

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Fourth Session
(Fourteenth Lok Sabha)



FOR REFERENCE ONLY

(Vol. VIII contains Nos. 11 to 20)

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Monday, March 21, 2005/Phalgun 30, 1926 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

(MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER in the Chair)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, we take up Question Hour. Q. No. 241.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

YOGI ADITYA NATH (Gorakhpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have to make a submission. I have given notice for Adjournment Motion. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: First, we will have Question Hour. Please say whatever you want to after the Question Hour.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: This is Question Hour. After the Question Hour, you can raise it. First, we will have to take up the Question Hour. Then only we will take up the other matters.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

YOGI ADITYA NATH: On 16th in Delhi High Court and on 17th March. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

(Interruptions)...

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Q. No. 241 – Shrimati Anuradha Choudhary

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: After the Question Hour, you can raise it. Nothing is going to be recorded. Please sit down.

(Interruptions)...

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Member, please sit down. This is not to be recorded.

(Interruptions)...

11.01 hrs.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[Translation]

Social Security Scheme for Contract and Industrial Labourers

*241. + SHRIMATI ANURADHA CHOUDHARY:
SHRI MOHD. TAHIR:

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is likely to announce a social security scheme for all the workers including contract and industrial labourers in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has reviewed the wages of the daily workers;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government is contemplating to amend the Labour Laws; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRA SHEKHAR RAO): (a) to (f) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) Yes Sir. The Employees' Provident Fund Organisation under the Employees' Provident Fund and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952 has been operating following three Schemes for the workers in the organized sector including workers engaged on contract basis and industrial labourers:

(i) The Employees' Provident Fund Scheme 1952

(ii) Employees' Pension Scheme, 1995 and

(iii) Employees' Deposit Linked Insurance Scheme, 1976

Similarly, the Employees State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) has been implementing schemes for sickness & disability benefits for its members and medical & maternity care for them & their families. Recently, the ESIC announced 'Rajiv Gandhi Shramik Kalyan Yojana to provide unemployment benefit to the workers who lose their jobs involuntarily. ESIC is also contemplating extension of coverage to workers in all municipal areas in the country. The Government have also been implementing Social Security Schemes including financial assistance for construction of houses, scholarships to school/college going children, group insurance and medical healthcare to the workers and their families engaged in beedi rolling, certain non-coal mine workers and cine workers under their respective welfare funds. The Government have recently enhanced the rate of cess on manufactured beedis from Rs. 2/- to Rs. 4/- per one thousand beedis to augment the fund position.

The Government have also appointed the National Commission on Enterprises in the informal/ unorganized sector under the Chairmanship of Dr. Arjun Sengupta to look into the problems of unorganized sector including social security. The Government have been further contemplating to bring out a legislation which inter alia, would provide social security to the unorganized sector workers. Consultations are being held with State Governments, central trade unions and other stakeholders on the draft of such a legislation the 'Unorganized Sector Workers Bill, 2004'.

(c) and (d) Minimum wages fixed by the appropriate Governments under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948 in respect of scheduled employments under their respective jurisdiction are also applicable to those engaged on daily basis. The Act provides for revision of the minimum wages at an interval not exceeding five years. Wherever minimum wages have a Variable Dearness Allowance (VDA) component, the VDA is revised periodically twice a year.

(e) and (f) Review/ updation of labour laws is an ongoing process. Changes in the Labour laws are effected after detailed consultations with the social partners with a view to harmonise the interests of all stakeholders. Action has been initiated to amend certain Acts like the Payment of Wages Act, 1936, which seeks to ensure payment of wages in time and does not allow any unauthorized deductions. Presently, it covers those employees who draw wages upto Rs.1600/- per month. It is proposed to increase this ceiling to Rs.6500/- per month to enlarge the coverage of workers. The amendment Bill has been passed by the Rajya Sabha on 02.12.2004. It would be taken up in the Lok Sabha in due course.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI ANURADHA CHOUDHARY: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government propose to constitute a commission for the unorganised sector and whether the Government have prepared a pilot project for social security scheme for unorganised labourers in the districts of various states during the last few years. If so, what is the present status of that project?

[English]

SHRI K. CHANDRA SHEKHAR RAO: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Government have recently appointed the National Commission on Enterprises under the Chairmanship of Dr. Arjun Sengupta to look into the unorganised sector workers. The matter is under examination. A Bill is also under consideration. The consultation to look into matters of unorganised sector workers is on. Very shortly, the Government will come before the House in the form of a Bill.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI ANURADHA CHOUDHARY: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to submit that some time back we came to know through newspapers that it has been provided in the scheme prepared by the Government for government pensioners that government pension would be discontinued in future. I want to ask the hon. Minister whether it is true?

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, she wants to know something about pension.

SHRI K. CHANDRA SHEKHAR RAO: The pension contemplated for the work force in the unorganised sector is also a part of the consultation process. That will be a part of the Bill.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHD. TAHIR: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, have the Government prepared a pilot scheme for social security in 50 districts for the last few years? What is the present status of this scheme? Has revision in the wage of the workers also been discussed with trade unions and non-government organisations?

[English]

SHRI K. CHANDRA SHEKHAR RAO: Sir, a scheme was launched on a pilot basis in 50 districts of the country. But that scheme was not having a statutory back-up. It is

under examination of Dr. Arjun Sengupta Commission. We will shortly come before the House in the shape of a Bill.

[Translation]

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Governments come and Governments go and each time new schemes are promised to be launched for the welfare of the public. Hon. Minister has said in his reply that "Rajiv Gandhi Shramik Kalyan Yojana has been announced to provide unemployment benefit to the workers who lose their jobs involuntarily. ESIC is also contemplating extension of coverage to workers in all municipal areas in the country." The Government has never bothered about the employees of Municipal Corporation, Panchayats, workers at airports or labourers working at railway stations on contract basis. Their health and education of their children have not been taken care of, even their children are not provided books. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether any work is going on under the schemes which are being mentioned and whether these schemes are being implemented? I have not noticed their implementation anywhere. Whether any survey has been carried out in this regard? Labourers working on the basis of daily wages belong to scheduled castes, scheduled tribes, poor and backward classes. The time by which survey is likely to be conducted in this regard and whether fair treatment would be meted out to them after conducting the survey?

SHRI K. CHANDRA SHEKHAR RAO: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to inform the hon. Minister that so far ESIC scheme is operating in only 365 municipalities while there are more than 1600 municipalities and 120 municipal corporations in the country. A decision to implement this scheme all over the country has been taken recently. The Government have decided to implement ESIC at places with a population of more than 10 thousand. The hon. Member has mentioned 'Rajiv Gandhi Shramik Kalyan Yojana' regarding which I would like to tell that I have announced to give 50 per cent unemployment benefit on the last drawn salary for the six months to 80 lakhs insured persons of ESIC if they lose their jobs due to lock out, or any other reason. We would implement this scheme.

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA: Those working in panchayats do not get any benefits. Justice should be done with them first.

SHRI K. CHANDRA SHEKHAR RAO: As it is well known, at present the organised sector has only 7 per cent of the workers and 93 per cent work force is in the unorganised sector. Therefore, it is being contemplated to cover all the workers of the unorganised sector under this scheme. The Government would soon bring a bill in this regard in the House.

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is my duty to raise issues about the labourers. Be it community participation or workers working on daily wages in the Electricity Department or those working in Village Defence Committees or SPOs, some of them get Rs. 500 per month and some get Rs. 12 per month. ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please put the question.

[Translation]

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH: I would like to know about the policy under which wages are paid to the labourers in an arbitrary manner. What steps the Government propose to take in this regard?

SHRI K. CHANDRA SHEKHAR RAO: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I agree that there are difficulties in implementing minimum wages in the unorganised sector. That is why, we are introducing a bill to take care of the unorganised work force. Once that bill is passed, it would be implemented strictly and it would benefit them greatly.

[English]

SHRIMATI C.S. SUJATHA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government is contemplating to amend the Labour Contract (Abolition Regulation) Act in favour of contract workers so as to give maximum regularisation for them.

SHRI K. CHANDRA SHEKHAR RAO: Sir, the Contract Labour Act was enacted in the year 1970 to abolish the contract labour system. The Act is already in force.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there is a system to fix minimum wages in every state and the Government of India has recently announced an Employment Guarantee scheme all over the country under which persons working under that scheme would be paid wages as per the minimum wages fixed in the states. In some states the minimum wage for the casual labourer is fixed at Rs. 250 per day and in some states it is just Rs. 56. There is a difference in wages because of the disparity between poor states and rich states. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government would consider to bring an amendment in the Minimum Wages Act so that uniformity in the daily wages for casual labourers or an appropriate system is evolved in this regard?

[English]

SHRI K. CHANDRA SHEKHAR RAO: Sir, under the

Minimum Wages Act of 1948, appropriate Governments fix the wage limit. This depends on the variable Dearness Allowance.

[Translation]

There is a Committee of Government, there is a Minimum Wages Board and the State Governments fix it in their respective states after consultation with them. It is under the purview of the State Governments and they will take care of it.

SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: Through you, I would like to say that the hon'ble Minister, in his reply has accepted that the three schemes namely – Employees Provident Fund Scheme, Employees Pension Scheme, Employees Fixed Term Deposit Insurance Scheme are being implemented by the Government for the welfare of workers. But it is very sad and I would like to put this before the House that the figure with regard to these workers have been prepared by Government officials. The labour organisations which are engaged in construction work, with builders or in big factories, have not been registered in the records. The figures regarding the workers are understand, then how can we benefit them with this scheme?

Delhi is the capital of India. Thousands of buildings are being constructed in Delhi, and these workers are engaged by the builders. Poor people, be it from Malda in West Bengal, Bihar or Punjab, come here. They are exploited by the builders. They are neither included in the organisation nor covered under any scheme of the Union Government. There is a law for everything, be it Minimum Wages, Government medicines, education of their children or entertainment for them. But what are the Government planning to do the implement these things?

SHRI K. CHANDRA SHEKHAR RAO: I agree with the hon'ble Minister. An Act has been passed for building construction workers which is in force in states like Kerala and Delhi, for the remaining States notification is yet to be issued. I am willing to accept one thing and would like to repeat in the House that we are talking of Minimum Wages, this problem is mainly coming in the unorganised sector. There are 1492 employment schedules out of which 45 employment schedules are in the Central sector and 1447 in the state sector. Under the 1447 employment schedule the State Governments are working on providing Minimum Wages to the workers under identified employment. Along with this, the Central Government works on providing minimum wages to the remaining 45 which are in the Central Sector. I understand that in today's context we will have to accept that even today we receive several complaints regarding non-implementation of the Minimum Wages Act both in the State and the Central sectors. One Arjun Sen

Committee has been appointed by the Government to look into this matter completely in an integrated manner. The committee is studying these things speedily and the Government would introduce a bill in this regard before the House.

MD. SALIM: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we know that the work is getting shifted in the organised and unorganised sectors, formal and informal sectors. In his reply regarding the employees of organised sector, the hon'ble Minister has stated that the Government are going to introduce a bill whereas the basic question was as to what the Government proposed to do for the people who worked under the contractors in the unorganised sector. The Government are talking about appointing a Committee but the economic survey shows that the number of workers is reducing in the organised sector and increasing the unorganised sector. I would like to know whether the Government have formulated any scheme for providing benefits such as social security, housing, education for their children, medical benefits to the labourers and what would be the source of their income for a square meal during the leave period. The Government have said that they have no such scheme at present. It is very sad that even after 57 years of independence there is no scheme for these labourers. I would like to know from the Minister of Labour of the UPA Government as to what schemes are being take up by the Government for labour welfare and to provide all the facilities to the labourers in the unorganised sector in their Common Minimum Programme.

SHRI K. CHANDRA SHEKHAR RAO: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to tell the hon'ble Member that an Act of the Ministry of Labour is already there to ensure Minimum Wages for the labourers of the unorganised sector and the Government keep trying in this direction under this Act. The other Government departments also work alongwith us. New houses are constructed for the people living below poverty line under the Indira Awas Yojana. The Government have recently been trying to implement and Employment Guarantee Scheme of which the hon'ble Member is well aware. The Government are implementing schemes like N.R.E.G.S., Rural Health Scheme, Antyodaya Scheme for their welfare. The other government departments are also working for their welfare. It would not be fair to say that the work for their welfare has been left incomplete. A committee has been appointed to look into matters related to injustice being done to the labourers of the unorganised sector in giving Minimum Wages to them.

Soon after receiving a report from the Committee the Government would bring a bill in the House in which it will try to provide Minimum Wages to them.

SHRI ALOK KUMAR MEHTA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, due to contract labour in the industrial sector the labourers

are deprived of their rights based on labour laws and the contractors exploit them. The industrial sector also helps the contractors so that they could save upon their expenses on facilities to be given under the labour laws. I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister that if it is so then whether the Government are planning to make a time bound scheme to abolish the contract system.

SHRI K. CHANDRA SHEKHAR RAO: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, as I have told that the Government are planning to bring a Bill in this regard. The Government would keep an eye on the Contract System or the agriculture sector wherever labourers are being deprived of their rights. The Government keep receiving complaints from the unorganised sector regarding labourers. The Union Government review them periodically, undertake inspection thereof and effect convictions also. Therefore, the Government would bring a bill in the House to take care of all these things and would try to enforce it.

SHRI RAJNARAYAN BUDHOLIA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, recently the ISIC has announced a Rajiv Gandhi Labour Welfare Scheme to provide unemployment benefits to those labourers who lose their jobs. Through you, I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister as to when the above announcement was made and by when the Government would implement this scheme and by when the labourers would be given unemployment allowance.

SHRI K. CHANDRA SHEKHAR RAO: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, a few days back I made an announcement before the House that if the 80 lakh people of Rajiv Gandhi Labour Welfare Scheme who are insured persons of ESIC, lose their jobs due to lock out etc. then for six months they would be paid half the amount of salary they were getting. This would be implemented during the current financial year, i.e. from 1st April, after the budget is passed.

[English]

SHRI C. KUPPUSAMI: Sir, the Government has announced a social security scheme for unorganised workers including pension. In the same way, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government is contemplating to bring a scheme covering the contract workers and other industrial workers who do not come under the purview of the ESIC scheme as a social security measure.

SHRI K. CHANDRA SHEKHAR RAO: Sir, I have already made it very clear that ESIC scheme is partially implemented in the country now. The Government has taken a decision to expand the ESIC coverage to provide social security to the work force all over the country. Very soon, we will start implementing it across the nation.

[Translation]

SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, both agriculture and beedi making are such sectors under the unorganised sector wherein large number of labourers are employed. But they do not get the benefit of social security pension due to lack of proper registration. Even their children also do not get the benefit of other schemes which they should get. It has been observed that in beedi sector a single person of a family is registered as a worker and a card is issued in his name but he is assisted by 5-6 members of his family in this work. Since the names of his family members are not mentioned anywhere, they remain deprived of the benefit of this scheme. I would like to know as to what the Government is considering to do in this regard?

SHRI K. CHANDRA SHEKHAR RAO: Sir, as per the assessment of entire country 80 lakh people are employed in the Beedi Sector. Recently, I have increased the welfare cess by Rs. 2/- which is collected for the welfare of beedi workers and I hope an additional income of Rs. 100 crore will be generated through this which will be sufficient to take more welfare measures.

SHRI CHANDRA MANI TRIPATHI: Sir, I would like to tell the hon'ble Minister that the contract labourers should get wages as per the Minimum Wages Act. Minimum Wages are being revised from time to time based on price index released by Shimla based Labour Bureau. Whether the hon'ble Minister is aware that in many states the labourers are getting wages less than the wages prescribed under Minimum Wages Act. As per the provisions of the prevailing Act the rule for retrenchment is that "First come last go" whereas in the case of contract labour this Provision is not followed strictly and the contract labourers employed earlier are also being sacked arbitrarily. This is a sort of mockery that the labourers who are removed from their jobs will be absorbed under Rajiv Gandhi Labour Welfare Scheme. I would like to say that the contract labourers are the most exploited. My submission is that they should not be removed from the job and law of the land should be adhered to. Will the hon'ble Minister tell us about the date of wages mentioned by them and since when revision in this regard under Shimla Price Index have not been carried out.

SHRI K. CHANDRA SHEKHAR RAO: As far as minimum wages are concerned, I have stated that only 45 scheduled employment are taken care of by the Central Government.

[English]

At the same time, 1445 scheduled employment are taken care of by the State Governments.

[Translation]

Rajiv Gandhi Welfare Scheme is a first step towards the welfare of workers. Till today no such scheme was there in the country. We did not have employment benefit scheme in our country. It is a beginning and in future it would be expanded. We will make efforts to increase its coverage also. As regards price-index, which is being mentioned here, whenever we get complaint regarding reduction in payment of minimum wages, we take action on it. If hon'ble Member brings any specific case to our notice, then we will take action on it. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You please sit down. You have asked the Question.

KUNWAR MANVENDRA SINGH: Hon'ble Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to ask the hon'ble Minister as to what arrangement the Government is making to provide employment to educated unemployment youth in future. The situation of unemployment has become explosive. Crime is increasing everywhere in the country. Just now, the hon'ble President and the Vice-President have expressed their concern over this issue in the Central Hall. I feel that the august House would agree to my view that this is an important issue. The Central Government and the State Government have no provision to provide employment to those children who have completed their education. If the Government do not pay immediate attention towards this, the situation might become explosive. Today the youth are committing suicide. They approach us with their problems. The Government have to make arrangement to provide employment to them. This issue should be seriously debated in the House.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You have given a good suggestion.

[English]

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Sir, the learned Minister of Labour has said that he is appointing committees, editing reports, looking into the matter and the Government is trying to do everything that is possible. Every word that he has said is in the future tense. We have been listening to this type of answers from the hon. Ministers of Labour for more than a decade. All his predecessors, whatever Party they may belong to, had been speaking in the same language, holding out the same promise.

But the hon. Minister of Labour should know that minimum wage is not being notified, minimum wage is not being reviewed and minimum wage is not being enforced. He was saying that if a person does not pay the minimum wage, he is punished. Let him place before the House the details as to on how many occasions a particular business

house or a contractor was hauled up or arrested for violating the provision of minimum wage. Everything is on paper. Labour is a Concurrent subject. He cannot pass it on to the State Government only. It is a Concurrent subject.

Therefore, I would like to ask from the hon. Minister of Labour as to in how many cases people have been penalised for not paying the minimum wage and is he aware that even the public sector units-of which the Central Government is the owner – do not pay the minimum wage, do not pay the provident fund and do not pay the ESIC dues. In view of this, what action is he going to take at least with regard to the defaulters in the public sector?

SHRI K. CHANDRA SHEKHAR RAO: Sir, I would like to inform the hon. Member that Government takes very serious action whenever there is a provident fund default. I am supposed to answer another Question today, at serial No 7, wherein I have given all the details. I think it is available with the hon. Member. It gives the total details of the convictions for provident fund default cases which were filed in one year. During the year 2003-2004, the EPF Organisation could achieve convictions in 2,396 cases.

It is not that the Government does not act. We definitely act. But I agree with the hon. Member that. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, my question was on minimum wages and not on provident fund.

SHRI K. CHANDRA SHEKHAR RAO: Still we receive so many complaints on the subject of minimum wages. I have already mentioned that there is State sector and also Central sector. In the State sector, there are about 1,445 scheduled employments which are taken care of by the respective State Governments. The State Governments take care of these things and they fix the minimum wages. There are State-level Minimum Wages Boards. I would like to inform the hon. Member that in the Central sphere, the number of inspections made was 15,212; the number of irregularities rectified was 1,87,000; the number of claims filed was 3,956; and the number of persons prosecuted was 5,260. This is about the Central sector.

I have information from 20 States. A lot of inspections take place and a lot of convictions also take place. It is not that the Government sits totally quiet.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Central public sector units are also defaulting. How many of them have been punished?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: He is giving the reply.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI K. CHANDRA SHEKHAR RAO: Sir, I fully share the concern of the hon. Member. The Government is also equally concerned to look into the matter with an integrated approach. To find solutions only, the Arjun Sengupta Commission has been appointed. Once the Commission submits its Report, the Government will come forward with concrete proposal to take care of all the workers who are not getting the minimum wages,

[Translation]

This Commission has been constituted only for those with whom injustice is being done today.

[English]

I assure the Member that very shortly, the Government will come in the form of a Bill to take care of the workers in the unorganised sector.

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Whether agricultural labourers have also been included in that?

SHRI K. CHANDRA SHEKHAR RAO: 40 crore people are engaged in unorganised sector in the entire country out of which 20 crore people are engaged in agriculture. Agricultural labourers are also included in unorganised sector. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Kumari Mamta Banerjee.

...*(Interruptions)*

KUNWAR MANVENDRA SINGH: Hon. Minister has not replied to what I had asked.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yours was a suggestion; it was not a supplementary.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have already accommodated you. Please sit down.

KUNWAR MANVENDRA SINGH: Sir, you ask the hon. Minister to reply to it. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You have not asked the question. What can I say him to reply to? Please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this is a very important question about social security scheme. If I remember correctly, the NDA Government had

also started one social security scheme before elections. Even in my constituency, three or four places had been selected and I had organised a function where Provident Fund Commissioner was also present. I want to know what is the future of that social security scheme which covered the unorganised sector specifically.

In the Western countries, there are social security schemes, but in our country, now a days, in the name of economic reforms, they are curtailing the benefits of employees. We are in favour of economic reforms, but it does not mean that we have to curtail the benefits of the employees. What is going on today is that the employees are not getting the amounts of their provident funds, whether they are in the State Government sector or the Central Government sector. The number of defaults of provident fund is so high that the employees are not getting their provident funds. Now, in the Budget, the Government has imposed tax on the provident funds. About the Employees' Provident Fund Scheme, you have said that you are going to increase interest on contributions made to Employees' Provident Fund Scheme from 8.5 per cent to 9.5 per cent. When it is going to be implemented?

I want to know specifically from the Government when they are going to pass the Social Security Bill. In the name of passing such a Bill, 50 years are going to be over. We want to know specifically for the unorganised sector. It can include bidi workers, it can include rickshaw-pullers, it can include unemployed youth, it can include farmers, and it can include everybody else. May I ask the hon. Minister whether he can give us a time-frame? This is a very important question.

Generally, I do not ask questions, but this is not a political question. I am asking this question keeping in mind the point of view of all sections of the House. Hence, there is no difference between you and me on this issue.

Is there any time limit by which you are going to lay this Bill in the House? I would like to ask this question from the hon. Minister.

SHRI K. CHANDRA SHEKHAR RAO: Sir, it is a fact that a scheme was launched on a pilot-basis in 50 districts. It is a fact, but that scheme was not having any statutory back-up. It was voluntary in nature, and the employers were not coming forward to pay their contribution.

As we all know, nobody comes and deposits his portion of subscription on a voluntary basis. Hence, the Government is fine-tuning this Bill. After fine-tuning the Bill and giving it a statutory back-up, the scheme will be launched very soon. The whole issue is being looked into with an integrated approach, and for that reason only the Government has appointed the Arjun Sengupta Commission.

I assure the Member that as soon as the Arjun Sengupta Commission submits the Report, the Government will take all necessary steps.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Last supplementary to be asked by Shri Ganesh Singh.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: Hon'ble Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have also given a notice. Therefore, I would also like to ask supplementary question on this issue. Please allow me also to ask question.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: For the last 45 minutes discussion is going on over a single question. Now you please sit down.

SHRI GANESH SINGH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there is no uniform labour law for the entire country due to which the labourers, belonging to any of the sector are not getting justice. The people of the country particularly our colleagues from left parties had great expectations from UPA Government that improvement will certainly be made in labour laws and the labourers would be benefited but nothing of that sort happened.

Cement industries are located in my Constituency. These industries employ large number of contract labourers, who are asked to do skilled work. They have been working in these industries for the last 30 years but they have not been made permanent, nor are they being given any facility. They were asked to fill a form for GPF and then they have been asked to do skilled work whereas they are not being paid wages as per the Wage Board. Therefore, I would like to ask hon. Minister whether the Government propose to enact any new law for preventing constant exploitation of workers? Further, whether the Govt. propose to fill up vacant posts of workers from amongst contract labourers and labourers employed in the Construction Sector?

SHRI K. CHANDRA SHEKHAR RAO: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have already replied to the question of the hon. Member.

Status of Industry to Tourism

*242. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal to accord status of basic industry to tourism is under the consideration of the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to tell the hon. Minister that economy of many countries in the world is fully dependent on tourism. Now it has become the main source of earning foreign exchange. Tourism provides employment to 11 lakh persons directly and 47 lakh persons indirectly. It has ample opportunities in India. For example, places like Budha circuits, forest tourist spots, Banarsiakhud, Kashinagar, Samath, Lehria Devi etc. in U.P. are such places which could not be developed from tourism angle because of constraint of funds. I would like to ask hon. Minister the reasons behind not according the status of industry to tourism and whether the Government propose to reconsider it in future?

[English]

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Sir, I am very grateful, and, through you, I would like to appreciate the hon. Member for raising this particular question. It is right that tourism should be given the infrastructure status and all the facilities and concessions of an industry. However, you will appreciate that tourism comprises of many aspects, which includes service. We have encouraged State Governments to recognise these as service sectors and industrial sector, and some concessions are already established in different parts of the country. We have given all kinds of encouragement. Our Tourism Finance Corporation gives certain concessions, including concessions under the Income-Tax Act. It would be valuable if the hon. Member could take up this matter with the respective State.

[Translation]

SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Govt. have launched Atithi Devo Bhava Campaign and how much funds the Govt. have allocated for this purpose during the current year? And how much financial assistance the Govt. is presently for tourism to grant it status of industry..

[English]

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Some of the biggest complaints we have always received from visitors who come to our country is below the line service provisions,

which are not up to the standards. 'Atithi Devo Bhava' has been launched as an ambitious national domestic programme in order to be able to give a training component for those service providers below the line, such as our taxi drivers, tour guides, waiters, etc. We ran the 'Atithi Devo Bhava' programme in the primary segment in seven States so that we could get the feedback. There are seven *sutras* which are being implemented under this Scheme. We are happy to tell the hon Member and the rest of the House that we have had a tremendous response. Most hoteliers as well as private operators have come forward wanting to associate with this benchmark provision of service that we are giving. It will also encourage shops, restaurants, including national highway petrol stations, to be able to have this benchmark to facilitate tourists.

Under the current Session, we are looking at reviewing the Budget because this is the first time an ambitious project like this has been established. We are looking at the feedback before we launch it all over India.

SHRI LALIT MOHAN SUKLABAIIDYA: Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, North-East is an underdeveloped Region, and the Government of India is trying its best for its development. North-East is very rich or full of natural beauty and if tourism could be expanded in North-East, the development of North-East could become much easier. We have many tourist spots that are yet to be covered. The natural growth of tourism has not happened due to lack of infrastructure and publicity. We know that tourism has the capacity to generate income for the rural as well as the local people. It can tremendously develop the region and also help reduce the regional imbalances. We want the uncovered spots in the North-East to be covered or developed. I want to ask the hon. Minister, through you, Sir, whether the Government will make any special effort to expand tourism in North-East by developing new tourist spots, including Bhuvan Hills and Son Beel - the largest fresh water lake in Assam.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: I am very glad that this question has come up. A lot has been said about the North-East without understanding what were the pitfalls of promoting the North-East. To start with, we have made a special effort, a special consideration, for the North-East because no less than the Prime Minister of this Government is committed to developing North-East, particularly tourism, with the vision of creating employment. Tourism must be understood in its right *avatar*, that of a multiplier effect. In the North-East States, we have had some restrictions in terms of inner-line permits, which have prevented us in the past. Keeping in consonance with the 'Look East Policy', a Non-Lapsable Fund has been created, and special training programmes have been taken up by us. We have sent out teams of people to go to the North-East and to establish the projects that are taking part today. The entire circuit is being

developed for the North-East in particular. Air-connectivity, which is few and far between, has now been enhanced. We are also looking at establishing mountain airlines so that we can have connectivity to these parts. I would appreciate if the hon. Members of Parliament of this region would also earmark funds from their MPLADS to go in partnership with our Government, and with us as the Ministry, to establish infrastructure in these places and take up the issues of the inner-line permits, etc. to facilitate, and if it is possible, create training component for employment for the people of this region.

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN: Sir, it is true that we are getting a good amount of money from the Tourism Department and we have to promote it. I appreciate that. At the same time, there are reports from various centres that there is an unhealthy trend emerging in some tourism centres. Has the hon. Minister noted this? If so, what steps would the Government like to take?

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: First of all, I do not know what is considered unhealthy because this is particularly in relation to the North-East. We have not got any feedback as to what is deemed as unhealthy. Some amount of insurgency is taking place, which is a public statement. We are doing our best to see that tourism will take care of employment of the local people so that youths do not go towards these activities. Beyond that, we have no complaints. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Not to be recorded.

[Translation]

SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to know about the criteria fixed for granting status for five star hotels, and whether maintaining privacy of a customer is also one of the criteria. What happens if a newly married couple staying in a five star hotel is videoed violating their privacy, I would like to quote an example of Ludhiana based Park Plaza Hotel in Punjab. A newly married couple was put up in the hotel. When the couple realised that they are being videoed, they objected. To that the hotel staff beat them up. In place of providing help, the Management asked them to leave the hotel. Their relatives got them admitted to hospital. I want to know to what action the Government propose to take in such cases?

[English]

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Five-Star Hotels, two, three and other Star hotels are categorised by being given different specifications based on standardisation of service and infrastructure that is given there. As regards this unfortunate incident that has happened, it is the business of hotels which does not really come under the purview of the

Government. If they want good business, they should jolly well learn to keep the privacy of the people. One complaint did come to our attention that a particular hotel has done this in Ludhiana. We have already issued a show-cause notice. You can take it as a personal assurance that no such *hera-pheri* will be tolerated, accepted or accredited by us in the Government. Such hotels, if further lapses take place, will be blacklisted without any relief.

SHRI SUKHBIR SINGH BADAL: A senior Congressman of Punjab owns this hotel and a cover-up is being conducted by the present Chief Minister.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: It does not matter whether it is a Congressman or a man of some other party. If it happens in your hotel, the same rule applies.

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: No action has been taken.

[English]

You have not taken any action on that. When will the action be taken?

[Translation]

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Malhotra ji, you did not hear me. I said that a show cause notice has been issued to them. And reply takes the time otherwise you only would further put question.

[English]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: How long will you wait to take action? For years together they have been going on with this activity?

[Translation]

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Malhotraji how many years have passed. If you tell me I would look into it. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Even though the Government of India and many State Governments have given priority to tourism, is it a fact that the international tourist coming to India are declining year by year? If so, what are the reasons?

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: This is a complete fiction. I am very proud to tell you that in the past eight months, international tourists' arrival has gone up by 26 per cent, both in actual terms and in dollar terms. This is the first time

that India has seen rise in such figure. Even in our lean summer months, it will be up by 17 per cent. It is a win-win situation for India.

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to know the details of tourism projects proposed for Bihar. Secondly, what steps the Govt. propose to take to develop Bhimban, Balmiki Nagar, Kesariya Ka Bodh and Sitamarhi, the birth place of matha Janaki.

[English]

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Bihar is tremendous product.

[Translation]

Large number of people are eager enough to visit Bihar. Development work is going on in Bodhgaya. 16 states, including Bihar, have been connected with Budha circuits. JBIC Bank has given some crore rupees for developmental works. I would like Member like you to assist in it and come forward for creating infrastructure in your respective areas.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Whether Punjab will also be connected to it.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Members, please sit down. Please keep silence.

...*(Interruptions)*

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI: Madam Minister, I am here. I am very kindly permitted to ask the question. ...*(Interruptions)* Can you listen to me?

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Yes, Sir.

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI: Thank you.

Uttaranchal is one place, as far as tourism is concerned, where we have a variety of tourism available. Apart from normal tourism, we have religious tourism; we have adventure tourism; and we have holiday tourism. We have got best natural scenic beauty there. Yet, all these years, after Uttaranchal came into being, development of tourism, which ought to have taken place, has not yet taken place. The Minister might tell me that it is a State subject and I should approach the State Government. I am putting across to the Minister not because their Government is there. We have failed to shake up or wake up the State Government as far as tourism is concerned. I would like to request the Minister to kindly take special interest in Uttaranchal and do something so that the nation and the people of Uttaranchal would benefit.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: I do not know when the hon. Member went last to Uttaranchal.

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI: I go there every week-end.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: I must congratulate Uttaranchal because they have just won an award for having done maximum promotion of tourism in Uttaranchal. ...*(Interruptions)*

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI: That is not on the ground. ...*(Interruptions)* What is the position on the ground? ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Uttaranchal is the new destination which is being promoted, both nationally and internationally. I think, the hon. Member should take pride that his State has done so well. It does not matter which Government is there. People have voted for you also and for us also. Let us congratulate Uttaranchal for having done a fantastic job. The door is going to be opened up for tourism. ...*(Interruptions)*

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI: It is not on the ground. ...*(Interruptions)*

11.59 hrs.

