learned Minister of External Affairs that he should give his reply to my question properly. I have asked the question as to whether the Government propose to lay on the Table of the House the documents countaining the information regarding the involvement of Pakistan in the terrorists' activities directed against India? These documents have been given to Pakistan. I want a reply to this supplementary first.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : I have already given my reply telling you that these documents are being prepared by the Hon'ble Home Minister and as soon as they are ready, they, will be placed on the Table of the House. I have not evaded your question.

SHRI SHANKER PRASAD JAISWAL : The Hon'ble Minister of External Affairs has told in his reply that Pakistan has been asked to hand over us those terrorists and refugees who have been given shelter in Pakistan. How many such persons have been handed over by Pakistan to us so far and if not, the steps being taken by the Government in this regard? Our Minister of External Affairs—whose intelligence matches to that of Chanakya—has also said in his reply to part (b) of the question that action has been taken. I want to read out that part of the question here. It reads—if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to declare Pakistan as a terrorist state in international area in view of its involvement in terrorists activities from across the border? The Minister has told us about the steps already taken but he has said nothing about the steps proposed to be taken in the future.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have told the hon'ble member about the steps taken by us in this regard. It has been our endeavour to have mutual

understanding with Pakistan which we will continue in future also. On their part, they should also come out with positive response. So far as the international sponsorship of terrorism is concerned, the hon'ble member is aware of that.

SHRI SHANKAR PRASAD JAISWAL : My question was as to how many terrorists have been handed over to India by Pakistan which still remains unanswered. He should let us know as to what has happened in this regard?

MR. SPEAKER : It is enough, now. Please sit down.

[*English*]

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE : Sir, like Henry Kissinger of the USA, the Prime Minister of India had deputed hon. Jaswant Singh, the present External Affairs Minister and the Deputy Chairman of Planning Commission for holding discussions. He had four rounds of discussions with Mr. Strobe Talbott.

SOME HON. MEMBERS : He had six rounds of discussions with Mr. Strobe Talbott.

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE : According to the statement made by the hon. Prime Minister, it is four.

What was the outcome of the discussion? We would like to know whether the hon. Minister had taken up this issue of terrorism in the four rounds of discussions that he had with the Americans.

What is their reaction? Will, with the same force, the hon. Minister put the views of the Government of India to the United States?

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am grateful to the hon. Member for the kind references he has made to me. As he is fully aware, regional or bilateral issues are not a component of the dialogue with the United States of America. We do not approach our dialogue as a petitioner. However, the issue of international terrorism, as a crime internationally, is a concern not simply of India but also of the United States of America. It has been recognised in the UN General Assembly. Indeed, the hon. Prime Minister, in his speech to the UN General Assembly in September, had referred to international terrorism as a major issue. Therefore, as a large international issue, certainly the aspect of sponsorship, aiding and abetting terrorism by Pakistan in India has come up but not as a bilateral issue or as a regional issue because we have kept regional and bilateral

issues distinctly apart. It is a measure of recognition by the international community as also by the United States of America that they have recognised one particular terrorists' group, Harkat-ul-Ansar, in Pakistan. The other aspect of the activity or reaction of the United States of America, of what they did in Afghanistan against Taliban is well enough known. That also is an extension of the increasing awareness in US of terrorists' activities of Pakistan and being sponsored in India.

SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, a specific question was asked by the Member as to how many such terrorists have been arrested and how many have been handed over to India by virtue of a dialogue and mutual understanding, as also what further action was taken in the matter. Negotiations are going on for long but every day such activities are increasing. What preventive measures have been taken by the Government to stop such activities?

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : Sir, a number of questions have been mixed. So far as the preventive measures are concerned, which is the last part of the question, it is really an aspect relating to the Ministries of Defence and Home Affairs. It does not relate to the Ministry of External Affairs. As to the process of dialogue, may I submit to the hon. Member that the process of dialogue is the obtaining of a diplomatic convenience. It is not the conferment of any distinction. And, it is only through dialogue that we can resolve such issues. About the number of terrorists who have been arrested in India or handed over by Pakistan, as I informed earlier, when details are provided by the Union Home Minister, they will be made available to the House.

[*Translation*]

SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon'ble Minister has told that efforts made by India have been brought to the notice of Pakistan and international community as well. And our efforts in respect of Pakistan sponsored terrorism have been recognised by the international community also. But we have to come to know that U.S.A. have exchanged Pakistan from their "watch list". I, therefore, would like to know from the hon'ble Minister as to whether the Government propose to adopt the internationally accepted hot pursuit policy in case we get no results from our efforts?

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : As of now, We have no such plan.

[English]

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMED KHAN (Bahraich) : Sir, the question is very specific. Part (a) of the question says, "whether Government have been considering to declare Pakistan as a terrorist State". The reply given by the hon. Minister is merely a re-statement of the factual position which is known to the Government of India and to the world since last many years. In view of Pakistan-sponsored terrorist activities in various parts of the country, the question was asked, whether any proposal to declare Pakistan as a terrorist State is under consideration of the Government. I would like to know whether after May 1998, there has been any decrease in these terrorist activities or they are going as unabated as they have been going on for many years.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, as regards part (a), the reply is substantially the same as I have already shared with the House. India is fully aware of the support, encouragement and abetment that Pakistan provides to terrorism or terrorist-inspired activities in India and various parts of the country.

As regards the incidents of terrorism post-May, 1998, on the contrary, as has been mentioned in the House earlier, we have managed to contain the terrorist activities whether in Kashmir or elsewhere in the country substantially. I have confidence that this Government has the ability to tackle this problem adequately.

SHRI K. VIJAYABHASKARA REDDY : May I know from the Prime Minister whether the treatment that is being given to us by the Americans is acceptable to him? A Cabinet Minister, namely, the Minister for External Affairs is forced to talk to Deputy Secretary of State. Are you accepting this? Do you expect any results from these talks?

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : Sir, the question does not arise.

SHRI K. VIJAYABHASKARA REDDY : Why? Shri Shinde asked this question and I am asking this question pertaining to that.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : What the hon. Member had earlier asked was in relation to terrorist activities.

SHRI K. VIJAYABHASKARA REDDY : But you should not have answered that question.

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE : That was in reference to Mr. Henry Kissinger. Then, he was the

Deputy Chairman and in that capacity he was talking. Now, there must be some change in your talk. There must be some force now as Minister of External Affairs.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : Sir, I can only state that as per the rules of the House, the question that has been asked is about the procedure of Indo-US talks. The Q. 242 relates to Pak-sponsored terrorism.

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE : Sir, the Prime Minister wants to say something. He just getting up.

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY : Sir, I am willing to yield to the Prime Minister.

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE) : A question of protocol has been raised. We do not allow protocol to come in the way of having meaningful dialogue on important issues.

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN : Sir, he is very successful with ladies. He can talk to Ms. Madelin Albright.

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY : Sir, the Minister in his reply is short of calling Pakistan a terrorist State. He has said practically that it is engaged in terrorist activities within India.

Sir, it has been the practice all over the world that when a country engages in terrorism, you do not interact with it. No other country in the world is doing that. But we find just as the Pakistani terrorists have killed Kashmiri Hindus, at that very same time, the Prime Minister was shaking hands with the Prime Minister of Pakistan in Colombo. I would like to know whether the Government sees any contradiction between this bonhomie with Pakistan. ...*(Interruptions)*. Please let me ask my question. You need not answer.

MR. SPEAKER : Please ask your supplementary. You can ask you supplementary.

...*(Interruptions)*

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY (Madurai) : Their Government is remote controlled by another organisation, may be, he is doing that job of remote control. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : We are not discussing about the remote control. Dr. Swamy, please ask your supplementary.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI VIRENDRA SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, he is talking of remote control. ...*(Interruptions)* Let us decide today as to who is holding their remote control? ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY : Without Ms. Jaya Lalitha, they cannot live even for one day, their Government will fall. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Virendra Singh, please do not disturb.

[Translation]

SHRI VIRENDRA SINGH : If he is allowed to speak. I should also be allowed to speak. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Virendra Singh, please take your seat.

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY : I want to know from the Government whether they foresee any contradiction that on the one hand, they accuse the State of terrorist activities—within our own country people are getting killed everyday—and on the other, they are going on negotiating with them as if they are a normal neighbouring State. I would like to know whether they see any contradiction or they are going to continue with this contradiction.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : No, Sir. We do not see any contradiction.

Sale of Pulses

[Translation]

*243. DR. MADAN PRASAD JAISWAL :
SHRI PRADEEP KUMAR YADAV :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the pulses are sold at the rates which are three times more than their support prices;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the reasons for giving less support price to the farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement

(a) and (b) The prices of pulses are generally ruling higher than the minimum support prices (MSPs), primarily due to gap in demand and supply.

(c) The Government fixes each season the MSP of major agricultural commodities including pulses (Arhar, Moong, Urad and Gram), on the basis of the report of the Commission for Agricultural Costs & Prices (CACP), views of the State Governments and the Central Ministries as well as such other relevant factors which, in the opinion of the Government are important for fixation of prices.

While formulating its recommendations on price policy, the CACP considers all important factors, viz., cost of production; changes in input prices; input/output price parity; trends in market prices; demand and supply situation; inter-crop price parity; effect on industrial cost structure; effect on general price level; effect on cost of living; international market price situation; and terms of trade. Thus the trends in market prices are taken into account in determining the MSPs.

DR. MADAN PRASAD JAISWAL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, my question is related to pulses. My question is that the farmers are getting low price for the pulses whereas the prices of pulses are very high in the market. The Minister has admitted in his reply that there is a big gap in demand and supply of pulses. The Government was aware that there was a big gap in demand and supply and the pulses were hoarded by the hoarders. Pulses worth Rs. 250 crore were recovered during the raids made against a Congress M.L.A. in Delhi. Whether the Government is aware that the pulses worth Rs. 250 crore were recovered in Delhi? I would like to know from the Government as to what efforts are being made by the Government to pay the higher prices to the farmers? Whether the Government will make an inquiry instituted by the C.B.I. against such hoarders who are earning a huge amount in this manner, so that the hoarding can be stopped.

SHRI SOMPAL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is true that the prices of pulses have increased unnecessarily during the current year and I have admitted this in the reply. Generally, 30.4 percent prices of the pulses have been increased i.e. 85 per cent and the maximum in the prices of Arhar, 42.7 per cent in Masoor, 26.2 per cent in Urad and 22.2 per cent in Moong have been made. This is a

fact that generally it happens because of imbalance in demand and supply. The second question of the Hon'ble Member is that the farmers are getting less prices. So far as getting less prices by the farmers are concerned, the Government of India declares the minimum supporting price for four types of pulses viz. Arhar, Moong, Urad and Gram on the basis of the recommendations of the commission for Agricultural costs and prices. While formulating its policy on price the C.A.C.P. considers all important factors viz., cost of production, changes in input prices and the price of the other items in the market and the international prices?

How much prices will be fair for the consumers? Keeping in view of all these things, the minimum support price is declared. If the prices fall below this level, the Government will intervene and help the farmers by giving them support price. *...(Interruptions)*. So far as raids are concerned, we have also read in the news papers about them. Even if it is, inquired by the C.B.I. the farmers will not be benefitted by it. It is a different matter. Even then the hon'ble Member will be furnished the information. *...(Interruptions)*. So far as the prices being given to the farmers are concerned, the minimum support price. *...(Interruptions)*

MAJOR GENERAL BHUVAN CHANDRA KHANDURI (A.V.S.M) : What is it? The Government should take action against the hoarders. *...(Interruptions)*

DR. MADAN PRASAD JAISWAL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, neither the farmers get the price nor consumers get relief. *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Let him complete his reply. Please take your seats.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : The Minister has not completed his reply. Let him complete his reply.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Let the Minister complete his reply.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SOM PAL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the pulses should be made available to the consumers on fair price and no

can have two opinions about this. The production that is available in the country at present is certainly less in comparison to our needs. About two Million tonnes production of pulses is less than our needs.

MAJOR GENERAL BHUVAN CHANDRA KHANDURI, AVSM : This is not good. *...(Interruptions)*

DR. MADAN PRASAD JAIWAL : How will the consumers get relief when the stock worth of Rs. 250 crore is seized from the hoarders. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI AJIT JOGI : Why do you not take action against the hoarders, blackmarketeers?

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Action has been taken against the hoarders, benefiteers and the blackmarketeers, it has been proved by the raids. *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seats. Let the Minister complete his reply. *...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Will the Minister be pleased to ask for the report from Delhi Government. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please, take your seat.

SHRI AJIT JOGI : Why you not take action against the hoarders and blackmarketeers? You are giving patronage to all of them. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI VIJAY GOEL : You want to protect your people. The Congress M.L.A. who has been caught, you are not speaking against him. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA : You should take action against all whether they are hoarders or blackmarketeers.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Bhuria, let the Minister complete his reply.

[Translation]

SHRI AJIT JOGI : Why are you protecting the hoarders, black marketeers and profeteers. *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please try to understand. The Minister may now complete his reply.

SHRI SOMPAL : Sir, I am yet to complete my reply
...(*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL : The raid has been made against Congress M.L.A. It has been figured in the newspapers in much bold letters. Will the Minister be pleased to ask for the report from the Delhi Government.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Vijay Goel, please take your seat.

...(*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : See the pulses worth of Rs. 68 crores have been seized from a place. Why is action not being taken against the hoarders.
...(*Interruptions*)

12.00 hrs.

SHRI AJIT JOGI : What action have you taken against the hoarders, profiteers and blackmarketeers?
...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SOMPAL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to give reply.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Let the Minister complete it now.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Ajit Jogi, please take your seat, what is this? Shri Bhuria, you also take your seat.

[Translation]

SHRI SOMPAL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to give a reply if the hon'ble members are in a mood to listen to me. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHORT NOTICE QUESTION

*[English]***Crop of Soyabean**

1. SHRI RAMA NAND SINGH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state.

(a) whether the crop of Soyabean has been damaged upto 80% this year in Madhya Pradesh due to the disease of 'Rust';

(b) whether the Soyabean producers of Madhya Pradesh have suffered heavy loss due to it;

(c) the compensation or the financial assistance proposed to be provided by the Union Government to the farmers growing Soyabean in Madhya Pradesh; and

(d) whether the Union Government would make an arrangement to provide the Soyabean seed to the farmers in Madhya Pradesh next year at reasonable price?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement

(a) to (c) As per information furnished by Government of Madhya Pradesh, there is no major damage to soyabean during Kharif 1998 in Madhya Pradesh. This has been corroborated by the National Research Centre for Soyabean, Indore. The 'rust' disease was only localised in Betul and Chhindwara districts. Timely 'rust' awareness campaign was undertaken by Department of Agriculture, Madhya Pradesh alongwith National Research Center for Soyabean, Indore and the Centre on Integrated Pest Management. The disease was controlled by fungicidal sprays by farmers. There was recurrence of 'rust' in later stage around maturity but it was not of consequence with respect to productivity.

(d) Distribution of certified/truthfully labelled seeds to the farmers is organised by the State Government. The Government of Madhya Pradesh has informed that they are taking adequate steps to provide seeds to the farmers for 1999 Kharif. The Central Government is providing Rs. 300/- per quintal for distribution of certified seeds and Rs. 200/- per quintal for production of seeds as subsidy under the scheme of Oil Seeds Production Programme.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMA NAND SINGH (Satna) : Mr. Speaker Sir, I am grateful to you for admitting short notice question regarding farmers. Madhya Pradesh is the largest soyabean producer state of the country that is it is the front runner state with regards to the production of Soyabean but last year the soyabean crops of the farmers got wasted in the fields itself due to excessive rain. The Government have made available the soyabean seeds to the farmers at a very exuberant rates this year. In the current year the soyabean crop has been wasted in large scale due to the rust disease particularly in Satna and Rewa districts of Madhya Pradesh whereas the hon-Minister has said in the reply that the crop has not got wasted in large scale. The reply is totally incorrect. I would like to know from the hon. Agriculture Minister whether he would try to get investigated by an agency the loss of soyabean crop being wasted due to the rust disease.

SHRI SOMPAL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it has been stated in the reply that no large scale loss of soyabean crop has happened this time in Madhya Pradesh. Some loss of crop has surely happened due to the rust disease in Betul and Chindwara regions. When this disease crept in at the initial state it was controlled by spraying insecticides and fungicides and also by managing integrated pest management. This disease resurfaced during the last stage of the crop. The Central and State Government got the matter investigated separately through Rashriya Soyabean Anusandhan Kendra, Indore. The University informed that some and not too much loss of crop has happened. All the necessary arrangements were done. Primarily, it is a State matter. If the State Government asks for financial and technical assistance from the centre, we are ready to provide it.

SHRI RAMA NAND SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, my submission is that the information received from the Madhya Pradesh Government is incorrect. Whether the Government of India would get the matter investigated by its own agency? ... (Interruptions) Mr. Speaker Sir, my request in an important one. Soyabean was procured from the farmers this year at the rate of rupees one thousand per quintal whereas the Madhya Pradesh Government made the seeds available at the rate of rupees 1823 per quintal to the farmers. Whether the Government of India would stop the acts being done by the Madhya Pradesh Government by differentiating between procurement and selling price in future? Whether you would make the seeds available to the farmers at reasonable rate for the coming crop of 1999.

SHRI SOMPAL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, presently the rate of soyabean is much higher in the market in comparison to its minimum support price. So far as the question of making seeds available to the farmers at subsidised rates is concerned the central Government have already started a scheme in this regard. During the present year efforts are being made to make available certified seeds and general seeds at the rate of rupees 1800 and 1500 respectively. In addition to it the Central Government is providing rupees 200 per quintal as relief to the State Government and making efforts to provide seeds at a subsidised rate. In this regard adequate fund is being provided to the Madhya Pradesh government under centrally sponsored scheme.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Delhi Milk Scheme

*244. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA :
SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Delhi Milk Scheme have been supplying adulterated milk in some of the colonies of the capital;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the quality of milk/milk products is being tested from time to time before distribution;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the steps taken by the Government to ensure supply of quality milk and milk products by DMS; and

(f) what steps are proposed to be taken to ensure that the common people get the milk at official rate?

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

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

(c) and (d) The milk is invariably tested for all quality parameters including those prescribed under Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954 standards.

(e) To ensure the supply of quality milk, the following steps are taken:

- (i) DMS accepts best quality milk free from all additives (adulterants and preservatives) from State Dairy Federations and local Co-operative Societies.
- (ii) Milk is processed under modern processing conditions.
- (iii) Milk is packed in food grade polythene pouches by automatic filling machines under hygienic conditions.
- (iv) Milk is tested during processing, filling and storage at regular intervals of 40 minutes for maintenance of quality standards.
- (v) Before despatch of milk, random samples are again drawn from milk vans and checked for quality standards.

(f) DMS Toned Milk is sold to the consumers @ Rs. 7/- per litre and Double Toned Milk @ Rs. 6/- per litre in polypacks which are far below the rates of all other brands in the market. Hence, there is heavy demand for DMS milk. To ensure the distribution of milk at official rate, the following steps are taken:

- (i) The milk is sold through a network of 1270 sale points located all over Delhi.
- (ii) The milk is sold from milk booths on first come first served basis.
- (iii) Resident Welfare Associations are being associated.
- (iv) The field staff supervise the distribution of milk through inspection of booths.
- (v) DMS has a Public Grievances Redressal Cell to redress the grievances of the public.
- (vi) MDS has a complaint cell where consumers can register their complaints on telephone and appropriate action is taken on such complaints.

Illegal International Call Back Phone Calls

*245. SHRI R.S. GAVAI :
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :

Will the MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the investigating authorities made simultaneous raids in three States to put an end to one of the biggest networks from which illegal international 'call-back' telephone calls were being made as reported in the Indian Express dated September 2, 1998;

(b) whether according to the Videsh Sanchar Nigam Limited the total value of such illegal 'call-back' telephone calls is around Rs. 800 crore per annum;

(c) if so, the outcome of these raids and the action taken against those responsible; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government to check the illegal 'call-back' services operating in India?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI JAGMOHAN) : (a) to (d) On receipt of a source information by Central Economic Intelligence Bureau of Ministry of Finance, a team comprising of officials from Directorate of Revenue Intelligence and Enforcement Directorate alongwith officials of Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd./Department of Telecommunications and Videsh Sanchar Nigam Ltd. made simultaneous raids in Delhi, Chennai (Tamil Nadu) and Mumbai (Maharashtra).

The case relates to illegal resale of leased lines and not of illegal call-back telephone calls. It is not possible for VSNL to estimate the value of such illegal resale of leased lines, correctly.

The Directorate of Revenue Intelligence has seized the equipment found installed in the premises for violations of the customs Act. The Enforcement Directorate is also investigating the financial aspects of the case. The matter also stands referred to the CBI by Central Economic Intelligence Bureau.

The steps being taken to check the illegal call-back/resale operations are as under :—

- (i) Surprise checks and inspections have been intensified;
- (ii) A closer coordination and monitoring between service providers and investigating agencies like CBI, DRI, CEIB is being done to book the offenders;
- (iii) Tightening up of contract conditions between VSNL and International Private Lease Line Circuit Operators;
- (iv) More effective checking of the bonafides of party before grant of licence for International Leased Circuits;

- (v) Task force comprising technically sound Officers being set up to detect the misuse of leased lines;
- (vi) Federal Communication Commission of US with whom the Government has earlier taken up the matter, is being pursued to help in checking the call-back operations.

Pilferage of Postal Articles

*246. SHRI ANNASHEB M.K. PATIL : Will the MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the cases of pilferage of cheques, demand drafts, share certificate etc. are on the increase;
- (b) if so, the details thereof for the last three years and the money spent to compensate the customers; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to stop this pilferage?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI JAGMOHAN) : (a) to (c) During the last few years, the Department of Posts has received complaints from institutions like Unit trust of India, India Tobacco Co., Life Insurance Corporation of India, State Bank of India, etc. about pilferage/theft of cheques, dividend warrants, refund orders, share certificates, etc. from Registered letters posted by these institutions to their members/share holders and subsequent encashment of such instruments through accounts in Post Office Savings Banks and other banks in different places in the country. The details of such complaints received by the Department and compensation paid, for the last three years are as under :—

Year	No. of complaints received	Amount of compensation paid
1995-96	179	Rs. 8835.00
1996-97	658	Rs. 15942.00
1997-98	736	Rs. 39494.00

The Department has prescribed an exhaustive Action Plan to safeguard Postal articles in transmission and prevent incidence of pilferage/theft from Registered articles.

This Action Plan circulated to all Heads of Circles for implementation, prescribes checks at different levels of management alongwith other measures indicated below :—

- (i) Circle Checking Squads comprising one Gazetted Officer and two Assistant Superintendents/Inspectors of Post Offices have been constituted in each Postal Circle for surprise visits in strict confidence to different operative units of the Department and oversee proper accounting of articles, safe transmission and delivery of Registered articles to addressees.
- (ii) Heads of Circles have been directed to take stern/deterrent action against officials found responsible for pilferage from Postal articles. They have also been directed to report such cases to the Police/CBI for detailed investigations. A few cases have been reported to CBI at Calcutta and Delhi and some officials have also been taken into custody by the CBI for detailed investigations.
- (iii) Heads of Circles have been directed to ensure regular rotation of officials working at sensitive posts and avoid posting officials with doubtful integrity against such posts.
- (iv) Instructions have been issued to ensure stricter supervision in proper identification of customers intending to open Savings Bank accounts in Post Offices so as to eliminate chances of opening fake accounts.
- (v) Proposals have been submitted to Ministry of Finance for considering suitable provisions in the relevant rules for production of photographs by intending account holders of Post Office Saving Bank.
- (vi) The Department has also requested financial institutions and the Securities Exchange Board of India not to use envelopes with transparent window for the purpose of sending cheques/dividend warrants/refund orders, etc., as such envelopes facilitate identification of articles with valuable contents. They have also been requested to incorporate the account numbers of holders of warrants/cheques/refund orders so as to eliminate chances of such instruments being encashed by unauthorised persons.
- (vii) The financial institutions etc. have also been requested to utilise services of persons with proven and bonafide integrity only for the

purposes of booking Registered articles in the Post Office so as to further eliminate chances of pilferage of contents of Postal articles through collusion, etc.

Seed Development Programme

[*Translation*]

*247. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the funds provided by the Union Government to different States for the seeds development programme in the Government agricultural farms during the last two years;

(b) the financial assistance proposed to be provided by the Union Government to them for the year 1998-99 under the said programme;

(c) the total number of agriculture farms running in losses State-wise; and

(d) remedial measures being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) and (b) The Central Government was implementing two schemes under which assistance was provided to the States, part of which was to be spent on seed development in agricultural farms. These schemes are : (i) Integrated Seed Development Programme for not easily accessible and remote areas of all the States/UTs (ISDP) and (ii) National Programme for Varietal Development (NPVD). The amount released during 1996-97 for ISDP scheme is Rs. 246.49 lakhs. This scheme has been discontinued since 1997-98. The amount released during 1996-97 and 1997-98 for NPVD scheme is Rs. 173.00 lakhs and Rs. 220.00 lakhs respectively. There is no proposal to release any fund under either of these schemes during 1998-99 because ISDP scheme has been discontinued since 1997-98 and the NPVD scheme is under revision.

(c) and (d) As per information received, 220,65 and 50 agricultural farms in the States of Bihar, Gujarat and Maharashtra are running in loss. Information with regard to agricultural farms running in losses and also remedial measures being taken by other States is being collected.

[*English*]

Milch Animals

*248. SHRI GORDHANBHAI JAVIA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether high yielding milch animals have been bred by the National Dairy Research Institute;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the cost of milk produced by these animals has been assessed and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to make these animals available to the Indian farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) Yes, Sir. Two high yielding dairy breeds viz. Karan-Swiss and Karan-Fries have been evolved at National Dairy Research Institute, Karnal.

(b) Karan Swiss was evolved by crossing of indigenous cows (Sahiwal/Red Sindhi) with Brown Swiss Bulls and Karan-Fries has been evolved by the crossing of indigenous Tharparkar cows with Holstein-Friesian bulls. The average total lactation milk yield of Karan Swiss and Karan Fries is 3666 and 3779 kg. in 325 and 321 days of lactation, respectively. The average age at the first calving and calving interval is 34.6 months and 404 days in Karan Swiss and 32.6 months and 402 days in Karan Fries, respectively based on performance during the period 1981-95. Besides, the peak yield of 44 kg. in Karan Swiss and 42.5 kg. in Karan Fries has been recorded. The average fat and SNF percent in Karan Swiss ranged from 4.01 to 4.19% and 8.68 to 8.95% respectively. In case of Karan Fries, the average fat and SNF percent ranged from 3.93 to 4.09% and 8.61 to 8.93%, respectively.

(c) Evaluation of cost of production of these breeds at the Dairy Demonstration Unit revealed that cost of milk production was Rs. 7.34 per litre in 1997-98.

(d) NDRI, Karnal supplies germ-plasm to farmers and development agencies engaged in Animal Husbandry and Dairying in the form of surplus live animals (breeding bulls, male calves and cows) through public auction twice a year (March and September) and in the form of frozen/liquid semen of bulls of high genetic merit.

Supply of Optical Fibres

*249. SHRI FRANCISCO SARDINHA : Will the MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government have obtained optical fibres through imports by placing supply order to non-producing suppliers;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether despite the potential of Optical Telecommunications Limited to meet the full demand orders, orders to the tune of only fifty per cent are being placed with it;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Department of Telecommunications propose to issue policy directives for the supply of optical fibres; and

(f) the details of guidelines issued in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI JAGMOHAN) (a) to (f) The Department of Telecom does not procure Optical fibres, rather, Optical Fibre Cables are procured which are made from Optical Fibres and other Components. The Optical Fibre Cables are procured by the Department from the indigenous manufacturers only.

Optical Telecommunications Ltd. is only one of the several Indian manufacturers producing Optical Fibre Cables. Since a large vendor base with sufficient capacity exists in the country, the Department places the orders for Optical Fibre Cables on more than one vendor. Percentages of the total order to be procured from various vendors are specified in the tender documents. Optical Telecommunications Ltd. has been getting orders from the Department as per its eligibility in the tenders floated by the Department.

The Department procures only the Optical Fibre Cable which is the finished product. The existing policy has stipulated a graded duty structure for raw materials, intermediate product and the finished product thus promoting greater value addition in the country by the manufacturers. Some of the manufacturers of Optical Fibre Cables produce Optical Fibre entirely from raw material stage while some others from an intermediate stage. In the procurement process, the Department does not specify to the manufacturers, how to source the ingredients, in line with the overall policy of liberalisation in the Telecom Sector. The Department does not propose any change in the policy.

Research and Development

*250. PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the assistance provided by the Department for organising Research and Development activities relating to space programme sponsored under the Research (respond) programme during the last three years, State-wise and Institution-wise;

(b) the details of major achievements made by Space Technology Cells set up under this programme; and

(c) the future plan of the Government for expanding space activities particularly in Kashmir valley?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE):

(a) The details of assistance provided by the Department for organising Research and Development activities relating to space programme sponsored under the Research (RESPOND) programme during the last three years, State-wise and Institution-wise are furnished in statement-I enclosed.

(b) ISRO has established four Space Technology Cells (STC) at Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore, Indian Institute of Technology, Chennai and Indian Institute of Technology, Mumbai and very recently at Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur to carry out R&D activities in selected advanced areas of Space Technology. The IISc-STC has made significant contributions in areas such as Satellite Meteorology, Development of Nano-particles, Radiative Heat-flux in Spacecrafts, Heat Resistant Polymers etc. The IIT, Chennai-STC has made significant contributions in areas of Acoustic Response of Launch Vehicles, and allied aspects as well as Electron Beam Welding techniques. The IIT, Mumbai-STC has made significant contributions in areas of SAR Interferometry, Digital Compression of Satellite Imageries, Cryo-coolers, Composite Material and Radiation Hard Devices. The achievements of the STC projects are directly utilised for ISRO Projects/Programmes.

(c) Government has provided technical and financial support to the Jammu and Kashmir State Government for establishing an Environment and Remote Sensing Centre. Technical and Programmatic support to the Centre will be continued so that the Centre can support Govt. of Jammu and Kashmir in natural resources management activities.

Statement

*State and Institution wise R&D Activities Supported Under Respond Programme
by Department of Space for three years from 1995-96 to 1997-98*

	Grant (Rs. in Lakhs)	Total Grants (Rs. in Lakhs)
	1	2
ANDHRA PRADESH		
Andhra University, Vishakhapatnam	5.01	
IICT, Hyderabad	6.39	
NBKR Institute, Vidyanagar	4.25	
Sri Krishnadevaraya University, Anantpur	25.17	
Sir Venkateswara University, Tirupati	25.00	
Visvodaya College, Nellore	1.33	
Osmania University, Hyderabad	1.25	
Educational Activities	5.26	73.66
ASSAM		
Centre for Plasma Physics, Guwahati	1.56	
Dibrugarh Univeristy, Dibrugarh	1.66	
Educational Activities	1.00	4.22
BIHAR		
BIT, Ranchi	3.26	
IFRI, Dhanbad	6.70	
Educational Activities	1.00	10.96
GUJARAT		
Nehru Science Foundation, Ahmedabad	5.00	
M.S. University, Vadodara	1.93	
Saurashtra University, Rajkot	0.80	
Educational Activities	9.75	17.48

	1	2
HARAYANA		
Regional Engineering College, Kurukshetra	3.25	3.25
KARNATAKA		
R V College of Engg. Bangalore	3.02	
NAL, Bangalore	3.35	
National Law School, Bangalore	0.62	
Mangalore University, Mangalore	12.91	
University of Mysore, Mysore	5.30	
Educational Activities	38.57	63.77
KERALA		
Cochin University, Kochi	2.82	
College of Engineering, Thiruvananthapuram	5.44	
University of Kerala, Thiruvananthapuram	4.66	
Cochin University of S&T, Kochi	1.19	
Educational Activities	6.00	20.11
MAHARASHTRA		
NCL, Pune	1.31	
Natural History Centre, Mumbai	0.50	
System Research Institute, Pune	4.75	
Pune University, Pune	27.66	
Educational Activities	0.30	34.52
NEW DELHI		
India Institute of Technology, New Delhi	15.91	
NPL, New Delhi	9.08	
Sri Venkateswara College, New Delhi	3.60	
Educational Activities	3.60	32.19

	1	2
ORISSA		
Berhampur University, Berhampur	3.70	
Educational Activities	0.35	4.05
PUNJAB		
Punjab University, Ludhiana	3.38	-
Educational Activities	3.20	6.58
RAJASTHAN		
M.R. Engg. College, Jaipur	3.46	
Educational Activities	0.50	3.96
TAMILNADU		
SERC, Chennai	9.50	
University of Madras	4.84	
Bharathiyar University, Coimbatore	3.22	
P S G College, Combatore	5.78	
Anna University, Chennai	6.16	
C C R I, Karaikkudi	4.47	
Educational Activities	8.80	42.77
UTTAR PRADESH		
Gorakhpur University, Gorakhpur	1.00	
Indian Inst. of Technology, Kanpur	4.57	
Educational Activities	1.90	7.47
WEST BENGAL		
Bengal Engineering College, Howrah	4.05	
CGCRI, Calcutta	4.96	
Jadavpur University, Calcutta	12.24	
S N Bose Institute of Science, Calcutta	12.30	

	1	2
Indian Statistical Institute, Calcutta	6.26	
Educational Activities	7.60	47.41
SPACE TECHNOLOGY CELLS IN NATIONAL INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION		
Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore (STC and Satellite Technology and Applications Programme)	292.05	
Indian Inst. of Technology, Chennai (STC)	120.86	
Indian Inst. of Technology, Mumbai (STC)	100.00	
Indian Inst. of Technology, Kharagpur (STC)	63.69	576.60
Total grants given under RESPOND during 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98		949.00

Black Head Worm

Chamarajanagar taluk in Karnataka State:

*251. SHRI A. SIDDARAJU : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the names of diseases affecting coconut trees in the coconut growing States;

(b) whether any remedy has been found so far;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government are aware that Black Head Worm have attacked the cocunut trees in the

(e) whether the Government have sent any team of experts to study these diseases and to suggest measures; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) to (c) Coconut trees are affected by a number of diseases. Important coconut diseases and their remedial measures are as under :—

Sl. No.	Name of the Disease	Remedial measures
1	2	3
1.	Root wilt	(i) Removal of all coconut trees giving less than 10 nuts per annum. (ii) Proper manuring and management to improve the health and natural resistance of coconut trees. (iii) Mixed farming to improve the yield and general conditions of coconut trees.
2.	Bud Rot	Removal of affected tissue of the crown and application of Bordeaux paste on cut end and to provide a protective covering till normal shoot emerges.

1	2	3
3.	Leaf Rot	(i) To improve general conditions of coconut palms, proper manuring and management. (ii) Spraying the crown with Bordeaux mixture or Mancozeb at recommended doses.
4.	Stem Bleeding	(i) Removal of affected tissues and dressing with hot-coaltar or Bordeaux paste. (ii) Avoiding any mechanical injury to the stem. (iii) To fill the holes with cement or mud.
5.	Anaberoga (Root-rot)	(i) Preventing the spread of disease through isolation trenches at recommended distances. (ii) Removal and burning of diseased trees.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) and (f) The Government has established a full fledged Central Plantation Crops Research Institute at Kasargod in Kerala under Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) for Continuous input from the experts on the disease management of coconut. Besides, Coconut Development Board under the Ministry of Agriculture extended financial assistance to Kerala State for conducting a survey through experts during 1996-97. Findings of the survey revealed that 160.50 lakh coconut palms are affected by Root Wilt disease in Kerala, out of which in about 80.00 lakh coconut trees disease was in an advanced stage.

Upliftment of Fishermen

*252. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL :
DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government and the National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) have sponsored some schemes for the economic upliftment of poor fishermen and small fish farmers;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the funds spent thereon during each of the last three years;

(c) the names of the States where these schemes have been introduced and the progress made in regard thereto in each State;

(d) whether any such scheme has been introduced in Orissa;

(e) if so, the details thereof alongwith the benefits obtained by the fish farms/fishermen in that State during each year of the Eighth Plan;

(f) whether the State/U.T. Government needs clearance of Ministry of Environment and Forests for such cases wherein small houses for fishermen have to be constructed under the said scheme on the coast; and

(g) if so, whether the Union Government have any plans to provide time-bound clearance to such cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE : (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The following six schemes are sponsored by the Government of India for Development of Fisheries *inter alia* resulting in economic upliftment of poor fishermen and small fish farmers.

1. Integrated Coastal Aquaculture
2. Development of Coastal Marine Fisheries through Motorization of Traditional Crafts
3. Providing Minor Fishing Harbour Facilities and Fish Landing Centres

4. Development of Freshwater Aquaculture
5. Strengthening of Infrastructure of Inland Fish Marketing
6. Natinal Welfare of Fishermen

In addition to these, the National Cooperative Development Corporation is providing assistance to Fisheries Cooperatives for activities relating to production, processing, storage, marketing, etc. The details of funds released under the above schemes during the last three years are given in statement-I enclosed.

(c) The names of the States where these schemes have been introduced and the progress made during the Eighth Plan are given in statement-II enclosed.

(d) All the above schemes are being implemented in the State of Orissa also.

(e) The details of the schemes and ther benefits obtained by the fishermen and fish farmers in Orissa are given in statement-III enclosed.

(f) and (g) Clearance from the ministry of Environment and Forests is required under the Environment Protection Act of 1996 only in certain cases. Construction of dwelling units within 200-500 meters of the High Tide Line is permitted under certain conditions. If the investment exceeds Rs. 5 crores then clearance from Ministry of Environment and Forests is required. Otherwise, it can be cleared at State/UT level. For proposals submitted to the Ministry of Environment and Forests with complete details the Ministry is able to take a decision within 90 days.

Statement-I

Funds Released during the last three years under Various Schemes for Development of Fisheries

Scheme	Funds released (Rs. in lakhs) during		
	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98
1	2	3	4
1. Integrated Coastal Aquaculture	292.86	222.69	74.07
2. Development of Coastal Marine Fisheries through Motorization of Traditional Craft	488.74	101.24	77.65
3. Providing Minor Fishing Harbour Facilities and Fish Landing Centres	1,167.02	1,350.07	1,698.00
4. Development of Freshwater Aquaculture	1,020.00	1,095.00	1,494.25
5. Strengthening of Infrastructure for Inland Fish Marketing	329.00	531.25	208.32
6. National Welfare of Fishermen	1,241.83	1,589.84	1,454.68
7. Schemes sponsored by National Cooperative Development Corporation	2,687.27	3,181.90	3,861.17

Statement-II*State-wise Details of the Progress made under Various Schemes during the Eighth Five year Plan**Centrally Sponsored Schemes on Integrated Coastal Aquaculture, Motorisation of Traditional Crafts and Providing Minor Fishing Harbours and Fish Landing Centres*

State/Union Territory	Integrated Coastal Aquaculture			Motorisation of traditional crafts (nos)	Fishing Harbours and Fish Landing Centres(FLC)	
	Water area covered (ha)	Beneficiaries (nos)	Farmers trained (nos)		Fishing Harbours(nos)	FLC (nos)
1. Andhra Pradesh	622	676	1,656	1,600	3	1
2. Gujarat	674	394	197	120	3	20
3. Goa	116	32	32	460	—	1
4. Karnataka	203	370	1,576	377	5	9
5. Kerala	814	819	1,717	2,700	5	20
6. Maharashtra	481	117	1,326	204	1	29
7. Orissa	3,963	2,788	1,176	2,300	3	15
8. Tamil Nadu	1,619	548	90	8,500	6	11
9. West Bengal	1,505	1,575	3,482	140	2	10
10. Pondicherry	—	—	—	75	—	1
11. Lakshadweep	—	—	—	—	—	3
12. A&N Islands	—	—	—	—	1	—
Total	9,997	7,319	11,252	16,476	29	120

Centrally Sponsored Schemes on Development of Freshwater Aquaculture, National Welfare of Fishermen and Strengthening of Infrastructure for Inland Fish Marketing

State/Union Territory	Development of Freshwater Aquaculture		National Welfare of Fishermen		Infrastructure for Inland Fish Marketing—marketing units sanctioned (nos)
	Water area covered (ha.)	Fish farmers trained (nos)	Houses sanctioned (nos)	Fishermen insured (nos)	
1	2	3	4	5	6
1. Andhra Pradesh	6,035	5,126	9340	130,000	1
2. Arunachal Pradesh	278	1,145	—	—	—
3. Assam	2,263	8,246	171	—	—
4. Bihar	2,953	2,701	198	33,333	1
5. Goa	—	—	—	489	—
6. Gujarat	22,100	7,648	408	39,710	3
7. Haryana	9,314	4,666	—	—	2
8. Himachal Pradesh	100	1,011	—	4,647	1
9. Jammu & Kashmir	2,185	1,125	200	6,000	3
10. Karnataka	15,004	4,361	2,199	60,000	3
11. Kerala	2,217	4,488	820	200,000	4
12. Madhya Pradesh	25,779	9,583	100	57,212	3
13. Maharashtra	10,582	5,843	271	—	2

	1	2	3	4	5	6
14. Manipur		688	1,467	155	2,329	1
15. Meghalaya		275	560	—	—	—
16. Mizoram		219	535	—	—	1
17. Nagaland		571	1,752	—	—	1
18. Orissa		9,977	11,884	564	83,333	2
19. Punjab		3,915	6,376	—	—	2
20. Rajasthan		1,872	4,000	20	954	2
21. Sikkim		51	579	—	—	—
22. Tamil Nadu		7,983	1,531	2,050	291,697	1
23. Tripura		785	25,433	360	5,000	—
24. Uttar Pradesh		28,586	32,429	1,233	34,000	6
25. West Bengal		19,580	22,359	300	152,380	2
26. A&N Islands		—	—	—	3,228	—
27. Daman & Diu		—	—	150	14,500	—
28. Lakshadweep		—	—	—	854	—
29. Pondicherry		63	351	270	18,000	—
Total		173,475	165,199	18,809	1,137,666	41

**Schemes Sponsored by National
Cooperative Development Corporation**

Cumulative Assistance Provided up to March 31, 1998

State/Union Territory	Assistance (Rs. In lakhs)	
	Sanctioned	Released
1	2	3
1. Andhra Pradesh	2,549.66	1,787.66
2. Gujarat	3,362.79	2,374.55
3. Haryana	0.80	0.80
4. Karnataka	2,543.00	538.24
5. Kerala	7,907.78	5,507.25
6. Madhya Pradesh	7.96	1.26
7. Maharashtra	9,096.02	5,727.95
8. Tamil Nadu	6,044.65	1,380.07
9. Uttar Pradesh	4.03	—
10. Assam	34.79	17.46
11. Bihar	2.30	1.95
12. Himachal Pradesh	28.29	21.04
13. Manipur	386.90	154.70
14. Mizoram	9.82	9.82

1	2	3
15. Nagaland	285.18	175.05
16. Orissa	561.52	159.52
17. Rajasthan	21.07	14.89
18. Tripura	114.84	19.24
19. West Bengal	7,103.04	4,203.88
20. Daman & Diu	10.34	10.34
21. Pondicherry	3.27	3.27
Total	40,078.05	22,108.94

Statement-III

Benefits Obtained by Fishermen and Fish Farmers in Orissa during the Eighth Plan

Integrated Coastal Aquaculture and Development of Coastal Marine Fisheries through Motorization of Traditional Crafts

Year	Integrated Coastal Aquaculture			Motorisation of Traditional Crafts Crafts sanctioned for motorisation (nos)
	Water area covered (ha)	Beneficiaries (nos)	Fish farmers trained (nos)	
1992-93	1,140	4,72	202	600
1993-94	760	664	307	800
1994-95	1,121	1,094	264	400
1995-96	737	521	251	20
1996-97	205	37	152	80
Total during Eighth Plan	3,963	2,788	1,176	1900

Providing Minor Fishing Harbour Facilities Fish Landing Centres

Year	Minor Fishing Harbours constructed	Fish Landing Centres constructed
1992-93		—
1993-94	Gopalpur	Panchubisa Nairi Stage II
1994-95	—	—
1995-96	—	Palaur Khamasi Jamboo
1996-97	—	Chandrabhaga Soran Rushikulya Kansabansa

Development of Freshwater Aquaculture

Year	Water area covered (ha)	Fish Farmers Trained (nos)
1992-93	1866	2830
1993-94	1751	2102
1994-95	2174	2291
1995-96	1699	2657
1996-97	2487	2004
Total during Eighth Plan	9977	11884

National Welfare of Fishermen

Year	Fishermen insured under "Group Accident Insurance" component (nos)	Houses and tubewells sanctioned under "Development of Model Fishermen Village" component (nos)	Fishermen covered under the "Saving-cum-Relief" component (nos)
1992-93	66,400	214 houses and 10 tubewells	1,000
1993-94	80,000	—	2,000
1994-95	86,755	350 houses and 18 tubewells	4,500
1995-96	100,100	—	4,785
1996-97	100,000	—	—
Total during Eighth Plan	433,255	564 houses and 28 tubewells	12,285

Strengthening of Infrastructure for Inland Fish Marketing

Year	Amount released by Government of India to the State Government (Rs. in Lakhs)
1992-93	44.50
1993-94	55.00
1994-95	19.50
1995-96	40.00
1996-97	16.25
Total during Eighth Plan	175.25

Providing assistance through National Cooperative Development Corporation

Assistance has been provided to Fishermen Cooperatives of the State of Orissa for fishing boats and nets and integrated fisheries development in Chilka Lake. The amounts sanctioned and released during the Eighth Plan are as below.

(Rs. In lakhs)

Year	Sanction	Release*
1992-93	Nil	8.622
1993-94	Nil	33.410
1994-95	Nil	19.102
1995-96	119.83	4.725
1996-97	Nil	2.059
Total during Eighth Plan	119.83	67.918

*Includes releases pertaining to sanctions of earlier years

Smuggling of Crops

*253. SHRI ANANT KUMAR HEGDE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that Indian breeds of different crops are being smuggled out of the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to stop such activities and also preserve the Indigenous varieties of different crops?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) and (b) No report about Indian breeds of different crops being smuggled out of the country has been received.

(c) Under the existing Export-Import Policy (1997-2002) certain categories of seeds and planting materials are placed under restricted item for export. The export of these seeds is allowed on the basis of the

recommendations of the Exim Committee of Department of Agriculture & Cooperation on case to case Basis. Export licence is issued by the concerned authorities based on these recommendations. These steps help in preserving the indigenous varieties of different crops.

Time and Cost Overrun of Projects

254. DR. BIZAY SONKAR SHASTRI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to set up special committees under the aegis of the Planning Commission to fix responsibilities for the time and cost overruns in all major public sector projects under execution;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which these committees are likely to submit their report; and

(d) the number of times this drill has been undertaken in the past and the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) and (b) A Standing Committee has been set up each Ministry/Department headed by Additional Secretary/Joint Secretary with representatives of the Planning Commission, Department of Expenditure and Department of Programme Implementation for fixation of responsibility for time and cost overrun in projects costing Rs 50 crores and above relating to infrastructure sectors. The guidelines on the subject were issued by the Planning Commission on 19th August 1998 and 18th November 1998. These Committees would examine all the proposals on the Revised Cost Estimates of projects costing Rs 50 crores and above, irrespective of percentage of cost overrun and/or time overrun, except the cases where the administrative Ministries/Departments are themselves competent to sanction the increase in the cost before the proposal for revised cost estimates is submitted for approval by the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA). For projects costing Rs. 200 crores and above which do not fall under the purview of the Public Investment Board/Expenditure Finance Committee (PIB/EFC) the concerned administrative Ministry Department would submit the recommendations to the Committee headed by Finance Secretary and thereafter the proposal for revised cost estimates with recommendations and action taken would be submitted for approved of the CCEA.

(c) The Standing Committee would examine proposals for revised cost estimates as and when it is submitted for approval by the PIB/EFC. The time limit for submission of a report would be governed by the PIB/EFC procedures.

(d) These Committees have been set up recently after the issue of the guidelines by Planning Commission in August 1998 and November 1998. The outcome would be known over a period of time.

[*Translation*]

Export of Processed Foods and Fruits

*255. SHRI RAMPAL UPADHYAY :
SHRI MODH. ALI ASHRAF FATMI :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken steps to promote the export of processed food and fruits;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the achievements made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) to (c) To encourage exports of processed foods and fruits, Government is providing financial assistance for setting up/modernisation/expansion of food processing plants, for R&D, and for promotional activities like publicity, market promotion, foreign market studies, participation in important trade fairs etc. Besides this, in accordance with the general policy of Government for promoting exports, 100% Export Oriented Food Processing Units and the units located in Free Trade Zones, get complete exemption of customs duty on imported capital goods, intermediates, components and raw materials in accordance with the Exim Policy in force. Such units are also permitted to sell upto 50% of their production in the domestic market.

The export of processed foods and fruits has increased in last 3 years. In 1995-96, the export of processed food was valued at Rs. 10,415 crores which increased to Rs. 11,000 crores (provisional) in 1997-98. The export of fresh fruits has increased from Rs. 147 crores in 1995-96 to Rs. 211 crores in 1997-98.

NAFED

*256. SHRI VIJAY GOEL :
DR. SANJAY SINH :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the NAFED have not released the stock of onion in the market during the last few weeks;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to release the onions in the market;

(c) whether onion worth several crores of rupees were destroyed in the hands of NAFED;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken to fix responsibility of the officers who handled the import of onions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. On the directions of the Department of Consumer Affairs, Govt. of India, NAFED has been supplying onions regularly through public distribution agencies like Super Bazar, Kendriya Bhandar, Delhi State Civil Supplies Corporation, Delhi Wholesale Consumer Cooperative Store, NCCF and its own outlets since 14.7.98.

(c) to (e) No, Sir. Due to untimely rains, premature harvesting, absence of proper curing by the farmers leading to poor keeping quality about 250 MTs of onions got damaged so far as per the information received for NAFED. The damage is not due to any inefficient handling by NAFED officials. The losses are within the accepted norms in the context of the unusual circumstances.

[English]

Multi-Pronged Strategy

*257. SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Chamber of Commerce and Industry has suggested a multi-pronged strategy including liberal institutional credit to the farm sector to achieve foodgrains production of 500 million tonnes by 2020;

(b) whether they have also suggested to modify land lease norms, remove quantitative restrictions and hand over irrigation management contracts through bids to private sector;

(c) whether according to the Chamber, India could capture a share of 6.7% of the world exports in the next 22 years;

(d) if so, whether the Government have considered these suggestions; and

(e) if so, what are the steps being taken to accept the suggestions made by the Chamber of Commerce and Industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) to (e) The Associated Chambers of Commerce & Industry have in their document entitled "Strategic Plan for Indian Agriculture Sector, July, 1998" analysed various issues concerning Indian agriculture including measures to reach the target of 500 million tonnes of foodgrains production by 2020. The suggestions include modifications in land lease norms, harnessing of ground water resources, making available bank finance for minor irrigation projects, greater involvement of private sector and contract farming. The suggestions made by the Chamber will be considered while formulating strategies for the development of the agriculture sector in the country.

[Translation]

Upgradation of Telephone Exchanges

*258. SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMI :
DR. RAM VILAS VEDANTI :

Will the MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to increase the capacity of existing telephone exchanges in the country during 1998-99;

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

(c) the amount allocated for this purpose during 1998-99 and the Ninth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI JAGMOHAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) During 1998-99, it is proposed to increase the capacity of Telephone Exchanges by 49.3 Lakh lines in the country. State-wise details is enclosed in attached statement.

(c) Rs. 8525.47 Crores have been allocated under Local Telephone Systems during 1998-99 including MTNL.

Estimated financial allocation for Local Telephone Systems in the Ninth Five Year Plan is Rs. 59099.03 Crores including MTNL.

Statement

State-wise capacity proposed to be increased during 98-99

S. No.	States	Capacity
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	351250
2.	Andaman Nicobar	7700
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	5200
4.	Assam	68000
5.	Bihar	185000

1	2	3
6.	Delhi	260000
7.	Goa	37000
8.	Gujrat (Including Daman, Diu, Dadra & Nagar Haveli)	351250
9.	Haryana	125400
10.	Himachal Pradesh	93000
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	41600
12.	Karnataka	266000
13.	Kerala (including Lakshdweep)	453100
14.	Madhya Pradesh	156000
15.	Maharashtra	641100
16.	Manipur	5000
17.	Meghalaya	5500
18.	Mizoram	7500
19.	Nagaland	10000
20.	Orissa	823000
21.	Punjab (Including Chandigarh)	288600

1	2	3
22.	Rajasthan	235500
23.	Sikkim	5000
24.	Tamil Nadu (including Pondicherry)	549000
25.	Tripura	12000
26.	Uttar Pradesh	381000
27.	West Bengal	397000
		4930000

[English]

International Telephone Service

*259. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE : Will the MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the damage to the social fabric and peace in social life is being caused by phone-sex services under acronyms like Funline, Girlcall, Boys-call and dateline, accessed through international numbers; and

(b) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken to block such international-phone-service to prevent such damage?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI JAGMOHAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. These Services are provided by agencies in other countries and sometimes they contain indecent, explicit, unacceptable material. Whenever such services come to the notice of the Government, instructions are issued to block such calls.

Educational Courses

*260. SHRI SURESH WARPUDKAR : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Government have signed an agreement with Space Science and Technology

Centre in Asia-Pacific region for providing educational courses;

(b) if so, the detail thereof;

(c) the number of the students benefitted from these educational courses;

(d) whether the Government have evolved any scheme to gain benefit out of the training imparted to Indian students;

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

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARARAJE) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government of India is a signatory for the establishment of the Centre for Space Science and Technology Education in Asia and the Pacific (CSSTEAP), which is affiliated to the United Nations.

The Centre has been established in India, at the initiative of United Nations, with the aim of providing opportunities to the Asia Pacific countries for education in space science, technology and applications. At present, the Centre offers Post Graduate level education in Remote Sensing and Geographic Information System (RS&GIS); Satellite Communications, Satellite Meteorology and Space Sciences.

(c) Till date, the Centre has completed 5 educational courses and a total of 110 students from 23 different countries in the Asia Pacific region have benefitted from the educational courses of the Centre.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. In order to gain benefit out of the training imparted to Indian students, user agencies in the Government and academia sponsor candidates. This ensures the optimum utilisation of the professional knowledge gained by the Indian students.

(f) Does not arise.

Abolishing of Posts in North-Eastern Region

2713. DR. JAYANTA RONGPI : Will the MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of posts under the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting in the North Eastern region have been abolished;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government in response to the demand for revival of these posts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI) : (a) and (b) Pursuant to the directions of the Government regarding surrender of 10% of the Sanctioned posts obtaining as on 1.1.92, M/o. I&B abolished 5544 posts, including 748 posts in the North-East.

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

Dave Committee

2714. SHRI MADAN PATIL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Dave Committee set up to look into the agro plantation industry has mooted a ban on guaranteed agro-schemes;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the committee is likely to submit its report to the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) and (b) As per the information provided by the Ministry of Finance, Department of Economic Affairs, the Dave Committee set up by the Securities and Exchange Board of India for framing regulations for the collective investment schemes like Plantation Schemes has not yet submitted its report.

(c) The report is likely to be submitted soon to the Ministry of Finance.

Command Area Development Programme

2715. SHRI A.C. JOS : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Command Area Development Programme has been able to construct field channel for irrigation covering an ayacut of 135189 hectares;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of existing ceiling of per hectare for construction of field channels particularly in Kerala;

(d) whether the Kerala Government has requested to the Union Government for raising the existing ceiling due to physiographical and geographical features of the States; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Union Government in the regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) and (b) As reported by the Government of Kerala the projectwise details of field channels constructed under centrally sponsored Command Area Development Programme are as follows :

S. No.	Project	Field Channel (hectare)
1.	Malampuzha	21732
2.	Walayar	4122
3.	Pothundy	5466
4.	Gayanthri	5466
5.	Mangalam	3639
6.	Peechi	18623
7.	Vazhani	5182
8.	Cheerakuzhi	579
9.	Chalakudy	19696
10.	Neyyar	11655
11.	Chitturpuzha	15700
12.	Periyar Valley	32800
13.	Pamba	5685
14.	Kuttiyadi	7828
Total		1,58,173

(c) The existing ceiling of construction cost of field channel is Rs. 6,000 per hectare which is shared equally by the State (Kerala) and the centre.

(d) and (e) The State Government have requested to raise the existing cost for construction of field channel from Rs. 6,000 per hectare to Rs. 10,000 per hectare. The State Government has been requested to send certain information and clarification in this regard.

Agricultural Production

2716. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether production of most of the agricultural crops in the country is still very low as compared to international standards;

(b) whether the Indian agriculture has been neglected during the last few years;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps being taken to improve the productivity of agricultural crops of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) As per Food and Agriculture Organisation's Production Year Book-1997, India's position in production of major crops in the world is as under:

Crop	India's position
Wheat	Second
Rice	Second
Coarse Grains	Fifth
Total pulses	First
Cotton Lint	Third
Sugarcane	Second
Jute & Allied Fibre	First

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The Government is implementing various centrally sponsored/central sector crop specific scheme/programmes

relating to wheat, rice, coarse cereals, oilseeds, pulses, cotton, jute, sugarcane, fruits and vegetables etc. in order to improve productivity as also production of crops in the country.

[Translation]

STD Facility in Gujarat

2717. SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY : Will the MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Talukas and Tehsils Head-Quarters in Gujarat having telephone centres alongwith S.T.D. facility as on date;

(b) the number of such Talukas where this facility is not available so far; and

(c) the time by which STD facility is likely to be made available in the these Talukas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA)

(a) In Gujarat there are 184 Taluka Head Quaters and all these Taluka Head Quarters are having telephone centre (exchange) alongwith STD facility. Word "Tehsil" is not used in Gujarat.

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

(c) Not applicable in view of reply to (a) above.

STD/ISD/PCOs in Bihar

2718. SHRI RAJO SINGH :
SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SINGH :

Will the MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of STD/ISD/Public Telephone Booths functioning in Bihar at present, district-wise;

(b) the number of applications for allotment of new Public Telephone Booths/STD/ISD and Telex facility in the State pending with the Government; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA):

(a) Number of STD/ISD/Local Public telephones working in Bihar are given in the statement attached.

(b) Number of applications pending in the Bihar Circle for STD/ISD/PCOs are 9770 and for Telex connections, it is NIL.

(c) STD, PCO allotment Committees have been constituted and meetings are being held regularly for allotment of STD, PCOs to the extent possible.

Statement

*Statement to be Laid on the table of Lok Sabha
Vide Part (a) of Unstarred Question No. 2718
for 16.12.1998.*

Sl. No.	Name of SSA	STD/ISD/PT Booths working
1	2	3
1.	Bhagalpur	307
2.	Hazaribagh	406
3.	Chapra	1227
4.	Dumka	413
5.	Motihari	1328
6.	Arrah	222
7.	Sasaram	264
8.	Daltonganj	137
9.	Muzaffarpur	1532
10.	Katihar	444

1	2	3
11.	Saharsa	184
12.	Gaya	565
13.	Munger	170
14.	Darbhanga	1099
15.	Ranchi	579
16.	Dhanbad	542
17.	Jamshedpur	936
18.	Patna	2352
Total		12707

[English]

Brahmaputra Board

2719. SHRI SAMAR CHOWDHURY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details survey and investigations conducted by the Brahmaputra Board under the Master Plan prepared by the board for scientific water management in the valley;

(b) the details of State in the region covered under the plan; and

(c) the details of measures taken/to be taken by the Government to mobilise the resources for the implementation of the plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) Brahmaputra Board has conducted survey and investigations for preparation of Master Plans aimed at integrated development of the Water Resources in the Brahmaputra and Barak Valleys for flood moderation, removal of drainage congestion, prevention of erosion, hydro-power generation and navigation.

(b) The Master Plans cover fully the states of Assam, Arunachal Pradesh and Meghalaya. It covers partly the states of Tripura, Mizoram, Manipur and Nagaland which are within the jurisdiction of Bramaputra and Barak basins.

(c) The measures for water management and flood control in the North-Eastern States covered in the Master Plans are planned, investigated and implemented by the concerned State Governments from the funds allocated under State flood Control Sector by the Planning Commission. The Master Plans have been sent to the North Eastern States for implementation.

Dry and Green Fodder

2720. SHRI RUPCHAND MURMU : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state;

(a) the availability of dry and green fodder for milch animals in the country;

(b) the steps taken by the Government to narrow the demand-supply gap; and

(c) the daily calorie required for a milch animal and the supply of the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) The availability of dry and green fodder for milch animals is not estimated separately. However, availability of dry and green fodder in the country for entire animals was 398.68 and 573.50 million tonnes against the requirement of 583.62 and 744.73 million tonnes respectively as estimated by the Policy Advisory Group of Ministry of Environment and Forests (1993).

(b) The steps taken to narrow the demand and supply gap of fodder are as under :—

(i) Scheme of Central Feed and Fodder Development Organisation comprising three components viz., (1) Regional Stations for Forage Production and Demonstration, (2) Central Fodder Seed Production Farm and (3) Central Minikit Testing Programme for fodder crops.

(ii) Assistance to States for feed and fodder development under a Centrally Sponsored Scheme comprising seven components given

as under:

- (1) Strengthening fodder seed production farm (75 : 25)
- (2) Establishment of fodder bank (75 : 25)
- (3) Seed Production through registered grower (25 : 75)
- (4) Establishment of Silvipasture system (100%)
- (5) Grassland development including grass reserves (100%)
- (6) Sample survey for area, requirement and production of fodder crops (100%)
- (7) Enrichment of straws and cellulosic Wastes (100%)

The main objectives of the Schemes are :—

- (i) Production and propagation of certified seeds of high yielding varieties of fodder crops and pasture grasses/legumes.
- (ii) Organisation of field demonstrations on high yielding varieties of fodder crops and improved agronomic package of practices.
- (iii) Strengthening of fodder seed farms in the States.

(c) The daily calorie requirement of a milch cow/ buffalo of 500 kgs. body weight is 16.21 kilo calorie for maintenance and 1.62 kilo calorie for production of each litre of milk. The supply of digestible energy is about 61.3%.

Local Call Facility

2721. SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI : Will the MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government propose to provide direct local call facility between Durgapur and Asansol;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government in this regard; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA):
(a) to (c) As per policy, Director local call facility at 180

sec. pulse rate (i.e. inter dialling without STD code) has already been provided between Asansol and Durgapur.

[Translation]

Setting up of AIR Stations in Bihar

2722. SHRI DHIRENDRA AGARWAL : Will the MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government propose to set up AIR Station in some more districts of Bihar;
- (b) if so, whether any survey for the purpose has been conducted in this regard; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the work is likely to be commenced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI) : (a) No, Sir,

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

[English]

Amendment of Seed Act

2723. SHRI K.P. NAIDU : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a Committee by Shri M.V. Rao, former Director General, ICAR has submitted a report for amending the Seed Act;
- (b) if so, the details of the important recommendations made therein;
- (c) the response of the Union Government in this regard; and
- (d) the time by which the Seed Act likely to be amended?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) and (b) Dr. M.V. Rao, former Director General, ICAR has submitted a report of the Seed Policy Review Group in April, 1997. The group was required to examine the changes required in the Seed Policy, 1988 in the context of changing environment and to suggest measures for promotion and development of seed sector in the country. The group made some important recommendations relating to the

following :—

- (i) Plant Breeders' Right
- (ii) Seed production and Distribution
- (iii) Role of Public and Private Sector in production of seeds
- (iv) Import and Export of seeds and planting materials
- (v) Release of good variety of seeds
- (vi) Quality Control and Seed Legislation
- (vii) Foreign Investment in the seed sector
- (viii) Plant Quarantine measures for import of seeds and planting material.

In the portion relating to legislation, there is a recommendation to amend certain provision of the Seeds Act, 1966 to make it more stringent.

(c) and (d) Many of the recommendations of the Group relate to protection of breeders' rights and germplasm in the country. The proposed Plant Variety Protection and Farmer's Rights Protection legislation will address itself to these issues.

Direct Local Call Facility

2724. SHRI PRASAD BABURAO TANPURE : Will the MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Faridabad has been linked with Noida and Ghaziabad, whereas Gurgaon has been left out;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government propose to link Gurgaon with Ghaziabad, Noida and Bahadurgarh;

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

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA):
(a) and (b) Faridabad has local call facility at 180 sec.

pulse rate (i.e. Inter dialling without STD code) with Noida and Ghaziabad. However Gurgaon is only linked with STD.

—As per policy local call facility is provided within a Short Distance Charging Area (SDCA) which generally corresponds to a Teshil. However local call facility at 180 sec. pulse rate (i.e. Inter dialling with out STD code) is provided

(i) **Between adjacent SDCAs**

(ii) **When the radial distance between Short Distance Charging Centres (SDCCs) of two SDCAs is upto 20 Kms.**

This facility therefore has been provided between Faridabad SDCA and Ghaziabad (including Noida) SDCA which are adjacent. The facility between Gurgaon SDCA and Ghaziabad (including Noida) SDCA is not provided as both the SDCAs are non-adjacent and the radial distance between their SDCCs is more than 20 Kms.

(c) No Sir, there is no proposal to provide local call facility at 180 sec. pulse rate (i.e. Inter dialling without STD code) between Gurgaon Ghaziabad (including Noida) or Gurgaon Bahadurgarh.

(d) Not applicable in view of (c).

(e) As explained at (a) & (b).

[*Translation*]

Fund to Bihar under MPLADS

2725. SHRI SOM MARANDI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been proper compliance of prescribed guidelines in the selection of the schemes in Bihar during 1996-97 and 1997-98 under MPLADS;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the action the Government propose to take against these who are responsible for such lapse?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) to (c) The District Collectors are required to implement the Schemes selected by the MPs concerned within the framework of

the guidelines. However, some cases of improper implementation have been brought to the notice of the Government. Whenever, such a complaint is received, the matter is referred to the State Government for taking appropriate action.

[English]

International Loans to Agricultural Sector

2726. SHRI A.F. GOLAM OSMANI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have confirmed the US Government's decision that the sanctions are not likely to affect international loans to agricultural sector;

(b) if so, the total amount of loan provided by the US for the development of agriculture during each of the last two years;

(c) whether the US Government is likely to provide agricultural loans to India after the sanctions; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) and (b) US Government has not provided any loan for any project in the agricultural sector for the last two years in India.

(c) and (d) At present, there is no proposal for seeking agricultural loans to India from the United States.

[Translation]

Direct Local Call Facility

2727. SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN : Will the MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any representation from MPs and other people to directly link the areas falling under National Capital Region especially Khurja with local call facility;

(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 COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA):

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Representation from NCR board. PMs Office MPs have been received to directly link the areas falling under NCR with local call facility and specially Khurja with Delhi.

(c) As per policy local call facility is provided within a Short distance charging area (SDCA) which generally corresponds to a Tehsil. However, local call facility at 180 sec. puls rate (*i.e.* Inter dialling without STD code) is provided :—

(i) Between adjacent SDCAs.

(ii) When the Radial distance between Short distance charging centres (SDCCs) of two SDCAs is upto 20 Kms. The same criteria has been applied for areas falling under National Capital Region. Since Khurja and Delhi are separate non-adjacent SDCAs with their SDCCs more than 20 kms apart, local call facility at 180 sec. pulse rate (*i.e.* Inter-dialling without STD code) has not been provided between Khurja and Delhi.

Scheme for Gujarat

2728. SHRI JAYSINHJI CHAUHAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have approved any scheme for the development of backward areas of Gujarat during the last two years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount allocated each year to Gujarat during the above period;

(d) the details of other schemes submitted by Gujarat Government seeking financial assistance; and

(e) the time by which the projects are likely to be sanctioned?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) to (c) Planning & Development of an area and allocation of funds for the purpose is primarily the responsibility of the concerned State Government. Planning Commission have not identified any area as backward per se. However, Central Government supplements the development of backward regions through appropriate weightage for

backwardness in the formula used for distribution of Normal Central Assistance amongst the States. Further, Special Central Assistance is allocated to various states, including Gujarat, for Special Area Programmes such as Border Area Development Programme, Tribal Sub-Plan etc.

(d) and (e) No proposal is pending with Planning Commission for approval.

[*English*]

Draught Animal Centers

2729. SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had drawn plans to set up Animal Energy Centre in the Seventh Plan;

(b) if so, the present status thereof and the time-frame worked out therefor;

(c) whether use of Draught Animal Power (DAP) is going down in the absence of support and policy; and

(d) if so, the programmes evolved to encourage use of DAP during the Ninth Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) and (b) There was a plan to set up Animal Energy Centre in the Seventh Plan. However, the Centre could not be set up due to financial constraints.

(c) and (d) The number of draught animals has been increasing. As per 1987 Livestock Census, there were about 68 million Draught Animals which increased to about 73.5 million as per 1992 Livestock Census. Animal Energy Programmes to demonstrate improved animal energy devices are being supported in various States for improving utilisation of Draught Animal Power in the country.

[*Translation*]

Fall in Mango

2730. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a drastic fall in the crop of mango in Maharashtra this year;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether any scheme has been formulated by the Union Government to increase the production of mangoes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) and (b) The Government have not received any report about the drastic fall in the crop of mango in Maharashtra this year. There has been less production of mango in various parts of the country which is attributed mainly to the adverse weather conditions like extended rainy season, fluctuating temperature resulting in reduced flowering and subsequent failure of pollination and pollen germination added with the pest and disease attacks.

(c) The Government is implementing a Central Sector Scheme on 'Development of Tropical, Temperate and Arid Zone Fruits' under which assistance is being provided to the State Governments for improving the production and productivity of fruits including mangoes through various measures such as supply of quality planting material, rejuvenation of senile orchards, training of farmers besides area expansion.

T.V. Transmitter at Jhanjharpur

2731. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SINGH : Will the minister of INFORMATION & BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set-up a T.V. transmitter at Jhanjharpur district in Bihar; and

(b) if so, the time by which it is likely to be set-up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI) : (a) and (b) There is no approved scheme, at present, to set up a T.V. transmitter at Jhanjharpur in Bihar.

Appointment of Ambassadors

2732. SHRI JOGENDRA KAWADE : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of countries where Ambassadors/High Commissioners have been appointed by the Government of India;

(b) the criteria adopted for appointing the Ambassadors/High Commissioners in the foreign countries; and

(c) the number of Ambassadors/High Commissioners belonging to the scheduled caste/scheduled tribe categories out of them?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) The number of countries where resident Ambassadors/High Commissioners have been appointed by the Government of India is 110. Several of them cover other countries concurrently.

(b) Ambassadors/High Commissioners are appointed on the basis of a number of considerations, *inter alia* seniority, career, background, relevant experience, suitability for the post.

(c) The number of Ambassadors/High Commissioners belonging to Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe categories is 22.

Telegraph Offices in U.P.

2733. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is shortage of telegraph offices in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to set up more telegraph offices during 1998-99 in the State;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) In view of policy of the Department to provide independent Telegraph office at each district headquarter irrespective of quantum of telegraph traffic, there is a proposal to upgrade telegraph facility at 10 District Headquarters, namely Chandauli, Mahoba, Kannauj, Auraiya, Sant Kabirdas Nagar, Balrampur, Chhatrapati Sahuji Maharajnagar, Sarawasti, Kausambhi and Champawat during the year 1998-99.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

Extradition of Criminals

2734. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether underworld Don Dawood Ibrahim, his brothers and other close aides have been arrested;

(b) whether the Government have no extradition treaty with UAE;

(c) if so, the manner in which Government would get them extradited;

(d) whether the Government have already taken up the matter with Dubai; and

(e) if so, the progress made so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) Government has no confirmation about Dawood Ibrahim and his relatives or close aides having been arrested.

(b) An Extradition Treaty with United Arab Emirates has been negotiated and is expected to be formally signed upon completion of necessary formalities by both countries.

(c) to (e) The Government have taken up the matter with UAE. Government is using all possible legal and diplomatic means at its disposal to bring the alleged fugitive criminals back to justice in India.

Central Cattle Breeding Farm

2735. SHRI JUAL ORAM : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any complaint from employees against the malpractices in the office of the Director of Central Cattle Breeding Farm, Sunabeda District Koraput in Orissa.

(b) if so, details thereof; and

(c) the remedial steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) Yes, Sir. Complaints have been received against the malpractices in the Office of the Director of Central Cattle Breeding Farm, Sunabeda District Koraput in Orissa.

(b) These complaints *inter-alia* relate to alleged autocratic and rude behaviour of the Director and some of the officers of the farm and also; misuse of resources; and also regarding other administrative matters.

(c) Officers from the Ministry have been instructed to visit the farm more frequently to supervise the functioning of the farm.

Cotton Production

2736. SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the area, production and per hectare cotton yield in the country during the Eighth Plan, year-wise and State-wise;

(b) the details of the demand and production of cotton in the country during the current year and Ninth Plan period alongwith estimated quantity of import/export of cotton;

(c) whether the Government propose to set up technology Mission to improve cotton output;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the Centrally sponsored schemes for increasing the production and productivity of cotton in the country; and

(f) the details of the review recently undertaken of R&D programme on cotton and projects proposed during the Ninth Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) The details of the area, production and per hectare cotton yield in the country during Eighth Plan, year-wise and State-wise, are given in the statement attached.

(b) The demand and production of cotton during the current year (1998-99) have been estimated at 165.50 lakh bales and 146.70 lakh bales of 170 kg each, respectively. The Ninth Plan (2001-02) projection for cotton production is 193 lakh bales.

At present import of raw cotton is under OGL with NIL duty. No estimate for import is generally fixed by Government. The Government of India releases export quota of cotton after assessing demand and supply

position of cotton in the country after taking into account relevant factors. No target for export of cotton is generally estimated.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Ministry of Agriculture in collaboration of Ministry of Textiles have proposed to launch a Centrally Sponsored Scheme, Technology Mission on Cotton (TMC). This Mission will have four Mini-Missions. Mini Mission-I to be implemented by ICAR will develop cotton technology for enhancing production, while Deptt. of Agri. & Coopn. through Mini-Mission-II will accelerate various activities for the extension and development of cotton production, such as production of delinted seed, training, efforts for popularising integrated pest management, enhancing water use efficiency by increasing area under irrigation by sprinkler/drip irrigation system. Ministry of Textiles will be nodal agency for implementation of Mini-Mission-III & IV for improving Cotton market infrastructure and modernising ginning/pressing factories respectively.