(MR. SPEAKER in the Chair)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Athawale, it is not being recorded. Why are you saying? You know that it will not be recorded.

*(Interruptions)...**

[English]

Supply of Foodgrains

+

*243. SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN:

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the reason for not allowing Food Corporation of India (FCI) to supply foodgrains to Public Distribution System (PDS) in the same State from where it has been procured;

(b) whether this results in extra burden on transportation of foodgrains to the other States;

(c) if so, whether the Government proposes to review the policy; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

*Not recorded.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (d) The Food Corporation of India is already following the policy of first issuing foodgrains under the Targeted Public Distribution System and other Welfare Schemes out of the stock of foodgrains procured from within the State. Any additional requirement of foodgrains is, thereafter, met by transportation of foodgrains from other States.

[Translation]

SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, reply of the Govt. is quite vague. The Govt. is not supplying foodgrains to Food Corporation of India in the states. No clear-cut order has been received in this regard. Secondly, the staff connive with criminals and black-market the stock of wheat and rice meant for schemes like BPL, Annapurna, Antyodaya etc. whereas the Central Govt. or the State Government pays no heed towards it. I would like to ask the hon. Minister whether the Govt. propose to investigate this matter.

12.00 hrs.

DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH: It is not so. We have implemented a decentralised scheme in the whole country from 1997-98 onwards. Hon. Member has asked about Bihar. We have started procurement there on the lines of Haryana and Punjab, the traditional states. On 12th of this month I have convened a meeting of Divisional Commissioners in Patna and received the things. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Question Hour is over.

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: He will send you the reply.

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: He does not need your help.

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: He will send it to you. Mr. Minister, you send your reply to Shri Paswan.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Since Question hour had started late by five minutes, so I would request you to extend it. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Very well. There should be no precedent in future. Shri Ram Kripal Yadav to speak.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Hon. Minister's reply is quite unsatisfactory. He has not clarified the policy. I would like to ask hon. Minister - Is the Government not losing every year Rs. 2500 crore because of wrong procurement and distribution policy. If so the steps being taken by the Government to check it as wrong policy is depriving farmers to the tune of Rs. 2500 crore each year. What steps the Govt. propose to take to change there policies?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): The total assistance to the FCI is about Rs. 20,000 crore. I cannot understand from where has this loss of Rs. 28,000 crore come.

MR. SPEAKER: Question Hour is now actually over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Performance of Fertilizer Units

*244. SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHANA:

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the condition and performance of some fertilizer units in the country is not up the mark;
- (b) if so, whether the Government have identified such units;

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

(d) the total quantity of fertilizers produced by existing units annually; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to improve the condition and performance of said units?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) List of units and percentage capacity utilization is furnished in the enclosed statement-I.

(c) One of the main reasons in urea plants is the limitation in availability of natural gas. In case of phosphatic fertilizers, limited availability of raw material in the international market is the main reason.

(d) Unit-wise details of production of major fertilizers manufacturing units is given in the enclosed statement-II.

(e) The Government has been pursuing policies which are conducive for encouraging investment in fertilizer sector so as to achieve self-sufficiency in meeting the indigenous requirement of major fertilizers. In case of urea, the Government has recently announced the pricing policy for investment to be made in (a) new and expansion projects of urea and (b) existing non-gas based urea units converting to natural gas/LNG for feedstock/fuel. In order to augment indigenous availability of urea, IFFCO and KRIBHCO the multi-state cooperative societies, are setting up a joint venture in Sur, Oman with Oman Oil Company and the entire production of 16.52 lakh MT annually of urea will be bought by the government. On the other hand, installed capacity (54.20 lakh MT in nutrient terms) of phosphatic fertilizers is enough to meet the current level of requirement (average consumption of 46-47 lakh MT of last three years). In the absence of commercially exploitable potash sources in the country, the entire demand of potassic fertilizers for direct application as well as for production of complex fertilizers is met through imports.

Statement-I

Company/Unit-wise Production and %age Capacity Utilization in Nutrient Terms for the last two years

Nitrogen

Name of Company/Plant	Installed Capacity (31-03-04)	Production ('000 MT)		%age Capacity Utilization	
		2002-03	2003-04	2002-03	2003-04
1	2	3	4	5	6
Public Sector					
NFL : Nangal-I	80.0	13.5	16.0	16.9	20.0
NFL : Nangal-II	220.1	220.1	220.1	100.0	100.0

1	2	3	4	5	6
NFL: Bhatinda	235.3	235.5	235.4	100.1	100.0
NFL: Panipat	235.3	225.4	235.3	95.8	100.0
NFL: Vijaipur	397.7	397.7	406.4	100.0	102.2
NFL: Vijaipur Expn.	397.7	398.8	400.3	100.3	100.7
BVFCL: Namrup-III	144.9	85.7	110.7	59.1	76.4
FACT: Udyogamandal	77.0	69.4	68.1	90.1	88.4
FACT: Cochin-II	97.0	103.7	85.3	106.9	87.9
RCF: Trombay	45.0	45.6	44.4	101.3	98.7
RCF: Trombay-IV	75.1	51.7	48.8	68.8	65.0
RCF: Trombay-V	151.8	9.6	8.1	6.3	5.3
RCF: Thal	785.1	707.2	796.5	90.1	101.5
MFL: Chennai	366.7	256.5	253.5	69.9	69.1
Cooperative Sector					
IFFCO: Kandla	318.9	368.0	322.1	131.5	101.0
IFFCO: Kalol	250.5	247.5	220.6	98.8	88.1
IFFCO: Phulpur-I	253.5	253.6	248.7	100.0	98.1
IFFCO: Phulpur-II	397.7	397.8	391.5	100.0	98.4
IFFCO: Aonla-I	397.7	398.4	397.8	100.2	100.0
IFFCO: Aonla-II	397.7	398.0	397.8	100.1	100.0
KRIBHCO: Hazira	795.4	737.6	815.6	92.7	102.5
Private Sector					
GSFC: Vadodara	248.1	278.5	223.1	71.9	89.9
CFL: Vizag	124.0	111.9	133.8	90.2	107.9
SFC: Kota	174.4	181.1	167.4	103.9	96.0
ZIL: Goa	288.7	264.2	278.1	91.5	96.3
SPIC: Tuticorin	370.7	324.3	344.3	87.5	92.9
MCF: Mangalore	207.2	199.0	170.9	96.0	82.5
CFL: Ennore	41.2	30.8	34.0	74.8	82.5
GNFC: Bharuch	356.7	357.9	336.5	100.3	94.3
TCL: Haldia	121.5	111.7	91.1	91.9	75.0
GSFC: Sikka-I	105.8	117.9	81.0	111.4	76.6

1	2	3	4	5	6
GSFC: Sikka-II	71.3	0.0	9.5	-	13.3
GFCL: Kakinada	120.6	134.7	142.8	111.7	118.4
IGFL: Jagdishpur	397.7	397.7	396.6	100.0	99.7
Hin. Ind. Ltd.: Dahej	72.0	54.2	40.9	75.3	56.8
DFPCL: Taloja	52.9	38.7	34.6	73.2	65.4
NFCL: Kakinada-I	274.8	258.4	275.3	94.0	100.2
NFCL: Kakinada-II	274.8	287.7	273.9	104.7	99.7
CFCL: Gadepan-I	397.7	397.9	417.6	100.1	105.0
CFCL:Gadepan-II	397.7	397.8	393.1	100.0	98.8
TCL: Babrala	397.7	397.8	397.7	100.0	100.0
OCF: Shahjahanpur	397.7	374.7	394.5	94.2	99.2
OCF: Paradeep	325.2	132.2	65.1	40.2	20.0
PPL: Paradeep*	129.6	134.5	164.9	103.8	127.2

* Disinvestment on 28.02.2002

Phosphate

Name of Company/Plant	Installed Capacity (31-03-04)	Production ('000 MT)		%age Capacity Utilization	
		2002-03	2003-04	2002-03	2003-04
1	2	3	4	5	6

Public Sector:

FACT: Udyogamandal	29.7	31.1	28.2	104.7	94.9
FACT: Cochin-II	97.0	103.7	85.3	106.9	87.9
RCF: Trombay	45.0	45.6	44.4	101.3	98.7
RCF: Trombay-IV	75.1	51.7	48.8	68.8	65.0
MFL: Chennai	142.8	73.4	77.6	51.4	54.3

Cooperative Sector:

IFFCO: Kandla	825.1	949.5	832.6	131.0	100.9
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Private Sector:

GSFC: Vadodara	75.9	35.4	65.0	46.6	85.6
CFL: Vizag	166.0	150.2	175.7	90.5	105.8
ZIL: Goa	197.4	141.8	166.1	71.8	84.1
SPIC: Tuticorin	218.5	143.0	146.2	65.4	66.9

1	2	3	4	5	6
MCF: Mangalore	82.8	46.7	40.2	56.4	48.6
CLF: Ennore	48.0	37.7	38.4	78.5	80.0
GNFC: Bharuch	28.5	35.2	24.3	123.5	85.3
TCL: Haldia	310.5	310.0	234.0	99.8	75.4
GSFC: Sikka-I	270.5	301.2	206.9	111.3	76.5
GSFC: Sikka-II	182.2	0.0	24.2	0.0	13.3
GFCL: Kakinada	308.2	285.2	362.2	92.5	117.5
Hin. Ind. Ltd.: Dahej	184.0	137.2	103.6	74.6	56.3
DFPCL: Taloja	52.9	38.7	34.6	73.2	65.4
OCF: Paradeep	802.8	337.7	151.6	42.1	18.9
PPL:Paradeep	331.2	292.9	344.0	88.4	103.9

Statement-II*Unit-wise, Product-wise Production of Fertilizer for the year 2003-04*

('000 MT)

Sl. No.	Name of the Company/Plant	Name of the Products			
		Urea	DAP	Complexes	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	NFL: Nangal-II	478.5			478.5
2	NFL: Bhatinda	511.7			511.7
3	NFL: Panipat	511.6			511.6
4	NFL: Vijaipur	883.4			883.4
5	NFL: Vijaipur Expn.	870.3			870.3
6	FACT: Udyogamandal			141.0	141.0
7	FACT: Cochin-II			426.7	426.7
8	RCF: Trombay			296.3	296.3
9	RCF: Trombay-IV			234.8	234.8
10	RCF: Trombay-V	17.7			17.7
11	RCF: Thal	1731.4			1731.4
12	MFL: Chennai	387.7	10.8	414.9	813.4
13	BVFCL: Namrup-II				
14	BVFCL: Namrup-III	240.6			240.6

1	2	3	4	5	6
15	IFFCO: Kandla		1246.0	854.2	2100.2
16	IFFCO: Kalol	479.6			479.6
17	IFFCO: Phulpur-I	540.7			540.7
18	IFFCO: Phulpur-II	851.0			851.0
19	IFFCO: Aonla-I	864.8			864.8
20	IFFCO: Aonla-II	864.7			864.7
21	KRIBHCO: Hazira	1773.1			1773.1
22	GSFC: Vadodara	300.4	116.6	56.8	473.8
23	CFL: Vizag			637.5	637.5
24	SFC: Kota	363.9			363.9
25	DIL: Kanour				
26	ZIL: Goa	398.6	187.7	363.3	949.6
27	SPIC: Tuticorin	621.2	313.0	11.6	945.8
28	MCF: Mangalore	334.8	83.5	9.1	427.4
29	CFL: Ennore			192.0	192.0
30	GNFC: Bharuch	636.7		121.5	758.2
31	TAC: Tuticorin				0.0
32	TCL: Haldia		387.5	195.5	583.0
33	DFPCL: Taloja			150.6	150.6
34	IGCL: Jagdishpur	862.1			862.1
35	Hindalco Inds.: Dahej		215.0	17.0	232.0
36	GSFC: Sikka-I		504.4		504.4
37	GSFC: Sikka-II				
38	GFCL: Kakinada		742.5	69.7	812.2
39	NFCL: Kakinada-I	598.4			598.4
40	NFCL: Kakinada-II	595.4			595.4
41	CFCL: Gadepan-I	907.8			907.8
42	CFCL: Gadepan-II	854.6			854.6
43	TCL: Babrala	864.8			864.8
44	OCF: Shahjahanpur	857.7			857.7
45	OCF: Paradeep		308.7	47.6	356.3
46	PPL: Paradeep		617.9	271.0	888.9

Consumer Awareness Programme

*245. SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI:

SHRI RAJESH VERMA:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any schemes have been formulated for increasing the consumer awareness and consumer advocacy for making consumer laws more effective;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken for its speedy implementation?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (c) Programmes for creation of consumer awareness are being implemented through multi-media campaign to educate consumers of their rights and responsibilities and to assert their rights and seek redressal, wherever needed.

[Translation]

Cultivation of Medicinal Plants

*246. SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH VERMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has conducted a survey for cultivation of medicinal plants and setting up botanical gardens in the country;
- (b) if so, the details of the locations identified for the purpose;
- (c) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard; and
- (d) the schemes formulated by the Government for identifying the medicinal plants?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (d) No such survey has been conducted for cultivation of Medicinal plants. However, survey for setting up herbal gardens have been conducted. Under the on going Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Macro-Management in Agriculture - Supplementation / Complementation of State Efforts through Work Plans of Department of Agriculture & Cooperation, 27 herbal gardens have been established. The locations are given in the enclosed statement-I. The National Medicinal Plants Board (NMPB) under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare also supplement such efforts. As per the information

compiled by the NMPB, there are 343 Medicinal Plants Gardens in India. The list is given in the enclosed statement-II.

Statement-I

Locations of Herbal Gardens

1. Acharya N.G. Ranga Agricultural University, Hyderabad, AP
2. Assam Agricultural University, Jorhat, Assam
3. Anand Agricultural University, Anand, Gujarat
4. Bidhan Chandra Krishi Viswa Vidyalaya, Nadia, West Bengal
5. Birsa Agricultural University, Ranchi, Jharkhand
6. Haryana Agricultural University, Hissar, Haryana
7. Indira Gandhi Agricultural University, IL Raipur
8. Jawaharlal Nehru Krishi Viswa Vidyalaya, Jabalpur, M.P.
9. Kerala Agricultural University, Thrissur, Kerala
10. Mahatma Phule Krishi Vidya Peeth, Raburi, Maharashtra
11. Maharana Pratap Univ. of Agri. & Technology, Udaipur, Rajasthan
12. N.D. University of Agriculture & Technology, Faizabad, U.P.
13. Orissa University of Agriculture & Technology, Bhubaneswar, Orissa
14. Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana, Punjab
15. Rajasthan Agricultural University, Bikaner, Rajasthan
16. Rajendra Agricultural University, Bihar
17. Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel University of Agri. & Technology, Meerut, U.P.
18. Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu
19. University of Agricultural Sciences, Bangalore, Karnataka
20. University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad, Karnataka
21. Dr. Y.S. Parmar University of Agriculture & Forestry, Solan, H.P.

22. Regional Research Laboratory (CSIR), Bhubaneswar, Orissa
23. Regional Research Laboratory (CSIR), Jammu, J & K
24. Regional Research Laboratory (CSIR), Jorhat, Assam
25. NRC for Medicinal & Aromatic Plants, Anand, Gujarat
26. Malabar Botanical Garden, Calicut, Kerala
27. G.B. Pant Institute of Him. Envl. & Development

Statement-II*List of Medicinal Plants Gardens in India***Andaman and Nicobar**

1. Botanical Survey of India, Andaman & Nicobar Circle Andaman & Nicobar-744102
2. Botanical Survey of India, Andaman & Nicobar Circle, Horticulture Road, Haddo, Port Blair - 744102.

Andhra Pradesh

3. Botany Department, Andhra University, Experimental Garden, Walthiar -530003, Andhra Pradesh.
4. Osmania University, Botany Department, Botanical Garden, Hyderabad-530027, Andhra Pradesh.
5. Central Institute of medicinal & Aromatic Plants, Regional Centre (Demonstration Farm), Uppal Road, Boduppal, Hyderabad - 530039, Andhra Pradesh
6. Central Research Institute for Unani Medicine, (Medicinal Plant Garden), 11/4/625, Dekhussha.A.C. Guards, Hyderabad - 530024, Andhra Pradesh
7. National Research Centre for Spices (Experimental Farms), Chelavur (Near Vijayawada), Chelavur, Andhra Pradesh
8. Drug Standardisation Unit (Homeopathy), Osmania University, Buildings 32, 32rm, 4, Botany Deptt., Vikrampuri, Habsigunda, Hyderabad-530007, Andhra Pradesh
9. Regional Research Centre (Ayurveda), A Block, North Wing, Indira Gandhi Stadium Complex, Bandra Road, Vijayawada - 530010, Andhra Pradesh.

Arunachal Pradesh

10. Botanical Survey of India, Arunachal Pradesh Circle, Sankai Wildemess Area, Itanagar - 79111, Arunachal Pradesh

11. Arunachal Pradesh Forest Development Corporation Ltd. (Medicinal Plants Garden), Tripura District, Deemali -786629, Arunachal Pradesh
12. Regional Research Centre (Ayurveda), Medicinal Plants Garden-cum-Demonstration Centre, Sankai View, Itanagar -791119
13. State Forest Research Institute, Itanagar, Arunachal Pradesh
14. Arunachal University, Itanagar, Arunachal Pradesh
15. Orchid Research & Development Centre Botanic Garden, Bhahukpong, Tippi - 790114. Arunachal Pradesh

Assam

16. Regional Research Laboratory, Jorhat, North-East Ecology Park, Jorhat, Assam
17. Botanical Garden, Guwahti Zoo, Guwahati, Assam
18. Institute of Rain 7 Moist Deciduous Forest Research (Plantations), A.T. Road, Rajajan P.O. Jorhat-785001, Assam
19. Botanical Garden, Haffong, Assam
20. Regional Research Centre (Ayurveda), Govt. Ayurvedic College, Jalukbari, Guwahati-7810014, Assam.-

Bihar

21. Jublee Park, Near Railway Station, Jamshedpur-831005, Bihar
22. Experimental Farm, Nawab Manzil, Guzzi, Patna-80008, Bihar
23. Ankuran, Gudri Mohalla, Hazaribagh, District. Chatra-825401, Bihar
24. Bihar Agricultural College, Botanical Garden, Rajendra Agricultural University, Bhagalpur-812007, Bihar
25. Bhagalpur University, Postgraduate Botany Department, Botanical Garden, Bhagalpur-812007, Bihar
26. Lalit Narayan Mithila University, Botany Department, Darbhanga-846004, Bihar
27. Magadh University, Postgraduate Botany Department, Bodhgaya-824234, Bihar
28. Regional Research Institute (Ayurveda), Rajendra Memorial Research Institute Building, Kadam Kuwan, Patna-800007, Bihar

Chandigarh

29. Punjab University Botany Department, Sector-14, Chandigarh-160014.

Chhattisgarh

30. Ravi Shankar University, Biosciences Department, Raipur-492010, Chhattisgarh

Delhi

31. Holy Family Hospital (Medical Plants Garden) Okhla Road, New Delhi-110020.
32. Jawaharlal Nehru University, School of Life Sciences, Botanical Garden, New Mehrauli Road, New Delhi-110067.
33. Lodhi Garden, Lodhi Road, New Delhi-110003
34. Mughal Garden, Rashtrapati Bhavan Campus, New Delhi
35. Delhi Development Authority (Medicinal Plants Garden), Near Kaya Maya Ayurvedic Hospital, Mehrauli Badarpur Road, Tughlakabad, New Delhi
36. Budha Jayanti Park, Old Ridge Road, New Delhi-110060
37. Maurya Sheraton Hotel (Herbal Farm), Diplomatic Enclave, New Delhi-110021
38. National Zoological Park, South Purana Qila, New Delhi-110006
39. Oberoi Hotel, (Herbal Farm), Zakir Hussain Marg, New Delhi-110003
40. Indian Society for Promotion of Medicinal & Aromatic (Plantations) Chittaranjan Park, Delhi-110019
41. Central Council for Research in Unani Medicine, JLN Bhartiya Chikitsa Evum Homeopathy, Anusandhan Bhavan, 61-65 Institutional Area, Opp. 'D' Block, Janak Puri, New Delhi-110058
42. Central Council for Research in Ayurveda & Siddha, JLN Bhartiya Chikitsa Evum Homeopathy, Anusandhan Bhavan, 61-65 Institutional Area, Opp. 'D' Block, Janak Puri, New Delhi-110058
43. Central Council for Research in Homeopathy, JLN Bhartiya Chikitsa Evum Homeopathy, Anusandhan Bhavan, 61-65 Institutional Area, Opp. 'D' Block, Janak Puri, New Delhi-110058
44. Council of Scientific & Industrial Research Publications & Information Directorate, Raw Material Herbarium & Museum, Dr. K.S. Krishan Marg, New Delhi-110012

45. Delhi University, Botany Department, New Delhi Railway Station, Delhi-110007.

46. Indian Agricultural Research Institute, Mycology & Plant Pathology Division, Herbarium Cryptogamia Indiae Orientals, Pusa, New Delhi-110012

47. Indian Agriculture Research Institute Plants Introduction Division Pusa, Delhi-110012

48. Jamia Hamdard Faculty of Science, Botany Department, Mehrauli Badarpur Road, Hamdard Nagar, Delhi 110062

49. National Bureau of Plants Genetic Resources (NBPGR) National Herbarium of Cultivated Plants FIC Building, Indian Agricultural Research, Institute Campus, Pusa, New Delhi-110012

Goa

50. Research Division Forest Department, Goa (Satpal Aroboratom)

Gujarat

51. Botanical Garden Waghai Road, Dangs District, Waghai-394730, Gujarat
52. Botanical Garden Rajpipla, Gujarat
53. Gujarat Agriculture University, Agricultural Botany Department, Botanical Garden, Junagadh-362001, Gujarat
54. Gujarat Agricultural University (Medicinal Plants Garden) Anand-388110, Gujarat
55. South Gujarat University, Botanical Garden near Surat Railway Station, Surat-395001, Gujarat
56. M.N. College, Visnagar, Gujarat (N.G.)
57. Baroda University, Baroda - Gujarat
58. Central Salt & Marine Chemicals Research Institute, Bhavnagar - 364002, Gujarat
59. Gujarat Agricultural University, Agricultural Botany Department, Junagarh-362001, Gujarat.
60. Gujarat Ayurved University, Jamnagar-362001, Gujarat
61. Regional Research Institute (Ayurveda), Taj Manjil, Sardar Bagh, Junagadh-362001, Gujarat
62. Sarabhai Foundation Retreat Botanical Garden, Shahibag, Ahmedabad-380004, Gujarat
63. Saurashtra University, Biosciences Department, Rajkot-360005, Gujarat

Himachal Pradesh

64. Himachal Pradesh Krishi Vishva Vidyalaya, Manali Arboretum, Manali, Himachal Pradesh
65. Council of Scientific & Industrial Res. Complex Palampur, (Medicinal Plants Garden), Approach Road, Jogindar Nagar-176120, Himachal Pradesh.
66. Regional Research Laboratory, Jammu Extension Centre, (Experiment Farm), Palampur, Himachal Pradesh
67. State Government Ayurvedic Pharmacy, (Medicinal Plants Garden), Joginder Nagar-176120, Himachal Pradesh
68. Himachal Pradesh Krishi Vishva Vidyalaya Forestry Department, Botanical Garden & Arboretum SNS Nagar, Nauni-Solan-173230, Himachal Pradesh
69. Dr. Y.S. Parmar University of Horticulture & Forestry Unit, (Experimental Farms) Nauni-Solan-173230, Himachal Pradesh
70. Tibetan Medical & Astro Institute (Medicinal Plants Garden) Khara Banda Road, Kangra Distt., Dharamsala-176215, Himachal Pradesh.
71. Temperate Forest Research Institute, (Plantations), Shimla, Himachal Pradesh.
72. Himachal Pradesh, Krishi Vishva Vidyalaya, near Naranda Railway Station, Kangra Distt. Palampur-176062, Himachal Pradesh
73. Institute of Research in Indigenous System of Medicine, Approach Road, Joginder Nagar-176120, Himachal Pradesh
74. Regional Research Centre (Ayurveda), Gandhi Bhavan, Mandi, Himachal Pradesh
75. Regional Research Laboratory Extension Centre, Palampur-176062, Himachal Pradesh

Jammu and Kashmir

76. Jammu & Kashmir State Forest Deptt. (Medicinal Plant Garden), Conservator of Forest, Srinagar, J&K
77. Emporium Botanical Garden, Srinagar, J&K
78. Regional Research Laboratory, Jammu Field Research Station (Experimental Farm), Berinag Kashmir, J&K
79. Central Institute of Medicinal & Aromatic Plants

Regional Centre (Demonstration Farm), Pulwama Distt., Bonera-192301, J&K

80. Regional Research Laboratory, Jammu Field Research Station, (Experimental Farm) Jammu Cantonment, Chatha, J&K
81. Nehru Botanical Garden, Chashme-Shahi, Srinagar, J&K
82. Regional Research Institute of Unani Medicine, University of Kashmir, University Health Care, Hazratbal, Srinagar-190006, J&K
83. Central Council for Research in Ayurveda & Siddha, Research Project on Tibetan System of Medicine, Amchi Association Building, Leh-194101, J&K
84. Kashmir University, Botany Department, Srinagar-190006, J&K
85. Regional Research Centre (Ayurveda), Rehari Chowk, Jammu - 180005, J&K
86. Regional Research Laboratory, Canal Road, Jammu Tawi 180001, J&K

Jharkhand

87. Ranchi University Botanical Garden Ranchi - 834008, Jharkhand
88. Institute of Forest Productivity (Plantation) Ranchi - 834008, Jharkhand
89. Birla Agricultural University, (Medicinal Tree Plantations) Ranchi - 834008, Jharkhand
90. Telco Garden & Nursery Near Tata Nagar Railway Station, Singhbhum, Jamshedpur-831010, Jharkhand

Karnataka

91. Indian Institute of Horticulture Research, Hessarghatta Lake, Bangalore - 560080, Karnataka
92. Research Centre (Medicinal Plants Garden), Sirsi Talukam, Uttara Kannada District Terakanahali, Karnataka
93. Gandhi Krishi Vigyana Kendra, Botanical Garden, Bangalore -560065, Karnataka
94. Karnataka State Forest Department (Medicinal Plants Garden), Gangaragatti Village, Dharwar, Karnataka
95. University of Agricultural Sciences Horticulture Division, Gandhi Krishi Vigyana Kendra Campus, Bangalore - 560065, Karnataka

96. Tarakbalu Rural Development Foundation, (Medicinal Plants Garden) Chitradurga Taluka, Sirigere - 577541, Karnataka
97. Central Plantation Crops Research Institute, Kidu, Nottana, South Kanara, Distt, Narimogru, Karnataka
98. Fampavana Garden Raichue Distt. Munarabad, Karnataka
99. Central Institute of Medicinal & Aromatic Plants Regional Centre, (Demonstration Farm) Allasandra (Year Yelahanka) Bangalore - 560065, Karnataka
100. Snekhunja (Rural Health & Department Project) Medicinal Plant (Garden) Distt. C.R.Sugar, Karnataka
101. Avadootha Datta Peetham (Medicinal Plants Garden) Ooty Road, Mysorem, Karnataka
102. Brindavan Gardens Mandya Distt, K.R.Sugar, Karnataka
103. Institute of Wood Science & Technology (Plantation) 18th Cross Road, Malleswaram, Bangalore - 560003, Karnataka
104. Hillgreen Company (Medicinal Plant Garden) 17, 13th Cross, Vaathnagar, Extension Bangalore - 560004, Karnataka
105. Lalbagh Garden Bangalore - 560065, Karnataka
106. Foundation for Revitalisation of Local Health Traditions, (Medicinal Plants Garden) 50 mhs layout, 3rd Main, 2nd Floor, Anandnagar, Bangalore - 560024, Karnataka
107. Somnathpur Sandal Reserve, C/o Mysore Forest Department, Near Gundupet, Mysore, Karnataka
108. Directorate of Indian Medicine Dhanvanthari, Vana (Medicinal Plants Garden GCIM, Near Bangalore University, Bangalore - 560065, Karnataka
109. Taranath Government Ayurvedic College, (Medicinal Plants Garden) Anantpur Road, Bellary - 583101, Karnataka
110. Southern Herbal Ltd., 45, Ramraj Mansion, Vijya Bank Colony, BTM, 2nd Stage, Bangalore - 560076, Karnataka
111. Forest Research Centre, Terakanahalli, Siraj Talika, Uttara Kannada Distt., Karnataka
112. Indian Institute of Horticultural Research, Hessargharta Lake, Bangalore - 560080, Karnataka
113. Taralabalu Rural Development Foundation, Sirigere, Chitradurga Taluka, Karnataka-577541
114. Regional Research Centre (Ayurveda), Govt. Ventral Pharmacy Annex, Ashok Pillar, Jayanagar, Bangalore - 560011, Karnataka
115. St. Joseph's College, Centre for Taxonomic Studies, P.B. 5031, Bangalore - 560001, Karnataka
- Kerala**
116. Nayyar Dam Garden, Thiruvananthapunn, Kerala
117. Spices Board, Sugandha Bhawan, N.H. Bypass, Palarivattam, Cochin - 682025, Kerala
118. Society for Environmental Education in Kerala, (Medicinal Plants Garden) SEEK Bhavanam, Kannur Distt., Edat. PO. Kerala - 670327
119. Chittayil Memorial Trust, (Medicinal Plants Garden) Otavaipur - 688560, Kerala
120. Central Tuber Crops Research Institute & Unity, (Plantations) Sree Karyam, Thiruvananthapur - 695017, Kerala
121. Arya Vaidan Ramam Varier Education Foundation of Ayurveda, (Medicinal Plants Garden) Arya Vaidya Pharmacy Factory Complex, Palghat District, Kanjikode - 678621, Kerala
122. National Research Centre for Specier Cardqmom Research Centre, Appangala, Kerala
123. Oushadhi The Pharmaceutical Corpn, Kerala Ltd. (Medicinal Plants Garden) Thrissur - 68000, Kerala
124. Kerala Agriculture University Aromatic & Medicinal Plants Research Station, Asamannor, P.O. Ernakulam Distt., Odakkali -683549, Kerala
125. Central Plantation Crops Research Institute & Units (Plantation), Post Kudlu - 671124, Kerala.
126. Kerala University Botany Department, Botanical Garden, Kariavattom, Thiruvananthapuram - 695017, Kerala
127. Calicut University, Botany Department, Botanical Garden, Calicut - 673635, Kerala
128. Kerala Agriculture University Pepper Research Station, Panniyur Cannore Distt., Taliparamba - 670141, Kerala
129. Institute of Forest Genetic & Tree Breeding Experi-

mental Field Station, (Experimental Plot) Vatapara, Malayur, Kerala

130. Kerala Forest Research Institute (Medicinal Plants Garden) Thrissur Distt., Pecchi - 680653, Kerala
131. Government Botanical Garden Thiruvananthapuram - 695001, Kerala
132. Arya Vidya Sala, Kottaka, Malappuram Distt., Kerala - 676503
133. AVREFA Herbal Garden, AVP Factory Complex, Kanjikode, Distt. Palghat, Kerala - 678621
134. Chittayil Memorial Trust, Olivayappu, Allapuzha Distt., Kerala - 688560
135. Tropical Botanical Garden 7 Research Institute, Palode PO. Karimancode, Distt. - Trivandrum, Kerala - 695562
136. Regional Research Institute (Ayurveda), Poojapura, Thiruvananthapuram - 695017, Kerala.

Madhya Pradesh

137. State Forest Research Institute, (Medicinal Plants Garden) Polipathar, Narmada Road, Jabalpur - 482008, M.P.
138. Jawaharlal Nehru Krishi, Krishi Nagar, Adhartal, Jabalpur - 482004, M.P.
139. Dr. Hari Singh Gour, Vishwavidyalaya Botany Department Botanical Garden (1962) Sagar - 470003, M.P.
140. Ravi Shankar University, Biosciences Department, Botanical Garden, Raipur - 492010, M.P.
141. Jabalpur University Botanical Garden, Piplani, Bhopal, M.P.
142. Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd. (Garden, Urban for Plantations) Piplani, Bhopal, M.P.
143. Tropical Forest Research Institute Non - Wood Forest Products Garden, Mandla Road, Jabalpur-482001, M.P.
144. Vikram University School of Studies in Botany, Botanical Garden, Ujjain - 456001, M.P.
145. Jabalpur University, Pachpedi, Jabalpur, M.P.
146. Regional Research Institute (Ayurveda) Ullas Bhawan, Kherapathi, Killa Road, P B - 3, Gwalior - 474002, M.P.