(e) A Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Intensive Cotton Development Programme is being implemented in 11 major cotton growing States namely; Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Madhy Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh. The funding pattern under the scheme is on 75:25 sharing basis between the Govt. of India and the implementing States. The scheme has components like supply of plant protection equipments, sprinkler sets, distribution of seeds, IPM demonstration cum training, farmers training etc.

(f) Under All India Co-ordinated Research Project on Cotton, a new centre is proposed in the IXth Plan in Orissa State. In the proposed Technology Mission on Cotton during Ninth Plan in the Mini Mission-I, ICAR will be focussing on projects for setting up of research efforts for development of high yielding and short duration hybrids/varieties compatible with varied Agro-climatic conditions. Development of transgenics and hybrids through male sterility system and integrated pest management will be given due attention.

Statement*State-wise Area, Production and Yield of Cotton*

A—Area in lakh hectare
P—Production in lakh bales
of 170 kg. each
Y—Yield of lint in Kg./ha.

State		1992-93	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97
1		2	3	4	5	6
Andhra Pradesh	A	8.05	7.28	8.44	10.59	10.07
	P	11.47	13.49	14.26	16.10	18.49
	Y	242	315	287	259	312
Gujarat	A	11.51	11.26	12.05	14.10	14.84
	P	19.88	16.23	22.69	20.02	26.57
	Y	294	245	320	265	304
Haryana	A	5.31	5.63	5.57	6.46	6.49
	P	14.06	11.24	13.73	12.83	15.04
	Y	450	339	419	338	394
Karnataka	A	6.30	5.70	6.36	6.74	6.68
	P	8.65	7.73	8.22	8.49	9.32
	Y	234	230	220	214	237
Madhya Pradesh	A	4.68	4.89	4.77	5.14	5.27
	P	3.53	4.20	3.46	4.23	4.37
	Y	128	146	123	140	141

1		2	3	4	5	6
Maharashtra	A	24.80	24.79	27.60	30.65	30.85
	P	18.08	26.25	25.00	27.96	31.43
	Y	124	180	154	155	173
Orissa	A	0.05	0.03	0.07	0.11	0.14
	P	0.04	0.03	0.10	0.22	0.28
	Y	136	170	250	340	340
Punjab	A	6.90	5.77	6.06	7.50	7.42
	P	23.14	15.14	17.79	19.50	19.25
	Y	570	446	499	442	441
Rajasthan	A	4.76	5.18	4.86	6.06	6.54
	P	10.16	8.39	8.75	13.38	13.63
	Y	363	275	306	375	354
Tamil Nadu	A	2.67	2.29	2.55	2.61	2.59
	P	4.54	4.26	4.40	3.39	3.73
	Y	289	316	293	221	245
Uttar Pradesh	A	0.12	0.11	0.10	0.14	0.08
	P	0.13	0.12	0.12	0.15	0.07
	Y	184	185	188	177	159
All India	A	75.42	73.20	78.71	90.35	91.22
	P	114.02	107.41	118.88	128.61	142.52
	y	257	249	257	242	266

Investment in Agriculture Sector

2737. SHRI D.B ROY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the capital investment made in agriculture and allied sectors to meet the basic needs of the agriculture sector during the year 1997-98;

(b) whether the Government have considered to remove the domestic restrictions imposed on the agricultural products and their trade to promote the export of agricultural products and to make this sector competitive on international level; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) As per the latest available information for the year 1996-97, the total capital investment made in agriculture and allied sectors at current prices was Rs. 31,930 crore.

(b) and (c) There are generally no restrictions of movement and domestic trade of agricultural products. Most of the States/UTs have removed all statutory restrictions of free movement and trade excepting a few States in specified commodities to subserve their local requirements.

Development Plan for Telecom Sector in Jammu and Kashmir

2738. PROF. CHAMAN LAL GUPTA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the development plan for the Telecom Sector in Jammu and Kashmir for the year 1998-99 and the places identified which are going to cover in this plan; and

(b) the steps taken by the Government to provide communication facilities to Udhampur, Doda District (Oadder, Marwah, Dacehan etc.) and Kathua district (Basohli, Bani etc.) of Jammu and Kashmir?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA):

(a) During 1998-99 it is planned to provide 30,000 new telephone connections with an additional switching capacity of 41,600 lines. The places which are likely to be covered in this plan are given in the statement enclosed.

(b) It is planned to provide 1000 new telephone connections with an a additional switching capacity of

2000 lines in Udhampur Secondary Switching Area which includes Doda district. However, Dadder, Marwah and Dacchan of Doda district are not having the basic infrastructure such as road and electricity. Also, there is no registered demand at these places. Telephone facility for these places will be planned after sufficient registered demand is received.

Basohli and Bani in Kathua District are already covered with telephone facility.

Statement

Expansion Programme/New Telephone Exchange to be opened during the year 1998-99.

The following exchanges are proposed to be expanded/upgraded subject to availability of equipment and infrastructure :

1. Srinagar
2. Jammu
3. Rajouri
4. Udhampur
5. Baribrahmana
6. Anantnag
7. Bandipur
8. Narbal
9. Tangdar
10. Miransahib
11. Basohli
12. Barwal
13. Jakh
14. Sidhra
15. Adhkuwari
16. Vaishnowdevi
17. Ganderbal
18. Chadoora
19. Kupwara

20. Pulwama
21. Garhi
22. Shopian

New Telephone Exchanges:

1. Sukherbachan
2. Khoon
3. Bamla
4. Sonemarg
5. Suchani
6. Birpur.

Post and Telegraph Offices in Faridabad

2739. DR. RAVI MALLU : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of post and telegraph offices functioning in Faridabad district;

(b) whether there is shortage of post and telegraph offices in the district;

(c) if so, whether the Government propose to take any steps to open new post and telegraph offices and upgradation of existing said offices in the district during 1998-99;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA):

(a) There are 126 post offices (including 6 combined post and telegraph offices) and one independent telegraph office functioning in Faridabad district.

(b) to (e) There is no shortage of post and telegraph offices in the district.

Postal : One Departmental sub Post Office was opened at NIFM Faridabad on 12.06.98. There is a target of opening of one Extra Dept. Branch Post Office in Faridabad district in 1998-99, subject to the availability of resources.

Telegraph : There is no proposal to upgrade existing combined post and telegraph offices to the status of telegraph offices during 1998-99.

Fund under MPLADS

2740. SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount sanctioned, allocated and released to each Member of Gujarat under the MPLADS during each year till date since its constitution;

(b) the reasons for the delay in release of the amount, if any;

(c) the details of the works recommended by MPs of Gujarat considered and completed during the last three years in Gujarat; and

(d) the time by which such works are likely to be completed in Gujarat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) An amount of Rs. 5 lakh, was released per MP for the year 1993-94. The amount released for the year 1994-95, 1995-96 & 1996-97 was Rs. 1 crore per MP per year. From the year 1997-98 the funds are being released in two instalments of Rs. 50 lakh each based on previous progress. Statement showing funds released for 1997-98 & 1998-99 is given in the enclosed statement.

(b) As per the extant guidelines on MPLADS released of funds under the Scheme is made in two instalments keeping in view the physical and financial progress of works. From the year 1997-98 it was decided to release funds for the MPs in whose account the unsanctioned balance was less than Rs. 50 lakhs. Accordingly, the funds are being released on receipt of the expenditure statement from the District Collector concerned. Funds are not released in cases where either the unsanctioned balance is more than Rs. 50 lakhs or information is not received from the concerned Collector.

(c) and (d) Scheme-wise details of the works recommended by MPs are not maintained by the Department of Programme Implementation. Only an overall picture of the amount released, amount sanctioned and expenditure incurred is being maintained on the basis of reports being received from the District Collectors. As

per the information received from the Collectors from the date of inception of the schemes to 30.11.1998, a total of Rs. 154.85 crore have been released to the State of

Gujarat of which works for Rs. 131.01 crore is reported to have been sanctioned while the actual expenditure is Rs. 84.13 crore.

Statement

Of Funds Released under MPLADS for Ist & IInd Instalments of 1997-98 and Ist & IInd Instalment of 1998-99 as on 11/12/98

STATE : Gujarat

S. No.	Constituency	Name of Lok Sabha MP	(1997-98) Instalment		Lok Sabha (1998-99) Instalment	
			Ist	IInd	Ist	IInd
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Ahmedabad	Sh. Harin Pathak	20/06/97	04/12/97		
		Sh. Harin Pathak	—	—	03/07/98	10/11/98
2.	Amreli	Sh. Dileep Sanghani	11/08/97	—		
		Sh. Dileep Sanghani	—	03/07/98	28/08/98	—
3.	Anand	Sh. Ishwarbhai Khodabhai Chavda	04/09/97	—		
		Sh. Chavda Ishvarbha I Khodabhai	—	10/07/98	18/05/98	26/11/98
4.	Banaskantha	Sh. B.K. Gadhavi	06/08/97	—		
		Sh. Chaudhari Haribh Al Parathibhai	—	24/03/98	16/06/98	—
5.	Baroda	Sh. Satyajitsinh Dilipsinh Gaekwad	11/08/97	04/12/97		
		Sh. Thakkar Jayaben Bharatkumar	—	—	16/06/98	—
6.	Bhavnagar	Sh. R.G. Rana Bhai	04/09/97	—		
		Sh. Rana Rajendrasi-NH Ghanshyamsinh	—	03/07/98	28/08/98	—
7.	Broach	Sh. Chandubhai Deshmukh	20/06/97	—		
		Sh. Chandubhai Shana Bhai Deshmukh	—	—	—	—

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8.	Bulsar (St)	Sh. Manibhai Ramjibhai Chaudhari	28/10/97	—		
		Sh. Chaudhari Manibhai Ramjibhai	—	10/07/98	03/08/98	—
9.	Chhota Udaipur (ST)	Sh. N.J. Rathawa	11/08/97	04/12/97		
		Sh. Naranbhai Jemalabhai Rathawa	—	—	16/06/98	—
10.	Dhandhuka (SC)	Sh. Ratilal Kalidas Varma	04/12/97			
		Sh. Varma Ratilal Kalidas	—	03/07/98	28/08/98	—
11.	Dohad (ST)	Sh. Somjibhai P. Damor	—	—		
		Sh. Damor Somjibhai Punjabhai	03/07/98	02/12/98	—	—
12.	Gandhinagar	Sh. Vijay Patel	04/12/98	—		
		Sh. Advani Lalkrishna	—	21/07/98		—
13.	Godhra	Sh. Shantilal Parsotamdas Patel	20/06/97	—		
		Sh. Patel Shantilal Parshotamdas	—	03/07/98	02/12/98	—
14.	Jamnagar	Sh. K.V.C. Patel (Chandresh)	20/06/97	04/12/97		
		Sh. Koradia Chandreshbhai Valji.	—	—	21/07/98	—
15.	Junagadh	Smt. Bhavanaben D. Chikhaliya	13/08/97	—		
		Sh. Chikhaliya Bhavanaben Devrajbha	—	24/03/98	03/07/98	—
16.	Kaira	Sh. Dinsha Patel	04/09/97	—		
		Sh. Dinsha Patel	—	24/03/98	18/09/98	—
17.	Kapadvanj	Sh. Jaysingh Ji M. Chauhan	28/10/97	—		
		Sh. Chauhan Jaysinhji	—	03/07/98		—

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
18.	Kutch	Sh. P.S. Gadhvi	—	—		
		Sh. Gadhvi Pushpadan Shambhudan	24/03/98	03/07/98	02/12/98	—
19.	Mandvi (ST)	Sh. Chhitubhai D. Gamit	20/06/97	—		
		Sh. Gamit Chhitubhai Devjibhai	—	03/08/98	18/05/98	02/12/98
20.	Mehsana	Dr. A.K. Patel	24/11/97	—		
		Dr. A.K. Patel	—	27/03/98	10/07/98	—
21.	Patan (SC)	Sh. Maheshkumar M. Kanodia	24/11/97	—		
		Sh. Kanodiya Mahesh Kumar Mithabhai	—	27/03/98	10/07/98	—
22.	Porbandar	Sh. Gordhanbhai J. Javiya	20/06/97	—		
		Sh. Javiya Gordhanbhai Jadvbhai	—	03/07/98	28/08/98	—
23.	Rajkot	Dr. Vallabhbhai R. Kathiria	16/07/97	—		
		Sh. Dr. Kathiriya Vallabhbhai Ramjibha	—	03/07/98		—
24.	Sabarkantha	Smt. Nisha A. Chaudhary	16/07/97	—		
		Sh. Nishaben Amarsin Hbhai Chaudhari	—	03/07/98	02/12/98	—
25.	Surat	Sh. Kanshiram Rana	30/09/97	—		
		Sh. Kashiram Rana	—	03/08/98		—
26.	Surendranagar	Sh. Sanat Mehta	10/10/97	—		
		Sh. Dave Bhavnaben Kardamkumar	—	02/12/98	—	—

Note:

First Name is of 11th Lok Sabha MP

Second Name is of 12th Lok Sabha MP

*Details of Funds Released under MPLADS for Ist & IInd Instalments of 1997-98
and Ist & IInd INSTALMENT of 1998-99 as on 11/12/98*

STATE : Gujarat

S. No.	Constituency	Name of Rajya Sabha MP	(1997-98)		Rajya Sabha (1998-99)	
			Ist	IInd	Ist	IInd
SITTING MEMBER OF RAJYA SABHA						
1.	Vadodara	Smt. Urmilaben Chimanbhai Patel	24/11/97	—	—	—
2.	Ahmedabad	Sh. Rajubhai A. Parmar	23/07/98	10/11/98	—	—
3.	Rajkot	Sh. Chimanbhai Haribhai Shukla	—	—	—	—
4.	Broach	Sh. Ahmed Patel	24/11/97	10/09/98	18/09/98	—
5.	Kheda	Sh. Madhavsinh Solanki	04/09/97	19/03/98	18/09/98	—
6.	Vadodara	Dr. Yoginder Kumar Bhagatram Alagm	—	—	—	—
7.	Ahmedabad	Sh. Braham Kumar Bhatt	04/12/97	10/11/98	—	—
8.	Kutch	Sh. Anantray Devshanker Dave	06/08/97	18/03/98	03/07/98	02/12/98
9.	Surendranagar	Sh. Bangaru Laxmanji B. Narsimha	—	—	18/05/98	—
10.	Panchmahals	Sh. Gopalsinh G. Solanki	—	—	—	—
11.		Sh. Prafull Gordia Ex-Member of Rajya Sabha	—	—	—	—
12.	Ahmedabad	Smt. Anandiben Jethabhai Patel	20/06/97	04/12/97	—	—
13.	Broach	Sh. Kanaksinh. M. Mangrola	—	—	—	—

[Translation]

Assistance to Dance, Drama and Music Groups

2741. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY :
SHIR SHIVRAJ SINGH CHAUHAN :

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have prepared a list of dance, drama and music groups in the country which could be provided assistance for giving performance abroad and projecting good image of the country;

(b) if so, whether the enlisted groups have been provided any assistance from the Union Government through Indian Ambassadors for publication and preparation of the programmes; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI) : (a) to (c) The Indian Council for Cultural Relations, an autonomous organisation under the Ministry of External Affairs sponsors/assists artistes/groups in the field of dance/music/folk and theatre as maintained by them in their reference panel for performances abroad in coordination with Indian Diplomatic Missions as per the requirements of the host countries. The Missions assist in providing boarding, lodging, local transport, inter-city travel, presentation of programmes and publicity to the artistes/groups.

[English]

Nuclear Tests

2742. SHRI PRAMOTHES KUMHERJEE :
SHRI NARESH PUGLIA :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government have been drawn to the news-item captioned "Victimised for opposing N-Tests" appearing in the Statesman dated November 17, 1998.

(b) if so, whether several Scientists have opposed move to punish one of them who spoke against India's nuclear tests;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the scientists are being harassed in the country; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE):

(a) Yes Sir.

(b) and (c) Dr. T. Jayraman, Theoretical Physicist working at the Institute of Mathematical Sciences (IMS) wrote an article which appeared in the publication "Voices Against Nuclear Weapons" in August 1998. The article was captioned "Indian Science after Pokharan-II". The article specifically criticises the present Government's policy regarding nuclear test. The article inculcates a strong political bias and thus violates the provision of the conduct rule of the Institute of Mathematical Sciences. The provisions are as follows :

(2) No employee shall, except with the previous sanction of the competent authority or any other authority empowered by it in this behalf, or in the bonafide discharge of his duties, participate in a radio broadcast or contribute any article or write any letter either anonymously or in his own name or in the name of any other person to any newspaper or periodical.

Rule—6

No employee shall, in any radio broadcast or in any document published anonymously or in his own name or in the name of any other person or in any communication to the press or in any public utterance, make any statement of fact or opinion—

(i) which has the effect of an adverse criticism of any current or recent policy or action of the Government/Institute; or

(ii) which is capable of embarrassing the relations between the Institute and the Central Government or any State Government or any other Institutions or organisations or members of the public.

As the article by Dr. T. Jayraman was clearly violative of the provisions in the conduct rules of the Institute of Mathematical Sciences, the DAE asked the Director of the Institute to initiate action against Dr. Jayraman in September 1998. The Director of the Institute reported in November 1998 that he had issued a formal warning to Dr. Jayraman on the matter.

It is true that some scientists, under the mistaken impression that action was being taken against Dr. Jayraman because he wrote against India's Nuclear tests, did write to the Director of the Institute of the Mathematical Sciences opposing any disciplinary action against Dr. Jayraman. The tenor of the letter from the scientists seems to suggest that such disciplinary action would go against "the spirit of inquiry which is essential to scientific activities". The fact is that action was proposed against Dr. Jayraman only because his article was more in the form of a political statement rather than a scientific one which is not permissible as per the conduct rules of the Institute.

(d) No Sir.

(e) This questions does not arise.

[Translation]

Scheme for Development of Backward Districts

2743. SHRI ARVID KAMBLE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of schemes approved by the Union Government for the development of backward districts of the country during the last three years;

(b) the details of funds provided to Maharashtra, Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh during the said period, district-wise;

(c) the details of funds allocated by the Government particularly for the development of such districts of these States during 1998-99 and other measures being taken by the Government in this regard; and

(d) the number of such districts of these States proposed to be declared most backward by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) to (d) Planning and Development of an area and allocation of funds for the purpose is primarily the responsibility of the concerned State Government. Planning Commission have not identified any area as backward per se. However, Central Government supplements the efforts of the State Governments, including Maharashtra, Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh in the development of

backward districts through appropriate weightage for backwardness in the formula used for distribution of Normal Central Assistance. Further, Special Central Assistance is allocated under Special Area Programmes and various poverty alleviation schemes.

Recommendation of Fifth Pay Commission

2744. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Fifth Pay Commission has recommended to centralise Assistants and Section Officers cadres of Central Secretariat Service, Central Secretariat Clerical Service and Central Secretariat Stenographer Service;

(b) if so, the basis of such recommendation; and

(c) the time by which the said recommendation of the Fifth Pay Commission to bring uniformity in seniority, promotions etc. in the above said services?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SH. KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN) : (a) and (b) The Fifth Pay Commission has recommended centralisation of the Central Secretariat Service only, primarily on the basis that recruitment to the Section Officers' Grade is made on a centralised basis.

(c) It is practically not feasible to centralise completely all the Central Secretariat Services. However, the inter-cadre disparity in promotions is kept to the minimum through the zoning scheme and regulations exist for protecting the seniority of officers transferred from one cadre to another.

Fraud in Doordarshan Mumbai

2745. DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the owner and officials of 'Time and Space Media Inter Promotions Ltd.' Mumbai usurped several lakhs of rupees of Doordarshan;

(b) if so, the facts and details in this regard and the names of the officials of Doordarshan involved in the fraud; and

(c) the action proposed to be taken by the Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI) : (a) There are reports that certain accredited advertising agencies of Doordarshan have alleged certain malpractices indulged in by M/s Time and Space Media Inter Promotions Ltd. However, Doordarshan Hyderabad, where this has reportedly happened, has not entered into any contract with M/s Time and Space Media Inter Promotions Ltd.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Irrigation Project

2746. SHRI BRAJ MOHAN RAM : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased state:

(a) the full details of the irrigation projects pertaining to Bihar cleared during Ninth Five Year Plan;

(b) the details of the proposals submitted by the Bihar Government at the time of meeting between the Chief Minister of Bihar and the Planning Commission this year; and

(c) the details of the action taken thereon and the amount earmarked by the Commission?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) One project namely, Sone Canal Modernisation Phase-I with an estimated cost of Rs. 235.93 crore has been given investment clearance by the Planning Commission in July, 1998.

(b) and (c) In the meeting between the Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission and the Chief Minister of Bihar held on 09.10.1998 to finalise the Annual Plan 1998-99 of the State, an outlay of Rs. 3768.74 crore has been approved for the Annual Plan 1998-99 of the Bihar. The scheme of financing of Annual Plan comprises Rs. 1749.39 crore of State's Own Resources and Rs. 2019.35 crore of Central Assistance. Funds earmarked under Central assistance include Rs. 383.32 crore for Basic Minimum Services, Rs. 24.25 crore for Slum Development, Rs. 48.8 crore of Tribal Sub-Plan and Rs. 60 crore for Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme. It

also includes Rs. 75 crore for restoration of infrastructure affected by flood, out of which Rs. 35 crore is for eradication of water logging problem at Mukama Tal.

[English]

Long Term Action Plan

2747. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any dispute between the Union Government and Orissa Government over funds for the Long Term Action Plan (LTAP) of Kalahandi, Bolangir and Koraput;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the programme is heading for a natural death despite revision of the estimate by the Centre from Rs. 5527.41 crore to Rs. 62.51.07 crores for not sanctioning special grant for the same;

(d) whether Centre is asking the Orissa Government to raise 50 per cent of the project cost as matching grant and back tracking on its commitment to sanction additional funds for the LTAP; and

(e) if not, the details of release of funds till October 31, 1998?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) to (c) In order to focus on high priority schemes which would deal with the basic problems of the undivided districts of Koraput, Bolangir and Kalahandi (KBK), the Government of Orissa were asked to prepare a Revised Long Term Action Plan (1998-99 to 2006-07). This Plan consists of Central Plan and Centrally Sponsored Schemes in various sectors namely, Agriculture, Horticulture, Watershed Development, Afforestation, Rural Employment, Irrigation, Health, Drinking Water and Rural Connectivity.

As some of these schemes are demand driven and some involve relaxation of norms, the actual flow of funds would depend on factors such as progress of schemes etc.

(d) Funding pattern under some of the Centrally Sponsored Schemes requires contribution from the State Government also.

(e) In order to ensure a certain level of funding to these districts various steps have been taken in the current year including doubling of the first instalment of funds under Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS) and provision of an additionality of Rs. 37 crore for KBK districts in the Annual Plan of Orissa for 1998-99. Further, from the Additional Central Assistance available for Basic Minimum Services an amount of Rs. 7 crore has been earmarked for Emergency Feeding Programme and Rs. 2 crore for Mobile Health Units in these districts.

NAFED

2748. SHRI JAYARAMA I.M. SHETTY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of Senior Official of the NAFED have cheated the Government to the tune of crores of rupees;

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

(c) whether the Government have decided to hand over the task of probing to CBI; and

(d) if so, the further action likely to be taken by the Government against the involved persons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) to (d) Complaints financial and administrative irregularities in respect of supply of pulses to Army Purchase Organisation (APO), import of sugar, export of red chillies etc. have been received against some officials of NAFED. NAFED has initiated disciplinary proceedings against six of its officials involved in the deal with the APO. Further, NAFED has also launched legal proceedings for the recovery of losses incurred in the deal against M/s. Delhi State Cooperative Marketing Federation Ltd.

The complaint relating to supply of pulses to Army Purchase Organisation has been referred to C.B.I. for further investigation. Action will be taken after the receipt of the report of C.B.I. in this regard. This Ministry also issues guidelines and directions from time to time to NAFED with a view to ensure proper functioning and management of NAFED.

North East Mirror Programme in Nagaland

2749. SHRI K.A. SANGTAM : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Nagaland has minimum coverage in the Government sponsored "North East Mirror" programme;

(b) if so, the total time allocated to the programme and the part of each North-East State therein, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government propose to project a separate programme to highlight the rich cultural heritage of the State of Nagaland;

(d) if so, the time by which this project is likely to be started; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) "North East Mirror" is a fortnightly magazine programme of 30 minutes duration. It has five segments containing (i) News Events of previous week in entire North-East (ii) the current issues of North-East (iii) development stories of North-East (iv) personalities/achievers of North-East and (v) heritage/culture of North-East.

Events/issues attracting publicity and awareness are incorporated in each episode relating to the concerned State of North-East including Nagaland. As such, it is not practicable to allocate time to each North-Eastern State separately.

(c) Prasar Bharati have intimated that there is no such proposal under consideration at present. However, a 7 episode Heritage Programme on the life and festivals of Nagas has already been telecast. Also a 83 minute film on Konyaks has been made. Besides this, 24 episodes of 30 minutes duration each on various developmental aspects of Nagaland have been commissioned in this financial year.

(d) The above projects are likely to be completed by the end of February, 1999 for future telecast.

(e) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Contradictory Economic Dates

2750. SHRI SADASHIV RAO D. MANDLIK : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned, "Arthvyavastha Sambandhi ankare adhikanshtaya virodhabhasi" appearing in the "Rashtriya Sahara" dated August 29, 1998;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to make data relating to economy more reliable?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) :

(a) Yes, Sir; The Government has seen the news-item based on a press release (original in English), dated August 26, 1998 of the Punjab, Haryana and Delhi (PHD) Chambers of Commerce and Industry, a copy of which is annexed in the attached statement-I

(b) The facts of matter may be seen in the attached statement-II.

(c) A proposal has been mooted to establish a National Statistical Authority of India, with a statutory back-up in order to ensure the availability of timely, reliable and consistent statistical data. There is also a proposal for modernising the Indian Statistical System with possible external assistance.

Statement-I

PHD CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
PHD House, Opp. Asian Games Village, New Delhi-
110016
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No. PR-128
26 August 1998

Non-availability of crucial data about inter-State trade and small scale industries on a regular basis is a major drawback in getting a true picture of various sectors of the economy.

Surveys conducted for the unorganised industrial sector by National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) and other Government agencies often do not provide reliable statistics rather their data are contrary to each other, the PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PHDCCI) points out in an analysis.

For instance, according to the current update provided by the department of small scale industries, there are 60 lakh small scale units in India, whereas economic census of the Central Statistical Organisation (CSO) estimates 140 lakhs units. However, the excise records say that there are 32 lakhs units with a turnover of more than Rs. 30 lakhs, the analysis added.

Also, in a number of areas there is a considerable time lag in the availability of data. For example, summary results of Annual Survey of Industries (organised sector) for the year 1993-94 were available only in January 1997. At the end of August 1997, the detailed results were available only for the year 1983-84, it said.

In this context, the PHDCCI has suggested that there should be a National Statistical Authority of India to regulate and integrate decentralized statistical system of the country. The authority should guide various departments about standardising definitions and harmonise codes.

With the advent of structural reforms and openness of the economy and also the rapid structural changes in industrial sector, the available data with such a time lag are of only historical importance and not for future planning, the analysis has pointed out.

The situation in agriculture is even worse. The crop calendar for the Ministry of Agriculture is 32 years old and items like poultry, various dairy products, a large part of marine products, vegetables, mushrooms and flowers are not included to in the calculation of GDP.

Further, survey for the service sector is conducted only once in five years whereas other countries do it in every quarter. The fast growing sector like information technology is not captured accurately. According to NSSO 1985-86, gross value added per worker for a trader, in a few States, is negative. This leads to a trader in these States to pay out of his own pocket to stay in business.

Besides, in many developed countries, income and expenditure surveys are conducted. Whereas in India, production is partially calculated and income is estimated for some sector. Because of these factors GDP is under-reported as most data are either inconsistent or not calculated, the Chamber analysis said.

(GIRISH CHANDRA)
CONSULTANT (PR)

Statement-II

1. Due to differences in the coverage, concepts and definitions followed by the Development Commissioner for the Small Scale Industries [DC(SSII)], the Central Statistical Organisation (CSO) and the Central Board of Excise and Customs (CBEC) in respect of small scale industries/unorganised sector of the economy, there are differences in the estimates of number of units made by these agencies.

2. It is factually correct that the CSO could publish the Summary Results of the Annual Survey of Industries (ASI) for the year 1993-94 only in January, 1997.

3. It is also a fact that until August, 1997, users had access to the detailed results of ASI for the year 1983-84 only. However, the next detailed results of the ASI for the year 1989-90 were printed in July, 1997 and distributed subsequently. The timelag in the availability of detailed industrial data has been there in the system.

4. It is true that the crop calendar maintained by the Ministry of Agriculture is 32 years old. Although it is not true that items like poultry, various dairy products, a large part of marine products, vegetables, mushrooms and flowers are not included in the calculation of Gross Domestic Product (GDP), it is possible that a part of these items' production is not included in the GDP calculations, due to their being outside the reporting system.

5. It is also correct that the service sector is a fast growing sector. Also the individual services have been surveyed only once in about 5 years (or even more). It is also a fact that most of the developed countries and a few developing countries, like Indonesia and Philippines, such surveys are done once every quarter of a year. This is also correct that the fast growing sector of Information Technology is not adequately captured.

6. It is also a fact that according to National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO), 1985-86, gross value added per worker in the trade sector, has been estimated to be negative in a few states.

7. It is factually correct that income and expenditure surveys are conducted in many developed countries, but are not conducted in India.

8. Due to all these factors, the estimation of GDP may not be accurate.

*[English]***Information Technology Industry**

2751. SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Information Technology (IT) industry is one of the fastest growing industry segments in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether in spite of the above facts the share of the Indian Software export industry in the world market is less than one percent;

(d) if so, whether inadequate infrastructure is one of the prime reasons for such a low share in the world market; and

(e) if so, the steps the Union Government propose to take to tackle this problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES & PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The growth rate of IT Industry has been about 33% during the year 1997-98.

(c) to (f) It is a nascent industry. Starting nearly from scratch, India has reached a level of \$ 2.5 billion export in the last decade. It has consistently maintained a CAGR in excess of 50%. The future strategy not only targets a wider the base but also move up the value chain. Government has evolved a Software Capability Enhancement Programme which inter alia covers strengthening of Data Communication Facility, Marketing, R&D and generating requisite number of quality software professionals in the country. The Government has also permitted private investment in Software Technology Parks (STPs) and internet.

Trade with Bangladesh

2752. SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government were considering the merits of the proposal to allow trade with Bangladesh through the Haldibari-Chilahati route by road, if so, since when;

(b) the final outcome of consideration; and

(c) by when this route is likely to be opened in the interest of export of Indian goods to Bangladesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) to (c) The Government of India and Bangladesh have agreed to operate a land route for trade with Bangladesh through Haldibair-Chilahati. At the India-Bangladesh Trade Review Talks held in Dhaka on 8-9 December, 1998, it was noted that the work to operationalise land custom stations at, inter alia, Haldibari-Chilahati was being carried out. It is not possible to fix a definite time-frame for opening the route at this stage.

Computer Hardware Technology

2753. DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have made any significant development in the computer hardware technology; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES & PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) an autonomous Society under the Department of Electronics has recently built general purpose PARAM 10000 High Performance Computer, having a peak computing power of 100 billion mathematical operations per second. Application specific systems in this area have also been developed by Bhabha Atomic Research Centre, Defence Research and Development Organisation and National Aerospace Laboratories.

[Translation]

Generation of Power from Cow Urine/Dung

2754. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a demonstration of running small domestic electrical equipments like wall clock, television, radio by cow urine and cow dung was conducted in the State Conference of 'Go Raksha Andolan Samittee' organised in Shrimuni Vidyalaya in Govind Nagar, Kanpur (U.P.);

(b) whether cow urine can be used in place of 12 volt battery and can work for 15 days; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and steps likely to be taken for popularisation of this technology?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) to (c) According to information contained in a booklet published by Bhartiya Govansh Rakshan Samvardhan Parishad, New Delhi, an experiment was conducted in Shrikrishna Prayogshala, Shrimuni Vidyalaya Parisar, Govind Nagar, Kanpur (U.P.), to demonstrate that clock, low voltage electric bulb, transistor, tape-recorder, small television can be run from electricity produced using cow urine or cow dung, filled in a new 12 volt battery. However, the Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources is promoting use of cow dung to produce biogas, which is utilised mainly for cooking and lighting applications.

[English]

Victims of Mansarovar Pilgrims

2755. SHRI SUNIL KHAN :
 SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA :
 SHRI AJOY MUKHOPADHYAY :
 SHRI BIKASH CHOWDHURY :
 DR. ASIM BALA :
 SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :
 SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA :
 SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE :
 SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH :
 SHRI ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL :
 SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK :
 SHRI VITHAL TUPE :
 SHRI MADHAV RAO PATIL :
 SHRI D.S. AHIRE :
 SHRI ABHAYSINH S. BHONSLE :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Purv chetavani ki andekhi ka natteeja hai pahad ki tabahi" published in the 'Dainik Jagaran' dated August 20, 1998 and the report published in weekly magazine India Today dated September 7, 1998;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein and the details of the loss of life, property and live-stock caused by heavy rains and landslides recently in hilly areas of the country;

(c) the financial assistance provided to the families of those killed in these landslides;

(d) whether the Geologists had fore-warned the concerned authorities about the frail and crumbly rocks on the way to Kailash Mansarovar;

(e) whether any enquiry committee has been constituted to enquire into the Malpa tragedy; and

(f) if so, the findings thereof and the measures taken by the Government to prevent such tragedies in future and action taken against the guilty officials?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha. However, the Government of Uttar Pradesh has reported that due to unprecedented heavy rains on 17/18 August, 1998, landslides occurred near Malpa village in Pithoragarh district in which 202 persons lost their life in the hilly areas of the State and about 1000 houses were damaged, besides loss of public properties worth about Rs. 200 crore.

(c) Out of Rs. 5.54 crore allotted to hill districts of the State for providing relief to the victims, Rs. 1.22 crore was distributed in Pithoragarh district towards ex-gratia payment to the bereaved families.

(d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

(e) and (f) The State Government has reportedly got conducted a Magisterial enquiry. The persons missing or the persons whose dead bodies were not traced have been treated as dead in this enquiry. According to the State Government, no official was found guilty.

Haj Subsidy

2756. SHRI ABHAYSINH S. BHONSLE : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have to cut the Haj subsidy;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) to (c) A decision on the exact amount of subsidy will be taken shortly.

Detention of Fishermen

2757. SHRI N. DENNIS : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state the details of steps taken by the Government to prevent the frequent occurrences of arrest and detention of our fishermen carrying on fishing in the sea between India and Srilanka?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : Problems faced by Indian fishermen in Sri Lankan waters have been regularly discussed between the two Governments. These matters were most recently taken up by the Prime Minister with the Sri Lankan President during his visit to Colombo in July, 1998. Both countries agree on the need to deal with these matters in a spirit of compassion and understanding. The Sri Lankan Government has released all Indian fishermen in their custody excepting those who have been detained under specific charges such as smuggling of contraband etc..

Kesho and Panchkhero Reservoirs

2758. SHRI R.L.P. VERMA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that even after five years of starting the construction work on Kesho and Panchkhero reservoir projects in Koderma district of Bihar, the construction work have not been completed so far;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the reasons for delay in completing the projects;

(c) the details of funds released and incurred thereon so far; and

(d) the time by which the projects are likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) to (c) The Kesho and Panchkhero reservoir projects of Bihar have not been

completed so far because of inadequate outlays provided by the State Government. The financial progress of these two projects so far is as under :—

(Rs. in crores)

	Kesho Reservoir	Panchkhero Reservoir Project
1. Approved cost (Year)	16.14 (1992)	9.55 (1992)
2. Latest estimated cost	19.75	31.28
3. Expenditure upto 3/97	6.63	4.43
4. Anticipated expenditure during 1997-98	0.82	NIL

(d) Completion of the projects will depend on the priority attached to them by the State Government.

India-US Talks

2759. SHRI SHANKAR PRASAD JAISWAL : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether well before the resumed Indo-US talks in Rome on November 19, 1998 between the Prime Minister's special envoy and the US Deputy Secretary of State, the latter made it clear that the SU "does not and will not concede even by implication" that India and Pakistan had established themselves as Nuclear-Weapon States under the NPT and accept safeguards on all their nuclear activities, they will continue to forfeit the full recognition and benefits that accrue to members in good standing of the NPT; and

(b) if so, the precise objective of the talks in Rome and how far they were achieved?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) US Deputy Secretary of State, Mr. Strobe Talbott addressed the Brookings Institution, Washington, on November 12, 1998 on the subject "US Diplomacy in South Asia: A Progress Report". Summing up Indo-US dialogue since June, 1998 he mentioned inter alia that "we remain committed to the common position of P-5, G-8 and South Asia Task Force notably including on the long range goal of universal adherence to the

Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty". While commenting that universal NPT adherence remains a long-term goal for the US he stated "we recognise that any progress toward a lasting solution must be based on India's and Pakistan's conceptions of their own national interests. We are under no illusions that either country will alter or constrain its defence programmes under duress or simply because we have asked it to. That is why we have developed proposals far near-term steps that are, we believe, fully consistent with the security requirements that my India and Pakistan counterparts articulated at the outset of our discussions".

(b) The discussions in Rome were part of the ongoing dialogue with the United States since June, 1998. The talks are being conducted on the basis of the comprehensive proposals that India has put forward on disarmament and non-proliferation matters comprising our unilateral moratorium on explosive nuclear tests, our willingness to discuss converting this moratorium into a de jure obligations, our offer to enter into constructive negotiations on the FMCT and reaffirming our policy of stringent control on export of sensitive technologies.

The dialogue has resulted in some progress. India has conveyed its security concerns as well as the need for India to maintain a minimum credible nuclear deterrent. US has shown a measure of understanding for India's concerns and requirements.

The talks are continuing. Both sides have agreed to meet again for next round of discussions in January, 1999.

[Translation]

Films for Clearance

2760. SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SAHU : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state the total number of films received by the Central Board of Film Certification for clearance during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI MUKHTAR

NAQVI) : The total number of feature films received by the Central Board of Film Certification for clearance during the last three years is as under :—

Year	Celluleid feature films		Video feature films	
	Indian	Imported	Indian	Imported
1995	842	223	194	191
1996	703	717	201	88
1997	721	215	198	80

LPTs/VLPTs in Himachal Pradesh

2761. SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the locations in Himachal Pradesh where Low Power Transmitters and Very Low Power Transmitters were targeted to be set up during the current-year;

(b) the names of the places where these have been set up;

(c) the time by which these would be set up in the remaining places;

(d) whether the Government are sure that target fixed would be achieved; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI) : (a) to (e) Projects for setting up 2 LPTs at Sundernagar & Sujampur and 10 VLPTs at Banjar, Udaipur, Pirbhayanu, Nichar, Chaupal, Karsog, Parwanoo, Bijli Mahadev, Kaja & Chauri Khas were targetted for completion in H.P. during the current financial year. All the above projects have since been commissioned with the exception of VLPTs at Bijli Mahadev, Kaja and Chauri Khas which are under various stages of implementation and likely to be completed during the current financial year subject to availability of adequate resources, other infrastructural facilities, requisite manpower and relative priorities.

[English]

Bakrol Irrigation Project

2762. SHRI SHANTILAL PURSHOTTAMDAS PATEL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bakrol Irrigation Project is pending with the Union Government for technical clearance;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons for delay in according technical clearance; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) to (c) The Project estimated to cost Rs. 23.86 crores envisages annual irrigation of 4500 hectares in Sabarkantha district of Gujarat Clearance of this project is linked with the compliance of observations made by the Central Water Commission regarding water availability, water utilisation and Benefit Cost (BC) ratio by the State Government.

Indo-US Talks

2763. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL :
 SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO :
 SHRI MADHAVRAO SCHINDIA :
 PROF. P.J. KURIEN :
 SHRI FRANCISCO SARDINHA :
 SHRI K.S. RAO :
 SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV :
 DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :
 SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE :
 SHRI A.F. GOLAM OSMANI :
 SHRI TATHAGATA STPATHY :

Will the MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the various issues on which Indo-US talks were held after Pokhran nuclear tests and the outcome of those talks;

(b) the next course of action proposed to be taken on these issues;

(c) whether the Government propose to hold further talks for establishing better Indo-US relation; and

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

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) and (b) We have been engaged in an ongoing dialogue with the United States, since June 1998. The talks are being conducted on the basis of the comprehensive proposals that India has put forward on disarmament and non-proliferation matters comprising our unilateral moratorium on explosive nuclear tests, our willingness to discuss converting this moratorium into a de jure obligation, our offer to enter into negotiations on the FMCT and reaffirming our policy of stringent control on export of sensitive technologies.

The dialogue has resulted in some progress. India has conveyed across its security concerns as well as the need for India to maintain a minimum credible nuclear deterrent. US has shown a measure of understanding for India's concerns and requirements.

The talks have narrowed down to four issues which are mainly centered around the proposals which we had initially put forward. These issues are the CTBT, the FMCT, Export Controls and Defence Posture.

(c) and (d) Six rounds of talks have been held so far. In addition, an expert level meeting on export control issues from both countries, was held in New Delhi on 9-10 November, 1998, as a part of this dialogue. The meeting was regarded by both sides as helpful to continuing cooperation in this area.

Both sides have agreed to meet again in New Delhi in January 1999 to carry forward this process.

Bisalpur Dam

2764. SHRI DWARKA PRASAD BAIRWA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the funds earmarked and spent so far on the Bisalpur Dam in Rajasthan;

(b) the details of compensation paid to those farmers whose land has been acquired for the construction of the dam;

(c) the number of farmers who have not been paid compensation till date;

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to provide the compensation to remaining farmers expeditiously; and

(e) the time by which the compensation is likely to be paid to all remaining farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) An expenditure of Rs. 281.85 crores has been incurred on the project upto October, 1998, of which Rs. 19.54 crores was spent during the current year i.e. 1998-99 against an outlay of Rs. 56.20 crores.

(b) to (e) Acquisition of land and properties coming under submergence of Bisalpur Dam has been planned in four stages linked with the height of dam. Entire compensation has been paid under stage-I corresponding to submergence level of 304.50 metres.

Uplinking with Private TV Channels

2765. SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether in pursuance of policy of the Govt. to permit Indian Broadcasters to uplink with private TV Channels from India, any uplinking has since been taken place; and

(b) if so, the names of private foreign TV channels to whom such uplinking has been allowed and terms thereof and also indicate the guidelines adopted for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No foreign TV channels have been permitted to uplink from India as the existing policy does not permit uplinking by private foreign TV channels. Currently it is limited to only fully Indian owned private TV channels.

Improvement of Telecom Facilities

2766. SHRI SRIRAM CHAUHAN :
SHRI JUAL ORAM :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to improve the telecommunications facilities in Uttar Pradesh and Orissa particularly in Rourkela district Sundergarh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The steps proposed by the Government to improve the telecom facilities in Uttar Pradesh and Orissa are given below:—

- (i) Digitalisation of switching and transmission network.
- (ii) Providing STD/ISD on reliable media.
- (iii) Upgradation and rehabilitation of external plant network.
- (iv) Computerisation of Directory Enquiry, fault repair, billing services etc.
- (v) Introduction of wireless in local loop technology for providing telephone connection.

In Rourkela, the following steps are being taken/proposed to be taken by the Government.

- (i) 5 K C-DOT MAX (New technology) Exchange has been ordered.

(ii) Underground cable has been laid in the township as per requirement.

(iii) Optical Fibre Connectivity to all exchanges/RLUs has been provided.

Sardar Sarover Dam

2767. SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government are aware that payment of share cost of the Sardar Sarovar dam is not being paid to the State Government of Gujarat by the participating States viz. Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the efforts being made by the Union Government in this regard; and

(d) the time by which the arrears are likely to be paid to the State Government of Gujarat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Details of share cost of the project to be paid to Gujarat by other participating States upto July, 1998 are as under :—

(Rs. in crores)

State	Amount Due	Amount Paid	Outstanding Dues (including disputed shares)	Outstanding Dues (Excluding disputed shares)
Madhya Pradesh	1079.34	583.77	495.57	278.49
Maharashtra	511.27	384.20	127.07	24.23
Rajasthan	317.64	73.95	243.69	205.40
Total	1908.25	1041.92	866.33	508.12

(c) and (d) The issue regarding payment of share costs of Sardar Sarovar Project to Government of Gujarat by other party States has been discussed in several

meetings of Narmada Control Authority and Sardar Sarovar Construction Advisory Committee and the States have been apprised of the need for immediate settlement

of outstanding dues to the Government of Gujarat. The issue was also considered by the Review Committee for Narmada Control Authority in its seventh meeting held on 13.11.1996 where the States agreed to expedite the payment. The party States also agreed to make suitable provisions for the purpose in their Annual Plan/Budget. The Union Ministry of Water Resources are continuously requesting the concerned States to expedite the payment of their share cost to Gujarat. The issue was also discussed in the meetings of Committee of Secretaries held on 8th June, 1998 and 13th October, 1998 and the States were given suitable directions to make payment of their share cost regularly and also make effort for clearing the arrears at an early date.

[Translation]

Rai-Mustard Research Centre

2768. SHRI AJIT JOGI :
DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY :
SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Madhy Pradesh had sent a proposal to the Union Government to set up a Rai-Mustard Research Centre in the State during 1989;

(b) if so, the decision taken thereon; and

(e) the time by which decision on the said proposal is likely to be taken by the Union Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) No, Sir. As per available records, no proposal to set up a Rai-Mustard Research Centre has been received from the Government of Madhya Pradesh during 1989.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) Not applicable.

[English]

LPTs/VLPTs in Orissa

2769. SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the locations where Low Power Transmitters and Very Low Power Transmitters are likely to be installed in the Kalahandi Bolangir and Koraput districts of Orissa;

(b) whether the low power transmitter stations at Khariar in Nuapada district and Jayapatna in Kalahandi district has been installed; and

(c) if so, the time by which relaying from these centres are likely to commence?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI) : (a) A statement is enclosed.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. Whereas installation work at LPT Kheriar is scheduled to be completed during 1999, its commissioning would depend upon availability of staff sanction. For installation of VLPT at Jaya-Patna, the Government of Orissa have been formally requested to make available a suitable site.

Statement

District	Location where TV transmitters are to be set up	
	LPT	VLPT
Kalahandi	Khariar	Jayapatna Lanjigarh
Bolangir	Tashara/ Saintala	
Koraput	Sioliguda	Kashipur Machhkund

Relation with Neighbouring Countries

2770. SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of India are aware that some of our neighbouring countries like Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan etc. have been encouraging terrorist activities in India and have been giving shelter and training to such persons on their own lands;

(b) if so, whether this matter has been taken with those countries at diplomatic level; and

(c) the response of these countries?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) to (c) Pakistan has been actively sponsoring State terrorism in Jammu & Kashmir and other

parts of India. For several years, terrorists recruited, trained, financed and armed in Pakistan and POK have been infiltrated into India. Pakistan has also provided sanctuary to known anti-Indian elements and those declared fugitives from the law in India. Pakistan has been provided detailed documentary evidence to establish the incontrovertible and irrefutable fact of its sponsorship of terrorism in India. We have consistently demanded of Pakistan that it should forthwith cease these activities and take practical steps on the ground to demonstrate its sincerity in this regard. Pakistan has also been asked to close down its training camps in Pakistan and Pak Occupied Kashmir (POK) and hand over terrorists and fugitives who have been given sanctuary in Pakistan. This demand was reiterated during the discussions between the Foreign Secretaries of India and Pakistan in October 1998 and between the Home Secretary and the Interior Secretary of Pakistan in November 1998. Regrettably, official Pakistan support to terrorists and organisations operating in Jammu & Kashmir and other parts of India continues. Government remains firm in its resolve to take all measures necessary to fully safeguard the country's security and territorial integrity.

There is evidence that agencies/organisations inimical to India have misused the territory of other neighbouring countries for instigating terrorist activities on India. Our concerns have been clearly conveyed to the Governments concerned and they have been sensitised on the basis of the information available with the Government of India. The Governments of these countries have affirmed that they will not allow their territory to be misused in this manner. They are extending cooperation in controlling such activities and have confirmed their resolve not to allow undesirable elements to misuse their territories for actions prejudicial to the security interests of India.

India Information Technology Mission

2771. SHRI MAGANTI BABU :
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether an action plan called India Information Technology Mission to achieve the Prime Minister's mission on making India a global giant in information technology has been prepared;

(b) if so, the details of the action plan;

(c) the total amount likely to be involved in implementing the action plan; and

(d) the time by which the action plan is likely to commence?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN) : (a) to (b) In pursuance to the Prime Minister's mission objective, the Department of Electronics prepared a domestic-India IT Vision 2010 : Action Plan covering a wide range of activities aimed at making India a global player in Information Technology. This document covers important areas of infrastructure, human resource development, R&D, Policy Support and local manufacturer. This is a long range plan and it is difficult to quantify the total amount.

The Government subsequently constituted a National Task Force on Information Technology and Software Development to inter-alia draft a National Informatics Policy. The Task Force submitted its report on removal of bottlenecks in July, 1998 with 108 recommendations which have been accepted by the Government. This initiative has given considerable fillip to the software industry.

Waiting List for Telephone Connection in Maharashtra

2772. SHRI D.S. AHIRE :
SHRI MANIKRAO HODLKA GAVIT :
SHRI PRAKASH YASHWANT AMBEDKAR :
SHRI MADHAV RAO PATIL :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons on the waiting list of telephone connections in Maharashtra as on October 31, 1998, district-wise;

(b) the number of telephone connections allotted during the last three years, district-wise;

(c) whether Government propose to take any action to clear the backlog; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA):
(a) The information is given in statement-I enclosed

(b) The information is given in the statement-II enclosed.

(c) and (d) Out of the 2.89 Lakhs of waiting list in Maharashtra as on 31st October 1998, about 1.90 lakhs is likely to clear during the current financial year.

The remaining waiting list is likely to be cleared during the next financial year.

Statement-I

Waiting List of Telephone Connections in Maharashtra State as on 31/10/98

S. No.	Telecom Districts	Revenue Districts	Waiting List
1	2	3	4
1.	Ahmednagar	Ahmednagar	19470
2.	Akola	Akola & Washim	4910
3.	Amravati	Amravati	5450
4.	Aurangabad	Aurangabad	10083
5.	Beed	Beed	4054
6.	Bhandara	Bhandara	2327
7.	Buldana	Buldana	2877
8.	Chandrapur	Chandrapur & Gadchiroli	5180
9.	Dhule	Dhule & Nandurbar	9201
10.	Jalgaon	Jalgaon	14858
11.	Jalna	Jalna	1550
12.	Kalyan	Kalyan	52586
13.	Kolhapur	Kolhapur	8322

1	2	3	4
14.	Latur	Latur	5472
15.	Nagpur	Nagpur	7953
16.	Nander	Nander	5812
17.	Nasik	Nasik	23727
18.	Osmanabad	Osmanabad	1613
19.	Parbhani	Parbhani	2354
20.	Pune	Pune	55355
21.	Raigad	Raigad	1877
22.	Ratnagiri	Ratnagiri	5459
23.	Sangli	Sangli	11894
24.	Satara	Satara	6607
25.	Sindhudurg	Sindhudurg	2652
26.	Solapur	Solapur	9450
27.	Wardha	Wardha	3304
28.	Yeotmal	Yeotmal	4308
29.	M.T.N.L. Mumbai	Mumbai, Thane & Part of Raigad	NIL

Statement-II*Telephone Connections Provided during the Last Three Years*

Maharashtra State

Sl. No.	Telecom Distt.	Revenue Distt.	ACH. DELs (1995-96)	ACH. DELs (1996-97)	ACH. DELs (1997-98)
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Ahmednagar	Ahmednagar	9200	10101	9509
2.	Akola	Akola & Washim	5319	5231	5749
3.	Amaravati	Amaravati	4655	5009	5192
4.	Aurangabad	Aurangabad	8110	10288	9473
5.	Beed	Beed	2567	2678	1872
6.	Bhandara	Bhandara	2407	2555	2844
7.	Buldhana	Buldhana	2223	1685	2331
8.	Chandrapur	Chandrapur & Gadchiroli	2268	2453	6100
9.	Dhule	Dhule & Nandurbar	2302	2500	9005
10.	Jalgaon	Jalgaon	8620	7450	10040
11.	Jalna	Jalna	1517	1504	1763
12.	Kalyan	Kalyan	12990	24014	40200
13.	Kolhapur	Kolhapur	20553	14015	12721
14.	Latur	Latur	5139	4991	2084

1	2	3	4	5	6
15.	Nagpur	Nagpur	22050	17526	16107
16.	Nanded	Nanded	3405	4416	4578
17.	Nasik	Nasik	12638	19120	19129
18.	Osmanabad	Osmanabad	1960	1501	4293
19.	Parbhani	Parbhani	3526	2037	2610
20.	Pune	Pune	33677	50113	55684
21.	Raigad	Raigad	7488	12010	13704
22.	Ratnagiri	Ratnagiri	2969	2716	6418
23.	Sangli	Sangli	8493	10584	13509
24.	Satara	Satara	4732	5203	7257
25.	Sindhudurg	Sindhudurg	1697	2407	3061
26.	Solapur	Solapur	6371	11015	5841
27.	Wardha	Wardha	1754	2719	1631
28.	Yeotmal	Yeotmal	1680	2648	2861
29.	MTNL Mumbai	Mumbai, Thane & Part of Raigad	200167	201369	213475

[Translation]

Agreement between India and America

2773. SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH :
SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI :
SHRI PANKAJ CHOUDHARY :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the India and the America have signed an agreement to enhance mutual co-operation in the area of agricultural research;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the above agreement is likely to come into force?

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

(b) An Agreement on Cooperation in the Agricultural Sciences was signed on the 27th January, 1996 between the Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India and the United States Department of Agriculture. The Agreement envisages strengthening cooperation among scientists from India and the United States of America in areas of significant mutual interest and benefit relating to agriculture. The areas of interest are collection, evaluation and exchange of germplasm; agro-forestry; identification and control of animal/plant diseases; dryland/sustainable agricultural production systems; biotechnology/microbiology; and agribusiness development.

(c) The Work Plan under the Agreement was sent to the United States Department of Agriculture on 26th August, 1996. Their response is awaited. As soon as the Work Plan is agreed upon and signed, the cooperation under the Agreement will begin.

[English]

Paddy Cultivation

2774. SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the Paddy cultivators in Kerala are not in a position to undertake their agricultural activities as they lost their quality seeds in the recent heavy rain;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to provide 9100 mt Paddy seed to Kerala free of cost through the National Seeds Corporation;

(c) whether the Government propose to allot 30,000 tonnes of potash through FACT to Kerala for paddy cultivation; and

(d) if so, the details of steps taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) Government of Kerala has informed that a total area of 1,12,513 hectares have been lost under paddy cultivation due to heavy rains during the South West Monsoon.

(b) National Seeds Corporation has marketed 11,878 quintals of paddy seeds in the State at the rate of Rs. 1,200 per quintal.

(c) and (d) Phosphate (P) and Potash (K) fertilizers have been decontrolled since August, 1992 and the Government does not control their distribution or movement. No allotments are currently being made by the Government in respect of P and K fertilizers.

Sunflower Production

2775. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the annual production of sunflowers in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether there is a wide gap between the demand and production of sunflowers in the country; and

(c) if so, the steps taken to cope with the demand of sunflowers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) The production of Sunflower in the country State-wise during 1996-97 and 1997-98 is given in the statement attached as enclosed.

(b) and (c) No estimate about the demand of sunflower is available. To increase the production and productivity of oilseeds including sunflower in the country the Central Government is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Oilseeds Production Programme (OPP). Under the scheme, financial assistance is provided for the critical inputs like production and distribution of seed, distribution of seed minikits, sprinkler sets, improved farm implements, gypsum/pyrites, micro-nutrients and rhizobium culture etc. In addition, Frontline and General demonstrations are also organised on farmers fields to disseminate the production technology.

Statement*Sunflower Production*

(In 000, tonnes)

Sl. No	State	Production	
		1996-97	1997-98
1.	Andhra Pradesh	214.4	224.0
2.	Bihar	5.0	5.0
3.	Gujarat	0.0	9.0
4.	Haryana	108.3	150.0
5.	Karnataka	368.0	323.0
6.	Madhya Pradesh	3.3	3.0
7.	Maharashtra	335.2	187.0
8.	Nagaland	3.0	—
9.	Orissa	1.0	3.0
10.	Punjab	185.0	152.0
11.	Rajasthan	0.7	1.0
12.	Tamilnadu	44.5	49.0
13.	Uttar Pradesh	45.9	46.0
14.	West Bengal	0.7	1.0
15.	others	0.0	3.0
Total		1315.0	1156.0

*[Translation]***Setting up of Air News Unit in Bihar**

2776. SHRI PRABHASH CHANDRA TIWARI : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up AIR news unit at Bhagalpur district in Bihar;

(b) if so, whether such proposal approved by Directorate of AIR, Bihar in 1992-93 and sent for approval to the Union Government is still pending;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and whether broadcast is affected due to out-dated equipment in the studio;

(d) whether there are proposals to install 3 Kilowatt FM transmitter in Bhagalpur so that "Vivid Bharati programmes" are also broadcast; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. There was no such proposal.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

*[English]***Metropolitan Cities Telephones Under MTNL**

2777. SHRI T.R. BAALU : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to handover all Metropolitan Cities Telephones to Mahanagar Telecom Nigam Ltd; and

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) Government has not taken any such decision.

(b) and (c) In view of (a) above the question does not arise.

Performance of Doordarshan Kendras in Gujarat

2778. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI :
DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA :

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have reviewed the performance of the Doordarshan Kendras operating in the country, particularly in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details of the performance as well as short-comings of the Rajkot Doordarshan Kendra during the year 1996-97 vis-a-vis the targets;

(c) whether level of performance of the regional telecast from this Kendra has been constantly declining; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI) : (a) Matters relating to the functioning of Doordarshan Kendras are entirely within the purview of Prasar Bharati and are not decided upon by the Government. However, Prasar Bharati undertakes review of Doordarshan Kendras from time to time.

(b) Prasar Bharati had not fixed any such target regarding performance of Doordarshan Kendra, Rajkot during 1996-97.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Anti-Poverty Schemes

2779. SHRI MOINUL HASSAN AHAMED : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the various anti-poverty schemes in operation at present;

(b) the amount spent under these various schemes for the year 1997-98 and proposed to be spent during the year 1998-99;

(c) whether impact of investment under these scheme is measured and monitored by the Government;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the actual impact to these programme in removing the poverty, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) :

(a) The major anti-poverty schemes being implemented in the country are; (i) Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP); (ii) Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY); (iii) Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS); and (iv) Swarana Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY). While the first three programmes are being implemented in the rural areas of the country the last one is urban poverty alleviation programme. The details of the programmes are given below:

(i) Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP); IRDP is in operation in all the blocks of the country since 1980. It aims at providing self-employment to the identified rural poor through acquisition of productive assets and inputs which generate additional income on a sustained basis to enable them to cross the poverty line. Assistance is provided in the form of part subsidy by the Government and the remaining as term credit advanced by the financial institutions. Under this scheme Central funds are allocated to States/UTs on the basis of proportion of rural poor in a State/UT to the total rural poor in the country.

(ii) Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY) : JRY is a supplementary wage-employment programme being implemented throughout the country. Its main objective is the generation of additional gainful employment for the unemployed and under-employed persons in the rural areas on public works which lead to the creation of rural economic infrastructure, community and social assets. Under this scheme Central funds are allocated to the States/UTs in proportion of rural poor in the State/UT to the total rural poor in the country. From States to the districts, the allocation of funds is made on the index of backwardness. Under this scheme, funds are allocated to village panchayats, intermediate panchayats and District level panchayats in the ratio of 70:15:15.

(iii) Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS). EAS was launched on 2nd October, 1993 in identified backward blocks. The scheme has since been universalised to cover all the rural blocks in the country with effect from 1.4.1997. The primary objective of EAS is to provide gainful employment during lean agriculture season in manual work

to all able bodied adults in rural areas who are in need and desirous of work, but cannot find it. The secondary objectives is the creation of economic infrastructure and community assets for sustained employment and development. The scheme is demand-driven with no fixed earmarking of annual funds for any district or block. Instead, initial notional allocations are made to districts at the commencement of each year and thereafter depending on the demand for supplementary employment and the actual utilisation of funds the districts can request for additional funds.

(iv) Swarana Jayanit Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY): SJSRY has become operational with effect from December 1, 1997. This programme has two sub-schemes, namely, (i) Urban Self Employment Programme and (ii) Urban Wage Employment Programme. The self

employment and wage employment component of the erstwhile Nehru Rozgar Yojana (NRY) and Prime Minister's Integrated Urban Poverty Eradication Programme (PMIUPEP) have been reorganized under this single programme. Further, the shelter upgradation components of both NRY and PMIUPEP have been merged with the National Slum Development Programme. The scheme gives a special impetus to empowering and uplifting the poor women and launches a special programme, namely, Development of Women and Children in Urban Areas under which groups of urban poor women setting up self-employment ventures are eligible for subsidy upto 50% of the project cost.

(b) The amount spent under these schemes for the year 1997-98 and proposed to be spent during the year 1998-99 are given below:

(Rs. in crores)

Name of the Scheme	Amount spent during 1997-98 (Prov.)	Amount proposed to be spent during 1998-99 (Allocation)
IRDP	1109.54	1456.17
JRY	2438.09	2597.02
EAS	2904.95	1741.13 \$
SJSRY	98.63	183.20*

\$Total release upto October, 1998, as no statewise allocations are made under EAS.

*Central Allocation

(c) and (d) To assess the impact of investment of the various anti-poverty schemes, there is process of regular review and monitoring. The Ministry of Rural Areas and Employment undertakes Concurrent Evaluation studies of poverty alleviation schemes from time to time with the help of reputed and independent research institutions. So far, five rounds of Concurrent Evaluations of IRDP and two rounds of JRY have been undertaken. The report of the first and second round of JRY and first four rounds of IRDP have already been released.

(e) The Government has adopted a three pronged strategy for reducing poverty : (i) acceleration of economic growth with a focus on sectors which are employment intensive; (ii) human and social development through basic minimum services; and (iii) targeted anti-poverty programmes. No specific study has, so far, been made

to assess the actual contribution of anti-poverty schemes in reducing poverty.

Cocoa Production

2780. SHRIMATI BHAVAN DEVRAJ BHAI CHIKHALIA :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the total production of cocoa in the country during each of the last three years till September 1998, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government have conducted any study/research for increasing the production of cocoa in the country, particularly in the State of Gujarat; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURAL (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) Statewise total production of Cocoa in the country during the last 3 years till September, 1998 is as under :—

State	1995-96 Qty. in Metric Tonnes	1996-97 Qty. in Metric Tonnes	1997-98 Qty. in Metric Tonnes (Provisional)
Kerala	5000	5750	6300
Karnataka	770	770	850
Tamil Nadu	20	20	37
Andhra Pradesh	420	420	650
Total	6210	6960	7837

(b) and (c) Central Plantation Crop Research Institute, Kasargodu of Kerala Agriculture University, Thrissur have come up with some improved high yielding varieties, successful commercially adoptable vegetative propagation methods, crop management technique particularly as intercrop in Coconut and Arecanut Garden.

The commercial cultivation of cocoa in India is a recent origin and it is now being cultivated in the State of Kerala, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh & Tamil Nadu. Cocoa is not so far introduced in Gujarat.

Telephone Connection in Karnataka

2781. SHRI BASWARAJ PATIL SEDAM : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of villages of Gulbarga, Bidar and Raichur district of Karnataka not given telephone connections even after depositing amount and fulfilling the required procedures;

(b) the reasons for not providing telephone connections to the long pending applications; and

(c) the time by which the said connections are likely to be provided?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA):

(a) The number of such villages, is given below district-wise;

Gulbarga	—	55
Raichur	—	26
Bidar	—	40

(b) and (c) These are all long distance connections and hence cannot be served from the existing exchanges with the available technology. However, there are plans to provide these telephone connections by opening additional exchanges strategically by March, 2000.

Yeltsin Visit to India

2782. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Russian President Boris Yeltsin has cancelled his scheduled visit to India in December, 1998;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Russia have urged India to sign the CTBT; and

(d) if so, the Government's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) No, Sir. While the visit to India by His Excellency President Boris Yeltsin will not take place in December 1998, the Russian authorities have informed us that it "still stands" and has not been cancelled.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Government is engaged in discussions with key interlocutors on a range of issues, including the CTBT. We are prepared to bring these discussions to a successful conclusion, so that Entry-Into-Force of the CTBT is not delayed beyond September, 1999. India expects that other countries indicated in Article XIV of the CTBT, will adhere to this Treaty without conditions.

[*Translation*]**NCDC**

2783. SHRI KALLAPPA AWADE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Co-operative Development Corporation has made any provision of funds for share contribution and working capital of spinning mills and sugar factories in the country;

(b) if so, the amount allocated for this purpose and the names of the mills which have already been provided funds so far;

(c) whether the Maharashtra Government has not given clearance for relasing this amount so far though the funds have already been allocated by NCDC; and

(d) if so, the action taken by the Union Government to ensure release of the funds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A budget provision of Rs. 1.00 lakh and Rs. 9894.00 lakh have been made during the current financial year for spinning mills and sugar factories respectively, the Statement giving the details of releases is in the attached statement I and II.

(c) Details regarding sanctions and releases in Maharashtra are also given in the attached statement-I.

(d) The State Government of Maharashtra has been advised for early release of sanctioned funds to the concerned Cooperative Sugar Mills and to claim reimbursement from the NCDC.

Statement-I

Details of Assistance Sanction & Release to Cooperative Sugar Mills during the year 1998-99

(Rs. in lakhs)

Statement referred to in parts a, b and c of the Lok Sabha USQ No. 2783 for 16.12.1998

State/Name of the Mill	Share Capital participation			Modernisation cum Expen- sion			Sugar by-prod'uce units		
	Undisbursed Sanction 1.4.98	Sanction during	Release 98-99	Undisbursed Sanction as on 1.4.98	Sanction During 98-99	Release 98-99	Undisbur sed San- ction 1.4.98	Sanction during 98-99	Release 98-99
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
TAMILNADU									
1. Madippisai Pulavar K.R. Ramaswamy Coop. Sugar Mills Ltd., Distt. Nagai Quaide-E-Millath.	—	—	—	—	—	—	131.30	—	—
2. Mallakurichi Coop. Sugar Mills Ltd., Distt. Padayatchiyar.	—	—	—	—	—	—	120.25	—	—
3. Amravathi Coop. Sugar Mills Ltd., Distt. Coimbatore.	—	—	—	—	—	—	82.39	—	—
4. The Salem Coop. Sugar Mills Ltd., Distt., Salem.	—	—	—	—	—	—	82.39	—	—
Sub-Total	—	—	—	—	—	—	416.33	—	—

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
MAHARASHTRA									
1.	Shree Satpudatapi Parisar Sahakari Karkhana Ltd., Distt. Dhule.	—	—	—	—	—	212.08	—	—
2.	Dr. V.V. Patil Saha- kari Sakhar Karkhana Ltd., Beed.	663.00	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
3.	Indira Sahakari Sakhar Karkhana Ltd., Distt. Parbhani.	510.00	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
4.	Chandrabhaga Sahakaris Karkhana Ltd., Distt. Solapur.	—	—	—	528.38	—	235.59	—	—
5.	Vaidynath Sahakari Sakhar Karkhana Ltd., Distt Beed.	422.50	—	422.50	—	—	—	—	—
6.	Barashiv-Hanuman Sahakari Sakhar Karkhana Ltd., Distt. Parbhani.	422.50	—	422.50	—	—	—	—	—
7.	Jai Ambika Sahakari Sakhar Karkhana Ltd., Distt. Nanded.	—	117.00	—	—	—	—	—	—
8.	Hutatma Jaiwantrao Sahakari Sakhar Karkhana Ltd. Distt. Nanded.	—	117.00	—	—	—	—	—	—
9.	Shivajirao Patil Nilangelar Sahakari Sakhar Karkhana Ltd., Distt. Latur.	—	90.00	—	—	—	—	—	—
10.	Shree Datta Sahakari Sakhar Karkhana Ltd., Distt. Kolhapur.	—	—	—	—	198.15	198.15	—	—
11.	Shree Datta Sahakari Sakhar Karkhana Ltd., Distt. Kolhapur.	—	—	—	670.00	—	—	—	—
12.	Shree Kondeshwar Sahakari sakhar Karkhana Ltd., Distt. Amravati.	—	90.00	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sub. Total		2018.00	414.00	845.00	528.38	868.15	433.74	212.03	—

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
PUNJAB									
1.	Nakodar Coop. Sugar Mills Ltd., Distt. Jalandhar.	—	—	—	—	—	18.28	—	—
KARNATAKA									
1.	Shree Pandavapura Sakhari Sahakare Sakkare Karkhana Ltd., Distt. Mandya.	—	—	396.04	—	396.04	—	—	—
2.	Vanivilasa Coop. Sugar Factory Ltd., Distt. Chitradurga.	—	—	15.38	—	3.97	—	—	—
3.	Ryatar Sahakari Sakhar Karkhana Ltd., Distt. Bagalket.	—	892.13	892.13	—	—	—	—	—
	Sub-Total		892.13	892.13	411.42	—	4001	—	—
KERALA									
1	The Coop. Sugar Mills Ltd., Distt. Palakkad.	—	—	—	—	24.00	—	—	—
MADHYA PRADESH									
1.	Jawahar Lal Agricultural produce & Processing Society Ltd., Distt. Khargane.	—	892.13	—	—	—	—	—	—
UTTAR PRADESH									
1.	Kisan Sahakari Chini Mills Ltd., Distt. Saharanpur.	—	—	—	1950.00	—	—	—	—
2.	Kissan Sahakari Chini Mills Ltd., Distt. Lakhimpur-Kheri.	—	—	—	1721.25	—	550.69	—	—
3.	Sarjoo Sahakari Chini Mills Ltd., Distt. Lakhimpur-Kheri.	—	—	—	1950.00	—	650.00	—	—
	Sub-Total	—	—	—	5621.25	—	1200.69	—	—
GUJARAT									
1	Shree Marali Vibhag Khand Udyog Mandli Ltd., Distt. Mavasari.	—	—	—	—	1110.00	—	—	—
Grand Total		2018.00	2198.25	1737.13	6561.05	2002.15	2034.44	646.69	—

Statement-II

*Details of Scheme-wise assistance sanctioned/released for
Cooperative Spinning programmes during 1998-99.*

(Rs. in lakhs)

	Undisbursed Sanction as on 1.4.98	Amount (1990-99)	
		Sanctioned	Released
I. Central Sector Scheme (Weaves Coop. Spng. Mills)			
1. Uttar Pradesh			
<i>Modernisation of Spng. Mills</i>			
(a) SKM Amroha, Dt. Moradabad	837.00	0.00	465.00
(b) SKM Mau Aima, Allahabad	846.00	0.00	470.00
(c) SKM Baheri, Bareilly	846.00	0.00	470.00
2. Kerala			
<i>Modernisation of Spng. Mills</i>			
(a) Malappuram CSM	0.00	253.80	0.00
(b) Cannanore CSM	0.00	225.00	0.00
II. Centrally Sponsored Scheme (Growers Coop. Spng. Mills)			
1. Punjab			
<i>Modernisation of Spng. Mills</i>			
(a) Abohar CSM, Abohar	630.35	0.00	0.00
2. Karnataka			
(b) Gadag Coop. Tex. Mills	805.00	0.00	0.00
III. Corporation Sponsored Scheme (Margin money to Mktg. Fedns.)			
1. Gujarat			
GUJCOT	500.00	0.00	500.00

*[English]***Badanalla and Kolab Irrigation Projects**

2784. SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the main dam works of Kolab and Badanalla irrigation projects of Orissa has been completed;

(b) if so, the reasons for not completing the main canals and branch canal works of the dam so far; and

(c) the total funds required and made available by the Government for the construction of check dam of Badanalla irrigation project?

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

(b) Entire work of main canal and branches of Upper Kolab and 92% of Badanalla Irrigation Project has since been completed.

(c) There is no component with the name 'Check Dam' under Badanalla Irrigation Project.

*[Translation]***Approval of Projects**

2785. SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of proposals regarding Animal Husbandry submitted by State Government of Madhya Pradesh lying pending with the Union Government since 1995 till date;

(b) the reasons for delay in taking decision on these proposals; and

(c) the time by which decision on these proposals is likely to be taken by the Union Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) to (c) Since 1995, four proposals were received from State Government of Madhya Pradesh, Department of Animal Husbandry by Government of India, Ministry of Agriculture, Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying. These proposals were

considered and examined in consultation with the State Government. All the four proposals have since been sanctioned vide orders dated 25.9.97, 3.10.98 and 21.10.98.

*[English]***Market Support Price**

2786. SHRI ARJUN SETHI Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the fact that the market support prices provided by the Union Government to the farmers does not reach the farmers especially of marginal and medium ones;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) to (c) The Government announces each season the minimum support prices (MSPs) for major agricultural commodities and organises purchase operations through public and cooperative agencies such as Food Corporation of India, Jute Corporation of India, Cotton Corporation of India, National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation and Tobacco Board, besides other agencies designated by the State Governments. The entire quantities offered for sale at MSPs by farmers including marginal, small and medium ones are purchased by the Government.

*[Translation]***Irregularities in P.C.O. Centres in M.P.**

2787. SHRI DADA BABURAO PARANJPE : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Telcome Department have raided and fund some irregularities at some P.C.O. centres in Rewa city of Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to take some action to check these irregularities; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA):

(a) Yes Sir. On getting complaints surprise checks of STD PCOs were conducted on 16.9.98.

(b) Details are in the attached statement.

(c) Yes Sir.

(d) (i) Periodical surprise checks are done to see that the PCO allottees follow the guide lines

prescribed by DOT.

(ii) Action for disconnection under the rules is taken if violation of guidelines is detected. In the instant case irregularities were rectified by the PCO owner Tel. No. 41918, 41318 and 41299. Regarding PCO No. 41293, the same has been disconnected on account of non-compliance.

Statement

Sl. No.	Name of PCO Holder	STD PCO No.	Irregularities Observed
(i)	Shri Anand Doosaj	41918	(i) FAX machine in use (ii) Calling Numbers (STD PCO identity) is not shown on receipts issued.
(ii)	Shri Shyamlal	41318	Calling No. (STD PCO identity) is not shown on the receipt.
(iii)	Md. Moizuddin Khan	41299	Calling No. (STD PCO identity) is not shown on the receipt.
(iv)	Shri Rakesh Agrawal	41293	(i) FAX machine in use. (ii) Calling number (STD PCO identity) not shown on the receipts. (iii) 180 seconds pulse fed for local calls.

[English]

Time Slots to State Governments

2788. SHRI M. RAJIAH : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to allot slots for certain time on a week to the State Governments for communication their policies and welfare programmes;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the action proposed for such social communication programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI) : (a) It has been intimated by Prasar Bharati that there is no such proposal under consideration at present.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Policies and activities, including Welfare programmes of the State Governments, are regularly highlighted in Regional News bulletins telecast by the various Kendras of Doordarshan.

Postal Facilities

2789. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated a comprehensive plan for the development, expansion and modernisation of services under the Postal Department for the current financial year and the next four years;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith estimated financial allocation for the purpose;

(c) the number of speed post centres proposed to be set up in the country during Ninth Five Year Plan; and

(d) the details of regulatory mechanism existing/ proposed for activities of private courier service providers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA):
(a) and (b) For development, expansion and modernisation of postal services, activities and programme are formulated under five year plans, which are then implemented under successive annual plans. Details of Annual Plan for the current financial year (1998-99) are given in the attached statement-I and the proposals under the Ninth Five Year Plan (1997-2002) are given in the statement-II attached.

(c) Setting up of new Speed Post Centres is an on-going process and is subject to operational feasibility and traffic/revenue potential of a particular place. As such no year-wise target is fixed. Each case is examined on merit and decision taken.

(d) Enforcement actions are taken in case of infringement of the provisions of Section 4 of the Indian Post Office Act 1898 as and when detected.

Statement-I*Annual Plan 1998-99*

Major Activities	Financial outlay (Rs. in crores)
1	2
Expansion of postal network	4.66
Upgradation of technology	23.47

1	2
Material management	0.1
Human resource development	3.2
Modernisation of mail processing	10.03
Business development & marketing	5.15
Postal life insurance	4.1
Modernisation & development of philately	0.76
Postal buildings & staff quarters	28
Streamlining of Administrative and financial management	3.5
Public Grievances	1.04
Total	84.01
surrender to Central Pool	0.99
Grand Total	85*

*The figure is tentative and subject to revision.

Statement-II*Ninth Five Year Plan 1997-98*

Major Activities	Financial outlay (Rs. in crores)
1	2
Expansion of postal network	34.27
Upgradation of technology	141.7
Human Resource Development	13.3
Modernisation of mail processing	180
Business Development & marketing	30.7
Computerisation of saving in Post Offices	5.95
Postal Life Insurance	16.71

1	2
Modernisation & Development of Philately	5.12
Postal Buildings and Staff Quarters	130
Streamlining of Administrative and Financial Management	22.25
Total	580*

*The outlay is tentative and subject to revision.

[Translation]

National Institute of Renewable Energy

2790. PROF. RITA VERMA Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a National Institute of Renewable Energy;

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

(c) whether Rs. 7.5 crores allocated for the institute were spent on purchase of land at commercial rate in clear violation of rules;

(d) if so, the facts thereof;

(e) whether the concerned State Governments are to provide land free of cost for National Level Institute;

(f) if so, whether any proposal has been received from any State in this regard; and

(g) the roles of Centre and State Government for setting up such an institute?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A Society has been registered under the Societies Registration Act and a Governing Council constituted to set-up the National Institute of Renewable Energy.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. A sum of Rs. 75.00 lakhs was paid to the Government of Punjab as the cost of land.

(e) There is no obligation on the part of State Government to provide land free of cost for National Institute set up by Central Government.

(f) No, Sir.

(g) The proposed Institute is an autonomous institution of the Central Government and, therefore, the State Government has no direct role in its establishment. However assistance of State Government would be required to provide infrastructural facilities for its location.

Free Telephone Facility

2791. SHRI C.D. GAMIT :
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK :
SHRI ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to provide free telephone facility to the retired employees of Department of Telecommunications;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the estimated expenditure to be incurred thereon;

(d) the extent of loss of revenue to be suffered by DOT as a result thereof; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to make up the likely loss of revenue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) and (b) Sir, Government have decided to grant concessional telephone facility to the retired DoT employees viz. rent free telephone and free calls concession as detailed below :

Category	Free bimonthly concession.
Group A	1000 calls
Group B	500 calls
Group C	300 calls
Group D	200 calls.

(c) Estimated Expenditure to be increased is to the tune of about Rs. 12.12 crore per annum.

(d) and (e) The financial implication per annum works out to Rs. 8085/-, Rs. 4860/-, Rs. 2976/- and Rs. 1944/- for Group A, B, C & D employees. However, this facility will go a long way in boosting morale of the employees. This will also help our employees to get mentally better prepared to face the challenge of competition with other operators. Better efficiency and productivity thus achieved will offset the expenditure incurred in implementing this scheme.

[English]

Delayed Mega Projects

2792. SHRI JANG BAHADUR SINGH PATEL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Mega projects under construction at present in the country;

(b) the number of projects out of them which are lagging behind their schedule;

(c) the details of cost escalation due to non-completion of project during the prescribed period;

(d) whether the Union Government propose to make any arrangements to expedite the projects which are lagging behind; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) As on September 1998, 40 central mega projects costing Rs. 1000 crores and above were under construction in the country.

(b) and (c) Out of 40 projects, 23 projects are lagging behind with respect to their latest approved schedule. The cost of these projects have escalated from the approved cost of Rs. 34386.8 crores to Rs. 58755.2 crores i.e. by 70.8 percent. This increase in the costs besides time overrun is also attributable to other factors like general escalation, increase in duties, foreign exchange variation, and change in scope.

(d) and (e) Mega projects are given high priority, matching funds are provided and are intensively monitored by the Government each month to arrest delays in completion.

Expansion and Upgradation of T.V. Network in Gujarat

2793. SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA :
SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL :

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received spate of representations to set up new T.V. transmitters in Gujarat State during the last three years;

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

(c) the locations where T.V. transmitters are presently functioning and where new T.V. transmitters are likely to be set up in Gujarat State; and

(d) the details of expansion, upgradation programmes of T.V. Transmitters in the next few years in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI) : (a) and (b) Request have been received from various quarters including Government of Gujarat for expansion/upgradation of TV service in Gujarat from time of time. Such requests, alongwith other factors such as suitability of location, resultant coverage, availability of financial resources, other infrastructural facilities and relative priorities, are kept in view while finalising TV projects which is a continuous process and implementation is carried out in a phased manner.

(c) A statement is enclosed showing existing TV transmitters and those under implementation.

(d) Apart from TV transmitter projects under implementation, a few Low Power & Very Low Power TV transmitters are proposed to be set up in the State during 9th Plan, sites for which are yet to be selected.

Statement*TV Transmitters in Gujarat (As on 30.11.98)*

Existing	Under Imple- mentation
1	2

High Power Transmitters

Ahmedabad	Bhuj (Permanent Set up)
Bhuj (Interim)	Vadodara
Dwarka	Surat
Rajkot	
Ahmedabad (DD II)	

Low Power Transmitters

Ahwa	Rajula
Ambaji	Khambhalia
Amod	Umargaon
Amreli	Modasa
Bantva	Lunawada
Bhabbar	Jamjodhpur
Bharuchi	Rajpipla
Bhavnagar	Vyara
Botad	
Chhota Udaipur	
Dandi	
Dediapara	
Deesa	
Devgadh-Baria	
Dhandhuka	

1	2
	Dharampur
	Dharangadhra
	Dhari
	Dhorajee
	Dohad
	Godhara
	Idar
	Jamnagar
	Jhagadia
	Junagarh
	Kevadia Colony
	Khambhat
	Kosamba
	Limbdi
	Mahuva
	Mangrol (Junagarh)
	Mangrol (Surat)
	Mehsana
	Morvi
	Navsari
	Palanpur
	Palitana
	Patan
	Porbander
	Radhanpur
	Rapar

1	2
Sanjeli	
Shamlaji	
Songarh	
Surat	
Surendranagar	
Tñarad	
Una	
vadodara	
Valsad	
Veravi	
Gandhinagar (DD II)	
<i>Very Low Power Transmitters</i>	
Kakrapar	
Netrang	
Sagwara	

[*Translation*]

Sone Canal

2794. SHRI H.P. SINGH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount spent on the maintenance of Dehari-Ara Sone Canal scheme since last decade;

(b) whether the Government propose to modernise this canal; (c) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which the modernisation work is likely to be commenced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) There is no scheme by the name "Dehari-Ara Sone Canal Scheme". Planning Commission has however, given investment clearance to Sone Canal Modernisation Project Phase-I in July, 1998.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

[*English*]

Patriotic Tone on Telephones

2795. PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA :
SHRI RAJBANSHI MAHTO :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Phones acquire patriotic tone, courtesy Sushma" appearing in the Times of India dated August 11, 1998;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein;

(c) whether any instructions have been issued to all the offices of telephone Exchanges in the country to change over the patriotic tone on telephone instead of 'Namaskar' presently in use;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Telephone Exchanges will be allowed to use patriotic tone in their regional languages; and

(f) if not, the language to be used by the Regional Telephone Exchanges?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Instructions were issued to feed "Vande Mataram" along with the dial tone with effect from 10th August, 1998 till midnight of 15th August, 1998 on occasion of Golden Jubilee celebration of India's Independence, wherever technically feasible.

(c) No, Sir. 'Vande Mataram' was used till 15th August, 1998 as mentioned above.

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

Visit to Rome

2796. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT :
SHRI D.S. AHIRE :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister's special envoy, Mr. Jaswant Singh visited Rome during the month of November, 1998;

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the dignitaries whom he met during the tour;
- (d) the nature of talks held with them; and
- (e) the outcome of the talks?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The visit to Rome was to continue discussions with the US Deputy Secretary of State, Mr. Strobe Talbott which are part of an ongoing dialogue since June 1998. The talks are being conducted on the basis of the comprehensive proposals that India has put forward on disarmament and non-proliferation matters comprising our unilateral moratorium on explosive nuclear tests, our willingness to discuss converting this moratorium into a de jure obligations, our offer to enter into constructive negotiations on the FMCT and reaffirming our policy of stringent control on export of sensitive technologies.

(e) The dialogue has resulted in some progress. India has conveyed its security concerns as well as the need for India to maintain a minimum credible nuclear deterrent. US has shown a measure of understanding for India's concerns and requirements.

The dialogue is continuing. Both sides have agreed to meet again in New Delhi in January, 1999.

Disease in Arecanuts

2791. SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Kerala has sought help from the Union Government for eradication of disease affecting Arecanuts;

(b) if so, the decision of the Government thereon; and

(c) the steps taken/being taken to prevent and cure such diseases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) Steps being taken to prevent and cure the diseases of Arecanut are as under :

- (i) Survey to assess the extent of disease for specific advice to the farmers;
- (ii) Observing recommended agro-techniques to maintain the Arecanut palms in healthy condition;
- (iii) Eradication of badly affected Arecanut gardens to prevent spread of the disease.

Telephone Adalats

2798. SHRI PRAKASH YASHWANT AMBEDKAR : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether telephone adalats organised in Delhi are working well for the settlement of problems of the consumers;

(b) whether Government propose to hold these adalats in every city and District Headquarters and increase the frequencies of holding such adalats; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) and (c) As per existing instructions, Adalats are required to be held in all Telecom Circles/Districts of all the States/UTs every three months. So far, there is no proposal to increase the frequencies of holding such adalats.

[Translation]

New National Telecommunication Policy

2799. DR. ASHOK PATEL :
DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA :
SHRI RAMPAL SINGH :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to constitute an inter-ministry committee to formulate a new National Telecommunication Policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) to (c) Government of India has already constituted a Group on Telecommunications under the Chairmanship of Dy. Chairman, Planning Commission with members from various Ministries/Departments.

[*English*]

Green Revolution

2800. SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the observation of Agricultural Scientists and experts who have cautioned against the prolonged effects of Green Revolution which has after periodic boom have shown adverse effects;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government contemplates to evolve an alternative programme and to educate the farmers on the evils of monoculture-absolute dependence on only two major crops, rice and wheat; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) A Fact Findings Committee under the Chairmanship of Dr. S.K. Sinha, National Professor was formed by ICAR who have submitted their report about Agriculture in Punjab and Haryana. The report is under consideration and suitable action will be taken after discussions in the Steering Committee meeting so that necessary corrective measures could be taken to sustain and also to increase crop production in these states.

(b) and (c) A Steering Committee have been constituted including ADG (Soils and Crops) of ICAR, Director Agriculture Punjab and Haryana and Director Research Punjab Agriculture University and Haryana Agriculture University for suggesting necessary corrective measures to the State Governments of Punjab and Haryana for increasing production and productivity of Rice and Wheat. Besides the Indian Council of Agricultural Research have reoriented and intensified research efforts on crop diversification. Farmers education through extension system as well as university training programmes are also being organised regularly so as to transfer the latest production technology to the farmers.

Sanctions in Iraq

2801. SHRI SUDHIR GIRI : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the role of the Government of India to mould the world opinion to pay heed to the sufferings of the people of Iraq due to sanctions; and

(b) the countries contacted by India to mitigate the woes of the people of Iraq?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) While urging full implementation of all relevant UN Security Council resolutions relating to Iraq, India has consistently drawn attention of the world community to the sufferings of the Iraqi people and advocated a peaceful and diplomatic resolution of the issues involved.

Cellular Companies

2802. SHRI A. GANESHAMURTHI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Cellular companies functioning in Metro cities, city-wise; and

(b) the year from which they are in operation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) There are two Cellular companies in each of the four Metro Cities of Delhi, Mumbai, Calcutta and Chennai.

(b) All the eight companies are in operation since 1995.

[*Translation*]

Setting up of Broadcasting Tribunal

2803. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a Broadcasting Tribunal to check exposure vulgarity in the programmes aired through foreign television channels and to dispose of the disputes arising from them; and

(b) if so, the time by which the said Tribunal is likely to be set-up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, Government have initiated steps to formulate new Broadcasting Law to regulate the foreign satellite channels including their programme content and bring them within the ambit of Indian laws.

Bargi Dam

2804. SHRI RAMANAND SINGH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the time schedule fixed for the completion of the proposed canal on the right bank of the Bargi dam; and

(b) the amount allocated for the purpose during the current financial year and proposed to be allocated for the Ninth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) The proposed canal on the right bank of Bargi Dam is part of Bargi Diversion Project which is targeted to be completed by March, 2014.

(b) An amount of Rs. 6.81 Crores has been allocated to Bargi Diversion Project during IX Plan of which Rs. 1.20 Crores has been kept in the State Budget for 1998-99.

[English]

Issue of Passport

2805. SHRI P. SANKARAN : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce a scheme to issue passport on premium;

(b) if so, the details of the scheme and the expected revenue therefrom;

(c) whether the Passport offices have been geared-up to meet such an eventuality on commercialisation of the issue of passport; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE):

(a) Government has not announced any decision on a scheme to issue passport on a premium. The fee payable

on application for each category of travel documents is specified in Schedule IV of the Passport Rules 1980 as amended from time to time.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Annual Growth of FPI

2806. SHRI K.P. MOHAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by the Government to maintain a 25 per cent annual growth of food processing industries in the country;

(b) whether the Government are also considering to set up an infrastructure fund for the food processing industries; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) While no specific growth target have been fixed, for the growth, development and promotion of processed food industry, the Ministry provides financial assistance in the form of soft loan or grants-in-aid for setting up of/expansion of food processing units, Research & Development, Human Resource Development, quality control and other promotional activities under its plan schemes.

Besides, the Government has been taking various policy measures including delicensing of most of the processed food industries and providing fiscal reliefs in excise and customs duties for the processed food sector.

(b) and (c) Action has been initiated to explore the possibilities for setting up of a Processed Food Sector Development Fund in collaboration with Financial Institutions. However, since only preliminary measures have been taken so far, the details have not been worked out.

Share of Technology

2807. SHRI S.S. OWAISI :
SHRI PRASAD BABURAO TANPURE :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have offered to share its experience in space technology and its application with developed or developing countries through a programme called "share";

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the countries with whom such sharing is going on at present;

(d) the area in which this sharing of experience has been agreed upon;

(e) the number of persons given training in IIRS and NRSA and space application centres during the last three years, country-wise; and

(f) the future plans chalked out by the Government under this programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUDHARA RAJE) :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e) With a view to further the co-operation with developing countries and enabling them to undertake development activities in their countries, the Government has initiated a programme known as SHARES (Sharing of Experience in Space), under which some of India's experience in Space Applications is shared with the developing countries. Under the SHARES programme, personnel from developing countries are provided training with financial support. The training programmes are conducted in Indian Institute of Remote Sensing, Dehra Dun, National Remote Sensing Agency (NRSA), Hyderabad and Space Applications Centre (SAC), Ahmedabad.

While SHARES programme is open for personnel from all developing countries, in the three years, a total of 11 candidates have been trained; three from Sudan, two from Nigeria and one each from Iran, Syria, Russia, Kazakhstan, Nepal and Myanmar.

(f) Apart from continuation of the SHARES programme, it is planned to offer Fellowship, under the SHARES programme, to some of the students in the Asia Pacific countries who are selected to undertake educational courses conducted by United Nations Centre for Space Science and Technology Education in Asia Pacific (CSSTE-AP), which has been set up in India.

[*Translation*]

Indo-China Relations

2808. SHRI MOHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Joint Working Group was constituted after the visit of Chinese Prime Minister to India in 1996 to resolve the disputes between India and China;

(b) if so, whether the meeting of the Joint Working Group was held this year; and

(c) the outcome of the meeting of Joint Working Group?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) No, Sir. The Joint Working Group on the Boundary Question (JWG) was set up following the visit of the then Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi to China in December 1988 to seek a fair, reasonable and mutually acceptable resolution of the boundary question.

(b) No, Sir. The JWG has met ten times so far, the last meeting being held in New Delhi on August 4-5, 1997.

(c) The question does not arise.

Condition of Farmers

2809. SHRI JANARDAN PRASAD MISRA :
SHRI M.R. CHAUHAN :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to set up a Commission to look into the economic condition of the farmers in order to bring improvement in their condition; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAI.) : (a) and (b) It has been decided to set up a High Powered Commission to look into the real financial condition of farmers, and to recommend ways to improve their financial condition. The terms of Reference and Constitution of the Commission are under finalization.

[*English*]

New Foreign Policy

2810. SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the year when the present foreign policy was formulated along with its basic objectives;

(b) whether the foreign policy has failed to achieve the desired objectives;

(c) if so, whether Government propose to formulate a new foreign policy; and

(d) the time by which the said policy is likely to be formulated?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) and (b) The basic principles and objectives of our foreign policy seek to preserve the country's territorial integrity, security and national identity as a plural, democratic and secular society ensuring socio-economic development of all the people with justice and equality. Since independence, our foreign policy has been based on these principles and objectives which has been marked by our independent actions and our abiding faith in non-alignment. While foreign policy by its very nature is ever changing in reaction to various changes and developments around the world that have a bearing on our policy, such formulations have always been based on these well-known principles of our foreign policy. Our basic objectives and principles of foreign policy have stood us in good stead in achieving our desired objectives.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Does not arise.

MPLADS

2811. COL. SONA RAM CHOUDHARY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether any time limit has been prescribed for the execution of work recommended by the Member of Parliament under MP Local Area Development Scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the execution of this scheme is delayed in districts;

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

(e) whether the Government propose to issue any guidelines for the speedy implementation of these schemes; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS, MINISTER STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) and (b) Under extant guidelines on MPLADS, all sanctions for works should be accorded, as far as possible, within 45 days from the date of receipt of proposals from the concerned M.P.

(c) and (d) Some cases of delay in execution of MPLADS works have been reported. In such cases, the matter is taken up with the concerned District Collectors/ the State Governments.

(e) and (f) The State Governments have been requested to issue general instructions with regard to the periodic meetings to be held by the District level officers with the MPs and to evolve an effective mechanism for monitoring of implementation of the scheme at the State level.

Telephone Exchanges

2812. SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN :
SHRI VAIKO :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of telephone exchanges functioning with STD/ISD facilities in Thiruvallur and Sriperumbudur district;

(b) whether Government propose to set up some new telephone exchanges with such facilities in the said districts during 1998-99;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) While Thiruvallur is a District, Sriperumbudur is a Taluk falling in Kancheepuram District.

The number of telephone exchanges functioning with STD/ISD facilities in Thiruvallur district and in

Kancheepuram district are as under:—

Kanoheepuram Tiruvallur

No. of exchanges with STD/ISD facility	42	43
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(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Kadapakkam exchange in Thiruvallur District has already been opened on 29th April, 1998 along with STD facility.

The STD facility in Amaipakkam and Chunampat exchanges in Kancheepuram District is likely to be provided by 31st March, 1999.

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

[*Translation*]

Appointment of Field Staff

2813. SHRI RAMPAL SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the communication network has been expanded during the last few years;

(b) if so, the number of General Managers, Divisional Managers/Engineers, (Telephones) newly appointed after this expansion during said years;

(c) whether the field staff for maintenance of the telephone lines have also been increased in the same proposition; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA):

(a) The number of telephones connections in the country increased from 9.8 million to 17.8 million and the switching capacity from 12 million lines to 21.3 million during the three years from 1995-96 to 1997-98.

(b) to (d) Posts created in General Manager, Director and Divisional Engineers during last three years is given below :

Year	G.M.	Director/JAG	D.E./STS
1995-96	16	79	305
1996-97	33	50	95
1997-98	40	76	513

There has been tremendous change in technology and the field staff for maintenance is in accordance with the requirement of new technology equipments.

Extinction of Cow Species

2814. SHRI ADITYANATH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether some species of cows of Indian breeds are facing extinction has already become extinct due to their continuous killing in the country;

(b) if so, the details of effective measures being taken to stop it; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) No, Sir. It is known that Vechur breed in Kerala and Punganur in Andhra Pradesh are threatened with extinction because of decline in their popularity among the farmers in the native breeding tracts and due to changes in the farming systems.

(b) and (c) ICAR has established nucleus herds of these breeds under schemes implemented by them and has also plans to cryopreserve semen and embryos of threatened cattle breeds through National Bureau of Animal Genetic Resources (NBAGR).

19 states and 6 union territories have enacted legislation for banning/restricting the slaughter of cow and its progeny in the light of the provisions of the constitution. The 7 states/U.Ts. which have not banned the slaughter of cows for specific reasons relevant to them do not have the breeding tract of any of the indigenous cattle breeds.

Under centrally sponsored schemes, assistance is provided to the State Governments towards setting up/strengthening of farms of indigenous breeds.

MPLADS

2815. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a huge amount accumulated as interest on the Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme Fund is lying unutilised in various nationalised banks in the country due to lack of clear directors from the Central Government; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) and (b) Interest has accrued on the amounts released by the Government of India under the Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme due to slow pace of implementation. All the District Collectors have been advised not to utilise the interest amount accrued on MPLADS funds till a decision is taken by the Government about the manner in which the interest should be utilised.

[English]

Upper Krishna Project

2816. SHRI H.G. RAMULU : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Karnataka has sought environmental clearance for a stretch of four kms. of the Nayanapur Right Bank Canal of the Upper Krishna Project which pass through the forest area in Lingsugur taluk of Raichur District.

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the time by which the clearance is likely to be given?

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

(b) and (c) Environmental clearance for construction of Nayanapur Right Bank Canal is linked with clearance of Upper Krishna Project Stage-II.

Privatisation of Postal Services

2817. DR. SUGUNA KUMARI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether postal services are to be privatised partially in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, *statewise*?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) and (b) Participation of the private sector in postal

services has been marginal and that too in the role of augmenting the efforts of the Department to provide basic postal facilities in the needy areas. Private agencies have been participating in identified area of activity like sale of stamps and stationery, transportation of mail and provision of additional public facilities at a few places, like Post shoppe.

[Translation]

Technology University

2818. SHRI MITRASEN YADAV : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the funds allocated by the Union Government to the Narendeo Dev Agriculture and Technology University, Faizabad (UP) for the research and expansion programmes during the last three years;

(b) the progress and achievements of the said programme; and

(c) the control of Government over the conduct of such schemes and the review report thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) Sir, the funds allocated by the Department of Agricultural Research and Education to Acharya Narendra Dev University of Agriculture and Technology, Narendranagar (Kumarganj) Faizabad, Uttar Pradesh are Rs. 783.05 lacs during the last three years.

(b) and (c) The details are given in statement attached.

Statement

The Progress and Achievements of the Projects/ Schemes and the Control of DARE/ICAR over these Projects/Schemes being Operated at Achraya Narendra Dev Univeristy of Agriculture and Technology, Faizabad, Uttar Pradesh

The brief achievements are:

- * The technology for component crops developed for efficient resource use and higher yields.
- * Optimum varietal combinations for various crop sequences identified.
- * Tillage requirements under different cropping systems.

- * Factors limiting crop yields on farmers fields identified.
 - * Crop responses to N, P, K, Zn and S worked out.
 - * Efficient sources of fertilizers identified for different crops and soil types.
 - * Organic manures evaluated for increasing nutrient use efficiencies.
 - * INM in different cropping systems.
 - * Effect of long term chemical fertilizer use on crop yields and soil fertility studied.
 - * Options for introducing legumes-cereal cropping systems worked out.
 - * Optimum crop combinations and planting geometry for intercropping system developed.
 - * In medicinal plants-high yielding lemon grass clone NLG-84(R) was identified. Intercropping in lemon grass with pigeonpea was also developed. One opium variety Kirtiman (R) was released.
 - * Made extension survey in fenugreek and identified the HM 114, produced high grain yield followed by Um 304, Hm 119 Um 391 and NDM.3. Sowing of fenugreek during third week of October gave higher yield of 1944 kg/ha.
 - * In turmeric the accessions NDH-6 and NDG-2 produced maximum rhizome yield.
 - * In fennel out of 26 accessions H 126 performed well and yielded 15.53 q/ha.
 - * A large number of prototypes of different farm implements and equipments for both pre and post harvest operations have been developed and popularised in the state. The zero-till-drill developed for direct drilling of wheat after paddy harvesting have been taken up for large scale trials and adoption.
 - * Power tiller operated till-planting machine was developed by NDUAT for direct drilling of wheat after harvesting of paddy. It has a field capacity of 0.07 ha/h, field efficiency of 60–70% and saves 38% of expenditure over the traditional method.
 - * Organised training programmes for farmers, from women in different areas of crop and livestock production.
 - * Organised kisan goshties, field days, kisan melas and distributed farm literature.
 - * In extension activities, significant contributions have been made for raising the productivity of various crops and improved the skills of the practicing farmers, many of which have also been demonstrated from farmers to farmers.
 - * List of varieties developed and recommended for cultivation in this area are:

Pigeonpea-Narendra Arhar-1; Rice-Narendra Dhan 97, Narendra Dhan 118, Narendra user-2; wheat-NW 1014.
 - * For increasing the production of pulses and oilseeds recommendation of 20–25 kg sulphar/ha has been done. As a result, the production of oilseeds has increased from 14.7 lakhs tonnes in 1995-96 to 16.68 lakh tonnes in 1997-98. Similarly, the production of pulses has also increased from 22.5 lakh tonnes in 1995-96 to 24.15 lakh tonnes in 1997-98 in UP.
 - * High yielding varieties of food crops has resulted in increase of major food crops production during 1995-96 to 1997-98 in crops viz. rice production from 10.36 million tonnes to 12.16 million tonnes, maize production from 1.49 million tonnes to 1.65 million tonnes, wheat production from 21.81 million tonnes to 23.05 million tonnes and pearl millet production from 1.06 million tonnes to 2.26 million tonnes in U.P.
- Periodical review on management aspects of the University is being done in the Board of Management Meeting in which the representative of ICAR also contributes. Annual workshops are being held by the Project Coordinators of All India Coordinated Research Projects being operated in the University. The Quinquennial Review Team monitors the progress of the projects/schemes being operated in the University. The periodical review of expenditure and progress is also being done.

[English]

Mobile Post Offices in Karnataka

2819. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Mobile Post Offices are functioning in Karnataka;

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

(c) whether Government propose to introduce Mobile Post Offices in Karnataka; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Since Night Post Offices are functioning, no need has been felt for Mobile Post Offices.

(c) and (d) At present there is no proposal to introduce Mobile Post Offices in Karnataka in view of (b) above.

Rashtriya Pandhara Vikas Yojana

2820. SHRI DILEEP SNAGHANI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the work has been started during Eighth Five Year Plan under the "Rashtriya Pandhara Vikas Yojana" in the rainfed areas like Kutch, Rajkot, Bhavnagar, Banaskantha Districts of Gujarat;

(b) whether any target was fixed to achieve the Yojana;

(c) if so, details thereof;

(d) whether the target has been achieved; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor and the steps being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND

PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) :
(a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of House.

Agro Business Consortium

2821. SHRI DINSHAW PATIL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to set up a Small Farmers agro Business Consortium (SFAC) in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the proposed consortium is expected to be a coordination body between the Centre and the States to promote public and private investment in agro-business?

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

(b) Small Farmers' Agri-Business Consortium was registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860, on 18.1.1994. The activities so far undertaken by the Society include promotion of a State level SFAC in Kerala; establishment of an Agri-Business Information Centre at Chandigarh in collaboration with Punjab Agro Industries Corporation, and organisation of district level workshops to generate awareness about SFAC and its activities.

(c) Yes, Sir.

Internet System

2822. SHRI VAIKO : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the congestion is being faced by the users of Internet services;

(b) the number of cities in which remote access servers are being installed;

(c) the time by which the congestion is likely to be eased completely; and

(d) the steps propose to be taken by the Government in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA):
(a) Yes, Sir. Congestion is being faced in some INTERNET nodes.

(b) At 43 locations Remote Access Servers are proposed to be installed by DOT under National Internet Backbone (NIB) during 1999-2000.

(c) Congestion has been eased in Mumbai, Chennai, Bangalore and Calcutta. On implementation of NIB, the congestion is likely to be eased at all the Nodes.

(d) NIB has already been planned and the tenders for the procurement of NIB equipments have been floated.

Regional Passport Offices

, 2823. SHRI RAVI SITARAM NAIK : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the location of Regional Passport Offices as on December 1, 1998;

(b) the jurisdiction of each passport office in terms of districts/states with the total population of the areas of the jurisdiction; and

(c) the average number of passport applications received by each office during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE):

(a) to (c) A statement is enclosed.

Statement

S. No.	Location of the Passport Office	Area of Jurisdiction	Population of area of jurisdiction (Appx. in lakhs)	Average number of applications during last three years
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Ahmedabad	The state of Gujarat & Union Territory of Diu	414	1,57,084
2.	Bangalore	The state of Karnataka	450	1,33,269
3.	Bareilly	31 districts of U.P.	447	48,934
4.	Bhopal	The state of Madhya Pradesh	662	28,437
5.	Bhubaneshwar	The state of Orissa	317	10,005
6.	Calcutta	The states of West Bengal Sikkim & Tripura	716	82,092
7.	Chandigarh	11 districts of Punjab, 14 districts of Haryana, state of Himachal Pradesh & U.T. of Chandigarh	290	11,55,40
8.	Chennai	14 districts of Tamilnadu & U.T. of Pondicherry	321	16,9061

1	2	3	4	5
9.	Cochin	5 districts of Kerala & U.T. of Lakshadweep	104	1,19,084
10.	Delhi	N.C.T. of Delhi & 5 districts of Haryana	182	1,88,513
11.	Ghaziabad	4 districts of U.P.	65	16056
12.	Guwahati	The states of Assam, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagland & Manipur	359	10,849
13.	Hyderabad	18 districts of Andhra Pradesh	507	2,28,916
14.	Jaipur	The state of Rajasthan	441	66,927
15.	Jalandhar	6 districts of Pubjab	93	1,09,460
16.	Jammu	6 districts of Jammu & Kashmir	35	15,414
17.	Kozhikode	6 districts of Kerala	115	1,78,958
18.	Lucknow	36 districts of U.P.	882	1,19,734
19.	Mumbai	6 districts of Maharashtra and the U.T. of Daman and Dadra & Nagar Haveli	218	3,16,775
20.	Nagpur	14 districts of Maharashtra	261	14,118
21.	Panaji	The state of Goa	13	26,201
22.	Patna	The state of Bihar	904	56,106
23.	Pune	6 districts of Maharashtra	198	(started functioning w.e.f. 16.7.1998)
24.	Srinagar	8 districts of Jammu & Kashmir	42	8,493
25.	Thane	5 districts of Maharashtra	166	9,762
26.	Trichy	15 districts of Tamilnadu	240	2,30,301
27.	Trivandrum	3 districts of Kerala	65	11,370
28.	Vishakhapatnam	5 districts of Andhra Pradesh	155	54,048

Onion

2824. SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the major onions producing States in the country; and

(b) the quantity of onions produced during 1997-98, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) The major onions producing States are Maharashtra, Gujarat, Karnataka, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh etc.

(b) The State-wise advance estimates of production of onions during 1997-98 is Annexed.

Statement*State-wise Expected Production of Onions during 1997-98*

(Production in lakh Tonnes)

State	Production
Andhra Pradesh	1.84
Bihar	0.82
Gujarat	5.13
Haryana	0.45
Karnataka	2.80
Madhya Pradesh	2.07
Maharashtra	10.37
Orissa	3.09
Rajasthan	2.00
Tamil Nadu	2.96
Uttar Pradesh	4.49
Others	0.78
Total	36.80

Relation with Central Asian Republics

2825. SHRI E. AHAMED : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has paid special attention to the Central Asian Republics for development of closer economic and cultural relationships; and

(b) if so, the details of measures taken so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) To enhance economic co-operation with Central Asian countries, following steps have been taken; Joint Commissions for economic, commercial, technical and scientific co-operation, and Joint Business Councils have been set up; an India Business Centre is being run jointly by Ministry of Commerce and Confederation of Indian Industries (CII) in Tashkent; State Bank of India has opened a Representative Office in Tashkent and Punjab National Bank in Almaty; Lines of credit have been extended to all these countries; trilateral agreement on transit of goods was signed with Iran and Turkmenistan in February, 1997 to develop a surface route to the Central Asian markets; and number of business delegations have visited these countries.

To deepen our already existing close cultural ties, ICCR has set up two Indian Cultural Centres (ICC) at Tashkent and Almaty. An India Chair has been established at the University of World Economy and Diplomacy at Tashkent and also an India Study Centre at Osh University at Osh in Kyrgyzstan. Days of Indian Culture were organised in Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan and assistance given to reciprocal events organised by these countries in India. Grants-in-aid are given to various cultural societies in the Central Asian States. A number of cultural troupes have also visited Central Asia. To celebrate the 500th Anniversary of Bairam Khan Turkmen in 2000, a joint Indo-Turkmen organising committee has been set up.

[Translation]

STD Facility in Maharashtra

2826. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether S.T.D. facility has been made available in all the exchanges of Maharashtra;

(b) if not, the number of exchanges yet to be provided such facilities; and

(c) the number of exchanges where S.T.D./I.S.D. facilities are to be provided in Maharashtra during 1998-99?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) In Maharashtra 1110 exchanges are yet to be provided with STD facility.

(c) 250 exchanges are planned to be provided with STD/ISD facility in Maharashtra during 98-99, subject to availability of resources.

[English]

Expansion of Infrastructure Network for Electronic Media

2827. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA MALLICK : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the scheme of the Government for the expansion of infrastructure network for electronic media in rural areas of the country particularly in Orissa; and

(b) the number of proposals pending with the Union Government and the action taken/proposed to be taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI) : (a) AIR/DDN network benefits urban areas as well as rural areas within the coverage zone. Therefore, there is no separate scheme exclusively for rural areas. Two AIR schemes one each at Soro and Rairangpur, are under implementation in the State of Orissa and will benefit both rural and urban areas. In so far as Doodarshan is concerned, 2 studio projects and 25 transmitter projects are under various stages of implementation in Orissa.

(b) The Prasar Bharati has intimated that apart from the projects mentioned above, there is no other proposal to set up AIR/TV projects in Orissa, at present.

T.V. Serials to Counter Anti India Propaganda

2828. SHRI RAMKRISHNA BABA PATIL :
SHRIMATI RANEE NARAH :

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have lifted ban on producer to produce serials to counter Anti India propaganda from across the border;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have sanctioned some of the programmes on the subject for telecast; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI) : (a) It has been intimated by Prasar Bharati that no such ban was imposed.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The details given in Statement enclosed.

Statement

List of Programmes Sanctioned for Telecast During the Last One Year to Counter Anti-India Propaganda

1. Aap Ki Awaz
2. Insani Rishtey
3. Dahshat Ka Safamama
4. Kasak
5. Pamposh
6. Ankaha Dard
7. Rishtey
8. Kashmir-Shayar Ki Nazar Se
9. Daastane Kashmir
10. Gulistan-E-Hindustan
11. Majhab Nahin Sikhata

- | | |
|--|---|
| 12. Wadiyan Pyar Ki | 41. Aabroo |
| 13. Lal Mandi Museum | 42. Chinaron Ke Saye |
| 14. Umeed | 43. Dahshat |
| 15. Khabar | 44. Adoleschene—Todays Childern In J&K |
| 16. Sahitya Akademi Award Winners in Kashmir | 45. Sarhad Se Paar |
| 17. Chainar Ki Sargoshian | 46. Vajood |
| 18. Jung Abhi Jari Hai | 47. Latest Development in J&K |
| 19. Women Here and There | 48. Roshan Uffaq |
| 20. Economic Pillars of Kashmir | 49. Dara Shikoh and Kashmir |
| 21. Aman | 50. Janta Janardar |
| 22. Haqiqat | 51. Chhai |
| 23. Aasha | 52. Ek Nai Subah |
| 24. People's Participation in Development Process in J&K | 53. Bul Bul Bagh |
| 25. Ek Kiran Roshani | 54. Phir Jaga Kashmir |
| 26. Rishiya Vera | 55. Haqueeqat |
| 27. Jahannum Se Vvapsi | 56. Ilam Noor Hai |
| 28. Kashmir Ki Kahani | 57. Dastan-E-Kashmir |
| 29. Kashmir Tarakki Ki Rah Par | 58. Dugh |
| 30. Zindagi-Zindagi | 59. Kashmeeree Hasina |
| 31. Roshani | 60. Genesis and History of Terrorism in Kashmir |
| 32. Talash | 61. Gafil |
| 33. Jazbaat | 62. Kashmir—A Trilogy |
| 34. Aaj Ka Kashmir | 63. Tourism in Kashmir |
| 35. Kashmir—A Trekkor's Paradise | 64. Kashmir—Filmo Ke Aine Mein |
| 36. Nakab Ke Piche Ka Chehar | 65. Shabrang |
| 37. Travellers Tales | 66. Kashmir—Emerging From the Shadow of Gun |
| 38. Kirnoon Ke Gaon Mein | 67. Sar Zameen |
| 39. Chinar Ke Saye Mein | 68. Waapsi |
| 40. Kashmir Ki Lok Kathayen | 69. Images of Kashmir—The Culture & Heritage |

- | | |
|---|--|
| 70. Aaina | 99. Kashmir Samachar (Pichhale Hafte) |
| 71. National Parks of J&K | 100. Wadi Ki Awaz |
| 72. Humsaya | 101. Doosra Rukh |
| 73. Ek Duniya Sarhad Ki | 102. Sehar |
| 74. Jammu & Kashmir to Ladakh | 103. Dar-O-Deewar |
| 75. Aarzo-E-Aman | 104. Nishant |
| 76. J&K in the Year 1998-99 | 105. Sarhar Ke Muhafiz |
| 77. Kashmir—Quest for Peace | 106. Jaagte Raho |
| 78. Aahuti | 107. Apne Log |
| 79. Hum Honge Kamyab | 108. Wattan Prast |
| 80. Aauar Hatyaon ke Baad Doda Mein (Doda Massacare) | 109. Lok Katha Kashmir Ki |
| 81. Kesar Bhumi—Kashmir | 110. Kausar |
| 82. Poonch | 111. Kashmir |
| 83. Parah Baral Baad | 112. Latest Developments in Jammu and Kashmir |
| 84. Tabdeeliyan | 113. Pragati Ki Ore |
| 85. J&K : New Industrial Policy | 114. Ruins of Martand |
| 86. Kashmir Aajkal | 115. Changing Face of Kashmir |
| 87. Spots on J&K | 116. Internal Security Problems Face by the Country Over Few Years |
| 88. Latest Kashmir Schenario | 117. This is Jammu |
| 89. Muhafiz | 118. Virasat |
| 90. Sisak Uthi Minjar Bhi | 119. Sahara |
| 91. Promotional Soots on J&K | 120. Peace Returning to Paradise |
| 92. Women Contribution in Political, Social and Economic Upliftment | 121. Kashmir-Myths and Realities |
| 93. The Silent Tears | 122. Asi Boor Vizi Vizi Lool Hayats |
| 94. Aaj Ka Kashmir : Phir Subah to Aayegi | 123. Kashmir Idaria |
| 95. The Package | 124. Imroz |
| 96. Thikana | 125. Mooj Kasheer |
| 97. Kashmiri Poems Through Classical Dances | 126. Mrig Trishna |
| 98. Wadi-E-Kashmir | 127. Heroe of J&K |
| | 128. Kashmir in Kashmiri Literature. |

Tipaimukh Dam

2829. SHRI TH. CHAOBA SINGH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to construct Tipaimukh Dam at the border of Manipur and Mizoram to generate power and to control the floods in Assam;

(b) if so, the time by which the work on the project is likely to commence;

(c) the estimated cost and the funds allocated for the project during the current financial year; and

(d) the time by which the dam is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) Brahmaputra Board has completed investigations and have prepared a Detailed Project Report for Tipaimukh multipurpose project on Barak river at Manipur-Mizoram border.

(b) to (d) Techno-economical clearance subject to certain conditions has been granted to the Tipaimukh Multipurpose Project, during August 1995 costing Rs. 2,899 crore at 1995 price level. Further progress could not be made in absence of agreement amongst the concerned States of Manipur, Mizoram and Assam.

[*Translation*]

FM Services in the Country

2830. SHRI HIRA LAL ROY :
SHRI RAJU SINGH :

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce FM service at some new places in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof, statewise with reference to Bihar; and

(c) the time by which the FM service are likely to be introduced in Chapra district of Bihar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There is no proposal to introduce FM services at some new places in the state of Bihar, at present.

(c) The power of existing 3 KW FM Transmitter at Patna is being upgraded to 2 × 3 KW FM Transmitter. The Scheme is targetted for completion by 1999-2000. This will provide FM coverage to part of Chapra district.

Fax Machines in U.P.

2831. SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Fax machines in operation in Gonda district of Uttar Pradesh during the last three years;

(b) whether licences have been issued for the operation of these machines;

(c) whether the Post Offices in Manakapur area in Gonda district has not been provided with any fax machines;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the time by which this facility is likely to be provided in the area?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA):

(a) The No. of FAX machine in operation in Gonda District of UP during the last three years are as follows:

1996-97	05
1997-98	31
1998-99	41 (As on 30.11.1998)

(b) Yes, Sir Wherever applicable.

(c) Yes, Sir. No FAX has been provided in Post Offices in Gonda Distt.

(d) As a Policy of the dept. Bureau fax services are provided only in independent telegraph Offices and Telecom Centres.

(e) Bureaufax facility will be provided as and when the Telegraph facility is upgraded to the status of independent Telegraph Offices based on norms.

*[English]***Agriculture Land**

2832. SHRI VENKATARAMI ANANTHA REDDY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a vast area of agricultural land is yet to be developed in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details of the financial assistance provided by the Union Government for the development of agriculture land during 1996-97; and

(c) the total area of land for which assistance has been sanctioned for development by the Union Government during the year 1997-98?

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

(b) The Ministry of Agriculture is implementing two Centrally Sponsored Schemes namely Soil Conservation in the catchments of River Valley Projects and National Watershed Development Project in Ranifed Areas in the State of Andhra Pradesh. These schemes aim at development of land on watershed basis for increasing agricultural productivity. During 1996-97 a sum of Rs. 10.93 crore was released to the State for the above purpose.

(c) During 1997-98 an amount of Rs. 15.16 crore has been released under the above schemes for the development of 0.42 lakh hectare of land in the State.

Rotational Transfers in DOT

2833. SHRI SOMJIBHAI DAMOR : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have laid down any guidelines for the rotational transfers in Telecommunications Department;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any provision not to transfer the retiring officials/officers unless they request for transfer/

(d) whether the Government also consider the transfer request of the retiring officials/officers at the station of their choice;

(e) if so, the details of the guidelines issued in this regard; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The rotational transfer policy were issued in the composite Indian P&T Department in the year 1981. Vide letter No. 69/4/79-SPB-I Dated 12.11.1981, and implemented accordingly. However, in view of economy reasons, rotational transfers involving significant proportion of the Staff in various cadres are not being effected at present as per instructions issued vide letter No. 249-23/89-STN dated 26.10.89.

(c) Yes, Sir. However, the public interest is kept in view.

(d) Yes, Sir. Subject to administrative feasibility.

(e) The request are considered favourably subject to administrative feasibility.

(f) Not applicable.

Releases of Postage Stamps

2834. SHRI K. KRISHNAMOORTHY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to release a commemorate stamp on the centenary celebration of the South African Associate of Mahatama Gandhi, Thillaiadi Valliamonai and Kalla Krishnmorthy a famous novelist of Tamil Nadu; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) No proposal for release of commemorative stamp on Thillaiadi Valliamonai has been received by the Department. The proposal for release of a stamp of Kalki Krishnamurthy is being placed before the Philatelic Advisory Committee in its next meeting.

Seeds Varieties

2835. SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of steps taken or propose to take by the Government to meet the demand and supply gap of hybrid, high yield varieties, certified/quality seeds of cereals, pulses, edible oils, vegetables and fruits;

(b) the details of Central Government agencies producing and importing seed including Central Agriculture Universities, Research and sponsored institutes who are marketing/distributing high yielding varieties of various seeds;

(c) the norms laid down by the State Farms Corporation of India for distribution/marketing of high yield varieties of certified/quality seed; and

(d) the norms laid down by the Government for import of high yielding varieties of seeds, referred above, under Open General Licence and names of the countries from where such import are allowed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) Production of certified/quality seeds is done both in the public and private sectors. In the public sector, production and distribution of seeds to the farmers including hybrid, high yielding varieties, certified/quality seeds of cereals, pulses, edible oils, vegetables and fruits is under taken by the State Government through its own organisations like Agriculture farms of Department of Agriculture, State Seeds Corporations, Cooperative Institutions, etc. At the national level, the National Seeds Corporation and State Farms Corporation of India are involved in production and distribution of seeds to supplement the efforts of the State in meeting the demand for seeds. To meet the shortfall in requirements of States for seeds, the Central Government organises Zonal Seeds Review Meetings to review the seed requirement/availability position with State Governments prior to each sowing season i.e. Kharif and Rabi. Efforts are made to meet the demands of States with short supply through States/seed producing agencies of surplus areas.

(b) The agencies which have been allowed to import seeds include :

(i) Department of Agriculture/Horticulture of the State Governments, State Agriculture Universities and ICAR.

(ii) Seed Producing companies/firms, after registration with the National Seeds Corporation.

(iii) National Seeds Corporation.

(iv) State Seeds Corporations.

(v) Growers of vegetables and flowers registered with the Director of Agriculture/Horticulture of the State Government.

(c) SFCl supplies seeds mainly through State Seeds Corporations, State Department of Agriculture and to certain extent through dealers appointed by SFCl. Orders are being received from the various State Seeds Corporations and Department of Agriculture and supply is made to the respective organisations depending upon the availability of the varieties and quantity. The sale is made either at ex-farm or F.O.R. destination. SFCl also undertakes sale through retail counters for which a separate sale rate is fixed in addition to dealer sale rate which is adopted for dealers and the State Departments. Giving priority to meet the demand of the State Department of Agriculture and State Seeds Corporations, the dealers are also supplied with the seeds for further distribution through them to the farmers.

(d) Import of vegetable seeds only is allowed from countries where available under Open General Licence subject to the provisions of the Plants, Fruits and Seeds Order, 1989.

Waiting List for Telephone Connections

2836. SHRI U.V. KRISHNAM RAJU : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of applications pending for new telephone connections at present in Andhra Pradesh particularly in Kakinada telephone exchange, district-wise; and

(b) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to clear the waiting list?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA):

(a) The number of applications pending for new telephone connections in Andhra Pradesh, as on 30.11.98, was 201127. District-wise details are given in the statement. The waiting list for Kakinada exchange was 968 on 30.11.98.

(b) It is proposed to augment the capacity of existing telephone exchanges in addition to opening of new exchanges and out of the waiting list of 201127 as on 30.11.98, 1.05 lakh is likely to be cleared during the current financial year. The remaining waiting list is likely to be cleared progressively during the next financial year.

Statement

Statement to be Laid on the Table of Lok Sabha Vide Part(A) of Unstarred Question No. 2836 for 16.12.1998

Annexure

Revenue District Wise WRsL as on 30.11.1998

Sl. No.	Name of the District	WL as on 30.11.98
1	2	3
1.	Adilabad	3075
2.	Ananthapur	5737
3.	Chittoor	12657
4.	Guddapah	5185
5.	East Godavari*	16982
	*Excluding Yanam(UT)	
6.	Guntur	18878
7.	Hyderabad	21835
8.	Karimnagar	13606
9.	Khammam	7956
10.	Krishna	13917
11.	Kurnool	2433
12.	Mahaboobnagar	3187
13.	Medak	3737
14.	Nalgonda	8237
15.	Nellore	7839
16.	Nizamabad	3785

1	2	3
17.	Prakasham	7341
18.	Rangareddy	6386
19.	Srikakulam	2292
20.	Visakhapatnam	10104
21.	Vizianagaram	1864
22.	Warangal	5589
23.	West Godawari	18178
	Total	200800
	Yanam(UT)	327
	Total A.P. Circle	201127

[Translation]

Small and Marginal Farmers

2837. DR. SUSHIL INDORA :
SHRI GORDHANBHAI JAVIA :
SHRI RAJO SINGH :
DR. CHINTA MOHAN :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of small and marginal farmers are increasing continuously;

(b) if so, the average number of small and marginal farmers in the country during the First and Eighth Five Year Plan, State-wise;

(c) the criterion adopted by the Government to identify these farmers;

(d) whether the Government have formulated any special scheme to make the agriculture a profitable industry; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Agricultural Census of operational holdings in India is being conducted quinquennially since 1970-71. A statement showing the number of small and marginal holding in the country as per the First (1970-71) and the latest (1990-91) Agricultural Census is enclosed.

(c) The criterion adopted by Government of India to identify these farmers is given below :—

Size-Classes	Operated Area
(i) Marginal holdings	Below 1.0 hectare
(ii) Small holdings	1.0 hectare to less than 2.0 hectares.

(d) and (e) In order to increase the production and productivity of various crops in the country, the Government is implementing crop specific development programmes/schemes in which incentives are provided to farmers for use of quality seeds and location specific hybrid varieties, application of integrated pest management, propagation of scientific water management including micro irrigation and improved farm implements. Besides, field demonstrations on farmers holdings including training of farmers and farm labourers are organised for effective transfer of technology. Government is also providing price and market support to the farmers by announcing the Minimum Support Prices and making arrangements for the procurement through nodal agencies. The subsidised supply of fertilisers encourages its consumption for maintaining growth of agricultural output. Under these schemes, special concessions/subsidies are being given to small and marginal farmers on specific components.

Statement

Number of Small and Marginal Holdings

(in '000)

Sl. No.	States/UTs	1970-71		1990-91	
		Small	Marginal	Small	Marginal
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1065	2492	1972	5211
2.	Assam	467	1120	560	1521
3.	Bihar	1109	4874	1438	10193
4.	Gujarat	464	579	915	924
5.	Haryana	173	250	304	622
6.	Himachal Pradesh	123	355	166	532
7.	Jammu & Kashmir	154	713	197	902
8.	Karnataka	840	1081	1586	2262
9.	Kerala	268	1880	280	5016

1	2	3	4	5	6
10.	Madhya Pradesh	991	1683	1917	3136
11.	Maharashtra	878	1242	2728	3275
12.	Manipur	34	33	49	69
13.	Meghalaya	52	55	51	59
14.	Nagaland	16	9	21	13
15.	Orissa	1121	1476	1035	2118
16.	Punjab	260	518	204	296
17.	Rajasthan	691	940	1019	1517
18.	Sikkim	—	—	11	26
19.	Tamil Nadu	1109	3125	1275	5848
20.	Tripura	47	174	69	217
21.	Uttar Pradesh	2689	10453	3118	14819
22.	West Bengal	942	2528	1107	4639
23.	A & N Island	1	Ng	2	2
24.	Arunachal Pradesh	9	6	17	16
25.	Chandigarh	1	2	Ng	1
26.	D & N Haveli	3	6	4	6
27.	Delhi	6	14	8	26
28.	Goa	15	48	8	58
29.	Lakshadweep	Ng	4	Ng	6
30.	Mizoram	—	—	23	29
31.	Pondicherry	4	22	5	26
32.	Daman & Diu	—	—	Ng	3
Total :		13432	35682	20089	63388

Utilisation of Funds Under MPLADS*[English]*

2838. SHRI ANUPLAL YADAV : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the amount spent out of total amount allocated by the Union Government to Bihar State under the MPLADS during 1997-98 and 1998-99 and the amount remained utilized;

(b) whether the Government propose to take action against those found guilty for neither returning the amount to union Government nor spending it properly;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) As per the guidelines on MPLADS, the funds released by the Union Government under the Scheme are non-lapsable. The unutilised funds of one year can be utilised in the subsequent years. The yearwise details of expenditure incurred under the Scheme are, therefore, not maintained. As per the information received from the concerned Collector, as on 30.11.98, a total of Rs. 321.10 crores was released to the State of Bihar under the Scheme out of which an amount of Rs. 269.22 crores is reported to have been sanctioned while the actual expenditure is Rs. 230.23 crores.

(b) to (d) As funds released under the Scheme are non-lapsable, the unutilised funds are not be returned to the Union Government. As and when a complaint regarding improper utilisation of MPLADS funds is received, the matter is taken up with the concerned State Government for taking appropriate action.

Varieties of Rice

2839. SHRI C.P. RADHAKRISHNAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the new varieties of rice introduced by ICAR to increase yield;

(b) whether seeds have been made available to small farmers on cheaper rate; and

(c) if not, the steps taken by the Government to make easily available these seed on time with suitable rate?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) The Indian Council of Agricultural Research has developed and released about 155 varieties for cultivation in different ecosystems since 1991 (on the whole 530 varieties have been released since 1966). The improved varieties have higher yield potential, generally better resistance/tolerance to stresses or better adaptation to the agro-ecosystem. The varieties which have become popular are given in statement enclosed.

The improved varieties have played a pivotal role in revolutionising rice production and productivity and in achieving food-sufficiency.

(b) Under Centrally Sponsored Integrated Cereals Development Programmes, and incentive is provided at the rate of Rs. 200/q on certified seed of rice varieties (restricted to varieties notified in the last 10 years). Under this scheme preference is given to small and marginal farmers.

(c) Nil.

Statement*Popular rice varieties released for different ecosystems*

State	Ecosystem	Names of the varieties
1	2	3
1. Andhra Pradesh	Irrigated	Tella Hamsa, Surekha, Erramallelu, Krishna Hamsa, Triguna*
	Rainfed upland	Tulasi*, Aditya*
	Rainfed shallow	Phalguna, Swarna, Samba Mahsuri, Krishnaveni, Chaitanya,

	1	2	3
2.	Assam	Irrigated Rainfed shallow water Post-flood	Rais* Lakhmi, Bhadur, Kushal, Ranjit, Manoharsali, Mahsuri Kalinga-III
3.	Bihar	Irrigated Rainfed upland Rainfed shallow water Rainfed semi-deep water Rainfed deep water	Gautam, Rajendradhan-201, Rajendradhan-202 Vandana, Heera* Mahsuri, Jayashree, Janaki Sudha, Jogen Vaidehi, Jalmagna
4.	Goa	Irrigated Rainfed upland	Suraksha*, Rasi*, Karjat-2 Goa-1 (Annada)
5.	Gujarat	Irrigated Rainfed upland	Gaur-10, Ambika, Narmada, Jaya* GR-3
6.	Haryana	Irrigated	Haryana Basmati, Taroari Basmati, Basmati, Basmati-370, Pusa Basmati-1, PR 108
7.	H.P.	Rainfed upland	VL Dhan-221, RP 2421, Himalaya-741
8.	J.&K.	Irrigated	Pusa Basmati-1*, Kasturi*, Ratna
9.	Karnataka	Irrigated Rainfed upland	Prakash, Red Annapurna, Mandya Vani IET 7564, Tulasi*
10.	Kerala	Irrigated Saline	Pavizham, Mata Triveni, Kairali, Ranjani* Vytila-2
11.	M.P.	Irrigated Rainfed upland Rainfed shallow water	Mahamaya Tulasi*, Aditya*, Jawahardhan 3-43* Phalguna, Mahsuri, Kranti
12.	Maha- rashtra	Irrigated Rainfed upland Saline	Pusa Basmati*, Karjat-2 Ratnagiri 73-1-41, Tema Panvel-1, Panvel-2, CST 7-1*
13.	Manipur	Irrigated	Punshi, Maniphoubi-1
14.	Meghalaya	Rainfed shallow water	NEH Megha Rice-1, NEH Megha Rice-2
15.	Orissa	Rainfed shallow water/irrigated Rainfed semi-deep water	Rajeswari, Urbashi, Samalei, Mahalakshmi, Sonamani Utkalprabha, Kanchan

1	2	3
16. Punjab	Irrigated	IR8*, Jaya*, PR 106, PR 108, Basmati-370, Basmati-385, Pusa-44-33*, Pusa basmati-1*, PR 111
17. Pondicherry	Irrigated Shallow water	Baratidasan, Aravindar, Savitri* Savitri*
18. Rajasthan	Irrigated	BK 79, Basmati-370
19. Tamil Nadu	Irrigated, Kuruvai, Thaladi	Late Samba
	Early	IR 64*, IR 50*
	Medium	Co 43, ADT 39, White Ponni
	Shallow water	Savitri*, Ponni, TPS 3, ADT 40
20. U.P.	Irrigated Upland Shallow water Semi-dep/deep Hilly region	Govind Narendradhan-118 Mahsuni Jal Lahri, Jalnidhi, Jalpriya, Jitendra*, Chakia-59 Pantdhan-11
21. West Bengal	Irrigated Upland Shallow water Semi-deep Deep Saline	Ratna* Rasi* Swarnadhan*, Biraj, IR 42 Jogen, Purnendu, Jalapriya Jaladhi-1, Jaladhi-2, CSR 10*

Varieties with * mark denote those released by Central Variety Release Committee.

[Translation]

Video Piracy

2840. SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA :
SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :
SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE :

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the film industry observed strike on August 18, 1998 to protest against Government's failure to curb music and video piracy;

(b) if so, the reasons indicating the nature and extent of alleged piracy and the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) the number of complaints about video piracy received and action taken against the persons involved in it; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to prevent such piracy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI) : (a) and (b) It has been ascertained from the Film Federation of India that the film industry in Mumbai observed a one day strike on 18-8-1998 to protest against rampant cable and other piracy. It has been stated that the uncontrolled growth and expansion of cable/TV network is said to have resulted in the closing down of a number of theatres. Cable rights, generally exercisable after six months of theatrical release, are illegally exercised simultaneously with the theatrical release.

The enforcement of the provisions of the Copyright Act, 1957 is the responsibility of the Police and the Home Departments of the States Governments who have special powers under Section 64 of the Act. Copyright

Enforcement Cells have been set up in most of the States/ Union Territories headed by a senior police officer, to deal with such matters.

(c) and (d) Since the State Governments are entrusted with the enforcement of the provisions of the Copyright Act, not many complaints are received by the Central Government. At the Central level, the Copyright Act, 1957, which is administered by the Ministry of Human Resource Development, has already been amended to bring it in consonance with developments in modern technology and penal provisions have been made more stringent.

Further, a Copyright Enforcement Advisory Council has been set up in the Ministry of Human Resource Development to review the progress of the enforcement of the Act.

Seminars and workshops are organised to create awareness among the enforcement personnel and the general public about copyright laws.

Permission to Foreign Companies

2841. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHOUDHARY : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the names of foreign companies permitted to telecast service in the country at present;

(b) the terms and conditions fixed for each of those companies for telecast in the country;

(c) the names of the companies to which permission have been given to telecast in Indian languages and in English;

(d) the details of such channels alongwith the number of hours of telecast made everyday; and

(e) whether the Government have fixed any amount of royalty to be paid by those companies and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI) : (a) Government has not permitted any foreign company to telecast service from within the country.

(b) to (e) Does not arise.

[English]

U.N. Resolution on Nuclear Tests

2842. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention to Government has been drawn to the recent U.N. Security Council resolution deploring New Delhi's nuclear tests;

(b) if so, whether the Council resolution had limited its concern on Nuclear Tests to an arbitrarily defined geographical sub-region, confining it to India and Pakistan, and asked them to sign the NPT and CTBT; and

(c) the Indian response to the said resolution?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Government responded to the resolution through an official statement on June 6, 1998. A statement was also made by the Prime Minister on this issue in Rajya Sabha on 8 June 1998 (enclosed).

Prime Minister's Statement in Rajya Sabha regarding U.N. Security Council Resolution on 8th June, 1998.

Sir,

Hon'ble Members are aware of the resolution adopted on 6th June, 1998 by the United Nations Security Council. I would like to take the House into confidence on our position on this matter.

We regret that the Security Council has acted in a manner in which it has and produced a Resolution which is completely unhelpful in respect of the objectives it seeks to address. The Resolution contains a number of references to nuclear non-proliferation. As I had mentioned in my earlier statement in the House, we are a responsible and committed member of the international community. The Resolution urges us not to carry out any nuclear weapons test explosions. For India, such an urging is redundant because we have already instituted a voluntary moratorium. We have also indicated our willingness to explore ways and means of converting this undertaking into a *de jure* obligation. Further, we have made clear our readiness to engage in multilateral negotiations on a Fissile Material Cut-Off Treaty in the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva. We cannot, however, be expected to commit ourselves in advance of these negotiations, to unilaterally restrain production of fissile

materials. In keeping with our commitment to non-proliferation, we maintain the strictest controls over exports of nuclear materials and technologies. Our record in this regard has been impeccable and better than that of some countries who are parties to the NPT or members of the Nuclear Suppliers' Group or even Permanent Members of the UN Security Council.

However, the call made in the Resolution that we should stop our nuclear programmes or missile programmes is unacceptable. Decisions in this regard will be taken by the Government on the basis of our own assessments and national security requirements, in a reasonable and responsible manner. This right, which we claim for ourselves is not something new; it is the right of every sovereign country, and a right that every Government in this country has strongly upheld for the last 50 years.

A glaring lacuna in the Resolution is the total absence of a recognition that the non-proliferation issue is not a regional issue but has to be dealt with a non-discriminatory global context. We find it unfortunate that the UN Security Council Resolution does not reflect on the judgement of the highest international judicial body—the International Court of Justice, which has questioned the legitimacy of nuclear weapons and called for urged negotiations for their elimination.

In the paper on the Evolution of India's Nuclear Policy laid on the Table of this House, we have reiterated our commitment to nuclear disarmament. Let me categorically state that unlike other nuclear weapon states who have sought to retain their exclusive hold over their nuclear arsenals, India has no such ambition.

Government is committed to initiatives that can open negotiations for a global convention for the elimination of all nuclear weapons. The attempt to project the recent tests by India as a threat to peace and security is totally misguided and grossly out of focus. Such a portrayal of our policy ignores the positive steps announced by Government to which I have already referred, both in the global disarmament framework and the regional context. Our tests were necessary because of the failure of a flawed non-proliferation regime, and, therefore, we categorically reject the notion that these have adversely affected either regional or global security.

Government have indicated willingness to engage in a meaningful dialogue with key interlocutors on the whole range of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation issues. Last week, Special Envoy Shri Brajesh Mishra visited Paris and London in this regard. He had meetings at the

senior most levels in the two capitals. Dialogues with other countries are also planned. These dialogues have to be seen as part of a process, a process that will lead to a better understanding of India's position.

Hon'ble Members are aware that India has always desired a peaceful, friendly, and mutually beneficial relationship with Pakistan based on confidence and respect for each other's concerns. I have already said on the floor of both Houses, and I would like to reiterate, that a secure and prosperous Pakistan is in India's interest. Our vision of our bilateral relationship is not confined to a resolution of outstanding issues, but is also directed to the future by seeking to building a stable structure of cooperation, which will benefit the people of both countries. As I wrote recently to Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, we must not remain mired in the cooperation, which will benefit the people of both countries. As I wrote recently to Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, we must not remain named in the past, prisoners of old contentions. And I say to him today, let us put the past behind us, let us think of the welfare of our children and grandchildren.

We have remained committed to a path of direct bilateral dialogue with Pakistan. This reflects the nation's conviction and confidence that it is only through direct discussions in a sustained and constructive manner that we can move ahead in our bilateral relationship. I would again like to reiterate our desire for the earliest resumption of the official talks with Pakistan. The subject for discussion including peace and security, (along with confidence building measures) Jammu & Kashmir, economic and commercial cooperation and cross-border terrorism have been identified. Our proposals for the modalities of these talks have been with Pakistan since January this year. We await their response. We have also made it clear once again that there is no place for outside involvement of any nature whatsoever in our dialogue process with Pakistan.

Hon'ble Members have expressed strong reservations against attempts to internationalise the Kashmir issue. There is simply no question of India ever agreeing to such internationalism. UN Security Council has chosen to mention Kashmir in its Resolution. This is unacceptable and does not change the reality that the state of Jammu and Kashmir is an integral part of the Indian Union. I would also like to draw the attention of the Hon'ble Members to the terms in which Kashmir finds mention in the resolution. The UN Security Council has recognised that bilateral dialogue has to be the basis of India-Pakistan relations and mutually acceptable solutions have to be found for outstanding issues including Kashmir. This is keeping with our position.

Import-Export of Agricultural Commodities

2843. SHRI RAMSHAKAL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have constituted any committee to review the present policy adopted import-export of agricultural commodities;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of reports submitted by these committees during the year 1997-98?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

Effect of Obscenity and Vulgarity in Films

2844. DR. ULHAS VASUDEO PATIL : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the films depicting vulgar and violent scenes are allowed for screening by regional film censor boards without applying the norms prescribed by the Board by Film Certification in this regard; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to ensure that the films do not contain any vulgar or violent scenes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI) (a) Films are examined and certified by the Central Board of Film Certification and its Regional Offices in accordance with the provisions of the Cinematograph Act, 1952.

(b) Government have already issued statutory guidelines to the Board under the relevant provisions of the Cinematograph Act, 1952 for certification of films. These guidelines *inter alia*, lay down that the medium of film remains responsible and sensitive to the values and standards of society without unduly curbing artistic expression and creative freedom. A copy of the guidelines is enclosed as statement.

Statement**GUIDELINES**

Extracts taken from Notification No. 805/1/90-F(C) Dated December 6, 1991 of Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, New Delhi, Published in the Extraordinary Gazette of India Part II Section 3 Sub-Section (ii)

S.O. In exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (2) of section 5B of the Cinematograph Act, 1952 (37 of 1952) and in supersession of the notification of the Government of India in the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting No. S.O. 9(E), dated the 7th January 1978, except as respects things done or omitted to be done before such supersession the Central Government hereby directs that in sanctioning films for public exhibition, the Board of Film Certification shall be guided by the following principles :—

1. The objectives of film certification will be to ensure that—

- (a) the medium of film remains responsible and sensitive to the values and standards of society;
- (b) artistic expression and creative freedom are not unduly curbed;
- (c) certification is responsive to social change;
- (d) the medium of film provides clean and healthy entertainment; and
- (e) as far as possible, the film is of aesthetic value and cinematically of a good standard.

2. In pursuance of the above objectives, the Board of Film Certification shall ensure that—

- (i) anti-social activities such as violence are not glorified or justified;
- (ii) the *modus operandi* of criminals, other visuals or words likely to incite the commission of any offence are not depicted.
- (iii) scenes—

(a) showing involvement of children in violence as victims or as perpetrators or as forced witnesses to violence, or showing children as being subjected to any form of child abuse;

(b) showing abuse or ridicule of physically and mentally handicapped persons; and

(c) showing cruelty to or abuse of, animals, are not presented needlessly;

(iv) pointless or avoidable scenes of violence, cruelty and horror, scenes of violence primarily intended to provide entertainment and such scenes as may have the effect of desensitising or dehumanising people are not shown;

(v) scenes which have the effect of justifying or glorifying drinking are not shown;

(vi) scenes tending to encourage, justify or glamorise drug

(vi-a)** addiction are not shown;

(vii) human sensibilities are not offended by vulgarity, obscenity or depravity;

(viii) such dual meaning words as obviously cater to baser instincts are not allowed;

(ix) scenes degrading or denigrating women in any manner are not presented;

(x) scenes involving sexual violence against women like attempt to rape, rape or any form of molestation, or scenes of a similar nature are avoided, and if any such incident is germane to the theme, they shall be reduced to the minimum and no details are shown;

(xi) scenes showing sexual perversions shall be avoided and if such matters are germane to the theme, they shall be reduced to the minimum and no details are shown;

(xii) visuals or words contemptuous of racial, religious or other groups are not presented;

(xiii) visuals or words which promote communal, obscurantist, anti-scientific and anti-national attitudes are not presented;

(xiv) the sovereignty and integrity of India is not called in question;

(xv) the security of the State is not jeopardised or endangered;

(xvi) friendly relations with foreign States are not strained;

(xvii) public order is not endangered;

(xviii) visuals or words involving defamation of an individual or a body of individuals or contempt of court are not presented;

EXPLANATION : Scenes that tend to create scorn, disgrace or disregard of rules or undermine the dignity of court will come under the term "contempt of court" and

(xix) National symbols and emblems are not shown except in accordance with the provisions of the emblems and Names (provention of improper Use) Act, 1950 (12 of 1950).

(vi-a)** Scenes tending to encourage, justify or glamorise consumption of tobacco or smoking are not shown. (Added on 15th September, 1997).

3. The Board of Film Certification shall also ensure that the film—

(i) is judged in its entirety from the point of its overall impact; and

(ii) is examined in the light of the period depicted in the film and the contemporary standards of the country and the people to which the film relate provided that the film does not deprive the morality of the audience.

4. Films that meet the above-mentioned criteria but are considered unsuitable for exhibition to non-adults shall be certified for exhibition to adult audiences only.

5. (1) While certifying films for unrestricted public exhibition, the Board shall ensure that the film is suitable for family viewing, that is to say, the film should be such that all the members of the family including children can view it together.

(2) If the Board, having regard to the nature, content and theme of the film, is of the opinion that it is necessary to caution the parents/guardian to consider as to whether any child below the age of twelve years may be allowed to see such a film, the film shall be certified for unrestricted public exhibition with an endorsement to that effect.

(3) If the Board, having regard to the nature, content and theme of the film, is of the opinion that the exhibition of the film should be

restricted to members of any profession or any class of persons, the film shall be certified for public exhibition restricted to the specialised audiences to be specified by the Board in this behalf.

6. The Board shall scrutinise the titles of the films carefully and ensure that they are not provocative, vulgar, offensive or violative of any of the above-mentioned guidelines.

Telephone Exchanges

2845. SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of applicants waiting for telephone connections in different telephone exchanges under secondary switching areas in Kerala particularly canannore district, district-wise;

(b) the steps taken by the Government to clear the backlog in the State;

(c) whether Government propose to open any new Secondary Switching areas telephone exchanges in the State particularly in Cannore district during the current financial year;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA):

(a) Details of waiting list for SSA-wise and district-wise are given in statement-I enclosed and Status of exchanges in Canannore district are given in statement-II.

(b) Out of the 7.2 lakh waiting list as on 31 10.1998, about 2.37 lakh is likely to be cleared during the current financial year. The remaining waiting list is proposed to be cleared progressively in subsequent years.

(c) to (e) There is no proposal to open new Secondary Switching Areas in the State including Cannanore district.