Maharashtra

147. Botanical Survey of India Western Circle, (Experimental Garden), Mundhwa, Maharashtra
148. Glaxo Labs (India) Ltd., (Plantation) Dr. Annie Besant Road, Worli, Mumbai - 400025, Maharashtra
149. Marathwada University Botanical Garden, Aurangabad - 431004, Maharashtra
150. Express Botanical Gardens, Pune, Maharashtra
151. Cipla Ltd., (Plantation) 289 Beilasis Road, Mumbai Central, Mumbai - 400068, Maharashtra
152. Cibs - Geigy Research Centre, (Plantation) Aarey Road, Goregaon East, Mumbai - 400063, Maharashtra
153. Government Ayurvedic & Unani Pharmacy, (Medicinal Plants Garden) Nanded, Maharashtra
154. Bharatiya Agro - Industry Foundation (BAIF) Office - Khamdheni Senapati Bapat Road, Pune - 411016, Maharashtra
155. Poona University Botany Department, Botanical Garden, Near Kirkee Railway Station, Pune - 411007, Maharashtra
156. Punjabrao Krishi Vidyapeeth Nagarjun (Medicinal Plant Garden) PO - Krishi Nagar, Akola - 444104, Maharashtra
157. Botanical Circle, 7 Goregaon Road, Pune - 411001, Maharashtra
158. Himalaya Drug Co. (P) Ltd. (Plantation), Shivsagar Estate E., Dr. Annie Besant Road, Worli, Mumbai - 400018, Maharashtra
159. Mac Laboratories (P) Ltd. (Plantation) Mumbai, Maharashtra
160. Institute of Science Botanical Garden, 15 Madam Cama Road Fort, Mumbai - 400032, Maharashtra
161. Bhabha Atomic Research Landscape & Cosmetic Section (Garden), Trombay, Mumbai - 400085, Maharashtra
162. Indian Drugs Research Association, (Medicinal Plants Garden), 515 - B, Shivajinagar, Pune - 411005, Maharashtra
163. Joshi Natwarlal Dr. (Medicinal Plants Garden), Joshi Estate, S.V. Road, Irla, Andheri West, Mumbai - 400058, Maharashtra

164. Jawaharlal Nehru Ayurvedic Medicinal Plants Garden & Herbarium, Mothrud, Pune-411029, Maharashtra
165. Anudh Garden, Maharashtra
166. Tilak Ayurveda Mahavidyalaya, (Medicinal Plants Garden) 583/2 Rasta Peth, Pune-411011, Maharashtra
167. Veermata Jijabai Bhonsle Udyan & Pranisangrahalaya, Byculla, Mumbai - 400027, Maharashtra
168. Academy of Ayurveda Dhanwantri Moolika Vanam, (Medicinal Plants Garden), Karjat Taluka, Raigad Distt., Kashela - 410201, Maharashtra
169. Wyeth Laboratories Ltd., (Plantations) Steelcrete House, Dinshw Wacha Road, Mumbai, Maharashtra
170. Academy of Development Science, Kashele, Karjat, Distt. Raigarh, Maharashtra - 410201
171. Janneve Mandal, Kotri Road, Nandurbar, Maharashtra - 425412
172. Punjabrao Krishi Vidyapeeth Nagarjun Medicinal Plants Garden Krishi Nagar PP., Akola, Maharashtra - 444104
173. Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University, Aurangabad, Maharashtra
174. Amravati University, Amaravati, Maharashtra
175. Dr. Punjabrao Deshmukh Krishi Vidyapeeth, Akola, Maharashtra
176. Yeshvantrao Chauhan Institute of Science, Satara, Maharashtra
177. Institute of Science, Nagpur, Maharashtra
178. Botanical Survey of India, Western Circle, 7 Goregaon Road, Pune - 411001, Maharashtra
179. Maharashtra Association for the Cultivation of Science Research Institute, Ajrekar Mycological Herbarium, Law College Road, Pune - 411003, Maharashtra
180. Regional Research Centre (Ayurveda), 1093 Gorepeth, Nagpur - 440010, Maharashtra
181. St. Xavier's College, Botany Department, Blatter Herbarium, Mahapalika Marg, Mumbai - 400001, Maharashtra
182. Zandu Pharmaceutical Works Ltd. Gokhle Road, South Dadar, Mumbai - 400025, Maharashtra.
- Manipur**
183. State Botanical Garden, Khonghampat, Deptt. of Forest & State Botanical Garden, Khonghampat, Deptt. of Forest & Onment, Govt. of Manipur
184. Govt. of Manipur Luwangasangbam, Imphal, Manipur
- Meghalaya**
185. North - Eastern Hill University Botanical Garden, Shillong, Meghalaya
186. Botanical Survey of India Eastern Circle National Orchidarium & Botanic Garden, Woodlands, Shillong - 793003, Meghalaya.
187. Botanical Survey of India Eastern Circle, Barapani Experimental Garden, Barapani, East Khasi Hills, Shillong, Meghalaya.
- Mizoram**
188. Forest Department, Govt. of Mizoram, Aizwal
189. Regional Research Laboratory Jorhan, (Experimental Farm), Changtongva, PO. Mokokchung Distt., Yaongyisn, Nagaland.
- Orissa**
190. Government Ayurvedic Pharmacy, (Medicinal Plant Garden) Balangir, Orissa
191. Regional Research Laboratory Bhubneshwar, Sachivalaya Marg, Bhubaneshwar - 751013, Orissa
192. Nandan Kanan, State Botanical Garden, Cuttack Distt., Barang, Bhubaneshwar - 754005, Orissa
193. Regional Plant Resource Centre Botanical Garden, Adjacent of Chandaka Reserve Foerst, N - 2/20 Nayapalli, Bhubaneshwar, Orissa - 751004
194. Regional Research Institute of Unani Medicine, (Experimental Farm), Bakasore Distt., Bhadrak - 756100, Orissa
195. Utkal University Botany Department, Botanical Garden, Vani Bihar, Bhubaneshwar, Orissa.
196. NBPGR Base Centre, CRRI Campus, Cuttak, Orissa - 753006
197. Central Research Institute Near Rajdhani College, New Capital, Ashok Nagar, Bhubaneshwar, Orissa - 751009

198. Regional Research Laboratory Sachivalaya Marg, Bhubaneshwar - 751013, Orissa.

Pondicherry

199. Institute Francais, 10 St. Louis Street, Pondicherry - 605001.

200. Auroville Matrimandir Garden, Auroville, Pondicherry - 605101.

201. Botanical Garden, Pondicherry.

Punjab

202. Ram Bagh, Amritsar-143001, Punjab

203. Punjab University, Botani Department, Botanical Garden, Patiala - 147002, Punjab

204. Punjab University, Botany Department, Botanical Garden, Sector - 14, Chandigarh, Punjab

205. Guru Nanak Dev University, Biological Department, Botanical Garden, Amritsar - 143005, Punjab

Rajasthan

206. Rajasthan University Botany Department, Jaipur - 302004, Rajasthan

207. Vaidya Gopi Kishan Parihar, Village Post - Birai, The Bhopalgarh Distt. Jodhpur, Rajasthan

208. Jagaran Jan Vikas Samiti Wali, (Medicinal Plants Garden) 282 Ftehpura Near Chuingilake, Udaipur - 313001, Rajasthan

209. Ganga Niwas, Bikaner, Rajasthan

210. Central Arid Zone Research Institute, (Experimental Garden), Light Industrial Area, Jodhpur - 342003, Rajasthan

211. Arid Forest Research Institute, PO. Krishi Upaz Mandi, New Pali Road, Jodhpur-342005, Rajasthan

212. Nehru Park, Jodhpur Disrt., Sardarpura, Rajasthan

213. Jodhpur University Botanical Garden Jodhpur, Rajasthan

214. Regional Research Institute (Ayurveda), Guggulu Herbal Farm, New Ajmer, Mangaliawas - 303001, Rajasthan

215. Unaid Garden, High Court Road, Jodhpur, Rajasthan

216. Botanical Survey of India, Arid Zone Circle, D- 7. Shastri Nagar, Jodhpur - 342003, Rajasthan

217. Jai Narayan Vyas University, Botany Department, Jodhpur, Rajasthan

218. Rajasthan Agro Forestry Corporation Snomukhi Nagar, Sangaria Phanta, Phanta, Jodhpur - 342005, Rajasthan

219. Regional Research Institute (Ayurveda), Madhav Vilas Palace, Amer Road, Jaipur - 302002, Rajasthan

220. Swami Maheshwaranand Ashram, Vill Post - Jadan, Distt. Pali Marwar, Rajasthan

Sikkim

221. Botanical Survey of India Sikkim Himalayan Circle, (Experimental Garden), Near Rajbhawan, Gangtok - 737101, Sikkim

222. Raj Bhawan Garden, Governor's Palace, Gangtok - 737101, Sikkim

223. Jawaharlal Nehru Botanical Garden Rumick, Sikkim

224. Regional Research Centre (Ayurveda), Tadong, Gangtok - 737101, Sikkim

225. Sikkim State Forest Department, Gangtok, Sikkim

Tamil Nadu

226. Institute of Forest Genetics & Tree Breeding, Botanical Garden & Aroboretum Forest College Campus, R.S. Puram, Coimbatore - 641002, T.N.

227. Tamil Nadu Agricultural University Forest College & Research Institute, (Plantations), Coimbatore Distt., Mettuppalam - 641301, T.N.

228. Irula Tribal Woman's Welfare Society (Medicinal Plant Garden), 60 Km from Madras, Thandarai, T.N.

229. Sathanur Dam Garden, Tiruvannamalai, T.N.

230. State Horticultural Farm, Milgiris, Burliar, T.N.

231. Botanical Survey of India Southern Circle, National Orchidarium & Experimental Garden, Salem Distt., Yercaud - 636601, T.N.

232. Madurai Kumraj University Plant Sciences Division Botanical Garden, Madurai - 625021, T.N.

233. Agri - Horticulture Society, 31 Cathedral Road, Madras - 600086, T.N.

234. Sim's Park, Nilgiris, Cornoor, T.N.

235. Tamil Nadu Agriculture University Botanical Garden, Lawley Road, Coimbatore - 641003, T.N.

236. Central Institute of Medicinal & Aromatic Plants Regional Centre (Development Farm) Attuvampatti, P B 22, Kodaikanal- 642101, T.N.
237. Central Research Institute (Siddha), (Medicinal Plant Garden), Arignar Anna Govt. Hospital Campur, Arumbakkam, Madras - 600106, T.N.
238. Bharathiar University Botany Department University, Botany Department Botanical Garden, Coimbatore - 641041, T.N.
239. Regional Research Institute of Unani Medicine, (Experimental Farm), 1 West Mada Church Street, Royapuram, Madras - 600013, T.N.
240. Survey of Medicinal Plants & Collection Unit (Medicinal Plant Garden), 112, Government Arts College Campus, Udhagamandalam - 643002, T.N.
241. Tamil Nadu Agriculture University Horticulture Research Station PO - Observatory, Kodaikanal-642103, T.N.
242. Government Botanical Garden Nilgiris, Udhagamandalam - 643001, T.N.
243. State Horticulture Farm Nilgiris, PO - Mettupalayam, Coimbatore Dist., Kaltar - 6411301, T.N.
244. Tamil Nadu Government, Cinchona Department (Plantation), Annamallars, T.N.
245. Tamil Nadu Med. Plant Farms & Herbal Med. Corporation Ltd., Arignar Anna Govt. Hospital Campus, Arumbakkam, Madras -600106, T.N.
246. Tamil Nadu Government, Cinchona Department (Plantation), Udhagamandalam - 643001, T.N.
247. Tamil Nadu Government, Cinchona Department, (Plantation), Padanthorai, T.N.
248. Tamil Nadu Government, Cinchona Department, (Plantation), Nadovattam, T.N.
249. Centre for Rural Health & Social Education, A-11, Ashok Nagar, Tiruputtur, NAA Distt., T.N. - 635601.
250. St. John's College, Palayamkottai, T.N.
251. Bishop Herbal College, Tirushirappali, T.N.
252. Karpagam Arts and Science College, Coimbatore, T.N.
253. Botanical Survey of India, Southern Circle, Tamil Nadu Agriculture University Campus, Lawlay Road, Coimbatore - 641003, T.N.
254. Central Institute of Medicinal & Aromatic Plants, Regional Centre, Attuvampatti, PB - 22, Kodaikanal-624101, T.N.
255. Dr. A. Lakshmiipathi Research Centre in Ayurveda, VHS. Medical Centre, TTTI Post Office, Madras - 600113, T.N.
256. M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation Community Gene Bank, 3rd Cross Road, Taramani Institutional Area, Madras - 600113, T.N.
257. Madurai Kamraj University, Plant Science Division, Madurai - 622021, T.N.
258. Presidency College, Botany Department, Madras - 600005, T.N.
259. Regional Research Institute of Unani Medicine, 1 West Mada Church Street, Royapuram, Madras - 600013, T.N.
260. Survey of Medicinal Plants & Collection Unit (Homoeopathy), 112, Government Arts College Campus, Udhagamandalam- 643002, T.N.
261. Survey of Medicinal Plants Unit (Siddha), Govt. College of Indian Medicine, Triunelveli, Distt. - Palayamkottai - 627002, T.N.
262. Bryant Park, Modaikanal, T.N.
263. St. Joseph's College, Rapinat Herbarium, Tiruchirapalli - 620002, T.N.
- Tripura**
264. Tripura Forest Development & Plantation Corporation Ltd. (Plantation), Agartala - 799001, Tripura
- Uttar Pradesh**
265. Maharishi Ayurvedic Santhan (Medicinal Plant Garden), Maharishi Ayurved, Noida Export Processing Zone, Noida, U.P.
266. Gramonnati Sansthan, (Medicinal Plant Garden) Hamirpur Distt., Mahoda PO., U.P.
267. National Botanical Research Institute Banthra Research Station (Plantation), Kanpur Road, Lucknow Distt., Banthra-227101, U.P.
268. National Botanical Research Institute, Betel Vine Extension Centre, Hamirpur Distt., Mahoba-21 0427, U.P.
269. Government Garden, Allahabad-211002, U.P.

270. Meerut University Botanical Garden, Botanical Garden, Meerut, U.P. Govt. Offices Complex, Hapur Road, Chungi Ghaziabad - 201002, U.P.
271. Kulbhushan Ashram Post - Graduate College Botanical Garden, Din Dayal Upadhyay Marg, Allahabad -211901, U.P. 288. Homoeopathy Drug Research Institute, B - 1433 Indira Nagar, Lucknow - 226016, U.P.
272. Himalaya Jadi - Booti Vigyan Sewa Sansthan, (Medicinal Plant Garden), "Angi - Uttar Pradesh" Headquarters, Chimalaya, U.P. 289. Homoeopathy Pharmacopoeia Laboratory, Central Govt. Offices Complex, Hapur Road, Chungi Ghaziabad - 201002, U.P.
273. Homoeopathic Pharmacopoeia University (Medicinal Plant Garden), Central Govt. Office Complex, Hapur Road Chungi, Ghaziabad - 201002, U.P. 290. Lucknow University, Lucknow - 226007, U.P.
274. Central Institute of Medicinal & Aromatic Plants, Near Kukrail Picnic Spot, Faridanagar P Bag - 1, PO - Ram Sagar Misra Nagar, Lucknow - 226016, U.P. 291. Pharmacopoeia Laboratory for Indian Medicine, A Wing, 3rd Floor, Central Govt. Office Building, Kamla Nehru Nagar, Ghaziabad - 201002, U.P.
275. Central Drug Research Institute Botanical Garden, Chattar Manzil Place, Lucknow, U.P. 292. Regional Research Centre, Gwalior Road, Jhansi - 248003, U.P.
276. Central Council for Research in Unani Medicine, Central Herb Garden & Museum, National Botanical Research Institute Campus, Rana Pratap Bagh, Lucknow - 226002, U.P. 293. Regional Research Institute (Ayurveda), 476/6 Sitapur Road, Lucknow - 226007, U.P.
277. Regional Research Centre (Ayurveda), (Medicinal Plant Garden), Gwalior Road, Jhansi-248003, U.P. **Uttaranchal**
278. Banaras Hindu University, Botanical Garden, Varanasi - 221005, U.P. 294. Forest Research Institute, Non - Wood Forest Pro. Division, (Medicinal Plant Garden), Chakrata, Uttaranchal.
279. Regional Research Institute of Unani Medicine, P. Bag - 70, Ajmal Khan Tibia College Hospital, Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh - 202001, U.P. 295. Central Soil & Water Conservation Res. & Trg. Instt., (Research Farm), Selakui Vill. Chakrata Road, Dehradun-248195, Uttaranchal
280. Aligarh Muslim University Botany Department, Botanical Garden, Aligarh - 202001, U.P. 296. Lupin Herbal Research Centre, (Medicinal Plant Garden), Shivanand Nagar, PO - Tehri Garhwal, Distt. Tapovan, Uttamachal
281. Botanical Survey of India, Central Circle, 10 Chatham Line, Allahabad - 211001, U.P. 297. Horticulture Experiment & Training Centre, Almora Distt., Chauabatia P.O. - 263651, Uttaranchal
282. Horticulture Experiment & Training Centre, Company Bagh, Chakrauta Road, Sharanpur, U.P. 298. Centre Of Minor Forest Products For Rural Development & En., HIG-2/8, General Mahadev Singh Road, Indirapuram, PO - Kanwall, Dehradun - 248001, Uttaranchal
283. ND University of Agriculture & Technology, Narender Nagar (Kumarganj), Faizabad, U.P. - 224229. 299. Herbs Development Scheme Gooperative Department, (Medicinal Plant Garden), Almora Distt., Ranikhet, Uttaranchal
284. C.C.S. University, Meerut, U.P. 300. Bhagirathi Resorts Selakui Vill, Chakrata Road, Dehradun, Uttaranchal
285. Allahabad University, Botany Department, Allahabad - 211001, U.P. 301. Central Institute Of Medicinal & Aromatic Plants Regional Centre (Demonstration Farm) PO - Dairy Farm, Nainital Distt., Nagla -263174, Uttaranchal
286. Botanical Survey of India, Central Circle, 10 Chatham Lines, Allahabad - 211001, U.P. 302. High Altitude Plant Physiology Research Centre, PO Bag-14, HNB Garhwal University Botanical Garden, Srinagar - 246174, Uttaranchal
287. Drug Standardisation Unit (Homoeopathy), Homoeopathy Pharmacopoeia Laboratory, Central

303. Indian Institute Of Ayurveda For Drug Research, (Medicinal Plant Garden Saffron Farm), Near Ranikhet, Ranikhet -263645, Uttaranchal
304. Forest Research Institute Botany Division, Botanical Garden Campus, PO - New Forest, Dehradun - 248006, Uttaranchal
305. Doon School Campus Botanical Garden, Dehradun-248006, Uttaranchal
306. Indian Medicines Pharmaceutical Corporation Ltd., (Medicinal Plant Garden), Almora District, Mohan, Uttaranchal
307. Botanical Survey of India, Northern Circle, Gymnosperm Sanctuary, Nagdev Block Puri - 246001.
308. Botanical Survey of India, Northern Circle, Gharwal, Khirsu - 246001, Uttaranchal
309. Forest Research Institute Non-wood Forest, Production Division (Medicinal Plant Garden) Campus, PO - New Forest, Dehradun - 248006, Uttaranchal
310. Indian Institute Of Ayurveda For Drug Research, (Medicinal Plant Garden), Chamma District, Tehri, Uttaranchal
311. Botanical Survey of India, Northern Circle, 192 Kaulagarh Road, Dehradun - 248195, Uttaranchal
312. G.B. Pant Institute of Himalayan Environment & Development Kosi-Katanna, Almora - 263613, Uttaranchal
- West Bengal**
313. National Library Garden, Belvedere Road, Alipore, Kolkatta- 700027, West Bengal
314. Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park, Darjeeling, West Bengal
315. National Institute of Homoeopathy, (Medicinal Plant Garden), Block G.F., Sector-3, Bhida Nagar, Salt Lake, Kolkatta- 700091, West Bengal
316. National Congress Park, Kolkatta, West Bengal
317. Shantiniketan Garden, Visva-Bharti University Campus, Santiniketan - 731235, West Bengal
318. Eden Garden, (Government Garden), Kolkatta - 700021, West Bengal
319. Directorate of Cinchona & Other Medicinal Plants, Government of West Bengal. Government Cinchona Plantation, Latpanchor, West Bengal
320. Assembly House Garden (1928), Kolkatta, West Bengal
321. State Ayurvedic Pharmacy, (Medium Plant Garden) Kalyard, West Bengal
322. Llyad Botanical Garden, Darjeeling - 734101, West Bengal
323. Deshbandhu Park, Kolkatta. West Bengal
324. Jawahar Kunj Ayurvedic Medicinal Plants, Barrackpore, West Bengal
325. Darjeeling Government College, Botany Department, Botancy Garden, Darjeeling-734101, West Bengal
326. Argi-Horticultural Society of India, 1, Alipore Road, Kolkatta - 700027, West Bengal
327. Calcutta University, Botany Department, Experimental-cum-Botanical, 35 Itally Gunge Circular Road, Kolkatta - 700019, West Bengal
328. Directorate of Cinchona & other Medicinal Plant, Government of West Bengal, Government Cinchona Plantation, Mungsong, West Bengal
329. Burdwan University, Botany Department, Botanical Garden, Burdwan, West Bengal
330. Narendera Narayan Park, Coach Behar - 736101, West Bengal
331. Jatindra Mohan Park, Paikpura, Kolkatta, West Bengal
332. Directorate of Cinchona & other Medicinal Plant, Government West Bengal, Government Cinchona Plantation, Mungpoo, Darjeeling - 734313, West Bengal
333. Jheel Meel Sagari Park, Salt Lake City, Kolkatta - 700019, West Bengal
334. Botanical Survey of India Indian Botanical Garden, Charaka Udhyan, Central National Herbarium Building, Sibpur, Howra - 711103, West Bengal
335. Subhas Sarobar Garden Complex, Kolkatta - 700010, West Bengal
336. Birla Institute of Scientific Research, 78 Syed Amir Ali Avenue, Kolkatta - 700019, West Bengal

337. Bidhan Sishu Udyog, 1 Bidhan Sishu Sarani, Kolkatta - 700054, West Bengal
338. Victoria Memorial Garden, 1 Queen's Way, Kolkatta - 700073, West Bengal
339. Bidhan Chandra Krishi Viswavidyalaya, Botanical Garden, North Bengal Campur, Cooch Behar - 736101, West Bengal
340. Botanical Survey of India, Indian Museum, Industrial Section, Economic Herbarium, 1 Sudder Street, Kolkatta - 700016, West Bengal
341. Kolkatta University, Botany Department, 35 Ballygunge Circular Road, Kolkatta - 700019, West Bengal
342. Regional Research Institute (Ayurveda), 14 Jagannath Dutta Lane, Kolkatta - 700009, West Bengal
343. School of Tropical Medicine, Chittaranja Avenue, Kolkatta - 700073, West Bengal

[English]

Recovery of Arrears from Defaulting Employees

*247. SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA:

SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether many employers have defaulted in the payment of employer's contribution to Provident Fund (PF) and pension fund;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Employees Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) launched a recovery drive in this regard;

(d) if so, whether this drive has not met with much success;

(e) if so, the reasons therefore; and

(f) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to speed up recovery of arrears from defaulting employers?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRA SHEKHAR RAO): (a) and (b) As on 31.3.2004, out of 370386, establishments covered under the EPF & MP Act, 1952, 52302 establishments were in

default. There was a cumulative (from 1952 to 31.3.2004) default of Rs. 1862.80 crores which included:-

Provident Fund	-	Rs. 1091.61 crores
Pension Fund	-	Rs. 408.79 crores
EDLI Fund	-	Rs. 37.83 crores
Penal Damages	-	Rs. 267.50 crores
Adm. & Inspection Charges	-	Rs. 57.07 crores

The comparative position of the contributions collected and the default for the last five years is given below:

(Rs. in crores)			
Year	Contributions received (PF, Pension & EDLI)	Increase in default during the year	% of increase in default
1999-00	13418.46	485.12	3.62
2000-01	14500.41	125.80	0.87
2001-02	15790.77	152.14	0.96
2002-03	16334.60	175.55	1.07
2003-04	18473.88	351.01	1.90

Out of the total arrears of Rs. 1862.80 crores as on 31.3.2004, an amount of Rs. 1321.49 crores (i.e. 70.94% of the total arrears) was not immediately realizable due to various constraints like stays given by various High Courts, establishments under liquidation, installments granted, establishments under BIFR etc. The details are given below:-

Sl. No.	Reasons for not-immediately realizable arrears	No. of cases	Amount involved (Rs. in crores)
1.	Stay by Courts	3892	711.24
2.	Under Liquidation	2088	142.95
3.	Others*	8992	467.30
Total		14972	1321.49

* Others include instalment facility, BIFR etc.

As on 31.3.2004 there were 919 Public Sector Undertakings in default of Rs. 695.64 crores. Thus a meagre 1.76 % defaulting establishments – which belong to Public Sector – account for more than 37.34% of the arrears.

(c) to (e) EPFO launched special drive for the recovery

of arrears and recovered an amount of Rs. 1832.70 crores during 2003-2004 which was 105% more than the recovery during the previous year.

(Rs. in crores)

Year	Amount due for recovery	Recovered during the year	% collection
1999-00	1684.63	626.33	37.18
2000-01	1981.08	796.98	40.23
2001-02	2194.77	858.53	39.12
2002-03	2397.78	885.99	36.95
2003-04	3695.50	1832.70	49.59

During the period 1999-2004, EPFO has been able to recover Rs. 5000.53 crores which is 642% more than the amount recovered (Rs. 778.50 crores) during the previous nine years (1990-1999).

Year	Prosecution filed u/s. 14	FIR filed u/s. 406/409 of IPC	Bank accounts attached	Movable / immovable properties attached	Arrests of defaulters
2001-02	6712	570	8301	775	145
2002-03	2451	945	6390	609	144
2003-04	2426	1387	19278	1001	121

During the year 2003-04, EPFO could achieve convictions in 2396 cases filed under section 14 of EPF & MP Act, 1952.

(f) Steps taken / being taken for expeditious recovery of PF dues

- * Strengthening the recovery machinery - an exclusive Directorate of Recovery has been constituted at the Headquarters level to monitor assessment and recovery of dues.
- * A special task force has been constituted at the Headquarters level to monitor the performance of individual officers and regions. This task force is headed by the Central PF Commissioner duly assisted by the Addl. CPFC (Compliance) and Director (Recovery).
- * Similar task forces have been created at the Regional Office level as well, headed by the Regional PF Commissioner-I of the region for specially monitoring the recovery performance of individual officers.

In the Public Sector also this recovery drive has shown good results and during 2003-2004 the EPFO could recover Rs. 520.60 crores from the defaulting public sector undertakings. The comparative figures for the last three years in respect of Public Sector Undertakings are given below:-

(Rs.in crores)

Year	Total workload	Realized during the year	Closing Balance
2001-2002	973.2	211.57	761.65
2002-2003	906.05	299.01	607.04
2003-2004	1216.24	520.60	695.64

Coercive actions against defaulters:

For recovery of outstanding dues EPFO initiates coercive actions. Due to the actions taken by the EPFO there has been a tremendous growth in the recovery of arrear dues. The details of coercive actions taken for recovery are given below:-

- * The field offices have been advised to specially monitor the cases where recovery is not possible immediately due to litigation, liquidation etc., for exploring possibilities of converting the demand to realizable category.
- * The cases of major defaulting establishments are monitored by the Head Office and the list alongwith the dues outstanding are put on the website of the organization.
- * The compliance in respect of the top ten defaulters are closely watched by the Head office. Similarly the top ten defaulters of the region are under close scrutiny of the Regional PF Commissioner-I and the officer-in-charge respectively.
- * The field offices have been directed to have a special drive on recovery during March, 2005 for realizing maximum amount towards outstanding dues.

[Translation]

Marine Tourism

*248. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is contemplating to implement the Marine Tourism Shipping Policy to promote marine tourism; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) A High Powered Committee has been set up by Ministry of Shipping in consultation with Ministry of Tourism to formulate a cruise shipping policy with the objective of making India a major cruise tourism destination for attracting the right segment of foreign cruise tourists and for popularizing cruise shipping with Indian tourists.

Committee on Linking of Rivers

*249. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA:

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has set up a high level committee on inter-linking of rivers, in place of the Task Force set up for the purpose earlier;

(b) if so, the composition and terms of reference of the committee and by when the report is likely to be submitted to the Union Government;

(c) whether any report about the study and consultations has been submitted by the out-going task force; and

(d) if so, the details of observations and recommendations made therein?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) and (b) Consequent upon winding up of the Task Force on Interlinking of Rivers (TF-ILR) w.e.f. 31.2.2004, a Special Cell has been constituted to look after the residual routine work of the TF-ILR and for taking follow up action on the Interlinking of Rivers Programme under the Ministry of Water Resources (MOWR).

Ministry of Water Resources has also constituted a Committee of Environmentalists, Social Scientists and other Experts under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Ministry of Water Resources with a view to make the process of proceeding on Interlinking of Rivers (ILR) consultative. The role of Committee is advisory in nature and it is required to render its advice to the Government from time to time on its terms of reference. The Committee is not required to submit any report.

The Composition and Terms of Reference of the Committee are given below:

A. Composition

- | | | |
|-----|--|----------|
| 1. | Secretary, Ministry of Water Resources
Govt. of India, New Delhi | Chairman |
| 2. | Secretary, Ministry of Social Justice &
Empowerment, Government of India,
New Delhi | Member |
| 3. | Secretary, Ministry of Environment &
Forests, Govt. of India, New Delhi | Member |
| 4. | Chairman, Central Water
Commission, Govt. of India,
New Delhi | Member |
| 5. | Shri Z. Hasan, Former Secretary
(Ministry of Water Resources),
Government of India, Noida. | Member |
| 6. | Shri A.C. Kamraj, Chairman,
NAWAD Council, Madurai,
Tamil Nadu | Member |
| 7. | Shri P. Sen, Rtd. Member,
Central Water Commission, Kolkata,
West Bengal | Member |
| 8. | Shri Rajinder Singh, Noted
Sociologist, Alwar, Rajasthan | Member |
| 9. | Dr. Mala Kapur Shankardass,
Chairperson Development Welfare
and Research Foundation (DWARF),
New Delhi | Member |
| 10. | Dr. Ashok Khosla, President,
Development Alternatives,
New Delhi | Member |
| 11. | Prof. M.N. Madhyastha,
Environmentalist, Centre for
Ecological & Environment Studies,
Mangalore University, Karnataka | Member |

12. Director General, National Water Development Agency, New Delhi. Member-Secretary

B. Terms of Reference:

The Committee will advise the Government on the following aspects of the proposed project.

- 1 Environmental and socio-economic issues covered in the Term of Reference (TOR) for preparation of Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) finalised by the Task Force.
- 2 Rehabilitation & Resettlement package for the persons affected by ILR programme keeping in view the national R&R policy and structure of the agency for its implementation.
3. Additional studies needed to be carried out, to address any other concerns in the ILR Programme.
4. Impacts of proposed inter basin transfer of water links on settlements, occupations and other socio-economic activities, while preparing the DPRs.
5. Adoption of appropriate measures for optimum utilisation of transferred water especially in the water short basins while preparing the various DPRs.

(c) and (d) The Task Force on Interlinking of Rivers (TF-ILR) has submitted its report in the form of Action Plan-I and Action Plan-II on 30th April 2003 and 16th April 2004 respectively. The Task force in its report has made following observations and recommendations.

1. TF-ILR has outlined the time schedule for completion of the Feasibility Studies, Detailed Project Reports, Estimated Cost, implementation schedule, concrete benefits and advantage of the Project.
2. The TF-ILR has recommended that Detailed Project Report should be prepared in a Scientific manner and for this purpose Terms of Reference (ToR) has been chalked out by the Task Force for preparing Detailed Project Reports (DPRs).
3. The Task Force has observed that persuading the States to agree to sign Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for preparing DPRs for the proposed link proposals, is a time consuming activity. It has recommended that the process of achieving consensus among the States could be

initiated with the meetings at the highest level and subsequently at the technical level to form a platform for achieving consensus. The meeting at Chief Minister level could be held at a final stage for signing of the agreement / MoU for preparing DPRs.

4. The Task Force has observed that at the present juncture it is too early to pursue the matter of Himalayan Component of Interlinking of Rivers programme with the neighbouring countries. The Task Force has observed that the Peninsular Links are the right Component to begin with implementation of Interlinking of Rivers Programme. It has recommended that the Ken-Betwa Link and Parbati-Kalisindh-Chambal Link between Uttar Pradesh & Madhya Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh & Rajasthan respectively could be top priority Links.
5. The Task Force has proposed that funding should be through a combination of Private Participation, appropriate Public Private Partnership and Pure Public Funding.