Statement-I

Number of Applicants Waiting in Kerala Circle

SSA	District	No. of Applicants Waiting As on 31.10.1998
Cannanore	Kasaragof	35567
Cennanore	Cannanore	70753
Cannanore	U/T of Mahe	2800
Calicut	Wynad	17410
Calicut	Calicut	63422
Calicut	Malappuram	75455
Palghat	Palghat	41608
Trichur	Trichur	81052
Emakulam	Emakulam	69622
Emakulam	Idukki	27236
Emakulam	U/T of Lakshadweep	523
Kottayam	Kottayam	47666
Alleppey	Alleppey	43629
Pathanamthitta	Pathanamthitta	33796
Quilon	Quilon	56127
Trivandrum	Trivandrum	54097
Total for Kerala Circle		720763

Statement-II*Status of Exchanges (As on 31.10.98) (Cannanore SSA)*

Name of Exchange	Capacity	Wkg. Connections	WL Total
1	2	3	4
Achikanam	184	154	451
Alacode	1400	1154	1004
Ambalathara	184	159	316
Anjarakandy	3000	2193	1673
Aralam	368	343	676
Attenganam	520	342	526
Balal	368	342	196
Baliapattam 1	1632	1539	2454
Baliapattam 2	4000	3237	0
Bandadka	184	169	345
Bedadka	184	159	542
Beemanady	368	366	587
Cannanore 1	6000	4368	5233
Cannanore 2	12000	11154	0
Chapparapadavu	1000	285	632
Chandanakampara	184	168	268

1	2	3	4
Cheemeni	520	437	551
Chemperi	384	374	833
Chengala	1000	965	1300
Cherukunnu	3000	2120	658
Cherupuzha	436	429	1144
Cheruvanchery	368	176	351
Cheruvathur	1400	1318	1638
Chittarikkal	752	729	640
Chittariparampa	520	393	481
Delampady	152	90	134
Edakkad	2000	1512	984
Ettikulam	184	173	140
Ichilangode	184	180	471
Irikkur	384	378	976
Iritty	1000	634	1572
Kadachira	1688	1439	1263
Kadirur	1000	537	1242

1	2	3	4
Kalanad	1000	564	1000
Kalichanadukam	184	181	278
Kanhangad	7000	5962	1806
Kaniyala	184	139	119
Karivellur	1120	551	1277
Kasaragod	7000	4600	3723
Kattathadka	420	386	767
Kelakam	416	386	831
Kiliyanthara	572	560	738
Kolassery	1000	974	1912
Kolayad	336	291	383
Kololam	368	371	1042
Lotityoor	152	122	263
Kudiyannmala	520	355	379
Kumbala	2000	892	1268

1	2	3	4
<i>Status of Exchanges (As on 31.10-1998) (Cannanore SSA)</i>			
Kunhimangalam	604	587	791
Kuthuparampa	3000	2200	2489
Kuttikole	368	367	536
Mahe	6000	3156	2800
Maipady	368	364	439
Maloth	368	314	349
Malur	368	327	592
Mambaram	1400	1252	1228
Manakkadavu	520	477	585
Mangattuparampa	816	734	1423
Manjeshwar	1000	983	1636
Mathamangalam	1000	907	877
Mathil	368	357	899
Mattannur	3000	2238	1559
Mattool	1384	1329	527
Mayyil	704	678	733

1	2	3	4
Nunderi	1000	734	809
Nykutar	520	375	723
Nykkeria	420	418	729
Naduvil	520	485	391
Nekraje	336	252	223
Nileswar	4000	2829	1423
Paivalika	1000	704	502
Palakode	184	160	234
Pallikare	1000	986	1061
Panathadi	184	169	455
Panathur	184	167	207
Panoor	3000	1799	2448
Parappa	520	410	275
Payyangadi	1448	1430	2339
Payyannur	5628	3583	3285
Payyavoor	520	466	634
Peravoor	416	390	1281

1	2	3	4
Perdala	420	419	960
Peringathur	3000	1654	1209
Peringome	368	320	489
Periya	604	428	821
Perla	384	373	570
Perumbatta	368	354	255
Perumpadavu	184	154	333
Peruvamba	352	263	365
Pilathara	1000	935	922
Pulingome	568	485	644
Puthukunnu	88	86	403
Rajagiri	152	81	153
Rajapuram	752	743	840
Ramanthali	752	706	431
Sreekandapuram	1000	935	1198

1	2	3	4
<i>Status of Exchanges (As on 31.10.1998) (Cannanore SSA)</i>			
Taliparampa	5000	4033	2828
Tellichery 1	5000	4542	5168
Tellichery 2	6000	2923	0
Therthally	336	173	421
Thilankery	368	300	359
Thirumeni	368	221	285
Thoovakkunnu	720	720	1893
Trikarpur	2400	2332	1320
Udma	3000	768	2076
Ulikkal	368	361	688
Uppala	1696	1579	1465
Urdoor	420	383	266
Valakkai	336	207	812
Valiyaparampa	184	182	325
Vaninagar	184	75	187
Vaniyappara	184	174	236
Vengad	368	310	448
Vorkady	368	343	620
Varam	1000	761	344
Yethadka	152	93	213
Total	149412	114383	109120

Submission and Demand of INS

2846. SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 5716 on July 27, 1998 and state:

(a) whether the submissions and demands of the Indian Newspaper Society (INS) have since been considered by the Government; and

(b) if so, the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI) : (a) and (b) The Government has taken following measures on the submission and demands of the Indian Newspaper Society (INS):

- (i) A Rate Structure Committee has been set up to review the existing Rate Structure and to suggest, if necessary, a new Rate Structure formula;
- (ii) Advertisements bills amounting to Rs. 9.25 crores have been paid and bills to the tune of Rs. 3.35 crores have been passed for payment; and
- (iii) Customs duty on import of newsprint has been reduced from 10% to 5% in the current year's Budget.

[Translation]

Tons Lift Irrigation Project

2847. SHRI CHANDRAMANI TRIPATHI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Uttar Pradesh has constructed Tons Lift Irrigation Scheme without concurrence of Madhya Pradesh Government due to which some villages in Rewa district of Madhya Pradesh have been submerged in water and have suffered huge loss of lives, property and crops due to construction of this project;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government have given instructions to the Government of Uttar Pradesh to remove illegal construction; and

(d) if not, the measures proposed to be taken by the Union Government to protect these villages from submission?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) to (d) Government of Madhya Pradesh has reported that the Government of Uttar Pradesh has constructed a weir across Tons river due to which a large area of Madhya Pradesh has gone under submergence. A meeting of the representatives of the two States was held in Central Water Commission on 10.8.1998 to resolve this issues. Representatives of the Uttar Pradesh have assured that all steps will be taken to avoid the submergence in Madhya Pradesh and both States agreed to constitute a 'Joint Flood Committee'.

Installation of TV and Communication Tower

2848. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had taken a decision in the past to install T.V. and communication towers collectively/jointly to facilitate the general public;

(b) if so, whether the Government are continuing the said policy; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI) : (a) and (b) Yes Sir, decision for utilisation of common towers with the Department of Telecommunications (DOT) is taken wherever possible subject to suitability for both Doordarshan and DOT.

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

Electronic Telephone Exchanges with STD Facility in U.P.

2849. SHRIMATI KAMAL RANI :
SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether electronic exchanges, having STD facility, are being set up in all the Divisional Headquarters of U.P.;

(b) if so, the number of such exchanges set up in U.P.;

(c) the number of such exchanges proposed to be set up during 1998-99, location-wise;

(d) the number of places not having said facility alongwith reasons therefor; and

(e) the time by which the said facility is likely to be provided in remaining Divisional Headquarters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA):

(a) In U.P. all the Divisional Headquarters are provided with electronic exchanges having STD facility.

(b) 256

(c) Details given in statement enclosed.

(d) and (e) Does not arise in view of para (a) above.

Statement

Location-wise details of exchanges proposed to be set up during 1998-99

Sl. No.	Name of Divisional Head Quarter	No. of exchanges proposed to be set up
1	2	3
1.	Agra	4
2.	Aligarh	1
3.	Amroha	1
4.	Allahabad	6
5.	Akbarpur	1
6.	Auraiya	1
7.	Bareilly	2
8.	Banda	1
9.	Balrampur	1
10.	Chamoli	1

1	2	3
11.	Dehradun	1
12.	Etawah	1
13.	Ghaziabad	2
14.	Gautam Budh Nagar	4
15.	Gorakhpur	3
16.	Hamirpur	1
17.	Jhansi	1
18.	Kanpur	8
19.	Karwi	1
20.	Kausambhi	1
21.	Lucknow	6
22.	Meerut	1
23.	Moradabad	3
24.	Mau	1
25.	Mahoba	1
26.	Maharajanj	1
27.	Mainpuri	1
28.	Orai	1
29.	Pilibhit	1
30.	Padrauna	1
31.	Rabertganj	1
32.	Saharanpur	1
33.	Udham Singh Nagar	1
34.	Unno	1
35.	Varanasi	2

World Bank Assistance

2850. SHRIMATI LAKSHMI PANABAKA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank has landed the State Government of Andhra Pradesh for successful implementation of drainage and irrigation programme in the State under the World Bank assistance scheme;

(b) if so, the total loan provided by the World Bank to the State Government for the purpose;

(c) the extent to which the amount has been utilised and the details of work completed so far;

(d) whether the World Bank has agreed to provide more funds to the State Government for the purpose; and

(e) if so, the details thereof;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) and (c) The details are as under:

Sl No	Name of the Project	Amount of World Bank Loan (Rs. in crores)	Amount Utilised (Rs. in crores)	Details of Works completed.
1	Andhra Pradesh Irrigation Project-III	1300	203	<p>I-Srisaillam Reservoir Branch Chanal sub Project.</p> <p>74 Km of Main canal and 2 distributories completed.</p> <p>II-Shri Ram Sagar Sub-Project.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Distributory D-83 from Km. 20.93 to Km. 35.37 2. Distributory DBM-7B to DBM-30 3. Distributory DBM-31 from Km 0 to 24 Km and 4. Distributory DBM 22
2.	Andhra Pradesh Hazard Mitigation and Emergency cyclone recovery project.	79.19	15.92	Improvement of Two medium drains and 817 Minor drains has been completed.

(d) and (e) The Agreement for World Bank Loan assistance to the tune of Rs. 568 crores, for Irrigation component under Andhra Pradesh Economic Restructuring Project, is under finalisation.

Social Communication on DD and AIR

2851. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the Union Government have received any request from the Government of Andhra Pradesh to provide more time on Doordarshan and All India Radio for increased social communication; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and reaction of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI) (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A proposal was received from the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh to provide for 15 minutes as slots of 30 seconds to 2 minutes in different programmes in Doordarshan and about half an hour in All India Radio daily to telecast/broadcast relevant social messages. Programme matters are now handled by Prasar Bharati as an autonomous Corporation, who have informed that consequent to Chief Minister, Andhra Pradesh's request, Doordarshan Kendra, Hyderabad telecasts social messages in the shape of spots and short programmes produced and offered by the Government of Andhra Pradesh both on Andhra Pradesh regional service (DD 1) and regional language satellite service (DD 8). Similarly, All India Radio broadcasts daily 1 minute spot and a 10 minute sponsored weekly programme on the subject. The above are in addition to the Chief Minister's Phone-in Programme which is telecast/broadcast every week.

Suggestions of Disinvestment Commission

2852. PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Disinvestment Commission has suggested the sale of Indian Telephone Industries to the private parties;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA):

(a) Yes, Sir. The Disinvestment Commission has recommended the sale of Govt. shares to a strategic partner.

(b) The Disinvestment Commission has recommended sale of 50% shares of ITI Ltd to a strategic partner with an agreement specifying further dilution of Govt. equity to 26% through public offer to Indian Institutions, small investors and employees.

(c) The proposal is under examination by the Core Group of Secretaries.

Installation of LPT at Madurai in Tamil Nadu

2853. DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received representation regarding installation of LPT at Madurai in Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the acreage of land acquired for the purpose and the date from which the land is lying vacant; and

(c) the steps contemplated by the Government to commission LPT at Madurai in Tamil Nadu?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[*Translation*]

ISD/STD/PCO Booths in Delhi

2854. SHRI RAJVEER SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of STD/PCO functioning in Delhi at present;

(b) the income earned therefrom during the last three years;

(c) whether the Government have received any reports of tax evasion in this regard;

(d) whether there has been any reports of overcharging by these STD/PCOs booth owners; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA):

(a) Number of STD PCOs functioning in Delhi are 9302 as on 31.10.1998.

(b) Revenue earned from these PCOs during the last three years is as under:

1995-96 : Rs. 107.58 crores.

1996-97 : Rs. 140.42 crores.

1997-98 : Rs. 164.67 crores.

(c) No Sir.

(d) and (e) Sir, a few complaints have been received regarding over charging by STD PCO franchisees. The complaints are investigated and if found to be overcharging, action as per rules is taken.

[English]

Panels of CSS Officers

2855. SHRI R.S. GAVAI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the regular panels of CSS officers for the posts of Under Secretary were withheld by the Government due to seniority dispute in Section Officers' grade.

(b) if so, whether the final judgement of the Supreme Court on the issue has been received by the Government;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the time by which the Government are likely to implement the said judgement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN) : (a) to (d) No panels of Grade I (Under Secretary) of the Central Secretariat Service could be prepared after 1986 owing to protracted litigation regarding inter-se seniority of directly recruited and promotee Section Officers. Even the panels for the years 1984 to 1986 were set aside by the Central Administrative Tribunal. By an order dated May 9, 1997,

the Hon'ble Supreme Court directed that the Common Seniority List (CSL) prepared by the Central Government on 15.5.1996 was required to be redone as per the law declared by it. Accordingly, the CSL was modified and issued on 3.12.1997.

Support Price For Milk

2856. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Andhra Pradesh Dairy Development Corporation has urged the Union Government to fix a support price for milk;

(b) if so, whether any final decision has been taken by the Union Government; and

(c) if not, the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken in the matter?

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

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Latest Technology

2857. SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY :
SHRI PRADEEP KUMAR YADAV :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to transfer the latest technology developed by the Scientists in India and abroad to the farmers so as to encourage them to adopt high yielding technology to increase production of agriculture;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government and Agriculture Universities and imparting training to the farmers and conducting field trials in the State;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the additional measures being taken for increasing the production of foodgrains in the States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) have

established 261 Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) in the country. The activities include vocational skill-based training to farmers, in service training of extension personnel to update their knowledge, on-farm testing and front-line demonstrations of various agricultural technologies. In addition, 42 Centres for Technology Assessment and Refinement through Institution Village Linkage Programme (IVLP) and 60 Centres for Technology Evaluation and Impact Assessment are also being implemented for effective transfer of newly developed technologies on location-specific basis.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. During 1997-98, a total of 11365 training programmes were organised benefitting 2.57 lakhs farmers in various areas of crop production, livestock production, fruits and vegetables cultivation, use of farm machinery and tools under both rainfed and irrigated conditions. In order to demonstrate the production potentials of important Oilseed and Pulse crops, the KVKs conducted field demonstrations on 4530 hectares.

(e) During the IXth Five Year Plan, the existing projects will continue to function. Besides, the Council proposes new projects including establishment of Agricultural Technology Information Centre (ATIC) to provide a single window technology support system for the farmers and other users, and strengthening of selected existing Zonal Agricultural Research Stations (ZARS) to take up the additional functions of KVKs.

Capacity of Patna Doordarshan Kendra

2858. SHRI RAJO SINGH : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to increase the transmission capacity of Patna Doordarshan Kendra so that the programmes of Doordarshan Channel-2 and Channel-4 could be viewed beyond the areas covered by Doordarshan at present; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI) : (a) and (b) DDK, Patna comprises of studio set, an HPT and LPT (DD-2). Whereas there is no approved scheme for augmentation of existing HPT (DD-1) which relays national programmes and Bihar regional service programmes. Schemes for the establishment of an HPT (DD-2) in replacement of existing LPT (DD-2) at Patna is under implementation. With the commissioning of HPT (DD-2) metro and programmes (DD-2) would be

available to a larger area. Bihar regional service (DD-17) is available throughout the country via satellite by using appropriate dish antenna system. There is no channel 4 functioning at Patna.

[English]

Cadre Review

2859. SHRI RUPCHAND MURMU : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to State:

(a) whether there has been no cadre review in the Regional Passport offices since its inception;

(b) whether any such demand was projected by the employees for initiating a Cadre Review in that organisation; and

(c) if so, the present status of this demand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE):

(a) Yes, Sir. There has been no Cadre review so far.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) A detailed proposal for a comprehensive review of the Central Passport Organisation cadre is currently under Government's consideration.

Foodgrain Output

2860. SHRI SURESH WARPUDKAR : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned, 'Foodgrain output to be lower in 1998-99; CMIE' appearing in the 'Hindustan Times' dated November 11, 1998;

(b) if so, the details of the facts reported therein; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Union Government to find out the reasons for decline in foodgrain production despite normal monsoon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) and (b) The said news item has not appeared in the Hindustan Times dated 11/11/1998. However, Government is aware of the "Monthly Review of Indian Economy, October, 1998 edition of CMIE". According to this review, foodgrains will stagnate at around 193 million tonnes in 1998-99 with both Kharif

and Rabi in line with previous year's production. It has also been stated in the report that the rains should have withdrawn from the peninsula by the first week of October. However, the first fortnight of the month witnessed some unusually heavy rains in Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra and Gujarat. Parts of Rajasthan, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh also witnessed rains. Harvesting of rice, bajra, cotton, groundnut, and sunflower crops are adversely affected in parts of the country. The overall damage from these rains, however, do not affect CMIE's projections of a 1.2 per cent increase in agricultural production during 1998-99.

(c) Due to the floods and untimely rains in certain parts of the country, the Kharif foodgrains production for 1998-99 has been marginally affected. However, with the chances of better Rabi crops on account of favourable weather conditions, better reservoir situation, good pace of sowing, and adequate availability of inputs, the prospects for overall foodgrain production during 1998-99 are brighter.

Financial Assistance by NFDC

2861 SHRI A.C. JOS Will the MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the total financial assistance provided by the National Film Development Corporation for making regional language films during each of the last three years, 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98;

(b) the criteria fixed by the corporation for providing such financial assistance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI) (a) NFDC has provided financial assistance for making regional language films to the tune of Rs. 276.68 lakhs in 1995-96, Rs. 176.72 lakhs in 1996-97 and Rs. 394.47 lakhs in 1997-98.

(b) One of the main objectives of NFDC is to promote good cinema by producing/financing low cost, high quality films in different languages. All proposals for financing of films by the NFDC are first considered by a Script Committee consisting of distinguished persons from the field of cinema.

Based on the recommendations of the Script Committee, as well as other technical/financial details, a decision is taken by the Board of NFDC of merits.

Slaughter Houses

2862. SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are giving subsidies for setting up/improvement of slaughter houses both in public and private sector;

(b) whether the World Bank in its report, popularly known as Grey report of May 23, 1996, has specifically mentioned in para 6.12 that there is no justification for subsidizing privately operated slaughter houses; and

(c) if so, the amounts of subsidies paid to each party/State during the last three years and capacity of each slaughter house for which subsidies have been paid?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) Government is giving grants for setting up/improvement of slaughter houses mostly to local bodies such as Municipalities and Corporations in the public sector. Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) is implementing a scheme to provide finance to privately owned slaughter house processing plants to the extent of 25% of the cost, subject to a ceiling of Rs. 25 lakhs per beneficiary for each plant, and a minimum export obligation.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. No subsidy was paid to any private party for establishing slaughter house during the last three years. However, grants were provided to the following two joint venture projects.

(i) A joint venture project of Punjab Meats Ltd. with Punjab Agro Industries Corporation Ltd. was provided with a grant of Rs. 19.52 lakhs, and the capacity is 10000 MT per year. It is located at Derabassi, in the State of Punjab.

(ii) A joint venture project of Hind Agro Industries Ltd. with Government of Uttar Pradesh Undertaking (The Pradeshiya Industrial and Investment Corporation of UP Ltd. and Uttar Pradesh Pashudhan Udyog Nigam Ltd.) was provided a grant of Rs. 447.17 lakhs and the capacity is 33510 MT per year. It is located near Aligarh in the State of Uttar Pradesh. The scheme under which these grants were provided has been discontinued in the Ninth Five Year Plan.

*[Translation]***National Dairy Development Corporation**

2863. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated any scheme for setting up dairies by the National Dairy Development Corporation in the States;

(b) if so, the details of the assistance provided by the National Dairy Development Corporation, State-wise;

(c) whether any special assistance is provided by the Corporation in the industrial backward areas; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) and (b) There is no organisation named National Dairy Development Corporation. However, National Dairy Development Board has sanctioned projects in some of the states as per details given in attached statement.

(c) and (d) In financing various projects the National Dairy Development Board does not differentiate on the basis of their being industrially backward areas.

Statement

	Original Capacity (TLPD)	Final Capacity (TLPD)	Incremental Capacity (TLPD)	Total (Rs. Lakhs)
	1	2	3	4
GUJARAT:				
* Sugam Dairy Baroda Ice-Cream Plant Expansion	6	12	6	450.00
** Banaskantha Dairy Exp				
— New Dairy with 40 MTD Butter & 60 MTD Drying Facilities	—	650	650	12547.74
— New Chilling Centre	—	100	100	327.04
— Cattle Feed Plant Exp (MTD)	100	200	100	320.42
* Valsad Dairy Expansion	100	200	100	128.48
** Valsad Ice-Cream Plant	—	25	25	1030.00
** Baroda Milk Union ETP Expansion	—	—	—	80.00
** Sabarkantha Cattle Feed Plant Expansion (MTD)	100	200	100	260.00

	1	2	3	4
MAHARASHTRA:				
Kolhapur Dairy Expn. (Spillover of OF-III)	200	700	500	585.00
— Chandgad CC	—	100	100	45.00
— Gogave CC	—	50	50	93.00
— Gadhinglaj CC	75	125	50	4.60
Bidri CC	50	100	50	19.35
Wardha Dairy (Spillover of OF-III)	—	30	30	33.10
DELHI:				
Mother Dairy, Delhi (Spill-Over of OF-III)				86.19
Mother Dairy Delhi Ice- Cream Plant Expansion	10	20	10	1280.00
Mother Dairy Delhi Addl. Bulk Vending Booths (Nos.)	500 (NOS)	575 (NOS)	75 (NOS)	633.00
Mother Dairy Delhi Modernisation of Refrigeration Plant				1125.00
Noida Dairy (Spill-Over of OF-III)				550.00
HARYANA:				
* Model Dairy Karnal (Spill-over of OF-III)				85.16
PUNJAB:				
** Gurdaspur Milk Union Ghee Packing Machine				7.25
BIHAR:				
Mithila Milk Union-Bihar Rossera CC (Spillover of OF-III)	—	20	20	21.00

	1	2	3	4
KARNATAKA:				
* Strengthening of Dempo Dairy				46.00
* CPP, Hassan (MTD)	—	100	100	435.00
** Bangalore Mega Dairy				4315.00
— New Dairy	—	600	600	
— Hoskote CC	—	150	150	
** Kolar Dairy Exp	100	200	100	995.25
Gowribidnaur CC Exp	60	100	40	
Sadli CC Exp	60	100	40	
ANDHRA PRADESH:				
* Renovation/Strengthening of Balaji Dairy				246.00
KERALA:				
* Malabar Milk Union (North Kerala Dairy Project)				
— Khozikode Dairy Expansion	60	150	90	142.35
— Palakkad Dairy Expansion	40	100	60	162.91
— Pattambi New CC	—	20	20	129.12
— Attappadi New CC	—	20	20	121.22
— Strengthening of CCS				52.80
— Road Milk Tankers				33.00

*100% Loan From NDDB

**90% Of the project cost would be financed by NDDB as 100% loan and balance 10% would be met by respective unions from their own resources.

*[English]***Development of Fisheries and Horticulture**

2864. SHRI GORDHANBHAI JADAVBHAI JAVIYA :
Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the amount allocated for the development of fisheries and horticulture to each State during the last three years and till October 31, 1998;

(b) the steps taken by the Government for proper utilisation of the funds allocated;

(c) the measures adopted for development of marine fisheries, inland fresh water fisheries and brackish water fisheries;

(d) the year-wise details of the achievements thereof; and

(e) the number of persons employed under the said scheme, area-wise and State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) details are given in statement-I enclosed.

(b) The utilisation of funds by State/Union Territory Government is monitored inter-alia through periodical progress reports, annual conferences, review meetings and visits to the States/Union Territories.

(c) The following schemes are implemented which will inter-alia results in the development of marine fisheries, inland fresh water fisheries and brackish water fisheries:

(a) Development of Coastal Marine Fisheries.

(b) Providing Fishing harbour, at Major and Minor Ports and Fish Landing centres.

(c) Development of Freshwater Aquaculture.

(d) Integrated Coastal Aquaculture.

(d) Details are given in statement-II enclosed.

(e) Information is being collected. It will be laid on the table of the House.

Statement-I

*Funds released to each State during the last three years and till October 31, 1998
for Development of Fisheries and Horticulture*

(Rs. In Lakhs)

S.N.	State	Fisheries	Horticulture
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1,268.09	5,668.04
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	52.00	511.86
3.	Assam	126.88	142.32
4.	Bihar	348.34	455.52
5.	Goa	165.47	443.64

1	2	3	4
6.	Gujarat	2,150.75	482.48
7.	Haryana	143.63	733.89
8.	Himachal Pradesh	52.90	234.62
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	166.69	2,421.57
10.	Karnataka	1,159.89	8,784.31
11.	Kerala	3,645.06	7,229.72
12.	Madhya Pradesh	832.70	1,048.14
13.	Maharashtra	2,858.20	10,508.06
14.	Manipur	99.14	754.26
15.	Meghalaya	89.60	284.23
16.	Mizoram	29.00	397.27
17.	Nagaland	179.12	494.63
18.	Orissa	2,468.00	1,975.23
19.	Punjab	159.01	699.96
20.	Rajasthan	85.99	1,125.18
21.	Sikkim	12.00	449.89
22.	Tamil Nadu	3,525.03	4,478.49
23.	Tripura	557.27	205.58

1	2	3	4
24.	Uttar Pradesh	1,261.34	256.60
25.	West Bengal	4,670.73	208.38
26.	A&N Islands	9.74	85.48
27.	Chandigarh	—	19.50
28.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	—	27.88
29.	Daman & Diu	151.64	33.63
30.	Delhi	—	188.89
31.	Lakshadweep	1.71	49.24
32.	Pondicherry	461.39	52.05
	Total	26,731.31	50,450.54

Statement-II

*Achievements under Various Schemes for Development of Marine Fisheries,
Inland Fisheries and Brackishwater Fisheries during Eighth Plan*

Scheme	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97
1	2	3	4	5	6
1. Development of Coastal Marine Fisheries-Motorization of traditional crafts (nos)	2875	1600	4405	8360	2041
2. Providing Fishing Harbours at Major and Minor Ports and Fish Landing Centres					
(a) Major Fishing Harbours	—	—	1	—	1
(b) Minor Fishing Harbours	3	2	2	1	1
(c) Fish Landing Centres	5	5	9	5	6

	1	2	3	4	5	6
3. Development of Freshwater Aquaculture						
(a) Water area covered (ha)		33849	35567	30327	38943	34789
(b) Fish farmers trained (nos)		28778	30582	33136	39240	33463
4. Integrated Coastal Aquaculture						
(a) Water area covered (ha)		1958	1890	2799	2033	1317
(b) Fish farmers trained (nos)		2214	2564	2595	1145	2734

Check on Corruption

2865. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to mobilise the services of retired Government servants with clean service records in conducting the enquiries of cases in which corruption seeps into the system; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN) : (a) and (b) Instructions have already been issued by the Government of India in April, 1987 to the effect that Ministries/ Departments may engage retired Government servants of proven integrity as Inquiry Officers in individual cases of disciplinary proceedings. The decision in this regard is vested in the concerned disciplinary authority. There is no special drive to mobilise services of retired Government servants.

Export of Livestock and Animal Products

2866. SHRI MAHBOOB JAHEDI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the production of milk, egg and meat have increased significantly;

(b) whether the export of livestock and animal products has grown spectacularly during the last three years;

(c) if so, the facts thereof, year-wise during the last three years;

(d) whether the Government have evolved any plans to tap their potentials; and

(e) if so, the major incentives being offered to this sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) The production of milk, egg and meat has increased steadily during the last 3 years as indicated below:

Production Estimates (Prov.)

Item	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98
Milk (Million Tonnes)	66.3	68.3	70.6
Egg (Billion No.)	27.3	27.5	28.4
Meat (000 Tonnes)	1743	1789	1942

(b) and (c) The growth of exports of livestock and animal products has been encouraging but not

spectacular. The export estimates for the last three years are as follows:

Export of Livestock and Animal Products (Rs. Crores)

Item	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98
Poultry & Dairy Products	58.76	123.77	107.33
Meat & Meat Preparation	627.00	708.88	808.40
Total	685.76	832.65	915.73

(d) and (e) In order to tap the potential from the Livestock Sector, the Agricultural Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) has formulated various schemes, under which financial assistance is provided to exporters of scheduled animal products. Besides, APEDA has also undertaken promotional and development activities for Market Development, Brand Publicity, Quality Control, Packaging Development, and upgradation of Meat Processing facilities etc.

Bunglings in Prasar Bharati Board

2867. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE :
 PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA :
 SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR :
 SHRI MADHAV RAO PATIL :
 SHRI D.S. AHIRE :
 SHRI ABHAYSINH S. BHONSLE :
 SHRI BRAJ MOHAN RAM :
 SHRI AJOY MUKHOPADHYAY :
 SHRI TARIQ ANWAR :

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether certain incidents of mismanagement in the purchase of equipment, allotment of T.V. slots and financial irregularities had come to light in the functioning of the Prasar Bharati Corporation, in the absence of Government's control over the autonomous corporation;

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

(c) whether the Union Government have asked CBI to investigate the bunglings in the Prasar Bharati Board; and

(d) if so, the outcome of the probe and action contemplated by the Government against the officials involved therein?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI) : (a) and (b) It is true that some financial irregularities have come to notice. A preliminary inquiry aimed at ascertaining facts is in progress.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Review of Old Laws

2868. SHRI K.L. SHARMA Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have set up a commission to review the old laws in the country;

(b) whether the Government have advised the State Governments to set up commission in their states to review old laws;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the reaction of the State Governments thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI. KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN) : (a) A Commission on Review of Administrative Laws was set up by the Government in the month of May, 1998. The Commission has since submitted its report to the Government on 30th September, 1998.

(b) to (d) The Government have not advised the State Governments to set up Commission in their states to review old laws. However, copies of the report of the commission of Review of Administrative Laws have been sent to the Chief Secretaries of all the State/Union Territory Governments in the month of November, 1998, requesting them to get the report examined and to give their feed back on the implementation of the recommendations contained therein.

*[Translation]***Bhagirath Magazines**

2869. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the Members on the Editorial Board of Bhagirath Magazine alongwith their experience in the publication of magazines;

(b) the reasons for not inducting famous writers and journalists in the present editoria: board of the Bhagirath Magazine; and

(c) the steps likely to be taken to induct writers and journalists in place of engineers in the editorial board for improving and development of the magazine?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) and (b) The details of the Members of the Editorial Board of Bhagirath (Hindi) and Bhagirath (Eenglish) journals are given in the statement-I and II respectively. These journals are published by the Central Water Commission on subjects of technical nature to disseminate information about the plans, progress and achievements in the development of water resources in the country. The present editors of both the journals are qualified journalists with more than fifteen years of professional experience. The other members of the Editorial Boards are engineers and their functions are to select the articles of technical nature based on their technical content. In view of this, there is no need to induct famous writers and journalists in the Editorial Boards of Bhagirath Magazines.

(c) Does not arise.

Statement-I*Details of Members of the Editorial Board of Bhagirath (Hindi)*

S/Shri/Smt.

1.	M.L. Goyal, Chief Engineer, CWC	Chairman
2.	K.S. Bhatia, Director, CWC	Member
3.	R.K. Khanna, Director, CWC	Member
4.	Lalit Kumar, Director, CWC	Member
5.	G.C. Vyas, Director, CWC	Member

6.	Sanjiv Aggarwal, Director, CWC	Member
7.	S.N. Chaudhary, Director, CWC	Member
8.	M.K. Garg, Director, CEA	Member
9.	Manju Saxena, Editor, CWC	Editor

Statement-II*Details of Members of the Editorial Board of Bhagirath (English)*

S/Shri/Miss.

1.	M.L. Goyal, Chief Engineer, CWC	Chairman
2.	K.S. Bhatia, Director, CWC	Member
3.	R.C. Jha, Director, CWC	Member
4.	S.K. Chaudhary, Director, CWC	Member
5.	S.C. Gupta, Director, CWC	Member
6.	M.K. Garg, Director, CEA	Member
7.	Promila Seth, Editor, CWC	Editor

*[English]***Regeneration of Saraswati**

2870. SHRI ANANT KUMAR HEGDE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of steps taken by the Government in regenerating the river Saraswati; and

(b) the total estimated expenditure is likely to be involved therein?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) Government of Haryana has launched a scheme for regenerating the river Saraswati. In the first phase, the water-way of the Saraswati river from Pipli on GT Road to Jyotisar has been regenerated in a length of about 16 kilometres (kms). The State Government is preparing a comprehensive master-plan for regeneration of this river from Pipli on GT Road to Pehowa in a length of about 41 kms.

(b) An expenditure of Rs. 20.22 lakhs has been incurred so far on implementation of this scheme. Total

estimated expenditure will be known only after finalisation of the comprehensive master-plan.

Judgement of Reservation

2871. SHRI JOGENDRA KAWADE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of Personnel and Training has issued office Memorandum in light of the Hon'ble Supreme Court's judgement delivered on 17th March, 1997 that the reservation roster applied even to a single post was valid and the promotion of Scheduled Caste candidate was also valid; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN) : (a) and (b): Earlier, reservation was being provided in case of a single vacancy. The reservation in a single post cadre continued when post based rosters were introduced with effect from 2.7.1997, which was also in conformity with the Supreme Court judgement dated 17.3.1997. However, this judgement has been overruled by a subsequent judgement dated 17.4.1998 of the Supreme Court (PGI Vs. Faculty Association).

Telecom Facilities in J&K

2872. SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of telephone exchanges functioning at present in Jammu and Kashmir, district-wise;

(b) whether the Government propose to set up some new telephone exchanges in the State during 1998-99;

(c) if so, the details thereof location-wise and the estimated expenditure involved therein;

(d) the number of persons on the waiting list for telephone connections in the State, districtwise;

(e) the number of telephone connections allotted in the State during the last three years till-date, district-wise;

(f) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to clear the waiting list;

(g) whether the telephone exchanges have not been functioning satisfactorily in the State;

(h) if so, the reasons therefor;

(i) the efforts being made by the Government to remove the inefficiencies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) 255 telephone exchanges are functioning at present, in Jammu and Kashmir. District-wise details are given in statement-I.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) 6 new telephone exchanges are proposed to be set up during 1998-99 at the following places:—

(i) Sukherbachan (ii) Khoon (iii) Bamla (iv) Sonamarg (v) Sucbant (vi) Birpur

The estimated expenditure involved is Rs. 80/- Lakhs tentatively.

(d) 39110 persons are on the waiting list as on 30.11.1998. District-wise details are given in statement-II.

(e) 53336 telephone connections have been allotted in the State during the last three years till date. District-wise details are given in statement-III.

(f) There is a proposal to provide 20,000 telephone connections during 1998-99. It has also been planned to provide telephone connection on demand by the end of 9th Five Year Plan.

(g) to (i) Only six telephone exchanges at Dangerpore, Yaripora, Kokernag, Litter, Wuyen and Rohama are non-functional in Kashmir region due to militancy. These exchanges were damaged during militancy. Efforts are being to restore the functioning of these exchanges.

Statement-I*List of Exchanges Functioning in Jammu and Kashmir District-wise*

S. No.	Name of District	No. of Exchanges
1.	Anantnag	13
2.	Baramulla	13
3.	Budgam	08
4.	Pulwama	12
5.	Kupwara	05
6.	Srinagar	09
7.	Jammu	48
8.	Kathua	22
9.	Leh	14
10.	Kargil	07
11.	Udhampur	35
12.	Doda	26
13.	Rajouri	26
14.	Poonch	17
Total:		255

Statement-II*No. of Persons on the Waiting List for Telephone Connection in the J&K State District-wise*

S. No.	Name of District	No. of persons on the waiting list
1.	Anantnag	1410
2.	Baramulla	2173
3.	Budgam	1101
4.	Pulwama	1815
5.	Kupwara	745
6.	Srinagar	11749
7.	Jammu	13824
8.	Kathua	2055
9.	Leh	937
10.	Kargil	305
11.	Udhampur	1784
12.	Doda	414
13.	Rajouri	432
14.	Poonch	366
Total:		39110

Statement-III

*Number of Telephone Connections Allotted in J&K State
during the last three years till date District-wise*

S. No.	Name of District	No. of Telephone Connections allotted during last three years till date
1.	Anantnag	1204
2.	Baramulla	2131
3.	Budgam	417
4.	Pulwama	1082
5.	Kupwara	121
6.	Srinagar	18628
7.	Jammu	19722
8.	Kathua	1714
9.	Leh	1376
10.	Kargil	512
11.	Udhampur	3471
12.	Doda	1009
13.	Rajouri	1173
14.	Poonch	776
Total:		53336

Rules for Transfer of Telephone Connections

2873. SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SAHU : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any rules or criteria have been fixed by the Government regarding the transfer, disconnection and reconnection of telephone;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the charges to be paid by the customers,

(c) whether the said rules are being followed everywhere.

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether Government propose to simplify these rules; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) *Transfer* of Telephone is permissible to the

(i) Legal-heir/successor in the event of death of the subscriber. Transfer fee is Rs. 100/- per occasion, per connection.

(ii) Blood relation/close relative of the subscriber once during his life. Transfer fee is Rs. 100/- per connection.

(iii) Third Party i.e. to any person after one year of installation of telephone. Transfer fee is Rs. 500.

Disconnection : Telephones are disconnected due to non-payment of bills or unauthorised use to telephones, with a notice to the subscriber.

Reconnection : Telephones are reconnected on clearance/payment of pending telephone bills including rental charges for intervening period. Reconnection charges are Rs. 100/- per occasion.

(c) Yes, Sir.

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

(e) and (f) Existing rules are quite simple and customer friendly, with DoT's interest as well.

[Translation]

VLPTs/LPTs in Himachal Pradesh

2874. SHRI MAHESWAR SINGH : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the names of Low Power Transmitters and Very Low Power Transmitters under construction in Himachal Pradesh approved, location-wise; and

(b) the details of LPTs/VLPTs where construction work has not been started ever after being approved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI) : (a) and (b) Schemes for the establishment to 11 TV transmitters (LPT-1, VLPT-10) at following locations in Himachal Pradesh have been sanctioned:

LPT

Mandi (DD-2)

VLPTs

Bijili Mahadev Awah Devi

Dalhausi Chunaghai

Tissa Nehri

Chaurikhas Ashapuri

Jhantingri Kaja

Finalisation of sites/procurement of equipment for these LPTs/VLPTs has already been undertaken. Completion of these projects will take about 1 year from the date of taking over the site.

[Translation]

Infrastructure Fund

2875. SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL :
DR. ULHAS VASUDEO PATIL :
SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up infrastructure fund to held food processing industry;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any study has been conducted to assess losses incurred to fruit and vegetable sector due to non utilisation of available fruits and vegetable in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) (a) and (b) Action has been initiated to explore the possibilities for setting up of a Processed Food Sector Development Fund in collaboration with Financial Institutions. However, since only preliminary measures have been taken so far, the details have not been worked out.

(c) and (d) Although no study has been conducted by the Ministry of Food Processing Industries to assess the loss of fruits and vegetables, it is estimated that quality deterioration and loss in value that take place is about 25 to 30% of some fruits and vegetables due to inadequacy of post harvest infrastructure and perishability of the produce.

[*Translation*]

Special Economic Package

2876. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to announce an economic package for the development of agricultural sector in Chhapra-Maharajganj in Bihar;

(b) whether any request has been received by the Union Government from the State of Bihar to issue a special economic package in this regard;

(c) if so, the amount demanded therein for the purpose; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) :

(a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Does not arise.

New Schemes for Pulses

2877. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received a proposal for the production of pulses in UP; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) (a) Yes, Sir. The Government of Uttar Pradesh submitted a proposal in September 1996 on Special Summer Production Programme during 1996-97 to 2001-2002 with an additional outlay Rs. 44.905 crore for meeting proposed subsidies on seed distribution and irrigation.

(b) The proposal of the Government of U.P. includes—Provision for subsidy on diesel @ Rs. 200/- per ha. and enhanced subsidy on seeds. Since the scheme of NPDP does not envisage subsidy on diesel and limits the subsidy on seeds to Rs. 300/- per qtl., the State Government was requested to revise their proposal accordingly. The revised proposal has not been received from the State Government so far.

[*English*]

Supply of Telephone Instruments

2878. SHRI FRANCISCO SARDINHA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of Telecommunications has decided to stop supply of telephone instruments and accessories including Fax machines to customers at their premises;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) and (b) Sir, Department of Telecommunications has not decided to stop supply of Telephone instruments and accessories including FAX machines to customers at their premises.

However, the subscriber is at liberty to provide his own Telephone instrument and internal wiring at the time of installation of a Telephone Connection with admissible rebate.

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

[Translation]

Scheme for Small Holdings

2879. SHRI RAMPAL UPADHYAY :
SHRI PRADEEP KUMAR YADAV :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to make the small holdings profitable;

(b) if so, the measures being adopted in this regard; and

(c) the outcome of the measures adopted so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) to (c) Diversification of crop production into more income generating allied activities covering horticulture, animal husbandry, dairying and pisciculture has been the thrust of developmental programmes pursued by the Government. It is proposed to supplement the above efforts by developing infrastructure including agro processing and marketing in feasible rural and Semi urban areas covering also the small and marginal farmers.

[English]

Political Dialogue with Japan

2880. SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether nearly after three months of diplomatic estrangement India and Japan have decided to resume their political dialogue;

(b) if so, whether the Foreign Secretaries of the two sides have met recently;

(c) the outcome of the meeting;

(d) the steps taken to improve the relations with Japan; and

(e) by what time Japan propose to resume aid that was stopped during the nuclear tests conducted by India?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) The two sides are in touch, through diplomatic channels, to schedule various meetings, including at the level of Foreign Secretaries, during the first quarter of 1999.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Following the meeting in July 1998, of Shri Jaswant Singh, Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission with the Japanese Prime Minister and Foreign Minister in Manila, during the ARF PMC meeting, both sides agreed on resumption of bilateral talks and continuance of private sector and people to people contacts. Since then, the Speaker, Lok Sabha, met his Japanese counterpart, during a transit halt in Tokyo (October 26); Shri I.K.Gujral, Chairman, Standing Committee on External Affairs met Japanese Prime Minister and Foreign Minister (October 29) and Finance Minister (October 27) in Tokyo; Industry Minister Shri Sikander Bakht met the Japanese Minister for International Trade and Industry in Tokyo (November 2); a Japanese Parliamentary delegation led by the Deputy Speaker visited India (November 23-25); the 29th India-Japan Business Cooperation Committee meeting was held in New Delhi (November 30-December 1).

On our part, we seek all round development of friendly, cooperative and mutually beneficial relations with Japan, based on mutual understanding and respect. We favour a dialogue to promote an exchange of views on diverse issues of mutual interest. We welcome greater contact at various levels including political, official, business and people-to-people level.

(e) The Japanese side have informed us that no review of their economic sanctions is presently underway.

E-Mail Facilities

2881. SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of cities where E-Mail facility has been provided in the country, State-wise; and

(b) the number of cities where such facility is proposed to be provided during 1998-99 and 1999-2000?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA):

(a) Both E-Mail Services Providers and the Internet Service Providers can offer E-Mail facility from their nodes.

The names of cities where E-Mail facility has been provided in the country is given in statement-I enclosed.

(b) E-Mail facility is proposed to be provided in 16 more cities during 1998-2000. This also includes the cities where Internet nodes would be set up by the private Internet Service Providers and also by the Department of Telecommunications (DOT). The list of cities where facility is proposed to be provided during 1998-2000 is given in statement-II enclosed.

Statement-I

List of City/Town where E-Mail Facility is Available

S. No.	State/UT	City/Town
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Hyderabad Visakhapatnam Vijayawada Guntur Kakinada
2.	Assam	Guwahati Silchar
3.	Bihar	Patna Jamshedpur Dhanbad Gaya Ranchi Muzaffarpur
4.	Maharashtra	Mumbai Pune Aurangabad Nasik, Nagpur Panjim Kolhapur Ahmednagar Kalyan Sholapur
5.	Kerala	Trivandrum Emakulam Kottayam Calicut Cochin Kollam Palghat Trichur

1	2	3
6.	Tamilnadu	Chennai Coimbatore Trichy Tirupur Madurai Kancheepuram Salem Tunicorin Erode Ooty Tirunelveli Hosur
7.	Karnataka	Bangalore Mysore Hubli Mangalore Belgaum
8.	U.P.	Lucknow Dehradun Kanpur Agra Allahabad Varanasi Gorakhpur Ghaziabad Noida Meerut Mathura Aligarh Moradabad
9.	Gujarat	Ahmedabad Surat Baroda Rajkot Bhavnagar Jam Nagar Gandhi Nagar
10.	Punjab	Jalandhar Ludhiana Patiala Amritsar Pathankot
11.	Haryana	Ambala Gurgaon Rohtak Karnal Faridabad

1	2	3
12.	Orissa	Bhubaneshwar Cuttack Sambalpur Rourkela
13.	West Bengal	Calcutta Siliguri Durgapur Haldia
14.	Rajasthan	Jaipur Udaipur Ajmer Kota Jodhpur Bikaner
15.	Madhya Pradesh	Indore Gwalior Bhopal Jabalpur Bhilai Raipur Ujjain
16.	Goa	Goa
17.	Himachal Pradesh	Shimla
18.	J&K	Jammu
19.	Meghalaya	Shillong
20.	Chandigarh	Chandigarh
21.	Pondicherry	Pondicherry

Statement-II

Proposed E-Mail Facility to be Provided during 1998-2000

1. Srinagar	2. Rajahmundry
3. Agartala	4. Bhivani
5. Cannanore	6. Ferozepur
7. Jalgaon	8. Jaunpur

9. Kharagpur	10. Nadiad
11. Naded	12. Port Blair
13. Tanjore	14. Tirupati
15. Satara	16. Bareilly.

[Translation]

Irrigation Projects

2882. SHRI BRAZ MOHAN RAM :
PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA :
DR. CHINTA MOHAN :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of irrigation projects approved by the Government during the Eighth Five Year Plan period, State-wise;

(b) the number out of them completed during the Eighth plan period State-wise and year-wise alongwith the cost of construction thereof and the funds spent thereon;

(c) whether several projects are still under construction;

(d) if so, the details thereof, State-wise alongwith the reasons for delay in completion;

(e) the total funds spent thereon and the time by which these projects are likely to be completed; and

(f) the target fixed for generation of irrigation capacity and achieve at the end of each plan period, state-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) and (b) The Statewise details of irrigation projects approved during the period from 1992 to 1998 is given in statement-I enclosed. None of these projects has been completed so far.

(c) to (e) A Statement giving Statewise details of on-going major and medium Irrigation projects alongwith latest estimated cost, expenditure incurred so far and their likely schedule of completion is given in statement-II enclosed. The completion period of any project depends upon various factors such as its size, availability of land,

clearance from various appraising agencies, geological conditions etc. Equally important are the funds allotted by the State Governments to individual projects and also changes in the scope of original project.

(f) A statement giving therein Statewise potential created up to Annual Plan 1990-92, targets during VIII plan and potential created upto the end of VIII plan is given in statement-III enclosed.

Statement-I

Sl. No.	Name of Project Major/Medium	Estt. Cost (Rs. Crore)	Benefit In Th. Ha.	Date of Approval By Planning Commission
1	2	3	4	5

ANDHRA PRADESH

1.	Yarrakalva Reservoir Project (Medium)	46.52	9.996	26.2.93
2.	Maddilour Project (Medium)	28.56	5.213	26.2.93
3.	Kaulasnala (Sanjoy) Project (Medium)	20.49	4.131	26.2.93
4.	Buggawanka (Medium)	25.96	5.20	29.7.93
5.	Chelmela Vagu Irrigation Project (Medium)	22.99	2.632	2.5.94
6.	Modernisation of K.C. Canal	674.29	110.482	16.4.98

ASSAM

7.	Modernization of Yamuna Irrigation Canal Project	60.27	28.286	17.12.97
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BIHAR

8.	Kesho Reservoir Scheme	16.14	3.561	21.4.92
9.	Sone Modernization Phase-I	235.93	48.60	7.7.98

1	2	3	4	5
GUJARAT				
10.	Uben Medium Irrigation Project	12.49	2.198	20.1.93
11.	Mukteshwar Medium Irrigation Project	19.37	6.186	20.4.93
12.	Providing Hydroplus Fusegates on Wanakbori Weir	8.58		7.2.94
13.	Mod. of Ukai Kokrapar	60.12	49.468	9.3.94
14.	Karjan Major Irrigation Project	186.37	77.546	23.9.96
15.	Goma Irrigation Project (Medium)	47.59	7.039	30.12.97
HARYANA				
16.	Haryana Water Resources Consolidation Project	1442.12	113.00	22.12.95
HIMACHAL PRADESH				
17.	Shah Nahar Irrigation Project	143.32	24.76	21.2.97
JAMMU & KASHMIR				
18.	Mod. of Ranbir Canal	84.40	49.418	21.5.98
KARNATAKA				
19.	Karanja Irrigation Project (Major)	98.00	48.958	3.8.92
20.	Bennithora Irrigation Project (Major)	73.25	21.854	23.2.93

1	2	3	4	5
MADHYA PRADESH				
21.	Man Irrigation Project	44.10	17.70	5.6.92
22.	Sindh Phase-II	510.94	162.100	17.3.98
23.	Upper Beda	89.51	13.365	10.9.98
24.	Bargi Diversion Project	1101.23	376.514	6.7.98
MAHARASHTRA				
25.	Deogad Project (Medium)	24.64	8.347	16.11.92
26.	Karwa Major Irrigation Project	27.00	10.320	13.7.95
27.	Tambhapur Medium Irrigation Project	18.09	4.78	13.7.95
28.	Shivnatakli Medium Irrigation Project	34.76	6.60	13.7.95
29.	Gosikhund (Indiro Sagar)	461.19	250.00	2.11.95
30.	Bordahegaon Medium Irrigation Project	16.27	2.22	6.11.96
31.	Wan Irrigation Project (Major)	46.85	19.197	15.4.97
32.	Upper Mahar Medium Irrigation Project	26.18	8.280	15.4.97
33.	Benetura Irrigation Project (Medium)	12.12	2.293	25.2.97
MANIPUR				
34.	Dolaithabi Barrage Project	18.86	7.545	11.6.92

1	2	3	4	5
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ORRISA

35.	Birpura Ganguti Irrigation Project	11.46	3.869	29.3.94
36.	Deo Irrigation Project (Medium)	52.23	9.90	29.6.92
37.	Naraj Barrage Project (Major)	128.74	293.319	6.8.93
38.	Titlagarh Irrigation Project (Medium)	21.12	2.95	21.10.93
39.	Orissa Water Resources Consolidated Project	977.00	329.48	27.9.95
40.	Bagh Barrage Irrigation Project (Medium)	44.71	9.660	2.12.95
41.	Sobernarekha Irrigation Project	790.92	137.462	28.12.95
42.	Bagha Lali Irrigation Project	45.44	6.050	21.5.96
43.	Rengali Irrigation Left Bank Canal (II) (Major)	705.15	177.652	14.7.97

PUNJAB

44.	Rehabilitation & Improvement Canal Regular Structure in Canal System of Punjab	34.49	305.00	19.4.94
45.	Punjab Irrigation Project Phase-II-Lining of Water Course	117.47	509.000	18.1.94

1	2	3	4	5
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RAJASTHAN

46.	Narmada Canal Project	467.53	73.000	23.1.96
47.	Sukli Irrigation Project (Medium)	18.698	3.89	10.12.97
48.	Bendi Sendra Irrigation Project (Medium)	13.04	4.09	10.12.97
49.	Bisalpur Drinking Water-cum- Irrigation Project	309.07	49.89	16.12.97
50.	Mod. of Gambhiri Irrigation Project (Medium)	11.73	9.60	16.12.97

TAMIL NADU

51.	Anaimadhuvu Reservoir Project	11.45	1.947	19.11.92
52.	Tamilnadu Water Resources Consolidation Project	807.49		19.5.95

UTTAR PRADESH

53.	Gayampur Pump Canal (New)	110.51	65.415	2.4.92
54.	Pathrai Dam	12.54	2.800	21.7.92
55.	Mod. of Upper Ganga Canal Phase-I (1st Slice)	467.76	36.688	30.7.92
56.	Madotanda Irrigation Project	4.09	3.200	23.12.93
57.	Providing Kharief Canal in Hindon Krishna Doab	11.83	3.000	6.7.95

1	2	3	4	5
58.	Increasing capacity of Zamania Pump Canal	39.81	41.700	2.9.96
59.	Jaurali Pump Canal (Major)	47.92	39.748	23.3.98
60.	Increasing capacity of Deokali Pump Canal (Revised) (Major)	35.24	51.741	27.8.92
61.	Rohini Dam Project	3.32		28.2.93
62.	Dhenkuwa Bund	3.00	3.015	24.4.93

WEST BENGAL

63.	Subernarekha Barrage Project	215.61	114.198	15.3.95
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Statement-II

Statement Referred to in Parts (c) to (e) of Unstarred Question No. 2882 Regarding Irrigation Projects for Answer in the Lok Sabha on 16.12.1998

Sl. No	State	No. of on-going Major Projects During VIII plan.	Latest Estd. cost L.E.C. (Rs. Cr.)	Cum. Expd. upto VIII Plan (Rs. Cr.) An t***.	No. of Major projects likely to be completed during IX plan	No. of Major Projects likely to be completed beyond IX Plan	R E M A R K S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
MAJOR PROJECTS							
1.	Andhra Pradesh	12	10130.44	4755.95	4	8	
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	—	—	—	—	—	
3.	Assam	4	432.82	211.48	—	4	
4.	Bihar	15(-1)*	7365.53	2105.27	(-)*1*	14	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
5.	Goa	2(-1)*	678.59	258.65	—	2-(1)*	
6.	Gujarat	9	23300.92	6522.47	7	2	
7.	Haryana	5	1013.51	725.67	2	3	
8.	Himachal Pradesh	1	150.78	7.47	—	1	
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	1	151.18	122.84	1	—	
10.	Karnataka	14	11190.19	5131.64	2	12	
11.	Kerala	7	1879.50	942.41	4	3	
12.	Madhya Pradesh	25(-2)*	10729.55	3131.15	12	13(-2)*	
13.	Maharashtra	36	12958.17	5374.43	21	15	
14.	Manipur	(2)	491.65	225.85	1	1	
15.	Meghalaya	NIL	—	—	—	—	
16.	Mizoram	NIL	—	—	—	—	
17.	Nagaland	1	111.02	2.95	—	1	
18.	Orissa	6(-1)*	4953.85	1156.55	1	5(-1)*	
19.	Punjab	1(-1)*	3379.53	2701.93	—	(-1)*	
20.	Rajasthan	8(-2)*	4692.81	2346.01	4(-1)*	4(-1)*	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
21.	Sikkim	NIL	—	—	—	—	
22.	Tamil Nadu	NIL	—	—	—	—	
23.	Tripura	NIL	—	—	—	—	
24.	Uttar Pradesh	19(-1)*	7539.44	3339.74	10(-1)*	9	
25.	West Bengal	4(-1)*	2037.41	938.83	3	1(-1)*	
Total		172 -10* 162	103186.89	39003.29			

*Deduction for T.S. Projects counted more than once.

Sl. No.	State	No. of ongoing Medium Projects During VIII plan	Latest Estd. cost I.E.C. (Rs. Cr.)	Cum. Expd. upto VIII Plan (Rs. Cr.) Antcd.	No. of Medium Projects likely to be completed during IX Plan	No. of Medium Projects likely to be completed beyond IX plan	R E A R K S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8

MEDIUM PROJECTS

1.	Andhra Pradesh	20	623.34	323.51	9	11	
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	—	—	—	—	—	
3.	Assam	9	155.92	99.72	8	1	
4.	Bihar	29	1065.18	429.37	7	22	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
5.	Goa	1	40.00	2.40	—	1	
6.	Gujarat	9	337.53	260.02	8	1	
7.	Haryana	NIL	—	—	—	—	
8.	Himachal Pradesh	1	11.30	11.26	1	—	
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	9	223.55	55.88	—	9	
10.	Karnataka	15	943.67	510.72	7	8	
11.	Kerala	5	478.93	150.56	1	4	
12.	Madhya Pradesh	32	1012.09	733.15	24	8	
13.	Maharashtra	66	2076.06	1021.98	22	144	
14.	Manipur	2	66.58	56.50	2	—	
15.	Meghalaya	1	17.81	8.14	1	—	
16.	Mizoram	NIL	—	—	—	—	
17.	Nagaland	NIL	—	—	—	—	
18.	Orissa	10	499.95	410.23	7	3	
19.	Punjab	1	88.49	0.20	—	1	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
20.	Rajasthan	6	240.24	12.22	2	4	
21.	Sikkim	NIL	—	—	—	—	
22.	Tamil Nadu	2	103.75	29.53	2	—	
23.	Tripura	3	154.00	92.96	2	1	
24.	Uttar Pradesh	2	54.81	39.99	1	1	
25.	West Bengal	17	90.42	60.78	17	—	
Total:		240.00	8283.62	4424.12			

Statement-III

S. No.	State	Achievements upto Annual plan 1990-92 (Th. ha)	Target upto VIII Plan (Th. ha.) (cumulative)	Potential created upto VIII Plan (Th. ha.)
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2999.00	3418.00	3045.10
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	—	—	—
3.	Assam	176.00	296.00	196.67
4.	Bihar	2766.00	3081.00	2802.50
5.	Goa	13.00	49.00	13.02
6.	Gujarat	1246.00	1694.00	1350.00

1	2	3	4	5
7.	Haryana	2035.00	2331.00	2078.79
8.	Himachal Pradesh	8.00	11.00	10.55
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	158.00	179.00	173.70
10.	Karnataka	1377.00	1778.00	1666.02
11.	Kerala	416.00	564.00	513.31
12.	Madhya Pradesh	1962.00	2412.00	2178.30
13.	Maharashtra	2030.00	2430.00	2313.00
14.	Manipur	59.00	113.00	63.00
15.	Meghalaya	—	4.00	—
16.	Mizoram	—	—	—
17.	Nagaland	—	—	—
18.	Orissa	1409.00	1743.00	11577.75
19.	Punjab	2367.00	2543.00	2512.85
20.	Rajasthan	1999.00	2288.00	2273.88
21.	Sikkim	—	—	—
22.	Tamil Nadu	1545.00	1555.00	1545.51
23.	Tripura	2.00	15.00	2.30
24.	Uttar Pradesh	6806.00	7782.00	7059.00
25.	West Bengal	1353.00	1524.00	1444.00
Total:		30726.00	35810.00	32799.32

Setting up of Telephone Exchanges in Private Sector

2883. SHRI AJIT JOGI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of telephone exchanges set up in private sector in the country;

(b) whether these exchanges are likely to provide better services than those of the Government;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons for opening of these new exchanges?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA):

(a) Three Exchanges have been set up in the private sector:

(b) These exchanges are at par technology-wise with those set up by the DoT in the network. The subscriber base and the period of Service of the private exchanges are too short to assess their quality of service.

(c) and (d) Do not arise in view of above.

[English]

STD Facility in U.P.

2884. SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN :
SHRIMATI KAMAL RANI :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of telephone exchanges functioning at present in Uttar Pradesh alongwith type and capacity thereof;

(b) whether all the telephone exchanges are having STD facility in the state;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the telephone exchanges proposed to be set up with STD facility in the State during 1998-99;

(e) whether the Government have received any complaints in regard to Cross Bar system in the state; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA):

(a) The details are given below:

Type	Nos. of exchanges	Capacity
(i) Electronic	2127	1815612
(ii) Electromechanical	1	5000

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The number of telephone exchange having STD facility in the state is 1431.

(d) 566 telephone exchanges are proposed to be provided with STD facility during 1998-99 (including existing as well as new proposed exchanges).

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise in view of (e) above.

[Translation]

Doordarshan Kendras in Bihar

2885. SHRI SURENDRA PRASAD YADAV
(JHANJIHARPUR)
SHRI SOM MARANDI

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Doordarshan Kendras functioning in Bihar at present;

(b) the number of Doordarshan Kendras proposed to be set up in various cities of the State;

(c) whether the Government have received any proposal regarding setting up of more Doordarshan Kendras in the State particularly at Pakur and Sahibganj; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI) : (a) 4 Doordarshan Kendras at Patna, Ranchi,

Dataganj and Muzaffarpur are presently functioning in Bihar.

(b) There is no proposal to set up more Doordarshan Kendras in the State.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Construction of Post Office Buildings

2886. SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMI :
DR. RAM VILAS VEDANTI :
SHRI H.P. SINGH :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether several post offices, sub post offices do not have their own building in U.P. and Bihar;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total rent paid by the Government on this account during the last three years;

(d) whether Government propose to construct the building of said post offices in these States;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The number of post offices which do not have their own buildings in UP and Bihar are 2600 and 1226 respectively.

(c) The total rent paid by the Government on this account during the last 3 years—Rs. 4,17,68,232.03 (Four crore seventeen lakhs sixty eight thousand two hundred thirty two and paise three only) and Rs. 1,70,31,240/- (Rupees one crore seventy lakhs thirty one thousand two hundred and forty only). for U.P. and Bihar respectively.

(d) Yes, sir, in a phased manner depending on the availability of funds.

(e) the details of on-going projects in U.P. and Bihar as also the new projects which have recently been approved may kindly be perused at the statement attached.

(f) Reply as per (e) above.

Statement

UTTAR PRADESH CIRCLE

I. ON-GOING PROJECTS

1. P.O. at Ramnagar
2. P.O. at Tilokpur
3. Dehradun HPO (Vertical Extension)
4. Gaura Partapgarh P.O.
5. P.O. at Mardah
6. P.O. at Kidwainagar P.O.
7. Jarwal P.O.
8. Kavi Nagar P.O. Ghaziabad
9. P.O. at Sirauli Gauspur
10. Sanjay Palace Agra

II. NEW PROJECTS APPROVED

1. Joshimath P.O.
2. Kotabagh P.O.
3. Jagdishpur Ind. area P.O.
4. Patti P.O.
5. Indranagar P.O.

BIHAR CIRCLE

I. ON-GOING PROJECTS

1. P.O. at Manjhi
2. P.O. at Lauria
3. P.O. at Barhara
4. P.O. at Raghunathpur
5. Dhanbad HPO
6. P.O. at Chakai
7. P.O. at Daudnagar
8. Motihari RMS (Deposit work)

II. NEW PROJECTS APPROVED

1. P.O. at Patliputra Patna
2. P.O. at Guljarbagh
3. Chaibasa P.O.

[English]

**Report of Expert Group on
Licence for Structure**

2887. SHRI D.S. AHIRE :
SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Expert Group set up to sort out 'knotty' Telecom Problems" appearing in the Times of India, dated November 21, 1998;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein;

(c) the names and number of Group Members; and

(d) the time by which the expert group is likely to submit its report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA):

(a) Yes, Sir

(b) The Government has constituted a Group in Telecommunications (GOT) headed by Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission on 20th November, 1998 to make recommendations on:—

- (i) Proposed New Telecom Policy;
- (ii) Issues relating to the existing Licensees of basic and cellular services and suggest appropriate remedial measures within the framework of the New Telecom Policy.
- (iii) Issues relating to the TRAI.

In making recommendations on the New telecom Policy, (Item No. (i) above), the Group is to hold wider discussion & interaction with Industry and Trade as well as with knowledgeable persons in the telecom sector, both official as well as non-official.

(c) The names of Chairman & Members of the Group are given in the statement enclosed.

(d) The Group has been asked to make its recommendations to the Prime Minister as early as possible.

Statement

*Names of the Members of the Group on
Telecommunications (GOT)*

1. Shri Jaswant Singh Chairman
Dy. Chairman, Planning Commission.
2. Shri M.S. Ahluwalia,
Member (Telecom), Planning Commission.
3. Dr. Vijay Kelkar,
Secretary, Ministry of Finance.
4. Shri R.L. Meena,
Secretary, Ministry of Law & Justice.
5. Shri Anil Kumar
Secretary, Department of Telecommunications.
6. Shri P.S. Saran,
Members (Services), Telecom Commission.
7. Shri R.R.N. Prasad,
Member (Prodn.), Telecom
Commission. Members
8. Dr. N. Seshagiri,
Director General, National Informatics Centre.
9. Dr. Rodham Narasimhan,
Director, National Institute of Advanced
Studies, IIS Complex, Bangalore.
10. Dr. S. Rangarajan,
Director, Satellite Communications,
Deptt. of Space, Bangalore.
11. Shri Sudheendra Kulkarni,
Director (Communications. & Research),
Prime Minister's Office.
12. Shri N.K. Singh
Secretary to Prime Minister. Member-
Secretary

Postal Services

2888. SHRI A.F. GOLAM OSMANI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Postal complaints lodged by the people in the North East during the last three years;

(b) the number of complaints redressed during the said period; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to improve the Postal services in the said area?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA):

(a) and (b) The total number of postal complaints lodged and redressed in the North East during the last three years are given as under:—

Year	Brought forward	No. of Complaints received	No. of Complaints settled	Pending
1995-96	2424	21128	20885	2667
1996-97	2667	21971	22635	2003
1997-98	2003	26895	25535	3363

(c) With a view to improving postal services in the North East focussed attention has been given to developmental programmes in the region with 10% of the Department's budgetary support for Plan activities exclusively earmarked for the purpose. During the Eight Five Year Plan, focus of developmental activity was under three broad schemes, viz: expansion of postal network, modernisation of postal services and constructions of postal buildings and staff Quarters. In the annual plan programme for 1998-99, these activities are being pursued further alongwith additional programme of modernisation of public grievance handling system, improvement of mail conveyance & human resource development through training.

Development of Rice

2889. SHRI BIJOY KUMAR BIJOY :
SHRI RAMPAL SINGH :
DR. ASHOK PATEL :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian agricultural scientists have developed such a variety of rice/paddy which could mature within 60 days;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if so, the time by which the said paddy seed is likely to be made available to farmers in the country, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) No, Sir. Indian agricultural scientists have not so far developed rice variety that matures in 60 days. But varieties which mature in 65 to 70 days are available.

(b) The details of the varieties that mature in 65-70 days are as below:—

Sattari—It matures in 65 days and has an average yield of 2t/ha. It was released in 1983.

Heera—It matures in 68 days and gives an average yield of 3t/ha. It was released for general cultivation in Orissa in 1988.

Kalyani II—It mature in 70 days and yield 1 t/ha. It was released in 1988 for general cultivation in Orissa.

Turranta Dhan—It matures in 70 days and give an average yield of 3 t/ha. It has been released for general cultivation in Bihar in 1997.

(c) Heera is recommended in Orissa, Sattari in Orissa and West Bengal and Turranta Dhan in Bihar; and these are already under cultivation. The breeder seed for Heera and Sattari is being produced by Central Rice Research Institute, Cuttack and that of Turranta Dhan by Rajendra Agricultural University, Pusa. This breeder seed is supplied to various seed producing agencies for further seed multiplication for general cultivation by the farmers.

Rural Youth for Self-Employment

2890. SHRI PRASAD BABURAO TANPURE :
SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the concrete efforts being made by the Government to provide facilities to the rural youths for self-employment through setting up of food processing industries;

(b) if so, whether the Government are promoting the processing industries based on agricultural produce like foodgrains, pulse, fruits, vegetables, oil seeds etc;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government propose to restrict the entry of multinational companies and big industrial houses in processing industries based on agricultural products;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether the Government propose to give more concession to small scale food processing industries in rural areas; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) to (c) For the growth, development and promotion of processed food industry, the Ministry provides financial assistance in the form of soft loan or grants-in-aid under its plan schemes. The rural youth can take advantage of these schemes for self employment.

(d) and (e) No, Sir.

(f) and (g) The general concessions for Small Scale Sector are also available to the Food Processing Industrial Units in this Sector.

NCDC

2891. SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the proposal of various projects received by the National Co-operative Development Corporation from the Government of Uttar Pradesh, Madhy Pradesh, Maharashtra and Rajasthan;

(b) the stage at which these proposals are pending; and

(c) the time by which the decision is likely to be taken thereon by NCDC?

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

Soyabean Cultivation

2892. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government had a proposal to increase Soyabean cultivation in the country;

(b) if so, the steps taken in this regarding during the Eighth Five Year Plan;

(c) whether the Union Government propose to adopt any new strategy to increase the production of Soyabean during the Ninth Five Year Plan; and

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the target set for increasing additional hectares of land and the quantum of additional production envisaged for that plan period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) and (b) A Centrally Sponsored Oilseeds Production Programme is being implementing for increasing the production of oilseeds including Soyabean. During the Eight Five Year Plan an amount of Rs. 464 crores was spent on the implementation of the Scheme.

(c) and (d) During the Ninth Five Year Plan, the Oilseeds Production Programme (OPP) is continuing in 23 States covering 374 selected districts to increase the production of oilseeds including Soyabean. The new strategies proposed during the Ninth Five Year Plan include expansion of the seed production programme and micro-irrigation like the sprinkler system. One of the strategies being adopted under OPP for the expansion of area is through sequential cropping, inter-cropping, replacement of low economy crop and as substitute crops in problematic area/situation. Separate targets have not been set either for the area expansion or for production of Soyabean, but a target of oilseeds production has been fixed at 30 million tonnes by the terminal year of the Ninth Plan.

Ban on use of Oxytocin

2893. SHRI ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHAL :
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that cows and buffaloes are being injected with oxytocin in some areas for increasing the milk output;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have issued any directions to State Government to impose ban on the use of said injection;

(d) if so, the action being taken by the Government against violators; and

(e) of not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Directorate General of Health Services has issued several circulars to State Drug Controllers and other concerned authorities to restrict the use of Oxytocin injection on milching animals.

(d) No report of violation has so far been received.

(e) Does not arise.

Border Area Development Programme

2894. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of main objectives and structure of Border Area Development Programme;

(b) the details of location including Gujarat where border areas development programmes are to be implemented during the Ninth Five Year Plan, State-wise;

(c) the details of the projects implemented during Eighth Five Year Plan period in the North-Western areas; and

(d) the details of allocation made to implement the projects in the said area during the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) The main objective of the Border Area Development Programme (BADP) is to meet the special needs of the people living in remote, inaccessible areas situated near the border. Schemes which address problems such as inadequacies related to provision of essential needs, strengthening of the social infrastructure, filling up of critical gaps in the road network etc. may be taken up under the programme. BADP is a 100% centrally funded area programme.

(b) The programme is in operation in the border blocks of states which border Pakistan, Bangladesh and Myanmar, namely, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Gujarat, Jammu & Kashmir, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tripura and West Bengal.

(c) The decisions regarding the schemes/projects to be undertaken in each State are taken by the State level Screening Committees. In the North-Western States, viz. Rajasthan and Gujarat, the schemes undertaken relate to education, health, water supply, roads, security etc.

(d) In the current year the Governments of Gujarat and Rajasthan have been allocated Rs. 8.88 crore and Rs. 26.52 crore respectively under BADP. In addition Rs. 30 crore have been allocated to Government of Rajasthan for the Indira Gandhi Nahar Project.

Crop Failure

2895. SHRI BASWARAJ PATIL SEDAM :
SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR :
SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT :
SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR :
SHRI RAMANAND SINGH :
DR. ULHAS VASUDEO PATIL :
SHRI VIJAY GOEL :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether several States are facing serious situation due to crop failure;

(b) if so, the States affected by crop failure;

(c) the total loss in terms of money incurred by the agriculture sector particularly due to loss of Rabi and Kharif crops during 1997-98 and 1998-99;

(d) whether the State Governments have requested the Union Government for immediate assistance to combat the crop failure;

(e) if so, the details thereof and the decision taken by the Union Government thereon, State-wise; and

(f) the reasons for delay in approval of grant and release of funds to the States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) to (f) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Production of Plutonium

2896. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned 'Pakistan starts

producing plutonium: Report' appearing in the 'Times of India' dated November 19, 1998;

(b) if so, the Government's reaction thereto, particularly in view of the fact that this move could help Pakistan build hydrogen, plutonium and neutron bombs in future; and

(c) the manner in which the Government propose to counter this move?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Government has been closely monitoring and continuously assessing the nuclear capability of Pakistan. India has a large, diversified and advanced nuclear programme geared to meeting India's developmental and security challenges. Government remains fully committed to effectively safeguarding the country's security in keeping with its assessment of the national security requirements.

Under Ground Water

2897. SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA :
 PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA :
 SHRI VITHAL TUPE :
 SHRI D.B. ROY :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that ground water level in several states is decreasing sharply;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons therefor, state-wise;

(c) whether according to survey conducted by the Central Water Commission recently revealed that the ground water in Matropolitan cities is highly polluted and unsafe for drinking purpose; and

(d) if so, the measure being taken/proposed to be taken by the Central Water Commission to recharge safe ground water in water starved areas of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) and (b) Long term

observations made by the Central Ground Water Board have shown a situation of both rise and fall in the level of ground water in various parts of the country. State-wise details of districts where fall of more than four metres have been observed in certain pockets are given in the statement enclosed. The decline in the level of ground water is mainly due to withdrawal in excess of annual recharge, variation in the amount and distribution of rainfall, reduction in recharge of ground water due to increased urbanisation, deforestation and adoption of water intensive cropping by farmers.

(c) No survey of ground water has been conducted by the Central Water Commission. However, a study on the quality of ground water in Delhi only has been conducted by the Central Ground Water Board in collaboration with the Central Pollution Control Board. The results of the study has revealed presence of some chemicals and heavy metals in excess of the prescribed standards in ground water in some pockets of Delhi.

(d) The measures taken by the Government to recharge ground water in various parts of the country includes:—

- (i) Implementation of a Central Sector Scheme by the Central Ground Water Board on 'studies on artificial recharge of ground water' in some parts of Maharashtra, Karnataka, NCT of Delhi and Union Territory of Chandigarh. Based on the positive results of studies in these States, the Government have decided to extend the above mentioned scheme to cover some 'over-exploited', 'Dark' and 'Grey' blocks of some other States during the IX Five Year Plan.
- (ii) The Central Ground Water Board has prepared and circulated a Manual on artificial recharge of ground water to States/Union Territories to enable them to formulate area specific recharge scheme.
- (iii) The Central Ground Water Board has formulated a Centrally Sponsored Scheme to assist States in artificial recharge of ground water. This scheme is at consultation stage.

Statement*District-wise Fall of More than Four Metres of Ground Water Levels on Long Term Basis (1980-1998)**(Pre-Monsoon (May))*

Sl. No.	States	Districts
1.	Haryana	Bhiwani, Rohtak, Jind, Yamunanagar, Kurukshetra, Karnal, Kaithal, Mahendergarh, Rewari, Gurgaon, Faridabad, Panipat.
2.	Punjab	Amritsar, Jalandher, Ferojpur, Faridkot, Ludhiana, Fatehgarh, Patiala, Sangrur, Bhatinda.
3.	Rajasthan	Alwar, Bikaner, Churu, Jhunjhunu, Bharatpur, Dholpur, Dosa, Jaipur, Sikar, Naugor, Jaisalmer, Ajmer, Tonk, Sawai Madhopur, Pali, Jalore, Sirohi, Barmer, Jodhpur, Bhilwara, Rajsomand, Udaipur, Kota, Mandisor, Chittorgarh, Bundi.
4.	Gujarat	Bhuj, Rajkot, Jamnagar, Junagarh, Amreli, Surendamagar, Banaskantha.
5.	Uttar Pradesh	Nainital, Muradabad, Bulandshar, Bareilly, Aligarh, Mathura, Agra, Gonda, Lucknow, Kanpur, Allahabad, Fatehpur, Banda, Hamirpur, Firozabad, Lalitpur, Gaziabad, Fatehgarh, Saharanpur, Meerut, Jounpur, Jhansi, Banaras, Ballia.
6.	West Bengal	Purulia.
7.	Assam	Golaghat, Sonitpur, Lakheempur, Kachchar.
8.	Madhya Pradesh	Guna, Panna, Satara, Sahjapur, Sagar, Ambekapur, Ujjain, Dewas, Dhar, Indore, Khargaon, Chhindwara, Narsingpur, Hosangabad, Bilaspur, Rajpur, Jagdalpur, Murena, East Nimar, Rajandgaon, Durg, Ratlam.
9.	Karnataka	Bangalore, Belgaum, Bellary, Bijapur, Dharwar Kolar, Mandia, Uttar Kanada, Shimoga, Gulbarga, Mysore.
10.	Tamil Nadu	South Arcot, Salem, Coimbatore, Puddukotai, Mudurai, Trunagar, Kamrajar, Thirunaiveli, Tirucherapalli, Thanjavur.
11.	Bihar	East Singburn, Ranchi.
12.	Maharashtra	Jalgaon
13.	Andhra Pradesh	Medak, Rangareddy, Mehboob Nagar, Nalgonda, Cuddapah, Chittoor.
14.	Orissa	Koraput, Mayurbhanj.

Clearance of Commercial Serials on Doordarshan

2898. SHRI ABHAYSINH S. BHONSLE :
SHRI VITHAL TUPE :

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the number of commercial and tele-serials sanctioned on the commission basis during the last three years;

(b) the amount sanctioned by the Government for these serials;

(c) the number of serials pending with Doordarshan for clearance; and

(d) the reasons for delay in clearance of serials?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI) (a) and (b) During the last three years a total number of 672 tele-serials were commissioned and an amount of Rs. 6296.92 lakhs was sanctioned by Doordarshan for these serials.

(c) 499 proposals, Sir.

(d) Clearance of serials under the commissioning scheme depends upon completion of necessary formalities by the private producers, availability of funds, and the time taken by Doordarshan in processing the proposals as per the laid down procedure.

Service Conditions of P&T Officers

2899. SHRI ARJUN SETHI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a silent march was undertaken by the All India P&T Accounts Officer on December 2, 1998 to highlight their poor service conditions;

(b) if so, the details of their demands;

(c) whether in spite of the recommendations of the Fast Tract Committee and approval by the Cabinet their service conditions have not been redressed; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA):

(a) As per a news paper report, a silent march was organised by the said association on 2nd December, 1998.

(b) to (d) Their demands mainly include grant of higher pay scales to JAOs/AOs/Sr.AOs/CAOs, the release of a fresh promotion list for AOs/ACAOs; fixation of ad-hoc norms for creation of Accounts posts for TR computerisation; holding the JAOs departmental examinations on a regular basis and Vertical bifurcation of Indian P&T Accounts and Finance Service Group 'A' etc. These are complex issues which need inter-ministrial consultations.

[Translation]

Irrigation Projects

2900. SHRI JAYSINHJI CHAUHAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the sources from which irrigation facilities are being made available in each State particularly in Gujarat;

(b) the present status of irrigation capacity in the country, State-wise; and

(c) the details of steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to increase the irrigation facilities in the country particularly in Gujarat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) Details of sources of irrigation in the States of the country including Gujarat are as under:

Sources	Net Irrigated Area (in thousand hectares)	
	All India	Gujarat
Govt. Canals	16582	593
Private Canals	560	—
Tanks	3111	35
Tubewells	17937	724
Other Wells	11860	1642
Other Sources	3460	8
Total	53510	3002

(b) State-wise details of irrigation potential created and utilised in the country till the end of the Eighth Five Year Plan (i.e. 1996-97) are given in statement-I enclosed.

(c) With a view to create more irrigation facilities in the country through expeditious completion of ongoing major and medium irrigation and multi-purpose projects, Government of India launched Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) during 1996-97. Under the programme, Central Loan Assistance (CLA) is being provided to State Governments for selected ongoing major and medium irrigation multi-purposed projects which are beyond the resource capability of the State Governments, and are at advanced stage of construction and can be completed with a little financial support. The State-wise details of Central Loan Assistance released under the programme since 1996-97 are as under:

CLA released under AIBP		(RS. in crores)
Year	All India	Gujarat
1996-97	500.00	74.77
1997-98	952.19	196.90
1998-99	434.73	112.71

Besides, the Government of Gujarat has taken the following steps to increase the irrigation facilities in the State:

- (i) providing canal lining in old canal systems which are unlined;
- (ii) extension, renovation and modernisation of old canal systems;
- (iii) adoption of sprinkler/drip irrigation method;
- (iv) economical and optimum use of irrigation water;
- (v) implementation of various recharge works such as recharge wells, percolation tanks, village tanks, spreading channels and minor schemes as well as check dams;
- (vi) transfer of water for irrigation purpose from surplus area to deficit area through connecting link canals and pond system;
- (vii) tapping surface water resources through medium and minor irrigation schemes;
- (viii) early completion of on-going major and medium project.

Statement

*Irrigation Potential Created and Utilised Through Major & Medium/Minor Irrigation Schemes
Till the end of VIII Five Year Plan, 1996-97 (Provisional)*

(In thousand hectares)

Sl. No.	States/UTs	Potential created			Potential utilised		
		Major & Medium	Minor	Total Medium	Major & Medium	Minor	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	3047.10	2901.87	5948.97	2883.80	2637.16	5570.96
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.00	83.42	83.42	0.00	65.34	65.54
3.	Assam	196.67	592.76	789.43	138.17	484.45	622.62
4.	Bihar	2802.50	5108.24	7910.74	2324.20	4573.70	6897.90

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
5.	Goa	13.02	20.52	33.54	12.07	17.77	29.84
6.	Gujarat	1350.00	1935.30	3285.30	1200.00	1839.62	3039.62
7.	Haryana	2078.79	1576.77	3655.56	1833.62	1531.82	3365.24
8.	Himachal Pradesh	10.55	150.38	160.93	5.59	128.42	134.01
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	173.70	378.68	552.38	147.57	364.64	512.21
10.	Karnataka	1666.02	1531.01	3197.03	1471.70	1488.71	2960.41
11.	Kerala	513.31	573.12	1086.43	464.31	537.49	1001.80
12.	Madhya Pradesh	2178.30	2657.52	4835.82	1551.30	2422.02	3973.32
13.	Maharashtra	2313.00	2619.20	4932.20	1287.70	2341.10	3628.80
14.	Manipur	63.00	60.39	123.39	52.00	51.19	103.19
15.	Meghalaya	0.00	46.64	46.64	0.00	40.33	40.33
16.	Mizoram	0.00	12.71	12.71	0.00	11.20	11.20
17.	Nagaland	0.00	67.24	67.24	0.00	57.93	57.93
18.	Orissa	1557.75	1357.47	2915.22	1442.66	1227.05	2669.71
19.	Punjab	2512.85	3354.17	5867.02	2452.34	3296.12	5748.46
20.	Rajasthan	2285.57	2421.24	4706.81	2086.31	2336.78	4423.09

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
21.	Sikkim	0.00	26.23	26.23	0.00	20.59	20.59
22.	Tamil Nadu	1545.51	2115.22	3660.73	1545.49	2111.36	3656.85
23.	Tripura	2.30	92.58	94.88	2.30	84.03	86.33
24.	Uttar Pradesh	7059.00	23595.00	30654.00	6126.00	21923.00	28049.00
25.	West Bengal	1444.08	3217.37	4661.45	1332.52	2576.90	3909.42
Total-States		32813.02	56495.05	89308.07	28359.65	52218.72	80578.37
Total-UTs		18.22	112.15	130.37	9.00	104.32	113.32
Grand Total		32831.24	56607.20	89438.44	28368.65	52323.04	80691.69

Setting up of Radio Station in Bihar

2901. PROF. RITA VERMA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether a decision was taken to set up a Radio Station in the Dhanbad district of Bihar;

(b) if so, the action taken thereon;

(c) whether demand for land was made to the Bihar Government and the Public sector Undertaking Bharat Coking Coal Ltd. for setting up radio station at Dhanbad;

(d) if so, whether the land has since been acquired; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI) : (a) to (e) A proposal to set up a Radio Station with 6 Kilowatt FM Transmitter at Dhanbad (Bihar) was included in the 8th Five Year Plan. The Government of

Bihar was requested to make a suitable site available. M/s Bharat Coking Coal Limited (BCCL) offered a piece of land for the proposal in 1993 and the Minister of Coal was approached to approve the transfer to the said land. In the meantime, BCCL withdrew the offer and therefore, land could not be acquired. Due to constraints of resources, the project has not been included in the 9th Plan.

[English]

Public Telephone Facilities

2902. SHRI JANG BAHADUR SINGH PATEL : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of PCOs are inadequate to meet the requirement of the people at large and they have to wait for a long time to make calls;

(b) if so, the number of PCOs in the country;

(c) whether there is any proposal to increase their numbers;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the number of applications pending for the sanction of PCOs, the period of their pendency and the reasons for not taking any action on them;

(f) whether the PCO holders are overcharging from customers and there are no foolproof measures available to the public to counter the PCO operators; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Number of PCOs functioning in the country are 4,68,833.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Targets for PCOs during 1998-99 are given in the statement-I enclosed.

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

(f) and (g) Sir, a few complaints are received regarding overcharging by STD PCO franchisees. To check overcharging by franchisees, DOT approved call charge indicators operating exclusively on 16 KHz metering pulses from telephone exchange are only permitted to be used. Customers on their part can insist for a receipt indicating details of the call and compare it with the prescribed rates which are supposed to be displayed by franchisees.

Statement

Targets for Public Telephones for 1998-99

S. No.	Name of Circle District	Local and Local cum Trunk PCOs	STD/ISD PCOs	Total
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andaman & Nikobar	15	35	50
2.	Andhra Pradesh	2000	6000	8000
3.	Assam	500	1500	2000
4.	Bihar	2000	6000	8000
5.	Gujarat	1500	4500	6000
6.	Haryana	535	1715	2250
7.	Himachal Pradesh	250	750	1000

1	2	3	4	5
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	250	750	1000
9.	Karnataka	2000	6000	8000
10.	Kerala	750	2250	3000
11.	Madhya Pradesh	2000	6000	8000
12.	Maharashtra	2500	7500	10000
13.	North East	250	750	1000
14.	Orissa	300	900	1200
15.	Punjab	1000	3000	4000
16.	Rajasthan	1500	4500	6000
17.	Tamil Nadu	2500	7500	10000
18.	Uttar Pradesh (East)	2500	7500	10000
19.	Uttar Pradesh (West)	1500	4500	6000
20.	West Bengal	1500	4500	6000
21.	Mumbai	1500	4500	6000
22.	Calcutta	2000	5500	7500
23.	Delhi	1500	4500	6000
24.	Chennai	1000	3000	4000
Total		31350	93650	125000

Assistance by World Bank

2903. SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of assistance provided by World Bank to Gujarat under National Agricultural Extension Projects during the last two years, till date;

(b) whether the Government have made a reviews of the effect of recently imposed sanctions on these projects;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) The National Agricultural Extension Project in Gujarat was closed in March, 1993. Hence, no financial assistance has been provided during last two years.

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

Indian High Commission in London

2904. PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian High Commission in London is having a Commercial and Economic Department;

(b) if so, the functions and the number of persons working in this department;

(c) whether the Government have made any assessment regarding its achievement and usefulness in assisting the Indian Exporters in the promotion of their trade in the British market and vice-versa;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE):

(a) Yes, Sir. There is an Economic and Commercial Wing in the High Commission of India in London.

(b) (i) The main function of the Economic and Commercial Wing of the High Commission of India,

London, is to promote India's economic and commercial interests in the UK. This, inter-alia, includes promoting Indian exports in the British market, encouraging investments from the UK and facilitating industrial and technical collaborations between the Indian and British commercial organisations. In addition, the Economic and Commercial Wing has also been attempting to build and promote an Indian Brand Equity, both in terms of the country and specific products.

(ii) The Economic and Commercial Wing has 9 personnel including one Counsellor, one First Secretary, one Second Secretary and supporting staff.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The Economic and Commercial Wing has provided useful assistance to Indian exporters by monitoring opportunities, making relevant information available, organising various trade promotion events, facilitating participation in trade fairs and assisting in the resolution of trade disputes. It has also been active in disseminating information to British trade and industry with regard to business and investment opportunities available in India. The efforts of Economic and Commercial Wing have, inter-alia, been responsible for Indian exports to the UK growing from Rs. 2121 Crores in 1990-91 to Rs. 7578 Crores in 1997-98; an increase of over 250%. During the same period, the British exports to India rose from Rs. 2963 Crores to Rs. 8696 Crores, an increase of over 190%.

(e) The Government continues to monitor the functioning of the Economic and Commercial Wing of the High Commission of India, London to ensure that it fulfils its functions adequately and that it has adequate resources for its various activities.

Telecom Regulatory Authority of India

2905. SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Telecom Regulatory Authority of India has suggested the establishment of Ombudsmen in the Department of Telecommunication;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the remedies already available to consumers against the wrong billing, low quality of telecom service and faults of telephones?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA):

(a) and (b) The TRAI has brought out a Consultation Paper on Quality of Service. Among the other suggestions, the Consultation Paper contains proposal for the establishment of the institution of an Ombudsman who can apply specialized knowledge in setting of disputes/complaints of customers arising out of the non-compliance by an operator of the Quality of Service standards, prescribed by the TRAI. As per TRAI's proposal this scheme provides for a viable mechanism that will focus on the resolution of individual complaints or disputes of a day-to-day operational or service nature.

(c) In addition to normal official channels, the consumers can approach public grievance cell, Telephone Adalat, Open House Session and Consumer Redressal Forums for the redressal of their grievances.

HPTs/LPTs in the Country

2906. SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT : Will the Minister of INFORMATION & BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the break up of High Power Transmitters and Low Power Transmitters operating in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether certain administratively approved HPTs/LPTs are still incomplete;

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

(d) the steps taken to complete the pending/lingering HPTs/LPTs projects on priority basis;

(e) the details of new HPTs/LPTs projects approved for implementation during the current year and allocation made therefore, state-wise; and

(f) the present status of progress made in respect of ongoing project in Maharashtra?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI) : (a) A statement-I is enclosed.

(b) to (d) 288 TV transmitter projects are presently under various stages of implementation, details of which are given in the statement-II enclosed. LPT/VLPT projects take about 2 years time for completion and HPT projects take about 3 years time, subject to timely construction of building and towers, availability of requisite resources, other infrastructural facilities, manpower and relative priorities. The Prasar Bharati has intimated that all out efforts are being made for completion of projects at the earliest.

(e) Besides sanctioning and commissioning of LPT, Rampur (Upgradation from 100 W to 300 W) in Uttar Pradesh, schemes for setting up of an HPT at Vadodara in Gujarat and an LPT at Mandi (DD-II) in Himachal Pradesh have been sanctioned during current financial year for which Rs. 2.00 lakhs and Rs. 20.00 lakhs respectively have been allocated in the Budget for 1998-99.

(f) Six LPTs at Khopoli, Mahad, Mangaon, Satana, Tumsar and Umerkhed and two VLPTs at Koregaon and Malwan in Maharashtra have been commissioned during the current financial year. 28 TV transmitters (HPT-4, LPT-14 and VLPT-10) projects are presently under implementation in the State, of which all 24 LPTs/VLPTs and HPT (DD-II) at Nagpur are expected to be completed in phases by 1999-2000 subject to availability of resources, infrastructural facilities, requisite manpower and interse priorities.

Statement-I

Doordarshan Network (As on 30.11.1998)

S. No.	State/U.T.s	PPCs	TV Transmitters (Primary Channel)					TV Transmitters (Other Than Primary Channel)			
			HPTs	LPTs	VLPTs	TRANS	Total	HPTs	LPTs	VLPTs	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1.	Assam	3	3	19	1	1	24	0	3	0	3
2.	Andhra Pradesh	1	8	61	6	1	76	1	0	0	1

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	1	1	3	32	0	36	0	1	0	1
4.	Bihar	4	5	44	1	1	51	0	1	0	1
5.	Goa	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	1
6.	Gujarat	2	4	51	3	0	58	1	1	0	2
7.	Haryana	0	0	9	0	0	9	0	1	0	1
8.	Himachal Pradesh	1	2	8	29	2	41	0	1	0	1
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	2	4	5	31	1	41	0	4#	0	4
10.	Kerala	1	3	18	2	0	23	0	4	0	4
11.	Karnataka	2	4	42	2	0	48	1	0	0	1
12.	Madhya Pradesh	2	6	69	10	0	85	0	1	0	1
--13.	Meghalaya	2	2	2	2	0	6	0	2	0	2
14.	Maharashtra	2	5	68	9	1	83	1	1	0	2
15.	Manipur	1	1	1	3	0	5	0	1	0	1
16.	Mizoram	1	2	0	2	0	4	0	2	0	2
17.	Nagaland	1	2	2	4	1	9	0	1	0	1
18.	Orissa	2	4	57	9	1	71	1	4	2	7
19.	Punjab	4	4	5	0	1	10	0	1	0	1

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
20.	Rajasthan	4	4	58	13	2	77	0	2	0	2
21.	Sikkim	0	1	0	5	0	6	0	1	0	1
22.	Tamilnadu	1	3	36	3	2	44	1	0	0	1
23.	Tripura	1	1	2	1	1	5	0	2	0	2
24.	Uttar Pradesh	6	9	63	25	3	100	0	5	0	5
25.	West Bengal	3	4	19	2	0	25	1	1	0	2
26.	Delhi	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	2*	0	3
27.	A. & N. Islands	1	0	2	10	0	12	0	1	0	1
28.	Daman & Diu	0	0	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	0
29.	Pondichery	1	0	2	2	0	4	0	1	0	1
30.	L'Dweep Islands	0	0	1	8	0	9	0	0	1	1
31.	Chandigarh	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	1
32.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Total		45	84	651	215	18	968	8	46	3	57

#One LPT for Kashmir Channel.
*LPTs for Parliament Coverage

Total Transmitters 1025

Statement-II**Doordarshan Projects
As on 30.11.1998**

UNDER IMPLEMENTATION

S. No.	State/U.Ts	HPTs	LPTs	VLPTs	Trans-Posers	Total Trans.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	Assam	0 + 2	1	0	1	4
2.	Andhra Pradesh	2	16	3	0	21
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	11	1	12
4.	Bihar	1 + 1	4	1	0	7
5.	Goa	0	0	0	0	0
6.	Gujarat	3	8	0	0	11
7.	Haryana	0	5	0	0	5
8.	Himachal Pradesh	0	0 + 1	10	0	11
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	1 + 1	2	6	0	10
10.	Kerala	2 + 2	3	2	0	9
11.	Karnataka	4	13	2	0	19
12.	Madhya Pradesh	3 + 4	12	2	0	21
13.	Meghalaya	0 + 1	0	0	1	2

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
14.	Maharashtra	3 + 1	14	10	0	28
15.	Manipur	1	0	2	0	3
16.	Mizoram	0	1	0	1	2
17.	Nagaland	0	0 + 1	2	1	4
18.	Orissa	2 + 1	11	9	2	25
19.	Punjab	1	0	0	0	1
20.	Rajasthan	3 + 2	17	4	0	26
21.	Sikkim	0	0	1	0	1
22.	Tamilnadu	1	11	2	0	14
23.	Tripura	0 + 1	3	0	0	4
24.	Uttar Pradesh	2 + 5	13	16	0 + 1	37
25.	West Bengal	4 + 2	3	1	0	10
26.	Delhi	0	0	0	0	0
27.	A. & N. Islands	0	0	0	0	0
28.	Daman & Diu	0	0	0	0	0
29.	Pondichery	1	0	0	0	1
30.	L'Dweep Islands	0	0	0	0	0
31.	Chandigarh	0	0	0	0	0
32.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0	0	0	0	0
Total		34 + 23	137 + 2	84	7 + 1	286

Note : Added figures indicate transmitters for DD-II service.

*[Translation]***Indian Broadcasting Network**

2907. SHRI ARVIND KAMBLE : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether progress of Indian Broadcasting network has been very much disappointing as compared to the expectation during the last three years;

(b) if so, whether foreign and private telecast services progressed well as compared to Government telecast service;

(c) whether the Doordarshan is suffering heavy losses every year on this account;

(d) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto and whether any evaluation has been made of the situation; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI) (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) No, Sir. Gross billing is as under:

Year	(Rs. in crores)
1995-96	466.70
1996-97	614.77
1997-98	640.00

(d) and (e) Does not arise.

*[English]***Fund for Agriculture and Allied Activities**

2908. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK :
SHRI VITHAL TUPE :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of amount sought by Karnataka and Maharashtra Governments from the Union Government for the agriculture and allied activities for the current year; and

(b) the amount actually released by the Union Government for the purpose during the current year so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) and (b) The State Governments of Karnataka and Maharashtra have apportioned a sum of Rs. 173.57 crore and Rs. 330.66 crore respectively for the agriculture and allied activities within the overall ceiling of plan size during current year as agreed to, by Planning Commission and these two States. Block grants or loans are provided to the States for plan as a whole on the basis of Gadgil formula and no sectoral releases are made by Planning Commission.

Sanskrit on Computers

2909. SHRI RAMANAND SINGH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to introduce training programmes to facilitate work in Sanskrit on computers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) and (b) The Government is already providing training on use of Devnagari on computers. Besides onsite training, National Informatics Centre is organising twelve regular courses for employees of Government and Government bodies. This enables use of Devanagari based languages including Sanskrit on computers and already several organisations have created such databases.

(c) Does not arise.

Linking of Rivers

2910. SHRI ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL :
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the Peninsular as well as the Himalayan rivers for which the pre-feasibility report for inter-linking has been completed by the Central Water Commission;

(b) the details of the inter-link for which the feasibility reports have been completed;

(c) whether any meeting has been held with the State Governments in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details alongwith outcome thereof?

SHRI MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) Prefeasibility reports of 17 links in Peninsular region and 14 links in Himalayan region have been completed by the National Water Development Agency (NWDA).

(b) Feasibility reports of three links have also been completed.

(c) and (d) All the decisions about administrative, financial and technical matters concerning NWDA are taken in the NWDA Society, Governing Body and Technical Advisory Committee meetings in which State Government representatives participate.

Teesta Barrage

2911. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of funds released by the Union Government and spent on the completion of the Teesta Barrage project so far;

(b) the percentage of work completed and the total area being irrigated as on date; and

(c) the time by which the project is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) Presently first sub-stage of Stage-I of Phase-I of Teesta Barrage Project is under execution. Planning Commission released a Special Central Assistance of Rs. 5 crores in the year 1983-84, an advance Plan assistance of Rs. 10 crores in 1986-87 and Rs. 10 crores during 1987-88. Further an additional Central Assistance of Rs. 150 crores was sanctioned by the Planning Commission during the VIII

Five Year Plan. Central Loan Assistance of Rs. 5 crores during 1996-97 and Rs. 15 crores during 1997-98 under the Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) of Ministry of Water Resources was released. Further, during 1998-99, an amount of Rs. 20.00 crores has been sanctioned under AIBP out of which Rs. 10 crores has already been released.

An expenditure of Rs. 673.11 crores has been incurred on the project upto March, 1997.

(b) The percentage completion of various components of the project as on 1.1.98 are as under:—

Teesta Barrage	100%
Mahananda Barrage	100%
Dauk Nagar Barrage	100%
Teesta Mahananda Link Canal	100%
Mahananda Main Canal	100%
Dauk Nagar Main Canal	65%
Nagar Tongaon Main Canal	Yet to be started
Teesta Jaldhaka Main Canal	55%
Distribution System	25%

The potential created by this project up to the end of March, 1997 is 91.31 thousand hectares and the additional anticipated potential during 1997-98 is 21 thousand hectares.

(c) Completion of the project will depend on the priority attached to it by the State Government.

[Translation]

Sardar Sarovar Dam

2912. SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Sardar Sarovar Corporation has formulated any Master Plan for scientific water management in Maharashtra, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the measures taken by the Government to mobilise resources for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) No, Sir. Sardar Sarovar Narmada Nigam Limited, wholly owned by the Government of Gujarat, is entrusted with the implementation of Sardar Sarovar Project in the State of Gujarat to harness the Narmada water benefitting the participating States of Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Rajasthan in accordance with the Award of Narmada Water Disputes Tribunal.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[English]

Agricultural Production

2913. COL SONA RAM CHOUDHARY Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the production targets of agricultural commodities fixed for 1999-2000, crop-wise and item-wise;

(b) the percentage of increase envisaged in the agricultural production over the production of 1998-99; and

(c) steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to achieve the targets?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) to (c) Targets for foodgrain production for the year 1999-2000 have not been finalised so far.

Passport Applications

2914. SHRI H.G. RAMULU Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of passport applications pending at the Passport Office, Bangalore, by the end of September, 1998;

(b) the average time taken to issue a passport by the above office; and

(c) whether the Government take steps to open an Additional Passport Office at Hubli to facilitate the People of northern parts of Karnataka to get the passport expeditiously?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJÉ) : (a) The number of passport applications pending at the Passport Office, Bangalore, as on 30.9.1998 was 24,156.

(b) The average time taken to issue a fresh passport as on 30th September, 1998 was 80 days.

(c) No, Sir. The volume of applications received from Hubli and adjoining districts does not justify the opening of an additional Passport Office at Hubli at present.

[Translation]

Veterinary College

2915. SHRI MITRASAN YADAV : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received any proposal/application from Narendradeo University of Agricultural and Technology, Faizabad (U.P.) for opening Veterinary College and if so, the present status thereof.

(b) whether Veterinary Council of India has received any applications for recognition of syllabi;

(c) if so, the decisions taken thereon;

(d) whether any amount has been allocated for Veterinary College, if opened; and

(e) the time by which the funds are likely to be released?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) The Union Government have not received any such proposal from Narendradeo University of Agricultural and Technology, Faizabad (U.P.). Establishment/opening of Veterinary College falls within the purview of State Government under U.P. Krishi Evam Prodyogik Vishwavidayala Adhiniyam 1958 (UP Act XLV of 1958) and as such the Govt. of Uttar Pradesh have sanctioned establishment of this college.

(b) and (c) The syllabi is already prescribed by Veterinary Council of India, under the Regulations 1993 Gazetted in the Extra-Ordinary Gezette No. 57 dated 7th February, 1994 which is mandatory for a Veterinary Colleges for recognition of its degree. This university is following the same.

(d) and (e) Up Government has sanctioned Rs. 2141.87 lakhs between 1986 to 1997 for construction

of college building, hostel, staff quarter, purchase of equipment and salary of staff.

[English]

Film Museum

2916. SHRI DINSHA PATEL : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) The total cost involved in setting up of the film Museum and annual expenditure thereon;

(b) whether the Government propose to meet the same;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Museum is likely to provide technological assistance to the film Industry in India; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI) : (a) to (e) A preliminary proposal to set up a National Museum of Moving Images was submitted by an association called the United producers Forum. The Forum has been requested to submit a detailed project report for the proposed Museum.

Use of INSAT-II

2917. SHRI SITARAM NAIK : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether any evaluation has been made to examine the effect of the foreign telecast on Indian citizen;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose the use of INSAT-II to meet the challenge of the foreign TV;

(c) if so, the steps taken so far in this direction; and

(d) the plan of the Government to use the S-band and C-band transponders of INSAT-IIA so far as commercial advertising is concerned?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) INSAT-II Satellites are used for national and regional services of Doordarshan and Doordarshan endeavours to telecast programmes which propagate high social values combined with wholesome entertainment.

(d) INSAT-IIA Satellite has become non-usable for TV applications.

Opening of Mass Communication at Orissa

2918. SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMAR SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to open institute of Mass Communication in the country particularly in Orissa;

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

(c) the time by which these are likely to be opened?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI) : (a) A branch of Indian Institute of Mass Communication is already functioning at Dhenkanal (Orissa) since August, 1993. There is no proposal for opening up of any other branch of IIMC in Orissa.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Constitution of CBFC

2919. SHRI SHANTILAL PURSHOTTAMDAS PATEL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Board of Film Certification has been constituted;

(b) if so, the names of the persons appointed on the Board; and

(c) if not, the time by which the Board is likely to be constituted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI MUKHTAR

NAQVI) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Central Board of Film Certification has been reconstituted w.e.f. 9.10.1998. Apart from Ms. Asha Parekh, Chairperson, the Board has the following members:—

1. Ms. Saroja Devi
2. Ms. Jayanti
3. Dr. A.R. Shreedhar
4. Ms. Arundhati Mukherji
5. Sh. Tapas Pal
6. Ms. Janaki Shavakarn
7. Sh. R. Seurirajan
8. Smt. Sabitha Radhakrishna
9. Sh. R.S. Manohar
10. Ms. Binapani Mohanty
11. Dr. Ananta Mohapatra
12. Sh. Hamen Das
13. Ms. G. Sarala Kumari
14. Ms. S. Janaki
15. Sh. Sitaram Shastri
16. Sh. K.Y.N. Patanjali
17. Ms. Namita Shankar
18. Ms. Sulabha Deshpande
19. Ms. Snehlata Deshmukh
20. Sh. Vinod Sharma
21. Sh. Arvind Trivedi
22. Smt. Chitra Mudgil
23. Sh. Ramakant Goswami
24. Ms. Leela Lathif
25. Sh. Rosscote Krishna Pillai

(c) Does not arise.

Assistance to Onion Growers

2920. SHRI RAMKRISHNA BABA PATIL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Onion farmer on road to destruction" appearing in "Indian Express" dated November 26, 1998;

(b) if so, the details of the facts reported therein;

(c) whether Government have taken any steps to provide assistance to the farmers producing onions;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. It has been indicated that due to unseasonal rain there is 30–40% loss to the Kharif onion and the rate of onion seed has gone upto Rs. 1000/- per Kg. in Maharashtra.

(c) to (e) The steps taken by the Government of India to increase the production of onion and onion seed during current year are:—

(i) The mass spray campaign in farmers fields by NAFED through National Horticultural Research & Development Foundation (NHRDF) has been launched to protect the crop from attack of pests and diseases and increase production in Maharashtra State.

(ii) Government of India is implementing Central Sector Scheme on Production & Supply of Vegetable Seeds' under which highly subsidised vegetable seed kits are being distributed among the farmers. These kits include the seeds of onion also covering the affected areas of Maharashtra.

Production of Pulses

2921. DR. SANJAY SINH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the annual production of pulses has remained stagnant around 120–140 lakh tonnes during the last three years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the details of the quantity of pulses imported during the last three years; and

(d) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to increase the production of pulses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) The annual production of pulses in the country during the last three years is given below:

1995-96	123.10 lakh tonnes
1996-97	144.60 lakh tonnes
1997-98	133.50 lakh tonnes

(b) The reasons for low increasing of pulse production include:

- (i) Cultivation of pulses in less remunerative than that of cereals such as wheat, rice and oilseeds or of other commercial crops. The farmers, therefore, divert the better lands and resources for the cultivation of latter.
- (ii) Pulses are raised under rainfed conditions on marginal and sub-marginal lands, which are poor in fertility.
- (iii) The varieties available at present are susceptible to a number of diseases like yellow mosaic and powdery mildew in moong, urad and cowpea, sterility mosaic in arhar and wilt and blight in gram, reducing the yield; they are also vulnerable to termites and susceptible to pests.
- (iv) No major break-through has been achieved in pulses production technology and improvement of high yielding germ plasm. The varieties evolved in pulses have got narrow adaptability and, therefore, the farmer has to manage within the limited range to varieties for different seasons and agro-climatic situations.
- (v) The production of pulses in the off seasons that is summer/rabi is affected by stray cattle and Blue Bull, which damage pulse crops such as arhar, moong and urad more than any other crop.

(c) The quantity of pulses imported during the last three years is given below:

1995-96	4.91 lakh tonnes
1996-97	6.54 lakh tonnes
1997-98	6.59 lakh tonnes

(d) In order to increase the production of pulses in the country, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme of National Pulses Development Project (NPDP) is under implementation in 26 States/UTs. The scheme envisages financial assistance to the States for production and distribution of certified seeds, seed minkits, rhizobium culture, micro-nutrients, sprinkler sets, improved farm implements, PP equipments, etc. Besides field demonstrations and farmers trainings are also being organised for the effective transfer of improved pulses production technology.

Indo-Sri Lanka Accord

2922. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have a proposal to review the Indo-Sri Lanka Accord;
- (b) if so, the steps taken in that direction; and
- (c) the reaction of the Government of Sri Lanka thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

STD/ISD/PCOs in Tamil Nadu

2923. SHRI K. KRISHNA MOORTHY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of STD/ISD and Public Telephone Booths working in Tamil Nadu at present; district-wise;
- (b) the number of applications lying pending for the allocation of said booths in the State; and
- (c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA):

(a) Information as on 30th June, 1998 is attached as statement.

(b) Number of pending applications are 56044.

(c) STD PCO Allotment Committee meetings are being convened to finalise allotment of STD PCOs where exchange capacities are available.

Statement

*Local PTs/STD PTs-Status as on
30.06.1998 (Tamil Nadu)*

Sl. No.	Name of SSA	Local PTs Working	STD PTs Working
1	Chengalpet	623	434
2	Coimbatore	1557	1872
3	Cuddalore	1346	363
4	Dharmapuri	529	293
5	Erode	955	766
6	Karaikudi	810	326
7	Kumbakonam (Cauvery River Delta Area)	285	177
8	Madurai	1731	783
9	Nagercoil	532	487
10	Nilgiris	293	101
11	Pondicherry	511	119
12	Salem	1861	850
13	Trichy	2129	731
14	Thanjavur	922	193
15	Tirunelveli	802	807
16	Tuticorin	519	427
17	Vellore	1860	583
18	Virudhunagar	177	282
19	Chennai	14938	6479

Registration of Pesticides

2924. SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of pesticides, insecticides, weedicides, fungicides, etc. provisionally registered by the Registration Committee u/s 9(3B) of the Insecticides Act;

(b) whether Registration Committee has recommended and permitted import of such pesticides for specific crops;

(c) if so, the quantum allowed and norms laid down therefor; and

(d) the details of 'Neem' and Bio-pesticides registered under u/s 9(3B) and 9(4) of Insecticides Act?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) Details are enclosed as statement-I.

(b) and (c) Registration Committee has permitted import of following pesticides in the national interest for the specific crops with the quantity as indicated:

Pesticides	Quantity	Crops
Imidacloprid 17.8% SL	100 KL	Cotton
Imidacloprid 70% WS	15 MT	
Flufenoxuron 10% DC	10 KL	Horiculture/ Floriculture
Dazomet Tech. Gr. 94%	40 MT	
Abamectin 1.9% EC	5 KL	
Paclobutrazol 23% SC	15 KL	
Piroxofop Propriyl 15% WP	145.3 MT	Wheat
Trialkoxydin 10% EC	4 KL	
Fenoxaprop-P-Ethyl 10% EC	361 KL	
Sulfosulfuron 75% WG	11.1 MT	

Besides these, import of Pheromones and Bacillus based biocides have been permitted with full commercialisation to promote Integrated Pest Management (IPM).

(d) The details of 'Neem' and Bio-pesticides registered U/S 9(3B) and 9(4) of the Insecticides Act, 1968 are given in the statement-II and III respectively.

Statement-I*List of Pesticides Registered u/s. 9(3B)*

1	Neem Seed kernal based EC containing Azadirachtin 3.0% w/w min.	M/s. Phytochem (I) Ltd. Hyderabad
2.	-do-	M/s. Fortune Bio-tech Ltd, Secunderabad-500 015
3.	Neem Seed kernal based EC containing Azadirachtin 1% w/w min.	M/s. EID Parry (I) Ltd, Madras
4.	Neem Seed kernal based EC containing Azadirachtin 0.15% w/w min.	M/s. Serampore Biovision Agra (P) Ltd., Calcutta-1.
5	Neem Seed kernal extract concentrate containing Azadirachtin 10% w/w min.	M/s. Fortune Bio-tech Ltd, Secunderabad-500 015
6.	Neem Seed kernal based EC containing Azadirachtin 0.15% w/w min.	M/s. Maharashtra Integrated Pest Control Lab, Wardha (MS)
7.	-do-	M/s. Ocean Agro (I) Ltd., Nandesari-391 340
8.	-do-	M/s. General Exports & Credits Ltd., Delhi-1.
9.	-do-	M/s. Ajay Farm Chem Pvt. Ltd., Pune-411 004
10.	-do-	M/s. Ajay Bio-Tech (I) Ltd, Pune
11.	-do-	M/s. Ramson Agrotech Pvt. Ltd., Hyderabad.
12.	Neem Seed Kernal Based EC containing Azadirachtin 1.0% w/w min.	M/s. Murkumbi Manufacturing, Belgaum.
13.	Paclobutrazol 23% SC w/w	M/s. Zeneca ICI Agrochemicals Ltd., Madras
14.	Bacillus Thuringensis var Israelensis strain 164 serotype H-14 Tech.	M/s. Biotch International Ltd., New Delhi.
15.	Bacillus Thuringiensis var Israelensis WP formulation	-do-
16.	Pheromone ZZ/ZE-7,-11-Hexadecadien-1yl Tech. for import	M/s. New Chemi Industries Ltd., Mumbai-21.

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|-----|--|--|
| 17. | Dozomet (Basamid) Tech. for import | M/s. BASF India Ltd., Mumbai. |
| 18. | Piroxofop Propinyl (Clodinafop Propargyl) Tech. for import | M/s. Novartis India Ltd., Mumbai-20. |
| 19. | Piroxofop Propinyl (Clodinafop Propargyl) 15% WP | -do- |
| 20. | Tralkoxydim Technical | M/s. Zeneca ICI Agrochemicals Ltd., Madras. |
| 21. | Tralkoxydim 10% EC | -do- |
| 22. | Fenoxaprop-P-Ethyl Tech. for import | M/s. Hoechst Schering AgrEvo Ltd., Mumbai-93. |
| 23. | Fenoxaprop-P-Ethyl 10% EC | M/s. Hoechst Schering AgrEvo Ltd., Mumbai-93. |
| 24. | Flufenoxuron Tech. for import | M/s. ACCO Industries Pvt. Ltd., Mumbai. |
| 25. | Fluffenoxuron 10% DC | -do- |
| 26. | Sulfosulfuron Tech. for import | M/s. Monsanto Enterprises Pvt. Ltd., Mumbai-400 051. |
| 27. | Sulfosulfuron 75% WG | -do- |
| 28. | Glufosinate Ammonium 13.5% SL | M/s. Hoechst Schering AgrEvo Ltd., Mumbai-93. |
| 29. | Glufosinate Ammonium Tech. for import | -do- |
| 30. | Imidachloprid Tech. for import | M/s. Bayer (I) Ltd., Mumbai |
| 31. | Imidachloprid 70% WS | -do- |
| 32. | Imidachloprid 17.8% SL | -do- |
| 33. | Hydrogen Cyanamide Tech. | M/s. PNP Associates, Fbd. |
| 34. | Hydrogen Cyanamide 50% SL for import | M/s. Rahul Pestchem Ind. Ltd., Mumbai-400 005. |
| 35. | -do- | M/s. Krishi Rasayan Exports Pvt. Ltd., Calcutta-20. |
| 36. | -do- | M/s. Honda Pesticides Pvt. Ltd., Aurangabad-431 001. |
| 37. | Abamectin 1.9% EC | M/s. Novartis India Ltd., Mumbai |

- | | | |
|-----|--|---|
| 38. | Bacillus thuringiensis Var
Israelensis Serotype H-14 | M/s. Hoechst Schering AgrEvo
Ltd., Mumbai. |
| 39. | Bacillus thuringiensis var
Israelensis, serotype H-14
Tech. | M/s. Tuticorin Alkali Chemicals
& Fertilizers Limited., Chennai. |
| 40. | Bacillus thuringiensis var
Israelensis, serotype H-14
formulation. | -do- |

Statement-II*List of Neem and Bio-Pesticides Registered under Section 9(3B)***A. Neem**

- | | | |
|-----|---|---|
| 1. | Neem Seed kernal based EC
containing Azadirachtin 3.0%
w/w min. | M/s. Phytochem (I) Ltd, Hyderabad |
| 2. | -do- | M/s. Portune Bio-tech Ltd,
Secunderabad-500 015 |
| 3. | Neem Seed kernal based EC
containing Azadiracht in 1%
w/w min. | M/s. EID Parry (I) Ltd, Madras |
| 4. | Neem Seed kernal based EC
containing Azadirachtin 0.15% | M/s. Serampore Biovision Agro (P)
Ltd., Calcutta-1. |
| 5. | Neem Seed kernal extract
concentrate containing
Azadirachtin 10% w/w min. | M/s. Fortune Bio-tech Ltd,
Secunderabad-500 015 |
| 6. | Neem Seed kernal based EC
containing Azadirachtin 0.15%
w/w/ min. | M/s. Maharashtra Intergrated Pest
Control Lab, Wardha (MS) |
| 7. | -do- | M/s. Ocean Agro (I) Ltd.,
Nandesari-391 340 |
| 8. | -do- | M/s. General Exports & Credits
Ltd., Delhi-1. |
| 9. | -do- | M/s. Ajay Farm Chem Pvt. Ltd.,
Pune-411 004 |
| 10. | -do- | M/s. Ajay Bio-Tech (I) Ltd., Pune |

B. Bio-Pesticides:

- | | | |
|----|---|--|
| 1. | Bacillus thuringiensis var
Israelensis, strain 164,
serotype H-14 Tech. | M/s. Biotech International Ltd.,
New Delhi-48 |
|----|---|--|

- | | | |
|----|--|--|
| 2. | Bacillus thuringiensis var israelensis WP formulation | -do- |
| | Bacillus thuringiensis Var israelensis, Serotype H-14 formulation | M/s. Hoechst Schering AgrEvo Ltd., Mumbai. |
| 4. | Bacillus thuringiensis var israelensis, serotype H-14 Tech. | M/s. Tuticorin Alkali Chemicals & Fertilizers Limited., Chennai. |
| 5. | Bacillus thuringiensis var israelensis, serotype, H-14 formulation | -do- |

Statement-III*List of Neem and Bio-Pesticides Registered under Section 9(4)*

- | | | | |
|--------------------------|---|-------|---|
| Neem | | 4. | M/s. Krishi Rasayan, Orissa. |
| (i) | <i>Neem oil based EC containing Azadirachtin 0.03% w/w min. 196 firms are registered.</i> | (ii) | <i>Validamycin Technical</i> |
| (ii) | <i>Neem seed Kernel based EC containing Azadirachtin-0.15% w/w min.</i> | 1. | M/s. Dhanuka Pesticides Ltd., New Delhi. |
| 1. | M/s. Safe Bio-Tech Limited, Vadodara. | (iii) | <i>Validamycin 3% L</i> |
| 2. | M/s. Nectar Biotech, Chennai. | 1. | M/s. Dhanuka Pesticides Ltd., New Delhi. |
| 3. | M/s. Keycer Agro Products Limited, Salem (T.N.). | (vi) | <i>Streptomycin Sulphate + Tetracycline Hydrochloride-9:1 S.P.:</i> |
| 4. | M/s. T. Stanes & Company Ltd., Coimbatore. | 1. | M/s. Bharat Pesticide Manufacturing Co., Delhi. |
| 5. | M/s. Pioneer Pesticides Pvt. Ltd., Chandigarh. | 2. | M/s. Paushak Ltd., Baroda. |
| 6. | M/s. Southern Pestro Chemical Industries Corporation Ltd., Chennai. | 3. | M/s. Solar Syndicate, Bombay. |
| B. Bio-Pesticides | | 4. | M/s. Devidayal Sales (P) Ltd., Bombay. |
| (i) | <i>Aureofungin Sol. 46.15% w/w</i> | 5. | M/s. Saklaspur Organics (P) Ltd., Bangalore. |
| 1. | M/s. Industrial Minerals & Chemicals Co. Pvt. Ltd., Bombay. | 6. | M/s. Sri Venkateswara Chemicals Industries, Kurnool (AP). |
| 2. | M/s. Bharat Pulverising Mills Ltd., Bombay. | 7. | M/s. ECI Agrochem (P) Ltd., West Bengal. |
| 3. | M/s. B.D. Khaitan & Company, Secunderabad (A.P.) | 8. | M/s. Tarapur Chemicals & Pesticides, Boisor (M.S.). |
| | | 9. | M/s. Samit Agro Industries, Calcutta. |
| | | 10. | M/s. National Farm Chemicals, Sikandrabad. |

11. M/s. Bhaskar Agro Chemicals Pvt. Ltd., Hyderabad.
12. M/s. Century Agrotech, Murshidabad.
13. M/s. Gold Star Chemicals & Antibiotics, Warangal (Dt.) A.P.
14. M/s. Ambachem Industries, Baroda.
15. M/s. Delta Insecticides (P) Ltd., Delhi.
16. M/s. Bharat Pulverising Mills Ltd., Calcutta.
17. M/s. Super Agro-India Pvt. Ltd., Calcutta.
18. M/s. Industrial Minerals & Chemicals Co. Pvt. Ltd., Bombay.
19. M/s. Shree Ramcides Chemicals, Madras.
20. M/s. Plant Agro Marketing & Co. Hyderabad.
21. M/s. Anu Products Ltd., Faridabad.
22. M/s. Kamataka Antibiotics & Pharmaceuticals Ltd., Bangalore.
23. M/s. Synbiotics Ltd., Baroda.
24. M/s. Mitra Chemicals, Calcutta.
25. M/s. Maharashtra Agro Chemicals, Satara.
26. M/s. Pestochem India Ltd., New Delhi.
27. M/s. Boss Agro Chemicals, Khargone.
28. M/s. Tropical Agrosystem (I) Ltd., New Delhi.
29. M/s. Darrick Insecticides Ltd., New Delhi.
30. M/s. Crop Health Products Ltd., Ghaziabad.
31. M/s. Tarama Industries, West Bengal.
32. M/s. Krishi Rasayan Exports Ltd., Calcutta.
33. M/s. Pioneer Pesticides Pvt. Ltd., Chandigarh.

(a) whether the Government are aware that the Cotton crop worth crores of rupees is destroyed due to the 'leaf-curl' disease every year;

(b) if so, whether the Government have formulated any scheme to protect cotton crop from the 'leaf-curl' disease;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) The Leaf Curl Virus (LCV) Disease has affected cotton crop in the Northern cotton growing States of Haryana, Punjab and Rajasthan. However, due to various measures taken by the Central, State Governments and farmers, the disease intensity has been declining.

(b) to (d) The Government is extending assistance to the concerned States under a Centrally Sponsored Scheme viz. Intensive Cotton Development Programme for increasing productivity/production of cotton. Under the scheme, incentive is also provided for control of diseases and pests including cotton leaf-curl virus. Besides, Central and State Governments are also undertaking following measures to control the disease:—

(1) State Effects:

- (i) State Departments of Agriculture have undertaken various extension measures to educate farmers for control of the disease.
- (ii) Farmers are extended specific advice to uproot the identified host weed plants.
- (iii) Integrated control of whitefly (vector of the disease) has been popularised among the cotton growers.
- (iv) Seed treatment with a recently introduced chemical (Imidacloprid) has been demonstrated over large areas to provide protection to vulnerable young stage of crops from the disease.
- (v) Surveillance teams are constituted to keep strict vigil on the spread of 'leaf-curl' virus disease and to advise farmers, on spot, for suitable control measures.
- (vi) Farmers have been specifically advised to grow LCV disease resistant varieties of cotton

[*Translation*]

Leaf-Curl Disease in Cotton

2925. SHRI RAMPAL SINGH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

like RG8, RS875, IRA5166, Angoli, LHH-144, LD-491, LD327, LD230, DS-1 and G-27.

2. Central Efforts:

- (i) Indian Council of Agriculture Research (ICAR) had made concerted efforts to provide input on LCV disease management viz. identification of disease resistant varieties vector management by application of most effective pesticides and neem based formulations, advocating clean cultivation of cotton etc.
- (ii) Central Integrated Pest Management Centres (CIPMCs) in the States of Haryana, Punjab and Rajasthan have actively promoted various integrated strategies to contain the LCV disease of cotton.

[English]

Safeguarding India's Interests

2926. DR. SUSHIL INDORA :
DR. CHINTA MOHAN :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state

(a) whether India has engaged some firms in America for lobbying to safeguard and further India's interests;

(b) if so, the names of such firms and the amount being paid to them annually for this purpose;

(c) whether the Government have made similar arrangements in other countries also; and

(d) if so, the countries where such arrangements have been made and amount which is spent on them annually?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) Embassy of India in Washington has, since 1993, had lobbying arrangements to project our point of view in order to safeguard and further India's interests. This is accepted practice in the United States. Lobbying firms are appointed for periodic intervals after making a careful assessment of our requirements.

(b) Currently, we have two firms namely M/s Verner Lipfert (VL) and M/s APCO to provide the Embassy with the lobbying support. An amount of US \$ 50,000 per month to Verner Lipfert and US \$ 25,000 per month to APCO is being paid for their services. The contracts of these firms will continue till end December 1998.

(c) We do not have these arrangements with other countries.

(d) Does not arise.

Centrally Sponsored Schemes for Rainfed Farming

2927. SHRI C.P. RADHAKRISHNAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Centrally sponsored schemes for rainfed farming under internationally aided projects included in the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the area likely to be selected first;

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

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) There is no such scheme under internationally aided projects.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

Board/Committee for Agricultural Products

2928. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY :
SHRI RAM PAL UPADHYAY :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have set up any board or committee for fixing prices of agriculture products;

(b) if so, whether representatives of the farmers have also been included in the above board or committee;

(c) if so, the number thereof during the last three years; and

(d) the norms for fixing the prices of agriculture products?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) Yes, Sir. The Government had set up a Commission in January, 1965 by the name Agricultural Prices Commission to advise on a continuing basis on agricultural price policy and price structure in the context of the need to raise agricultural production and give relief to the consumer. Its name was

changed as commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) by a Resolution dated 18.3.1985 by the Government.

(b) Yes, Sir. Eminent farmers are also included in the commission as Non-official Members.

(c) There are three posts of non-official members in the CACP which are filled up by eminent farmers on a contract basis for a period of three years. Five Non-official Members had worked during the last three years.

(d) While formulating its recommendations on price policy, the CACP considers various important factors viz., cost of production, changes in input prices, input/output price parity, trends in market prices, demand and supply, inter-crop price parity, effect on industrial cost structure, effect on general price level, effect on cost of living, international market price situation, parity between prices paid and prices received (terms of trade).

Talks with France

2929. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :
SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY :
SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV :
SHRI MAGANTI BABU :
SHRI VITHAL TUPE
SHRI ABHAYSINH S. BHONSLE :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister during the visit to France had discussions with French leaders;

(b) if so, the main issues discussed with French leaders;

(c) whether a delegation from France also visited India for further discussions; and

(d) the quantum of help India is going to receive in boosting up Indian economy and modernisation of technology for defence purposes?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) During his visit to Paris from September 29-30, 1998, the Prime Minister held wide ranging and comprehensive talks on subjects of mutual interest with French leaders. These inter-alia, covered bilateral cooperation, regional developments, nuclear disarmament

and non-proliferation and expansion of the UN Security Council.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) India and France have agreed to work together to promote mutually beneficial economic and commercial cooperation. The French side have expressed interest in participating in several areas of infrastructure development, including civil aviation, power generation, electricity transmission, telecommunications and railways. Various proposals for technology transfer, including in the defence sector, are also under consideration.

Mobile Cellular Services under DOT

2930. SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Private Telecom agencies make use of DOTs net work illegally and accumulating profit,

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to introduce mobile Cellular Services under DOT; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA) (a) No, Sir. Private Telecom. Operators are leasing out DOT's lines legally.

(b) Not applicable.

(c) and (d) The introduction of mobile cellular service by DOT is under examination of the Government. Final decision has not be taken so far in this matter.

[*Translation*]

Agreement with Foreign Countries

2931. SHRI RAMSHAKAL : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had signed any agreement with the foreign countries in the field of communications during 1997-98;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the benefits likely to be achieved as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) During the year 1997-98, Agreements have been signed with the following countries:

- (i) Federal Republic of Germany-Signed on 2.9.1997
- (ii) Republic of Belarus-Signed on 27.9.1997
- (iii) Republic of France-Signed on 21.1.1998
- (iv) Government of Canada-Signed on 30.3.1998

Two MOUs have been signed with Government of Canada; One on framework project and the other on operation project.

(c) These agreements are likely to benefits as following.

- (i) Sharing of expertise in the field of Telecommunication and sharing of training resources.
- (ii) Research and Development in the field of Telecommunication.
- (iii) Possibility of export of telecom equipment and services to these countries.
- (iv) Investment in Telecom. Sectors from these countries.
- (v) Possibility of getting consultancy and turnkey projects in these countries.

{English}

Improvement of Telephone Facility in Kerala

2932. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the telecom development in the hilly district of Wynad in Kerala is extremely slow and it is virtually of stand still in North Wynad of Kerala;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps taken by the Government to improve the situation;

(c) whether telephone exchanges installed in the Wynad district particularly Vellamunda telephone exchange are out of order; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to improve them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA):

(a) No, Sir. The present status of telecom. network and development plan of Wynad district are as under:—

Present Status

Telephone Exchanges	= 22 Nos.
Combined equipped capacity	= 18738
Working telephone connections	= 17355
Waiting list	= 13687

Development Plan

Year	Exchanges proposed to be expanded	Net capacity proposed to be added
1998-99	15	8184
1999-2000	7	12016

The proposed expansions during 1998-99 and 1999-2000 will clear the current waiting list fully.

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

(c) and (d) No, Sir. The performance of all the telephone exchanges installed in Wynad district, including Vellamunda telephone exchange, is satisfactory.

Letters From MP

2933. DR. BIZAY SONKAR SHASTRI :
SHRI JANG BAHADUR SINGH PATEL :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether as per the guidelines issued by the Government, letters received from the Members of Parliament are to be replied within 15 days and where delay is anticipated an interim reply is to be sent indicating the time by which the final reply is likely to be sent;

(b) whether the guidelines are not being adhered to in majority of the cases by the Government;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the number of letters received from Member of Parliament in connection with Kendriya Bhandar/Super Bazar/NCCF are still pending for replies/acknowledgements;

(e) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken to ensure compliance of guidelines; and

(f) whether any action has been taken against any officer for not replying such letters during 1998?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Guidelines are being adhered to in majority of the cases.

(d) All officers in the Ministries/Departments of the Government of India are expected to ensure that the replies to the letter of the M.Ps. are sent expeditiously, as laid down in the Manual of Office Procedure. There exists no centralised system of calling for pending references every month from all Government Departments wherein prescribed time limit has not been adhered to. However, Kendriya Bhandar, which is under the charge of this Ministry, received 15 letters from the M.Ps, out of which 13 have been replied to and the remaining two will be replied to as soon as necessary information is received.

(e) All officers in the Ministries/Departments of the Government of India are expected to observe the guidelines laid down in para 57 and 60 of the Central Secretariat Manual of Office Procedure. The existing guidelines are reiterated to all Government Offices from time to time. The Cabinet Secretary has instructed all Secretaries to the Government of India in this regard. Any violation of the procedure is dealt with as per the existing disciplinary procedures.

(f) There exists no system, for centralised tabulation in this regard.

[Translation]

Internet Service to Cable Television Operators

2934. SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA :
DR. ASHOK PATEL :

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to allow internet service available to the cable television operators;

(b) if so, the salient features of the proposal;

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government have already notified the recommendations of the National Task Force on National Technology vide Gazette Notification No. 10 dated July 25, 1998 which inter-alia recommends that access to Internet through authorised cable TV shall be permitted to any service provider without additional licensing subject to applicable Cable Laws. Detailed guidelines and general information on Internet Service Providers has also been issued by the Department of Telecommunications.

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

Pilferage of Postal Articles

2935. SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether postage stamps, revenue stamps, Kisan Vikas Patra, Indira Vikas Patra and such other item printed at security printing presses and despatched to various centres have been pilfered during transit during the last three years;

(b) the amount of loss suffered by these pilferage during the said period; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to ensure security of these articles in transit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA) : (a) Yes, Sir. Some instances of pilferage in transit of postage stamps, Kisan Vikas Patra, Indira Vikas Patra despatched from Government of India Security Press at Nasik to various centres have been reported during the last three years. As revenue stamps are procured by post offices from District Treasuries, the information to public the matter relates to State Governments and no information is available with the Department

(b) The amount of loss suffered by the Department of Posts for postage stamps (which includes postal stationery) during 1995-98 was Rs. 4,22,78,655.35 and the amount of loss suffered due to fraudulent encashment of lost Kisan Vikas Patras/Indira Vikas Patras etc. during the said period is Rs. 1.34 crores.

(c) The matter has been taken up with the Ministry of Railways for safe and speedy transportation. India Security printing Press, Nashik and Department of Economic Affairs have also been advised to resort to road transportation with security guards to eliminate instances of loss of stamps and stationery in transit. Pending that the Department has taken some preventive actions as a result of which the loss in transit has almost been eliminated as during 1997-98 only Rs. 42,904.30 was reported lost in transit.

Food Processing Industries in Coop. Sector

2936. DR. ULHAS VASUDEV PATIL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government provides assistance to food processing industries in the co-operative sector;

(b) if so, the details of the type of assistance provided alongwith the limit thereof;

(c) whether the Government have received any proposal for financial assistance from Maharashtra State for food processing industry of Banana; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) and (b) Under the Plan Schemes of the Ministry, financial assistance is also made available to the Cooperative Sector alongwith the Private Sector, Public Sector and Non-Governmental Organisations for the development of food processing industries.

The thrust areas of the Plan assistance are

1. Establishment of post harvest infrastructure particularly cold chain facilities.
2. Establishment of Food Processing Industrial Estates/Parks.
3. Setting up/expansion/modernisation of food processing industries.

4. Research & Development.

5. Human Resource Development.

The assistance is provided in the form of soft loan or grants-in-aid and the quantum of assistance varies from scheme-to-scheme.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Expansion of DOT's Jurisdiction

2937. PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal is being considered for bringing the Hindustan Cable Limited under the DOT;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) After due consideration, DOT has informed the Department of Heavy Industry that the company (HCL) is suffering from certain basic problems like excessive workforce, management problems, liquidity crunch etc. and certain radical measures like financial restructuring, reduction of staff strength to optimal level, maintenance of fiscal discipline as well as diversification into other areas of production are required. The mere transfer of this unit to the Department of Telecom is not going to solve these basic problems. The remedy does not lie in the transfer of the undertaking from one Ministry to another.

(b) and (c) In view of (a) above Question does not arise.

[Translation]

Import of Films and Documentaries

2938. SHRI RAJVEER SINGH : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state the details and the number of films, documentaries, television serial and animation films imported during the last two years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI) The details of the number of foreign feature films and short films certified by the Central Board of Film Certification during the year 1996 and 1997 are given below:

Year	Foreign Feature Films	
	Celluoid	Video
1996	139	82
1997	191	78

Year	Foreign Short Films	
	Celluloid	Video
1996	209	410
1997	272	329

[English]

Vacant Technical Posts

2939. SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to reply given to Unstarred Question No. 2182 on June 10, 1998 and state:

(a) whether many technical posts in Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying are lying vacant for a long time;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to fill up those vacancies?

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

[Translation]

Economic Assurance to Gulf War Returnees

2940. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had made any declaration to provide economic assistance to Indian citizens who came to India after 1990 Gulf war,

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether these citizens have not been paid compensation so far and if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) Government of India made extensive arrangements for transportation of Indians stranded in Iraq/ Kuwait, back to India, by air and by sea. Government also provided food, medical services and other relief assistance to affected persons when they reached India. Free transportation arrangements, by rail and road, to the returnees' hometowns and villages, were made.

(c) The United Nations Security Council set up the UN Compensation Commission (UNCC) in Geneva in 1992 through its Resolution 692 of 1991. The mandate of UNCC was to consider, process and award compensation to people of all nationalities, adversely affected by the 1990 Gulf War. 132, 329 Indian nationals have so far been found eligible for compensation. Some more Indians will qualify for compensation in the near future. As UNCC has been facing financial constraints, it has had to pay compensation in instalments. So far, approximately \$180 million have been received from UNCC as part-payment of approved claims of 72,107 Indian citizens. This amount is being distributed to the claimants. Others, whose claims have been approved, are expected to receive compensation in due course, depending on the availability of funds with UNCC.

[English]

Problem of Cotton Growers

2941. SHRI MOINUL HASSAN AHAMED : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have considered the report of select committee on the problem of cotton growers; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken on the recommendations of the report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) and (b) Report on the problems of cotton growers submitted by Rajya Sabha Committee on 12.8.1997 was circulated to various cotton

growing States and concerned Ministry for follow up action.

The major recommendations of the committee include more concentrated focus on Integrated Pest Management, availability of the seed, educating farmers for latest production technology to increase the production, efficient use of available irrigation water, improving the quality of cotton lint through improving the market infrastructure and modernising ginning/pressing factories.

The concerned State Governments and Central Ministries have been suggested to take appropriate action on the recommendations concerning them. The Ministry of Agriculture have incorporated appropriate recommendations in the cotton development scheme for the Ninth Five Year Plan.

Departmental Exams

2942. SHRI R.S. GAVAI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Departmental Examination was being conducted by the Government up to 1986 for the Section Officers of Central Secretariat Service of Scheduled Caste category to promote them to Grade-I in CSS to complete the due representation of this category; and

(b) if so, the total strength of Under Secretaries of Scheduled Caste category up to last Department Examination held in 1986?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCIAL (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN) : (a) The rules provide for filling the vacancies in Grade I of the Central Secretariat Services (CSS) by members of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes for which the eligible officers are not available, through a limited departmental examination open to Section Officers of CSS and Stenographers (Grade A&B) of CSS. Such examinations were conducted for filling the unfilled vacancies of SC/ST upto the 1986 panel.

(b) 139.

12.05 hrs

[English]

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

Annual Report, Audited Accounts and Review of the working of construction Industry Development council. New Delhi for the year 1997-98 etc.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK)
Sir, I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Construction Industry Development Council, New Delhi, for the year 1997-98, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Construction Industry Development Council, New Delhi, for the year 1997-98.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1870/98]

- (2) A copy of the Annual Plan for the year 1997-98 (Hindi and English versions) of Planning Commission..
- (3) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (2) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1871/98]

(ii) Annual Report and Review of the working of Telecommunication consultants India and MTNL for the year ending 1997-98 etc.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA):
Sir, I beg to lay on the Table:—

- (1) A copy of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619 A of the Companies Act, 1956:—
- (a) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Telecommunications Consultants India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1997-98.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Telecommunications Consultants India Limited, New Delhi for the year 1997-98, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1872/98]

- (b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1997-98.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1997-98, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1873/98]

- (c) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the ITI Limited, Bangalore, for the year 1997-98.

- (ii) Annual Report of the ITI Limited, Bangalore, for the year 1997-98, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1874/98]

(iii) Annual Report and review of the working of Kerala Agro Industries corporation Ltd. Thiruvananthapuram for the year 1994-95 etc.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table:—

- (1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:—

- (a) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Kerala Agro Industries Corporation Limited, Thiruvananthapuram, for the year 1994-95.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Kerala Agro Industries Corporation Limited, Thiruvananthapuram, for the year 1994-95, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1883/98]

- (b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Uttar Pradesh State Agro Industries Corporation Limited, Lucknow, for the year 1995-96.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Uttar Pradesh State Agro Industries Corporation Limited, Lucknow, for the year 1995-96, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1884/98]

- (c) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Punjab Agro Industries Corporation Limited, Chandigarh, for the year 1996-97.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Punjab Agro Industries Corporation Limited, Chandigarh, for the year 1996-97, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1885/98]

- (d) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Tamil Nadu Agro Industries Corporation Limited, Chennai, for the year 1996-97.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Tamil Nadu Agro Industries Corporation Limited, Chennai, for the year 1996-97, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1886/98]

- (e) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Gujarat Agro Industries Corporation Limited, Ahmedabad, for the year 1993-94.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Gujarat Agro Industries Corporation Limited, Ahmedabad, for the year 1993-94, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1887/98]

- (f) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Gujarat Agro Industries Corporation Limited, Ahmedabad, for the year 1994-95.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Gujarat Agro Industries Corporation Limited, Ahmedabad, for the year

1994-95, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1888/98]

(g) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Gujarat Agro Industries Corporation Limited, Ahmedabad, for the year 1995-96.

(ii) Annual Report of the Gujarat Agro Industries Corporation Limited, Ahmedabad, for the year 1995-96, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1889/98]

(h) (i) Statement regarding review by the Government of the working of the Madhya Pradesh State Dairy Development Corporation Limited, Bhopal, for the year 1997-98.

(ii) Annual Report of the Madhya Pradesh State Dairy Development Corporation Limited, Bhopal, for the year 1997-98, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1890/98]

(i) (i) Statement regarding review by the Government of the working of the Rajasthan State Dairy Development Corporation Limited, Jaipur, for the year 1997-98.

(ii) Annual Report of the Rajasthan State Dairy Development Corporation Limited, Jaipur, for the year 1997-98, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

(2) Eight statements (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (a) to (h) of item No. (1) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1891/98]

(3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1997-98, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1997-98.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1892/98]

(4) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Federation of Labour Cooperatives Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1997-98, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Federation of Labour Cooperative Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1997-98.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1895/98]

(5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Oilseeds and Vegetable Oils Development Board, Gurgaon, for the year 1997-98, alongwith Audited Accounts, under sub-section (4) of sections 14 and 16 of the National Oilseeds and Vegetable Oils Development Board Act, 1983.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Oilseeds and Vegetable Oils Development Board, Gurgaon, for the year 1997-98.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1894/98]

(6) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Brahmaputra Board for the year 1997-98, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Brahmaputra Board, for the year 1997-98.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1895/98]

(7) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Federation of Urban Cooperative Banks and Credit Societies Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1997-98.

(ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English Versions) of the National Federation

of Urban Cooperative Banks and Credit Societies Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1997-98 together with Audit Report thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1896/98]

- (iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Federation Urban Cooperative Banks and Credit Societies Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1997-98.

- (8) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Federation of State Cooperative Banks Limited, Navi Mumbai, for the year 1997-98.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1897/98]

- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the National Federation of State Cooperative Banks Limited, Navi Mumbai, for the year 1997-98 together with Audit Report thereon.

- (iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Federation of State Cooperative Banks Limited Navi Mumbai, for the year 1997-98

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1898/98]

- (9) A copy of the Cauvery Water (Implementation of the Order of 1991 and all subsequent related orders of the Tribunal) Scheme, 1998 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. S.O. 675(E) in Gazette of India dated the 11th August, 1998, under sub-section (7) of section 6A of the Inter-State Water Disputes Act, 1956.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1899/98]

- (10) A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the Water and Power Consultancy Services (I) Limited, and the Ministry of Water Resources for the year 1998-2000.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1900/98]

(iv) Notification under Administrative Tribunals Act, 1985 etc.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI) : Sir, on behalf of Shri Kadambur M.R. Janarthanan, I beg to lay on the Table:—

- (1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 37 of the Administrative Tribunals Act, 1985:—

- (i) The Madhya Pradesh Administrative Tribunal (Salaries and Allowances and Conditions of Service of Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Members) Amendment Rules, 1998 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 471(E) in Gazette of India dated the 4th August, 1998.

- (ii) The Himachal Pradesh Administrative Tribunal (Salaries and Allowances and Conditions of Service of Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Members) Amendment Rules, 1998 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 472(E) in Gazette of India dated the 4th August, 1998.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1901/98]

- (iii) The West Bengal Administrative Tribunal (Salaries and Allowances and Conditions of Service of Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Members) Amendment Rules, 1998 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 473(E) in Gazette of India dated the 4th August, 1998.

- (iv) The Andhra Pradesh Administrative Tribunal (Salaries and Allowances and Conditions of Service of Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Members) Amendment Rules, 1998 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 528(E) in Gazette of India dated the 27th August, 1998.

- (v) The Orissa Administrative Tribunal (Salaries and Allowances and Conditions of Service of Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Members) Amendment Rules, 1998 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 564(E) in Gazette of India dated the 8th September, 1998.

- (vi) The Maharashtra Administrative Tribunal (Salaries and Allowances and Conditions of Service of Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Members) Amendment Rules, 1998 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 565(E) in Gazette of India dated the 8th, September, 1998.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1902/98]

- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Software Technology Parks of India, New Delhi for the year 1997-98, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Software Technology Parks of India, New Delhi, for the year 1997-98.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1903/98]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Society for Applied Microwave Electronics Engineering and Research (SAMEER), Mumbai, for the year 1997-98, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Society of Applied Microwave Electronics Engineering and Research (SAMEER), Mumbai, for the year 1997-98.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1904/98]

- (4) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the DOEACC Society, New Delhi for the year 1997-98, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- [Placed in Library, See No. LT 1905/98]
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the DOEACC Society, New Delhi, for the year 1997-98.

- (5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Centre for Liquid Crystal Research, Bangalore for the year 1997-98, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Centre for Liquid Crystal Research Bangalore for the year 1997-98.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1906/98]

- (6) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Centre for Materials for the Electronics Technology (C-MET), Pune, for the year 1997-98, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Centre for Materials for the Electronics Technology (C-MET), Pune, for the year 1997-98.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1907/98]

- (7) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC), Pune, for the year 1997-98, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC), Pune, for the year 1997-98.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1908/98]

- (8) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Centre for Electronic Design and Technology of India, New Delhi, for the year 1997-98, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Centre for Electronics Design and Technology of India, New Delhi, for the year 1997-98.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1909/98]

- (9) (i) A copy of the Annual report (Hindi and English versions) of the Grih Kalyan Kendra, New Delhi, for the year 1997-98, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Grih Kalyan Kendra, New Delhi, for the year 1997-98.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1910/98]

- (10) A copy of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:—
- (i) Review by the Government of the working of the CMC Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1997-98.
- (ii) Annual Report of the CMC Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1997-98, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1911/98]

- (11) A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the CMC Limited and the Department of Electronics for the year 1998-99.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1912/98]

12.07 hrs.

*[Translation]**[English]*

MESSAGE FROM RAJYA SABHA

SECRETARY-GENERAL : Sir, I have to report the following message received from the Secretary-General of Rajya Sabha:—

"In accordance with the provisions of rule 127 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to inform the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 15th December, 1998 agreed without any amendment to the Export-Import Bank of India (Amendment) Bill, 1998 which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 2nd December, 1998."

12.08 hrs.

RAILWAY CONVENTION COMMITTEE

FIRST REPORT

[English]

SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE (Jorhat) : Sir, I beg to present First Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Railway Convention Committee on 'Action Taken by Government on the Recommendations contained in the Second Report of the Railway Convention committee (1996) on Ninth Plan Perspective Infrastructural Requirement of Indian Railways' alongwith Minutes relating thereto.

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali) : Mr. Speaker Sir, it is a matter of privilege. It should have been taken up first before any other matter after the question hour ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the house has not been informed about the arrest of Shri Lalu Prasad. It is a matter of privilege. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN (Hajipur) : I have given notice ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Balram Jakhar.

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Mr. Speaker Sir, if any Member is arrested, the House is informed. There is such rule but in this matter it has not been done so.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I have a list of 45 Members. I will call all the members.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)**[Translation]*

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Mr. Speaker Sir, Shri Lalu Prasad is not only an honourable member of the House but also the leader and national president of the Parliamentary Party. He was arrested on 30th of October but the House has not been informed in this regard till now. We had requested you in this regard on 1st of December. You were kind enough to get the matter investigated. It has been informed by the Secretariat of the House that information regarding his arrest has not been received so far.

Therefore it is a clear cut issue of privilege. We have gone through all the rules of Parliamentary Practice and Procedure by Kaul and Shakhder and also gone through the brochure and Parliamentary news being brought out by the secretariat but information regarding his arrest has been given nowhere. Mr. Speaker, Sir, rules are being floated in such a blatant manner. It is a clearcut matter of privilege since the House has not been informed. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I have allowed Shri Raghuvansh Prasad Singh.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : What is this? Please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Shri Lalu Prasad is not only a member of Parliament but also the Parliamentary leader and national President of the Party. He was sent to jail after his arrest on 30th of October, 1998 and kept at B.M.P. guest house by converting it into a camp jail. Then he was shifted from the camp jail to Beur jail. but I am sorry to say that information regarding his arrest and shifting of jail has not been intimated to the House. It is a clearcut matter of privilege as per the rules. The C.B.I. is repeatedly taking partial action instead of impartial and judicious action. It is doing extreme violation of rules. I request that a matter of breach of privilege Should be instituted against the officer who has not given information about the arrest and change in the place of jail. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MOHAN SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, this matter should be referred to the privilege committee because the House should have been informed about the arrest of any member.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, please understand. You have given a notice and the matter is sent to the Ministry of Home. It is under my consideration.

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Gross violation of rules are being done. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MOHAN SINGH . The C.B.I. is doing contempt of the House. It is a matter of breach of privilege.

MR. SPEAKER : It is a privilege matter. What more would you speak?

[English]

I have received the notice and the same is sent to the Ministry of Home to expediate the matter. It is under my consideration.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJESH PILOT (Dausa) : There are standing instructions which have not been followed. ...*(Interruptions)*
We are reading the information through the newspapers. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Rajesh Pilot, please sit down. I have intimated the Home Ministry to provide information.

[English]

It is under my consideration. It is an important matter.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : My humble submission is that wrong practice is being followed. We are reading in newspapers about the Member of Parliament. It is not informed to the House by the Government. We are following this wrong practice. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : It was sent to the Ministry of Home for information. It is an important matter and it is under my consideration.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA): Mr. Speaker Sir, I agree with Shri Pilot. Whatever you are saying is correct. As soon as I came to know about it I enquired, and the information is that Shri Lalu Prasad has surrendered in the Court and the Court has sent him directly to the jail. Therefore, it was the duty of the Bihar Government or jail authorities to provide information here. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : It clearly become a matter of breach of privilege. The hon. Minister is unexposing the matter of privilege. ...*(Interruptions)*

The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs is speaking without having the knowledge of rules. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : Mr. Minister, within 48 hours, you have to inform Parliament. Your Government has not followed it. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hoogly) : I am on a point of order.