[English]

Supply of Groundnut and Sesame Seeds

*250. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received any request from State Governments for supply of Groundnut and Sesame seeds; and

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

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) No request from State Governments for supply of Groundnut seeds for Kharif- 2005 has been received. However, the Government of India has received request from Government of Gujarat for permission for supply of Groundnut labeled seed of GG-2 and SB-11 as Kernels under the Block Demonstration Programme of Integrated Scheme on Oilseeds, Pulses, Oilpalm and Maize (ISOPOM) and for allowing distribution subsidy @ Rs.600/- per quintal on Groundnut labeled seed as Pods for a quantity of 13000 quintals and as Kernels for a quantity of 7900 quintals. The Government of India have already given permission to Government of Gujarat on 1st March, 2005 on the above issues.

No such request has been received for Sesame seeds.

*[Translation]***Milk Yield**

*251. SHRI RAKESH SINGH:

SHRI M. SHIVANNA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the fact that average milk yield per milch animal in the country is much lower than that of the World average;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) Yes Sir. The average milk yield of cattle in India is significantly lower than the world average. But the average milk yield of buffaloes in India is marginally higher than the World average.

(b) Poor genetic quality (as evidenced by much higher proportion of indigenous cattle compared to crossbred and high yielding cattle) and inadequate availability of feed and fodder of nutritional value are the main reasons.

(c) The Government of India is implementing the following schemes:

- (i) National Project for Cattle and Buffalo breeding for genetic upgradation,
- (ii) Assistance to States for Control of Animal Diseases,
- (iii) Regional Forage Production and Demonstration,
- (iv) Central Fodder Seed Production Farm,
- (v) Central Minikit Testing Programme.

*[English]***Protection of Domestic Fish Industry**

*252. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that import of fish has severely affected the domestic fish industry;

(b) if so, whether there is a demand to take steps to protect the domestic fish industry; and

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

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) The quantity of fish imported into the country is very insignificant and therefore it cannot be said to have severely affected domestic fish industry.

(b) and (c) Certain representations have been received against import of fish. Adequate safeguards are in place to ensure that interests of domestic fish industry are protected.

Land Reforms

*253. SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is monitoring land reforms in various States in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof including the extent of land distributed to landless poor, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government is monitoring progress of the implementation of Land Reforms Programmes, including distribution of land, through the Quarterly Progress Reports received from the State Governments as well as by organizing conferences of Revenue Ministers/Secretaries of States/UTs.

(b) States are requested to fix annual targets for distribution of ceiling surplus land and to distribute the same to the landless rural poor. Statements showing the progress of distribution of ceiling surplus land, Bhoodan land and Government Wasteland are enclosed as statements-I, II and III respectively.

Statement-I*Showing the distribution of Ceiling Surplus Land as on 31st March, 2004*

(Area in acres)

S.No.	States/UTs	Area Declared surplus	Area Taken possession	Area Distributed to individual beneficiary	Total No. of beneficiaries
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Andhra Pradesh	789,910	646,521	582,188	525,663

1	2	3	4	5	6
2	Assam	613,405	575,337	545,875	445,862
3	Bihar	415,447	390,752	306,964	379,528
4	Gujarat	226,043	161,716	146,578	33,312
5	Haryana	107,067	103,171	102,388	29,346
6	Himachal Pradesh	316,556	304,895	6,167	6,255
7	Jammu and Kashmir	455,575	450,000	450,000	450,000
8	Karnataka	268,478	164,675	123,412	33,727
9	Kerala	141,427	96,851	68,745	166,814
10	Madhya Pradesh	298,763	260,323	186,942	74,705
11	Maharashtra	708,098	650,031	613,965	135,301
12	Manipur	1,830	1,685	1,682	1,258
13	Orissa	180,301	168,035	158,030	141,155
14	Punjab	223,115	105,858	104,257	28,582
15	Rajasthan	611,912	570,290	463,547	82,441
16	Tamil Nadu	202,795	194,118	183,670	145,608
17	Tripura	1,995	1,944	1,598	1,424
18	Uttar Pradesh	366,147	335,525	260,509	300,163
19	West Bengal	1,394,180	1,304,185	1,088,445	2,759,791
20	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	9,406	9,305	6,851	3,353
21	Delhi	1,132	394	394	654
22	Pondicherry	2,326	1,286	1,070	1,464
Total		7,335,908	6,496,897	5,403,277	5,746,410

Statement-II

Showing the Distribution of Bhoodan Land
as on 31st March, 2004

(Area in Lakh Acres)

Sl. No.	States	Donated	Distributed	Balance
1	2	3	4	5
1	Andhra Pradesh	2.52	1.1	1.42
2	Assam	0.01	0.01	Nil
3	Bihar*	21.18	7.23	13.95

1	2	3	4	5
4	Gujarat	0.34	0.27	0.07
5	Haryana	0.02	0.02	Nil
6	Himachal Pradesh	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.
7	Jammu and Kashmir	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.
8	Karnataka	0.11	0.05	0.06
9	Kerala	0.02	0.02	Nil
10	Madhya Pradesh #	1.72	1.41	0.31

1	2	3	4	5
11	Maharashtra	1.04	0.27	0.77
12	Orissa	6.39	5.8	0.59
13	Punjab	0.05	0.01	@0.04
14	Rajasthan	1.15	1.14	0.01
15	Tamil Nadu	0.24	0.21	0.03
16	Uttar Pradesh %	4.37	4.21	0.16
17	West Bengal	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.
Total		39.16	21.75	17.41

⊙ Area not taken possession.

* Including Jharkhand

Including Chhattisgarh

% Including Uttaranchal

Statement-III

Showing the distribution of Government Wastelands
as on 31st March, 2004

(Area in Lakh Acres)

S.No.	Name of State/UT	Area Distributed
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	42.02
2.	Assam	5.89
3.	Bihar*	13.21
4.	Gujarat	13.81
5.	Haryana	0.00
6.	Himachal Pradesh	0.17
7.	Karnataka	13.72
8.	Kerala	4.57
9.	Madhya Pradesh #	0.79
10.	Maharashtra	10.23
11.	Manipur	0.32
12.	Punjab	1.10
13.	Orissa	7.26
14.	Tamil Nadu	2.07

1	2	3
15.	Tripura	1.32
16.	Uttar Pradesh @	24.89
17.	West Bengal	4.32
18.	Goa	0.05
19.	Mizoram	0.74
20.	Rajasthan	0.93
21.	Delhi	0.06
Total		147.47

* Including Jharkhand

Including Chhattisgarh

@ Including Uttaranchal

Misappropriation of Subsidy Funds

*254. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:

SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS
be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been the cases of
misappropriation of subsidy funds by several fertilizer
companies in the country during each of the last three years;

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

(c) whether gross irregularities have been
detected in the accounts of fertilizers sold to the farmers in
such States;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether any investigation has been made by
the Government in this regard;

(f) if so, the outcome thereof;

(g) the extent of losses suffered by the Govern-
ment as a result thereof; and

(h) the steps taken by the Government to check
recurrence of such incidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS
AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN):
(a) to (f) The year-wise details regarding misappropriation/
wrongful claims brought to the notice of the Government
pertaining to sales made during the last three year by the
fertilizer companies in the matter of drawal of concession
under the Concession Scheme for decontrolled fertilizers
are given in the enclosed statement.

(g) In two cases out of the above referred three cases the allegations of misappropriation/irregularities with regard to concession claims could not be substantiated in the enquiry conducted through Technical Audit and Inspection Cell (TAC). As regards extent of loss to the Government arising from the alleged misappropriation/irregularities, if any, in such cases can be ascertained only after completion of investigation. However, the amount of wrongful claim of concession so ascertained is recovered by the Government from pending/future concession claims of the claimant.

(h) In order to check wrongful claims and other malpractices in manufacturing and sale of decontrolled fertilizers, Government has taken further steps. The salient ones are:-

- (i) To ensure that SSP units are indeed using notified grades of rock phosphate, a Technical Audit and Inspection Cell (TAC) has been constituted to conduct inspection of the SSP units.

(ii) Under the present guidelines on Concession Scheme issued on 5.8.2002, it is mandatory for the SSP units to undergo first time technical inspection by TAC. Only those units, which according to TAC, after taking into consideration the plant and infrastructure facilities, are capable of producing SSP meeting FCO norms, are eligible to claim concession.

(iii) The periodical (six monthly) audit inspection of SSP units by TAC to check the use of notified grades of rock phosphate and production and sales of SSP is also mandatory for continuing under the Scheme.

(iv) Government has entrusted to TAC the annual audit inspection of DAP and complex fertilizers manufacturing plants to check production and first point sale of fertilizer beginning 2001-02.

Statement

Year	Manufacturer	Product	Nature of complaint	Outcome of inquiry
2002-03	TEDCO Granite	SSP	False purchase of rock and fictitious SSP production in Books, etc. for the years 2001-02 and 2002-03.	The allegations were not substantiated as rock purchase from RSMML was proved in the inquiry conducted through Technical Audit and Inspection Cell (TAC) set up under the aegis of Projects and Development India Limited in pursuance of guidelines on Concession Scheme dated 17.5.2001.
	Rama Phosphates Ltd.	SSP	For the period 1.7.2001 to 30.6.2002, the unit showed inflated production of SSP and discrepancies in its Annual Report figures.	The allegations were not substantiated by inquiry conducted through TAC.
2003-04	Madras Fertilizers Ltd.	Urea & Complex fertilizers	Intentionally claimed subsidy on sub-standard fertilizers.	The matter is still under investigation.
2004-05 up to 28.2.2005	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

Protection of Mangrove Forests

*255. SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH:
SHRI JUAL ORAM:

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

(a) whether the Government is aware of the increase in the destruction of mangrove forests in various coastal States;

(b) if so, the steps taken for the proper conservation of the existing mangrove forest areas;

(c) whether there is any proposal to develop mangrove forests in the coastal States particularly which have been affected by Tsunami; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) As per State of Forest Report, 2001 the area under mangroves is 4482 square Kms. This is less than the reported area of 4871 square Kms for the year 1999. The main reasons for this decline in reported mangrove area are change in the methodology (digital interpretation) and scale of interpretation (1: 50,000) due to which small water bodies (creeks, straits etc.) and non-mangrove areas (which earlier could not be delineated) could be detected and have been excluded from mangrove cover. These fragile ecosystems are under tremendous biotic pressure.

(b) In order to protect and conserve the mangrove areas the Government has taken the following steps:

Regulatory Measures:

- (i) The mangroves have been declared as category (i) areas under the Coastal Regulation Zone notification, 1991. These areas are accorded protection of highest order and no developmental activities are permitted except those permissible under the notification.
- (ii) Mangroves located within the notified forest areas are also covered under the Indian Forest Act, 1927 and Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

Promotional Measures:

Under the Mangrove Management Action Plan, 35 mangrove areas in the country have been identified for intensive conservation and management. Rs 8.27 crores have been released by the Union Government to concerned Coastal States and Union Territories during 2002-03 and 2003-04.

(c) and (d) In order to assess the damages caused to the coastal ecosystems including the mangroves due to the recent Tsunami, the Ministry has identified 9 premier scientific institutions to carry out a rapid assessment study based on the time series satellite imageries. The Reports from these agencies have been received which indicate destruction of coastal ecosystems including mangroves. A detailed action plan with regard to restoration of these ecosystems is required to be drawn up based on the findings of the rapid assessment studies.

Amendment in Industrial Disputes Act, 1947

*256. SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA:

SHRI MADHU GOUD YASKHI:

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal for amending the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether some State Governments have also forwarded their suggestion for amendment in the said Act;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the response of the Union Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRA SHEKHAR RAO): (a) and (b) No, Sir. At present, there is no such proposal to amend the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947.

(c) Some proposals for carrying out "State Amendments" to the Industrial Disputes Act had been received.

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

Statement

Amendment proposals received from State Governments for carrying State amendments to the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947.

S.No.	Name of State	Gist of Amendment Proposal	Comments/views of the Government
1	2	3	4
1	Andhra Pradesh	Andhra Pradesh Industrial Disputes (Amendment) Bill, 2002	

1	2	3	4
		(i) Section 2(j) - Excluding certain activities from the purview of the definition of 'Industry'.	Not agreed.
		(ii) Section 25 A - Application of Section 25 C to 25 E	Not Agreed
		(iii) Section 25 F- Enhancement of retrenchment compensation from fifteen days to thirty five days.	It was suggested to increase retrenchment compensation from the proposed 30 days to 45 days of average pay.
		(iv) Section 25 FFA - Replacing of existing provisions of Section 25-FFA by incorporating broadly provisions laid down under Section 25 O of the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947.	Not agreed.
		(v) Omit Chapter V B of the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947	It was suggested that Section 25 K be amended by raising the ceiling from 100 to 300
		(vi) Section 36 -Representation of Parties	Not agreed
2.	Gujarat	The Industrial Disputes (Gujarat Amendment) Ordinance, 2003.	
		(i) Section 2(k) - Industrial Dispute - To exclude the termination of the services of a workman from the definition of Industrial Dispute in accordance with the provisions of proposed new Chapter VD.	Agreed
		(ii) Section 2(00) -Retrenchment - Termination of the services of a workman in an industrial establishment situated in the Special Economic Zone/Industrial Park excluded from the definition of Retrenchment.	Agreed
		(iii) Clause 2(qa) - Termination - Insertion of definition of Termination.	Agreed
		(iv) Insertion of New Chapter V D	Agreed, subject to the condition that the scale of compensation in case of termination will be equivalent of 45 days of wages instead of 30 days salary for every completed year of service.
3.	Gujarat	The Gujarat Industrial Park Ordinance, 2003.	

1	2	3	4
		Section 39 -Delegation of Powers - Delegation of powers of Labour Commissioner to Development Commissioner.	No objection
		Section 13 - Application of Chapter VD of XIV of 1947 to Park-Insertion of New Chapter V D in the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 to Industrial Parks.	<p>It was suggested that instead of insertion of Chapter VD State Government may make suitable amendments in the existing provisions of the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947. The State Government may amend Section 25 F of the ID Act, 1947 for enhancing the retrenchment compensation of average pay of 45 days for every completed year of service instead of 15 days and Section 25 K be amended by raising the ceiling of workman from 100 to 300.</p> <p>The State Government was advised to discuss the matter further with the Ministry of Labour on this amendment.</p>
4.	Gujarat	The Gujarat Special Economic Zone Ordinance, 2003.	
		Section 39 - Delegation of Powers - Delegation of powers of Labour Commissioner to Development Commissioner.	Agreed
		Insertion of New Chapter V D in the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 to Special Economic Zones.	Subject to the condition that in the scale of compensation in case of termination will be equivalent of 45 days of wages instead of 30 days salary for every completed year of service.
5.	Andhra Pradesh	The Andhra Pradesh Special Enclaves (Service Conditions and Dispute Resolution) Ordinance, 2003.	
		(I) Appoint, powers and Duties of Authority - Appointment of an Authority to be called the Industrial Disputes Authority which will hear and decide the industrial disputes and the minimum wages claims arising in the Enclaves.	Agreed
		(II) Section 18 -Persons on whom settlements are binding - Applicability of Settlements	Agreed

1	2	3	4
		(iii) Powers of the authority to give relief in case of discharge or dismissal of workman.	This clause may be substituted by the existing provisions given under Section 11 A of the ID Act 1947.
		(iv) Strikes, Lay-off and Retrenchment - Amendment in Sections 22 & Section 23.	Suggested that no workman or union shall go on strike without taking a strike ballot in which 51% of the workman agree for strike
		(v) Section 25-C-lay-off and Rights of workman laid-off for compensation, Section 25-E- Workman not entitled to compensation in certain cases, 25-F- Condition precedent to retrenchment of workman, Section 25 FF-Compensation of workman in case of transfer of undertakings, Section 25 G- Procedure for retrenchment, Section 25 FF A- 60 days notice to be given of intention to close down any undertaking, Section 25 FFF- Compensation to workman in case of closing down of undertakings.	Agreed except Section 25 F.
6.	Madhya Pradesh	Industrial Disputes (Madhya Pradesh Amendment) Bill 2003.	
		Section 7C of ID Act, 1947 - Raising the retirement age of Presiding Officers from 65 to 67.	Agreed
7.	Madhya Pradesh	Madhya Pradesh Labour Law Amendment Bill, 2003.	
		Non-Applicability of Chapter V B to industrial establishment located in SEZ	Not Agreed
8.	Rajasthan	The Industrial Disputes (Rajasthan Amendment) Bill, 2004	
		Insertion of new sub-section (i) after sub-section 1 of Section 2-A of the ID Act, 1947.	Not Agreed
9.	Maharashtra	Industrial Disputes (Maharashtra Amendment) Bill, 2003.	
		Insertion of a new Chapter II-C in which provision for recognition of a union a sole bargaining agent in any undertaking covered by the Act,	Agreed, subject to the modification that in Section 9D, subsection 2 Clause 3, Sub-Clause (a) for the word

1	2	3	4
		rights and duties of recognized union, procedure of election by secret ballot and to provide provision to make rules to prescribe the procedure for investigation and resolution of allegation of unfair labour practices etc.	"appointment" the word "elected" shall be substituted and duration of period be amended from every year to once in three year.
10.	Jharkhand	The Industrial Disputes (Jharkhand Amendment) Bill, 2003.	The proposal of the State Government received on 18th February, 2005 are under examination.

[Translation]

Pending Proposals of PMGSY under Forest Conservation Act, 1980

*257. SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO:

SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA:

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

(a) whether the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 is proving a hurdle in the way of Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY);

(b) if so, the number of such proposals lying pending for want of environmental clearance under the said Act;

(c) whether the Government has given any clearance in this regard;

(d) if so, the details of the projects cleared during the last three years, State-wise; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to clear all the remaining projects under the said scheme without any further delay?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) No Sir. Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, is a regulatory and not a prohibitory Act. Repair and maintenance of the roads existing prior to 1980 inside forest

areas, do not require permission under this Act. In case of National Parks/ Sanctuaries, permission of National Board of Wildlife is required for such repair and maintenance. For widening of such roads, the permission of Central Government is required under the Act. The proposals under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) are dealt on priority basis under the Act.

(b) Clearance of cases under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, is a continuous process, and at a particular point of time there is bound to be pendency of some cases. As per available information, and as per laid down procedure prescribed under the Act and Rules, presently seven proposals are under various stages of consideration, in the Regional Offices of this Ministry, located at Lucknow and Chandigarh. The list of these proposals given in the enclosed statement-I

(c) Yes Sir.

(d) The details of the project proposals under PMGSY cleared under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 during last three years (since 01-03-2002) are given in the enclosed statement-II.

(e) Central Government has prescribed a time limit of 60 days for itself for processing and taking decision on the proposal, under Forest (Conservation) Rules, 2003. To expedite the decisions on various proposals, the Ministry of Environment and Forests has prescribed fixed dates for monthly meetings of Forest Advisory Committee / State Advisory Groups, for consideration of the proposals.

Statement-I

Pending Proposals of PMGSY under Forest Conservation Act, 1980

S.No.	Name of Proposal	State	Area in ha.
1	2	3	4
1	Construction of Link Road to Village Bargal	Himachal Pradesh	1.0956

1	2	3	4
2	Construction of Brow to Poshna Road upto Chakolt	Himachal Pradesh	3.798
3	Construction of Bhanuin Beothi - Koni Ki Behi Road	Himachal Pradesh	3.62
4	Construction of Sainj-Bara Bata Road	Himachal Pradesh	0.70
5	Construction of Patotha to Kurcena Dhar Road	Himachal Pradesh	3.58
6	Construction of Chhatrari to Jantraa Road	Himachal Pradesh	1.5841
7	Construction of Shivpuri- Timli Marg Tehri District	Uttaranchal	16.055

Statement-II

*Approved Proposals of PMGSY under Forest Conservation Act, 1980
(Proposals cleared since 01.03.2002)*

S.No.	Name of Proposal	State	Area in ha.
1	2	3	4
1	Construction of Link Road from Gurgaon Meharauli to Group Housing Complex Heritage City	Haryana	0.0017
2	Construction of Road from Panchkula to Morni	Haryana	0.0025
3	Construction of Road from Khet Prall to Dudhgarh	Haryana	0.728
4	Construction of Road from Tikkar to Brarat	Haryana	1.34
5	Construction of Road from Dhan to Thapli	Haryana	6.58
6	Construction of Jeepable Road from Dhir to Simula	Himachal Pradesh	0.06
7	Construction of Mangla-Ohil-Bharain Road	Himachal Pradesh	0.34
8	Construction of Link Road to Village Ghai Forest Division	Himachal Pradesh	0.635
9	Construction of Badwar-Khanan Road	Himachal Pradesh	0.9
10	Construction of Pukhri-Bhumani Road	Himachal Pradesh	0.952
11	Construction of 16 Mile-Sakrah Road	Himachal Pradesh	1.025
12	Construction of Kui Chara Khadrals Road	Himachal Pradesh	1.2
13	Construction of Kuthan-Sharmala Road Km 0/0-3/500	Himachal Pradesh	1.227
14	Construction of Link Road from Chari to Chamiaara via Bhitlu	Himachal Pradesh	1.9916
15	Construction of Ghanwi-Kiao Road	Himachal Pradesh	2.0028
16	Construction of Pajidhar to Phancha Road	Himachal Pradesh	2.1057
17	Construction of Ridi-Gaila-Gatyanu Road	Himachal Pradesh	2.112
18	Construction of Sunda-Jaguni Road	Himachal Pradesh	2.22

1	2	3	4
19	Construction of Link Road to Village Kiarad	Himachal Pradesh	2.333
20	Construction of Kateru-Slapper Road	Himachal Pradesh	2.36
21	Construction of Kotla-Bassi-Malot-Seul Road	Himachal Pradesh	2.52
22	Construction of Ganvi-Labana-Sadana Road	Himachal Pradesh	2.7638
23	Construction of Avera-Ghattu via Pipalhatti Road	Himachal Pradesh	3.15
24	Construction of Pujarh Saraindhar Road	Himachal Pradesh	4.5
25	Construction of Dholag-Malsoan in Johar Link Road	Himachal Pradesh	4.9
26	Construction of Brahmani-Kala-Juddu-Kalziar Road	Himachal Pradesh	7.7
27	Construction of Larot-Dodra-Kawar Road	Himachal Pradesh	8.25
28	Construction of Nana-Bandeni-Padder-Bassa-Jole-Ghatnal Road	Himachal Pradesh	10.14
29	Construction of Thach-Khalini Road	Himachal Pradesh	11.079
30	Construction of Link Road from NH 22 to Proposed Staff Qrs.of Zoological Survey of India Solan Under PMGSY	Himachal Pradesh	0.0632
31	Link Road to Village Shalnu, Forest. Division Under PMGSY	Himachal Pradesh	0.092
32	Construction of Behal-Daokyar-Jabbal- Tapparian Road Km 0/0-12/375 Forest Divn. Nalagarh Under PMGSY	Himachal Pradesh	0.135
33	Construction of Makor-Chakki Road Nurpur Forest Division Under PMGSY	Himachal Pradesh	0.16
34	Link Road from Mecloadganj Bharamkot to Lower Dharem Kot Forest Division Under PMGSY	Himachal Pradesh	0.207
35	Construction of Bangoura-Klalihatti-Kohbag-Bastigunana Road Under PMGSY	Himachal Pradesh	0.22
36	Construction of Dinka to Khanl Road Kms.0/0-3/357 Bharmour Division Under PMGSY	Himachal Pradesh	0.53
37	Construction of Pujarli-Chalalla Road Forest Division Rohru Under PMGSY	Himachal Pradesh	0.6
38	Construction of Gandhi Gram to Kiarad Road Solan Forest Division Under PMGSY	Himachal Pradesh	0.63
39	Construction of Kasauligaon Togunai Road Forest Division Solan Under PMGSY	Himachal Pradesh	0.726
40	Construction of Sial-Pasha-Shaheen Road at Kullu Under PMGSY	Himachal Pradesh	0.7669
41	Construction of Halonipul-Dahan Road Under PMGSY	Himachal Pradesh	0.81

1	2	3	4
42	Construction of Link Road from Panjhal to Chhali-Mehrag Forest Division Nahan Under PMGSY	Himachal Pradesh	0.85
43	Construction of Megwa-Suin Road Forest Division Renuka Under PMGSY	Himachal Pradesh	0.86
44	Construction of Shulidhar-Shillan Road kms.0/0-2/700 Forest Division Rohru Under PMGSY	Himachal Pradesh	0.87
45	Construction of Talyer-Pingla-Thona-Sarkaghat Road., in Mandi Forest Division Under PMGSY	Himachal Pradesh	0.913
46	Construction of Polan-Jakhbar Road, Road 0/0-2/84, Forest Division Nurpur Under PMGSY	Himachal Pradesh	1
47	Construction of Jagatsukl to Bhanara Road Under PMGSY	Himachal Pradesh	1.0017
48	Construction of Kothi Jungle Malout Road Under PMGSY	Himachal Pradesh	1.05
49	Construction of Khanog-Gadasu-Punan Road Forest Division Rampur Under PMGSY	Himachal Pradesh	1.06
50	Construction of Sanjauli-Dhalli Bye Pass Road, Km.0/0-4/370, Forest Division Shimla Under PMGSY	Himachal Pradesh	1.087
51	Extention of Road Nallah to Karkoh via Braoun Khalanoo Kms. 0/0 -14/0 Mandi Under PMGSY	Himachal Pradesh	1.1074
52	Construction of Bakhnaon-Deori-Chiterkoot Road Forest Division Kullu Under PMGSY	Himachal Pradesh	1.2
53	Construction of Chandhi-Chiyan Road by HPPWD Forest Division Kunihar Under PMGSY	Himachal Pradesh	1.437
54	Construction of Patti-Bharmani Mata Viamal Kanta Road Km. 0/0-3/277 in Bharmour Division Under PMGSY	Himachal Pradesh	1.5255
55	Construction of Link Road from Sambar Lohar to Village Thatri Forest Division Dharamsala Under PMGSY	Himachal Pradesh	1.599
56	Construction of Marika-Ghat-Sultanpur Road Under PMGSY	Himachal Pradesh	2.055
57	Construction of Road from Saichu to Chask, Forest Divn.Pangi Under PMGSY	Himachal Pradesh	2.228
58	Construction of Katahar to Gadani Road Kullu Forest Division Under PMGSY	Himachal Pradesh	2.4807
59	Construction of Pharari to Kathi Kukki Road Under PMGSY	Himachal Pradesh	2.4895
60	Construction of Prem Nagar to Chandog Road Forest Division Solan Under PMGSY	Himachal Pradesh	2.53
61	Construction of Gohar-Simadhar Road By HPPWD Kms.1.030-10.0 Forest Division Nachan Under PMGSY	Himachal Pradesh	2.57

1	2	3	4
62	Construction of Purthi to Rai Road, Forest Division Pangi Under PMGSY	Himachal Pradesh	2.5744
63	Construction of Kharamukh-Surani Pass-Akju Road, Forest Division Bharmour Under PMGSY	Himachal Pradesh	2.8288
64	Construction of Kutiara-Majheen Road, Sh-5 Forest Division Dehra Under PMGSY	Himachal Pradesh	2.88
65	Construction of Benchito Manjihihar Road Under PMGSY	Himachal Pradesh	3.06
66	Construction of Link Road to Village Dharogra from Malgipul Under PMGSY	Himachal Pradesh	3.5031
67	Construction of Banderu-Chelli-Dhewa-Ghathulu Road Forest Division Nurpur Under PMGSY	Himachal Pradesh	3.676
68	Construction of Road from Bragh Toli to Village Bastoori Under PMGSY	Himachal Pradesh	3.8501
69	Construction of Road from Marog to Bamtaby HPPWD in Forest Division Chopal Under PMGSY	Himachal Pradesh	4.443
70	Construction of Biyuti-Gerola-Vilansa Jeepable Road Under PMGSY	Himachal Pradesh	4.7105
71	Construction of Kathium-Gujrehara-Deots-Dh Road, Forest Division Bilaspur Under PMGSY	Himachal Pradesh	5.95
72	Construction of Dangar-Chona-Badhaghat Road Km.0/0-14/0 Forest Division Bilaspur Under PMGSY	Himachal Pradesh	6.8
73	Construction of Road By Prime Ministers Road Project	Madhya Pradesh	1.21
74	Nalam Talapada Road Under PMGSY	Orissa	0.4
75	Construction of Burja-Tohara Road Under PMGSY	Orissa	4.9978
76	Approach Road to Ghurakar Under PMGSY	Rajasthan	0.8175
77	Construction of Rural Connectivity Road from Sikip to Palzer Road 3.0 Km Under PMGSY	Sikkim	0.21
78	Construction of Rural Connectivity Road from Kamrang PWD Road to Kitchu Dumra Under PMGSY	Sikkim	0.604
79	Construction of Rural Connectivity Road from Namphing Turning to Tshallamthang Junior High School Under PMGSY	Sikkim	0.706
80	Construction of Link Road from Samdong to Talam Under PMGSY	Sikkim	0.792
81	Construction of Approach Road from Samlickt Under PMGSY	Sikkim	0.957
82	Construction of Rural Connectivity Road from Sumbuk Lungchok SPWD Road to Gupti Via Mung Rang Under PMGSY	Sikkim	1.4

[English]

Amendment of Minimum Wages Act, 1948

*258. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has approved a proposal to amend the Minimum Wages Act, 1948 giving the power to periodically increase the wage ceiling on the basis of consumer price index;

(b) if so, the other amendments being considered to be incorporated with the proposed Bill; and

(c) by when a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRA SHEKHAR RAO): (a) to (c) At present the Government has no such proposal under consideration.

Development of Horticulture

*259. SHRI S. D. MANDLIK:

SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the assistance provided to each State for the development of Horticulture under Centrally Sponsored Schemes during the last three years and the current year, year-wise;

(b) the criteria for allocation of such assistance;

(c) whether any action plan prepared by the Government for the development and promotion of Horticulture; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) The Ministry of Agriculture is implementing two Centrally Sponsored Schemes under which assistance is being provided for the development of horticulture. The Schemes are:

- (i) Macro Management in Agriculture-Supplementation/Complementation of State Efforts through Work Plan. Under the Scheme, assistance is being provided for different aspects of agricultural development including horticulture.
- (ii) Technology Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture in North Eastern States including Sikkim, Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttaranchal (TMNE).

The details of allocation for horticulture sector under the Schemes for the last three years and the current year is given in the enclosed statement-I and II.

(b) The allocation of funds under these schemes is based on the potential for development of horticulture, available infrastructure and capacity with the State implementing agencies and level of expenditure in the past.

(c) and (d) The Government has announced launching of a National Horticulture Mission for dealing holistically with all aspects of horticulture development, namely research, production and productivity, post harvest management, processing and marketing by adopting an end to end approach.

Statement-I

State-wise Release of Funds for Horticulture under Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Macro Management in Agriculture

(Rs. in Lakh)

S.No.	State/UTs	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Andhra Pradesh	2340.00	1370.57	1323.35	1168.90
2	Bihar	0.00	0.00	747.39	500.00
3	Jharkhand	0.00	0.00	95.00	103.00

1	2	3	4	5	6
4	Goa	549.90	447.00	106.00	101.25
5	Gujarat	220.50	621.61	383.33	591.00
6	Haryana	75.83	131.00	277.00	300.00
7	Himachal Pradesh	595.66	537.22	483.53	0.00
8	Jammu and Kashmir	300.00	277.77	505.83	91.81
9	Karnataka	520.00	537.23	1500.55	1555.55
10	Kerala	400.00	674.32	1059.75	2046.95
11	Madhya Pradesh	2650.00	2000.00	444.44	600.00
12	Chhattisgarh	767.92	1315.00	425.00	384.00
13	Maharashtra	646.00	550.00	3890.00	2265.00
14	Orissa	250.00	497.00	805.55	890.00
15	Punjab	1353.00	3810.00	180.00	180.00
16	Rajasthan	0.00	0.00	775.00	684.41
17	Tamil Nadu	0.00	0.00	1890.00	916.00
18	Uttar Pradesh	0.00	0.00	500.00	675.00
19	Uttaranchal	0.00	0.00	250.00	24.00
20	West Bengal	610.00	583.33	511.00	450.00
21	Arunachal Pradesh	237.00	216.10	0.00	0.00
22	Assam	626.86	575.00	0.00	0.00
23	Manipur	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
24	Mizoram	1759.47	1802.08	0.00	0.00
25	Meghalaya	0.00	50.00	2.50	0.00
26	Nagaland	325.00	340.00	0.00	0.00
27	Sikkim	160.74	227.00	0.00	0.00
28	Tripura	500.00	440.00	0.00	0.00
29	Chandigarh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
30	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	22.50	26.15	11.75	0.00
31	Delhi	117.00	79.00	37.70	30.00
32	Lakshadweep	0.00	72.50	49.00	0.00
33	Pondicherry	129.13	0.00	35.00	35.00
34	Daman and Diu	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
35	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	52.70	55.12	124.27	9.50
Total		15209.21	17235.00	16412.94	13601.37

Statement-II

State-wise Release of Funds for Horticulture under Technology Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture in North Eastern States including Sikkim, Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttaranchal (TMNE).

(Rs. in lakhs)

	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	
				(Allocation)	(Release)
A. Mini Mission - I					
1. NE states including Sikkim	250.00	175.00	100.00	700.00	700.00
2. Jammu and Kashmir	-	-	100.00	100.00	100.00
3. Himachal Pradesh	-	-	100.00	100.00	100.00
4. Uttaranchal	-	-	100.00	100.00	154.00
B. Mini Mission - II					
1. Arunachal Pradesh	728.85	1099.00	1220.00	1500.00	1500.00
2. Assam	611.12	1092.15	1400.00	1425.00	525.00
3. Manipur	487.03	685.00	638.00	1100.00	1100.00
4. Meghalaya	625.71	775.60	850.00	1211.00	1211.00
5. Mizoram	508.95	1099.73	1089.00	1632.20	1632.00
6. Nagaland	551.70	979.00	1256.00	1875.00	1467.30
7. Sikkim	616.77	855.00	1000.00	1150.00	1099.83
8. Tripura	512.40	785.00	900.00	1012.80	1012.80
9. Jammu and Kashmir	-	-	650.00	1450.00	1233.00
10. Himachal Pradesh	-	-	650.00	1300.00	1300.00
11. Uttaranchal	-	-	564.72	1300.00	975.00
12. Technical Support/ SFAC Service charges & other Project based proposals.	102.43	129.52	101.28	194.00	83.29
C. Mini Mission - III					
1. NE states including Sikkim	1380.96	1350.00	700.00	2750.00	1480.49
2. Jammu and Kashmir Himachal Pradesh & Uttaranchal	-	-	320.00	550.00	192.00
3. Jammu and Kashmir (Reconstruction Plan)					178.50
D. Mini Mission - IV					
1. NE States including Sikkim	350.00	75.00	.	.	.
2. Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh & Uttaranchal	-	-	100.00	550.00	120.00
3. Jammu and Kashmir, (Reconstruction Plan)					321.50
Grand Total	6724.96	9100.00	11839.00	20000.00	16485.71

New Tourism Policy

*260. SHRI M. P. VEERENDRA KUMAR:

SHRI HITEN BARMAN:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to initiate any New Tourism Policy in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is an increase in the inflow of foreign tourists in India;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government proposes to encourage medical tourism, adventure tourism, heritage tourism; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) The present National Tourism Policy was announced in the year 2002. This policy is subject to constant review and change based on the prevailing domestic and international tourism scenario.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) An estimated 3.37 million foreign tourists visited India during the year 2004 compared to 2.73 million during 2003 showing an increase of about 23.5%.

(e) and (f) Yes, Sir. Various initiatives have been taken by the Government in recent times to encourage medical tourism, adventure tourism and heritage tourism. Besides traditional system of medicine like Ayurveda, Yoga, Panchkarma, Rejuvenation Therapy etc., India has world class medical doctors and state-of-the-art medical facilities which are available at much cheaper rates. In order to promote India as a Health Destination, a Task Force has been formed in Ministry of Health and Family Welfare which is looking into various issues. As regards heritage tourism, the Ministry of Tourism has launched an Awareness Campaign "Atithi Devo Bhavah" to promote and preserve heritage and culture specific tourism. The Incredible India campaign lays emphasis on heritage and monuments of India. Adventure tourism is also being promoted in a big way. A brochure has been brought out highlighting the places and facilities available in India for adventure sports like trekking, rock climbing, skiing, hand gliding, para gliding, river rafting, sailing and wind surfing, etc. which has been widely publicized through domestic and overseas tourism offices.

Scientists in Bureau of Indian Standards

2591. SHRI KULDEEP BISHNOI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of scientists/technocrats presently working on senior positions in Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS);

(b) whether the Government has received any recommendations regarding appointment of scientists/technocrats as head of BIS;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to appoint scientists/technocrats as Director-General or Assistant D.G. in BIS?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) The number of scientists/technocrats presently working on senior positions in Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) are as under:-

Scientist G (Additional Director General) (Rs. 18400-500-22400)	=	2
Scientist F (Rs. 16400-450-20000)	=	39
Scientist E (Rs. 14300-400-18300)	=	188
Total	=	229

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Joint Parliamentary Committee on Pesticide residues in and safety standards for soft drinks, fruit juice and other beverages has recommended that BIS should be headed by an eminent scientist.

(d) The vacant post of Director General, Bureau of Indian Standards has been advertised on 12th March, 2005 in the Employment News and other leading national dailies in Hindi and English. The post has also been circulated to all the scientific and technical organizations inviting applications of suitable candidates. The advertisement has also been hosted on the websites of BIS and Department of Consumer Affairs. There is no post of Assistant D.G. in BIS.

[Translation]

Food Atlas

2592. SHRI BAPU HARI CHAURE: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is preparing any comprehensive food atlas so as to encourage food processing industries in the country;

(b) if so, whether the Government has initiated any efforts to identify the areas engaged in the production of agro produces; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) to (c) A data base on agri produce is maintained by the Ministry of Agriculture and its subordinate agencies. To give a boost to the processing of agri produce the Ministry of Food Processing Industries assists in the setting up / modernization / expansion of food processing units. Assistance in human resource development, research and development, quality control and infrastructure development for the food processing industries, is also provided. One of the major schemes of the Ministry namely viz., Food Park Scheme has been in operation for providing infrastructure support to food processing units in the food park area. Under the scheme so far 49 food parks have been sanctioned in different parts of the country.

A Vision Document for promotion of food processing industries has also been prepared to take this sector forward. In addition, State Governments have also been asked to have studies conducted in this sector so that they may also prepare their own action plan and formulate policies for the growth of food processing industries.

[English]

Tourism in N.E.

2593. SHRI M. K. SUBBA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for North Eastern States to have their own website to promote tourism;

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

(c) the major tourist attractions of each State indicating the number of foreign and domestic tourists who visited during 2002, 2003 and 2004?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) All States of North East except Manipur have set up their own websites. Ministry of Tourism, Government of India

provides financial assistance to the North Eastern Region including Sikkim for computerization including launching of the websites, with a view to enable online access to the tourists about information on the tourist attractions of the North Eastern States.

Ministry of Tourism, Government of India has also launched a website www.incredibleindia.org which provides comprehensive information about tourist attractions in the country including the NE States.

(c) Details of some of the important tourist attractions and the tourist arrival figures for the year 2002-2003 are as under:

Name of State	Important Tourist Attractions	Tourist Arrivals			
		2002		2003	
		Foreign	Domestic	Foreign	Domestic
Arunachal Pradesh	Bomdila, Tawan, Gompa (religious)	187	4372	123	2195
Assam	Kaziranga National Park, Sibsagar	6409	1953915	6610	2156675
Manipur	War Cemetery, Loktak lake	221	89633	257	92923
Mizoram	Aizwal, Champhai	259	29417	279	35129
Meghalaya	Shillong, Umiam Lake	3146	268609	6304	371953
Nagaland	War Cemetery, Aradura Hills (religious)	657	14263	743	5605
Sikkim	Gangtok, Monastery (religious)	8566	159342	11966	179661
Tripura	Rock Cuts at Una-Koti and Pilak, Fourteen Goddess Temple (religious)	2602	260586	3196	257331

Figures for the year 2004 are not available.

[Translation]

Production of Medicines

2594. SHRI GANESH SINGH: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the Governmental and Non-Governmental pharmaceutical companies engaged in production of medicines meant for human beings and animals in the country and have got ISO 9000 and 9002 certificate, State-wise; and

(b) the names of the companies which have their own laboratories?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN):

(a) and (b) A large number of units manufacturing drugs and related items, both in the organized sector and in the small scale sector are operating in the country. However as per the information available with the O/o Drugs Controller General of India, the details of Drug manufacturers working in the country, State-wise and in force as on November 2003 is enclosed as Statement. Many of these companies have their own testing laboratories. Under the provisions of Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 and Rules there under, the responsibility for regulating manufacture and sale of drugs including monitoring their quality is primarily vested with the State Governments. Under Drugs and Cosmetics Act 1940, Pharma companies have to comply with provisions of Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) and ISO 9000 & 9002 is not required under this Act.

Statement

Categories wise No. of Manufacturing Licenses in States

S. No.	States	Bulk Drugs	Formulation Volume	Large Vaccines	Blood Banks	Surgical Dressings	Disinfectants	Repacking	License	Loan	Medical Devices	Cosmetics	Ayurvedic Unani Siddha	Homeopathic	Miscellaneous
1.	Andhra Pradesh	200	416	5	14	179	21	27	620			59			31
2.	Assam	2	19	2	51	15	12	3			1	10	38	1	6
3.	Arunachal Pradesh		2		3										
4.	Bihar		236	3	1	38	Included in 236		7			7	240	26	2
5.	Chandigarh	1	13		3		4					2	3		
	Chhattisgarh	2	37		1		7		2		4	5	44	2	
	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	5	56				1	2	47			54	15		
6.	Delhi	4	90		1	42	28	1	89		1	499		69	
7.	Goa	5	88	2	7	1	1	2	186		1	16	6		
8.	Gujarat	430	526	18	6	159	52	15	644		117	324	930	11	
9.	Haryana	23	230	6	2	42	65	6	13		4	39	10		
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	3	15		1	14	5	2			1	1	10		
11.	Karnataka	57	84	2	2	135	21	32	291		3	74			33
12.	Kerala	4	60	10	1	125	2	6	15		4	11	800	17	
13.	Maharashtra	347	693	17	9	245	38	29	1931		19	513	655	25	68
14.	Madhya Pradesh	54	435	12	1	101	44	20	263		4	56	538	17	15
15.	Meghalaya		2		1	4						3			
16.	Mizoram		1		5	1									
17.	Orissa	4	43		2	63	19	31	14			39		25	6
18.	Pondicherry	7	34			8		3	12		3	52	51	7	2
19.	Punjab	9	187	3	2	72	13		12			71		3	13
20.	Rajasthan	19	85	2	1	60	48	9	68		5	24	4	4	31
21.	Sikkim		1		3							3	1	1	
22.	Tamil Nadu	62	436	15	5	192	103	20	325		12	175	531	7	58
23.	Tripura		4			6	1						1		
24.	Uttaranchal	10	8	1	1	18	7	1	6		1	3		1	
25.	Uttar Pradesh	44	329	9	3	126	115	30	53		12	51	40	12	
26.	West Bengal	46	280	27	3	104	32	40	131		7	191	850	700	10

Labour Law

2595. SHRI BALESHWAR YADAV: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industries have requested the Government to explore the possibilities of simplifying the Labour Laws of the country; and

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

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRA SHEKHAR RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Simplification of labour laws is a part of labour law reforms. The Government receives suggestions on labour law reforms from various quarters, which are deliberated with social partners for harmonizing the interests of all stakeholders.

Land Erosion

2596. SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the people living near Sarjoo, Ghaggar, Narayani and Rapti rivers are facing loss of lives and properties due to land erosion by rivers; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) Flood management being a State subject, the schemes for flood control are planned, funded and executed by the State Governments themselves as per their own priorities out of their State plan funds which are made available to them through Planning Commission. The assistance rendered by Central Government is technical, catalytical and promotional in nature. All Ganga Basin States were asked to submit proposals of anti erosion schemes to Ganga Flood Control Commission (GFCC) for a Centrally Sponsored Scheme, "Critical anti erosion works in Ganga Basin States" with central share of Rs.136.17 crore, which is under operation during 2004-07. Schemes on Rapti river, as proposed by State Government of Uttar Pradesh have already been approved by GFCC for inclusion in this scheme.

As per policy of Uttar Pradesh Government, no measures are proposed to protect villages situated in the flood plain area by erosion of rivers by Uttar Pradesh Irrigation Department. However, District authorities and revenue department advise villagers situated in the flood plain areas to shift to safer areas.

Improvement in Variety of Fruits

2597. SHRI Y. G. MAHAJAN:

SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to formulate any scheme for improvement in the variety of fruits, their marketing and processing in the country particularly in hilly areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the funds to be allocated for the purpose; and

(d) the States where this scheme has been introduced in the first phase?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (d) Recognizing the potential for development of horticulture including improvement in variety of fruit crops, Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India has already implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme "Technology Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture in North Eastern States including Sikkim" since 2001-2002. The scheme has further extended to three other contiguous hilly States namely Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttaranchal in 2003-04. The scheme is being implemented in a Mission Mode approach to address all the issues related to development of horticulture including improvement of variety of fruit crops and their marketing and processing through its four Mini Missions. Mini Mission-I, which relates to research is involved in development, refinement and demonstration of technologies, besides production and supply of nucleus seed and planting materials. Mini Mission-II, which relates to production and productivity is involved in improving the production & productivity of horticultural crops through expansion of area, production of planting material, creation of irrigation facilities, infrastructure development for protected cultivation, adoption of organic farming and others. Mini Mission-III, which relates to marketing involves creation of adequate infrastructure facilities such as whole sale markets, rural primary markets, apni mandis and State grading laboratories, besides creation of infrastructure facilities for post harvest management such as cold storage units, refer vans, packaging and handling units. Mini Mission-IV, which relates to processing is involved in promotion of processing of horticulture produce through establishment/upgradation of viable processing units.

The Mission is being implemented in eleven hilly States namely Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim, Tripura, Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttaranchal.

The details of funds released under the mission since 2001-02 are given in enclosed Statement.

Statement

*Release of funds since inception of the Mission (2001-02) including
release of funds for the current year (2004-05)*

(Rs. in lakhs)

	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
A. Mini Mission - I				
1. NE states including Sikkim	250.00	175.00	100.00	700.00
2. Jammu and Kashmir	-	-	100.00	100.00
3. Himachal Pradesh	-	-	100.00	100.00
4. Uttaranchal	-	-	100.00	100.00
B. Mini Mission - II				
1. Arunachal Pradesh	728.85	1099.00	1220.00	1500.00
2. Assam	611.12	1092.15	1400.00	525.00
3. Manipur	487.03	685.00	638.00	1100.00
4. Meghalaya	625.71	775.60	850.00	1211.00
5. Mizoram	508.95	1099.73	1089.00	1632.20
6. Nagaland	551.70	979.00	1256.00	1467.30
7. Sikkim	616.77	855.00	1000.00	1099.83
8. Tripura	512.40	785.00	900.00	1012.80
9. Jammu and Kashmir	-	-	650.00	1233.00
10. Himachal Pradesh	-	-	650.00	1300.00
11. Uttaranchal	-	-	564.72	975.00
12. Technical Support/ SFAC Service charges & other Project based proposals.	102.43	129.52	101.28	83.29
C. Mini Mission - III				
1. NE states including Sikkim	1380.96	1350.00	700.00	1480.49
2. Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttaranchal	-	-	320.00	192.00
3. Jammu and Kashmir (Reconstruction Plan)				178.50
D. Mini Mission - IV				
1. NE States including Sikkim	350.00	75.00	*	*
2. Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh Uttaranchal	-	-	100.00	120.00
3. Jammu and Kashmir (Reconstruction Plan)				321.50
Grand Total	6724.96	9100.00	11839.00	16485.71

*Ministry of Food Processing Industries would implement its scheme, from 10% allocation of its outlay, for mission programmes. The additional requirements if any, would be provided by the Mission.

*[English]***Seed Crop Insurance Scheme**

2598. SHRI RAVICHANDRAN SIPPAPARA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has launched a pilot scheme on seed crop insurance;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the main features of the said scheme;
- (c) the States where this scheme has been introduced in the first phase; and
- (d) the efforts made by the Government to implement the scheme throughout the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) Yes, Sir. The scheme was launched in Rabi 1999.

(b) The scheme was launched to provide financial security and income stability to the breeder/seed grower in the event of failure of seed crop and to strengthen confidence in the existing seed breeder/grower and stimulate participation of new breeder/grower to undertake seed production programme of newly released hybrid/improved varieties.

Crops covered are Paddy, Wheat, Maize, Jowar, Bajra, Ragi, Gram, Redgram, Blackgram, Greengram, Pea, Groundnut, Soybean, Sunflower, Castor, Mustard, Cotton and Potato.

The type of seed covered are breeder, foundation and certified seed.

Risk coverage at field stage shall be 40% of sum insured if the crop fails within 45 days of sowing and 80% if the seed crop fails after 45 days of sowing and until the crop is harvested. The seed produced, if failed to qualify as "Seed" shall have salvage value. The value of salvage ranges from 20 to 40% for hybrids and 20 to 60% for other varieties. The salvage is applicable in case of losses at certification stage only.

Premium rate for Wheat and Groundnut 2%, Sunflower 2.5%, Paddy 3%, Jowar 3.5%, Gram, Red-gram, Cotton, Bajra, Soybean and Maize 5%.

(c) and (d) The scheme was introduced in the State of Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh in the first phase. However, the scheme did not pick up and it was not further promoted.

Extinction of Wildfowls

2599. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a Technical Committee of the Central Zoo Authority has sanctioned certain amount for breeding and conservation programme for Red Jungle Fowls;
- (b) if so, the details of the amount so disbursed during the last three years and current year, State-wise;
- (c) the procedure adopted for such disbursement of funds;
- (d) whether a pictorial calendar has been released by the Government regarding endangered Indian Wildfowls which stated their extinction in India is due to hunting and loss of habitat; and
- (e) if so, the remedial steps formulated in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In the 40th Technical Committee Meeting held on 3rd January, 2005 the Central Zoo Authority has sanctioned an amount of Rs. 20.00 lakhs for construction of enclosure for Indian jungle fowl at Aizwal Zoo, Mizoram. In addition to that Sarahan Pheasantry in Himachal Pradesh has been sanctioned Rs. 79.00 lakhs for the different development works.

(c) The amount will be given to concerned zoos in installments after signing of Memorandum of Understanding.

(d) A pictorial calendar for the year 2005 has been brought out by Central Zoo Authority on Indian pheasants. The calendar did not provide any statement with regard to their extinction in India is due to hunting and loss of habitat.

(e) Does not arise.

**Foreign Direct Investment
in Agriculture**

2600. SHRI M. P. VEERENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is planning to allow Foreign Direct Investment in agriculture; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE

MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) No. Sir. Foreign Direct Investment is not permitted in Agriculture Sector other than Tea Sector. Foreign Direct Investment is permitted up to 100% in Tea Sector, including tea plantations, with prior Government approval and subject to following conditions:

- (i) compulsory divestment of 26% equity in favour of Indian partner/Indian public within a period of five years; and
- (ii) Prior State Government approval required in case of any future land use change.

[Translation]

Afforestation Through Joint Forest Management

2601. SHRI JAI PRAKASH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received any proposal from various States including Uttar Pradesh during the last three years for afforestation of the ravaged forest land through Joint Forest Management;

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

(c) the latest position of the said proposal; and

(d) the amount allocated, if any, for this purpose, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) Yes, Sir. Project proposals under National Afforestation Programme (NAP) to regenerate degraded forest land through Joint Forest Management (JFM) have been received from all States including Uttar Pradesh.

(b) and (c) State-wise details of project proposals received from States under NAP, and projects sanctioned are given in enclosed statement-I.

(d) State-wise details of funds released under NAP are given in enclosed statement-II.

Statement-I

Number of FDA proposals received and sanctioned under National Afforestation Programme (NAP) Scheme State-wise

Sl. No.	Name of State/UT	No. of FDA Project proposals received	No. of FDA Project proposals approved
1	2	3	4
1.	Haryana	16	16
2.	Orissa	29	28

	1	2	3	4
3.	Jammu and Kashmir	31	31	31
4.	Uttar Pradesh	61	56	56
5.	Himachal Pradesh	26	26	26
6.	Uttaranchal	30	28	28
7.	Punjab	9	4	4
8.	Bihar	9	6	6
9.	Gujarat	15	14	14
10.	Jharkhand	27	26	26
11.	Maharashtra	41	39	39
12.	Rajasthan	14	13	13
13.	Tamil Nadu	32	30	30
14.	West Bengal	20	16	16
15.	Andhra Pradesh	32	28	28
16.	Chhattisgarh	31	29	29
17.	Goa	3	3	3
18.	Karnataka	45	38	38
19.	Kerala	25	14	14
20.	Madhya Pradesh	44	37	37
21.	Arunachal Pradesh	16	13	13
22.	Assam	28	24	24
23.	Manipur	13	12	12
24.	Meghalaya	7	7	7
25.	Mizoram	30	19	19
26.	Nagaland	18	16	16
27.	Sikkim	7	7	7
28.	Tripura	13	13	13
	Total	672	592	

Statement-II

State-wise funds released to FDA projects

	(Rs.in Crores)
1. Andhra Pradesh	33.99
2. Chhattisgarh	34.41
3. Gujarat	16.15
4. Haryana	35.03
5. Himachal Pradesh	20.1

6.	Jammu and Kashmir	17.76
7.	Karnataka	52.49
8.	Madhya Pradesh	54.58
9.	Maharashtra	31.42
10.	Orissa	30.06
11.	Punjab	2.24
12.	Rajasthan	14.89
13.	Tamil Nadu	37.18
14.	Uttar Pradesh	66.66
15.	Uttaranchal	19.32
16.	Goa	0.64
17.	Jharkhand	17.87
18.	Bihar	4.31
19.	Kerala	5.57
20.	West Bengal	13.84
Total (Other States)		508.51
21.	Arunachal Pradesh	9.41
22.	Assam	13.66
23.	Manipur	12.96
24.	Nagaland	22.75
25.	Sikkim	14.19
26.	Tripura	11.42
27.	Mizoram	35.91
28.	Meghalaya	2.45
Total (NE States)		122.75
G. Total		631.26

[English]

**Schemes for Animal Husbandry,
Poultry and Fishery**

2602. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of schemes being implemented by the Government for animal husbandry, poultry and fisheries during the last three years;

(b) the total amount allocated for their implementation during the said period, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government has provided subsidy for these schemes; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) The details of schemes being implemented by the Government for animal husbandry, poultry and fisheries are given in the enclosed statement.

(b) The Government does not make any State-wise allocation under any scheme relating to animal husbandry, poultry and fisheries. However, funds are released to the State Governments on the basis of availability of funds and viability of proposals received from them. A statement indicating the scheme-wise allocation and expenditure during the last three years is also given at the statement.

(c) and (d) Under the fishery schemes of "Development of Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture" and "Development of Marine fisheries, Infrastructure & Post Harvest Operations", Rs.28.09 crore and Rs.29.89 crore have been provided by the Government as subsidy during the year 2002-03 and 2003-04 respectively.

Statement

Allocation & Expenditure on Animal Husbandry, Poultry & Fishery Schemes during the last three years

(Rs in Crore)

Sl. No.	Particulars	2001-2002		2002-003		2003-04	
		BE	Actual Expd.	BE	Actual Expd.	BE	Actual Expd.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
I	Secretariat & Economic Services	2.20	2.29	4.50	2.57	3.00	2.23
II	Animal Husbandry & Poultry Sectors						
1	National Project on Cattle & Buffalo Breeding	46.00	41.87	50.00	41.04	48.00	35.99

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
2	National Ram/ Buck Production Programme	1.25	2.87				0.00
3	Assistance to States for Integrated Piggery Development	2.00	2.65		0.00		0.00
4	Assistance to State Poultry/ Duck Farms	2.70	5.05	5.00	10.67	5.00	5.06
5	Assistance to States for Feed & Fodder Development	3.00	1.58	0.00	3.42	3.50	2.00
6	Assistance to States for Control of Animal Diseases	12.00	12.40	15.30	18.14	21.00	33.21
7	FMD Control Programme	27.00	0.00	30.00	0.00	40.00	30.59
8	Central Cattle Development Organisation	8.85	7.43	10.00	7.53	10.00	8.12
9	Central Sheep Breeding Farm	1.50	1.31	1.48	1.15	1.50	1.15
10	Central Poultry Development Organisation	5.71	4.51	6.00	4.82	4.00	4.79
11	Central Fodder Development Organisation	4.53	5.18	6.00	6.56	7.00	6.71
12	Directorate of Animal Health	10.00	4.66	3.50	5.95	9.50	5.69
13	Professional Efficiency Development	6.00	6.30	3.20	2.76	2.50	2.19
14	National Project on Rinderpest Eradication	13.00	10.67	12.00	10.69	7.00	6.88
15	Improvement of Slaughter Houses/ C.U.C	6.00	3.63	6.00	0.00	4.00	0.00
16	Integrated Sample Survey	4.40	3.43	6.00	3.85	4.50	4.88
17	Development of Pack Animals	0.30	0.21		0.00		0.00
18	A.H. Extension Programme	2.00	1.05		0.00		0.00
19	Strengthening of AH Division	0.00	0.00		0.00		0.00
20	Project on Animal System	0.25	0.12		0.00		0.00
21	Schemes completed/ not approved				2.83		1.97
22	Feed and Fodder Production Enhancement Programme			1.00	0.00	0.10	0.00
23	Building Infrastructure for AH			0.50	0.00	0.00	0.00
24	Conservation of Threatened Breeds			0.50	2.96	0.50	0.50
25	Livestock Census			0.00	2.99	4.00	31.48
26	Livestock Insurance						0.00
Total A H & Poultry Sector		156.49	114.92	156.48	125.36	172.10	181.20
■ Fisheries Sector							
27	Establishment of Fishing Harbours	14.00	11.54	12.00	10.72	7.00	5.45
28	Development of Freshwater Aquaculture	14.00	11.67	19.00	11.12	15.00	10.05

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
29	Development of Marine Fisheries	11.00	8.30	2.00	0.00	4.00	1.00
30	National Welfare of Fishermen	22.00	20.34	19.00	16.95	20.00	18.84
31	Fishery Survey of India	30.20	17.17	40.73	18.15	41.58	27.56
32	Deep Sea Fishery				11.20	0.00	0.00
33	Central Fisheries Nautical Institute	1.68	1.11	2.00	4.25	0.61	1.27
34	Central Fisheries Coast Engineering Institute	1.18	0.69	0.30	0.30	0.10	0.25
35	Integrated Fisheries Project	2.70	1.36	1.97	0.56	0.71	0.50
36	Training & Extension	1.32	1.40	1.00	1.69	1.00	0.92
37	Inland Fisheries Statistics	1.10	1.13		0.00		0.00
38	Inland Capture Fisheries	1.00	0.87	2.00	0.00	1.00	0.00
39	Development of Fisheries in Hill Region	1.00	4.00		0.00		0.00
40	Assistance to Coast Guard	0.10	0.10		0.00		0.00
41	Inland Fish Marketing	0.04	0.04		0.00		0.00
42	Integrated Coastal Aquaculture	2.00	2.10		0.00		0.00
43	Acquisition/ Maintenance of Dredging Equipment	0.40	0.39	1.00	0.54	2.00	1.50
44	World Bank Project on Shrimp Culture	0.14	0.09		0.00		0.00
45	Utilisation of Inland Saline Soil	0.00	0.76		0.00		0.00
46	Development of Waterlogged Areas into Aquaculture Estate	0.00	0.97		0.00		0.00
47	Strengthening of Database & Information Networking			1.00	0.50	2.00	138
Total (Fisheries Sector)		103.86	84.03	102.00	75.98	95.00	68.72
Grand Total (All schemes)		262.55	201.24	262.98	203.91	270.10	252.15

Availability of Fish

2603. SHRIMATI C. S. SUJATHA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the availability of fish has diminished in the Arabian sea and Indian ocean after the Tsunami havoc;

(b) if so, whether any study has been conducted or proposed to be conducted to understand the phenomenon; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE

MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, a detailed study is proposed to be conducted by India Council of Agriculture Research (ICAR) to understand the phenomenon.

(c) Study proposed to be conducted are:

(i) Rapid assessment of the impact of Tsunami on the coral reef ecosystem of Andamans.

(ii) Impact of Tsunami on the socio-economic conditions of communities in peninsular India.

- (iii) Impact of Tsunami on the coastal fish stocks.
- (iv) Impact assessment of Tsunami on the biodiversity of seagrass, seaweeds and mangroves of Andaman Islands.
- (v) Assessment of Tsunami impact on the coastal environment along the coasts of Tamil Nadu, Pondicherry & Kerala.
- (vi) Development of sustainable models of Fish Aggregating Devices and its role in reducing the impact of tidal waves.
- (vii) Assessment of post-tsunami microbial & chemical hazards of public health significance in seafoods.

Awareness of Water Conservation

2604. SHRI HITEN BARMAN:

SHRI SUBRATA BOSE:

SHRI RANEN BARMAN:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is organizing training programme for women about awareness on water conservation and management; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the number of trainees imparted training during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. This Ministry organizes mass awareness programmes with special reference to protection and conservation of ground water, artificial re-charge to ground water and rain water harvesting. The target group for these programmes include, among others, women and girls. Further, during the year, 2003 which was celebrated by this Ministry as 'Fresh Water year' an awareness and training programme was also organized for women and children. In all, during the past three years, around 6300 women from different government/non-government organisations, educational institutions etc. participated in these programmes.

[Translation]

Production of Fertilizers

2605. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the policy formulated in regard to production of fertilizers by the Government during 2004-05;

(b) the position of foreign investment in the field of production of urea;

(c) the details of production and consumption of urea at present in the country;

(d) the extent of increase in the price of urea registered during 2004 along with reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps being taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) Production of fertilizers and payment of subsidy/concession to indigenous fertilizer manufacturing companies is regulated in terms of the provisions of the New Pricing Scheme for urea units and Concession Scheme on sale of decontrolled phosphatic and potassic fertilizers.

(b) Madras Fertilizers Limited (MFL) is the only urea manufacturing public sector enterprise under the administrative control of the Department of Fertilizers where foreign investment through equity participation exists. National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) holds 25.77% of equity share capital of MFL amounting to Rs. 41.52 crores out of a total equity of Rs. 161.10 crore. Information relating to foreign investment, if any, in respect of urea manufacturing companies in the private sector is not maintained in the Department of Fertilizers.

(c) The figures of production and consumption of urea during the last three years are given in the table below:

Year	(Lakh Metric Tonne)	
	Production	Consumption
2001-02	191.73	199.17
2002-03	187.27	184.93
2003-04	192.00	197.67
2004-05 (Estimated)	201.73	206.00

(d) and (e) Selling prices of fertilizers have not been increased since 28.2.2002. A marginal increase in selling prices of fertilizers announced on 28.2.2003 was withdrawn w.e.f 12.3.2003.

[English]

Lack of Storage Space

2606. SHRI TUKARAM GANPATRAO RENG PATIL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether after the last rabi crop a large quantity of procured wheat was left lying in the open due to lack of adequate storage capacity in various States particularly in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, whether the Government has made adequate arrangements for the proper storage of wheat after the ensuing rabi crop; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) As on 31.5.2004, only 15.15 lakh MTs of foodgrains were stored by the FCI under Covered and Plinth (CAP) storage against 148.49 lakh MTs under covered storage. In Maharashtra, no wheat stock was procured by the FCI during the last Rabi marketing season.

(b) and (c) As on 1-2-2005, FCI has a total storage capacity of 259.95 lakh MTs (covered and CAP) with a vacant space of 133.96 lakh MTs all over the country, which is sufficient to meet the storage requirement of wheat to be procured in the ensuing Rabi marketing season. In Maha-

ashtra State, the FCI has 8.67 lakh MTs vacant space (7.41 lakh MTs covered and 1.26 lakh MTs CAP (Open), which is adequate to meet the storage requirement of foodgrain stocks.