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : I agree.

[Translation]

I agree that it is a matter of privilege. You please let me speak. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I have told that it is under my active Consideration. Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Let the hon' Minister Complete his speech. What is this?

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : I am on a point of order under Rule 229.

MR. SPEAKER : After him, please sit down, Shri Rupchand Pal.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER Hon. Members, please take your seats.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, my submission is that whenever any hon. member if arrested, information in this regard should be given to the House and the hon. Speaker as well. I agree that if the same is not followed, it is a serious matter. I came to know about it right now and thought that this issue pertains to the Home Secretary. When I enquired from him he said that it pertains to the C.B.I. Since the C.B.I. comes under the Department of Personnal, I talked to the Secretary, Department of Personnel, he said that he would provide all information to me. I have been just informed that he is of the view that State. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : He is giving some information. Let him complete. Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it has been informed now that Shri Lalu Prasad had surrendered in the court. The C.B.I. has not made a formal arrest in this case, therefore right now the C.B.I. has ...(Interruptions)

SHRI MOHAN SINGH : The matter is in the C.B.I. court ...(Interruptions)

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : Please let me speak the whole facts. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I have already said that it is under my consideration. Please understand the position.

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : This is the information received from the C.B.I. I request you to give me some more time, I will put forth all information before you by today evening or by tomorrow as to who was responsible for furnishing the information. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Mr. Speaker Sir, it is a matter of privilege. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI DIGHVIJAY SINGH (Banka) : Action should be taken against the District magistrate for this as he has not given the information. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : It is under by consideration.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hoogly) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to make a submission in this regard.

MR. SPEAKER : What is your submission?

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : Sir, my submission is that it involves the privilege of the hon. Member of this House. Secondly, Rule 229 is very clear that as soon as an arrest it made, it will have to be informed in a specified form to the hon. Speaker's office and it should be circulated immediately if Parliament is in Session; otherwise, if it is not in Session, it should be circulated in the Bulletin. It was the duty of the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs of this Government to inform about his arrest, because the arrest was made by the C.B.I. It is the responsibility of the Government and they have not informed the House deliberately. So, it attracts the privilege of the House, because it pertains to an hon. Member of this House. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I have already said that it is under my consideration. Please understand the position. ...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : This matter is not with the Parliamentary Affairs Minister, it is before the Hon. Speaker. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I have already given my ruling that it is under my consideration.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is not the solution.

MR. SPEAKER : The notice regarding breach of privilege is under my consideration.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH : By when you will consider it, it is a prima facie matter, what is to be considered on it. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : Sir, it is not only the question of privilege, but it is the honour of the House. We are not saying as to who is at fault. We agree that the matter is under your consideration, but that is not the solution. The procedure has been violated by the system. In any case, the arrest should be informed to the Speaker's office within 24 hours of the arrest. They have failed to do that. We do not know whether it is the State Government which has to inform in this matter. But the procedure has been violated. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to make a submission and I am also quoting Rule 229. Kindly listen to me.

MR. SPEAKER : What is your submission?

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : Sir, Rule 229 says:

"When a Member is arrested on a criminal charge or for a criminal offence or is sentenced to imprisonment by a court or is detained under an executive order, the committing judge, magistrate or executive authority, as the case may be, shall immediately intimate such fact to the Speaker ..."

Now, the committing judge, the magistrate, is also from Bihar. And the executive authority is also from Bihar. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : No, no. Now, Shri Ram Vilas Paswan.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

...*(Interruptions)*"

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : It is Rule 229.

MR. SPEAKER : No, no. I have already given my ruling. Now, Shri Prabhunath Singh.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (MAHARAJGANJ) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, we want to tell you clearly that the whole nation knows that the ex-Chief Minister of Bihar is an accused in the 950 crore rupees fodder scam. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : What is this?

...*(Interruptions)*

12.21 hrs

(At this stage Shri Surendra Prasad Yadav and some other Hon. Members came and stood near the Table of the House).

MR. SPEAKER : Please go to your seats. Now, Shri Ram Vilas Paswan.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : How can I speak? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : No, no. I am appealing to you to please go to your seats.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : What is this?

*Not recorded.

12.22 hrs

(At this stage Shri Surendra Prasad Yadav and some other Hon. Members went back to their seats)

MR. SPEAKER : I have called Shri Ram Vilas Paswan.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record except what Shri Ram Vilas Paswan says.

*...(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Prabhunath Singh, you must know the Rules first. Nothing will go on record. Now, Shri Ram Vilas Paswan.

*...(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Prabhunath Singh, this is too much.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, pleased take your seat. What is this?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record except what Shri Ram Vilas Paswan says.

*...(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Prabhunath Singh, what is this? This is the House. You must know it.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat. Hon. Member, I am also giving a warning. This is too much.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Every time, you disturb the House. What is this? Now, Shri Ram Vilas Paswan.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I am not allowing anybody except Shri Ram Vilas Paswan.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Mr. Speaker Sir, I am raising another issue of privilege motion. I have given you notice of breach of privilege against the Human Resources Minister and sought to be permitted to move a proposal. You know that he had said regarding Aligarh Muslim University that the strike had been called off and the students were returning and those who were sitting on fast have returned to their homes. I had met you in your chamber and you had ascertained too. Mr. Speaker Sir, today in the 16th day of it and forced feeding is going on. Two University students a boy and a girl, have been sitting on fast since four days and the condition is very critical. I have been continuously raising this issue for the last 10 days. Therefore, I want to know from you about the decision taken on my privilege motion.

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Paswan, your notice too is under my active consideration.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI (Darbhanga): Please allow me to speak for a minute. *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : No more clarifications. Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record, except Dr. Jakhar's submission.

*...(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER : No, please. Not now, Please take your seat. I am appealing to you, please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR (Bikaner) : Speaker Sir, Somedays back calling attention *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI : Speaker Sir, Let me speak for a minute. *...(Interruptions)* I am nearly supporting. *...(Interruptions)* Please note down my support only. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I have already noted.

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR : Some days back you had been given a calling attention motion but before that Agriculture Minister has given statement about the scarcity of fertilizers. The Prime Minister says in public that he has full information about fertiliser problem. Two days back Agriculture Minister has given statement in place of Fertiliser Minister. In that statement he has said that there is plenty of fertilizer in the country and we have managed. This Government is conscious. It understands that it knows the fact that if there would be scarcity of fertilizer, the farmers would suffer. I do not know whether it is only a crocodile tears ...*(Interruptions)* You have also given a reply to a question. it is the reply to the question asked on the 8th. In this answer, it has been stated that there is enough fertilizer. If we have fertilizer more than we need, then what is the problem of scarcity. If there is no scarcity, then why is the fuss for? Don't you have the information or you do not know about the figures which has been given. I am unable to understand whose fault is this. Secondly, Agriculture Minister has given statement in place of Fertiliser Minister. This job pertains to Fertiliser Ministry and demanding person is Agriculture Minister, we too as well as the farmers. We are the demanding persons. Agriculture Minister also demands fertilizer because he needs it to fulfill the target. Now the question is that what is happening with this case, and how it happens. Agriculture Minister has said that I am a farmer and may be Barnalaji will also say that he is a farmer. I do not know whether he has done cultivation or not. Cultivators knows 'Jis Tan Lage, So Hi Tan Jane' that what is cultivation and how it is done the farmer knows at what time fertiliser is available. He knows about the colour of cultivation after using fertiliser and the result thereof. Do the farmers achieve their target or not?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Dr. Jakhar, there are 45 Members who wish to speak during Zero Hour. Today, I want to accommodate all of them.

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR : Sir, you have given me this time to explain certain things. I am very much perturbed.

[Translation]

I want to raise a question but I will not raise it to day.

MR. SPEAKER : Please follow the time schedule.

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR : I take very little time.

Yesterday you saw how all the rules and regulations were flawed. Even then I did not quarrel because I know that it is not a good thing. It is wrong. It is my right. Let me tell you another thing. To day I will not talk about defence but there is also one thing about defence - that nothing is there to eat.

Na Kuchh Dekha Nain Dharma Mein,

Na Kuchh Dekha Pothi Mein,

Kahe Kabir Suno Bhai Sadho

Jo Kuchh Dekha So Roti Mein.

But what will happen tomorrow? What will happen tomorrow if bread will not be available? Bread will be produced only when the farmer will show and he will sow only when fertiliser will be available to him. What is all this and what will happen when it will not be available in time? When the fertiliser will not be available in time for what is sown in the field then wherefrom and in what way food shall be produced. To understand all these things, there is full estimation. At least the Agriculture Minister and Fertiliser Minister should have the projections. First loss is that we committed a mistake in separating the Agriculture and Fertiliser and this Government have also committed the same mistake. It is right that we committed the mistake but then at least you could have rectified it.

You should know that Agriculture Minister needs fertiliser Ministry and he must know that how, where and howmuch the fertiliser should be distributed and at what time it should be done. I want to show the fertiliser Minister, all the cutting, I have collected. What happened to the farmers, how it happened, what did the farmers gain and what shall they gain in future. You did some thing more, low quality seeds were given to the farmers. They got into a soup and not hundred but thousand of farmers committed suicide. I have gone there myself. Had you also gone there you must realised how painfull they have died. Why did they do so? ...*(Interruptions)*. In our times not a single farmer committed suicide, none at all. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH (Aonla) : Where did the suicides occur? ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Rajveer Singh, Please sit down.

[Translation]

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR : You sit down, I can make a counting. I am talking to the Hon. Minister. It is your

old habit. ...(*Interruptions*) The question is how it has to be resolved and what to be done. He does not know. What and when is happening. Today he is making joke. Yesterday you have been beaten upon an issue and today you shall be beaten on another. I am talking for your benefit, awake in time and don't sleep. Farmers are the backbone of this country, let them live.

I too have figures. I think that there was shortage of potash. You wanted forward pricing. You formed a committee and its report also has come up. You did not pay attention on that. Had you done so, the job would have been it finished earlier. Potash has not arrived. Kerala's people cultivate fruits. You have done nothing for them also. Fertiliser was not distributed. ...(*Interruptions*) Fertiliser is available and it is being black marketed in broad day light.

[*English*]

DAP being sold on black market.

MR. SPEAKER : The Minister is also here. He can reply to you.

[*Translation*]

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR : I want to say that it is connivance. You say some thing and do something also. I had asked you yesterday a question regarding oman. You said that we will institute an enquiry but even after that enquiry has not been made and today you are going to do it. Fertiliser is selling in black market. What is it after all going on. I want to say all this because we do not want to talk about you or us but we want to talk about the farmers. Therefore you must think about it and ensure the mode of arrangements.

The Hon'ble Speaker desires that I should conclude now. What is its remedy. Yesterday we beat you and today it is also going to be like that, there is no remedy of it. Fertiliser Minister, please take care of this issue seriously.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER : There are other hon. Members who would like you to raise their issue. Please understand. Every hon. Member is interested to raise his issue.

[*Translation*]

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR : They are importing sugar and spoiling sugar industry, thereby going to kill the

farmers. Please think of what is going the happen tomorrow. Hon. Prime Minister is not here. He always says that he is aware of it. Khuranaji, please make him aware that the farmer will die because his sugarcane will not be sold and your factories will be closed. ...(*Interruptions*) There was a time when we had exported and today you are importing. This is also a trend. There are so many things to be told and if I tell everthing then you will know what is happening. ...(*Interruptions*) Please think and tell us why there was fertiliser scam, why the fertiliser was sold in black market, why it did not reach in time? ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Motilal Vohra, you can associate with him.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : Sir, the hon. Minister is here. Let him respond. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani) : Sir, I would like to raise an important matter. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : I will call your name.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Motilal Vohra, you can also associate with him because you have given your name.

[*Translation*]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH : Please put Jakhar Saheb's paper on the table for enrichment of our knowledge. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SARDAR SURJIT SINGH BARNALA) : Sir, I am thankful to Dr. Balram Jakhar for bringing this matter in this House. I would like to made a short statement on this.

So far as urea is concerned, this is the only fertiliser which is under price, distribution and movement control of the Government of India. No shortage of urea was reported either during Kharif, 1998 or during the current Rabi season so far. Its availability is adequate in the country. Against the assessed demand of 110.0 lakh

[Sardar Surjit Singh Barnala]

metric tonnes, the estimated availability will be 126.0 metric tonnes. ...*(Interruptions)* About the availability. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR : Now there is no need of Urea, now D.A.P. is needed, tell about that. ...*(Interruptions)*

SARDAR SURJIT SINGH BARNALA : I have talked about Urea. Now I am talking about the need of D.A.P. Now listen about D.A.P. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MOHAN SINGH : Urea is needed after 15 days

MR. SPEAKER : First let him complete.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR : D.A.P. is needed during sowing time, then the crop grows, but you do not told about that. ...*(Interruptions)*

SARDAR SURJIT SINGH BARNALA : I am talking about D.A.P., Please listen.

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR : Fertiliser was available with you. I am asking why you did not provide it in time, why there is no movement? I want to ask that why there has been black marketing? ...*(Interruptions)*

SARDAR SURJIT SINGH BARNALA : I will tell you also why we do not provide. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM NARAIN MEENA (Kota) : Ten to fifteen sacks of Urea are been given with one D.A.P. sack, exploitation of farmers is going on, fertiliser is being provided arbitrarily. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER This is not good.

SHRI RAM NARAIN MEENA : Farmer's field are lying unsowed. What are you going to tell about that? Black marketeering on farmer's fertiliser is so much dominant that no one is ready to listen about that.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR CHOUDHARY (Gaya) : One Sack of D.A.P. worth Rs. 600 is being sold in the open market. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Let him complete. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NARAIN MEENA : Ten to fifteen seeks of urea are been given to the farmers what actions are being taken against this black?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : This is not good. The hon. Minister is giving the reply. What is this?

SARDAR SURJIT SINGH BARNALA : DAP also ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Is it the proper way? The Minister is giving the reply. You are objecting it. Let him complete. The hon. Minister is giving the reply. What is this? This is not good.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

DR. PRABHA THAKUR (Ajmer) : Rabi crops are seemingly at end, because farmers are not at all getting fertiliser in time. Farmers are not getting fertiliser in spite of availability.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Let the Minister complete his reply. What is this? First, you must understand the position. The Minister is giving the reply.

...*(Interruptions)*

SARDAR SURJIT SINGH BARNALA : As I mentioned, DAP is also a decontrolled fertiliser and like MOP, its availability is also dependent on market forces. The imports of DAP are decanalised and made on private trade account. The production of DAP (which meets nearly 70 per cent of the demand) in the country during 1998-99 has been of the order of 26.63 LMT up to November, 1998. This is higher than the production of 25.57 LMT till November, 1998 which was higher by 2 MLTs over the imports of 14.6 in the previous year during the same period. The overall availability of DAP during Kharif, 1998 had been adequate to support sales of 28 LMTs. For Rabi, 1998-99, the estimated availability of DAP is 35 LMTs which is adequate to meet the requirement of 31 LMTs projected by the States. We have a demand of 31

lakh tonnes and the availability is 35 lakh tonnes for Rabi. However, pockets of shortages have been reported from the States of Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab and Haryana. These have occurred mainly due to the following reasons: ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR : I am sorry to interrupt you.

[*Translation*]

My question is, I know, you have the answer of my question that except potash you had all the surplus available. You did not import potash, leading to shortage, but why there has been no movement despite availability why it was sold in black market and why mixture became useless? Please give the answer? ...(*Interruptions*)

SARDAR SURJIT SINGH BARNALA : I can speak only if you allow me to do so.

[*English*]

The shortage were due to the following reasons: ...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI AJIT JOGI : Farmers are not getting D.A.P. ...(*Interruptions*) that is being looted, sowing is at stands-till and you are talking of Urea, while D.A.P. is needed at present. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Jogi, you are always disturbing the House.

...(*Interruptions*)

SARDAR SURJIT SINGH BARNALA : the shortages were due to the following reasons:

- (i) There has been bunching of imports of nearly 7.5 LMTs brought by various companies during the month of October-November, 1998. As a result, DAP could not be pre-positioned by the importers. So, there was the bunching. This is the first reason.
- (ii) Nearly 5 MLTs have been brought to 2 of the ports, namely, JNPT and Vizag. This has resulted in congestion and consequent delay

in movement from these ports. The problem at Vizag port was compounded by the cyclone which affected the movement of rakes for nearly 20 days.

- (iii) The DAP demand peaked sharply due to increase in the area under wheat which had gone up from 3.0 million hectare in the previous year to 4.6 million hectare as on 23.11.1998. The increase was due to unseasonal rains which occurred during the month of October, 1998. Suddenly, there was a big demand. The increase was due to unseasonal rains during the month of October, 1998.

As I explained earlier, DAP is a decontrolled fertiliser and its availability is a function of demand and supply. But our effort has been to meet the demand and for that we have done ...(*Interruptions*). Nevertheless, the Government of India has taken following measures to help the States in meeting the localised shortages.

(a) Priority has been accorded in berthing of DAP vessels both at JNPT and Vizag.

(b) Priority has been accorded for movement of DAP by rail both from plants and ports. Nearly, 1.50 LMTs have already been cleared from JNPT. Similar efforts are on for clearance of 1.47 LMTs DAP from Vizag port. Already by 9th December, 1998, 1.03 LMTs has been cleared from Vizag also.

(c) 55,000 MTs of DAP has been specially contracted from Jordan. The first shipment of 25,000 MTs has reached JNPT yesterday.

So, that is being sent to the States now. There is not shortage reported so far. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : Sir, you should help us. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : I have called Shri Vijay Goel.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL (Chandni Chowk) : Speaker Sir, my subject is lottery, but I am insisting the attention of the House on today's special day, which is known as 'Shaurya Divas'. Today on 16th December, 1971, our Army had got victory on Pakistani Army. On 16th

[Shri Vijay Goel]

December, 1971, Pakistani Army surrendered before the joint command of Indian and Bangladeshi Army.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shir Vijay Goel, you have given the notice for banning of lotteries. Whatever you have mentioned in the notice, you should say that.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL : This is an important issue which I want to put before the House.

MR. SPEAKER This is not good.

SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Lieutenant General Niyaji had signed on the surrender paper on behalf of Pakistan.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER I have called Shri Vijay Goel.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL Mr. Speaker Sir, I am reminding the House of the 'Victory day' and the whole House will be agreeable to it.

[English]

SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR (Mumbai North-West): Sir, 16th December, was celebrated as 'Victory Day' in this House. There is nothing wrong. It should be honoured. ... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL Mr. Speaker Sir, I was only expressing my feelings.

[English]

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMED KHAN (Baharaich) : In the fitness of things, the proposal should have come from the Government. This is an important day. But it appears that they do not want to remember this day ... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL : My subject is about lottery ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Ajit Jogi is disturbing the House.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Looking upwards again and again. What is there upwards?

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Many Hon. Members are disturbing the House.

[Translation]

Looking upwards again and again. What is these upwards?

...(Interruptions)

SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Mr. Speaker Sir, I have seen a special thing in this and the last Lok Sabha that an important issue of the lotteries had come up in the last Lok Sabha and all political parties had unanimously supported it that not one digit lottery alone but all types of lotteries should be banned and I am thankful to the Government and all political parties who had completely banned one digit lottery in the previous House. The then Home Minister had assured that an other Bill would be introduced after consultations with all Chief Ministers so that all types of lotteries would be banned in the whole country. That Bill has not come yet. The Government may bring that bill and all political parties should support it in the same manner again that all lotteries be banned. Again a stay order has been given on lotteries by an order of the Guwahati High Court and one digit lottery has been started at various places in the country. I want to say to all political parties that there is the Government of one party or the other in every state, they should call upon the Governments of their respective parties that the lotteries be banned and I would request the Government that if Shri Khurana ji wants to make a statement about it then he may make it as to when he is going to introduce the Bill so that the lottery because of which

lakhs of houses are getting ruined and about which the House had unanimously said that not only one digit but all types of lotteries should be banned, it be banned in the country. That Bill be introduced in this House during this session only.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : So, you are also supporting this. All right.

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : Mr. Spaker Sir, so far as the lottery is concerned, this Government holds the opinion that all digit lotteries should be completely banned in the whole country and we are taking steps towards that only.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : When are you going to bring the second Bill? ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : The lottery has not yet been stopped in the country. Lottery is selling again according to some order of the court, therefore I say that considering that legal point we are going to introduce this Bill very soon. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Why are you delaying it? ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI : This is connivance. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I will call all the names. Please understand.

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM (Badagara) : I may be permitted to raise a very important matter of grave consequence.

MR. SPEAKER : Madam, last time also I told you that you cannot read in the 'Zero Hour';

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I have called Prof. Premajam. Please take your seat. Nothing goes on record.

...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM : When the nation is passing through a grave economic crisis and following a policy of disinvestment of PSUs and to cut down the deficit in the Budget, the Central Board of Direct Taxes is contemplating certain amnesty of tax exemptions to the Japanese multinationals and expatriate employees of these companies ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM : I would like to bring to the notice of this House and certain important schemes are envisaged under this exemption scheme. Form the letter, dated 13.11.98, addressed by the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Japan and also from the letter addressed to the Finance Ministry and the PM's office by the Embassy of Japan, it is understood that there is a great pressure upon this Government to give tax exemption and amnesty to the Japanese multinational companies. Here, in this context, I would like to raise some vital issues which are affecting the national economy. Is the Government knuckling under pressure of Japanese Government in the wake of the Pokharan tests and the sanctions imposed on us? This is only the tip of the iceberg. The next question that I would like to pose on behalf of this nation is this. Is the Government contemplating upon giving such exemptions and amnesties to the people who are evading tax payment, to other multinational companies and also to their expatriate employees? The Government owes an explanation, not only to this House but also to the entire nation in this regard. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : You have already associated with him.

SHRI MOTILAL VORA (Rajnandgaon) : I am not wasting the time of the House. I am not standing.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I have already mentioned that you also associated with him.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I will call you also.

[Translation]

You should not disturb the House like this. Later I will call you also.

[English]

SHRI KONIJETI ROSAIAH (Narasaraopet) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, first of all, I would like to thank the Chair for giving an opportunity to the back benchers also. As you are aware, my constituency, Narasaraopet, is in Andhra Pradesh. There are 181 agency villages where minimum facilities like drinking water, lighting, road facility or medical aid or something like that exists. We are almost far, far away from the civilised society. For the last 50 years, the Government of India and also the State Governments have been spending a very big amount for the development of agency areas but still in one constituency, I am sorry to say that there are 181 inhabitations where the minimum facilities are also lacking. I appeal to the Government of India to depute one officer to see how people are living in those agency areas. The Government of India must make a special effort or offer a special package to help them coming to the normal life.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Baalu, I am calling you also.

[Translation]

SHRI H.P. SINGH (Arrah) : Mr. Speaker Sir, we have written a letter in Bhojpuri from Arrah that the Government is being mocked at in the whole of India. There are 62 Bhojpuri districts equally located in U.P. and Bihar, I want to say something about the farmers there. Jaunpur area has to do something with agriculture Fertilizers and ration, both the departments are under the responsibility of Hon'ble Minister here, but he is so sluggish....

MR. SPEAKER : You have given notice about the bridge.

SHRI H.P. SINGH : We beg your pardon.

MR. SPEAKER : You cannot speak like this.

SHRI H.P. SINGH : Sir, fertilizer is very important. Prices of potatoes and onions are rising ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You do not need the bridge.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI H.P. SINGH : When the farmer will purchase it from the blackmarket, how can he increase the production. ... (Interruptions) When he will buy fertilizer at higher price and water will be costly then under such circumstances how can he improve the production ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : The Minister has already replied.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI VIRENDRA SINGH (Mirzapur) : Sir, he is speaking in Bhojpuri, ... (Interruptions)

SHRI H.P. SINGH : Sir, when no attention will be paid to agriculture, the condition of the country will go on deteriorating. ... (Interruptions) Hon'ble Minister, unless the farmers get full quantity of fertilizers, how can they increase their production ... (Interruptions) Edible items depend upon the farmers and labourers only. If they are not attended to then what would be the condition of India in future you yourself can understand it. ... (Interruptions) The blackmarketeers have spoilt the condition of the country, therefore, special attention should be paid to stop this. ... (Interruptions)

PROF. RITA VERMA (Dhanbad) : You kindly listen to me. Sir, a very heartrending incident has taken place. you please hear about it. Last Sunday a horrible incident took place in Bihar. About two dozen Adivasi Santhals were surrounded and killed by bullets. Their small children were cut to pieces and then about 100 houses were set ablaze. About two dozen innocent Adivasi Santhals were burnt alive in it. I want to draw the attention of the House towards that horrible incident. ... (Interruptions).

SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA (Udhampur) : Sir, No. 45 has spoken earlier ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : It is not like that.

[English]

Please understand that this is the discretion of the Chair. You cannot dictate terms to the Chair. For everything you want to dictate the Chair.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

PROF. RITA VERMA : Sir, the Adivasis of Dagarwa out post in District. Purnia were burnt alive ... (Interruptions) Adivasis were burnt alive, you please pay attention to this. There was a land dispute at Nakhrela village under Dagarwa Police outpost. Government lands were there on which the Santhals were doing the farming. The reign of terror was shown there on Sunday by a particular community to evict those Santhals from these lands. They fired at random, and axed the children, they were thrown into the fire and killed. This genocide has proved the existence of anarchy in Bihar again. Harijan Adivasis are always talked about in Lalu, Rabri led rule, but you please see how they are being treated. ... (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMED KHAN : Sir, you have already ruled that the word 'Harijan' must not be used. ... (Interruptions) The Chair has already given that ruling.

[Translation]

PROF. RITA VERMA : Their killers have also got Government protection. The Police saw them setting aflame but did not do anything. It had been informed at 9.00 AM but did not reach that village till 01.00 PM. They were surrounded and killed and burnt. Most of the killed ones are those of whom Laluji and Rabriji claim to be the saviours. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : It is a constitutional term.

[English]

The Constitutional words are 'Scheduled Castes' and 'Scheduled Tribes', not 'Harijan'.

... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

PROF. RITA VERMA : Mr. Speaker Sir, on an average 18 people are being killed in Bihar daily and the Government there is silent. All are crying for help there, nobody is safe anywhere. I demand from you that the Central Government may instruct the State Government that proper arrangement be made for the safety of poor Adivasis and Harijans there and they should not be killed on account of land disputes. I demand full security for them, and the Police that did not go there even after having information, and reached there after there was fire, should be penalized.

Sir, I demand again that such inhuman Government of Bihar be dismissed, anarchy be put to an end in Bihar. ... (Interruptions) There cannot be any welfare of Harijans and Adivasis in Bihar unless this anarchy is brought to an end there. ... (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMED KHAN : Sir, you must point out that the term 'Harijan' is not to be used. ... (Interruptions)

13.00 hrs.

MR. SPEAKER Madam, as per the Constitution, you must use the words 'Scheduled Castes' and 'Scheduled Tribes', and not 'Harijan'.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI T.R. BAALU (Madras South) : Sir, the South Indian Nadar community, to which late K. Kamaraj belonged, had its social development during this century and was in control of a banking institution called Tamil Nadu Mercantile Bank Limited for the past 77 years. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record except what Shri Baalu speaks...

... (Interruptions)

SHRI T.R. BAALU (Madras South) : As per the Articles of Association of the Tamil Nadu Mercantile Bank, the bank should help the Nadar community people in the area of alleviation of poverty and education. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing except what Shri Baalu says will go on record.

... (Interruptions)

13.02 hrs.

(SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA in the Chair)

SHRI T.R. BAALU : Sir, during the manipulative fraud in the share market, they had lost control of the management of this particular bank to an outsider and now they want to hold back the management of the Tamil

*Not recorded.

[Shri T.R. Baalu]

Nadu Mercantile Bank. Dr. Kalaingar Karunanidhi and our party are entirely in support of this demand of the particular community. The Nadar Mahajan Bank Share Investors' Forum, headed by B. Ramachandra Adityan conducted a mass rally at Chennai and represented the matter to RBI not to transfer the shares to the new incumbent and that the community is ready to purchase the shares and take over the management
 ... (Interruptions)

MR CHAIRMAN Please take your seats

... (Interruptions)

MR CHAIRMAN : Nothing will go on record except what Shri Baalu says.

... (Interruptions)*

SHRI T R BAALU The headquarters of the Tamil Nadu Mercantile Bank lies in the constituency of Shri Janarthanan, the Minister for Banking Revenue and Insurance. The ironical part of it is that he had promised in his election campaign and assured that he would retrieve the Tamil Nadu Mercantile Bank from outsiders and re-establish the particular community to which he belongs. What has happened to his promise? What is the mystery preventing him from doing so? If he cannot keep up his promise, he should resign and get out of this Ministry

Shri Janarthan has cheated not only the people of his constituency but also his community. I demand this Government, especially the hon. Prime Minister, to intervene and see that *status quo ante* is restored so that the sentiments of the Nadar community are upheld in the matter of the Tamil Nadu Mercantile Bank.

DR ULHAS VASUDEO PATIL (Jalgaon) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, thank you for giving me this opportunity. This House is discussing atrocities on *Dalits* but an untoward incident occurred in my district Jalgaon in Maharashtra. Police opened fire on *Dalits* and backward class people last week in my constituency. Some people tried to disturb the photo and the board in the name of *Bharat Ratna* Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar. Similar incidents occurred in the same *Tehsil* in my district. Unfortunately, the police opened fire on the *Dalit* community which was protesting silently in that area. In this incident, a lot of females and *Dalit* people have been admitted in the Civil Hospital, Jalgaon. I urge upon the Government and the hon. Home Minister to take cognizance of this and make a statement before the House.

[Translation]

DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD (Madhubani) : Mr. Chairman Sir, the construction and renewal work of roads in Madhubani, Darbhanga and Sitamarhi Districts of north Bihar should be got done by Border Road organisation of Defence Ministry. China has constructed a road on Indo-Nepal border into Nepal. Our Defence Minister has already said and three to four days back, Urban Development Minister had issued a statement that China was the biggest threat for India. With regard to security of India roads of Madhubani which are on Indo-Nepal border, are needed to be constructed. I demand that the roads of Madhubani, Darbhanga and Sitamarhi should be got constructed by Border Road organisation of Defence Ministry. There is an airport of airforce in Darbhanga also. From security point of view transportation is very necessary there. I that these roads should be got constructed by Border Road organisation.

SHRI RAM NARAIN MEENA (Kota) : Mr. Chairman Sir, there is discussion on the interests of farmers in the House every time. This Government talking about the interests of the farmers, does nothing for their. Last time, there was a discussion about D.A.P. fertilizer. I would like to quote last week's incident. In the Kota region of Rajasthan which is called Haroti, the farmers are facing problems of shortage of D.A.P. fertilizers in Bundi and Jhalaward. The police adopted high handedness on the farmers standing in queue. Fifteen bags of urea in place of one bag of D.A.P. fertilizer is to be given. It is black marketing. The fertilizer is not available there. The Agriculture Minister had issued a statement. There is shortage of D.A.P. fertilizer in Rajasthan. Due to Unforsightedness of Government, this type of shortage occurs every year. No formulating policy in this connection and non-ascertaining the policy with regard to giving subsidy and changing the policy of giving grants in five days-it all shows the will of the Government. The Government who talks about the interests of the farmers, is doing nothing for the farmers. The canals are dried up in our area. The canals in Chambal command is in very bad condition. This situation is worse in Haroti area of Kota division. Every where the situation is very bad whether it is Keshoram Palam and Lakheri area or Chambal Command area. The farmers are not getting fertilizer there. I would like to urge the Government that it should make an ensured policy and make adequate arrangement for it.

[English]

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil) : Sir, I am speaking about the International Airport at

*Not recorded.

Trivandrum. Now, it is being neglected completely by the Airports Authority of India. It is well-known that thousands and thousands of people from the Middle-East, that is, the Gulf countries are coming to Trivandrum airport. The Central Government is also getting a considerable amount of revenue and foreign exchange. That being the case, the neglect of the Airport is quite unjustified. I would request the Central Government to intervene in the matter immediately so that the status of the international airport is enhanced. The passenger amenities are at a low ebb. The passenger amenities should be increased and the proposed developmental activities should be taken up without delay. No developmental activity is taking place at the Airport.

So, I strongly request the Minister of Civil Aviation to intervene in the matter and see that justice is done to this International Airport which is one of its kind in India.

MR. CHAIRMAN Shri R.L.P. Verma.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN (Quilon) : Sir, I also support this view. It is a totally neglected International Airport. When Shri V.P. Singh was the Prime Minister of this country, he made this airport an International Airport. So far, nothing has been done. This airport is very important for Kerala. ... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN Please take your seat.

Shri R.L.P. Verma.

[Translation]

SHRI R.L.P. VERMA (Kodarma) : Mr. Chairman Sir, For the last two months under kodarma parliamentary constituency in the for flung jungle rural areas of kodarma. Ganvam and Tisri subdivision malaria has broken out. The Government of Bihar is unawaken to this problem. Neither docotors nor medicines are available there. Due to this mismanagement 350 people have died by now. In this connection I have written to the Government of Bihar but no action has been taken as yet. Two hundred people have died in Dhab Panchayat of Kodarma Block. A ten kilometer long road from Dhab to Charke has not been constructed due to which it is not possible to take the patients to the hospital. The fully way goes through the jungle there. Sir the Van of the doctor can not reach there. Malaria has broken out in many villages of Tisri Bliok. About 105 people have died in Ganvan Block and approximately three to four hundred people have been affected with disease. I would like to request to the

Government of India that an arrangement should be made to send doctors and medicines in those malaria affected areas of Kodarma district.

SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA : Mr. Chairman Sir, about ten million Dogra people live in Jammu in J & K and in Himachal Pradesh who speak Dogri language. Dogri in itself is a complete language. A provission for keeping 18 languages in the eighth schedule has been made by debating in the House and by making amendment in the constitution. We have stongly urged in the House that Dogri language should be included in the eight schedule. Dogri language should be encouraged in the same way as other languages are being encouraged. Mr. Chairman Sir, Dogri people have always contributed a lot in the freedom of the country. Not even so seven people have become martyre while defending the Unity and integrity of the country after independence. Shri Shyma Prasad Mukherji was one of them. Those Dogri people have always adopted Dogri approach. In view of this Dogri language should be included in the eighth schedule. At the same time, I demand that as news bulletins of other languages are telecast on Doordarshan, like wise news bulletin in Dogri language also be telecast.

[English]

SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR (Dumdum) : Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Members of this House towards a news item which was published in a Calcutta newspaper on the 15th of this month. It says that the U.P. Police gunned down the criminals at Park Street, Calcutta. This House should appreciate the courage and dedication of the U.P. Police. But at the same time, I am expressing my great concern over the matter that now West Bengal has become the safest shelter for the criminals, extremists and also the Mafia. I demand that the Unio. Home Minister should provide adequate support to the West Bengal Government so that these types of activities would not occur in future.

MR. CHAIRMAN There are a large number of Members who have given notices to speak during 'Zero Hour'. If we have to extend 'Zero Hour', then we have to skip our lunch-hour. So, I want to take the sense of the House on this matter.

SHRI AJIT JOGI : Sir, we have no objection and we can dispense with the lunch-hour.

MR. SPEAKER If anyone wants to have his lunch, he can go.

[Translation]

SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY (Giridih) : Mr. Chairman Sir, through you I would like to draw the

[Shri Ravindra Kumar Panday]

attention of the Government to the pollution spread by C.C.L. and B.C.C.L. washeries and thermal power station in the Demodar river.

Sir, C.C.L. a unit of coal India is creating pollution through its washeries and all the dump of the washeries is polluting the Damodar river. We had earlier raised this issue here but we had got a vague answer thereof. I urge the Government through you to take action on it.

[English]

*SHRI K.P. MOHAN (Dharmapuri) : Hon'ble Chairman Sir, the Lambadi tribal people in Tamil Nadu have not been included in the Scheduled Tribes list so far. As early as in 1989, a resolution was unanimously passed in Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly in this regard. The resolution urging the Union Government to have the Lambadis of Tamil Nadu included in the ST list was sent to the Government of India immediately then. But so far no action has been taken. At the same time, the Lambadis in other States are enjoying the benefits of this notification and related reservation facilities accrued to the Scheduled Tribes. The Lambadis of Tamil Nadu are socially and economically a most backward class. They are dwelling in forests and are toiling as agricultural labourers. I urge upon the Union Government to take necessary steps to include the Lambadis of Tamil Nadu in the Scheduled Tribes list. Thank you.

*SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM (Vellore) : Sir, suburban trains in the form of EMUs are run between Pune and Mumbai. It greatly benefits the commuters living in a wider area. This has enabled thousands of people to live in Pune and work in Mumbai. They travel everyday to their work places. Similarly, electric trains—EMUs should be run between Chennai and Katpadi. These suburban trains should ply every hour between Chennai and Katpadi. This would greatly benefit the people of Vellore and Katpadi towns and also number of villagers from the neighbouring mofussil areas. As such there are about 20 trains that run between Chennai and Arakkonam with about half-an-hour to one-hour frequency. Those trains may be extended upto Katpadi.

Let me also request the Ministry of Railways to provide stoppage at Katpadi to the Chennai-Mysore and Chennai-Coimbatore Shatabdi Express trains. Steps may also be taken to convert the signals on the Arakkonam-Katpadi section into automatic signalling system. This is necessary to extend the EMUs from Chennai upto Katpadi.

For such related works Rs 22 crore was earmarked. But only Rs 6 crore has been released so far. Hence, I urge upon the Ministry of Railways to release the remaining funds at the earliest to complete the ongoing works.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI : Mr. Chairman Sir, please give me a minute's time to speak.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You will be given time later on.

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI : The Minister will take leave by then.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The Minister will be here. Now it is Mr. Punnu Lal Mohale's turn.

SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE (Bilaspur) : Honorable Sir, I wish to submit to the Government that 18th December is the anniversary of Saint Baba Ghasidasji and a declared public holiday for years by Madhya Pradesh Government. Postage stamps of Saint Guru Ghasidas have also been released at this occasion. A university is also established in Bilaspur by his name. Satnami Samaj and his followers are present not only in Madhya Pradesh but in every nook and corner of India in a large number. Most of them are from scheduled caste community.

Saint Ghasidas was born on 18th of December in village Giraudpuri, District Raipur, Madhya Pradesh. I request the Central Government to declare his birthday as a public holiday, respecting the feelings of Satnami Samaj and crores of his followers as is declared on the anniversaries of the saints of other communities.

SHRI AJIT JOGI : We also support their demand.

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI : Please, let me speak for a minute, it's related to all the members.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I have called Mr. Sudip Bandyopadhyay. Your turn will come after.

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI : It is a matter of all Honorable members.

MR. CHAIRMAN : We know something of your subject matter.

*English translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI : When will I get an opportunity to speak, Sir?

MR. CHAIRMAN : You will get time later.

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI : Sir, Mr. Ram Naik is sitting now, he will leave later. It is something of the interest of the Minister as well as all the Members. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN : I have called Shri Sudip Bandyopadhyay.

[*Translation*]

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI : Sir, it is very serious matter, if it can't be raised in Zero Hour, then there is no time for it. Mr. Ram Naik our Minister, will go, and he is our leader in this matter.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Fatmi, please be seated. We know it is a matter concerning all.

SHRI RAJO SINGH (*Bagusarai*) : Sir, we seek for more money but we are not permitted to speak, please let him speak, this is a concern for all. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI : Chairman Sir, we are getting Rs. one crore towards Member of Parliament Local Area Development Fund. Honourable Prime Minister declared here itself to raise this amount to Rs. two crores by this year.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Fatmi, please take your seat. I have called Mr. Sudip Bandyopadhyay.

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI : Sir, it is a matter concerning all the members. The Government has promised. People are asking us regarding Rs. two crores outside the House. General public is in search of area development through their representatives. We are being beaten in our constituencies. If you don't pay heed to our request, then who else. Honourable Minister is present in the House. This matter concerns all members irrespective of any political party. Mr. Ram Naik is the Minister, under whose leadership all this has happened. Mr. Ram Naik, how come that you become so weak after getting ministerial berth. While in opposition you got sanctioned Rs. One crore. Since you are in power now and you have announced it, it becomes your responsibility. Honourable Prime Minister has announced to raise it to Rs. Two crores from this year. Where is the problem

then, why the amount is not being doubled? People ask in our area about the money. If the amount is not being doubled, announce it here itself; otherwise tell us the likely time by which the amount is likely to be made Rs. Two crores.

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Sir, this issue concerns all members and with the publishing of this news, programmes have been chalked out everywhere. Honourable Minister, sitting here, must tell something about this. Honourable Prime Minister announced during last session to deliberate over it seriously. I would like to know about the future of this 'to be seriously deliberated' issue as termed by the Prime Minister several months back in the month of July.

SHRI AJIT JOGI : Mr. Chairman Sir, I request Honourable Minister to please explain things in this regard in the House. You have already spoken many times. I request Honourable Minister to please react in this regard.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Sir, Honourable Minister want to say something.

SHRI AJIT JOGI : Sir, please direct the Minister to speak.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I can't direct the Minister. He may speak if he desires so.

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : Chairman Sir, Honourable Members are raising this issue time and again. It is but natural, it is a matter of concern to all and it should be resolved as early as possible. This matter was deliberated upon in the all party meeting with the Speaker Lok Sabha. Similarly, another all party meeting was arranged with the Chairman-Rajya Sabha to deliberate upon this subject. And there was a general consensus over raising the Rs. One Crore amount to Rs. Two Crores. A proposal was sent accordingly.

Mr. Chairman Sir, the issue regarding use of its interest was also discussed since there are no clear guidelines in this respect. After deliberations over these two issues, the general feeling was to use the interest amount for development works as per guidelines, from both the sides. After this the matter has been submitted to the Prime Minister in the form of a note. I said last week also that it is under active consideration of the hon. Prime Minister.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI : Only three months are left, Sir.

SHRI RAM NAIK : I am telling you the factual position.

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI : We will move into the next century after a few months, Mr. Minister.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Fatmiji, please take your seat, let the Minister speak.

[English]

SHRI RAM NAIK : It is under active consideration of the Government and the decision will be taken as early as possible ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI E. AHAMED (Manjeri) : Even the amount already allotted has not been sent to the respective district collectors. They have not received what ever amount you have allotted ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NAIK : I would like to make it clear to all the members ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MOTI LAL VORA : Hon'ble Minister, second installment has since not been released so far. ...*(Interruptions)*

13.27 hrs.

(SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH *in the Chair*)

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NAIK : Let me tell you about 1998-99, if there are some members, who have submitted projects in respect of earlier amount; there is provision to release second instalment in respect of earlier projects, either sanctioned or not, if the amount has come down to less than Rs. 50 lakhs. I would like to inform you that there are some places wherein the Collectors or the District Magistrates are not sending certificates to that effect. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Yes, you are absolutely right. The Collector of Maharajganj is not sending utilisation certificate ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM NAIK : Mr. Chairman Sir, I again request the hon. Members to get the certificates despatched or to fetch them personally from their area Collectors substantiating that the amount has come down to less than Rs. 50 lakhs. I assure them of the second instalment within 8-10 days after getting such certificates.

[English]

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY (Calcutta North-West) : Mr. Chairman Sir, through you, I want to draw the kind attention of the hon. Home Minister to a very serious matter concerning eve-teasing. Today, the eve-teasing has become a social disease in our country. It is increasing gradually in every city of our country. Just in the last week, Rekha Chowdhury, a national basket ball player was seriously assaulted by a gang of car-borne hooligans in the city of Calcutta, and hapless victim was dragged down and knocked, and attempts were made to drag her from the city. Fortunately, her friends very courageously rushed to the spot and rescued the national basket ball player Rekha Chowdhury.

A few days back in Madhya Pradesh also, a college girl was similarly attacked by some hooligans, and she was succumbed to injuries.

Sir, the growing eve-teasing process has made the life of our young school and college going girls very miserable. So, there should be an all-out effort to see that this eve-teasing which is growing as an emerging social evil, is stopped immediately. The Government of India should take this matter very seriously with topmost priority.

[Translation]

SHRI HARI KEWAL PRASAD : Mr. Chairman Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government, through you, to a very important public issue. The industry is being closed in a systematic way. The Government of Uttar Pradesh has recently closed 15 factories in Lucknow. Five sugar mills have already been closed. Four sugar mills in Gauri Bazar, Padrauna and Kadkuian, controlled by the Government of India are also closed. Chur Cement factory was closed in the same way. Workers of this factory organised Satyagraha at the Legislative Assembly and a worker breathed his last in front of Legislative Assembly. Workers of UPTRON and other mills are on the cross roads. I request to the Government of India, through you, to put an end to the closure process and give direction the Government of Uttar Pradesh to start work in closed mills.

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMED KHAN : Mr. Chairman Sir, I am thankful to you for allowing me raise such an important issue. It is the constitutional duty of the Government to safeguard every citizen's life, property and their honour. More so, of the citizens owing any constitutional responsibility or hold a particular political view point or any other particular viewpoint. It is the duty of the Government to protect their lives from the danger arising out of the above. Bahujan Samajvadi Party National vice-President and leader of the Bahujan Samajvadi Party Parliamentary Group Ms. Mayawati is receiving threats to her life for the last two-three months. We have not only met hon. Prime Minister and hon. Home Minister but written to them also. We have written to hon. Speaker also. *...(Interruptions)* I would be indebted if Mr. Virendra Singh speaks next.

SHRI VIRENDRA SINGH : Mr. Chairman Sir, Mrs. Mayawati, herself, keep on threatening Kalyan Singh and others, who can afford to threaten her?

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMED KHAN : This is not the way. We have already given a memorandum to the Hon. Speaker in this connection. She wrote a letter to the Hon'ble Prime Minister on August 5. She wrote to Hon'ble Home Minister, but you may feel sorry to learn that the acknowledgement of the letter dated 5th of August was received on 10 August. But what the action was taken in this regard is not told still. At this time Mayawati jee is staying in Lucknow. Some unfortunate incidents have taken place there she wrote to the President on 10th of this very month in this connection. I quote her letter. She write. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : You need not to quote the letter you have mentioned. That is enough.

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMED KHAN : Mayawati's letter says there in a case which is pertaining to B.S.P. M.L.As and still pending in supreme court and the speaking of Uttar Pradesh Assembly have a feeling of acrimony with them. She has written that her life was in danger from the Bharatiya Janta Party, Vishba Hindu Parishad and Bajrang Dal as she had denied to be pressurised under their obligation regarding Kashi, Mathura and Varanasi; and she objected to assimilate any new tradition *...(Interruptions)* with that *...(Interruptions)* it would be better to him to latter. I am speaking with your permission *...(Interruptions)* let me conclude it.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now you, please take your seat.

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMED KHAN : I have one more issue. That is as important as previous one.

...(Interruptions) You, please see to my another notice.

...(Interruptions) I have written that the Chairman of the Minorities Commission Dr. Tahir Mohammed

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Any other issue won't be allowed.

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMED KHAN : This is the matter of security. You, see the notice.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Only one issue will be taken up.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMED KHAN : You, see to the notice. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Why do you like to dilute the matter now?

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Kumari Mayawati is an Hon'ble Member.

...(Interruptions)

[*English*]

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMED KHAN : He has allowed me *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI E. AHAMED : Sir, I will require only one minute. I seek your kind permission. *...(Interruptions)*

[*Translation*]

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMED KHAN : She has given me permission, see to that, she has allowed to raise both the issues. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : That's right.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : You had given the notice about Kumari Mayawati and you have raised the question. The matter of security measures for Members is undoubtedly serious and you have already addressed on the Hon'ble Prime Minister, Home Minister and the speaker in this connection. So, the Government is asked by the Chair to keep in mind the security of all of the Members. But, at the same time, if is also asked that Hon'ble leader

[Mr. Chairman]

Kumari Mayawati somewhat differs from her other counterparts. Therefore her security comes should be tightened.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Please keep silence! I, too, have a notice. I may be allowed in this regard. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : I will give you opportunity. Don't wastetime.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI E. AHMAD : The security cover given to the Chairman of the Minorities Commission, Dr. Tahir Mahmood has been withdrawn. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI CHAIRMAN : I will give opportunity, to all of you please be seated.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Give opportunity earlist ...*(Interruptions)* This is the matter of life and death.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I will give you a chance.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VIRENDRA SINGH : Sir, I would like to draw attention of the House to such a problem and issue which is related to the Government that is the problem of tribal people. There is a tribal named Kole in Uttar Pradesh, especially in my Parliamentary constituency, Mirzapur, where whose population is about 65,000. I would like to say to the Government that the people Kole tribe are residing in Madhya Pradesh, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh also. Their area is spread out from Jhhansi in Uttar Pradesh to Chakiya, a boarder area of Bihar. It is a matter of great concern that the Kole tribe is included in the category of tribe in other states while they are deprived of being in this category in Uttar Pradesh. through the Chair I would like to draw the attention of the Government of India to the very thing that the people of Kole tribe in Uttar Pradesh are deprived of facilities provided to scheduled tribes due to being categorised in shcedule tribe. I request the Government to include the people of Kole tribe of Uttar Pradesh under scheduled

tribes so that they are not deprived of all those fairities. Concerned Minister of Parliamentary Affairs is present here. I expect from him to make an assurance to categorise them as schedule tribes. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI AJIT JOGI : That is the proper demand. It should be fulfilled. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM NAIK : Sir, such a situations prevails in the country that some castes are included under as schedule tribes in one state while the same castes are under O.B.C. category in another station. For example, the Naik Community to which I belong have been categorised as schedule castes, Schedule Tribes, O.B.C., Brahmins, Marathas etc. in different states. Therefore, this is to the concerned state of Hon'ble Members to recommend in order to make categorisation like this. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VIRENDRA SINGH : The recommendation has already been sent to the central Government! by my State in this regard ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM NAIK : You, listen to I will solve your problem. If the recommendation comes from the state Government, we will take proper decision by putting up the matter before the concerned Minister. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VIRENDRA SINGH : That recommendation has already been come up. Chairman Sir, the recommendation has already been received from the Uttar Pradesh Government. Therefore no need is revised to think over it requires just Government's order.

[English]

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Mr. Chairman Sir, the position of the Chairman of the Minorities Commission is a very vulnerable position. It requires adequate security cover and full protection. On the contrary, it is shocking to learn that even the meagre security cover that was provided to the Chairman of the Minorities Commission, Dr. Tahir Mehmood Sahib has been suddenly withdrawn. and withdrawn without notice. It is a very shocking act; it is a thoughtless act; it is an act without consideration of the grave risk that the Chairman of the Minorities Commission faces. The security cover which was a meagre security cover has also been suddenly withdrawn. It was withdrawn suddenly on the 12th of December.

I would urge upon the Government that the security cover has to be restored because otherwise the Chairman of the Minorities Commission will be exposed to serious risk. I would urge that not only the security cover has to be restored, but it has also to be strengthened. It must

be realised that the matter is of serious importance and needs immediate attention.

- We must also know as to who was responsible for such a thoughtless decision that was taken in such a sudden manner and without notice. I would even go to the extent of accusing the Government of showing indifference to the question of minorities and even to the safety of the Chairman of the Minorities Commission. This indifference is intolerable because now this House is discussing the question of increasing number of atrocities on minorities. Even in such a situation, without notice, the meagre security that was provided was also withdrawn.

Sir, immediate action of the Government is needed. Let the Government react to this important question. I also associate myself with the question of security to Kumari Mayawati which has been raised earlier.

SHRI E. AHAMED : Let there be a reaction from the Government. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MR. CHAIRMAN : What's therein? That has been taken up.

[*English*]

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : When the House is discussing about the atrocities on minorities, the security cover of the Chairman has been withdrawn. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, you have raised the question.

[*English*]

SHRI E. AHAMED : We would like to know as to why it has been withdrawn. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : I want to know the reaction of the Government. ...(*Interruptions*) You have to direct the Government.

[*Translation*]

MR. CHAIRMAN : In this matter, the Government cannot be directed from the Chair. If he desires, the

hon. Minister of the Government may stand up and speak. Please take your chair.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : You may give a direction. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI E. AHAMED : We should know as to why it has been done. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MR. CHAIRMAN : You have raised the question, it was taken up.

[*English*]

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMED KHAN : Sir, you must give a direction. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Sir, you may give a direction to the Government to restore the security cover ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI E. AHAMED : We should know as to why it has been done. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAM NAIK : I will convey the sentiments expressed by the hon. Members to the Home Minister. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Conveying the sentiments will not do. I demand restoration of the security cover.

[*Translation*]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, there is no more scope. Shri Banatwalla, please take your chair.

[*English*]

DR. SUGUNA KUMARI CHELLAMELLA (Peddapalli): Than you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to raise an important matter. I would like to bring to the notice of the august House a matter regarding encroachment of the land of the State of Bihar by Nepal. 5,839.94 acres of land of Bihar State had been encroached by Nepal. This poor developing nation cannot afford to loss precious land like this.

Through you, Sir, I would request the hon. Home Minister to take necessary remedial measures and to

[Dr. Suguna Kumari Chellamella]

see that it is sorted out through peaceful bilateral negotiations.

I also request the hon. Home Minister to direct the Ministry to take appropriate remedial measures.

[Translation]

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' : Mr. Chairman Sir, the Bill seeking the formation of Uttranchal State should be brought before the Parliament in this very session, and I have given notice to this effect. My submission is that Sardar Paramjeet Singh was the first person who became martyr at Khatima in Udham Singh Nagar on 1st September, 1994. Thereafter, at least 40 persons have become martyrs in this agitation. This news was published in newspapers that this Bill would not be produced before the Parliament in this session. Due to this reason, a strong movement has once again been launched in Uttranchal. The way the Bill is being drafted originally in connection with Chhattisgarh and Vananchal states in the someway the drafted Bill was referred to the Government of Uttar Pradesh in connection with Uttranchal state. That should be produced before the House in original and no amendments should be considered. If this Bill is not produced before this Parliament in this session, there can be a great agitation in our area. Therefore, taking the public interest, national agenda and commitment made by the Government into considered so I would request the Government that there are only six days left of or this session, and therefore this Bill should be definitely brought during this session.

[English]

SHRI SUNIL KHAN (Durgapur) : Thank you, Mr. Chairman for giving me an opportunity to speak. I would like to draw the attention of the House as well as the attention of the Ministry of Water Resources to a matter of very great importance. The employees of the NPCC have been sitting on *dharna* since 14th December as they are not getting salary for nearly seventeen to twenty months. The deterioration in the condition of the Company started in 1990 onwards due to gross mismanagement, massive corruption and because of not bagging any orders. As a result, the condition of the Company has deteriorated to such an extent that about 2,000 employees posted at remote sites have not been paid even their legitimate monthly salaries, besides being denied other statutory dues, such as bonus and *ex-gratia* for the period 1994-95, 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98. The arrears of the NPCC includes CPL run to Rs. 9 crore.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Your question is complete and you have put up your question again, so it cannot be debated.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI SUNIL KHAN : Sir, in the case Meija power station even the work that has been done by the NPCC had been stopped by the management and a new order had been given to the private sector. I would urge upon the Government to inquire, through the CBI, as to why the work that has already been done by NPCC was withdrawn and given to the private sector. Was there any *quid pro quo*?

DR. V. SAROJA (Rasipuram) : Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for allowing me to raise an important issue in this august House. In and around the newly-formed Namakkal district headquarters, nearly ninety to ninety-five lakhs of eggs are being produced. Nearly 15,000 poultry farms are situated there. Three to five lakh rural labourers are engaged through these poultry farms and other ancillary industries. In this regard, I urge upon the Government immediately to set up cold storage facilities not only to cater to the needs of India but also to help the export business. Precooling facilities should also be incorporated for which land is available within the Veterinary College campus in the Namakkal district. I urge upon the Government to take immediate steps.

[Translation]

VAIDYA VISHNU DATT (Jammu) : Tourism is the biggest industry in Jammu and Kashmir. Almost 60 to 70 lakhs of passengers come to Jammu and Kashmir every year. Out of them, about 55 lakh passengers go for Vaishno Devi and Amarnath pilgrimage usually all these pilgrims have a wish that they should proceed to Haridwar while returning from Vaishno Devi and Amarnath.

I have made a request many times that a direct train should be introduced from Jammu to Haridwar so that it may fulfil the desires of the passengers. Besides, I would request that the railway line from Jalandhar to Jammu should be doubled so that the trains reaching late there may reach in time.

SHRI MOTILAL VORA : Mr. Chairman, Sir, there is a great scarcity of DAP and MOP fertilisers in Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. I had drawn the attention of hon'ble Minister towards this many a time.

But the Government has failed to meet the demands of fertilisers. I would like to draw the attention of the Government through you that the supply of DAP and MOP fertilisers should be made otherwise the same condition will be there when due to onions and potatoes the Government had fallen down. Now, on account of scarcity of fertilisers, their Government in other states in the country will also fall.

[English]

SHRI B.M. MENSINKAI (Dharward South) : An under-bridge was constructed at Haveri Railway station at the time of broad gauge conversion from meter gauge. People are not crossing through that bridge. This bridge is on the State Highway road. Its design was made defective as a result of which the people are suffering like anything. Sir, through you, I would request the Railway Ministry to re-designed and re-construct this bridge.

DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARY (Adilabad) : Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the august House also of the hon. Minister of Industry to the non-payment of wages to the employees of the Cement Corporation of India at its Adilabad branch which comes in my Parliamentary constituency. Employees are not getting their wages in spite of the fact that cement is being produced by the CCI and is sent to Mumbai and other places. The officers are enjoying the income through the sale of cement produced at Adilabad branch of CCI while the workers are not being paid their wages. I request the hon. Minister of Industry, as also the Government of India, to immediately give directions to the concerned CCI management at Adilabad branch to immediately give salaries to the workers e.i. CCI Adilabad Unit.

[Translation]

SHRI GANGA CHARAN RAJPUT (Hamirpur) (U.P.)
Mr. Chairman Sir, in my Parliamentary Constituency District Hamirpur, water is not being provided to the farmers for cultivation. The crops of wheat and pea have been sown by this time but no water is being provided to these crops. Water is not being provided to those fields for cultivation where seeds or crops have not been sown. Its biggest reason is that there has been a heavy silting in the dams there. Latoora dam. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJO SINGH : Why are you not letting the people from Bihar to speak? ...*(Interruptions)* Why the Chair is so angry with Bihar? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : We allow everybody to speak.

SHRI GANGA CHARAN RAJPUT : There has been a heavy silting in Latoora dam. Its capacity has got decreased. So the canals are not receiving sufficient water. The Viraat Saagar Dam Project propose on the part of Uttar Pradesh Government is lying pending with the Central Government. I request the Central Government that Rs. 350 crore should be sanctioned from the World Bank to the Viraat Saagar Dam Project so that the farmers may get water from this dam.

SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY (Ranchi) Mr. Chairman Sir, there are military cantonments in Hamru, Kharatad, Gadatouli, Peepertoule under my Constituency Ranchi. The military men are harassing the poor the farmers belonging to the harijans, the Scheduled Tribes and the backward classes. This information has always been given to the Government. When their houses collapse, they are not allowed to repair them they are not allowed to build their own houses. They molest women at the pond, they interfere in religious places and object to the burying of the dead bodies in the graveyard. Thus, these people are very terrified. Any time a mishapening can take place. The information that they have been harassing these people for years, has been given to the Government from time to time. I would like that immediately on enquiry be conducted into it and stringent action should be taken against the guilty and these harassed people should be given relief.

[English]

SHRIMATI KRISHNA BOSE (Jadavpur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to bring to the notice of the House that two demonstrations took place on human rights day on the streets of Delhi, one by the All Party Hurriyat Conference and the other by the Pundits of Jammu and Kashmir. Both sides alleged that there have been serious human rights lapses in Kashmir by Indian authorities. We are given assurances in this House, time and again, that things are improving in Kashmir, particularly, after the elections and after the new Government was installed. But it seems that the security situation there is worsening every day and the people of Kashmir are suffering as they have been suffering for years. I would like to know from the Government what steps they are going to take to protect human rights of the Kashmiri people irrespective of the fact to which caste they belong or to which political colour they belong.

SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN (Quilon) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government of India to the crisis being faced by the HMT which is a major public sector undertaking in India. Once Pandit Nehru had described HMT as a jewel of the

[Shri N.K. Premchandran]

nation. At present, it is facing severe crisis due to lack of working capital. So, I would like to urge upon the Government to give budgetary support to HMT even by way of soft loan or otherwise also.

Sir, we are having the most modern technology. But even the Railways and Defence are not placing orders to the HMT. As far as the PF contributions are concerned, they are in arrears from the year 1992. The interim relief has not been given so far even after the direction of the Government of India.

Sir, the import of second hand machines has also affected the indigenous industries like HMT. So, I would like to urge upon the Government of India both the Ministry of Industries as well as the Ministry of Labour to consider all these issues so that the major indigenous public sector undertaking like HMT could be saved.

[Translation]

PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA (Patiala) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you, I want to draw the attention of the Government to a very important matter of my constituency. The river 'Ghaghar' flows through my constituency, which comes from the hills of Himachal Pradesh. Every year, the crops are destroyed by this river. In this connection, the Punjab Government made a budget for the Patiala district and sent it to the Central Government, but the Central Government has not sent any amount to the State Government. Through you, I want the Central Government to send the said money to the State Government so that the state may be saved from the losses it bears every year and the people may get relief.

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SINGH (Aurangabad) (Bihar): Mr. Chairman Sir, through you, I want to draw the attention of the House to a very important issue. The subject is this that in the district Purnia of Bihar, the village of the Nakhrela Scheduled Tribes was burnt to ashes. Eight scheduled tribes were burnt alive in the fire. They include three children, two women and three men. This is not the only village of this kind. There is a district Saharsa by the side of this district. There a young honest Police Officer (DSP), Shri Satyapal was killed by the trouble mongers in an encounter.

14.00 hrs.

It was the home of the President of the Youth Unit of Rashtriya Janta Dal where they had stayed. ... (Interruptions) An encounter was made by the police.

... (Interruptions) Sir, it is a very important issue ... (Interruptions)

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Sir, it is a very important issue. ... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : He has put up the question. Now, why have you stood up?

... (Interruptions)

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : I am standing with your permission. ... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : You have not given notice. When he has put up the question in the best manner, then why are you standing?

... (Interruptions)

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want to say that an inspector was killed in a police station of Bihar. ... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : You are not allowed to speak. You have not given any notice.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : There an inspector was murdered. ... (Interruptions) Thus the murders are being committed throughout Bihar. ... (Interruptions) Sir, I am to say that murders are being committed throughout Bihar. ... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : If an honourable member has raised the question, it's not that all of you start speaking on that.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Sir, this is a serious matter ... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, whatever he will speak will not go on records.

... (Interruptions)*

SHRI LALMUNI CHOUBEY (Baksar) : Sir, an adivasi house was put on fire, in which eight children were killed. ... (Interruptions) as young police man was murdered. ... (Interruptions)

*Not recorded.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You have not given any prior notice. so what you say wan't go on record.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM NAIK Mr. Chairman, Sir, what honourable members have said, seems to be a serious matter. therefore I assure that I would immediately inform hon. Home Minister on behalf of you to intervene.

[English]

DR. ASIN BALA (Nabadwip) : Sir, Tendu leaves are the main raw material for *Bidi*. About 20 to 25 lakh people are being engaged in collecting the Tendu leaves. Most of the tribal people are earning their livelihood on the collection of Tendu leaves. About 70 per cent women are working in the *Bidi* organisation, in *Bidi* making. The *Bidi* sector gives about Rs. 6,000 to Rs. 7,000 crore as a revenue to the Government.

Sir, the owners of the factories are making a lot of profit whereas those who are actually making beedis are not getting anything. Even their wages are being given in a discriminative manner between male and female workers. Male workers are getting Rs. 20 to Rs. 25 and sometimes even Rs. 50 to Rs. 60 per day whereas female workers are getting only Rs. 15 to Rs. 20 per day per thousand beedis. The government has given some facilities and incentives to the beedi workers. Now, they are demanding identity cards. There are facilities like provident fund and ESI. These facilities are there but the problem is what they are not strictly followed. So, I demand that the Government should make necessary steps so that all the facilities should be properly implemented and thus, the workers enjoy them. ... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Okay, now you conclude. Let the matters under Rule 377 be taken up.

[English]

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : What happened to my notice?

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : This point concerning Dilip Kumar has been raised many times. Now, Please sit down.

[English]

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : Sir, I am on a different point.

SHRI R. MUTHIAH (Periyakulam) : Sir, I have given notice on a very important issue pertaining to my constituency. My number is listed as No. 53. I had personally given notice to the Parliamentary Notice Office ... (Interruptions)

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : Sir, please refer to page 954 of Kaul and Shakhader's *Parliamentary Practice and Procedure* which speaks on the Doctrine of Ministerial Responsibility. It says that the Parliamentary control over the Ministry rests on the fact that any action of the Ministry can be called in question by any Member. This is the Doctrine of Ministerial responsibility.

Sir, yesterday, the hon. Home Minister, Shri L.K. Advani made a statement disapproving of the vandalism and obscene demonstration and harassment of artistes and others including Shri Dilip Kumar. My point is totally different. An hon. Minister belonging to this Government has reportedly been threatening these artistes and supporting those people engaged in vandalism, obscene demonstration and all such things. It is not only that. It has never happened that once a film has been approved by the Censor Board a film which has been awarded at least 14 international awards—it has not been allowed to be screened. I am not going into the details of the film but the freedom of expression is jeopardised. The artistes are feeling that some extra constitutional authority has declared a cultural emergency. My point is different. ¶

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : You have finished it by raising your question. Now, you sit down.

[English]

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : How can a Minister say like that? He has not withdrawn what he has said. He must come to the House and explain why he has supported such an activity. I want a direction from the Chair. After a statement has been made by the hon. Home Minister, how can a Minister of State continue to say like that? ... (Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Protection is not given to the producer of the film and for screening of the film. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : The Minister should explain it. We want a clarification from him.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Alright, you have raised the question and the minister heard it. Now, you sit down.

[English]

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : We are not satisfied. It is a collective responsibility. The Government cannot speak in two voices. One Minister is making one statement and another Minister is making another statement. We want a ruling from the Chair. How can the Government speak in two voices?

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : How can a member of the Cabinet hold a different view where there is collective responsibility? ...*(Interruptions)* Where is the collective responsibility? ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN (SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH) : You have raised the question already. Now please sit down.

[English]

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : He must come to the House and explain it. I am referring to page 954 of Kaul and Shakdher relating to the doctrine of ministerial responsibility. ...*(Interruptions)* When a Member has raised a question, he must come and explain it.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Here, no room to extend the debate on it.

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : This is a very important matter. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI M.N. KRISHNADAS : As this is a very important matter, we want a clarification from the Government. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RUPCAND PAL : The Government cannot speak in two voices. How can the Government speak in two voices? The Home Minister is making one statement and another Minister is telling other thing outside which is quite opposite to the letter and spirit of what has been said here. ...*(Interruptions)* I have a right to get a reply. The hon. Minister must come and explain what he has said, why he has said and whether he agrees to the statement of the hon. Home Minister or not ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Yesterday, the hon. Home Minister condemned the incident which happened in Mumbai. But another Minister has supported the action of the *Shiv Sainiks*. How can a film, which was approved by the Censor Board, be again sent back to the Censor Board? ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : We seek your protection. It is a privilege of a Member. I am referring to page 954 of Kaul and Shakdher. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Right, you have raised your point emphatically. Now please let the proceedings go ahead.

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, you should protect us. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : We want a ruling from the Chair. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS : Since this is a very serious matter, we want a ruling from the Chair. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : As I said earlier, the Home Minister has made a statement. Another Minister is not agreeing to the Statement. How can be continue to be a Minister? He should be removed from the Government.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : There should be collective responsibility. The Home Minister is holding one view and another Minister is holding another view.

[*Translation*]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Does it serve any purpose to repeat the same thing again and again? You have raised the question and the Government have taken note of it.

[*English*]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : We want a ruling on this. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : Sir, you can give a direction saying that he must come to the House and explain why he is differing from the stand taken by the Home Minister. He is opposed to the statement made by the Home Minister. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI AJOY MUKHOPADHYAY (Krishnagar) : What is your ruling?

[*Translation*]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Have your seat first. I will give the ruling only after that.

• ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please, take your seats.

[*English*]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, you should give a ruling. We want a ruling from the Chair.

[*Translation*]

You give the ruling first. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Hon. Parliamentary Affairs Minister would inform the concerned ministers.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIYA : Inform what? ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question you have raised.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIYA : You tell the question either. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

Your ruling. How can he do like that? ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : I am not challenging it.

[*Translation*]

14.25 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

(i) **Need to ensure proper functioning of telephones in Jamnagar District to Gujarat.**

SHRI CHANDRES PATEL (Jamnagar) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, a terrible storm, cyclone and rains struck Gujrat's Jamnagar district on 8-9 June 1998 which destroyed lives and property worth crores of rupees. That damaged telephone lines, microwave towers and other technical installations, but till now, the telephone works such as overhead line, underground cable lines, optical fibre cable lines and towers at Jamnagar district has not been completed. Due to this, the telephone department is not providing proper services to the consumers. Telephones in most villages are dead and not in working condition. We had approached every channel from Central ministers to the State General Manager, District General Manager etc. and many other officers but necessary action has been taken. If the justice is not done with the consumers on this another immediately then the public movement may flare up. I request the Central Government to take such immediate steps that may put in gear the telephone-services in Jamnagar.

(ii) **Need to defer release of amount for Ganga Action Plan Phase II at Varanasi till the matter is fully agreed to by the concerned organisations.**

[*English*]

[*Translation*]

SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA (Chandoli) : Sir, under Ganga Action Plan, a plan in Varanasi has been chalked out to treat the sewage-water through Sewage Treatment Plan and free-flow it to the Ganga. In this regard everyone believes that Phase-1's plan is faulty which fails to achieve the objectives and similarly, under Ganga Action Plan Phase-2, the water corporation has communicated to the Government the plan for the treatment of water. In this funds to the tune of 52 crore rupees is to be provided by the Government. It is noteworthy that Phase-2 is also incomplete like Phase-1, and going to face the same fate as Phase-1.

Therefore, for effective purification of the Ganga Water under the Ganga Action Plan I demand from the Government to postpone the approval of the Phase-2 work under Ganga Action Plan and not to clear the

amount unless other concerned organisations are consulted.

- (iii) **Need to ensure proper maintenance and modernisation of canals of Chambal irrigated areas.**

[Translation]

SHRI RAMNARAYAN MEENA (Kota) : Sir, due to the irrational spending of the money being obtained from the Government of India, State Government and various Indian and foreign organisations for the irrigated Area Development, there is a sheer increase in the public's problems. In the name of irrigating the agricultural land according to Barabandi System (term-by-term irrigation as per fixed schedule), even after having pending a sum of 2 crores 50 lakhs rupees provided by the Government of India, Chambal Area has no Barabandi System. This expired Barabandi System need be implemented effectively. As on date, repair and construction works are of sub-standards Development-works are needs more in the last row villages in Kanal area. Because of the poor condition of Chambal canals which irrigate the agricultural land in the various areas of Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh, and because of the non-reaching of water to the areas last-in-the-row in time, ready crops in thousands of bigha of land get destroyed every year. The wheat-crop which needs a three-term irrigation, get only one or two-term irrigation. Despite this, the irrigation tax is recovered in full. This tax may be cancelled in that area, which does not get enough water. The problem may be solved by repairing the canals and through their modernisation. This year, due to non-availability of Railway-borne water in one-lakh-bigha of agricultural land of a hundred villages in Teln area, cultivation of crops could not take place and these villages are facing terrible starvation.

So, I request the Government of India for the maintenance and modernisation of the canals of Chambal irrigated area development in this regard and make the irrigation available to the village last-in-the-row.

- (iv) **Need provide reservation facilities to the members of Muslim community doing similar vocation as being done by SCs and STs in Hindu community.**

[Translation]

DR. SHAKEEL AHMED (Madhubani) : Sir, Constitution of India gives equal rights to all citizen of this country. Reservation is made for the backward classes

and for the Schedule Casts and Tribes of the society on the basis of their economic status and occupation. The constitution also says that no discrimination shall be made on the basis of religion, but the people of Hindu community belonging to Scheduled castes and tribes, get reservation and other benefits, but the same classes in the Muslim Community are not treated as Scheduled castes or tribes. For example, a Hindu Mehtar is classified as a scheduled caste, but not a Muslim Mehtar. The same condition applies in case of Hindu 'Dhobis' (washermen) and Muslim 'Dhobis' and other classes.

Therefore, the Union Governments is requested to eliminate this disparity.

[English]

- (v) **Need to expedite electrification work of the railway lines in Ranaghat-Gede and Ranaghat-Bongaon sections in West Bengal**

[English]

SHRI AJOY MUKHOPADHYAY : Sir, the Sealdah Division of the Eastern Railway is one of the lodest... Railway Divisions. After long pussuation however, the demand of electrification of Ranaghat-Gede and Ranaghat-Bongaon sections was acceded to and both were included in the Railway Budget as on-going projects. But the progress of the work is either negligible or nil. Moreover, the railway facilities available in the two important border districts of West Bengal viz. Nadia and Murshidabad are extremely poor. This lack of railway facilities even after 50 years of independence of the country is agitating the mind of the people and their resentment is mounting day by day.

In the circumstances, the rurgent need to the hour is to speed up the on-going projects of electrification work of the railway lines in Ranaghat-Gede and Ranaghat-Bongaon sections and also to take up the works of doubling the railway line from Kalarayanpur Junction to Krishnagar, electrification of line between Krishnagar and Lalgola and construction of a new railway line from Krishnagar to Berhampur via Karimpur.

I, therefore, urge the Government to fulfil these demands of the people immediately.

- (vi) **Need to provide adequate funds to Government of Maharashtra to compensate people affected by cyclone in Raigarh district**

[Translation]

SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR (Kulaba) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, farmers had to suffer a heavy loss due to cyclone

and typhoon caused in November 1998 in Panval, Uran and Pen tehsil areas of Raigarh district in Maharashtra. In addition to it houses, schools and Public convenience entires of these areas have also suffered a heavy loss. More over. due to rain fall in other areas of Raigarh district, the crops of rice and vegetables are destroyed completely on which the income of all farmers of this area is dependent.

I request the Central Government to provide immediate economic assistance to state Government immediately in order to resettle and compensate the affected farmers and inhabitants of the area.

(vii) Need to change the name of Vidyapati Nagar Railway Station in Samastipur district of Bihar as Vidyapati Dham railway station.

PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA (Samastipur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, Vidyapati Nagar is a small railway station on Hazipur-Barouni section in Samastipur district of Bihar. Mithilakokil great poet Vidyapati has attained salvation here This place has the historical importance due to this it is a legend that Ganga a sacred river had to come to Vidyapati in order to give him its holy bath. Mau-Bazidpur Darbhanga railway line is the second lodest railway line constructed in India. Lord Shiva temple is built in the memory of great poet. A few days back the name of Bazipur railway station was changed to Vidyapati Nagar, but people demand that its name should be Vidyapati Dham. A lot of paperwork has been done in this regard. The Railway department says that the proposal of this kind should come from Bihar Government. If the railway is not satisfied with the recommendations of the ministers of Bihar Government, it should send the proposal to Bihar Government for its remarks. I demand that the names of this station should be changed as 'Vidyapati Dham' from Vidyapathi Nagar after taking the opinion of Bihar Government.

(viii) Need to sanction Maisajhar and Arpa irrigation projects of Bilaspur district, Madhya Pradesh and release adequate funds for the purpose.

SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHLE (Bilaspur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the survey of Maisajhar and Arpa projects Bilaspur District in Madhya Pradesh has been completed in 1997-98. The construction of colonies is completed and the estimate is under consideration of Central Government for its clearance. It has not been cleared yet. For want of irrigation facilities in those areas, they face famines regularly and due to this the crops of the peasants get destroyed. Condition of the famers especially of

Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes is becoming pitiable because of it. Despite this the Government is not paying any attention to it and lacs of farmers are deprived of irrigation facility.

So, I request the Central Government to clear the Maisaphar and Arpa projects in Bilaspur district and make available the funds for construction work so that farmers may get the irrigation facility.

(ix) Need for speedy implementation of rural electrification programme in Begusarai Parliamentary constituency in Bihar

SHRI RAJO SINGH (Begusarai) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, rural electrification schemes in my Begusarai parliamentary coustituency in Bihar are defunct. Almost no work has been done on these schemes in this area for many years. Two power sub-stations are being constructed for many years in Village Kaindi (Halsi Block) and in shekhpura under the parliamentary constituency and electricity generation has not been started as yet. Rural electricity schemes are lying defunct in this area because these sub-stations are not working. The Government should ensure the completion of these sub-stations at both places Kaindi and Shekhpura and implement rural electrification schemes speedily.

(x) Need to declare 'Puri' in Orissa as B-2 class city

[English]

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY (Puri) : Sir, the issue of declaring 'Puri' in Orissa as B-2 class city has been brought to the notice of Government of India time and again since 1989 on the basis of pilgrim traffic and tourist concentration. The population condition has also been modified by the Central Fifth Pay Commission and, accordingly, the floating population of a tourist and pilgrimage centre uncaptured by the census data will be taken into account to declare a city as B-2 for payment of city compensatory allowance. Hence, being one of the four *Dhams* of the Hindus and also being one of the finest tourist spots of the country, Puri attracts a multitude of tourists every year which constitutes a part of its floating population. Therefore, I urge upon the Government of India to declare Puri as a B-2 class city in the same way as Agra, Varanasi and Madurai have been so classified.

14.28 hrs.

COFFEE (AMENDMENT) BILL—contd

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, we take up the Legislative Business.

[Translation]

[English]

SHRI RAJO SINGH (Begusarai) : You are starting the Business without coffee.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, may I be allowed to say a few words? It is a brief statement on reasons for and objects of the Amendment to the Coffee Act, 1942.

The Coffee Act, 1942 had made it compulsory for growers to pool all their produce and place it at the disposal of the Coffee Board established under that Act. In turn, the Coffee Board would dispose it off and pay the proceeds to the growers. But there has been a persistent demand since the beginning of this decade by the growers that this compulsory pooling system should be done away with and finding the demand reasonable, the Government decided for the first time in the coffee season of 1992 that an internal sale quota of 30 per cent of total produce be permitted to be retained by the growers which they were allowed to sell in the internal market. In January, 1994, the Coffee Act was amended to provide for a free sale quota by which the growers were asked to pool 50 per cent of their produce with the Coffee Board and the remaining 50 per cent they were allowed to sell either in the internal market or export to other countries. This quota was further reduced and the Government allowed hundred per cent free sale quota to all the farmers who possessed less than ten hectares of land. For the farmers who possess more than ten hectares of land, the quota was further reduced to 30 per cent. In September, 1996, this quota system was totally abolished. It was abrogated. So, it became necessary to effect the changes in the Coffee Act, 1942 and certain provisions which governed the pooling of coffee have, therefore, to be deleted.

The Government also decided to avail this opportunity for rationalisation of other provisions like penalties for violation of certain provisions of the Coffee Act and also enhancement of ceiling of duty of customs on coffee, etc. The money thus, raised will *inter alia* be utilised for undertaking further research, development and extension activities for giving a boost to coffee production and export.

Accordingly, Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Government, with the approval of the Cabinet, introduced the Coffee (Amendment) Bill 1997 in Lok Sabha in February 1997. Then with due consideration after the discussion between

the Speaker of the Lok Sabha and the Chairman of the Rajya Sabha and according to the rules pertaining to the Standing Committees, it was referred to the Standing Committee of Parliament related to the Ministry of Commerce. The Standing Committee gave its recommendations and those recommendations have also been considered.

Now, this Bill is being brought here to give effect to those objectives. Therefore, the present Amendment Bill is before this August House. With these words I request the hon. Members to pass it.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil) : Sir, initiating the debate I am constrained to oppose the Bill.

In the normal course, I would have supported it but we all know that in 1942, the original Act was passed with a view to protect the interests of coffee growers throughout India. That was one of the main reasons for constituting the Coffee Board. It was the duty of the Coffee Board to protect their interests, especially, the interests of the poor and small farmers having a cultivation within an area of five hectares, six hectares or less than ten hectares. Primarily, their interests will have to be protected and for this purpose the Board was constituted.

The Government also had given grants and subsidies to the Coffee Board, which is giving subsidised manure to coffee growers, that is, to small growers, at last, and also to protect the interests of plantation workers who are working in large scale coffee plantation estates.

Now, the estates have spread. In Kerala, it is spread in Vaganar district and in neighbouring Karnataka State, that is, on the western Ghat side, there are a number of coffee growers and large scale plantations of coffee growing.

Now, I would suggest that in the larger interest of the small coffee growers that there must be a statutory authority to protect their interests. In due course of time these poor people are left to the mercy of large scale coffee producers having thousands of hectares of coffee growing areas under them. If the entire restriction or pooling process is taken away, I am sure that these poor growers will be left to the mercy of large scale producers of coffee, that is, the estate plantation owners. They will be controlling the entire market—market in the sense, the internal or the domestic market as well as the international market. They can control the entire market and the poor growers or the small coffee growers will be put at their mercy. That is the main reason for me to oppose this Amendment.

Now, we are not in a position to control the international coffee market. We all know that coffee is a universally accepted international drink and the hon. Members of this House are fully aware that whenever you go outside you will have to have a cup of coffee and without which the life for a day will not be complete. So it is a sweet drink internationally accepted throughout the world and the poor growers or the poor farmers are put at the mercy of the monopoly of the large scale plantation growers.

Previously there were one hundred per cent pooling. Noody was permitted to sell coffee directly. The Coffee Board alone was authorised to pool the entire production and they would sell it and distribute the proceeds after deducting the pooling expenses. That was the procedure available from 1942. During the beginning of this decade, it was thought or found necessary that there must be some change in the system. So, at first, 30 per cent produce was allowed to be sold internally and the remaining 70 per cent was pooled by the Government. That process was very good. But that did not last long. Subsequently, the Government again changed the stand and the growers were allowed to sell 50 per cent of their produce either internally or intrnationally and the remaining 50 per cent would be pooled by the Coffee Board. If that system is allowed to continue, in the long run or in the larger interest of the poor growers, it will be very useful.

Now, there is a clamour by the large scale producers to do away with the entire system of pooling. They want to do away with all kinds of restrictions, all kinds of interference by the Government through the Coffee Board and they are conspiring into the functioning of the Coffee Board also. Of course, the Coffee Board was not functioning effectively. I do concede that. But that is due to the bureaucratic tendency of the people who are controlling the Coffee Board. They were not rising to the occasion and they were not coming to the help of the farmers as and when required. That did not take place. So, there were a lot of criticism regarding the functioning of the Coffee Board. I do admit that. But that will not be a justification for doing away with the functioning of the Coffee Board. There were some defective functioning of the Coffee Board and that would be rectified by a systematic administrative arrangement. I think, it could be rectified. Without doing that, the Government proposes to do away with the functioning of the Coffee Board and they want unrestricted functioning for the large scale producers.

Now, these poor coffee growers will have to sell even their holdings to these plantation people, every rich people, who control the international market and they will

be left to their mercy. Moreover, it may be remembered that the Coffee Board could not help these people at times when they were in need. Even, manure could not be given to the poor coffee growers at subsidized rates. As I have said earlier, there were a lot of criticism against the Coffee Board.

Now, I would suggest that the present system be allowed to be continued because in the long run, the Government of India or anybody in India could control the international Coffee market because there is still competition. In the international market and these poor coffee growers will be put at their mercy. The multi-national companies who are dealing in coffee will dictate terms and they will dictate the prices and that will lead to an adverse interest in the case of poor coffee growers of South India, especially Karnataka and Vayanar District of Kerala. So, I request the Government and the hon. Minister to reconsider this issue.

If we had an absolute control over the market, then it is all right. But we have no control over the international market. The price is determined by the multi-national companies who are dealing in coffee market. They will dicatate terms and the entire produce will have to be sold according to their whims and fancies. In the other case, the Coffee Board is having the monopoly.

They will release the coffee as and when the conditions are favourable. There will not be any dictation from outside in the matter of coffee selling. Now, here the entire peoduce will be pooled by a public undertaking instead of the Coffee Board. The private agencies will pool the entire coffee production and they will dictate terms. They will fix up the prices and the poor growers are left to their mercy. Not only that, in the international market also, adverse circumstances may arise and that will lead to a very difficult situation so far as the Coffee industry is concerned.

We do not have any control. There are other countries like Malaysia, etc., who can compete with us. We cannot compete with their produce. So, leaving everything to the entire open market economy will lead to a catastrophe. So, I suggest that there must be some control. There must be some form of pooling, otherwise the interests of the workers, at large, will be detrimental.

On this ground, I have to oppose this Amendment. So, I request the hon. Minister to consider either to suggest a method by which there must be some pooling by the Coffee Board or he should show the magnanimity of withdrawing the Bill in the larger interests of the Coffee industry in India.

[Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan]

So, with these few words, I again appeal to him to withdraw this Bill. In any case, if he is very pertinent to have the amendment passed, I strongly oppose it.

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR (Mangalore) : Sir, I stand in support of the Bill for amending the Coffee Act, 1942.

The Coffee Act, 1942 has been passed in the pre-Independent era. After the advent of the Britishers into our country, they tasted the Indian Coffee and they wanted to have some coffee reserved for their consumption. That is how the system of pooling was developed. The main intent of the Coffee Act, 1942 was to see that the coffee produced by the poor farmers are forcibly collected at one place and it is taken out of the country. I am not against the coffee being exported.

India is one of the coffee producing countries in the world. The Indian coffee is the best coffee available in the world. But our share in the international market is very meagre. Our share is just three per cent in the international market. We produce on an average about 2 to 2.5 lakh tonnes of coffee in this country whereas there are countries which are producing coffee to the extent of more than even 30 lakh tonnes. Since the Indian coffee could not be properly propagated in the international market and the Coffee Board was not able to undertake massive propaganda, the Indian Coffee was not able to get the due price in the international market. That is how the coffee growers were able to avail the best price which was otherwise available in the international market. Now, for quite some time, the coffee growers have been making a demand that the system of pooling will have to be given up and the growers themselves must be allowed to enter the market.

I do not know why the elderly Comrade Radhakrishnan has been vehemently opposing the present Bill and wants to encorse what was stated by the Britishers here. I do not know why. This is what he has been arguing and has been vehemently requesting for the continuance of the pooling system. I do not know whether he is in the know of things.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : I have given my views in the interest of small farmers. I do concede that this large scale plantation people were in favour of doing away with pooling. But the poor farmers are left to their mercy if this pooling system is taken away. I always stand for the poor farmers who are in large number. I always stand for them. I do not want to argue that the entire pooling system should not be there. There should be some restriction.

SHRI C.P. RADHAKRISHNAN (Coimbatore) : You wanted them to be in the Coffee Board. You want the poor farmers to be always be in the Coffee Board in the queue.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : In the interest of the poor farmers there must be some restriction.

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR : I want to refresh the memory of Comrade Radhakrishnan that even the small growers specially from Wynad wanted total de-pooling and they are getting a very good price now.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : That is only at this stage.

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR : That is the difficulty with our Comrades. They would never agree for reasoning. I do not mind that. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : You address the Chair.

SHRI C.P. RADHAKRISHNAN : You have got a powerful Chairman today.

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR : The other difficulty is that actually if coffee is properly consumed in our own country probably there is a vast scope for increasing our production. Coffee is such a stimulating drink which will have to be consumed in cold conditions especially in the Northern India.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : There is a propaganda by some interested persons that drinking coffee will lead to heart disease.

[Translation]

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR : Mr. Chairman, Sir, you would also like to have good coffee, but good coffee is not available here.

[English]

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : Just like coconut that it would lead to some disease, so also there is a propaganda by some interested parties that drinking coffee would lead to heart disease. Some multinational people, who are interested in doing way with the coffee industry were propagating that if anybody is taking coffee it would lead to heart trouble. That is the worst propaganda.

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR : Let me tell all the hon. Members through my learned friend that preparing liquid coffee is an art. The preparation of the liquid coffee is an art. Unfortunately, our people could not learn the art of preparing liquid coffee. That is why coffee is not being sold in the domestic market to the extent it ought to have been sold. There has been a demand that the Government should popularise coffee among the Army personnel. The Army personnel also, work in cold conditions and they would like to have a cup of very strong coffee. But unfortunately, we are not able to popularise coffee in those areas. That is why I would also agree with Comrade Radhakrishnan that if we are able to cultivate the habit of drinking good coffee especially in the northern parts of India, then there would not have been any occasion for us to export coffee which is produced in India. The difficulty here is that the art of preparing liquid coffee could not be developed by the people who would otherwise love to consume a good cup of coffee.

Sir, that being the situation, the growers were left with no other alternative but to depend on the international market. That is how, coffee started to be exported. The price of the coffee is determined on the basis of the demand, specially, in the London market. When the Coffee Board used to market the coffee under this pooling system, the handling charges used to be very high. Though the Indian coffee used to fetch good price in the international market, the growers in turn were not able to get that good price. The handling charges were beyond the expectation and that is why, the growers were suffering and they wanted to have this kind of open market system.

Today, I am very sure I represent the largest coffee-growing area in this country, Kodagu, where the best form of coffee is being produced. It is being represented by me. There are two kinds of coffee being produced in this country. One is, Arabica variety and the other is, Robasta variety. The Robasta variety is the strongest and the most stimulative coffee. That is being produced largely in parts of Kodagu and also in Chikmagalur. There is no doubt that is being produced in small portions in Wayanad area also.

Today, what is required is this. The Coffee Board having been divested with the authority of collecting the coffee under the pooling system and then marketing the coffee so collected, they will have to undertake the work of reasearch and development. There is a vast scope for increasing our production. Now, on an average, the coffee that is produced in our country is around 800 kilos per acre whereas in other advanced countries, the coffee

produced per acre is not less than five tonnes. So, the Coffee Board will have to undertake extensive research programme. Also, they must help in its development. No doubt, the post control would also be within the domain of the Coffee Board.

The functions of the Coffee Board will have to be assisted out of the money collected by imposing what is called 'export duty'. Now, by exporting the coffee, the growers are able to get good price. At the same time, the Coffee Board's activities will be sustained by way of collecting the export duty. That money in turn will be ploughed back to the coffee industry by way of udnertaking research as well as developmental activities.

Recently, there has been a Conference held in Bangalore. Many international coffee traders and some of the growers participated in it. There were elaborate discussions how to assist and augment the coffee industry in our country. It is heartening to note that over the years, since the last three or four years after this system of pooling had been given up, the growers have been able to get good price which is available in the international market.

With one suggestion, I would conclude my speech. I would request the hon. Minister to issue directions to the Coffee Board to work out some mechanism whereby the branded coffee could be sold in the international market. Now, we have many blends of coffee. Various kinds of coffees are properly mixed and blended at a particular ratio so that you will get a kind of distinct aroma. And, if you are able to prepare liquid coffee out of that powder, there is nothing like that. That coffee is loved especially by the countries where very severe cold conditions prevail. They would love to use this coffee.

Today, unfortunately, the best Indian coffee is not being sold in the international market under the brand name of our country. We can even to further to say that new brands can be developed in the name of some of the estates. As rightly pointed out, we have some estates, like in Chikmagalur and in Kodagu, which are very well maintained and where good coffee is being produced. Some effort was made and coffee under the brand name 'Cauvery' was developed and they tried to market it. I tell you, Sir, that it fetched very good price. So, the Coffee Board will have to make efforts in this direction so that the coffee industry as a whole could be augmented and our growers can get the best price.

I would like to assure Comrade Radhakrishnan that under the provisions of this Bill, the right vested in the Coffee Board for getting the coffee pooled is not totally

[Shri V. Dhananjaya Kumar]

taken away. That provision still exists ...*(Interruptions)*. Suppose on a future date, recession comes in the industry, then definitely the Coffee Board can intervene at any point of time and they can again start collecting coffee by the pooling system. ...*(Interruptions)* Those powers are continued.

Now, what is contemplated is only 100 per cent free sale, that is, whatever coffee is produced, could be sold by the growers directly and they are free even to export.

I would again lay emphasis on one aspect that the Coffee Board will have to undertake effective measures to popularise coffee in the domestic market. Our Government is well advised to popularise coffee among the Army men also so that the coffee produced on this country could be very well consumed in our country and we can increase our production and can also compete in the international market. In the international market, as you know very well, unless you become a major player, you will not be in a position to get good price. So, by amending the Coffee Act, I hope there is a vast scope for increasing our production and make our coffee growers become competitive in the international market so that we can earn good foreign exchange and the growers also are able to get good market price, which is even otherwise available in the international market.

My friend would be delighted to know that coffee in India is being sold at a very cheap price. Here, in the Parliament House, a cup of coffee is costing only sixty-five paise but even in the Five-Star hotels, the maximum price that is charged per cup is Rs. 10 to Rs. 15. But in America, as you know, they charge two to two and a half dollars per cup, which is equivalent to about Rs. 90. So, our growers must get that kind of a price and for that let us all strive together and let us strengthen the efforts of the Government.

So, I fully support this Amendment which would be in the interest of the coffee industry as a whole, especially the growers, including the small growers.

14.59 hrs.

SHRI P.C. CHACKO (Idukki) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I stand to support this Bill, but with a rider. The hon. Agriculture Minister, on behalf of the Commerce Minister, has moved a Bill which is going to be a historic one in the sense that coffee pooling has been, in India, as a very unique kind of practice or a protection to the coffee growers. It has been in existence for the last more than sixty years. Since 1942, the coffee pooling system which

was prevailing in this country has done good to this industry and to the coffee growers in general.

15.00 hrs.

Today, we are thinking of deregulation. Today, we are thinking of taking away this regulation which was there through pooling system. The pooling system was there in practice for a long time. It is not that the pooling system is bad. It is not that the pooling system is inefficient or unhelpful to the growers but the fact remains that we are now living in a changed environment. All the over the world, the market forces are playing a vital role in deciding the prices of commodities. Here, in India also, there was a time when the Government had extended protection to the farmers. The coffee planters in India are at the mercy of natural calamities. They have to face the vagaries of the natural calamities and also the onslaught of the pests which very often destroy the crops. Productivity-wise, India is not the first in the world. There are other countries in the world whose productivity is much better than the Indian growers. What will happen to the Indian farmers if the pooling system is completely taken away?

Countries like Brazil and Guatemala are the producers of coffee and are controlling the world market. In this situation, what will happen to the Indian farmers? This experiment was started in 1992, as has been made very clear by the Minister of Agriculture. In the first instance, 30 per cent was taken away and then 50 per cent was made free for sale and then the entire produce was made free for public sale in the open market. In this kind of a situation, Government is not going to come to the rescue of the coffee growers. When the pooling system is completely taken away and dismantled, what will happen to the coffee growers? When the WTO Agreement was signed, so many things were promised in this House and that, India's trade is going to increase but our experience was on the reverse. So, if the producing countries are going to dump their products into the Indian market, if the Indian growers are going to face a crisis, and if the Government is also not going to come for the rescue of the coffee growers, then what will happen to them? Now, the pooling system is going to be taken away.

I had been a Member of the Coffee Board in the past. We know that small farmers as well as big farmers were giving their produce to the pool and they were getting their hard earned result of their toil in instalments over a period of time. They may get 10 per cent and then they may get 25 or 35 per cent. The value of whatever they are producing were got by them over a period of time. This was causing a lot of hardships to

the farmers and I had been witnessing it. Many times, we have recommended that the farmers should get the benefit when the market conditions are favourable. I fully agree with that but at the same time, if the market conditions are not favourable, then what is the role of the Government? The hon. Agriculture Minister may explain this point while giving his reply. He may convince on the kind of safeguards that will be provided as far as farmers are concerned.

Coffee Board has played a great role in protecting the interests of the farmers. Today, we have set a target. What would be the Indian production in the next ten years or in the next decades to come? As I said, productivity of the Indian coffee plantations are not good enough. When we compare our per acre production of coffee with that of Brazil and other producers of the world, we can find that it is much less. In this kind of a situation, how can we improve? If we do not improve our productivity, our farmers are not going to get remunerative prices for their produce. Today, coffee is getting good price and farmers are by and large happy. If the pooling system is completely taken away, the farmers will be at liberty to sell their produce in the market and get good prices. But it is very often happening that the coffee price is going up and down in the coffee market. We have seen at least half-a-dozen ups and half-a-dozen downs in the coffee market in the last 10 or 15 years and this is a violent fluctuation in the market. Sometimes, the prices will be very good but in the coming years, the prices will be terribly low. In this kind of a situation, there has to be minimum protection for the farmers. Has the Government envisaged the role of the Coffee Board in future? This has not been made clear in the Bill. The Coffee Board is an organisation which has been in charge of the pooling operations.

The entire coffee produced in the country is pooled by the Coffee Board, sold in auction and the money is kept by the Coffee Board. It is distributed to the farmers in installments. This action is totally the job of the Coffee Board. But tomorrow when this pooling is completely being taken away, what is the role assigned to the Coffee Board?

There are non-traditional areas in India where coffee cultivation can be extended to. I understand from various statistics and reports that the North-Eastern part of the country is very much conducive to coffee cultivation. But have we a plan to extend coffee cultivation to the non-traditional areas? Where the traditional areas are there, I would like to know whether there are efforts to increase the productivity of coffee.

Research and development is an essential component of this whole operation. This is a very big operation in India. In a country of India's size, where coffee cultivation can be increased manifold, research and development activities are very very important. So, when coffee is exported, on every tonne of coffee, a cess is being collected. That is the intention behind the Bill. The intention is that the cess money is going to the Coffee Board and the Coffee Board is going to take up research and development activities.

In this context, I would like to point out the example of the Rubber Board. When the Rubber Board was instituted, the paramount and main duty of the Rubber Board was to spread rubber cultivation all over India. Then, India's production went up hundred times. There is a manifold increase in India's rubber production. In this way, expansion of the cultivation, making the farmers aware of the benefits of cultivation and expanding the area as well as productivity were taken up in a very effective manner by the Rubber Board. Like that, the Coffee Board should do it. The Government should not have an impression that since pooling is only their job and when that job is over, the Coffee Board is defunct and it can be disbanded.

I read the other day a report from UPASI that the Coffee Board's continuation is not necessary because that function is over and probably the Coffee Board can be dismantled. The Government should not have this attitude. While the House is approving the de-control of coffee pooling, at the same time, the Government should not shirk its responsibility. One should not be unclear about the future objective of the Coffee Board.

Research and development activities should be taken up in a big way. Wherever the traditional coffee is there, the bug attack comes in a very strange and unexpected manner. The bug attacks and many other pests attack the coffee plants. It destroys the coffee crop. Already, in one season, it completely destroyed the crop. It happened in the world, in many other countries also. When such an attack comes, are we armed with sufficient research expertise to face this kind of a crisis situation in the coffee industry? If the coffee industry is subjected to pest attack, as it has happened in many of the places, is there sufficient safeguard to control the situation? I would like to know whether the Coffee Board would be armed with research and development wing which should be many times more than what it is today for facing this menace and also to increase productivity.

There are some other apprehensions also. I want to go into them briefly. In fact, when de-control was initially

[Shri P.C. Chacko]

taken up for implementation and then implemented in 1992-93, the farmers who were holding less than ten acres of coffee plantation were first included in the category of de-control. The major plantations were even then under control. Subsequently, in a phased manner, the entire coffee is brought under de-control. It is going to be decontrolled. That is already being done. It is only the legal sanction which we are discussing now. In this kind of a situation, how is it going to affect the middle class and the small farmers? The only operating factor in the market is demand and supply. If the market forces alone are going to decide the fate of the coffee plantation industry in the country for the future, then what is the safeguard?

We all know that this is a very unequal and cruel world. So, when the international forces, which are playing in the field, are operating through the big farmers, is there any safeguard for the small farmers? There are farmers owing three to ten acres of land. A large number of such coffee plantations are there in my constituency. I come from such an area. There are one or two acres of small plantations. The small growers do not have any protection today. Mr. Minister, you cannot take it as a whole because the large plantations are there. They may be able to survive even some of the market fluctuations. But, for the small farmers, this is the only sources of income. They cannot face the problem or survive the market fluctuations. So, there has to be sufficient safeguards for the small farmers also.

My friend, Shri Dhananjaya Kumar, was speaking about the internal, domestic market. It is the responsibility of the Government to give more encouragement for the consumption of Coffee internally also. The Tea Board and the Coffee Board are functioning in a very effective way and as model institutions in this industry. The fact still remains that India is such a vast market and the bulk of what we are producing here can be consumed in the Indian market itself. That kind of a situation is there. There is no real propaganda or an effort for expansion of the Indian internal market. Coffee or Tea pooling is an occasion for us to apply our minds seriously to all these issues. Whether the internal market can be expanded or whether remunerative prices can be given? I do not think a cup of Indian Coffee should cost 2 dollars or the corresponding Indian price or whatever the Indian market can afford or whatever the Indian consumer can afford at the remunerative price and no farmer should think of a very high price which is unrealistic and which will be something which cannot be long lasting. We cannot imagine that kind of a situation.

Decontrol is being done. I agree that this has been a long lasting demand from the side of the farmers, both small farmers and big farmers. For the last many years, we are asking for decontrol. Decontrol is being done in a phased manner and it was found very effective because in the last few years, production of Coffee in India and outside India or the world over was very good. So, everybody is happy. When the situation slightly changes and when there is a fall in the prices due to various other reasons, which we have seen in the past, whether the Government will come to the rescue of the Coffee planters? Then, they will say that the Act is changed and we are no more responsible and no pooling and Coffee Board is only a promotional agency. This kind of situation may come. Because small farmers in competition with the interest of big farmers now want to abandon the Coffee Board itself. In that kind of a situation, there is no control. In a total open competition in the market, probably the small farmers cannot survive. These are the problems and the Government has to apply its mind sufficiently to answer the problems to the satisfaction of the farmers, especially the small farmers.

Arabica and Robesta are two varieties of Indian Coffee. Probably, from productivity angle when you go through the Coffee plantations in Kerala, you find that most of them have leasehold properties and now it has come into the Forest Act. To change their crop to a better crop, they cannot change the pattern. If Arabica is planted, new crop of Robesta cannot be experimented. Even new species come up in both Arabica and Robesta. According to the suitability of the climatic conditions, new breed have to be experimented, but the Forest Act prevents the farmers because it is not a *pucca* title for many of the Coffee planters. It is only a leasehold right of Coffee planters and the plantations are enjoying. Especially plantations in Idukki district of Kerala have all leasehold rights only. There, the farmers are even not allowed to experiment new crop because any kind of new plantations or new crop is not permitted because of the Forest Act. These restrictions are imposing very big hurdle inhibiting the flexibility of the planters, small as well as big, for going in for big experiments. Whether it is cardamom or coffee or tea or any other thing, productivity is going to be a real thing.

If the Indian farmer is not able to attain the productivity at least 75 per cent of their counterparts in Shri Lanka or Guatemala or Brazil, we are not going to survive. The world is one market. We are going to sell our produce in the world market. If we are producing only 100 kg. per hectare and somebody else is producing 200 kg. per hectare and the cost of production being the same, where are you going to sell your product?

Ultimately, it is the productivity which is going to be the criteria for the survival of this industry. If that is going to be the crucial point as far as farmers are concerned, what kind of help is going to come from the Government? Legal restrictions are taken away. The Minister is assuring this House that this was the demand of the farmers, we have done that and we are satisfied, fine and good-bye. That should not be the attitude of the Government. We request that the Government should be there as an umpire in this play because otherwise the farmers cannot survive.

The farmers should be given an opportunity to compete with their counterparts elsewhere in the world. If this kind of situation is envisaged, sufficient schemes should be prepared and the Coffee Board should be empowered with this kind of responsibilities. If they are given sufficient funds for these purposes, then the Government should not feel that cess is imposed now, it is going to the fund of the Coffee Board and, so, we need not give anything. Everytime, budgetary support to these Boards are progressively being reduced. All the Finance Ministers, whichever party they may belong to, think that the market forces will take care of it and it is not their responsibility. No, that should not be the attitude of the Government. The Government has got a promotional responsibility. So, the Coffee Board should be given sufficient support from the Budget. Therefore, as I said earlier, I support this Bill with a rider due to the reasons which I have stated just now.

Sir, when a very nice person like the hon. Minister, Shri Sompal, is moving this Bill, I am all the more inclined to support this Bill. But we want some assurances and guarantees from the side of the Government which is represented by Shri Sompal, as far as this Bill is concerned. Today, he is representing the Ministry of Commerce. He should give assurances to the effect that the farmers will not have any problems in future and the new competition which is taking place in the world will not affect the basic interests of the farmers. I hope that he would be able to satisfy us. With this fervent hope, I support the Bill.

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO (Kalahandi) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I support the Coffee (Amendment) Bill, 1998 whole-heartedly, because this Bill envisages the interests of the growers and the labourers who are involved in the growing of coffee plantations directly and indirectly.

Sir, as you are aware, coffee earns a lot of foreign exchange for this country. So, this legislation, which the hon. Minister has brought, will simplify the process of the

coffee grower who can easily sell his produce by not sending it to the Coffee Pool. Previously, the practice was that every grower has to send his coffee to the Coffee Pool where points used to be given for the coffee producer. It was tardy and a very long process and by the time the farmer received his 60 per cent payment, he had to face a lot of problems.

Sir, the growing of coffee plantations requires a lot of input and a lot of labour. Due to the degradation in the environment, the growing of coffee plantations has become very expensive. So, for a small farmer, to sustain his coffee plantation and going to the Coffee Board to get his money back is a very long procedure. So, through this legislation at least the payments made to the coffee planter is simplified. Now, he can sell his produce in the open market and get the best price for it.

Sir, I am also happy to know that the Coffee Board would be entrusted with the responsibility of research and development. This research and development will go a long way in increasing and achieving the target of three lakh metric tonnes of coffee which they have decided to reach in the year 1999. So, I think, there is no question of opposing this Bill, because this Bill is meant for helping small growers and other labourers who are involved in the growing of coffee and who are completely dependent on it.

Sir, earlier, when the Coffee Act, 1942 was in existence,—which was an imperial Act and which is planned to be scrapped now—it guarded the interests of the coffee planters who were mainly Britishers, foreigners and who were the persons who introduced coffee plantations in these tribal areas of Karnataka, Kerala and other Southern States. Now, as you are sir aware, coffee can also be grown in places like Orissa and North-Eastern States of our country, which are termed as the non-traditional areas the districts of Kalahandi, Koraput, Phulbani are very favourable for coffee. Therefore, I would request the hon. Minister that the growth and promotion of coffee should be given to the non-traditional areas also, because in the activity of coffee growing, it has been assumed and seen that in one acre of coffee land one man day is utilised.

That means, if there is a coffee area of 500 hectare, nearly 500 mandays are created every day. '500x365 or 240' come to a thousand mandays in a tribal area. This emphasis should mainly be given in the tribal areas where there is degradation of environment because coffee can stem such degradation. It is a plant which stops leaching of soil. These things should be planted compulsorily in the catchment areas with the right attitude.

[Shri Bikram Keshari Deo]

It is a cash crop. It can save the environment. Besides, it gives us a lot of foreign exchange. So, you will see that today coffee export from the country has risen by 41 per cent. Where does this money go? This money goes to the poor people and to the downtrodden who are toiling in the coffee plantations. Therefore, this idea of making coffee plantation free from the pooling system will definitely go a long way in sustaining the rural economy of the tribal pockets and where the life-style is dependent upon the coffee plantations. With these words, I support the Bill.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria) : Mr. Chairman Sir, there is nothing in Coffee amendment Bill that it should be opposed. The old Government had suggested this kind of amendment at the demand of farmers. When the British Government was ruling in our country, first of all they controlled the farming of indigo. After that its attention switched over tea and coffee. By this way they started to a trend in our country to control over the land produce and charge the price arbitrarily and exploit labourers and farmers. Gradually, farmers started a freedom movement and by this a process for freedom started. Now the world is changed and we are trying to run the country under new economic policy whether we wish or not. I am of the opinion that to be controlled by the Government over the produce of the farmers is a wrong trend and wrong method. A pooling system over coffee production was effective from 1942 and at the demand of the farmers some slackness was given in it and it was a new start.

There is a provision to provide full rebate to the owners of 10 hectares land under the pooling system under this law and the farmers who own more than 10 hectare land are free to sell 30 of their produce in the market rest are under the pooling system when we want to make the farmers of this country prosperous, he should have the right to compete in trading sector and sell his produce according to its cost. This bill has been introduced in this House with this intention. I want to request that some Hon. Members like me have a wish and eagerness that by withdrawing such kind of control the interest of labourers involved in production work would not be protected. It was the guarantee that they earned one profit. I feel that Government of India should initiate that the interest of the farmers, producers and labourers are not sacrificed of fee should contribute in increasing our trade in world market and earn foreign currency. With these words, I thank Hon. Minister that he has kept full scope in the bill so that coffee board may encourage new inventions and new a research in the field of coffee and

give fair prices to the produces. I am of the opinion that Government will pay attention to it. With these words, I support the bill.

[English]

SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN (Trichur) : Mr. Chairman Sir, when we think of new legislations, restructuring our economy according to the market economy, we always miss the interests of the lower level people.

I am not arguing for the pooling system. There were so many defects in the pooling system and the cultivators were put to too many difficulties. That should not be there. I agree with it. But when we go for 100 per cent free sale of coffee, I am afraid the small cultivators will be hit hard.

Mr. Chairman, it is a fact that in our country, the traders and the big plantation owners could manipulate the market and the prices. They have the resources to hold and manipulate in their interest, whereas the small cultivators are compelled for distress sale. Most of the small cultivators have to go to the market for the price, whichever they get. They cannot withhold their produce for better days. That is a case in every yield in this country. Can the hon. Minister deny that? Of all the cultivators, the small growers, the small peasantry have to sell their produce at the will and wish of these traders and the big people.

When coffee is for 100 per cent free sale, I have to doubt that the prices will be manipulated, the market will be manipulated and the small farmers will have to suffer. So, I would request the hon. Minister that there must be some mechanism to guarantee a remunerative price to the small cultivators. I am not bothered about the well to do people. They can manage somehow in this country, but the small farmers have to suffer.

Another point to which I would like to draw your attention and would ask the hon. Minister is, what is the difference between the consumer price of the coffee and the share the cultivators get. Has the hon. Minister ever calculated that? As we witnessed it in the morning, it is not only coffee but in every agricultural produce, they get less than 30 per cent of the market price. The middlemen and the traders are having the most of the chunk. It is a fact with regard to coffee also. So, it is the duty of the Government to guarantee a remunerative price for the lower level cultivators.

I am sorry to say that this obligation is not being discharged by the Government, nowadays. I have ample

examples to give here. We, in Kerala, cultivate cash crops and our main agriculture depends upon cash crops. The Government of India promised in 1990 that we would be given a support price every year of coconut.

Whichever Government in power is not a question. The Government is continuing. In 1990, a written Order was issued: before harvesting the yield, a support price would be declared by the Government of India. That declaration has not been fulfilled regularly. We have been appealing to the Government. As the Government did not discharge their obligation, their commitment, three million cultivators of coconut in Kerala are in a very grim condition now.

Take for example, rubber. What is the plight of the rubber cultivators in Kerala? The rubber cultivators do not go to the extent of suicide because of their conscience. Otherwise, there would have been hundreds of suicide cases in rubber cultivation in Kerala. I wish to draw the attention of the hon. Minister that the price of industrial rubber products is skyrocketing. The consumers have to pay high price. The people who are having scooters and motor vehicles have to pay. What is the price of tyre? What is the price of the industrial rubber produce? What is the remunerative price that the rubber cultivators get? There is a vast difference. How can you keep quiet?

The Government of India have to intervene in order to do justice to the cultivators. There we have failed. That is the one reason for sickness of our economy. Whatever you claim about the market economy and the growth rate, what is the plight of our India masses? Do you not see with your naked eyes the plight of the small cultivators of all produce in India? We must open our eyes and see around what happening to all the cultivators or the peasantry. They are in a very dangerous situation; going to the extent of committing suicide and they are living with only one meal a day. So, you have to think about them. You have to uplift them. With your restructuring, with your market economy, you are forgetting them.

Our planning, restructuring and the legislation must be adopted in the specific conditions of India population particularly the Indian agricultural sector. So, in this context, the only thing I want is a guarantee of a remunerative price to the small cultivators from the Government. If you bring in such an amendment along with this *Coffee (Amendment) Bill*, that would be better. When you go for one hundred per cent free sale, there must be some provision to guarantee a minimum price to the *Coffee* cultivators with small holdings.

[*Translation*]

SHRI CHETAN CHAUHAN (Amroha) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, is sitting quietly.

SHRI CHANDRASEKHAR SAHU (Mahasamund) : You should be the permanent Chairman.

SHRI SOMPAL : Period of peace ends before noon.

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, the hon. Minister will reply.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank all the hon. Members who have taken keen interest in raising certain valuable points in the context of the *Coffee (Amendment) Bill, 1998*. I would try to reply to all the points made by the hon. Members whichever is possible, in my limited capacity.

Shri Radhakrishnan has said that the interest of the growers has to be kept in mind. It is precisely with this objective that the amendment has been brought forward. There was a persistent demand by the growers because Shri Chacko and Shri Dhananjaya Kumar, who have been intimately connected with the business of coffee growing as well as functioning of the Coffee Board, have themselves said that the farmers, particularly small farmers, were being put to a lot of inconvenience because their payments were delayed and they had to face a lot of difficulties. Therefore, it is with this objective in view and after the persistent demand by the growers themselves that this pooling system has been abrogated. ...(*Interruption*)

Regarding the interests of the workers, I may submit that the Minimum Wages Act and other things are quite adequate and these are being done by the respective States. I understand, particularly in the State of Kerala and Karnataka, the Minimum Wages Act and the laws are adequate protection for the workers and the Government there are fully aware and responsible to take care of the interests of the workers.

To the apprehension that large growers would corner all the produce and some monopolisation will take place, the recent movements in prices and the trends which we have observed during these two years bear it out that this is not being done though there was a dipping of price in the international market. But now they have come up. So, the apprehension that this trade will be cornered and monopolised by large growers and traders is also

[Shri Sompal]

not rightly placed and now prices are good and the growers are also getting good prices.

Shri Dhananjay Kumar has given a very valuable suggestion regarding Coffee Board being asked to promote the sale of coffee, particularly certain brands of coffee and blended coffee in international market. I am pleased to inform, through you, Sir, the august House and the Members that Coffee Board is already doing this and Indian Coffee is being very well received in the international market and we are getting good price also. Now, the taste of Indian coffee is catching up in the Western countries particularly America and Indian coffee I repeat is being received very well by them.

So far as research, development and extension of good techniques for enhancing productivity and production is concerned, this is already there. An amount of Rs. 105 crore has been proposed to be spent during the Ninth Five Year Plan to upgrade the plantations, increase productivity per hectare and also taking care of disease control and pest control. This the mandate of the Coffee Board and the resources which it will mobilise through enhanced penalties rather than rationalised penalties for violation of certain provisions of the amended Act will be utilised for the purpose for carrying out research and development, providing adequate inputs, good seeds, good planting material and also loans. There are certain schemes for both traditional and non-traditional areas.

Shri B.K. Singh Deo has gone. He has asked about Orissa. Orissa is identified as one of the non-traditional areas for increasing the coffee production and bringing some land under plantation. The Coffee Board is taking up the increase of production and productivity and also promoting Indian coffee both in the national and international markets.

Shri Chacko having been the member of the Coffee Board and also being from the State which is an important State growing coffee has been intimately connected with this business and he has rightly recognised the need for depooling and freeing the growers of this compulsion. He has raised a very valuable point that in the case of glut, the prices dip below certain level and the growers may not be able to realise even the cost. I am pleased to inform you that Clause 26(1) of the Act empowers the Coffee Board to undertake market intervention operation in such a case and also that under Clause 16, the Coffee Board reserves the right to fix certain prices to take care of such a situation.

So, that is already there. The Act is adequate in this respect too. Regarding traditional and non-traditional areas, I may tell Shri Chancko that there is a scheme of the Government of India and certain areas have been

identified as non-traditional areas for increased plantation and production of coffee and the scheme also has some element of subsidy which the Government of India is giving to various States.

One important activity which the Coffee Board is undertaking is replacement of the old plantation. As he has rightly said in the case of both tea and coffee—that is the problem—certain plantations are more than 50 years old and so their yield is very low. That is true of tea as well as coffee. An adequate plan to replace the plantation with new plantation which will surely enhance production and productivity and also give new and good quality to the produce so that they can realise a better price is also being undertaken.

The problem mentioned by him about the leased forest land which is inhibiting the rehabilitation or impairing the plantation, is a matter which comes under the domain of the States. But the Central Government can take it up with the respective States and those inhibitions can be removed and I assure him that we can take it up with the state Governments.

About the support to the Coffee Board, I have already said that Rs. 105 crore is proposed to be sent during the Ninth Plan and in the Eighth Plan a good amount of money has been spent on this programme.

[Translation]

Mohan Singh ji has rightly said that during British rule, the Government followed well known policy of monopolistic Government control in such a way that they purchased Indian goods at cheap rates and sold them at high prices in the foreign countries and their policy was to provide fertilizers and raw materials at low rates to their workers engaged in these industries. It is true that farmers were not given the freedom which they deserved and whatever such legacy and deformities have been containing are going to be obviated after this amendment. I extend my thanks for supporting me.

[English]

Shri Raghavan has again voiced concern for the small growers which I have already replied to and I may repeat that Section 16 of the Act empowers the Coffee Board to fix a certain minimum price and with this, protection to the small growers as well as other growers can be provided whenever the need arises.

Shri Radhakrishnan had raised the issue that partial pooling should be there. But I may inform him that this Bill when it was introduced in the Lok Sabha in November, 1997, after due consideration as per the rules relating to the Departmentally-related standing committees, both the Presiding Officers, the hon. Speaker and the

hon. Chairman had decided to refer to the Standing Committee relating to the Ministry of Commerce and the Committee had gone into all the aspects including those which have been raised by Shri Radhakrishnan and they have made certain recommendations. There were four important recommendations except one wherein they wanted a deferential duty to be imposed on various qualities. Except that recommendation which was not practically feasible, all the others have been accepted and I may draw the attention of hon. Shri Radhakrishnan and all the other hon. Members that it was an unanimous report and representations from the coffee growing States including some of our Communist friends who were Members of the Standing Committee. Therefore, this apprehension may not be true.

With these words, I again thank all the hon. Members who had shown very keen interest and have made very valuable suggestions on various aspects which the Act has already taken care of and now I request that the Bill may be taken into consideration and passed.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH (Aonia) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, we did not create the problems.

SHRI SOMPAL : Sir, my thanks to those members who did not speak.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is:

"That the Bill further to amend the Coffee Act, 1942 be taken into consideration"

The motion was adopted

MR. CHAIRMAN : The House will now take up clause by clause consideration of the Bill.

The question is:

"That clauses 2 to 25 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted

Clauses 2 to 25 were added to the Bill

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is:

"That clause 1, the Enacting formula and the title stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Title were added to the Bill.

SHRI SOMPAL: I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motioned was adopted.

[Translation]

SHRI AJIT JOGI (Raigarh): Mr. Chairman Sir, now the Hon'ble Minister should offer a cup of coffee to everybody.

[English]

SHRI SOMPAL: I accept it. Whenever they find time, I will offer a cup of coffee.

15.48 hrs.

HIGH COURT AND SUPREME COURT JUDGES
(SALARIES AND CONDITIONS OF SERVICE)
AMENDMENT BILL

[English]

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI M. THAMBI DURAI) : I beg to move:

"That the Bill further to amend the High Court Judges (Salaries and Conditions of Service) Act, 1954 and the Supreme Court Judges (Salaries and Conditions of Service) Act, 1958, be taken into consideration."

As you are aware, when an officer of the State Judicial Service is appointed as a Judge of a High Court, his leave account is regulated under the provisions of the High Court Judges (Salaries and Conditions of Service) Act, 1954. Accordingly, a judge is entitled to carry forward only the leave earned to the extent of 240 days. He is, however, not entitled to carry forward the half pay leave in his leave account in the Judicial Service.

15.49 hrs.

(SHRI KHAGAPATI PRADHANI *In the Chair*)

Representations have also been received from some judges, requesting for a provision in the High Court Judges Act to enable them to avail the benefit of carry forward of half pay leave. The carry forward of half pay leave is permissible to officers of All India Services. In view thereof, it is proposed to make a suitable amendment to the High Court Judges Act to provide for the same. Similarly, the Registry of the Supreme Court has requested for deleting the restrictions of 240 days for the carry forward of leave on full allowances when a Judge of High Court is elevated to the Supreme Court. It is proposed to accede to the request and the restriction of 240 days provided under section 4(2) (a) (iii) of the Supreme Court Judges (Salaries and Conditions of Service) Act, 1958, is proposed to be done away with.

*Moved with the recommendation of the President.

[Shri M. Thambi Durai]

A High Court Judge or a Supreme Court Judge is entitled without payment of rent, to the use of official residence. Where a Judge does not avail himself of the use of such residence, he is paid every month an allowance, that is, Rs. 2,500 per month in the case of a Judge of a High Court and Rs. 3,000 per month in the case of a Judge of the Supreme Court. Although there has been steep increase in the market rent of the houses, the allowances payable to the Judges in lieu of official residence, has remained static since 1986. This acts as a serious disincentive for Judges to occupy their own houses and accept the facility of House Rent Allowance (HRA). Few State Governments have to make appropriate residences available to Judges at much higher costs. Accordingly, it is proposed to increase HRA to Rs. 10,000 per month in respect of the High Court and Supreme Court Judges, at a flat rate. Many of the State Governments have favoured the raising of HRA for the High Court Judges to Rs. 10,000 per month.

The rates of pension of the Judges of High Court and Supreme Court were last enhanced with effect from the 1st November, 1986 by the High Court and Supreme Court Judges (Conditions of Service) Amendment Act, 1986. The Fifth Central Pay Commission recommended revision in the pensionary benefits of the Central Government employees including the members of All India Services. The revised pension rules have come into force on the first day of January, 1996. In view of foregoing, a necessity is felt to increase the pension, additional pension and maximum pension of the Judges of the High Courts and the Supreme Court. The rate of revision of pension has been taken as 3.25 times universally in respect of all retired Judges w.e.f. 01.01.1996.

It is also proposed to enhance the entitlement of family pension from fifty per cent to sixty per cent of the pension admissible to a Judge up to the age of sixty-five years of such Judge, had he survived, or first seven years after his death, whichever is earlier, and thereafter from twenty-five per cent to thirty per cent of his pension, subject to a minimum of Rs. 1,275 per month, on the analogy of the recommendation of the Fifth Pay Commission.

In the case of a Judge who has been elevated from the Bar, the existing provision provides for computation of Dath-cum-Retirement Gratuity amounting to 20 days salary for each completed year of service, unlike on half-yearly basis applicable to in the case of a Central Government employee. It is now proposed to grant ten days salary as gratuity for each completed one-half year of service.

It is also proposed to remove the ceiling of Rs. 8,000 per annum as special additional pension in compliance with the order dated the 20th January, 1991 of the Supreme Court of India in the matter of Justice M.L. Jain versus the Union of India.

I hope the Bill will receive the wholehearted support of the House.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Motion moved:

"That the Bill further to amend the High Court Judges (Salaries and Conditions of Services) Act, 1954 and the Supreme Court Judges (Salaries and Conditions of Service) Act, 1958, be taken into consideration."

[Translation]

SHRI MOTI LAL VORA (Rajnandgaon) : Mr. Chairman Sir, Honourable Minister has moved High Court and Supreme Court Judges (Salaries and conditions of service) Amendment Bill, 1998. Mainly, this bill provides for amendment to section 4, 17A, 16A and incorporation of section 4-A. Sir, the section which the honourable Minister intends to amend says that if a State Government officer is appointed as a judge of a High Court he may get 240 days leave adgusted as his holidays. And now in lieu thereof he will be entitled for half pay leave.

Sir, when a judge of a High Court is promoted to Supreme Court then he is entitled for maximum 240 days leave according to this existing provision.

Now, the provision pertaining to limitation of 240 days leave is going to be struck down. As house rent allowance in concerned, it is goind to be increased from 2500-3000 PM to 10,000 rupees per month. In fourth amendment, it has been mentioned that the family pension paid after the death of a judge will be increased from 50% to 60% subject to maximum of Rs. 1275 per month. In the case of judges inducted from out side, their pay-scales and gratuity at the time of death or retirement will be calculated at the rate of 10 days instead of 20 days for each six months.

It has proposed in the case of honourable justice, M.S. Jain versus Union of India that to comply with the order of the Supreme Court of India of 20th Jan., 91 that the maximum limit of eight thousand rupees in the form of special additional pension has been lifted.

Hon'ble Chairman Sir, I fully agree with these amendments but I would like to say something about the Rules, they may be of the Supreme court or High Court, they always put forward their rights and the Government approves it. But there are nearly three crore cases pending in different courts of the country and no action has been taken in this regard. It is said that these cases could not be disposed due to shortage of judges. Mr. Chairman Sir, you would also agree with my opinion that

lakhs of cases are pending in every state. Any person, even if he comes from distant place, is usually given next date for hearing and a number of excuses are coined to keep him on the tenterhooks. I would like to give example of a case of Baster district of Madhya Pradesh. There is a bench of Jabalpur High Court there.

[English]

The person travels right from Bastar. He has to travel 600 kilometres and when he reaches the High Court at Jabalpur, he finds that the case is adjourned. I think the hon. Minister should look into this point. Adjournment should be given on reasonable grounds and not on flimsy grounds. It should be seen whether the judge is available or not and if he would not be available, then he should not give the date. This has to be seen very seriously because many persons are affected and because of this reason, three crore cases are pending. The hon. Minister may agree that a lot of cases are pending and they have always been discussed in the Judges Conference also but no action has been taken by the judges of the Supreme Court and those of the High Courts. You will find that a number of cases are pending in the lower courts also. The plea which is always given is that they are short of judges. I would like to tell the hon. Minister that we are not against enhancing the salaries and allowances and we do not have any grudge about that. But as a matter of fact, they should see to it that their primary duty is to give justice and if justice is delayed, justice is denied. We all know it and we always pronounce it every time.

So, may I know from the hon. Minister the action which is being taken in this regard, though this Bill is not concerning the duties of the judges? This is a simple Bill enhancing their salaries and allowances only. There are certain amendments also. But when we discuss all these things, we should also discuss the duties of the judges in this august House. At times, they are failing in many cases. Very recently, in the case of issue of LPG coupons, it has happened like that.

[Translation]

The gas coupons issued to honourable Member of Parliament do not have any importance but an honourable justice of Kerala High Court issued an order relating with stopping of issuance of gas coupons for 2-2¹/₂ months. Even after this nobody has any objection in complying with the conditions laid down in this regard but a decision should be taken in this regard in this House once for all.

16.00 hrs.

After this what right the judges have to put such condition on us as the Lok Sabha is a Supreme Body. A decision is taken by it once for all.

[English]

They should abide by that. They should know that the Lok Sabha has passed the resolution and has taken a decision in the matter. They should not interfere unnecessarily because it has been found that they are interfering everywhere. I do not say that they are not performing their duties properly. But there are crores of cases which are pending in the courts. We must get justice from them. We do not have any grudge in enhancing the salary and allowances as is contained in the Bill.

So, I support this Bill. I would request the hon. Minister to look into the matter and tell the judges in a proper forum that they must perform their duties properly.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Home Minister.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the hon. Speaker has allowed me five minutes. I will strictly obey the Chair. First of all, I assure you that I will take only five minutes.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, Vaidya Vishnu Datt to speak.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Sir, have you called me? At Four of the Clock, we have to take up the Discussion under Rule 193.

MR. CHAIRMAN : According to that only, I called the Home Minister.

...(Interruptions)

PROF. P.J. KURIEN (Mavelikara) : The hon. Speaker has kindly allowed me five minutes. My name was there yesterday. All the names were exhausted yesterday. All the Members were allowed to speak. I was not allowed. So, I requested the hon. Speaker and the hon. Speaker has said that I would be given five minutes time before the Home Minister's reply. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI MOTILAL VORA (Rajnandgaon) : Sir, when the hon. Speaker has allowed, please allow him. The hon. Home Minister has no objection to it. You can allow him. ...(Interruptions)

16.00 hrs.

DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

ATROCITIES COMMITTED ON MINORITIES IN
VARIOUS PARTS OF THE COUNTRY-*contd.**[English]*

PROF. P.J. KURIEN (Navelikara) : Sir, first of all, I would say that I will not take much time. But I would confess that having listened to the debate in this House, I felt a little bit sorry because on either side, the trend of the discussion was as if we are trying to divide the House. That is not correct. We should not have done that.

My first point is that the atrocities on the minorities are on the increase. It is a fact and even the Government has not denied it. The atmosphere of intolerance has developed. I agree that it is also correct. But that should not be a reason to divide the communities or religions. We should find out the root cause and try to find remedies. The root cause is simple. I will be frank in telling this. It is a misinterpretation of the Hindu ethos by a small group which led to this situation. We read in the *Vedas* and the *Upanishads* about the *Vasudeiva Kutumbakam*. It means that the world is one family. In the *Bhagavad Gita*, we read that like all the rivers reach the sea, all faiths reach the Ultimate Truth, the God. We have the answer to the man's search for the Ultimate Truth in *Aham Brahmasmi* and *Tat Tvam Asi*. If these are the tenets of the Hindu religion, how can a small section of people misinterpret it and develop intolerance?

I would submit that intolerance is totally out of place as far as Hinduism is concerned. Being a Christian myself, I have no hesitation to say that Hinduism is one of the most tolerant religions in the world. I have no hesitation to say that.

In Cochin, if you go today, there is a Jewish Synagogue. Hundred years Before Christ, Jews came to India. They lived in peace and harmony till a couple of years back. Even today there are about seven Jewish families. In the first century A.D., Saint Thomas, a disciple of Jesus Christ, came to Kerala. He was received by the Hindu ruler. We have Christianity in Kerala from the first century A.D. And till we got Independence, Christians were protected—I underline the word 'protected'—there, by the Hindu rulers. Near my village there is a place called Kallupadam. My friends will be knowing that. There, we have a church which is separated only by a wall from a temple. The church is 500 years' old.

The Hindu ruler found a dead body of a Christian being taken to a distant place through the Mani Mala River. Having seen the body being taken to a distant place, the Hindu ruler called that family and asked: "Where are you taking the body?" The family replied, "To a distant place for burial." Then, the ruler said, 'Have a Church here, have a burial ground here.' The church which is 500-years old is even today separated only by a small wall from a temple. It is only seven kms. from my residence. The name of the place is Kallupadm. This is the great tradition of this country. Does the Hindu ethos or tenets or tolerance of our great tradition of this country. Does the Hindu ethos or tenets or tolerance of our great tradition has no place? That is one thing.

Secondly, why has this intolerance developed? This is the basic question. A small group, the frontal organisation of the ruling party, wrongly understands the perception of Hinduism, spreads intolerance and naturally reaction is there from the other side also. Therefore, this kind of thing is happening.

Today, we are unnecessarily taking it beyond a point. Let us find corrective measures. The Muslim community is the largest minority. In Kerala, I would say, in two-three districts, they were living in full harmony for centuries. Nobody will say that any Muslim there is not a patriot. Nobody will say that any Christian is unpatriotic. We have no such charge that anybody is calling any Christian or any Muslim, unpatriotic or anti-national. We have no such charge. That is not the issue here. The basic issue is that atrocities are actually committed on some sections of minorities. What is the solution? I have a solution.

The hon. Home Minister is saying that this Government will take steps. When will your Government take steps? Is it after atrocities are committed? What is needed is prevention of atrocities. Can you prevent it? It can be prevented only by a political decision. We want the political leader in the hon. Home Minister, Shri Advani, to ensure that the frontal organisations of the B.J.P. do not encourage intolerance in the country.

16.00 hrs.

(MR. SPEAKER in the Chair)

Coupled with that, if they take Governmental actions, then this can be sorted out. I do not think that this can be stopped only by Government action. Therefore, I would request the hon. Minister of Home Affairs to please see the political aspect of it and ensure that the Ruling Party and its frontal organisations do not resort to such a

campaign which will encourage atrocities on the minorities, so that they are forced to believe that the Government of the day is supporting them in these atrocities. I hope that he would give an assurance to this House in this regard.

[Translation]

HOME MINISTER (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, The debate started by Mr. Arif Mohammed Khan last week was participated by many members and the discussion on the whole has been very fruitful. I express my gratitude to all the speakers as they have invited the attention of the House to a very important problem. They have also highlighted our laxity before the house regarding the subject. I would like to thank all, especially Prof. Kurien who stressed upon the point that during the debate it appeared sometimes as if we were dividing the House and also dividing the country on the basis of communities which would not have been done. He expressed his disgust in that it was wrong to call a community as antinational but perhaps it has not been said.

I had for the first time come in Parliament in 1970 as an M.P. When I had been elected to the Rajya Sabha. I have been in Parliament for the last 26 years except two years when I had not contested election in 1996. During these 26 years this debate has been continuing almost every year. No year passed when discussions on communal tension, communal violence and communal riots etc. were not held. That day Mr. Naqvi was saying that the whole discussion used to be pinpointed on the number of dead bodies, the details of riots and the number of Hindus and Muslims killed. The discussion after used to be held on this very subject. Who is guilty? The Governments kept on changing. In these twenty-eight years most of the time Congress ruled over nation. I heard this plea at that time also that the minorities are feeling insecure during this rule. All the people used to speak like this. People sitting on this side used to speak so which sitting on the other side. At that time those sitting on this side and previously on the other were the only persons who did not speak so. They used to say that the minorities are fully secure. There is no problem for them.

I, therefore, consider this debate to be an unprecedented one totally unique debate which shows qualitative change.

[English]

There is a qualitative change in the nature of debate on the communal question.

[Translation]

The two hour debate on communal subject stretched upto ten to twelve hours but the main focus lay on why and how the so and so member gave this statement. Mr. Sangma who is respectable member of the House was centred on the point that our ideology is a problem. He quoted from our manifesto that our statement that there is one nation, our population and one culture in India and the imagination of culture nationalism is the root of today's problem. However, I was very happy to note that these were not statements mentioned in this speech may be one or two statements might have been mentioned but then he did not mention the incidents which might be called atrocities because 'atrocities' is a major term. I feel the same information that trickled from here and there...

[English]

These can be called excesses. These may even be called injustice somewhere.

[Translation]

It is the duty of the Government that if there is excess or injustice at some place it must take action and the Government which takes no action against excesses and injustice, may create the feeling of insecurity among the masses and then only what Shri Banatwala said that the minorities feel themselves insecure would gain ground. If action is taken there should not be discussion of insecurity, this is my request because the country would suffer if a feeling of insecurity crops up amongst the minorities of India. We would not be able to administrate if our Government does not find a solution to the mentality of insecurity because I always consider that good governance is the first sign of good rule. We have said that we want to replace swarajya' achieved 50 years ago into 'swaraj' and the first sign of the same is security. If somebody feels himself to be insecure it means that there is a flaw in the administration. I urge upon all members and parties has we not made any effort to prevent excesses you could have found fault with us. I admit that there is a controversy boiling over the film 'fire'. I have not seen this film but when I read about it, I feel very sad as to why such films are made. It may be fit for America and the Western countries to produce films completely based on lesbianism but does it suit the Indian milieu in totality? But even then when I came to know that somebody has caused damage to the cinema hall and did this and that. I myself told the Police Commissioner that this would not do and he must take

[Shri L.K. Advani]

appropriate action even against the members of my ally party. I came to know that a demonstration was held in Mumbai in which persons belonging to a party went there clad only in under wears and shouted slogans. Even though I may not like the film, yet I said that such type of demonstration in which there is vandalism or indecency, would not get place in democracy.

It becomes the duty of the Government to do its work. Nobody should feel in security. There should not be intolerance. The Leader of Shiv Sena who is not present here, has mentioned a demonstration of teachers. What type of teachers had come. They can compete but I take both of such demonstrations wrong. In democracy amiability and atiquette have their due place. I am therefore happy and satisfied that during the ten hour long debate, murders and violence, disturbances and nuisances were not discussed upon. Discussions have taken place only on why this statement was given, why we have mentioned cultural nationalism in our manifesto and why we talk of uniform culture.

[English]

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY (Mahabubnagar) : Sir, would the hon. Home Minister yield to me?

Mr Speaker Sir, I am thankful to the hon. Home Minister for having yielded. While one can discuss the merits of a particular film, how does the hon. Home Minister view the tendency to turn every question into Hindu-Muslim question? The corollary to the same is whether receiving honour from a country like Pakistan which has been observed as ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : I am sorry, I do not want to be drawn into this.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : Does the hon. Home Minister recall that Shri Morarji Desai was also given the same award?

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : I am sorry, it is not a valuable intervention. I do not want to be drawn up at a tangent. I am not discussing either 'Fire' or 'Dilip Kumar'. I may have much to say about that. I may agree with many things that these people may be saying. But if they were only saying it, I would not contradict, it. But the moment they take the law into their hands, indulge in Vandalism, or indulge in indecency, I have a duty. Therefore, I have done it. I am not discussing either the film or participants or those who are supporting it. I am not discussing. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : I am discussing it.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : Please, you have drawn yourself into a different direction. We are concerned, at the moment, that no citizen in this country-irrespective of whether he belongs to a minority or a majority, this minority or that minority-should feel unsafe.

Sir, let me recall history. What was the basis of partition? The success of Muslim League achieved in creating sense of insecurity in the Muslim community that 'if India is not divided, India remains undivided as the Congress wants it, the result will be that you will be underlings to the Hindu majority.'

I am not going into the details of the attacks that were made on Gandhiji those days. After all, it was Gandhiji, who talked about *Ramrajya*.

[Translation]

I did not mention Ram Rajya. A young man for the first time talked about Ram Rajya. A student asked Mahatma Gandhi you ask us to sacrifice for swaraj but then please tell me about your concept to swaraj". Gandhi ji replied that at that time he could not deliver a speech but if he might sum up in a word he would say that swaraj would be Ram Rajya.

[English]

[Translation]

Now here in India Ramrajya concept has always been something of an ideal kingdom. This imagination is very old. ...*(Interruptions)* Please, it is not going to be a conversation between us. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Gandhiji's concept of *Ramrajya* and his concept of *Ramrajya* is quite different. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : I am not yielding ...*(Interruptions)* I do not want any one to support me please ...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ (Baramulla) : Gandhiji's concept was different.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : I am aware of it.

[Translation]

You will say it as Shri Arif has at the outset, mentioned it. Many members made a mention of Ayodhya. But Shri Arif has said that 6th December has just passed and at is 16th December to day. Two three T.V. correspondents came to him on 6th December.

They said that it is 6th December today, and we want to know your reaction to the incident which had happened six years ago. Generally I did not utter a word on the issue for the last seven to eight months. Since that day happened to be 6th December. They asked me a question and they would have taken it otherwise. I had said nothing. I told them that it was an unfortunate incident. Which should have not taken place.

That incident hurt my party, my cause and myself too after that Shri Arif said that in his speech and welcomed it. At the same time he said that these things following that event, would not have happened if Shri Advani had said it six years back

[English]

This is what Shri Arif Mohammed Khan has said. Am I right?

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN (Bahraich) Yes.

[Translation]

SHRI L.K. ADVANI I say this in this very context of Ram Rajya. When you say that Gandhi's concept of Ram Rajya was different then your's is different. Those who presume so, do not try to understand whatever I have said. It is exactly like that what I have just said about 6th December, some editorial Commented that at last Shri Advani admitted that the incident of 6th December was unfortunate and other things might not happened after that incident.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : He accepted after six years.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : I am just coming on that point.

[English]

SHIR S. JAIPAL REDDY : Better late than never.
...(Interruptions)

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : Better late than never. This is true. This is exactly what I say. We are not common people. It is often said that the common people have a very short memory.

[Translation]

They keep nothing to heart. They, there fore, forget old things. Whoever becomes the member of Lok Sabha and represents Lacs of people, is certainly prominent. Members of Parliament should have such type of selective memory. I can be changed with selective amnesia. I will only say that just Now I have used a word unfortunate: I have said that such only.

[English]

I regard that as an unfortunate incident.

[Translation]

But when this incident happened on 6th December. I will not mention the persons who had seen me on that day. But on 27th December 1992 I had not resumed a short statement or comment but had written a full page article which had been published by Indian Express on its front page. Telegraph, of Calcutta published a full page article by miking three articles together. I will go through one paragraph of the article. I shall show out may reaction at that time. I said—

[English]

"This year's KAR SEWA day at Ayodhya on December 6th turned out to be one of the most depressing days in my life. Of course, many others there were eestatic with joy, a mood I just could not share. I have seldom felt as defected and downcast on I felt that day."

[Translation]

It is only because I believe so and I wrote in detail the reason of my anguish.

I do not agree with the people who say that after the assassination of Gandhi ji it all happened. I said that I do not imagine like that. I have described that. I do not regard today's context but I definitely accept that I am very sad and I was very sad because the imagination was different. I am proud of the movement of Ayodhya that was a forceful movement but in my view I regarded the movement as one against the politics of vote bank.

[Shri L.K. Advani]

I can speak in detail on that but today that context is not there. At this time I would say only this such.

[English]

SHRI JAIPAL REDDY : I do not want to agree with me. I do not expect that. All I say is that let us not be unfair to anyone.

[Translation]

So Kurienji said some thing:

[English]

So, at least, I found a refreshing change from the preceding speeches and, therefore, I welcome it. It is not that I agree with him.

[Translation]

Its devastating and many incidents occurred, so many atrocities commented. I do not agree with it. Since the incidents are occurring regularly. I have the records not facts of ten years. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJO SINGH (Begusarai) : Do not tell us facts ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Rajo Singh, you are always disturbing the House.

[Translation]

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : I will not put up the facts of ten years. These are the figures of ten years. How many people died in communal violence from 1989 to 1998 and when I look at the figure, I find the lowest number is in 1998. So I feel confident that our party will be back in power. In January during the campaign I visited many places and heard many speeches. Some Chief Ministers said during their speeches that if the Government of Vajpayee ji returns in New Delhi, there will be blood shed and riots in the country. I will not tell anyone's name, but I heard and also answered and actually I see.

[English]

Figures vary and from 1,000 to 2,000 people had died.

[Translation]

162 is the strength of people there of this year till 31 October where the question of Hindu and Muslims come, some one demanded the comparative figures of this and last year. I do not think there is any need.

[English]

I do not want to compare even with last year when Shri Jaipal Reddy was in office, about the number of people who died.

[Translation]

I do not feel the need and say that no one should die. There should be no violence, no communalism. Every one should feel to be secure. And it is my duty because biggest difficulty I felt while coming in power was the environment that if we come to power there will be riots, minorities will be insecure. So I talk to Keshu Bhai Patel going out of way because whatever and whoever does. I worried most when I heard the matter of Jhabua of Madhya Pradesh.

[English]

because I was horrified. I was totally disgusted.

[Translation]

Some one rapes nuns or at other place some incident occurred on Jain Sadhis.

[English]

It is the same kind of thing. Those who have devoted themselves to religion.

[Translation]

They will have this kind of weakness through out their life. These who rape nuns commit such heinous crimes are demon-And the moment I came to know, I tried to get information from Madhya Pradesh Government and after that some one rang up and held that this is converting into an Hindu Christian affair which is not right. I asked the Government of Madhya Pradesh to tell which religion these people belong to as they told that they are tribals. I am not concerned what is their political inclination. People asked me to raise that matter but I declined for that.

I am not concerned but you tell me that as soon they sent me the figures some member said that Advani ji gave wrong figures. I said see if I gave the wrong figures it was given by the Government of Madhya Pradesh. I said nothing on my own. There are no other sources. Madhya Pradesh Government written letter that out of 24, 12 are Hindus and 12 are Christians. I told the same thing. I did not say because they are Christians but I want that no one dare to give communal colours to these kind of killings. But it happened unfortunately. After Jhabua incident many children of thousands of schools came on road and took out processions. I think it was my duty but we would have reacted.

A foreign Ambassador came to me and asked about this incident I told him everything and hearing it he just had nothing to say. Nothing was there after it. Although I admit that whosoever volunteer of Vishwa Hindu Parishad had stated like that, was altogether wrong. Not only that, I made their supreme authority to tell something about this and he gave a statement. He condemned what went wrong. But I wonder that so many people sitting here spoke about Jhabua, but none of them said a simple word about Ashok Singhal's and Giriraj Kishore's statement. Everyone was muttering about V.L. Singhal.

[English]

Once again, there is selectivity in the matter of even statements.

[Translation]

What can he do to let us go ahead? What good this fellow can come out with?

[English]

We quoted Shri K.L. Sharma. We refused to quote Shri Ashok Singhal who is certainly their tallest leader.

[Translation]

There is no mention about their supreme leader. I just want to say this only, that had the reference of the debate been that this event was not to happen, I would have admitted that. I would say that our duty is greater than yours, in the sense, all over India, especially where we are in power, there we are bound to maintain that nobody suffers insecurity.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALA (Ponnani) : Sir, I believe that one should not communalize every thing. This is a

good thing. You said that Christians were also involved in it. But it led the people to more confusion, what has been said. Some associations said that there is no Christian among them. Not among those who have been arrested and not even among those, who have not been. In this way, this message has gone that your statement is not veritable. Therefore, would you present this with more openness before the nation to take people into confidence and for their contentment, by having a thorough investigation through CBI or any agency?

[Translation]

SHRI LAL KRISHNA ADVANI : Those who opposed that, did not describe a single fact in the matter, but even after that whatever authorized information we had got from the Government of Madhya Pradesh, on behalf of Home Ministry we released it to the Press as it was. Every facts along with names are given in that, who is Christian or Hindu among them. We have detailed it to the Press. If, you like, I can present it in the House too, I never mind. I just believe that may be they felt a shock to lose the foundation of their campaigning, they had been doing for days together. I do not blame anybody but how simply they could oppose it that it was wrong. When opposal was made, I asked the Home Ministry to not to say that some were Christians among them. I told them to give all names and dates and provide the same officially refering to the date on which the Madhya Pradesh Government and then authorities wrote the letter and they followed. I think not any more can be done in this matter. By the way, the matter of ideology which was raised by Sangmaji has appropriately been answered by Umaji. She also said that if someone behaves a secular in this matter, then it is not essentially that he is a product of an Missionary School.

And she is also not taught in a missionary school, she got her letters in a village-school upto class fifth. She maintains an idol of Jesus in her Pujaghar, where Lord Krishna is also worshipped, it's because we don't feel anything awesome in that. I just wondered at the objection made by Mr. Sangma yesterday that Advaniji deems the Buddhists as a part of Hindus, and he told that Lord Buddha was but an incarnation of Vishnu.

Sir, Last month a Buddhist conference was organised at Samath, attended by people from all over the world. Many Buddhists also were present there I did say this there:

[English]

"Buddha did not announce any new religion. He was only restating with the new emphasis the ancient ideals

[Shri L.K. Advani]

of the Hindu-Aryan civilization. He cleanses the faith and the customs that were prevalent than of the dusts that God accumulated and focussed on the essential ideals of Dharma. The relationship between India and Buddhism is unbreakable and this inseparableness must be understood by all. India is where Buddhism was born and India is where Buddha's legacy lived."

[Translation]

Then I said—

[English]

"Buddha is an avtar for most Indians and is held in reverence by all sects and sub-sects of the Hindu society."

[Translation]

I am not saying any such thing which may lessen the importance of Buddhism. Buddha is one Avtar out of Dasavtar as envisaged in our Puranas. Most of us must have seen the dramatic form of Dasavtar in Bharat Natyam and in Kathak, Buddha is always there as an avtar. Buddha was not a thiest in the traditional senses, he was not a believer in God. Depite this, I quoted him. I said that Swami Vivekanand was a great Bhakta of God, and he was a theist. What did he say about Buddha and God—

[English]

"The life of Buddha shows that a man who does not believe in God, has no metaphysics, belongs to no sect and does not even go to any church or temple, even he can attain to the highest. I wish I had even one infinitesimal part of Buddha's heart. Buddha may or may not have believed in God. That does not matter to me. He reached the same state of perfection to which others come by *Bhakti* or love of God or Yoga or *Dhiyana*. Perfection does not come from belief or faith. Talk does not count for anything. Parrot can do that. Perfection comes through disinterested performance of action."