[Translation]

Demand of Subsidy

2607. SHRI RAMSWAROOP KOLI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of subsidy provided to various Fertilizer Companies in Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh during 1999-2002; and

(b) the further subsidy demanded by the fertilizer companies in those States at present, company-wise?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN):

(a) and (b) The subsidy/concession released so far against year-wise sales of fertilizers for the period 1999-2000 to 2004-05 to fertilizer manufacturing companies located in the States of Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh is given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

Sl. No.	Name of Unit	Concession Paid					
		1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Uttar Pradesh							
1	Asian Fert.	3.67	2.39	1.47	1.84	3.56	1.94
2	Jubilant Organosys	4.88	5.58	7.99	8.58	7.81	3.87
3	Khaitan Chemicals & Fertilisers (Srinivas Chem)	2.44	2.98	2.89	1.14	4.17	3.01
4	Mahadeo Fertilizers	0	1.12	0.42	0.44	0.31	0
5	Natraj Organics	2.36	1.18	0.11	0.02	0.02	0
6	Kashi Urvarak	0.15	0	0.05	0.05	0.02	0
7	Dynatech	0.75	0	0	0	0	0
8	Khaitan Fertilizers	5.13	1.65	0	0	0	0
9	Shree Acids	2.31	0.37	0.81	0.41	0	0
10	Duncan Industries Ltd.	533.83	683.42	312.19	74.63	0	0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
11	IFFCO	1397.68	1361.42	1212.53	1671.24	1329.74	1421.3
12	Hindalco (Indo-gulf)	271.24	260.68	116.82	197.48	106.28	181.56
13	Oswal Chemicals	409.31	314.5	204.1	200.46	201.43	305.5
14	Tata Chemicals	439.17	374.03	248.99	219.04	175.88	294.41
15	Awadh Fertilizers	0	0	0	0	0	0
16	Brij Fertilizers	0	0	0	0	0	0
17	Ganges Fert. & Chemicals Ltd.	0	0	0	0	0	0
18	Giriraj Fertilizers	0	0	0	0	0	0
19	Madan Madhav	0	0	0	0	0	0
20	Om Fertilizers	0	0	0	0	0	0
21	Trimurtee Fertilizers	2.31	0	0	0	0	0
22	Shri Durga Bansal	0	0	0	0	0	0
23	Shakti Fertilizers/ Pacific Orgochem	1.02	0	0	0	0	0
24	Ravi Pesticides	0.99	0	0	0	0	0
Madhya Pradesh							
1	Arihant Fertilizers & Chemicals Ltd.	0	1.27	0	0	0	0
2	Asha Phosphates	1.56	1.9	0.27	0	0.07	0
3	Khaitan Chemicals & Fertilizers	18.85	10.77	10.2	9.35	10.8	7.67
4	Liberty Urvarak	0	0	0	0	0.87	2.28
5	Madhya Bharat Phosphate	0	0	0	0	0.12	0.33
6	Mexican Phosphates Ltd.	0.97	1.05	0.61	0	0	0
7	MP Orgochem	1.01	0.75	0.34	0.09	0.02	0
8	Rewati Minerals & Chemicals	0.14	0.14	0.05	0.09	0	0
9	Shreeji Phosphates Ltd.	0.54	1.34	1.91	0	0	0
10	Madhuvan Chemicals & Fertilizers	0.08	0.01	0	0	0	0
11	Unialkem Fertilizers	0.15	0	0	0	0	0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
12	Mukteshwar Fertilizers	0.06	0.04	0.34	0.18	0.01	0
13	Rama Phosphates	8.07	4.99	9.61	6.32	6.04	4.99
14	Swastik Fertilizers	1.03	0.45	1.26	1.44	1.31	0.42
15	National Fertilizers	485.54	297.54	450.55	421.69	448.63	392.98
16	Madhya Bharat Agro Products	0.37	0.83	0.74	0.40	0	0
Rajasthan							
1	Arawalli Phosphate	0	0.45	0.35	1.06	1.53	0.93
2	Arihant Phosphate	4.13	0.33	2.36	2.08	1.85	0.49
3	Bohra Industries	0	0.13	5.1	5.71	4.37	0.65
4	DMCC	31.98	22.17	16.77	16.73	10.53	3.48
5	Gayatri Spinners	1.53	0.39	0.51	0.64	0.74	0.47
6	Harshwardhan Chemicals & Fertilizers Ltd.	0.54	0.09	0	0	0	0
7	Liberty Phosphate	4.72	6.44	15.14	13.36	14.64	7.94
8	Manglam Phosphate	0	0	0.66	0.5	0.17	0.15
9.	Prem Sakhi Fertilizers	0	0.55	1.11	1.46	1.75	0.96
10	Rama Phosphates	7.37	3.2	4.72	3.62	3.71	1.65
11	Sadhana Phosphates	4.19	3.76	3.54	0.58	0.82	0.17
12	Shri Ganapati	0	0.08	0.2	0.06	0.04	0
13	Shurvi Color	0.87	0.45	0.3	0.37	0.3	0.26
14	TEDCO Granite	7.12	1.74	0.69	0.01	2.05	1.78
15	Chambal Fertilizers	642.73	934.44	933.13	812.04	848.99	929.06
16	Sriram Fertilizers	222.32	278.32	198.11	219.41	299.37	227.31

Food Processing Infrastructure

2608. SHRI ATIQ AHAMAD: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has identified certain districts which produce fruits and vegetable in large quantum with a view to provide them food processing infrastructure; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) and (b) India is the second largest producer of Fruit and vegetables in the world and adequate for processing infrastructure is required all over the country for handling and utilization of the produce. The Ministry of Food Processing Industries provides financial assistance for overall development of the Food Processing Industry including for creation of Food Processing infrastructure. The Ministry does not set up Food Processing Units/ Infrastructure on its own.

Ministry of Food Processing Industries has approved for financial assistance to 49 Food Parks for providing common infrastructural facilities for food processing industries. A list of food parks approved, State wise, is given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

List of Food Parks Approved for Assistance by Ministry of Food Processing Industries

1	Andhra Pradesh	Chittoor
2	Assam	Chaygaon, Distt. Kamrup
3	Bihar	Hajipur, District Vaishali
4	Chhattisgarh	Vill: Teadesara, District Rajnandgaon
5	Haryana	Saha, Ambala
6	Haryana	Rai, Sonipat
7	Jammu and Kashmir	Khunmoh, Srinagar
8	Jammu and Kashmir	Jammu
9	Jammu and Kashmir	Spore, Baramulla
10	Karnataka	Kolar
11	Karnataka	Bagalkot
12	Karnataka	Jevargi
13	Kerala	Distt. Mallapuram
14	Kerala	Aroor, Alappuzha
15	Kerala	Mazhuvannur
16	Madhya Pradesh	Mandsaur
17	Madhya Pradesh	Nimrani, Distt. Khargone
18	Madhya Pradesh	Hoshangabad
19	Madhya Pradesh	Borgaon, Distt. Chhindwara
20	Madhya Pradesh	Malanpur Ghirongi District Bhind (M.P.)
21	Madhya Pradesh	Maneri Distt. Mandla
22	Maharashtra	Butibori, Nagpur
23	Maharashtra	Vinchur, Distt. Nashik
24	Maharashtra	Mouza Gumthala, Nagpur

25	Maharashtra	Village Sngvi, Taluka; Khandala, Distt. Satara
26	Maharashtra	Palus, Distt. Sangli
27	Manipur	Lamphelpat, Imphal
28	Manipur	Ukhrul Distt.
29	Mizoram	Chhingchip
30	Orissa	Khurda
31	Punjab	Sirhind, Distt. Fatehgarh Sahib
32	Rajasthan	Ranpur, Distt., Kota
33	Rajasthan	Boranada, District - Jodhpur
34	Rajasthan	Sri Ganganagar
35	Tamil Nadu	Virudhunagar
36	Tamil Nadu	Nilakottai Ind. Estate, Dindigul Distt.
37	Tripura	Bodhjungnagar, West Tripura
38	Uttar Pradesh	Ghazabad
39	Uttar Pradesh	Kursi Road, Barabanki
40	Uttar Pradesh	Varanasi
41	Uttar Pradesh	Village Kishalipur, Distt. Saharanpur
42	Uttar Pradesh	Shahajanwa, Gorakhpur
43	West Bengal	Dankuni, Distt. Hooghly
44	West Bengal	Mouza Chakgaria, 24 Paraganas (South)
45	West Bengal	Haldia, District Midnapore
46	West Bengal	Sultanpur, South 24 Parganas
47	West Bengal	Malda
48	West Bengal	Shankarapur, Dist. Purba Medinipur
49	West Bengal	Sankhrail, Howrah

Training of People Linked to Tourism

2609. SHRI SUBHASH SURESHCHANDRA
DESHMUKH :

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR :

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is implementing any programme to impart training on hospitality to the people who are linked to tourism industry;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the expenditure likely to be incurred therein?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) There are 21 Central Government sponsored Institutes of Hotel Management Catering Technology and Applied Nutrition offering specialised courses in Hotel Management and Catering Technology i.e. M.Sc. Hospitality Administration, B.Sc. Hospitality and Hotel Administration; Post Graduate Diploma and other certificate courses. Indian Institute of Tourism & Travel Management (IITTM) an autonomous Institute under the administrative control of this Ministry also offers academic opportunities to graduates and undergraduates directly and in collaboration with other reputed national and international institutes. The regular courses are offered to fresh graduates in pursuing their successful career in holiday and leisure management covering travel industries, tour operations, air cargo, interpretation etc. Besides these, the Ministry of Tourism is conducting training programme for the tourism service providers in the un-organised/organised sector viz. Taxi drivers, police personnel, auto drivers, dhaba staff, immigration staff and security personnel at airports, unapproved and approved guides, coolies etc., under the 'Capacity Building for Service Providers' (CBSP) scheme. This scheme is being implemented all over India.

In the seven cities i.e. Delhi, Jaipur, Agra, Mumbai, Aurangabad, Goa and Hyderabad a campaign titled "Atithi Devo Bhavah" has also been launched by Ministry of Tourism during the year 2004-2005. 'Atithi Devo Bhavah' is an Social Awareness Campaign aimed at providing the inbound tourist with a sense of being welcomed by and to the country. The campaign targets the general public as a whole, while focusing mainly on the stakeholders of the tourism industry. The main components of the campaign are training and orientation to taxi drivers, guides, immigration officers, tourist police and other personnel directly interacting with the tourists, while simultaneously creating a brand equity for the trained persons. "Atithi Devo Bhavah" involves Sensitisation, Screening, Induction, Training & Orientation, Certification and Feedback of key stakeholders of the

Tourism industry in India. Approximately 26,300 stakeholders which include taxi drivers, porters, security staff, immigration & custom staff, railway employees have been trained.

(c) The budget provision of Rupees three hundred lakhs for the CBSP Scheme and Rupees four hundred ninety seven lakhs for the Atithi Devo Bhavah Campaign respectively have been made during the current financial year.

New Afforestation Policy

2610. SHRIMATI KALPANA RAMESH NARHIRE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has implemented any fresh policy to encourage afforestation in the country;

(b) if so, the names of States where said policy has been implemented indicating the amount allocated to them thereunder;

(c) if not, whether the Government proposes to formulate such policy in future; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) Ministry of Environment and Forests has launched the National Afforestation Programme (NAP) during Tenth Five Year Plan for regeneration of degraded forest lands and lands adjoining forest areas in the country. Participation of local people is an integral component of this programme. The programme is being implemented through two-tier decentralised mechanism of Forest Development Agency (FDA) set up at Territorial Forest Division level and Joint Forest Management Committee (JFMC) at village level.

(b) State-wise details of funds released under NAP are given in the enclosed statement.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Statement**New Afforestation Policy
State wise funds released to FDA projects.**

	(Rs. in Crores)
1 Andhra Pradesh	33.99
2 Chhattisgarh	34.41
3 Gujarat	16.15
4 Haryana	35.03

5	Himachal Pradesh	20.1
6	Jammu and Kashmir	17.76
7	Karnataka	52.49
8	Madhya Pradesh	54.58
9	Maharashtra	31.42
10	Orissa	30.06
11	Punjab	2.24
12	Rajasthan	14.89
13	Tamil Nadu	37.18
14	Uttar Pradesh	66.66
15	Uttaranchal	19.32
16	Goa	0.64
17	Jharkhand	17.87
18	Bihar	4.31
19	Kerala	5.57
20	West Bengal	13.84
Total (Other States)		508.51
21	Arunachal Pradesh	9.41
22	Assam	13.66
23	Manipur	12.96
24	Nagaland	22.75
25	Sikkim	14.19
26	Tripura	11.42
27	Mizoram	35.91
28	Meghalaya	2.45
Total (NE States)		122.75
G. Total		631.26

*[English]***Utilisation of Central Allocation**

2611. SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the foodgrains off-take under Public Distribution System (PDS) has increased in some States during the last three years;

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

(c) the States that have failed to fully utilise central allocation for PDS during the last three years, State-wise; and

(d) the number of retail out lets added to PDS during the last year, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) The offtake of foodgrains under Targetted Public Distribution System (TPDS) has increased in respect of almost all States during the last three years. The state/UT-wise details of offtake of foodgrains (Wheat and Rice) under P.D.S. during the year 2001-02 to 2003-04 are given in the enclosed statement-I.

(c) The allocation and off-take of foodgrains under TPDS and Percentage utilisation of foodgrains by each State under each of the three categories viz. Below Poverty Line (BPL), Above Poverty Line (APL) and Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY), during last three years is given in enclosed statement II to IV.

(d) The State-wise number of retail outlets added during 2003-04 is mentioned in the enclosed statement V.

Statement-I

Offtake of Rice & Wheat for the year 2001-02 to 2003-04 (P) Under TPDS

(In '000 Tonnes)

Sl. No.	States/UTs	OFFTAKE		
		2001-02	2002-03	2003-04
1	2	3	4	5
1	Andhra Pradesh	1735.40	2026.101	2084.179
2	Arunachal Pradesh	51.32	78.972	95.628

1	2	3	4	5
3	Assam	573.65	1050.328	1084.048
4	Bihar	487.68	775.754	1015.091
5	Chhattisgarh	267.82	92.402	679.514
6	Delhi	114.25	287	524.951
7	Goa	9.83	15.354	14.33
8	Gujarat	504.90	538.917	570.69
9	Haryana	94.00	268.677	373.217
10	Himachal Pradesh	166.08	195.968	279.265
11	Jammu and Kashmir	345.21	498.084	558.245
12	Jharkhand	298.32	339.475	448.195
13	Karnataka	1330.33	1834.684	2084.413
14	Kerala	552.54	597.623	694.716
15	Madhya Pradesh	762.93	1266.548	1397.86
16	Maharashtra	1400.59	1768.241	2000.008
17	Manipur	26.20	59.07	73.5
18	Meghalaya	56.94	84.376	101.062
19	Mizoram	47.14	75.388	79.723
20	Nagaland	48.42	77.277	118.611
21	Orissa	587.51	606.564	991.086
22	Punjab	54.01	113.929	153.076
23	Rajasthan	672.77	932.65	900.812
24	Sikkim	19.09	26.169	31.438
25	Tamil Nadu	1065.51	1625.557	2322.977
26	Tripura	86.26	146.637	155.181
27	Uttar Pradesh	1404.37	3079.394	2939.313
28	Uttaranchal	0.00	121.378	194.875
29	West Bengal	768.47	1435.586	1911.909
30	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	16.99	22.806	21.127
31	Chandigarh	0.42	2.388	1.518
32	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	4.72	4.997	4.773
33	Daman and Diu	0.42	0.648	1.136
34	Lakshadweep	3.00	2.65	2.85
35	Pondicherry	9.85	14.6	21.629
	Total	13566.92	20066.192	23930.946

Statement-II**Allocation and Offtake of Rice & Wheat for the year 2001-2002 (P) under TPDS**

(In '000 Tonnes)

Sl. No.	States/UTs	Allotment				Offtake				% Offtake			
		BPL	APL	AAY	Total	BPL	APL	AAY	Total	BPL	APL	AAY	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
1	Andhra Pradesh	1470.96	1591.68	186.84	3249.48	972.35	571.53	191.52	1735.40	66.10	35.91	102.51	53.41
2	Arunachal Pradesh	27.02	76.68	1.13	104.84	26.72	23.86	0.74	51.32	98.88	31.12	65.26	48.95
3	Assam	515.06	434.88	28.15	978.09	429.83	115.31	28.52	573.65	83.45	26.51	101.29	58.65
4	Bihar	1820.87	174.34	150.00	2145.21	378.11	1.01	108.55	487.68	20.77	0.58	72.37	22.73
5	Chhattisgarh	393.35	101.11	86.22	580.68	187.94	2.00	77.88	267.82	47.78	1.98	90.33	46.12
6	Delhi	114.17	576.84	2.40	693.41	86.76	26.30	1.20	114.25	76.00	4.56	49.79	16.48
7	Goa	9.85	63.12	0.98	73.95	3.54	5.56	0.73	9.83	35.93	8.81	74.97	13.29
8	Gujarat	869.54	570.00	61.75	1501.29	444.18	3.97	56.75	504.90	51.08	0.70	91.89	33.63
9	Haryana	182.54	8.64	27.35	218.53	71.35	0.00	22.66	94.00	39.09	0.00	82.85	43.02
10	Himachal Pradesh	248.24	101.16	23.62	373.01	133.73	9.26	23.09	166.08	53.87	9.15	97.78	44.52
11	Jammu and Kashmir	151.76	238.44	25.41	415.61	162.51	175.44	7.27	345.21	107.08	73.58	28.60	83.06
12	Jharkhand	567.49	63.26	91.63	722.39	229.06	6.47	62.79	298.32	40.36	10.23	68.53	41.30
13	Karnataka	807.72	555.00	84.11	1446.83	798.87	450.66	80.80	1330.33	98.90	81.20	96.06	91.95
14	Kerala	374.96	1828.08	71.46	2274.50	371.49	119.54	61.51	552.54	99.08	6.54	86.07	24.29
15	Madhya Pradesh	985.98	174.89	189.72	1350.59	582.27	7.10	173.56	762.93	59.05	4.06	91.48	56.49

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
16	Maharashtra	2096.21	765.12	267.86	3129.19	1162.91	3.31	234.37	1400.59	55.48	0.43	87.50	44.76
17	Manipur	35.14	54.84	1.91	91.39	25.46	0.00	0.74	26.20	72.45	0.00	38.66	28.51
18	Meghalaya	44.24	126.36	3.52	174.12	43.28	10.85	2.81	56.94	97.83	8.58	80.00	32.70
19	Mizoram	16.46	93.84	3.16	113.46	16.17	27.82	3.16	47.14	98.22	29.64	100.00	41.55
20	Nagaland	30.12	122.04	2.84	155.00	30.12	15.46	2.84	48.42	100.00	12.67	100.00	31.24
21	Orissa	907.05	44.64	88.47	1040.15	488.65	11.58	87.28	587.51	53.87	25.95	98.66	56.48
22	Punjab	114.38	21.48	19.72	155.57	45.94	0.00	8.07	54.01	40.17	0.00	40.92	34.72
23	Rajasthan	916.27	401.52	111.78	1429.57	559.37	10.62	102.78	672.77	61.05	2.64	91.95	47.06
24	Sikkim	11.21	36.84	1.18	49.22	11.37	6.57	1.15	19.09	101.48	17.84	97.45	38.78
25	Tamil Nadu	1350.42	461.28	35.48	1847.18	1040.75	0.00	24.76	1065.51	77.07	0.00	69.80	57.68
26	Tripura	62.72	124.80	7.92	195.44	61.12	18.36	6.79	86.26	97.44	14.71	85.71	44.14
27	Uttar Pradesh	2339.79	377.30	260.79	2977.88	1149.20	8.75	246.43	1404.37	49.12	2.32	94.49	47.16
28	Uttaranchal	109.72	23.14	11.45	144.31	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
29	West Bengal	1254.37	905.16	109.93	2269.46	523.26	188.30	56.91	768.47	41.71	20.80	51.77	33.86
30	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	5.45	36.36	0.82	42.63	4.44	12.12	0.43	16.99	81.38	33.33	52.43	39.84
31	Chandigarh	5.68	13.68	0.32	19.68	0.11	0.00	0.32	0.42	1.85	0.00	100.00	2.15
32	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	3.76	2.76	0.84	7.36	2.96	0.98	0.78	4.72	78.79	35.33	92.38	64.05
33	Daman and Diu	0.97	1.80	0.18	2.95	0.08	0.23	0.11	0.42	7.84	13.00	63.33	14.38
34	Lakshadweep	0.04	7.06	0.04	7.14	0.00	3.00	0.00	3.00	0.00	42.49	0.00	41.99
35	Pondicherry	22.70	3.72	1.13	27.55	8.50	0.44	0.92	9.85	37.45	11.69	81.51	35.77
Total		17866.19	10181.86	1960.08	30008.12	10052.37	1836.37	1678.19	13566.92	56.26	18.04	85.62	45.21

Statement-III

Allocation and Offtake of Rice & Wheat for the year 2002-2003 (P) under TPDS

Sl. States/UTs No.	(In '000 Tonnes)															
	Allotment							Offtake							% Offtake	
	BPL	APL	AAY	Total	BPL	APL	AAY	Total	BPL	APL	AAY	Total	APL	AAY	Total	
1 2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14				
1	Andhra Pradesh	1444.8	2266.74	261.576	3973.116	1441.322	350.133	234.646	2026.101	99.759	15.447	89.705	51.00			
2	Arunachal Pradesh	35.148	73.701	6.348	115.197	32.103	41.161	5.708	78.972	91.337	55.849	89.918	68.55			
3	Assam	682.284	958.115	118.236	1758.635	529.474	415.923	104.931	1050.328	77.603	43.411	88.747	59.72			
4	Bihar	2244.184	2291.52	420	4955.704	438.328	3.517	333.909	775.754	19.532	0.153	79.502	15.65			
5	Chhattisgarh	579.672	1045.8	120.708	1746.18	82.816	4.932	4.654	92.402	14.287	0.472	3.856	5.29			
6	Delhi	158.34	1102.917	13.44	1274.697	130.366	145.04	11.584	287	82.333	13.151	86.265	22.52			
7	Goa	12.898	119.802	3.072	135.762	6.456	6.644	2.254	15.354	50.093	5.546	73.372	11.31			
8	Gujarat	762.713	2858.433	136.5	3757.646	393.747	29.631	115.539	538.917	51.625	1.037	84.644	14.34			
9	Haryana	260.892	1148.838	46.968	1456.698	182.229	43.549	42.899	268.677	69.848	3.791	91.337	18.44			
10	Himachal Pradesh	170.872	359.325	33.06	563.257	141.479	21.856	32.633	195.968	82.798	6.083	98.708	34.79			
11	Jammu and Kashmir	228.077	425.04	47.424	700.541	209.119	256.733	32.232	498.084	91.688	60.402	67.966	71.10			
12	Jharkhand	814.692	216.3	153.936	1184.928	226.117	3.657	109.701	339.475	27.755	1.691	71.264	28.65			
13	Karnataka	1113.903	2070.6	200.373	3384.876	1095.286	559.455	179.943	1834.684	98.329	27.019	89.804	54.20			
14	Kerala	552.564	1808.94	100.044	2461.548	323.623	174.472	99.528	597.623	58.568	9.645	99.484	24.28			
15	Madhya Pradesh	1274.292	2765.469	265.608	4305.369	985.419	29.508	251.621	1266.548	77.331	1.067	94.734	29.42			

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
16 Maharashtra	2323.584		5013.615	420.72	7757.919	1383.894	20.66	363.687	1768.241	59.559	0.412	86.444	22.79	
17 Manipur	43.884		47.46	10.716	102.06	38.314	9.793	10.963	59.07	87.307	20.634	102.305	57.88	
18 Meghalaya	65.052		44.058	11.808	120.918	60.788	12.712	10.876	84.376	93.445	28.853	92.107	69.78	
19 Mizoram	24.264		48.114	4.416	76.794	24.263	46.709	4.416	75.388	99.996	97.080	100.000	98.17	
20 Nagaland	44.136		73.503	7.944	125.583	45.264	24.06	7.953	77.277	102.556	32.733	100.113	61.53	
21 Orissa	1484.376		1285.098	212.316	2981.79	362.044	62.823	181.697	606.564	24.390	4.889	85.579	20.34	
22 Punjab	166.416		1632.975	30.12	1829.511	88.179	10.539	15.211	113.929	52.987	0.645	50.501	6.23	
23 Rajasthan	804.048		3002.592	156.492	3963.132	636.493	147.013	149.144	932.65	79.161	4.896	95.305	23.53	
24 Sikkim	15.42		39.204	2.82	57.444	15.062	8.229	2.878	26.169	97.678	20.990	102.057	45.56	
25 Tamil Nadu	1751.881		3841.95	290.495	5984.326	1316.734	21.27	287.553	1626.557	75.161	0.554	98.987	27.63	
26 Tripura	104.904		181.674	18.996	305.574	100.562	27.23	18.845	146.637	95.861	14.988	99.205	47.99	
27 Uttar Pradesh	3688.477		7840.76	685.418	12214.655	2366.408	17.179	695.807	3078.394	64.157	0.219	101.516	25.21	
28 Uttaranchal	161.814		431.919	32.052	625.785	96.214	5.92	19.244	121.378	59.460	1.371	60.040	19.40	
29 West Bengal	1702.752		4246.77	307.788	6257.31	953.272	278.739	203.575	1435.586	55.984	6.564	66.141	22.94	
30 Andaman and Nicobar Islands	7.44		36.36	1.8	45.6	3	19.806	22.806	40.323	54.472	0.000	50.01		
31 Chandigarh	8.748		79.212	0.888	88.848	1.44	0.06	0.888	2.388	16.461	0.076	100.000	2.69	
32 Dadra and Nagar Haveli	5.544		7.14	1.176	13.86	2.829	1.308	0.86	4.997	51.028	18.319	73.129	36.05	
33 Daman and Diu	1.428		10.005	0.252	11.685	0.34	0.127	0.181	0.648	23.810	1.269	71.825	5.55	
34 Lakshadweep	0.372		5.195	0.168	5.735		2.65	2.65	2.65	0.000	51.011	0.000	46.21	
35 Pondicherry	31.262		50.853	3.85	85.965	10.75	0.707	3.143	14.6	34.387	1.390	81.636	16.98	
Total	22,771.123		47,429.997	4,127.528	74,328.647	13,723.734	2803.745	3538.713	20,066.192	60,268	5,911	85,734	26,997	

Statement-IV

Allocation and Offtake of Rice & Wheat for the year 2003-2004 (P) under TPDS

Sl. States/UTs No.	(In '000 Tonnes)																
	Allotment							Offtake							% Offtake		
	BPL	APL	AAY	Total	BPL	APL	AAY	Total	BPL	APL	AAY	Total	BPL	APL	AAY	Total	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14				
1	Andhra Pradesh	1368.43	2266.74	337.946	3973.116	1319.231	434.289	330.659	2084.179	96.405	19.159	97.844	52.46				
2	Arunachal Pradesh	35.148	64.206	6.348	105.702	33.897	55.5	6.231	95.628	96.441	86.441	98.157	90.47				
3	Assam	682.284	735.14	118.236	1535.66	628.166	343.616	112.266	1084.048	92.068	46.742	94.951	70.59				
4	Bihar	2219.184	2291.52	420	4930.704	627.119	7.1	380.872	1015.091	28.259	0.310	90.684	20.59				
5	Chhattisgarh	566.226	1045.8	155.967	1767.993	509.173	23.2	147.141	679.514	89.924	2.218	94.341	38.43				
6	Delhi	158.34	996.516	13.44	1168.296	165.223	346.739	12.989	524.951	104.347	34.795	96.644	44.93				
7	Goa	12.888	118.296	3.072	134.256	6.959	4.963	2.408	14.33	53.986	4.195	78.385	10.67				
8	Gujarat	753.948	2787.564	136.5	3678.012	473.951	41.453	55.286	570.69	62.863	1.487	40.503	15.52				
9	Haryana	274.004	1014.204	47.664	1335.872	228.889	98.524	45.804	373.217	83.535	9.714	96.098	27.94				
10	Himachal Pradesh	195.872	348.9	33.06	577.832	177.198	68.968	33.099	279.265	90.468	19.767	100.118	48.33				
11	Jammu and Kashmir	261.66	443.94	47.424	753.024	253.097	257.78	47.368	558.245	96.727	58.066	99.882	74.13				
12	Jharkhand	839.268	216.3	153.936	1209.504	297.369	11.285	139.541	448.195	35.432	5.217	90.649	37.06				
13	Karnataka	1095.996	2070.6	218.28	3384.876	1048.154	839.788	196.471	2084.413	95.635	40.558	90.009	61.58				
14	Kerala	534.551	1808.94	118.057	2461.548	440.186	137.125	117.405	694.716	82.347	7.580	99.448	28.22				
15	Himachal Pradesh	1225.343	2535.372	330.605	4091.32	1049.194	30.369	318.297	1397.86	85.625	1.198	96.277	34.17				
16	Maharashtra	2283.204	4700.88	451.1	7445.184	1580.159	28.524	391.325	2000.008	68.906	0.607	86.749	26.86				

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
17 Manipur	43.884	47.46	10.716	102.06	44.356	18.05	11.094	18.05	11.094	73.5	101.076	38.032	103.527	72.02
18 Meghalaya	65.052	45.024	11.808	121.884	69.503	18.992	12.567	18.992	12.567	101.062	106.842	42.182	106.428	82.92
19 Mizoram	23.19	54.564	5.49	83.244	23.727	51.043	4.953	51.043	4.953	79.723	102.316	93.547	90.219	95.77
20 Nagaland	42.12	86.688	9.96	138.768	43.228	66.079	9.304	66.079	9.304	118.611	102.631	76.226	93.414	85.47
21 Orissa	1484.376	1155.564	212.316	2852.256	632.892	148.92	209.274	148.92	209.274	991.086	42.637	12.887	98.567	34.75
22 Punjab	166.416	1473.24	30.12	1669.776	120.195	16.057	16.824	16.057	16.824	153.076	72.226	1.090	55.857	9.17
23 Rajasthan	757.509	2763.756	181.852	3703.117	619.442	111.073	170.297	111.073	170.297	900.812	81.774	4.019	93.646	24.33
24 Sikkim	14.636	25.812	3.604	44.052	14.676	13.272	3.49	13.272	3.49	31.438	100.273	51.418	96.837	71.37
25 Tamil Nadu	1742.352	3787.98	300.024	5830.356	1782.975	228.641	311.361	228.641	311.361	2322.977	102.332	6.036	103.779	39.84
26 Tripura	104.904	178.232	18.996	303.132	102.15	34.109	18.922	34.109	18.922	155.181	97.375	19.031	99.610	51.19
27 Uttar Pradesh	3654.295	6494.46	830.885	10979.64	2121.809	10.669	806.835	10.669	806.835	2939.313	58.063	0.164	97.105	26.77
28 Uttaranchal	177.12	333.552	32.052	542.724	148.288	19.412	27.175	19.412	27.175	194.875	83.722	5.820	84.784	35.91
29 West Bengal	1702.752	4089.18	307.788	6099.72	1215.756	477.595	218.558	477.595	218.558	1911.909	71.399	11.679	71.009	31.34
30 Andaman and Nicobar Islands	7.434	36.36	1.806	45.6	4.67	14.151	2.306	14.151	2.306	21.127	62.819	38.919	127.685	46.33
31 Chandigarh	8.748	75.516	0.888	85.152	0.785	-	0.733	-	0.733	1.518	8.973	0.000	82.545	1.78
32 Dadra and Nagar Haveli	5.544	7.14	1.176	13.86	3.044	0.899	0.83	0.899	0.83	4.773	54.906	12.591	70.578	34.44
33 Daman and Diu	1.428	9.42	0.252	11.1	0.792	0.195	0.149	0.195	0.149	1.136	55.462	2.070	59.127	10.23
34 Lakshadweep	0.372	3.708	0.168	4.248	-	2.85	-	2.85	-	2.85	0.000	76.861	0.000	67.09
35 Pondicherry	30.736	13.2	4.376	48.312	17.667	0.549	3.413	0.549	3.413	21.629	57.480	4.159	77.994	44.77
Total	22,549.214	44,126.774	4,555.912	71,231.9	15,803.92	3,961.779	41,652.247	3,961.779	41,652.247	2,39,30,946	70,086	8,978	91,425	33,596

Statement-V**Yearwise Number of Fair Price Shops**

S. No.	State/UT	As on 1.4.03	As on 7.4.04
1	2	3	4
1	Andhra Pradesh	40688	40688
2	Arunachal Pradesh	1284	1284
3	Assam	33229	33229
4	Bihar	41818	41818
5	Chhattisgarh	7839	7869
6	Delhi	3172	3121
7	Goa	529	528
8	Gujarat	14176	14284
9	Haryana	7193	7228
10	Himachal Pradesh	3995	4043
11	Jammu and Kashmir	3926	3927
12	Jharkand	14395	14395
13	Karnataka	20373	20575
14	Kerala	14173	14135
15	Madhya Pradesh	18688	18688
16	Maharashtra	49638	49921
17	Manipur	2551	2551
18	Meghalaya	4297	4297
19	Mizoram	1011	1011
20	Nagaland	353	290
21	Orissa	23579	23579
22	Punjab	14050	13874
23	Rajasthan	19923	20391
24	Sikkim	1071	1071
25	Tamil Nadu	27995	27995
26	Tripura	1432	1432
27	Uttar Pradesh	74788	74788

1	2	3	4
28	Uttaranchal	7332	7332
29	West Bengal	20478	20441
30	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	437	483
31	Chandigarh	61	56
32	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	78	78
33	Daman and Diu	38	51
34	Lakshdweep	35	35
35	Pondicherry	409	408
Total		475034	475896

*[Translation]***Utilisation of Forest Resources**

2612. SHRI RAGHUVVEER SINGH KOSHAL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a great demand of plants for medicinal purpose, food supplements, pharmaceuticals, cosmetic perfumes in international market;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the share of India in the International Market; and

(d) whether the Government has any action plan to increase the participation of India in the International Market; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The export figures for relevant items are given in enclosed statement.