[Translation]

I did add disinterested performance of action to it. It means the same as is the lesson and knowledge of the Gita. He talked about performing the action without desire and doing the Yoga without desire. I have also talked about it. Yesterday Mr. Sangma was objecting that why he referred to the Bhagavat Gita.

[English]

SHRI R.S. GAVAI (Amravati) : Can you yield one minute? Sir, I do respect your sentiment that in your Buddhist Summit there at Saranath, you said that Lord Buddha is the incarnation. This point appeared in the last World Buddhist Summit in Kathmandu also where I did say it is the own belief of the hon. Minister because I was there in Kathmandu and not in India. But Buddha never claims that he is a God; neither he says that he is a son of God nor he is a messenger.

[English]

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : He never said that.

SHRI R.S. GAVAI (Amravati) : He said, "I am a common man" ...*(Interruptions)* I am just clarifying. He believes in the relationship between man and man, and on an occasion, when he was preaching lastly his disciple, Anandha, he asked, "Lord, I will expect that you will attain *Swarga*". Buddha said, "Anandha, I do not believe in *Swarga*, *Narka* nor incarnation." It may be your own logic, but do not impose upon us that we should accept that Buddha is incarnation. That is not convincing.

[Translation]

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : I respect you and say this that on account of what you have just said, Buddha becomes more revered for us.

[English]

He never claimed to be God. He never claimed to be a messenger of God.

[Translation]

I said that Hindu society regard his as Dasavtar.

[English]

SHRI R.S. GAVAI (Amravati) : I do not want to challenge, but my plea is that do not impose anything on us.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : No, not at all. I have read out exactly. I said: Buddha is an *Avatar* for most Indians and is held in reverence by all sects and sub-sects of Hindu society, not merely the Baudhs.

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker, Sir, now I will speak on the manifests because he quoted from our manifesto and he objected to it while discussing the cultural nationalism and he said that why do we talk about one culture. MS. Uma Ji said that he must be believing in one nation, he made not reply. Then Ms. Uma said that he must be believing in one people, but he may have objection to one culture. Some members are sitting over here who may have objection to one national also. At least there is sporadic party which does not treat India as the imagination of one nation. They say that

[English]

India is a multinational State. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

This is their imagination. I shall mention it later on. Otherwise, it is not necessary. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

PROF. P.J. KURIEN (Mavelikara) : Mr. Speaker, Sir. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : I am not talking about you.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN (Mavelikara) : Sir, we have always said that India is one nation; only culture is pluralistic. That is all. I do not think anybody here says it is multinational. Nobody from this side says that.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : If you want, I can quote to you the memorandum submitted by the CPI(M) to the Sarkaria Commission. I do not want to do it now. This is not the occasion. But they have, in that memorandum. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Do not misinterpret. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SURESH KURUP (Kottayam) : That mentions about different linguistic groups. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Do not misinterpret. Nationality question is different. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : Shri Basu Deb Acharia himself is all right, why should all of you shout? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seats. Let him complete.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Basu Deb Acharia, let him complete. He is not yielding.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, he is misinterpreting. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : Shri Basu Deb Acharia, you forget that. I simply said that when Kumari Uma Bharati referred to Shri Sangma, She said, "Your objection cannot be to one nation, your objection cannot be to one people, you may be objection to the concept of one culture", about which just now Prof. Kurien said that it is pluralistic culture. No objection. It is one culture. In every country which is a large country, in every country which is an ancient country, the culture is bound to be pluralistic, the culture is bound to be composite, the culture is bound to have a lot of diversities. You cannot have uniformity. It is inevitable. But the point is, it is one culture. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER (Tenali) : The proper expression could be 'different facets'.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : I know that. I am aware of it different facets. But when I say 'one culture' there is nothing wrong about it.

[Translation]

We got independence in 1947 and now today is the year of 1998. I do not know when the sitting of the House of people started here because the sitting of the constituent Assembly was held there. I do not know when "Dharma Chakra Pravartanay" has written in the Lok Sabha probably it would have been written in 1947-48. Today if the Hon. Speaker or Prime Minister suggest to write "Dharma Chakra Pravartanay" here it has been opposed as use of Sanskrit and singing of Vande Matram have been opposed. When I come to know that when it is going to be made compulsory there I asked the Chief Minister to not make it compulsory. But it does not mean that anybody will threaten to withdraw his ward from the school in protest against Vande Matram. Every session starts with the singing of "Jan Gan Man" and ends with "Vande Matram". Will the member be walk out from the

[Shri L.K. Advani]

House? Try to understand difference between these two things. I have expressed my opinion regarding it and to make it compulsory is different. ...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ (Baramulla) : Protest is different thing but you can not do it compulsory. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : Let me recall that this matter was discussed at considerable length in the Constituent Assembly.

[Translation]

On this issue of "Vande Matram" it has been discussed at length. At that time some people said that "Vande Matram" should not play here. It has been decided after long discussion that "Jan Gan Man" should be accepted, as national Anthem. This was between the two.

[English]

I will read out from Constituent Assembly debates. I would read what president Dr. Rajendra Prasad had said on 24th January, 1950.

[Translation]

The constitution has been implemented formally on 26th January

[English]

It was the last day to the Session and everything had been settled. The President said:

"There is one matter which has been pending for discussion, namely, the question of the National Anthem. At one time, it was thought that the matter might be brought up before the House and a decision by the House by way of a Resolution."

[Translation]

He mentioned about the conclusion reached after discussed it with everybody.

[English]

"But it has been felt that instead of taking a formal decision by means of a Resolution which would mean

division and the vote, it is better if I make a statement with regard to the National Anthem reflecting the consensus of the House."

I am not saying it but it is meaning that.

[Translation]

"Accordingly, I make this statement."

He said:

[English]

"The composition consisting of the words and music known as *Jana Gana Mana* is the National Anthem of India, subject to such alterations in the words as the Government may authorise as occasion arises and the song *Vande Mataram* which has played an historic part in the struggle for Indian freedom shall be honoured equally with *Jana Gana Mana* and shall have equal status with it."

Now, this was the decision announced by President Dr. Rajendra Prasad, as Chairman of the Constituent Assembly, on behalf of the whole House. And there was applause in the House.

[Translation]

Therefore "Jan Gan Man" had not been played here for many years. When Shri Shivraj Patil was the Speaker of this House he called a meeting of General Purposes Committee. He presented this proposal there perhaps it would have been played in Maharashtra Legislative Assembly. This proposal was unanimously accepted and circulated also. After that some people have written letters and registered their objections. I also met there. I never request to adopt "Vande Matram". He said that this decision is unanimous. If any body will oppose it, it will not be appropriate. There were 119 members of our party. We said that we would have to think about it. It should not happen that only 119 members sing it. He said that this unanimous decision will be implemented. He implemented this decision. It is a matter of proud for him and this House that he implemented this important decision; which should be adopted immediately 1947, has been adopted now.

I remember, that National anthem "Jan Gan Man" had been played in the picture halls but India is a liberal country. At that time some people did not pay respect to it so it had been decided to discontinue it. If in any country of the world, any person show disrespect to National anthem, then it becomes the matter of concern for the Government to how to check this tendency.

In our country if any body shows disrespect to the national anthem, it is said that it is big country, how is it possible to check them? I admit that attitude of people towards the national emblems has worsened only to weakness of the country, in the last fifty years. That is why we have started to become liberal state.

I would like to submit that do not raise argument about national emblems. If there is any mistake you tell about it and also tell how to correct it.

[English]

Do not make these issues a matter of public debate.

[Translation]

If you will make it a issue of public debate then definitely I will tell those persons who feel bitter about it that nothing has been said about "Jan Gan Man". Ranjendra Babu has said about "Vande Matram" and he said.

[English]

"It is because that it has played an historic role in the struggle for Indian Freedom" I do not want to bore you.

[Translation]

I will quote the statements of Mahatama Gandhi these can not be compared with anything. Because at that time people knew the status of "Vande Matram". Now any body issue fatwa against "Vande Matram" and they even applause. It is surprise for me when it is appreciated that they will withdraw their wards from schools where "Vande Matram" is played .

[English]

How can you plead like that? You just cannot do that.

[Translation]

And so I will request to all of you that atrocities on minorities. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA It was slightly misunderstood. He has said nothing like this. ...*(Interruptions)* There is little misunderstanding which I want to clear. This is upto you, whether you allow me or not.

[Translation]

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : I would let you clear all laid of misunderstanding.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : I wanted to say merely that to the best of my knowledge and as per the news I read in the newspapers, whatever Maulana Ali Minya said, was not a "Fatwa". It was misconstrued. He has merely given an advise that in case Muslim Children are forced to sing "Saraswati Vandana" in their school, it is better to than should to leave the school. He was helpless, for making "Saraswati Vandana". Compulsory for Muslim Children, goes against the very spirit of Islam. He ment to express only these sentiments, I also feel that making "Sarswati Vandana" compulsory hurts our feelings.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I think, I have to say nothing special except to repeat the some thing that as far as this Government is concerned. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI ABUL HASNAT KHAN (Jangipur) : What about one culture?

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : I will come to our culture. I am grateful to you.

[Translation]

For I wanted to mention that point.

My friends are sitting in front of me. An AICC session was held in Madurai in 1961. Recently, while going through an official publication of Publications Division on Nehru Ji's speeches, I found at one place in the book a very tonchy remarks made by Pt. Nehru is that AICC session' is one of these towns of temples in south which is very famous for its Meenakshi Temple. He said there—

[English]

"India has, for ages past, been a country of pilgrimages. All over the country, you find these ancient places from Badrinath, Kedarnath and Amarnath high up in the snowy Himalayas down to Kanyakumari in the South. What has drawn our people from the South to the North and from the North to the South in these great pilgrimages?"...

There is a question mark and then he answers.

"It is the feeling of one country and one culture and this feeling has bound us together."

This is not my choice ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI T.R. BAALU (Madras South) : It may be Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru's opinion but not our opinion. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : It may be. But I am not yielding ...*(Interruptions)* Let me complete it ...*(Interruptions)* Yes, you can disagree with Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. But, I am sure, our friends sitting opposite cannot disagree with Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI T.R. BAALU : What about the assurance on the language issue. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : It is because Shri Sangma belongs to the Congress ...*(Interruptions)* I am not yielding ...*(Interruptions)*

17.00 hrs.

This conception of Bharat as one great land, which the people considered a holy land, has come down the ages and has joined us together. Even though we have had different political kingdoms, and even though we may speak different languages, this silken bond still keeps us together in many ways.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN (Mavelikara) : Panditji also said unity in diversity.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : Yes, unity in diversity. But, it is this unity and it is this silken bond which brings about unity. Therefore, I respect Tamil as much as I respect Sindi or Hindi or Marathi. I respect various religions of the country.

[Translation]

You said very correctly that

[English]

Intolerance has no place in Hinduism. I would go further and say, intolerance has no place in the culture of this country. It may have place in the culture of another country. It is not without significance.

[Translation]

On that day, some of our friends complained about 85 per cent people and I could understand through their feelings that it was because of 85 per cent people that 15 per cent people are being subjected to such things. This is a very wrong notion. I believe that these 15 per

cent people are having the same culture as other 85 per cent people do have. Their religion may be different, but they have got the same culture basic tolerance to follow. This basic tolerance is found in all of us. If any change has been noticed it has come because of politics, not because of culture.

[English]

Shri Shiv Shanker, I have a very pleasant experience last year.

[Translation]

Last year I went to Hyderabad. I happened to meet with one Arch Bishop there. He said that—

[English]

I totally endorse your concept of cultural nationalism. I would say personally, "I am a Christian by religion but I am a Hindu by culture. This is what he said." When he said this, he was not referring to any narrow concept of Hinduism.

[Translation]

Therefore when any reference is made of Hinduism, it is always about our culture. In 1947, we became secular but on what basis? The basis was that population of Hindus and Muslims at different places was taken into consideration. What a bloodshed it was which made lakhs and crores of people were displaced. Pakistan declared itself as a Islamic state. That means, followers of Islam would be provided first class citizenship, while others would be given second class treatment. These are so many people in Islam itself who have got no place there. But, contrary to that, you may see the entire debates of constituents Assembly and go through every page of those debates, you would find that nobody ever said to declare Hindustan as "Hindu" state

[English]

There was unanimity.

[Translation]

There would be no discrimination on the basis of religion in this country. The very meaning of secularism in this country is that there should be no discrimination on the basis of religion and everyone should get equal opportunity. Everybody should feel secured. And I think.

this we have got more from our ancient culture rather than our constituent Assembly. This country is secular because of our ancient culture and traditions. You may term that culture as Indian or Hindu or Bhartiya, I have no problem over that. But I think, we should refrain from talking about Hindus or else we may get involved in religious controversy. People would make hue and cry over "Dharm Chakra Pravartnaya". Whenever Pandit Nehru and Shrimati Indira Gandhi were on their foreign trips, they used to start their speeches by citing some "Slokas" from "Rigveda" or some "Upnishada" but they never faced any objection from any quarter. Nobody ever said that they belonged to a secular country and, then, why were they referring to Rigveda or 'Upnishada. But today we people have created such an atmosphere wherein if you talk of your culture, then, it is deemed as if you have committed a Himalayan blunder. If somebody makes any mention about "Saraswati Vandana", then why do not people think that he has committed no crime.

I would request you, please do not nourish such apprehensions. Ours is one country. We may have different religions, different languages but we have got only one and same culture. It is a composite culture with the same basic unity tied with silken bond and we must believe in this culture which is ours. I am sure that so far as the Government is concerned, they would never fail in fulfilling their responsibilities. If somebody gets injustice, we will come in between and intervene.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : The House will now take up further discussion on the Bill listed as item no. 12 in the list of Business.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would request that item no. 18 may be taken up tomorrow.

MR. SPEAKER : We are continuing with the Bill listed as item no. 12 in the list of Business and not item no. 18 Vaidya Vishnu Datt.

17.11 hrs

HIGH COURT AND SUPREME COURT JUDGES
(SALARIES AND CONDITIONS OF SERVICE)
AMENDMENT BILL—contd.

[Translation]

VAIDYA VISHNU DATT (Jammu) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak on the High Court and Supreme Court Judges (Salaries and

Conditions of Service) Amendment Bill. The recommendations of the Fifth Pay Commission, constitutes for pay revision to All India services and Central Government employees, have been implemented making hike in the salaries of service staffs and Central Government employees following the submission of the fifth report separately by us as well as try the pay commission in this connection. Salaries of High Court and Supreme Court Judges have been hiked only once for during the last fifty years and now this is the sound time when this Amendment is made. Salaries and all other facilities to the Judges, in fact, abide by the Articles 125, 281 and the sub-article (D) of the schedule-II of the Constitution. When the constitution was implemented the Chief Justice of India was getting Rs. 5000/- per month as salary while the other judges of the Apex Court and the Chief Justices of all High Courts were getting Rs. 4000/- followed by other category of Judges drawing Rs. 3500/- as monthly salaries.

Thereafter the Second Amendment was made in 1986, as it is not accorded with the provision to hike the salaries of Judges along with the rest of employees following the recommendation of the pay commission. This is subject to constitution Amendment when the Fifth Pay Commission submitted its report, the judicial Department had prepared a note and had put up its proposal on 6th of October, 1997. As per rule, the proposal was put up in the cabinet and when it was passed, by the cabinet, it was sent to the President to make it ordinance. But, the President could not issue it as ordinance at first due to unavoidable seasons. Then the next Government was formed after the dissolution of the 11th Lok Sabha and the successive Government took instant action in this regard by putting it up again in the council of Ministers on 16th April of 1998. Thus, the ordinance was issued finally through proper channel on April 24 of 1998. Similarly, recommendation has been made for pay hike of judges. Accordingly, there is provision of Rs. 33000/- per month for Chief Justice of Supreme Court. Rs. 30,000/- per month for other judges of the Supreme Court Rs. 30,000/- per month for the Chief Justice of a High Court and Rs. 26,000/- per month for other judges of a High Court.

In the wake of pay revision of civil servants whatever anomaly in salary of judges was existing there it has been tried to be removed. This is good because the judges are constitutional office. So its superiority should be maintained. There had to be maintained differences between increment of civil servants and that of judges. So it was necessary to maintain their superiority. I want to tell the hon. Minister of the Union Government that their monthly salary is Rs. 26,000/- and the monthly pay

[Shri Vaidya Vishnu Datt]

of Cabinet Secretary is Rs. 30,000/- so I think that higher salary of the Chief Justice is justified.

Now the situation is that crores of cases are pending in courts I think courts should be equipped with other facilities also. Today is the age of electronics and court should be provided with all such facilities in such a way that a person may get cheap, easily available and quick justice. So it is necessary for Government to make court resourceful.

I support the pay-hike of judges but there are two or three vital issues regarding this matter. The report that judges's posts are vacant in a large number so the cases could not be settled with proper speed. I, therefore, request the Government to fill up the vacancies at the earliest so that people may get quick justice. The order of country and society will be maintained when a person will get justice on right time and indiscipline arises when justice is delayed.

The Executive, the Judiciary and the Legislature are the pillars of democracy systems and limitations of its functions have been laid down. A few days back we have seen that judicial activism has increased. Recently it seemed that judiciary is interfering in the affairs of Legislature. This activism should be served by mutual coordination in such a manner that conflict between them is avoided. So Government should find solution by dialogue. Today public interest petitions are being filled in a large number in subordinate courts due to which the number of cases has increased. Their settlement do not take place at right time. On different issues people manage to get stay orders and unnecessary disturbances arise. Go it should be banned. In upper courts decision should be taken quickly because lower courts which come under states take more time.

There is only one Supreme Court in India and Delhi is its headquarters. A person residing in Assam, Cuttack, Kanyakumari or Gujarat expends huge money to come here. And then Justice becomes expensive without any reason. So there should be a bench of Supreme Court at some where in Southern India, Northern India and north east India so that people approach them easily. Lower Courts are controlled by states. Attention should also be paid to provide salary and facilities to the judges of lower courts as we are going to give salary and facilities of judges of High Courts and Supreme Court their pay should be raised according to their posts. So that people may get justice at right time and judges could take interest. Today any expert lawyer or advocate does not want to become a judge because his income is less than that of a judge. So we should also take care about

it so that intelligent and efficient persons could assume such posts. For recruitment of able and efficient judges, examination should be conducted in all India basis as in the case with the IAS examination.

This should also be made an organisation so that the examination of judges could be conducted and fully competent judges be appointed who could provide justice to the people and the pending work could be disposed of. Furthermore, there should be a code of justice and justice should be given quickly. This is a fact that there are hurdles to get even justice. It is also a fact that sometimes there is delay in the proceedings of the court notices are not served sometimes it takes so many months in serving notices and that causes delay but there is one thing more that our lawyers hamper. The path in getting the justice would be passed.

On time order to protect their prestige and status they get the courts adjourned without any reason just to benefit their clients and it causes delay. They take dates after dates from the court, therefore, my submission is that Bar Association should be taken into confidence and quick and cost effective justice should be made available to the clients. The Bar Association also should have control over it.

With these words I would like to make a request that I support this Bill and wish that this Bill should be passed.

[English]

17.23 hrs.

SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY (Basirhat) : Madam, the High Court and Supreme Court Judges (Salaries and Conditions of Service) Amendment Bill which has been moved by the hon. Minister is in regard to increase the facilities, salaries, pension and other things for the Judges of the High Court and also of the Supreme Court. We have to objection to that because the Judges of the High Court are holding the highest post of Judicature of the States concerned and the Judges of the Supreme Court are also holding the post of the highest judicature of our country.

Madam, while we are discussing this Bill in this House, I want to draw the attention of this august House to the serious problem of the judicial system to our country. No doubt, the Judges and Courts are the watchdog of our Constitution. Sometimes they are protecting the rights of the common people; sometimes they are protecting the common people from the arbitrary

act of the Executive and the police authority. But I am sorry to say that now some tendency has grown up in the mind of the Judges; off and on they are interfering with the acts of the highest sovereign authority. Sometimes they want to malign the acts of the Parliament and sometimes they are interfering with the functional acts of the Parliament and they are also challenging the authority of the highest sovereign authority of our country. Thus, I am sorry to say that the tendency has grown up in the mind of the Judges of the High Court and the Supreme Court. They want to malign us.

We are paying the highest respect to the judges and they should be also pay respect to the sovereign authorities.

Another problem is that there are so many vacancies in the different courts, from the lower courts to High Courts and Supreme Court. Though the ratio of the judges per million population of our country is the lowest in the world, it is the duty of the Government to come forward and take some measures to fill up the vacancies immediately.

Shri Moti Lal Vora and another hon. Member has mentioned before the House about the long pendency to the cases. Lakhs of cases are pending in the different High Courts and in the Supreme Court. If you come before a court for redressal, then you have to wait till the next generation. Nobody knows when these cases will be disposed of by the judges of the High Courts, the Supreme Court and the other courts also.

In this regard, our hon. Rashtrapatiji has expressed deep concern also while inaugurating the seminar on 'Judicial Reforms' organised by the Supreme Court Advocates-on-Record. As far as I can remember, our hon. Minister, Shri Ram Jethmalani, the leading lawyer of our country, was also present in that seminar.

Madam, with your permission, I would like to quote some relevant portions of the observations made by our hon. Rashtrapatiji.

"He also expressed deep concern over a backlog of 30 million cases in various courts across the country and said the executive and the judiciary must apply their minds more seriously than hitherto in order to tackle this arrear of cases. Each of the 30 million arrears represent the daily and the denial of justice of people, the President observed."

This was the observation made by our hon. Rashtrapatiji. Lakhs of cases are pending for disposal and people also think that now the judicial system is the machinery for harassment, repression and oppression.

I have gone through a English newspaper of last Sunday. It might be the *Statesman* or the *Telegraph* or the *Indian Express*. It carried the views of the hon. Chief Justice of India. He observed that people are losing faith in judiciary. When any litigation is contested between the poor and the rich, it is very difficult to contest the case against any rich because rich has the capacity to afford best possible lawyers in the Bar. It is very difficult for a poor man in afford a great lawyer to contest the case because day after day the fees of the lawyers are rising. So, it is difficult on the part of a poor man to engage a good lawyer to contest his case. He has to file a case in munsif's court, then, it comes to lower court, then it comes to High Court before it comes to Supreme Court. So, it is not possible for a poor man to contest his case. So, some way must be found out by the Government. There should be some Government lawyers in different courts. However, I very much regret to say that some of the lawyers are efficient, but a majority of the panel lawyers are inefficient also.

They are not very much willing to conduct the cases and are not at all taking interest to conduct those cases. Sometimes they are not appearing before the courts also. This is the position of the lawyers on the panel for Government lawyers. I also observed and saw some reports about them. I have also gone through a newspaper report about the lawyers of the Delhi Development Authority.

Our hon. Minister Shri Ram Jathmalani had expressed his views regarding the panel lawyers—and what they are doing—of Delhi and of the Metropolitan Authority.

So, that is the position. The Government should come forward and sort out some way so that the poor people can rush to a court and get justice by engaging suitable lawyers.

About corruption, I am sorry to say, that in the highest courts there is the highest corruption. If one goes to the corridor of any High Court there is some whispering that if one wants to obtain a rule, an injunction or an interlocutory order, one has to engage a particular lawyer because there is some hobnobbing with the Judges, by some section of the lawyers and a particular Judge. If he appears in the court of that Judge he can obtain the rule or interlocutory order or what is wanted. This is the

[Shri Ajay Chakraborty]

type of corruption that is going on. The sons and nephews practise in the same court where their father or uncle or maternal uncle may be the sitting Judge in a particular case. That is the position.

If one has to get a case transferred one has to pay some money to the Bench Clerk, the person who is transferring the case. If one wants to win a case one has to select a particular lawyer and tell him to get the case transferred to a particular Judge's court. One has to pay lot of money to the person who is transferring the case.

This is the position in the different courts. If one wants to obtain a certified copy one has to pay more money than which is required according to the law. These are the corrupt practices prevalent in the courts, and in the highest courts there is the highest corruption. I do not know how the Government will solve the problem. This is an age-old problem in our country. If one goes to any court room one has to pay something to everybody in the court room who is sitting there.

Another point I would like to draw the attention of this august House and the particular Minister concerned is that the conditions in the lower courts are very much pathetic. That is the backbone of the judicial system of our country. But the condition of the lower courts is very precarious. Judges, District Judges, Special Judges, and Additional Sessions Judges are adjudicating the cases under Sections 302, 304 and 376 of the Indian Penal Code but they have no accommodation facility. They have no transport facility. The Judges and the Sessions Judges who are adjudicating the cases under section 376, that is, rape cases against the accused, are travelling, after the completion of the court work, in the same bus or in the same train, in the same bogie, along with the accused. This is the position in the lower courts. There is no facility of a library. If the Judges want to consult a book there is no facility of books in the lower courts. There are no other facilities and their court rooms are as good as cow-sheds. They can be equated to cow-sheds.

Off and on electricity fails but there is no generator to conduct the trial of cases under Section 302 etc. They have the legal capacity to sentence as accused, to award the death sentence, or life sentence, but there is no light in the court room where they are adjudicating. There is no generator system. Sometimes they are adjudicating or conducting the trials by the candle light or with hurricane light. This is the position of the judicial system.

So, I urge upon the hon. Minister to come forward to discuss elaborately so that we may achieve a high

standard of judicial system and remove all the difficulties. Sir, I do not want to waste the time of the House because so many Members are there. So, I again support this Bill with a humble submission to the hon. Minister and to this House to find out some way and arrive at some decisions so that our poor people can obtain justice. Further, the long pending cases may be disposed of as early as possible. And corruption may be removed as early as possible.

17.34 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

- (v) **Annual Report and review of the working of National Remote Sensing Agency Hyderabad etc. for the year 1997-98**

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE):
I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Remote Sensing Agency, Hyderabad, for the year 1997-98, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement (Hindi and English versions) regarding Review by the Government of the working of the National Remote Sensing Agency, Hyderabad, for the year 1997-98.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1875/98]

- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National MST Radar Facility Gandanki, for the year 1997-98, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement (Hindi and English versions) regarding Review by the Government of the working of the National MST Radar Facility, Gadanki, for the year 1997-98.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1876/98]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Physical Research Laboratory, Ahmedabad, for the year 1997-98, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) Statement (Hindi and English versions) regarding Review by the Government of the working of the physical Research Laboratory, Ahmedabad, for the year 1997-98.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1877/98]

- (4) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:—

- (a) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Antrix Corporation Limited, Bangalore, for the year 1997-98.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Antrix Corporation Limited, Bangalore, for the year 1997-98, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1878/98]

- (b) (i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Indian Rare Earths Limited, Mumbai, for the year 1997-98.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Indian Rare Earths Limited, Mumbai, for the year 1997-98, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1879/98]

- (c) (i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Uranium Corporation of India Limited, Jaduguda, for the year 1997-98.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Uranium Corporation of India Limited, Jaduguda, for the year 1997-98, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1880/98]

- (5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Institute of Physics, Bhubaneswar, for the year 1997-98.

- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Institute of Physics, Bhubaneswar, for the year 1997-98, together with Audit Report thereon.

- (iii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Institute of Physics, Bhubaneswar, for the year 1997-98.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1881/98]

- (6) A copy of the Passports (Amendment) Rules, 1998 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 605(E) in Gazette of India dated the 8th October, 1998, under sub-section (3) of section 24 of the Passport Act, 1967.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1882/98]

17.36 hrs.

HIGH COURT AND SUPREME COURT JUDGES
(SALARIES AND CONDITIONS OF SERVICE)
AMENDMENT BILL-*CONTD.*

[*Translation*]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajganj) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I also support this Bill. The whole House is in support of this Bill. But through you I would like to draw the attention of this House to one more issue. The condition of judicial process from top to bottom in the country, is such as the people face difficulty to get proper justice and justice is becoming more and more costly in comparison to foodgrains and vegetables and justice is becoming costlier. Yet the poor people are not getting proper justice.

The Judiciary is not playing its real role at present and it is in rohing itself the matter in which the Judiciary should not indulged. Even in parliamentary matters, in which the Judiciary should not intervene, is intervening. There is the proposal that their salary be increased through this Bill. This was raised in the last session also and it is being raised in this session also, you will raise it in the next session also. Give every thing to the people of the Judicerary-what objection can do I have, while the whole House agrees to it.

I would like that a high level meeting should be convened in which Lok Sabha Speaker, Prime Minister and Chief Justice of India should participate and there should be decided the role of judiciary in that meeting. I would like to tell you in the least time about the proceeding from low level to high level when an incident occurs in a village and a statement of police is recorded in that statement something right and something wrong is recorded. The responsibility for the investigation work rests on state Police and the importance of the

[Shri Prabhu Nath Singh]

investigation is based on the evidences. No proof is required to be given to prove the fact that for any incident that takes place in a village people stand for and against it. Everybody knows that the police has degraded its moral values.

The police has already lost its morality but it investigates the matter and *prima facie* it verifies the allegations and files the charge sheet in the court. Thereafter, there is hearing of the case I do not admit that all employees are dishonest in the court but I do not hesitate in saying it that money and pleading both wield influence in the lower courts. I am saying this with great courage because the actual culprit is not penalised. Actual evidences regarding culprits are not produced. The culprits roam about the market scot free, they sit with the police and by doing so their moral remains heightened.

This is the reason for increase in crimes. The weak and the innocent people of the village do not break the law. But there is no difficulty in getting witnesses against them. Therefore, when the issue of strengthening the Judiciary and increasing the salary of judges comes up for discussion, I want to say that there is a need to think over seriously in regard to Cr.P.C., and I.P.C. A provision should be made in that, if a person gives false evidence, and it is proved, then punishment should be given to such person. If the investigating officials *prima facie* frame wrong charge sheets and the accused is acquitted by the court, then the action should be taken against that official concerned so that correct charge sheets are framed and people may come forward to give witness in courts.

Today, there is a plethora of public interest petitions, in the High Courts and Supreme Court. Particularly in Bihar, these are being examined by the judges of the High Court. Judges are deciding cases relating to getting improper roads and houses demolished, their sanitation, and construction of drains. Thousands of such cases are lying pending. The State Governments do not give much attention to these pieces of work. Therefore, the courts have to get them done. A high level meeting should be convened in this regard to decide their powers in such cases. Our hon. Speaker, had given gas and telephone coupons to all members. It was not a big issue. The High Court should not have interfered in this matter. Similarly the members of Parliament should maintain the right to recommend two candidates for the admission in Central School. But, the High Court, even put an end to this also the High Court and the Supreme Court have nothing else to do. They do all this so that they would get publicity in the papers and the electronic media. As

a reward their salary is increased. This should be pondered over seriously. Discussions should be held as to what should be the criteria for filing a public interest litigation. A high level meeting should be called to decide this.

Regarding the question of providing affordable justice, people approach the High Court and Supreme Court as a last resort. I have personally experienced this. Shri Jethmalaniji is present here. I want to ask him, can any one get justice in the courts? File a case, even bail applications are decided after several hearings. Lawyers charge clients from one lakh to one and a half lakh as fees. They charge on each hearing. A person having 10-15 lakh rupees can think of getting bail. The innocent ones also have to make arrangement for money. A law should also be framed to regulate the fees of the lawyers. If this is not done, it would not be unthinkable to provide affordable justice in the country. They will get a pay hike. The minister will make a speech and the revision in their pay would be approved. Justice in this country is becoming more and more expensive and at times justice is not done. Guilty persons are not being punished. To some extent Judiciary is also being politicised. After retirement, judges occupy high posts. If they had no connection with some senior politicians, how is it that they come to occupy such high posts? If they are appointed on merit, what is the criteria for this? Till today, I have not been able to understand this. This should be discussed seriously. You can raise their salary. I feel sad that the judiciary has not been able to discharge its duties effectively. Due to this crime is on the rise. I will not support this Bill. I am supporting this Bill. With this I end my speech.

SHRI HIRA LAL ROY (Chhapra) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, a Bill on the Judges is brought and being discussed today in the House. Shri Prabhu Nath Singh has rightly come forward with delineating the condition of the Judiciary. Judiciary used to probe for the right thing earlier but it is no more done so. It is told here that 3 crore cases are pending in the courts. But, unfortunately the Judiciary is paying heed to other things at the cost of its rightful duties. A Judge is being deputed to conduct examination of a single boy. They are having faith in nobody. Under present circumstances of Judiciary, Ministers, Politicians and others are being penalised but corruption is rampant in lower Courts. No attention is being paid to it. It is told just now that the justification of all the codes is being undermined. Attention must be paid to it.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I support the Bill with a reservation. A clerk is appointed after written examination and interview but the appointment of judges is not

satisfactory. A lawyer practising in a lower Court or a High Court is made the judge after ten years of practice without any test of his merit. Atleast 50 per cent of the judges are appointed due to their political association. Capacity and merit of a judge are no criterion in such selections. I suggest to adopt merit based process of appointment.

Sir, I have seen that High Court judges are appointed by the supreme court judges. This is not right. As some codes for the Judges are to be made in the same way as IAS and IPS do have. Judges should not be appointed without merit. Appointments without merit may harm and actually harming the system. Judiciary is outreaching its limits. It implicates the House—an apex body also. I request that hon. Law Minister should consider this matter seriously.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the way, judicial system is continuously becoming expensive, is a matter of great concern. Today Common man is not in a position to go to the Court for wait of money. You have established legal cells in lower courts to help poor people. But, they also are being charged for pleading their cases. So, the responsibility of the cells is not carried not properly. After that it would be managed by the court. You say that before bail it was managed by the court or not and in which court is it? If a judge is to issue a bail, and the case is to be moved in his court after one or three months, then the criminal or all other people are to seek bail keep sitting there. When their turn comes, they move the Court. It is experienced sometimes that irregularity is committed even after managing the court. Corruption is very much in the Judiciary. If we do not flush the Judiciary of corruption, check and balance task cannot be maintained. The manner judiciary is spreading its reflection and influence, is lethal to the check and balance of the country and there is need to curb it.

With these words, I support the Bill.

17.51 hrs.

SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SAHU (Mahasamund) : Madam, the Bill which has been presented today, actually its need was being felt for a long time. I have stood up for supporting this Bill whole-heartedly.

[English]

MADAM CHAIRPERSON : Shri Sahu, I will take one minute. After that, you can continue.

As there is no member from the Panel of Chairmen present in the House, if the House agrees, I may call

Shri Motilal Vora to preside over the House. Will you all agree to it?

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS : Yes.

MADAM CHAIRMAN : Shri Motilal Vora, will you kindly come and take the Chair?

SHRI MOTILAL VORA (Rajmandgaon) : Yes.

[SHRI MOTILAL VORA-in the Chair]

17.51 hrs.

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SAHU : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I was referring to the shloka of the Brahat Aranya Upanishada which deals with law, administration and judge.

"Tadatam Kshatrasya Kshatram Yo Dharmah
Athah Albiyan Baliyaam Sanskrita
Dharmen Yatha Raja Yathansh."

Law is the ruler of ruler and the judge is its preseave.

Hon'ble Chairman, Sir, if you look at the old jurisprudence, you will find that the contemporary traditions of justice and the philosophy of the entire India jurisprudence has been penned down by keeping it in mind that nobody is meted out injustice whether he/she belongs to any place and whatsoever he/she is.

Hon'ble Chairman, Sir, the aims and objectives which are mentioned in this Bill, are fully justified and the matter regarding allotment of to the Government residuces which were to the judges in 1986 is still pending and decision has been taken so far in this connection. Although, the number of residences was enhanced in 1986 in the Supreme Court and High Court Judges (Conditions of Service) Act and the recommendations of the Fifth Pay Commission were to be implemented in this regard. But to my mind, that was not enacted. Hon'ble Chairman, Sir, nobody disagrees with the provisions therein. But I want to speak about your judicial reforms. Just now, an hon'ble member Shri Ajay Mukherjee was discussing the judicial reforms.

[English]

Judicial reforms is a must. Judicial reform is vital for the survival of democracy.

[Shri Chandrasekhar Sahu]

[Translation]

If we could not bring about the judicial reforms, it might cause obstruction for the democracy. An author, therefore, Shri Sarin has written—

[English]

"The Legislature has a moral duty to make the laws clear and understandable."

[Translation]

There is an occasion today, so I want to present some matters before the House. The Law Commission has clearly stated about the hon'ble judges of the Apex and High Courts that they have no compulsion and eligibility for taking part in active politics or joining a party. It has said in its recommendation in the long run to see it so that it should be ascertained as to what restrictions are there in our constitution and as to what our constitution speaks about to those judges of Supreme Court or High Courts who want to join active politics.

What does our constitution speak of The Law Commission has recommended—

[English]

"It is clearly understandable that the Supreme Court Judges should look forward to other Government employment after their retirement. The Government is a party in a large number of cases in the highest court and average citizen may well get the impression that a Judge who might look forward to being employed by the Government after his retirement does not bring to bear on his work with detachment. We are clear of the view that the practice has a tendency to affect the independence of the Judges and should be discontinued."

[Translation]

Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you I would like to draw the attention of the House and our learned Minister to the Article 124 of the Indian Constitution. It is written in Section seven of the Article 124—

[English]

"No person who has held office as a Judge of the Supreme Court shall plead or act in court or before any authority within the territory of India."

[Translation]

If the Chief Justice of India or any other Hon'ble justice wants to join active politics and wants to appear somewhere as an authority is not permissible. Orissa has witnessed it.

That is the matter related to Shri Ranganath Mishraji. I have mentioned his name here. Therefore, I would like to seek your permission and say with apology that this matter has been raised after that and therefore, so many members of this House and the hon. members of Rajya Sabha have quote this matter before the President of India. They have stated in their quoted matter before the President that it should be discussed whether the retired Judges of India have right to enter the Politics or not. Since it has been stated in Article 124. That they have no such right and therefore, it should be defined.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you I would like to draw your attention to the judgement of Kerala High Court. The Kerala High Court has held in its judgement date 9th September, 1998, regarding retired judges:—

[English]

"Dwelling in the judicial ethics and propriety of Judges. taking up the post-retirement jobs or plunging in active politics, Justice K. Narayana Kusup today observed that the act of the retired Judges in accepting posts would clearly erode the confidence of the people in the Judiciary. One can continue to make worthwhile and positive contribution to the society even after retirement without getting involved in active politics.

[Translation]

Now, it is clear that Chief Justice or any other hon'ble justice not permitted to enter politics after retirement. Mr. Chairman, Sir, Second thing, I want to say is that Surya Foundation had organised a big seminar regarding justice and its recommendations should be implemented which are already in the national agenda of Bhartiya Janta Party and its allies Government. Their agenda says that we will review the laws of India and make such a provision that may provide cheap and timely Justice to the people. We will make arrangement like this. After this, they have talked about appointment. It is clearly mentioned therein.

[English]

"A tennure of three years be made for Chief Justices of High Courts and Supreme Court. The Judges elected should be made of character and integrity.

[Translation]

It is a common point but at least a judge must be given a chance of three years serve. This is clearly written in the saminar's recommendations. It is also written there that there is a provision of long leave in working days. If some one wants to get justice, he can not have it because of proceeding on long leave by the judges and remaining closed the courts.

18.00 hrs

There are certain such sort of litigations, whose judgement is compulsory for the interest of the nation and the society but they can not be settled due to long leave. I would like to make a request that the number of 100 working days should be increased and it should raised to 220 days. I am not quoting the points said about Delhi. But I am saying about the Criminal Procedure that ...

MR. CHAIRMAN : It is 6.0'clock.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND TOURISM (SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to make a request that time of the House should be raised and this Bill be passed.

MR. CHAIRMAN : For how much time should it be extended?

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : It should be extended until the Bill is passed.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Timing of the House is extended until the Bill is passed.

SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SAHU : Mr. Cairman, Sir, I am to say about part-13 of the Criminal Procedure Code that the service of the retired judges can be taken for revision of the cases which are long pending before the chief District Magistrate. They should appointed to facilitate the work of C.D.M. and there is such provision in code.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, there are such other suggestions also which I would like to put up before the hon. Minister. There are rural litigations. Litigation over rural development is also one of the reasons of poverty. So many cases of thousands of people are pending. No judgement is given by the court there upon for years together. Some one is moving the Supreme Court, someone is moving the High Court and someone is moving the Session Judge Court.

There is no hearing of their cases. Therefore, I want to put up the matter of Alternative Judicial Forum before the hon. Minister. Arbitration is also like this. A process should be started for making an arbitrator. Any senior lawyer who has got at least twenty years of experience should be made an arbitrator. This is my submission to the hon'ble minister.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, please conclude.

SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SAHU : In the end I would once again say white wholeheartedly supporting this bill before the House that the judicial reforms be carried out with the recommendations of the Law Commission and suggestions of the Hon'ble learned Members. I would like to say that the items mentioned in the National Agenda be strictly implemented. The whole House and the entire country are with you in this regard. You just make a more once.

With these words I support this.

[English]

PROF. P.J. KURIEN (Mavelikara) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support this Bill. Our judges, whether they are in the Supreme Court or the High Courts or even the lower courts, should be well paid. The independence of the Judiciary is very important for the survival of democracy itself and if the judges are not well paid, there cannot be independence of the Judiciary and they will be subjected to social pressures. So, to get rid of such an eventuality, our judges should be paid very well. Therefore, I support this Bill and our Party also supports this Bill.

Sir, this Bill speaks about the Supreme Court and the High Court Judges only. I would like to know what the Government will do in respect of the judges in the lower courts, because their position is much worse. I do not know what action the Government will take in the matter. But I would like the Government to take some initiative to have corresponding enhancement of salaries and other perks for the judges of the lower courts also.

Sir, I feel that our judicial system needs an overall review. I say this not to criticize the system, but to emphasize the fact that thousands of cases are pending in various courts of our country.

There is a saying: "Justice delayed is justice denied." Shri Ram Jethmalani is one of the senior advocates in the country. I hope, he will agree with me that in many cases justice is denied simply because of long delay in

[Prof. P.J. Kurien]

pronouncing the ultimate verdict. Something has to be done about it. I am not from the Bar. I am not an advocate. I do not know what to do. But I know of hardships of the people in this regard. Therefore, I am expecting that this Government will do something about it.

May be a number of vacancies are to be filled up in the courts and the Government is delaying that due to various reasons. I do not deal with that now. But I know that. It seems that the Government also have some ulterior motives in some cases or may be some divergence of views with the top echelons of the Government and the Judiciary. Therefore, it is delaying. Whatever may be the reason, please sort out and see that the Judges are appointed.

You know that ultimate justice is in the Supreme Court. If a judgement is against a party in lower Court and if he is aggrieved he can go to the High Court and ultimately to the Supreme Court. Please consider how can an aggrieved person from the State of Kerala or Tamil Nadu or Karnataka or West Bengal or the North-East come to Delhi. What is the expenditure? There is no question of a poor man coming to the portals of the Supreme Court for justice. It is because of the fact that the Supreme Court is only in Delhi. And no Bench of the Supreme Court is situated in the South or the East or the North-East because of the simple fact that the ultimate justice is denied to a majority of the citizens of this country. Who can afford to come to Delhi? It was mentioned here. If you want to hire an advocate in the Supreme Court, you have to pay more.

What is the fee of an advocate in the Supreme Court? To get a good advocate like Shri Ram Jethmalani, how much have we to pay? He knows that. I give him credit. He is one of the best advocates in the country. I compliment him. But we have to pay accordingly.

THE MINISTER OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI) : Sir, for the information of the hon. Member, may I state that 90 per cent of my practice is free practice.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Oh, thank you! I am happy. I wish let there be some advocates like you.

Now, the point, therefore, is that the Government have to consider two things. Number one is about setting up of more Benches of the Supreme Court in various parts. One may be in the South at Bangalore or Chennai. You can have it in Chennai. We have no objection about

it. One could be in the North-East and one may be in Mumbai. Kindly consider setting up at least three more Benches. I have no objection.

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA (Dhandhuka) : You can have one in Gujarat also.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : With regard to High Courts, look at Uttar Pradesh. I do not know whether Uttar Pradesh has a Bench of the High Court. It is a big State. Madhya Pradesh is also a big State. They should have more Benches. There is a demand for more Judges. Even in Kerala, our High Court is in Cochin. But it is a million dollar question for a poor man in Trivandram or Calicut to reach even the High Court. Please do something about it.

I am nobody to comment on Judiciary. I will not do that. But I have one feeling as a layman that the areas are earmarked for the Judiciary, the Executive and the Legislature. There is a definite demarcation among these three wings. I am sorry when I find that there is an encroachment of one on another.

The Judiciary sometimes encroaches upon the powers of the Legislature or the Executive. Actually, the function of Judiciary is not administering or governing. They are not meant for legislation or law-making. There is a definite demarcation of functions. But these demarcations are not upheld and perhaps observed more in violation.

I do not know what is the remedy for it. But I am looking upon the Government to find some remedy for this. I admit that there is a degeneration in the political leadership, but it is not only in the political leadership. The degeneration in the political leadership is only a reflection of total degeneration of the society. It is there in the Executive also; it is there in the Judiciary also.

When a politician does something wrong, it is highlighted very much because all eyes and ears are following him. But when the same mistake is committed by the Executive, it is not highlighted. And if it is Judiciary, it is never highlighted and you will have a lid over it so that nobody sees it. It does not mean that politicians or Members or Parliament are all bad and they can be condemned. Likewise, we cannot condemn the Judiciary also.

There is a total degeneration. Therefore, the most important thing to save the institution and to retain the credibility of the institution is that each Wing of our Constitution—the Legislature, the Judiciary and the Executive—should confine to its realms and should not

encroach upon each other for the healthy running of the democratic institutions.

Now, Sir, I come to the Public Interest Litigations. In fact, it was initiated in Kerala, if I am correct, by the late Justice Subramaniam Pochi, who passed away recently. I welcome that, even though there is a controversy over that, because this has helped us in solving some of the problems that we have.

Regarding judicial activism, I would say that when the political leadership becomes weak, judicial activism becomes active. But it should not be a permanent phenomenon. It should be an exception. Yes, sometimes it could be useful, it could be helpful, but that does not mean that every judge from the lower court to the highest court thinks that he can go beyond his realms. That is not good for the system. I do not know what the Government can do about it. But I would say that instead of keeping these two water-tight compartments separately, it can be discussed with the Chief Justice of India. The Government can certainly have a dialogue with the Chief Justice of India and likewise, with Chief Justices of High Courts so that some system is evolved by which you get rid of these anomalies that have been crept into our society.

I hope, the Government will give serious attention to all the points that I have made and my special request to the hon. Minister and I want him to reply is to set up a Bench of the Supreme Court in South. I have no grudge if he has it in Chennai or in Bangalore. But I would request him to have a Bench of the Supreme Court so that the people who wish to approach the Supreme Court, at least, can file their cases at a lesser cost. Likewise, one such Bench can be considered in the North-East and one in Gujarat or elsewhere.

So, I am requesting for setting up three Benches of the Supreme Court for ensuring better justice to the people of this country.

Will this request, I once again support this Bill and I conclude.

[Translation]

PROF JOGENDRA KAWADE (Chimur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, Hon'ble Minister of Law Dr. M. Thambi Durai has introduced this Amendment Bill, 1998 to amend High Court Judges (Pay and Conditions of Service) Act, 1954 and Supreme Court Judges (Pay and Conditions of Service) Act, 1958 and I support this Bill. Nobody has any objection to raise the pay of the Hon'ble Judges of High Courts and Supreme Court. They should be provided

all amenities so that the Judges get an ample opportunity to strengthen the system of justice.

I desire to raise some points before the Minister of Law through this Bill. The way the prices are rising daily, justice has been becoming costlier and costlier. The common man of a village is under extreme stress, being harassed and is forced to go to the Courts frequently. The day before yesterday, I went to my constituency. In my constituency there is a court in my small Tehsil. I have seen there that a person wearing rags comes in the court having no chappal in his feet and goes back after getting the next date. In this way the litigation cases go on for years together. Like this thousands of cases are pending in Lower Courts to Supreme Court. Due to this justice is delayed.

One of our Hon'ble Members has said 'Justice delayed is justice denied', if this keeps, on going then in my view, the common man who has faith in courts, will no longer have faith in them. Today Judiciary is the only institution in our country in which a common man has faith and this faith needs to be strengthened. We should think over how the time factor should be reduced to get justice.

The shortcomings detected in the working of Judiciary, should be removed at all cost. Today we talk over the country wide corruption we raise slogan to remove fear, eradicate starvation and corruption. The people of the ruling party gave this slogan at the time of elections. All of us felt very happy but neither fear nor starvation nor corruption has been uprooted. Today we have reached at such a stage that unfortunately it is having said about the courts that there is possibility to hang hoards, inscribing on them "Justice is being sold here". In order to avoid such an awkward situation in our country, it is, therefore, very essential to strengthen our judiciary system. The judges of the Supreme Court and High Courts should be better paid, provided better facilities like pension etc. but it is our duty to provide proper justice to the common man. While mentioning all these facts I would like to bring to your notice that legal aid centre should be set up for the common man since it is very expensive to get justice under the present legal system. How this can be made inexpensive? There are only few people like the noted lawyer Shri Ram Jeth Malani who has pleaded the cases of the poor people free of cost. We have seen him pleading the cases of the poor people free of cost. We have sent him many cases. He did not charge even a single pie but some amount has to be spent in the courts in lieu of stamp fee. Our farmers and poor people do not have any money to be incurred on as stamp fee, to pay fee to the lawyers and to travel in the bus to come to the courts from their villages, therefore, I would

like to mention here that legal Aid Centres should be set up there. Provision has been made to provide free legal aid to the common man but it is regretted that the legal aid which he is supposed to be provided in legal aid centres, missing.

There should be some decorum to establish harmonious relationship among Judiciary, Executive and Legislature. If the legislature, Executive and Judiciary do not work within their limits and violate their limitations, then there is every possibility of malfunctioning. So, it is very essential to stop this malfunctioning and violation of one another rights. Therefore, I would like to request the Minister of Law that this matter should be considered seriously.

The people of Kerala have to come Delhi to seek justice in the Supreme Court likewise, the people of Maharashtra have to come Delhi to seek justice in the Supreme Court.

Therefore, if a bench of the Supreme Court is established at Nagpur or in any City of Central India, people of the Southern India would be able to avail themselves of the facilities. Apart from Nagpur, as my friend has said, if a bench is established at Chennai or Bangalore or in Gujarat and why it cannot be done in the same way as the benches of High Court of Maharashtra and Goa are in Nagpur and Aurangabad. Therefore, the common man should get justice through Supreme Court. If it is done it would be a better arrangement for providing justice to the common man. Please stop the increasing expenses that one has to do in order to get justice. You failed to stop the increasing prices, at least stop the escalation of expenses in getting justice. With these words I thank you and support the Bill.

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT (Shajapur) : Mr. Chairman Sir, I rise to support the High Court and Supreme Court Judges (Salary and Conditions of Service) Amendment Bill, 1998 and would like to say to the hon. Minister that it is good that salary of the judges, family pension and other facilities are increased. Salary the increase in the facilities would help Judges in dispensing justice in a proper manner. But the present position of justice is a matter of great concern. The reason for concern is that it has become a view of the common man that one may walk in carrying someones head in one hand and a bag full of currency in the other, one may walk out with impunity meaning thereby that if someone murders and carries the head in his one hand and a bag full of currency notes in the after he would be acquitted. Not only this sort of view has emerged but

surely people's have their own experiences behind it. Today you and I with feel that neither inexpensive justice nor quick justice nor easily available justice is made available in the country. Getting Justice is becoming a costly affair. The Government should think over it. The Principle of Justice says that no matter many guilty persons are acquitted not an innocent person should go to the jail, that is he should not be punished. But today it is being seen that while the criminals go scot free, the innocent ones are being convicted. There is certainly some sort of drawback somewhere in it. This situation may be due to the procedure because in getting justice the procedure of consulting the police, public prosecutor, private advocate and judges has many types of drawbacks and there is an urgent need to rectify these procedures. We have seen that even the appointments of public prosecutors are being politicised. When judges are appointed in the Supreme Court or Sessions Courts or when public prosecuptors are appointed a panel of names is called for and generally it is prepeared under the political influence of the ruling party. Those who are interested in politics or who have some hold in it find their names in the panal.

When an active politician becomes a judge, impartial justice will be affected. There must be improvement from this point of view.

Sir, there is shortage of courts at present. There are so many vacancies in the courts. There is the same condition from lower court to session court, Supreme Court and the High Court. There are no proper premises of the courts. There is no proper light arrangements in the court premises. Not even so something a shortage of stationery has also come to leght.

Due to shortage of stationery in the courts it has been noticed that stationery is brought by the accused or the client therefore, the courts should be strengthen. The pay and allowances of the judges are being increased, and this is welcome step, but the sometime the courts should also be strengthened. Not even so, the judges are feeling a sense of insecurity at present. You and all of us read in the newspapers, many times that an accused murdered another accused in the court premises. Not only in the very court premises, but in the very chamber of the judge, where cases are heard, the accused are trying to get into the chamber, in order to get justice by pressure tactics. They make efforts to influence the another person. I can say that the muscle power and moneny power have began to influence the courts, the Government and the Minister should take some measures in this direction.

As for as the sections of the justice are concerned, there are such kind of so many sections in which there is the least provision of punishment. The crimes are very serious but enough punishment is not given. Arms Act is there but the person possessing the illegal arms is not sent to jail. In such cases, there is a provision of punishment but they are penalized only. There should be a provision of strict punishment to the people who commit such type of crime.

The illegal arms, country made pistol and foreign made pistol are kept by the people. The intention of having a pistol is that he would commit crimes and commit such type of crime that would end the life of a person who is standing before him. If you do not make a provision of strictness in your laws here and there. This sort of illegal practice, which is growing in the country will continue to flourish in the some way. Due to this the crimes are also increasing and innocent people are falling prey of it.

Sir, I would like to request the Minister that there are such type of many sections in which there is the least provision of punishment, the efforts should be made to make them strict so that the criminal may think ten times before committing the crime as to whether I should commit this or not. I would like to request the Minister that the process regarding the appointment to the judges should be rectified. My predecessor speaker has explained in detail that libraries falling under the court premises and in the court should also be maintained. Judges have no books of laws, the strength of the Bar Associates for is not adequate. Such type of Books should be made available to the judges on behalf to the Government so that they may deliver the justice in a justified way. I support the Bill introduced by the Minister and make a request to him that suggests Honours given by me should also be taken in to account and the justice process be streamlined in future. Thankyou.

[English]

SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN (Quilon) : Sir, I also rise to support this Bill which is enhancing the facilities of the High Court and Supreme Court judges. Judiciary in our country is playing a very vital role in the social progress of our country. Therefore, the amenities, facilities, the salaries, allowances and other facilities of the judges should be in accordance with their status and the work which they are doing. The point which I would like to highlight is this. As far as the Supreme Court and the High Court judges are concerned, they are getting much better benefits. But when compared to the High Court and the Supreme Court judges, the conditions of service of the mofussil courts, especially, the Munsifs courts are

still very poor. There is a very high disparity between these two classes. But as far as the workload is concerned, especially, the Munsifs courts are having too much workload when compared to the others. But as per my knowledge, even these Munsifs are not having the telephones of Non-OYT (SS) category. They have not been considered so far in the No-OYT (SS) category, the reason being they can get telephones at the earliest on an out of turn basis. That is the pathetic condition of the Munsifs courts in our country.

As Shri Ajay Chakraborty has already stated, it is absolutely correct that these mofussil courts are the backbone of the Indian judiciary. But they are being totally ignored as far as their conditions of service and all other things are concerned. I absolutely agree that they are being governed by the service rules of the State Governments. Even then, when we talk about the judicial reforms of our country, we should give much stress on the lower judiciary, especially, from the Munsifs up to the district level judges.

As far as the amenities of the Supreme Court and the High Court Judges are concerned, we are enhancing them from time to time. It is being given to them and they are very well enriched with powers, especially, the discretionary powers. They are benefited by them. It is too much. It is beyond the limit also.

The second point that I would like to say is about the basic dictum of legal principle, that is, the belated justice. Due to the backlog of cases, there is a delay. I am not going into the detailed discussion in respect of that point because this is the right time to have a discussion on the judicial reforms. So far it has not taken place.

For the last ten or five years, we are all hearing about judicial activism. I am supporting this judicial activism. In one sense, judicial activism means, judiciary is active. That implies, the executive as well as the legislature is not active.

If the duties which are cast upon the Executive are done in a proper way, then the powers of the Executive or the Legislature will not be taken away by the Judiciary. So, the judicial activism, according to me, means the Judiciary being active. After the concept of Public Interest Litigations has started, the Judiciary has broadened its scope and it has broadened its powers also so that the poor people, the common people and the working class in our country are able to get justice. We all know what the cost of getting justice in India now is. Not only in India but all over the world, as far as the poor people or

[Shri N.K. Premchandran]

the common people are concerned, getting justice is a very costly affair. So, when we discuss about the judicial activism, when we discuss about the separation of powers as envisaged in the Constitution of India, even we the Parliamentarians are not discharging our duties. That is why the other wing of the Government has to come into play to fill the vacuum that is taking place in our country. That we have to attempt first and then we have to make allegations against the Judiciary. According to me, Judiciary also is going beyond its limits. I would like to cite two examples—two recent judgements of the Kerala High Court. I am not going into petrol, gas and all those things. The first judgement given by a learned Judge says that within two months, the Cochin Corporation has to kill all the mosquitoes. That is the verdict given by the court. Another judgement says that the Ramni bridge has to be completed within a particular period. Now, what is the consequence of that judgement? Is the court able to pay the money? Are they able to supply the material so that the contractor is able to complete the work within the stipulated time?

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude now.

SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN Yes, Sir, I am concluding.

So, what I would suggest is that judicial reforms should be discussed in detail and it is the right time to have the judicial reforms so that the delay in getting justice could also be avoided.

As far as the *Lok Adalats* and the Free Legal Aid Clinics are concerned, it is a good thing according to me. But nowadays it is being seen that almost all the cases which are being settled are only MACT cases. The other cases are not being settled. Of course, in MACT cases also, it is beneficial for the persons who met with motor accidents. A recent judgement of the Supreme Court has said that nobody will be given more than Rs. 5,000 at the first stage. If they want more, they have to file an affidavit and adduce evidence before the court saying that they want that money. It is also an atrocious thing as far as the beneficiaries are concerned because after having met with an accident and suffered huge damages, when compensation is awarded by the court, they are not entitled to receive that compensation. That is the position. I am not going into the details of that.

As far as decentralisation of judicial system is concerned. I come from Kerala and the State capital is Trivandrum. Lakhs and lakhs of cases are being filed in the High Court of Kerala which is situated at Cochin,

which is about 250 kilometres away from the State capital, even though it may be within the State. I think in Madhya Pradesh also the State capital is not having a High Court Bench. A senior officer who has to travel from Trivandrum to Cochin, will take one week for filing papers or giving brief to the concerned advocate of the Government and coming back. Considering the expanse also, at least the State capital should be provided with a High Court Bench. If we are not able to have a full-fledged High Court at the State capital, at least a Bench should be set up. The Government of India should take the initiative to have a High Court Bench at least in the State capital.

With these words, I once again support this Bill enhancing the facilities give to the Judges of High Courts and the Supreme Court. With these words, I conclude.

SHRI KONIJETI ROSAIAN (Narasaraopet) : Sir, while supporting this Bill brought by the Government, I have few submissions to make. The Members who have spoken before me, have already made so many points, so what I would be saying, may be a repetition. But even then I would like to join them with regard to one or two important points.

The first point is that there are a number of vacancies in the High Courts and in the lower courts also all over the country. Year after year, the time is passing, the Supreme Court also may be making efforts, but they are not able to fill up the vacancies.

Sir, today's procedure of appointing High Court judges, as is known to all, is like this. The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court and four other senior judges will sit together, look into the recommendations sent by the respective High Courts and then they will finalise the names for appointment as judges. The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court and the four senior judges may not know much about the details of the proposed candidates. They will look into some papers and based on those information, they will be finalising the list of judges to be appointed. In many cases, I can say that some people who were most deserving ones were not considered. At the same time, some people who were active in other fields but who were not active as practitioners till the other day were appointed as judges. To avoid this, I would appeal to this Government to consider constitution of a Judicial Commission which should be of a permanent nature. They can gather necessary information about the candidates, the recommendations coming from various High Courts and then, can recommend for appointment of judges. I do not say that this is a *pucca* and foolproof system but I am sure that this is going to be better than the present system of appointments.

Similarly, many Members have spoken about the backlog of cases. If you look into the pendency of cases in any High Court, you may find that the situation is horrible. There is no time limit to clear the cases. We know that many people who had preferred appeals in High Courts and Supreme Court were not able to see the judgements delivered in their life time. After the death of such petitioners, judgements are delivered. Though the Indian judiciary has been credited with independent thinking and good judgements have been delivered in many cases, yet the disposal of the backlog is again a sorry state of affairs.

To dispose of the cases, I may suggest appointment of judges on ad-hoc basis. Appointments can be made for a specific period and a specific number of cases can be given to them so that lakhs and lakhs of pending cases in this country may be disposed of in a prescribed time. Otherwise, the number of pending cases would be increasing everybody instead of coming down.

I would like to make another point. As has been said earlier, there are three important pillars due to which democracy is surviving in this country, namely, Executive, Legislature and Judiciary. There are three important areas. The Indian Constitution has earmarked their duties and has taken care of the functions of these three main wings. But of late, an unfortunate situation is seen on a number of occasions. The Judiciary is said to be encroaching into the powers of the Legislature. I need not go into specific cases but the most respected Minister and a senior lawyer knows pretty well whether there is encroachment or not and how to avoid it. If this is allowed, it will create problems in our democracy. If the Executive enters into the domain of the Legislature or if the Legislature enters into the working of the Judiciary or the Judiciary enters into the domain of the Executive, then it will create problems for the survival of Indian democracy.

It is not only that. In the garb of interpreting laws, sometimes courts are making laws for themselves. We all know very well that they have to interpret the laws, define the laws and tell us if there are any lapses in the implementation of laws. But instead of doing so, on many occasions, they are making their own laws.

One last word I would like to submit. Today, for any individual, to go to the court has become a very costly affair. There is one saying in Telugu that the man who wins the case will cry outside and the man who loses the case will fall down in the court itself. This is the general impression created all over the country. This has become very costly also. At the same time, we are seeing that the Public Interest Litigations are filed in some

of the courts. The Public Interest Litigations can be filed by any individual either in the High Court or the Supreme Court and the courts are entertaining such petitions also. For this also, some sort of a procedure and some sort of a responsibility on the part of the petitioner also must be fixed. Otherwise, what happens is that any Tom, Dick and Harry can file a Public Interest Litigation against any man in office or otherwise and even if he loses, he is going scot-free. No responsibility is fixed on him. Some of the courts have openly said this and many Members have said today that to go to a court, it has become a prohibitive thing. It is becoming very costly. But, at the same time, we all hear a number of court announcements saying that a post-card is enough; it will be taken as a petition and they will look into the matter and deliver their judgements. These two things cannot go together.

Finally, I would like to tell that even today there is a code for the judges. In many cases, they are adhering to the guidelines and code. But here and there, of late, we are seeing that the judges are also moving freely in almost all public functions. ... (*Interruptions*) I have been seen that they cut ribbons in a show-room. We are seeing the judges in the foundation-stone laying functions. We are seeing the judges in the Awards Presentation Function and we are seeing them everywhere. So, I appeal to the Government to kindly consider these aspects and, if necessary, frame some more guidelines so that the independence of the judiciary and the importance of the judiciary is maintained and felt by the people of this country.

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN (Chandigarh) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support this Bill.

As a matter of fact, salaries and allowances of the judges have already been enhanced and their pensions etc. have also been enhanced. I feel that this is one item on which nobody can have any difference of opinion. All sections of the society, people belonging to different political parties have agreed that the salaries of judges should be in consonance with the status that they are having. The judges are not the employees of any Government. They are not the employees of any authority. They hold their positions under the Constitution of India. They are the constitutional authorities. They have to decide the cases even against the President of India, the Prime Minister of India and the Government of India. Therefore, their salaries should be such that they behave their status and in consonance with their status.

Sir, the judges are in a situation to perform their duties as per the requirements laid down by the Constitution of India. So, I support the Bill, I also request

[Shri Satya Pal Jain]

the Government that like the higher judiciary, let us come to the lower judiciary also.

Some of the Members who were speaking before me did support the Government and they demanded that the salaries, pensions and other service conditions of the lower judiciary, the judicial magistrate, district judge and additional judges should also be revised because they are also performing very good job, equally important job. We cannot compare the duty of a judge of the High Court and the duty of a judicial magistrate. Both are important in their own fields. Therefore, their salaries should also be revised.

About transfer policy, the Government of India and the courts adopted the transfer policy a few years back. This transfer policy also needs reconsideration now. There are many things which have come to light during the last five years. The transfer policy has created more problems than it has solved. The whole judicial system is now demanding review of the transfer policy. Let us come to that. Let us involve people in that and take a firm decision regarding revision of transfer policy so that the judges totally feel free.

About the vacancy of judges, I am in agreement with my colleagues who have said that vacancies should be filled as early as possible. I stand for Judicial Commission. Let there be a Judicial Commission which should decide the appointment of judges the day a judge retires. Let another judge be appointed before a judge retires so that if today one judge retires the next morning the new judge takes over the charge. Regarding these vacancies, I am very happy to say that now the Supreme Court has solved the controversy. Unfortunately, there was a controversy in this country involving even the judges also. There were complaints against the judges by the judges themselves. I am not talking of complaints against the judiciary by the people, who are outside the judiciary. People have been writing letters to the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. Judges have been writing letters to them about the appointments and transfer. I feel that it is high time the Judiciary also do some introspection and this introspection be done by the Judiciary itself so that they are in a position to remove all the doubts about themselves, by the judicial process.

About the strength of judges, I would like to say that the strength of the judges also needs to be increased. Now, with 27 or 26 judges in the Supreme Court, you cannot decide the case of 100 crore people. Similar is the case in different High Courts with 30 or 38 or 40 judges. I feel that the strength of the Supreme Court as

well as the High Court judges should at least be doubled so that they decide the cases expeditiously.

Some hon. Members have pointed out about setting up of Benches, I totally support this issue. Let there be Benches of the Supreme Court in South India also. Let there be Benches of the Supreme Court in the North-East also because when I visited the North-East—perhaps you were also with us as a Member of the Delegation—many people complained to us in the North-East that if a person from Agartala has to go to Delhi to file a case, it takes him three or four days to reach Delhi. Therefore, let there be Benches in those places so that people can file their cases there itself.

Lastly, let us not see any confrontation between the Judiciary and the Executive or the Judiciary and the legislature. All the three are autonomous in their own fields. Let us perform our assigned duties. Let the Judiciary perform its own job. Let the Legislature legislate and let the Executive execute decisions. Let the Judiciary decide and interpret. Let us not see any confrontation. Instead of confrontation, let all the three organs adopt self-restraint. Let Judges also not cast unnecessary aspersions on the Legislature and the same time, let the Legislature also not call Judges, and involve them in every controversy.

With these remarks, I hope the Government will very soon take a decision about revising the salary of the lower judiciary also. Thank you very much.

SHRI T.R. BAALU (Madras South) : Mr. Chairman, I welcome this amendment Bill pertaining to the High Court and the Supreme Court Judges, Salary and Conditions of Service (Amendment) Bill.

I request and pray the Judges of the High Court as well as the Supreme Court that after their retirement they should not join any political forum or indulge in any active politics. At the end of their service as Judges, whatever judgement that had been pronounced will definitely have political colour.

So, to avoid such comments, I would request all the judges not to involve in active politics after their retirement.

Sir, sometimes, the judges declare that the judgement is reserved. But that reserved judgement should not take months together to be pronounced. So, I would request that there should be a time-bound programme for pronouncing the judgements. At the same time, I would request the Government not to transfer any judge while he is hearing a case, because once the judge is transferred, the judgement gets delayed. There is a

famous saying that 'justice delayed is justice denied.' That should not happen due to the transfer judges.

As for as the constitution of additional courts to hear the corruption charges against persons who were holding High offices is concerned, there is a lot of delay and particularly, in the case pertaining to Madam Jayalalitha, it was delayed very much. The Bench heard the case.
(Interruptions)

SHRI C. GOPAL (Arakkomam) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the cases are pending before the court. The matter is *sub judice*. So, he cannot speak about it here.

SHRI T.R. BAALU : Sir, I am not going into the details of the cases.

SHRI C. GOPAL : When the cases are pending before the court, he is not entitled to speak about them here, on the floor of the House. ... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Baalu, please speak on the Bill.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI T.R. BAALU : Sir, I am not at all going into the details of the cases.

SHRI C. GOPAL : Sir, he is not entitled to speak about them here. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI T.R. BAALU : Sir, regarding the constitution of Special Courts, the court had heard the case and after hearing the case, the judgement was reserved.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Baalu, you have to speak only on the Bill.

SHRI T.R. BAALU : Sir, the Chief Justice and Justice Shri Raju heard the case, but Justice Raju was transferred before he delivered the judgement. Why was he transferred when he reserved the judgement? ... (Interruptions) Here, in this case, justice was not denied. The Supreme Court heard the case and decided that the decision taken by the Government of Tamil Nadu in constituting the Special Courts is valid.

Now, ... Under Secretary in the Department of Parsonnel of the Government of India has just gone back from his earlier affidavit. ... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Baalu, a number of cases are pending everywhere. Why are you speaking about one case only? Please speak on the Bill.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI T.R. BAALU : Sir, he has stated in his earlier affidavit that as per Section 3 of the Prevention of Corruption Act, it is left to the State Government to group cases for purpose of the Notification and that the State Government shall be in a better position to judge the needs and exigencies of the State. ... (Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. M. THAMBI DURAI) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, this is not correct. Certain remarks have to be removed from the record. I would request you to remove them from the record.

SHRI T.R. BAALU : Sir, this was stated by the Under Secretary in the Madras High Court. Now, in the Supreme Court, he says that the central Government has to be consulted only. ... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Baalu, please speak only on the Bill.

... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Whatever is objectionable, it has to be expunged from the record.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI T.R. BAALU : Sir, since Madam Jayalalitha's Party AIADMK is an ally of this Government, particularly under the instructins of the Law Minister, the Government has filed an affidavit like this. ... (Interruptions) I would like to know why a different norm was adopted in filling the affidavit in the Supreme Court. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI R. MUTHIAH : Mr. Chairman, Sir, he should speak only about the Bill.

SHRI T.R. BAALU : Sir, I hope that the Law Minister and the Prime Minister would definitely withdraw this affidavit.

With these words, I conclude.

19.00 hrs

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA (Andaman and Nicobar Islands) : Sir, now it is 7 o'clock.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The House has given its consent till the Bill is passed.

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA (Andaman and Nicobar Islands) : When?

MR. CHAIRMAN : The time has already been extended.

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA : It was up to 7 o'clock.

MR. CHAIRMAN : No. It was said : "... till such time the Bill is passed." Now, it will take only 15 minutes. A decision has already been taken.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA) : How many speakers are there?

MR. CHAIRMAN : There are only four speakers.

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : Our problem is that there is a Cabinet meeting at 7 o'clock.

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA : Sir, you better adjourn the House.

MR. CHAIRMAN : As you like.

SHRI S. MALLIKARJUNIAH (Tunkur) : Hon. Chairman, Sir, when we come to the office and give a notice for Zero Hour, our turn will never come. When we give it for Calling Attention, our turn again does not come. A very little time is given to us.

If the time is not given to us, there is no use of our coming to the House. I request the hon. Chairman to see that everybody is given sufficient time to speak so that he could ventilate his grievances. We cannot sit here to keep a mum and go back to our houses. We must be given an opportunity. Everybody should have an opportunity to express his feelings.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Mensinkal can continue.

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : It is all right for tomorrow.

*SHRI B.M. MENSINKAI (Dharwar South) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to wholeheartedly support the High Court and Supreme Court Judges (Salaries and Conditions of Service) Amendment Bill, 1998.

At the outset, I would like to say the President of India can take the concurrence of the Prime Minister and the opposition party leader while appointing the judges. While increasing the salary of the judges, it should not be done as it is the case of employees of unions and other Government employees who used to get by resorting to strike and bandhs. I support the view that the salary of High Court and Supreme Court should be enhanced.

There are no transportation facilities to the judges in the Session Courts, Magistrate Courts and other moffussil Courts. Tahsildars, Assistant Commissioners and other officials even at the Taluk level have transportation facilities. I therefore appeal to you that some decent transportation facility should be provided to all judges.

There is only one High Court in the capital city of Karnataka, Bangalore. This does not cater to the needs of the entire State. I, therefore, urge upon the Government of India to set up a bench of Karnataka High Court at Hubli-Dharwar. One of my hon. colleagues has said that the retired judges should not take up any other job after their retirement as judges. In this connection I would like to suggest to the Government of India that these retired judges should be appointed as Government of States. These judges have the ability and capacity to protect the Constitution. Hence they should be appointed as Governors of States.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude. Finish it now.

SHRI B.M. MENSINKAI : Yes, Sir. In England, the cases in the courts are cleared early. They have a special law for this. Here in our country the courts can dispose the cases quickly by applying this special law which is in vogue in England. The present procedure in our courts is very lengthy. In this regard, an amendment may be passed in the Parliament to avoid unnecessary delay to dispose the cases.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now you please conclude.

SHRI B.M. MENSINKAI : Yes, Sir. Once again I support this High Court and Supreme Court Judges

Amendment Bill, 1998, which seeks to enhance the salaries of Judges. I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak. With these words, I conclude my speech.

[Translation]

PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA (Samastipur) : Mr. Chairman Sir, the bill that has been introduced to increase the facilities of the Judges of High Court and the Supreme Court. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SOME HON. MEMBERS : Sir, it is time. We will continue tomorrow ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. M. THAMBI DURAI : Sir, I have to go to a Cabinet Meeting.

MR. CHAIRMAN : All right. Prof. Mehta, you will continue tomorrow.

The House stands adjourned to meet again tomorrow, the 17th December 1998 at 1100 hours.

19.06 hrs

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Thursday, December 17, 1998/Agrahayana 26, 1920 (Saka)