(c) It is reported to be difficult to ascertain.

(d) and (e) Government of India has set up National Medicinal Plants Board to ensure sustained availability of Medicinal Plants for preparation of medicines used in Ayurveda and other Indian system of medicines. The Board has implemented Promotional and Commercial Schemes for overall development of this sector. A Scheme 'Vishesh Krishi Upaj Yojana' (Special Agricultural Produce Scheme)

with the objective to promote export of fruits, vegetables, flowers, minor forest produce, and their value added products, by incentivising exporters of such products has

been taken up by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry towards actively promoting the export of said items in addition to usual export promotional measures.

Statement

Regarding utilisations of Forest Resources

The Export performance of items under relevant headings

(Rs. in Lacs)

HS Code	Commodity	2003-2004	2004-2005(Apr.-Jun.)
6011000	Bulbs, Tubers, Tuberous Roots, Corms, Crown & Rhizomes, Dormant	128	28
6012021	Chicory Plants	57	20
6012022	Chicory Roots	2	-
6012090	Other Bulbs, Tubers, Tubus Roots etc.	53	7
6021000	Unrooted Cutting & Slips of Live Plants	38	34
6029020	Flowering Plants (Excl Roses & Rhododndrm)	56	12
6029030	Plant for Tissue Culture	1,759	321
6029090	Other Live Plants	221	161
12111000	Liquorice Roots Frsh/Drid W/N Crshd/Pwdrd	11	11
30034000	Mdcments Cont. Alklds/THR Dvrtvs but not/ Hormns/Othr Prdtcs of Hdng No. 29.37/ANTBT	33	8
300390	Othr Medicants (Exct Heading 3002,3005,3006) For Therapeutic Prophylactic uses not put up for retail sale	50,077	17,739
30039011	Medicants of Ayurvedic System	10,032	7,118
30039012	Medicants of Unani System	53	26
30039013	Medicants of Siddha System	8	19
30039014	Medicants of Homoeopathic System	312	22
30039015	Medicants of Bio-Chemic System	401	10
30039021	Menthol Crystal	2,482	830
300490	Other Medicaments put up for retail sale	424,625	107,064
30049011	Medicaments of Ayurvedic System	9,243	2,009
30049012	Medicaments of Unani System	155	8
30049013	Medicaments of Siddha System	35	0
30049014	Homoeopathic Medicine	718	15
30049015	Medicaments of Bio-Chemic System	430	92

[English]

**Scheme for Increasing Production
of Cash Crops**

2613. SHRI JOACHIM BAXLA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to formulate any separate scheme to increase the production of cash crops in various States of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether funds would be provided to each State under this scheme during 2004-05; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (d) No, Sir. Government do not propose to formulate any separate scheme to increase the production of cash crops. However, to increase the production of various cash crops like Cotton, Jute, Sugarcane, Oilseeds, spices etc. following schemes are under implementation:

- (1) Technology Mission on Cotton.
- (2) Centrally Sponsored Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oilpalm and Maize (ISOPOM).
- (3) Schemes being implemented under Macro Management Mode of Agriculture since October, 2000:-
 - (i) Special Jute Development Programme (SJDP).
 - (ii) Sustainable Development of Sugarcane Based Cropping System Areas (SUBACS).
 - (iii) Production and supply of Vegetable Seeds.
 - (iv) Development of Commercial Floriculture.
 - (v) Development of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants.
 - (vi) Development of Roots and Tuber Crops.
 - (vii) Development of Cocoa and Cashew.
 - (viii) Integrated Programme for Development of Spices.

Under these schemes, assistance is provided for various inputs like seeds, agricultural implements, micro irrigation, pest control measures, transfer of crop production and plant protection technology through demonstrations and training to farmers and extension workers etc.

The Government has announced launching of a National Horticulture Mission for dealing holistically with all aspects of horticultural development namely research, production and productivity, post harvest management, processing and marketing by adopting an end to end approach.

Plan for Growth of Pharmacy Industry

2614. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has formulated any action plan for faster growth of pharmacy industry and its upgradation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to revise the prices of various bulk drugs; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) and (b) The Government announced the Pharmaceutical Policy 2002 in February, 2002 with the objectives, inter-alia, of strengthening the indigenous capability of cost effective quality production and exports of pharmaceuticals by reducing barriers to trade in the pharmaceutical sector and creating an incentive framework for the pharmaceutical industry which promotes new investments into pharmaceutical industry and encourages the introduction of new technologies and new drugs.

(c) and (d) In accordance with the provisions of Drugs (Prices Control) Order 1995, the Government fixes/ revises prices of the drugs listed in its First Schedule and formulations based thereon. This is an on-going exercise.

[Translation]

Relief for Sugar Mills of Bihar

2615. SHRI KAILASH BAITHA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Rs. 19 crores given to the sugar mills of Bihar in the form of relief has been disbursed to the sugar mills;

(b) if so, the names of those sugar mills which have received the said amount; and

(c) if not, the items under which the said amount has been adjusted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Prices of Glipizide

2616. SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the prices of Glipizide and Destroproxyphene and their salt have been increased due to manipulation in price and quantity of inputs;

(b) whether this increase in price has been done to cover up the selling of major formulations of these products fixed under DPCO, 1995; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) to (c) The 74 bulk drugs specified in the First Schedule of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995 (DPCO, 95) and the formulations based thereon are under price control and their prices are fixed/revised by the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) in accordance with the provisions of the DPCO, 95. The prices of bulk drugs Gilpizide and Dextropropoxyphene Hcl have been fixed by the NPPA by considering the cost of input raw materials and utilities, conversion cost and other related expenses of manufacturers concerned duly verified. Price fixation/revision of bulk drugs and formulations is an on-going exercise.

Fishing Policies

2617. DR. K. S. MANOJ: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of fishing and Deep Sea Fishing Policies;

(b) the details of the recommendations made by the Murari Committee;

(c) the present position of recommendations in terms of acceptance and implementation;

(d) the number of trawlers operating at present;

(e) the details of tenure of their licence;

(f) whether the Government proposes to give new licences; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) Previous deep sea fishing policies of charter, joint venture, lease and test fishing have been rescinded in 1996. A Comprehensive Marine Fishing Policy has been announced in November, 2004 to deal with all matters of development of marine fisheries including deep sea fishing in Indian Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ).

(b) and (c) A technical Committee to review the deep sea fishing policy under the chairmanship of Shri P. Murari was constituted in March, 1995. This Committee submitted its recommendation to the Government in 1996. The recommendations were examined by the Government and with the approval of Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) in November, 1996 most of the recommendations of the Murari Committee were accepted with minor changes. One of the recommendations of the Murari Committee was to review the deep sea fishing policy periodically say 3-5 years. Accordingly, an Expert Group to review the deep sea fishing policy under the chairmanship of Deputy Director General (Fisheries), Indian Council of Agricultural Research was constituted in December, 1999. Pending recommendations of this Expert Group and the scenario of import of certain deep sea fishing vessels under the EXIM Policy 2000-01, an interim measure was taken by the Government by announcing on 1st November, 2002 Guidelines for operation of deep sea fishing vessels in Indian EEZ through an executive order. Applications for import, acquisition and operation of second hand fishing vessel in Indian EEZ was considered and so far, 25 Indian companies have been allowed to acquire 95 No. of vessels under the deferred

payment. The Guidelines of 1.11.2002 were amended in 6.9.2004.

(d) Presently, about 87 number of deep sea fishing vessels are in operation in Indian EEZ. Out of which 60 vessels are shrimp trawlers mainly being operated from Visakhapatnam in the east coast. In addition to this, about 27 vessels permitted to operate in the EEZ under the Guidelines are in operation as per the report of the Coast Guard Headquarters.

(e) to (g) No tenure has been fixed for the Indian owned vessels. However, the Letter of Permission can be cancelled on violation of any terms and conditions by these vessels. An Inter Ministerial Empowered Committee has been constituted by the Government to consider issues relating to granting of new Letters of Permission for deep sea fishing vessels in Indian Exclusive Economic Zone.

EPFO to Handle Employees Pension Scheme

2618. MOHD. MUKEEM: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Employees Provident Fund Organisation which has been mandated to handle Employees Pension Scheme is facing a shortfall of Rs.552 crores in its staff pension plan as reported in Economic Times dated December 2,2004; and

(b) if so, the facts thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRA SHEKHAR RAO): (a) and (b) EPF Staff Pension benefits are governed by the CCS (Pension) Rules, 1972, which are in the nature of a defined benefit scheme based on the pay-as-you-go system. To meet the liabilities arising out of this, there is a separate Pension-cum- Gratuity Fund account into which Central Board of Trustees, Employees Provident Fund every year transfers funds from the Administration Account @ 12.4% of the total emoluments. The Scheme is not fully funded as part of the liability is met out of Administration Account. An actuarial valuation of the Scheme was conducted. The actuary has recommended that to convert the funding of the scheme from pay-as-you-go system to fully funded scheme, an amount of Rs.552.08 crores is required as initial contribution.

Mosquito Nets

2619. SHRI K. C. PALANISAMY: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government is aware that Karur district of Tamil Nadu is the main production centre of mosquito nets in the country;

(b) if so, whether there is any proposal to export said mosquito nets to various countries;

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

(d) the incentives provided/being provided to the people associated in the industry?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Setting up of Research Institute for Chemicals in Gujarat

2620. SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up Research Institute for Chemicals in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) There is no proposal with the Government to set up a new Research Institute for chemicals any where in India.

Illegal Mining in Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan

2621. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that large scale illegal mining is going on in the Braj region of Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan thereby threatening heritage sites and disturbing the ecological balance of the region; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to stop illegal mining in the Braj region?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

On-going Irrigation Projects

2622. SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the progress in the ongoing irrigation projects in the States and their existing status;

(b) the funds released during the financial year for these projects; and

(c) the time by which the projects would be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) There are 169 major and 219 medium ongoing

irrigation projects in the Tenth Five Year Plan as on 01-04-2004. State-wise detailed status of these ongoing irrigation projects is given in the enclosed statement.

(b) and (c) Irrigation being a State subject the irrigation projects are planned formulated, executed and funded by the State Governments out of their own resources and as per their priorities. As financial resources of the State Governments being the major constraint for completion of the irrigation projects, the Central Government during 1996-97, launched the Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) to provide Central Loan Assistance (CLA) for accelerating implementation of approved on-going major/medium irrigation projects which are beyond the resources capability of the States and which are in an advanced stage of completion. There is a budget provision of Rs.3050 crore during 2004-05 for providing CLA under AIBP and an amount of Rs. 1250.52 crore including Rs.59.57 crore as grant has been released upto 15th March, 2005 for 64 major/medium irrigation projects under AIBP. These projects under AIBP are programmed to be completed during Xth/XIth Five year Plan.

Statement

Ongoing Irrigation Projects

(Amount in Rs. Crore)

(Potential in Thousand Hectare)

Sl. No.	Name of State	Ongoing Projects			Latest Estimated Cost	Likely Expdr. up to March, 2004	Balance cost as on 1.4.2004 (Anticipated)	Ultimately Potential	Likely Potential Created up to Mar. 04	Balance Potential as on 1.4.2004 (Anticipated)
		Major	Medium	Test						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1	Andhra Pradesh	15	9	24	18075.03	9496.03	8579	2353.48	1647.4	706.08
2	Assam	5	5	10	1840.88	496.13	1344.75	268.17	131.22	136.95
3	Bihar	9	3	12	4624.82	2320.66	2304.16	811.19	131.86	679.13
4	Chhattisgarh	3	5	8	1932.33	1582.3	350.03	744.62	586.39	158.23
5	Goa	1	0	1	966.56	501.61	464.95	26.89	13.21	13.68
6	Gujarat	3	18	21	31961.79	17255.66	14706.13	1908	269.48	1638.52
7	Haryana	4	0	4	962.13	770.82	191.31	254	168	86
8	Himachal Pradesh	1	2	3	288.57	93.02	195.55	33.15	1.11	32.04
9	Jammu and Kashmir	0	7	7	226.3	143.07	83.23	34.55	10.34	24.21

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
10	Jharkhand	5	19	24	5747.99	1844.81	3903.18	513.57	11.46	502.11
11	Karnataka	16	18	34	20538.85	12976.67	7562.18	1872.72	1068.03	804.69
12	Kerala	4	4	8	2608.8	1520.25	1088.55	220.73	86.09	134.64
13	Madhya Pradesh	16	5	21	17996.63	6149.63	11847	1827.61	203.15	1624.46
14	Maharashtra	56	95	151	39695.56	18807.73	20887.83	3703.24	1382.44	2320.8
15	Manipur	2	1	3	702.32	434.74	267.58	55.94	4	51.94
16	Meghalaya	0	1	1	57.07	22.59	34.48	5.15	0	5.15
17	Orissa	10	10	20	7178.52	3553.9	3624.62	793.78	291.92	501.86
18	Punjab	1	0	1	1324.18	128.09	1196.09	0	0	0
19	Rajasthan	4	4	8	6863.95	4497.23	2366.72	1217.35	818.69	398.66
20	Tamil Nadu	0	2	2	105.36	86.12	19.24	7.19	0	7.19
21	Tripura	0	3	3	178	137.61	40.39	26.72	3.3	23.42
22	Uttaranchal	3	0	3	5334.11	253.08	5081.03	311.6	21	290.6
23	Uttar Pradesh	9	0	9	7534.32	4247.39	3286.93	2152.27	711.99	1440.28
24	West Bengal	2	8	10	2728.42	1038.95	1689.47	660.58	139.79	520.79
Total		169	219	388	179472.49	88358.09	91114.4	19802.5	7700.87	12101.63

Investment of Pension Fund

2623. SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has formed a separate pension fund control and development authority and promulgated an ordinance;

(b) if so, whether the ordinance disregards the Labour's interest;

(c) whether the Government proposes to privatise the pension project;

(d) if so, the areas where the Government proposes to invest the pension fund; and

(e) the steps initiated to protect the interest of the labour class?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT

(SHRI K. CHANDRA SHEKHAR RAO): (a) to (e) The Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority Ordinance, 2004, promulgated on 29th December, enables the Government to set up a statutory regulator called the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) for promoting and ensuring the orderly growth of the pension sector and protecting the interests of subscribers with sufficient powers over pension funds, the central record keeping agency and other intermediaries. The Authority would be established from the date of notification by Central Government. Government proposes to open up pension funds to competing operators, including private operators, which would be regulated by the Pension Fund Regulatory & Development Authority (PFRDA). Investment guidelines for pension funds would be framed by PFRDA. A number of measures are envisaged in the legal framework for safety of the funds, including, inter-alia, penalties of upto Rs.25 crore and/ or imprisonment upto ten years for non-compliance with regulatory provisions.

[Translation]

**Policy of Multinational Companies
In Agriculture Sector**

2624. DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the Government's policy in regard to check the interference of multinational companies in the agriculture sector and the protection of farmers and agriculture land; and

(b) the details of contract farming and direct procurement of agriculture produce and future trading of agricultural commodities, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

**Ground Categories Unions of
Air India Limited**

2625. SHRI ASHOK ARGAL: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has appointed returning officer for conducting secret ballot in the ground categories unions of Air India Limited during the month of April 2004;

(b) if so, whether the Government has postponed the elections twice since then;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) by when the election process is likely to be completed;

(e) whether the directions of the returning officer regarding equal status amongst the existing unions for a free and fair elections have been implemented by the management of Air India; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor alongwith the steps initiated in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRA SHEKHAR RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) As the management of Air India could not finalize the Voters' Lists within the stipulated time i.e. 17.9.2004 the Secret Ballot election was postponed by Returning Officer. Subsequently, the date of election fixed for 22.11.2004 was postponed by Returning Officer as the management of Air India requested to review the Voters' Lists finalized by Returning Officer by a senior officer.

(d) It is not possible at this stage to indicate any time frame by which the election process will be completed. It would depend on the cooperation of Air India Management and Trade Unions.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) Does not arise in view of (b) and (c) above.

**Increase in the Number of
Foreign Tourists**

2626. KUNWAR MANVENDRA SINGH: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that according to a survey by Pacific Asia Travel Association (PATA) India is likely to show an annual growth of 13.7 per cent in tourist inflow during 2003-2007;

(b) if so, whether the Government proposes to increase financial assistance to the State Governments to improve infrastructure for tourists;

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

(d) whether the Government has sanctioned funds to the State Governments during 2005-2006 for improving facilities for tourists; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) The Pacific Asia Travel Association (PATA) has released its tourism forecast for the period 2004-06 where the growth in tourist inflow for the years 2004, 2005 and 2006 for India has been shown as 3.52%, 4.17% and 4.58% respectively.

(b) and (c) The Ministry of Tourism has increased its financial assistance to the State Governments/UTs to improve infrastructure for tourists, the details of the last three years is as per enclosed statement.

(d) and (e) The State Governments have been requested to forward their project proposals for the year 2005-06 by 30th April, 2005 which would be considered for central financial assistance based on inter-se-priority and availability of funds, etc.

Statement*Increase in the number of Foreign Tourist**State-wise Tourism Projects Sanctioned during the 10th Plan (as on 31.12.2004)*

(Rs. in lakhs)

S. No.	State/UT	2002-03			2003-04			2004-05 (Up to 31.12.2004)		
		No. of Project Sancd	Amount Sancd	Amount Released	No. of Project Sancd	Amount Sancd	Amount Released Sancd	No. of Project Sancd	Amount Sancd	Amount Released Sancd
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2	507.50	195.00	6	946.50	896.44	11	2750.81	2191.92
2.	Assam	9	768.13	618.85	3	313.46	313.06	6	955.88	742.10
3	Arunachal Pradesh	5	41.30	32.50	6	1044.60	700.00	6	1285.70	905.52
4.	Bihar	8	505.00	505.00	6	1019.42	913.89	7	1901.23	1527.55
5	Chhattisgarh	9	308.00	98.50	6	1005.00	364.00	4	1086.26	869.01
6	Goa	1	0.50	0.50	2	36.76	34.76	2	10.00	8.00
7	Gujarat	2	197.12	59.13	8	920.51	815.82	2	138.93	111.14
8	Haryana	8	332.25	311.00	16	1215.38	879.23	5	678.55	501.64
9	Himachal Pradesh	30	779.32	760.38	4	182.32	85.00	5	2620.00	1736.00
10	Jammu and Kashmir	3	94.38	89.47	5	895.00	895.00	2	805.00	644.00
11	Jharkhand	0	0	0	2	1109.00	774.60	1	474.97	379.97
12	Karnataka	6	902.49	625.49	14	932.86	792.51	8	2432.76	1914.37
13	Kerala	11	861.36	829.86	6	608.50	564.15	5	2148.63	1718.88
14	Madhya Pradesh	18	711.18	574.79	10	621.90	394.51	8	1285.46	783.03
15	Maharashtra	8	623.46	546.25	10	931.83	914.58	6	1576.38	1260.10
16	Manipur	2	5.24	2.62	1	82.44	24.73	0	0.00	0.00
17	Meghalaya	3	70.35	21.20	2	40.22	24.92	2	983.30	807.91
18	Mizoram	6	141.16	48.46	5	567.70	186.75	3	1081.28	927.09
19	Nagaland	5	360.50	323.43	4	711.00	220.80	5	2185.89	1731.40
20	Orissa	2	47.50	15.75	5	419.55	138.50	5	1316.48	999.69
21	Punjab	3	23.00	14.60	2	96.00	12.30	4	846.41	561.26
22	Rajasthan	13	1098.70	1096.20	14	1644.81	1414.25	2	39.31	31.45
23	Sikkim	13	346.24	269.76	8	1151.09	681.49	6	1005.81	805.13
24	Tamil Nadu	5	559.00	316.10	14	1339.82	850.53	6	876.92	702.72

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
25	Tripura	5	216.13	87.78	6	450.17	135.16	0	0.00	0.00
26	Uttaranchal	3	548.00	418.00	4	230.44	203.94	3	1412.93	1125.56
27	Uttar Pradesh	3	295.00	295.00	7	1115.80	916.26	7	1037.43	825.19
28	West Bengal	5	201.10	60.00	10	717.44	384.34	5	480.04	384.03
29	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0.00
30	Chandigarh	3	7.75	6.63	2	10.00	8.00	1	457.00	365.60
31	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	2	8.07	6.46	0	0	0	0	0.00	0.00
32	Delhi	14	504.00	449.02	17	3316.28	3222.13	1	500.00	400.00
33	Daman and Diu	3	49.50	16.90	1	265.07	238.56	0	0.00	0.00
34	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0.00
35	Pondicherry	2	7.87	6.30	1	245.17	73.55	2	451.00	360.00
Total		212	11121.10	8680.93	207	24185.84	18073.76	130	32784.16	25320.26

Indebtedness of Farmers

2627. SHRI P. MOHAN:

DR. PRASANNA KUMAR PATASANI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that the input intensive "Green Revolution" has led to increase the cost of production which has resulted in indebtedness of farmers, who are selling their agricultural land to pay off their debt and moving to cities as labourers;

(b) whether the Government has any proposal to protect the interest of farmers by giving loan to them; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) The input intensive Green Revolution has not only increased cost but has also increased productivity, which has reduced unit cost, i.e., cost of production per quintal. As such, "Green Revolution" cannot be considered as the reason for indebtedness and related problems like migration to cities.

(b) and (c) Following Finance Minister's announcement on 18.06.2004, the debt restructuring to be done by commercial banks, Regional Rural Banks (RRB's) and

cooperative in accordance with the new guidelines issued by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD). The measures are given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

- **Farmers in distress-** Debts of farmers as on 31st March, 2004 in districts declared as calamity-affected by the State Government concerned will be rescheduled/restructured. Interest outstanding in the accounts of such borrowers will be clubbed with the principal outstanding on March 31, 2004, and the amount thus arrived at shall be repayable over a period of five years, at current interest rates, including an initial moratorium of two years.
- **Farmers in arrears-** Loans in default of farmers who have become ineligible for fresh credit as their earlier debts have been categorized as sub-standard or doubtful will be rescheduled as per the guidelines issued by NABARD/RBI so that such farmers become eligible for fresh credit.
- **OTS for small and marginal farmers-** Guidelines for increasing the flexibility of banks and cooperatives to grant a one-time settlement (OTS) for small and marginal farmers who have been declared as defaulters and have become ineligible for fresh credit from lending institutions will be issued by RBI/

NABARD. Management of banks and cooperatives will be advised to review cases where credit has been denied on the sole ground that a loan account was settled through compromise or write offs.

In some parts of the country, farmers face acute distress

because of the heavy burden of debt from non-institutional lenders (e.g. moneylenders). Banks have been permitted to advance loans to such farmers to provide them relief from indebtedness against appropriate collateral or group security. Details of relief provided by Banks upto 31st January, 2005 are as under:-

Restructuring of Loans to Farmers in Distress/ Arrears

(Rs. in crore)

Agency	Farmers in Distress		Farmers in Arrears		OTS	
	No. of A/c	Amount	No. of A/c	Amount	No. of A/c	Amount
Com. Banks	988187	2,696.30	211727	682.77	91206	220.35
Coo.		2332.65		621.03		149.82
RRBs		1007.61		133.17		105.44
Total		6036.56		1436.97		475.61

Commercial Banks have extended loans to 10306 farmers indebted to informal sources like money lenders to redeem their debt with them and provided Rs. 33.00 crore upto 31st January, 2005.

Carbon Credit Under Kyoto Protocol

2628. SHRI GIRIDHARI YADAV: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Kyoto Protocol has recently been approved by various nations for reducing toxic emissions by promoting green practices;

(b) if so, the names of countries which have approved the same;

(c) whether some countries which are not in a position to plant trees in their own countries can do so in the third countries by providing 'Carbon Credit';

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government has allowed inflow of Carbon Credit to our country; and

(f) if so, the details thereof along with procedure adopted in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The list of countries, which have ratified/ acceded to the Kyoto Protocol, is given in the enclosed statement.

(c) and (d) Under Clean Development Mechanism (CDM), developed countries that are parties to the Kyoto protocol can go in for emission reduction projects including afforestation & reforestation project activities in developing countries and avail Carbon Credits from these.

(e) Certified Emission Reductions generated by project participant can be sold to project participants from developed countries who are Parties to Kyoto Protocol.

(f) Once the CDM project proposal is submitted to the National CDM Authority, it is examined from emissions additionality and sustainable development point of view and if found suitable, is accorded the host country approval. The project proponents are also supposed to engage services of an appropriate Designated Operational Entities (DOE) duly accredited by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The DOE validates the projects and submits it to the CDM Executive Board for registration. Once the project starts operating, another DOE accredited by the UNFCCC verifies and certifies the emission reductions achieved and recommends to the Executive Board for issuance of Certified Emission Reductions (CERs) to the project participants.

Statement*Kyoto Protocol**Status of Ratification as on March 7, 2005***Notes:**

- R = Ratification
 At = Acceptance
 Ap = Approval
 Ac = Accession

Country	Signature	Ratification, Acceptance, Accession, Approval
1	2	3
1. Algeria		16/02/05 (Ac)
2. Antigua and Barbuda	16/03/98	03/11/98 (R)
3. Argentina	16/03/98	28/09/01 (R)
4. Armenia	-	25/04/03 (Ac)
5. Australia*	29/04/98	
6. Austria*	29/04/98	31/05/02 (R)
7. Azerbaijan	-	28/09/00 (Ac)
8. Bahamas	-	09/04/99 (Ac)
9. Bangladesh	-	22/10/04 (Ac)
10. Barbados	-	07/08/00 (Ac)
11. Belgium*	29/04/98	31/05/02 (R)
12. Belize	-	26/09/03 (Ac)
13. Benin	-	25/02/02 (Ac)
14. Bhutan	-	26/08/02 (Ac)
15. Bolivia	09/07/98	30/11/99 (R)
16. Botswana	-	08/08/03 (Ac)
17. Brazil	29/04/98	23/08/02 (R)
18. Bulgaria*	18/09/98	15/08/02 (R)
19. Burundi	-	18/10/01 (Ac)
20. Cambodia	-	22/08/02 (Ac)
21. Cameroon	-	28/08/02 (Ac)

	1	2	3
22. Canada*		29/04/98	17/12/02 (R)
23. Chile		17/06/98	26/08/02 (R)
24. China		29/05/98	30/08/02 (Ap)
25. Colombia		-	30/11/01 (Ac)
26. Cook Islands		16/09/98	27/08/01 (R)
27. Costa Rica		27/04/98	09/08/02 (R)
28. Croatia*		11/03/99	
29. Cuba		15/03/99	30/04/02 (R)
30. Cyprus		-	16/07/99 (Ac)
31. Czech Republic*		23/11/98	15/11/01 (Ac)
32. Denmark*		29/04/98	31/05/02 (R)'
33. Djibouti		-	12/03/02 (Ac)
34. Dominica		-	25/01/05 (Ac)
35. Dominican Republic		-	12/02/02 (Ac)
36. Ecuador		15/01/99	13/01/00 (R)
37. Egypt		15/03/99	12/01/05 (R)
38. El Salvador		08/06/98	30/11/98 (R)
39. Equatorial Guinea		-	16/08/00 (Ac)
40. Estonia*		03/12/98	14/10/02 (R)
41. European Community*		29/04/98	31/05/02 (Ap)
42. Fiji		17/09/98	17/09/98 (R)
43. Finland*		29/04/98	31/05/02 (R)
44. France*		29/04/98	31/05/02 (Ap)
45. Gambia		-	01/06/01 (Ac)
46. Georgia		-	16/06/99 (Ac)
47. Germany*		29/04/98	31/05/02 (R)
48. Ghana		-	30/05/02 (Ac)
49. Greece*		29/04/98	31/05/02 (R)
50. Grenada		-	06/08/02 (Ac)

1	2	3	1	2	3
51. Guatemala	10/07/98	05/10/99 (R)	79. Maldives	16/03/98	30/12/98 (R)
52. Guinea	-	07/09/00 (Ac)	80. Mali	27/01/99	28/03/02 (R)
53. Guyana	-	05/08/03 (Ac)	81. Malta	17/04/98	11/11/01 (R)
54. Honduras	25/02/99	19/07/00 (R)	82. Marshall Islands	17/03/98	11/08/03 (R)
55. Hungary*	-	21/08/02 (Ac)	83. Mauritius	-	09/05/01 (Ac)
56. Iceland*	-	23/05/02 (Ac)	84. Mexico	09/06/08	07/09/00 (R)
57. India	-	26/08/02 (Ac)	85. Micronesia (Federated States of)	17/03/98	21/06/99 (R)
58. Indonesia	13/07/98	03/12/04 (E)	86. Monaco*	29/04/98	
59. Ireland*	29/04/98	31/05/02 (R)	87. Mongolia	-	15/12/99 (Ac)
60. Israel	16/12/98	15/03/04 (R)	88. Morocco	-	25/01/02 (Ac)
61. Italy*	29/04/98	31/05/02 (R)	89. Mozambique	-	18/01/05 (Ac)
62. Jamaica	-	28/06/99 (Ac)	90. Myanmar	-	13/08/03 (Ac)
63. Japan*	28/04/98	04/06/02 (At)	91. Namibia	-	04/09/03 (Ac)
64. Jordan	-	17/01/03 (Ac)	92. Nauru	-	16/08/01 (R)
65. Kazakhstan	12/03/99		93. Netherlands*	29/04/98	31/05/02 (At) ²
66. Kenya	-	25/02/05 (Ac)	94. New Zealand*	22/05/98	19/12/02 (R) ³
67. Kiribati	-	07/09/00 (Ac)	95. Nicaragua	07/07/98	18/11/99 (R)
68. Kyrgyzstan	-	13/05/03 (Ac)	96. Niger	23/10/98	30/09/04 (R)
69. Lao Democratic People's Republic	-	06/02/03 (R)	97. Nigeria	-	10/12/04 (Ac)
70. Latvia*	14/12/98	05/07/02 (R)	98. Niue	08/12/98	06/05/99 (R)
71. Lesotho	-	06/09/00 (Ac)	99. Norway*	29/04/98	30/05/02 (R)
72. Liberia	-	05/11/02 (Ac)	100. Oman	-	19/01/05 (Ac)
73. Liechtenstein*	29/06/98	03/12/04 (R)	101. Pakistan	-	11/01/05 (Ac)
74. Lithuania*	21/09/98	03/01/03 (R)	102. Palau	-	10/12/99 (Ac)
75. Luxembourg*	29/04/98	31/05/02 (R)	103. Panama	08/06/98	05/03/99 (R)
76. Madagascar	-	24/09/03 (Ac)	104. Papua New Guinea	02/03/99	28/03/02 (R)
77. Malawi	-	26/10/01 (Ac)	105. Paraguay	25/08/98	27/8/99 (R)
78. Malaysia	12/03/99	04/09/02 (R)	106. Peru	13/11/98	12/09/02 (R)

1	2	3
107. Philippines	15/04/98	20/11/03 (R)
108. Poland*	15/07/98	13/12/02 (R)
109. Portugal*	29/04/98	31/05/02 (Ap)
110. Qatar	-	11/01/05 (Ac)
111. Republic of Korea	25/09/98	08/11/02 (R)
112. Republic of Moldova	-	22/04/03 (Ac)
113. Romania*	05/01/99	19/03/01 (R)
114. Russian Federation*	11/03/99	18/11/04 (R)
115. Rwanda	-	22/07/04 (Ac)
116. Saint Lucia	16/03/98	20/08/03 (R)
117. Saint Vincent and The Grenadines	19/03/98	31/12/04 (R)
118. Samoa	16/03/98	27/11/00 (R)
119. Saudi Arabia	-	31/01/05 (Ac)
120. Senegal	-	20/07/01 (Ac)
121. Seychelles	20/03/98	22/07/02 (R)
122. Slovakia*	26/02/99	31/05/02 (R)
123. Slovenia*	21/10/98	02/08/02 (R)
124. Solomon Islands	29/09/98	13/03/03 (R)
125. South Africa	-	31/07/02 (Ac)
126. Spain*	29/04/98	31/05/02 (R)
127. Sri Lanka	-	03/09/02 (Ac)
128. Sudan	-	02/11/04 (Ac)
129. Sweden*	29/04/98	31/05/02 (R)
130. Switzerland*	16/03/98	09/07/03 (R)
131. Thailand	02/02/99	28/08/02 (R)
132. The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	-	18/11/04 (Ac)
133. Togo	-	02/07/04 (Ac)

1	2	3
134. Trinidad and Tobago	07/01/99	28/01/99 (R)
135. Tunisia	-	22/01/03 (Ac)
136. Turkmenistan	28/09/98	11/01/99 (R)
137. Tuvalu	16/11/98	16/11/98 (R)
138. Uganda	-	25/03/02 (Ac)
139. Ukraine*	15/03/99	12/04/04 (R)
140. United Arab Emirates	-	26/01/05 (Ac)
141. United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland*	29/04/98	31/05/02 (R)
142. United Republic of Tanzania	-	26/08/02 (Ac)
143. United States of America*	12/11/98	
144. Uruguay	29/07/98	05/02/01 (R)
145. Uzbekistan	20/11/98	12/10/99 (R)
146. Vanuatu	-	17/07/01 (Ac)
147. Venezuela	-	18/02/05 (Ac)
148. Vietnam	03/12/98	25/09/02 (R)
149. Yemen	-	15/09/04 (Ac)
150. Zambia	05/08/98	
Total	84	144

* Indicates an Annex I party to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

1 With a territorial exclusion to the Faroe Islands.

2 For the Kingdom in Europe.

3 With a territorial exclusion to Tokelau.

Fixation of Royalty

2629. SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has examined the feasibility of offering fixed percentage of royalty to drug units producing patented pharmaceutical ingredients/medicines in the country under TRIPS agreements;

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

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of reply to (a) above.

Livelihood Security Project

2630. SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:

SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the livelihood security project for earthquake affected rural household in Gujarat has been assisted from International Fund for Agriculture Development;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the criteria of such assistance;

(d) the number of families benefited therefrom so far; and

(e) the terms and conditions of the said assistance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (e) The information is being collected from the Ministry of Home Affairs, the nodal Ministry in the matter.

[Translation]

**Irregularities in Foodgrain Distribution
 In Maharashtra**

2631. SHRI SHISHUPAL N. PATLE: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantum of foodgrains distributed to BPL families in Maharashtra through PDS during 2004-05;

(b) whether irregularities have been detected in distribution of foodgrains in Maharashtra particularly in Gondiya and Bandara districts;

(c) if so, whether any investigation was conducted in this regard;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof alongwith the action taken against those held responsible;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor;

(f) whether the Hon'ble Supreme Court has issued any orders in this regard; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) 16,89,593 Metric Tonnes of foodgrains have been distributed to BPL families during the period from April, 2004 to December, 2004 in the State.

(b) Irregularities have been noticed in distribution of foodgrains in Gondia and Bhandara districts of the State.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The following action has been taken by the State Govt. in Gondia and Bhandara districts:-

Action	Gondia	Bhandara
F.P. Licences cancelled	11	27
FP Licences Suspended	21	21
Security Amount Forfeited	91	61
Fine imposed	67	0
Offences registered	0	8
No. of persons arrested	0	81

(e) Question does not arise.

(f) and (g) The Hon'ble Supreme Court has not issued any specific orders relating to irregularities in distribution of foodgrains in the State of Maharashtra.

[English]

Development of Daringbari in Orissa

2632. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal to develop Daringbari in Orissa as a full-fledged hill station is pending with the Union Government for approval; and

(b) if so, by when the said proposal is likely to be given approval alongwith assistance proposed to be provided during the current financial year to the State Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Sea Erosion in Coastal States

2633. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has conducted any scientific study with regard to sea erosion in mining area of different coastal States of the country in view of damage caused by recent Tsunami waves;

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

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to prevent sea erosion and the grants sanctioned/released by the Union Government to the State Governments during the current year for the purpose, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (c) Ministry of Water Resources has not conducted any scientific study with regard to sea erosion in mining area of different coastal States.

Accumulation of Water in Tsho-Rolpa Glacier

2634. DR. RAJESH MISHRA:

SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether gradual increase of water level in the Tsho-Rolpa Glacier has posed danger for India and its neighbours;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. There is a gradual increase in water level in Tsho-Rolpa Glacier lake due to the melting of the nearby glacier, showing nearly six folds increase over the last 40 years. The reason for increase in water level is due to retreating of Tradkarding glacier located above the lake as a result of global warming. The lake is located in Himalayan region in Nepal.

(c) The National Remote Sensing Agency (NRSA) under the Disaster Management Support Programme has been constantly monitoring various major glacier lakes in the Himalayas for any possible breach. NRSA will also be keeping a close watch on Tsho-Rolpa Glacier using Indian remote sensing data.

[English]

Child Labour

2635. SHRIMATI MANORAMA MADHAVARAJ: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether existing laws banning child labour in health hazard-prone industries are not being enforced by States;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of cases initiated against employers engaging child labour in violation of existing laws for the year 2003-04, State-wise;

(d) whether puffed-rice factories around Davanagere in Karnataka have been engaging child labour in violation of laws; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRA SHEKHAR RAO): (a) and (b) No, Sir. All the States are implementing the labour laws banning child labour.

(c) A Statement is enclosed.

(d) and (e) No, Sir. The Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986 prohibits employment of children below 14 years of age in any of the 70 hazardous occupations/processes, as contained in Part A & B of the Schedule of the Act (Section 3). The manufacturing of puffed rice is not included as hazardous processes under the Act. The puffed rice factories mostly employ less than 20 workers

and hence also do not fall under the purview of the Factories Act, 1948.

Statement

Number of Cases Initiated Against Employers Engaging Child Labour in Violation of Existing Laws during 2003-04

Sl. No.	Name of State/ U.T.	Number of cases initiated against employers engaging child labour in violation of existing laws
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	4870
2.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands U.T.	0
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	24
4.	Assam	0*
5.	Bihar	354*
6.	Chandigarh, U.T.	0*
7.	Chhattisgarh	104*
8.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli U.T.	0*
9.	Daman and Diu U.T.	0
10.	Delhi U.T.	66
11.	Goa	0
12.	Gujarat	29
13.	Haryana	38
14.	Himachal Pradesh	1
15.	Jammu and Kashmir	17
16.	Jharkhand	76
17.	Karnataka	1814
18.	Kerala	0
19.	Lakshadweep U.T.	0
20.	Madhya Pradesh	28
21.	Maharashtra	0*
22.	Manipur	0*
23.	Meghalaya	0*

1	2	3
24.	Mizoram	0*
25.	Nagaland	0*
26.	Orissa	3
27.	Pondicherry U.T.	0
28.	Punjab	35
29.	Rajasthan	0
30.	Sikkim	0
31.	Tamil Nadu	385
32.	Tripura	0
33.	Uttar Pradesh	399
34.	Uttaranchal	3*
35.	West Bengal	0
Total		8246

* The figures indicated are of 2002-03, as figures of 2003-04 have not been received from these States.

Establishment of Arecanut Board

2636. SHRI CHENGARA SURENDRAN:

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to establish Arecanut Board;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when it is likely to be established?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (c) The Government has no proposal to establish Arecanut Board.

Prices of Life Saving Drugs

2637. SHRI A.V. BELLARMIN:

SHRI M. SHIVANNA:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that prices

of certain life saving drugs like Factor K administered to Haemophilia patients are sky-rocketing recently;

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

(c) whether the Government proposes to consider to manufacture such life saving drugs in the country and to sell them at an affordable price; and

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

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) No complaint has been received by the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) about the high price rise of Factor K drug which is used for treatment of Haemophilia patients.

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

(c) and (d) The Central Public Sector Undertakings viz., Hindustan Antibiotics Limited, Indian Drugs & Pharmaceuticals Limited and Bengal Chemicals and Pharmaceuticals Limited are producing medicines to make them available at an affordable price.

Non-Refundable Advance from Employees Provident Fund

2638. SHRI D. VITTAL RAO: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to grant a non-refundable advance of Rs.5000/- from the Provident Fund account of subscribers in the Tsunami-ravaged areas;

(b) if so, the criteria set by the Government; and

(c) the details of subscribers who have availed this scheme so far, State-wise and Union Territory-wise?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRA SHEKHAR RAO): (a) and (b) Para 68 L of Employees Provident Fund Scheme already provides for a non-refundable advance of Rs. 5000/- or 50% of members own contribution, whichever is less, in abnormal conditions such as damage of movable or immovable property by a calamity of exceptional nature such as floods, earth quakes etc.

(c) The details of subscribers whose claims have been settled under Para-68 L are as under:-

Region	No. of Claims settled
Kerala	12
West Bengal	1658
Tamil Nadu	49

[Translation]

Rihand Dam

+2639. PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:

SHRI MUNSHI RAM:

SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR KUSHAWAHA:

SHRIMATI ANURANDHA CHOUDHARY:

SHRI MOHD. TAHIR:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether due to siltation the sluices of Rihand Dam in Uttar Pradesh have been choked and cracks have developed in the check wall of the dam leading to leakage; and

(b) if so, the preventive measures being taken by the Government for the safety of the dam?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) The sluices of the Rihand Dam in Uttar Pradesh have been choked due to siltation. Some cracks have been observed in the body of the dam for which the State Government has taken the appropriate steps to treat the cracks to check the leakage through them and to ensure the safety of the dam.

[English]

Price Support for Cotton

2640. SHRI ARJUN SETHI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposal for declaring National Agriculture Cooperative Federation as an agency for undertaking price support for cotton in addition to Cotton Corporation of India is under consideration of the Government; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd. (NAFED) has been declared as an agency, in addition to Cotton Corporation of India (CCI), for procurement of cotton under Price Support Scheme (PSS). NAFED will utilize the network of cooperatives for speedy procurement of cotton in the interest of farmers for which NAFED will be paid service charges as in the case of oilseeds and pulses.

[Translation]

Amendment in Existing Crop Insurance Scheme

2641. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to amend existing crop insurance scheme;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (c) A Joint Group to study the improvements required in the existing crop insurance schemes was constituted by the Government of India. The Group made indepth study of the related issues and submitted its report on 20.12.2004. The Group has made number of recommendations. The important recommendations are in respect of reducing the unit area of insurance to Gram Panchayat for major crops, improving the basis of calculation of threshold yield, recommending higher indemnity level of 80% and 90%, coverage of pre-sowing/planting risks and post-harvest losses, to provide personal accident insurance cover and Package Insurance Policy etc.

The Government is consulting various stakeholders to modify the National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS) based on the recommendations of the Joint Group.

[English]

Linkage of EPF Scheme with PPF Scheme

2642. SHRI BHUBNESHWAR PRASAD MEHTA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to link Employees Provident Fund (EPF) scheme with the Public Provident Fund (PPF) scheme in order to settle subscribers claim at the PPF interest rate when there is delay in the announcement of EPF interest rate; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRA SHEKHAR RAO): (a) No, Sir.

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

[Translation]

Benefits of Agricultural Research

2643. SHRI MAHESH KANODIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the benefits of agricultural research in the country are not reaching the farmers; and
- (b) if so, the remedial steps proposed by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) The benefits of agricultural research are extended to the farmers through the following mechanisms: (i) A permanent public extension system is operated by all the State Governments. Extension functionaries of State Departments of Agriculture, supported by State Agricultural Universities, provide for transfer of farm technologies to farmers.

(ii) The Government of India supplements State's efforts in this regard as follows:

- The Indian Council of Agricultural Research have established a network of 451 Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) in the country. The activities of KVKs include 'on farm testing' to identify the location specificity of technologies in various farming system; organizing frontline demonstrations to establish its production potentials on the farmers' fields; training of farmers to update their knowledge and skills; and training of extension personnel to orient them in the frontier areas of technology development.

- The Directorate of Extension, Department of Agriculture & Cooperation are implementing several programmes/schemes/activities viz. Mass Media Support to Agricultural Extension, Kisan Call Centres, Establishment of Agri-Clinics and Agri-Business Centres, Innovations in Technology Dissemination under National Agricultural Technology Project, training of senior and middle level extension functionaries of States and gender interventions in agriculture.

[English]

Construction of Dams

2644. SHRI D. V. SADANANDA GOWDA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any proposal from the Government of Karnataka for construction of vented dams across west flowing rivers and streams in Uttara Kannada, Dakshina Kannada and Udupi district of Karnataka; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and by when the said proposal is likely to be approved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) The State Governments submit major and medium irrigation project proposals as Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) for techno-economic appraisal of the Central Water Commission. No such DPR proposing construction of vented dams across west flowing rivers and streams in Uttara Kannada, Dakshina Kannada and Udupi districts of Karnataka has been received from the Government of Karnataka in the Central Water Commission for techno-economic appraisal.

(b) Does not arise.

Wildlife Trade Ban on India by UN

2645. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India's wildlife credentials are being questioned not just at home but also abroad;

(b) if so, whether India has been rapped for not complying with requirements on a separate law to specifically protect wild animals and plants life;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether UN administered Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of wild flora and fauna (CITES) has imposed trade ban on India;

(e) if so, the extent to which the import and export is likely to be affected; and

(f) the steps taken or being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) In democratic set up, legislation is a time taking process. Due to delay in putting a CITES - specific legislation, the Parties to the treaty were advised by the CITES Secretariat to suspend commercial trade in CITES listed species with India temporarily.

(e) and (f) India does not have a significant trade in wildlife and its derivatives. The advisory to suspend the trade has been withdrawn by CITES on 14th March, 2005 after the detailed schedule for having a CITES - specific legislation was formulated and communicated to the CITES Secretariat by the Government.

National Agricultural Prices Commissions for MSP

2646. SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the crops being considered by the National Agricultural Prices Commissions for fixing of Minimum Support Price (MSP) by the Government for the years 2004-05 and 2005-06; and

(b) the details of the crop proposed by the Government of Karnataka for inclusion in the list for fixing the MSP by the Union Government in the coming year during 2005-06?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) The Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) are fixed by the Government in respect of 25 agricultural commodities, namely; Paddy, Jowar, Bajra, Maize, Ragi, Wheat, Barley, Gram, Arhar (Tur), Moong, Urad, Masur (Lentil), Sugarcane, Cotton, Groundnut - in - shell, Jute, Rapeseed/Mustard,

Sunflower Seed, Soyabean, Safflower, Toria, Tobacco (VFC), Copra, Sesamum and Nigerseed. In the case of Sugarcane, the support price is Statutory Minimum Price (SMP) as it is fixed under clause 3 of the Sugarcane (Control) Order, 1966.

(b) The Government of Karnataka has expressed the view that Arecanut, Onion, Potato, Tomato, Green Chillies and Jaggery may be included under MSP.

[Translation]

Production of Sugarcane in Uttar Pradesh and Uttaranchal

2647. SHRI KIREN RIJJU:

SHRI CHANDRA MANI TRIPATHI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total production of sugarcane in Uttar Pradesh and Uttaranchal at present;

(b) the details of the steps taken by the Government to increase production of sugarcane in Uttaranchal;

(c) whether the Government has formulated any action plan to increase production of sugarcane in other States; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) The normal production (five-year average based on the production during 1998-99 to 2002-03) of sugarcane in Uttar Pradesh and Uttaranchal are 112.64 million tonnes and 7.41 million tonnes respectively.

(b) The G.B. Pant University of Agriculture and Technology, Pant Nagar, is addressing the problems of sugarcane in Uttaranchal State through support from the All India Coordinated Research Project (AICRP) on Sugarcane of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR).

Apart from this, for increasing the production and productivity of sugarcane, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Sustainable Development of Sugarcane Based Cropping Systems Areas (SUBACS) is also being implemented in Uttaranchal under Macro Management of Agriculture.

(c) and (d) Research strategies to increase the

productivity of sugarcane in sugarcane producing States are being implemented through a network of regular and voluntary research centers under AICRP on Sugarcane. As per mandate, the main emphasis is laid on the development of improved sugarcane varieties, crop production and protection technologies suited to commercial cultivation with increased productivity under five agro-climatic zones of the country. The Centrally Sponsored Scheme, SUBACS, which was initiated in 1992-96 was implemented in 21 States/ Union Territories. However, since October 2000, the scheme SUBACS has been subsumed under Macro Management Mode of Agriculture along with other 26 schemes to give more flexibility to States in implementing the programmes on the basis of State's priorities and requirements. Funds are allocated and released to States on sharing basis between the Government of India and the State Governments on 90:10 basis for most of the components.

The main thrust of the scheme is on the transfer of improved technology to the farmers through field demonstration, training of farmers, supply of farm implements, enhancing seed production and pest measures etc.

Central Institute of Sheep and Wool Research

2648. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL:

SHRI MAHAVIR BHAGORA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Institute of Sheep and Wool Research has been functioning at Avikanagar in Rajasthan for the benefit of sheep and goat rearers for the last four decades;

(b) if so, the details of the improved technologies developed by the said institute so far;

(c) whether the research is also being carried out in regard to other animals besides sheep and goat;

(d) if so, the nature and outcome of such research work and the achievements thereof so far;

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to organise training camps to impart practical knowledge to cattle rearers and farmers;

(f) whether the said institute proposes to carry out research work in other areas including birds and animals; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details of technologies developed by the Institute are given in enclosed statement.

(c) Yes, Sir. In addition to Sheep and Goat, research is being carried out on Rabbits for meat and Angora wool.

(d) Studies have demonstrated that wool type rabbits (Angora) are suitable only for the hilly regions, while broiler rabbits (meat/fur type) can be reared under different agro-climatic conditions in the country.

A package of practices (management, housing, reproduction, nutrition, health, breeding, wool utilization and skin processing) for rabbit production have been developed. Pelleted feed using locally available tree leaves and cereals/ agricultural by products has been developed for rabbits.

(e) Training programs for sheep and rabbit farmers, wool artisans and development officers are regularly organized to impart training and demonstrate technologies.

(f) and (g) The work on other animals and poultry is being carried out at other Animal Science Institutes of ICAR.

Statement

Technologies Developed by the Institute

1. Fat lamb production
2. Handloom woven blankets
3. Wool, camel hair blended products
4. Hand made felts
5. Disease data information system and health management packages
6. Artificial insemination of Sheep using liquid chilled semen
7. Evaluation and establishment of silvi-pasture, multi-tier agro- forestry and pasture system for semi-arid conditions
8. Enrichment of poor quality straws using urea - ammonia treatment

9. Development of complete feed blocks using locally available roughages and cereals/agricultural by products

10. Supplemental feeding of Sheep for higher growth and wool yield

[English]

Krishi Vigyan Kendras

2649. SHRIMATI BHAVANA PUNDLIKRAO GAWALI:

SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL:

SHRI BAPU HARI CHAURE:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of 'Krishi Vigyan Kendra' allotted to non-Governmental Organisation in the country;

(b) the benefits likely to accrue to the farmers as a result thereof;

(c) whether the Government is planning to give 'Krishi Vigyan Kendra' to each of the tribal district in the country;

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

(e) the number of Krishi Vigyan Kendras proposed to be set up during 2004-05 in the country;

(f) whether the locations for setting up of these Kendras has been selected; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has allotted 83 Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVK) to Non-Governmental Organizations in the country.

(b) The benefits likely to accrue to the farmers by the activities of the KVKs include, on- farm trials to establish the location specificity of agricultural technology under various farming systems, frontline demonstration to establish its production potential on the farmers' fields, and training of farmers to update their knowledge and skills in improved agricultural technology.

(c) and (d) The Government has approved for

establishment of KVKs in all the 578 rural districts of the country (as per India 2002). This includes all the 39 districts of 6 States/ Union Territories having majority tribal population; 64 districts of 8 States having substantial tribal population in particular administrative units; and 197 districts of 10 States/Union Territories having dispersed tribal population. The details are given in enclosed statement-I

(e) During 2004-05 the ICAR proposed to set-up KVKs in 128 districts in the country.

(f) and (g) All the 128 KVKs have been sanctioned. The State-wise details are given in enclosed statement-II.

Statement-I

Sl. No.	States/Union Territories	No. of Districts
1	2	3
Majority Tribal		
1	Arunachal Pradesh	14
2	Nagaland	8
3	Meghalaya	7
4	Mizoram	8
5	Lakshadweep	1
6	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	1
Sub Total		39

Substantial Tribal Population

1	Andhra Pradesh	6
2	Bihar (undivided)	4
3	Gujarat	6
4	Himachal Pradesh	3
5	Madhya Pradesh	19
6	Maharashtra	11
7	Orissa	10
8	Rajasthan	5
Sub Total		64

1	2	3
Dispersed Tribal Population		
1	Sikkim	4
2	Assam	23
3	Manipur	9
4	Tripura	4
5	West Bengal	17
6	Uttar Pradesh	69
7	Tamil Nadu	29
8	Kerala	14
9	Karnataka	26
10	Daman and Diu	2
Sub Total		197
Total		300

Statement-II

List of the KVKs Sanctioned during 2004-05

Sl. No.	State	Name of the District
1	2	3
1	Arunachal Pradesh	1. Tirap
2	Andhra Pradesh	2. Nellore
		3. Adilabad
		4. Prakasam
3	Assam	5. Barpeta
		6. Bongaigaon
		7. Karbi Anglong
		8. Naogaon
		9. Kamrup
		10. Karimganj
		11. Lakhimpur
		12. Tinsukia
4	Bihar	13. Samastipur
		14. Siwan

1	2	3	1	2	3
		15. West Champaran			44. East Singhbhum
		16. Rohtas			45. Chatra
		17. Bhagalpur			46. Garhwa
5	Chhattisgarh	18. Raipur			47. Koderma
		19. Janjgir-Champa			48. Dhanbad
		20. Raigarh			49. Dhumka
		21. Dhamatari	12	Karnataka	50. Dakshina Kannada
		22. Mahasamund			51. Davanagere
6	Goa	23. South Goa			52. Chamarajanagar
7	Gujarat	24. Amreli			53. Mandya
		25. Ahmedabad			54. Shimoga
		26. Sabarkantha			55. Tumkur
		27. Porbandar			56. Brahmawar
		28. Jamnagar			57. Chitradurga
		29. Rajkot			58. Gulbarga
		30. Surat			59. Bijapur
8	Himachal Pradesh	31. Lahaul and Spiti			60. Uttar Kanada
		32. Bilaspur	13	Kerala	61. Thrissur
		33. Solan			62. Kottayam
9	Haryana	34. Fatehabad			63. Alleppy
		35. Jhajjar	14	Madhya Pradesh	64. Jabalpur
		36. Bhiwani			65. Harda
10	Jammu and Kashmir	37. Kargil			66. Damoh
11	Jharkhand	38. Gumla			67. Narsinghpur
		39. Pakur			68. Hoshangabad
		40. Lohardaga			69. Morena
		41. Giridih			70. Sagar
		42. Bokaro			71. Khargone
		43. Sahebganj	15	Maharashtra	72. Gadchiroli

1	2	3	1	2	3
		73. Chandrapur			101. Puddukotai
		74. Yavatmal			102. Ramanathapuram
		75. Raigarh	22	Uttar Pradesh	103. Sant Ravidas Nagar
		76. Osmanabad			104. Bulandshahr
16	Meghalaya	77. West Khasi			105. Azamgarh
17	Orissa	78. Sundergarh			106. Firozabad
		79. Nayagarh			107. Baghpat
		80. Sambalpur			108. Barabanki
		81. Gajapati			109. Moradabad
		82. Jagatsinghpur			110. Hamirpur
		83. Rayagada			111. Lakhimpur Kheri
		84. Bhadrak			112. Farrukhabad
		85. Navrangpur			113. Jalaun
18	Punjab	86. Muktsar			114. Lalitpur
		87. Amritsar			115. Kanpur-Dehat
		88. Ludhiana			116. Mainpuri
		89. Fatehgarh Sahib			117. Mahoba
		90. Moga			118. Faizabad
		91. Ropar			119. Gorakhpur
19	Rajasthan	92. Karauli			120. Maharajganj
		93. Sriganganagar	23	Uttaranchal	121. Sonabhadra
20	Sikkim	94. North-Sikkim			122. Udam Singh Nagar
21	Tamil Nadu	95. Vellore			123. Pithoragarh
		96. Thiruvallur			124. Dehradun
		97. Thiruvarur			125. Uttarkashi
		98. Nagapattinam	24	West Bengal	126. Nainital
		99. Namakkal			127. Uttar Dinajpur
		100. Kanyakumari			128. Coachbihar
			Total		128

Import of Fertilizers

(e) if not the reasons therefor?

2650. SHRI RUPCHAND MURMU:

SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the types of fertilizers imported from various countries during the last three years;

(b) the foreign exchange spent thereon during the said period;

(c) whether the imported fertilisers are tested;

(d) if so, the norms regarding testing of fertilizers; and

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) and (b) As per the present Export Import Policy of the Government of India, all fertilisers and fertiliser inputs except urea are de-canalised whose imports are made freely on private trade account. Urea is the only fertiliser under statutory price & partial movement control. The imports of urea are made through State Trading Enterprises i.e. MMTC, STC & Indian Potash Limited. Import of urea for direct use as manure is being made on Government Account only. However, phosphatic fertiliser manufacturers are also importing urea for use in production of complex fertilisers with prior permission of the Government. The imports of urea made on Government account during the last three years for direct application along with value in US \$ is given below:-

(Qty. in thousand tonne & value in lakh US \$)

Country	2001-2002		2002-2003		2003-2004	
	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value
Bangladesh	31	34.31	0	0	0	0
CIS	155	164.06	0	0	0	0
Libya	19	21.30	0	0	0	0
UAE	15	15.84	0	0	0	0
Total	220	235.51	0	0	0	0

The details of fertilisers imported (other than urea imports for direct application) during the last three years are given in enclosed statement.

(c) to (e) Yes Sir, all the imported fertilisers are tested after arrival at discharge port as per the prescribed procedure and specifications given in the Fertiliser Control (Order) 1985.

Statement

(Qty. in thousand tonne)

DAP

Country	2001-2002	2002-2003	2003-2004*
1	2	3	4
USA	497	202	496
CIS	21	76	118
Jordan	258	73	60

1	2	3	4
Morocco	108	32	0
Australia	49	0	0
Lithuania	0	0	35
Saudi Arabia	0	0	25
Total	933	383	734

MOP

Canada	175	206	451
Germany	97	167	118
Israel	356	412	255
Jordan	614	446	658
CIS	1568	1372	1098
Total	2810	2603	2580

1	2	3	4
SOP			
Germany	22	13	10.50
MAP			
China	0	0	21
USA	35	0	0
Russia	90	100	0
CIS	0	0	44
Total	125	100	65
Urea for complex fertilisers			
China			25
CIS	23		
Iran	17	54	10
Kuwait	0	21	13
Libya	0	19	0
Qatar	42	0	35
Saudi Arabia	43		
UAE	60	25	60
Total	185	119	143

*Provisional

Source Fertiliser Statistics FAI

Import of Palm Oil

2651. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA:

SHRIMATI KALPANA RAMESH NARHIRE:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the countries from where the palm oil is being exported currently;

(b) whether the lower prices of palm oil prevailing in the country due to unrestricted import has led to hardships to the farmers; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government to ensure remunerative price to the farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) Malaysia and Indonesia are the two major exporters of palm oil.

(b) and (c) Import of edible oils including palm oil (except coconut oil) is under Open General Licence (OGL). In order to harmonise the interests of farmers, processors and consumers and to regulate large import of edible oils to the extent possible, the import duty structure on edible oils is reviewed from time to time.

Some of the steps taken to ensure remunerative price to the farmers are:-

- (i) Customs duty on crude palm oil/ crude palmolein has been increased from 65% to 80% and on refined palm oil/RBD palmolein has been increased from 75% to 90% with effect from 15.2.2005;
- (ii) Enhanced incentives to the farmers through fixation of Minimum Support Price (MSP) of major oilseeds;
- (iii) A restructured Centrally Sponsored Scheme "Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil palm & Maize" (ISOPOM) is being implemented in certain states for increasing the production and productivity of oilseed including oil palm.
- (iv) Assistance is also provided for production of foundation and certified seeds, distribution of certified seeds, distribution of seeds minikits, infrastructure development, integrated pest management (IPM), supply of sprinkler sets and distribution of rhizobium culture etc.
- (v) Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) is being implemented through National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd. (NAFED) for the purchase of oil palm Fresh Fruit Bunches (FFBs).

List of Life Saving Drugs

2652. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of drugs/medicines included in the list of life saving drugs during the last year;

(b) the details of drugs/medicines proposed to be incorporated in this list during the current year; and

(c) the norms fixed for inclusion of those medicines into the said list and the number of patients/persons to be benefited therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN):

(a) to (c) The Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995 (DPCO, 95) does not make any distinction between Life Saving drugs and other drugs. There is no specific norms or guidelines to determine as to which drugs can be classified as life saving drugs. Every drug, in general, is considered useful in saving and prolonging of life.

**Illegal Diversion of Forest
Land in Orissa**

2653. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether certain authorities have granted permission to undertake diversion of forest land within the Karlapat Wildlife Sanctuary without consent of wildlife wing in the State of Orissa recently;

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

(c) the action taken by the Government against the erring authorities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

**Kapaleswari and Keleghai Rivers
in Master Plan**

2654. SHRI PRABODH PANDA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government proposes to include Kapaleswari and Keleghai rivers in master plan during the Tenth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the present outlay of this master plan;

(d) by when the master plan is likely to be completed;

(e) whether the Government held talks with the Government of West Bengal in this regard; and

(f) If so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) No Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

(e) and (f) Government of India had constituted a Task Force on Flood Management/Erosion Control to look into the problem of floods in Assam and other neighbouring States as well as West Bengal, Bihar and Eastern Uttar Pradesh. After talks with the Government of West Bengal, a scheme namely 'Kaliaghai-Kapaleswari-Baghai Basin Drainage scheme' with an estimated cost of Rs 32.75 crore has been recommended by Task Force to be taken up in the XI Five Year Plan.

Pending Cases of Defaulting Employees

2655. SHRI M. ANJAN KUMAR YADAV:

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA:

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases initiated by the Employees Provident Fund Organisation against the defaulting employers under various provisions of law during the last year;

(b) the number of such cases pending as on date; and

(c) the number of cases which are more than three years old?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRA SHEKHAR RAO): (a) to (c) The details are as under:

	No. of cases initiated during last Year	No. of cases pending as on date	No. of cases more than three years old
Cases under section 14 of Employees Provident Funds & Misc. Provisions Act, 1952	2426	23709	12026
Cases under Section 406/409 of IPC	1387	6130	2316
Cases under Section 110 CrPC	63	1549	1362

Pilgrimage Tourism

2656. SHRI P. C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to encourage Pilgrimage Tourism in the country.

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

(c) whether Sabarimala, Malayattor, Manjankkara, Varkala, Erumeli, Kanjiramattom in Kerala are attracting more pilgrimages every year; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the financial assistance provided to the State Government during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Tourism, during the 10th Plan period, has been assisting the State Governments for the development of infrastructure under its scheme of Integrated Development of Tourist Circuits and Product/Infrastructure Development of Destinations based on the receipt of project proposals, merit of the project, inter-se-priority and availability of funds. The scope of the schemes includes pilgrimage sites also.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The details of the financial assistance provided to the State Government during the current financial year upto 30.12.2004 are given in the enclosed statement.

Statement**State-wise Tourism Projects Sanctioned during the year 2004-2005 (up to 31.12.2004)**

(Rs. in Lakh)

2004-05 (upto 31.12.2004)				
S.No.	State/UT	No. of Project Sanctioned	Amount Sanctioned	Amount Released
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	11	2750.81	2191.92
2.	Assam	6	955.88	742.10
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	6	1285.70	905.52
4.	Bihar	87	1901.23	1527.55
5.	Chhattisgarh	4	1086.26	869.01

1	2	3	4	5
6	Goa	2	10.00	8.00
7	Gujarat	2	138.93	111.14
8	Haryana	5	678.55	501.64
9	Himachal Pradesh	5	2620.00	1736.00
10	Jammu and Kashmir	2	805.00	644.00
11	Jharkhand	1	474.97	379.97
12	Karnataka	8	2432.76	1914.37
13	Kerala	5	2148.83	1718.88
14	Madhya Pradesh	8	1285.46	783.03
15	Maharashtra	6	1576.38	1260.10
16	Manipur	0	0.00	0.00
17	Meghalaya	2	963.30	807.91
18	Mizoram	3	1081.28	927.09
19	Nagaland	5	2165.69	1731.40
20	Orissa	5	1316.48	999.69
21	Punjab	4	846.41	561.26
22	Rajasthan	2	39.31	31.45
23	Sikkim	6	1005.81	805.13
24	Tamil Nadu	6	876.92	702.72
25	Tripura	0	0.00	0.00
26	Uttaranchal	3	1412.93	1125.56
27	Uttar Pradesh	7	1037.43	825.19
28	West Bengal	5	480.04	384.03
29	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0	0.00	0.00
30	Chandigarh	1	457.00	365.60
31	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0	0.00	0.00
32	Delhi	1	500.00	400.00
33	Daman and Diu	0	0.00	0.00
34	Lakshadweep	0	0.00	0.00
35	Pondicherry	2	451.00	360.00
Total		130	32784.16	25320.26

Development of Tourism

2657. SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN:

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH:

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has formulated any plan to develop tourism in the country including Kerala and West Bengal;

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

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken in this regard alongwith funds earmarked/released to State Governments for improvement of tourism infrastructure during 2004-05?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Tourism assists the State Governments/UTs in the development of tourist infrastructure under its following schemes based on the merit of the proposal inter-se-priority and availability of funds:-

1. Integrated Development of tourist circuits.
2. Product/Infrastructure Development of Destinations.

(c) The details of the projects sanctioned/funds released to the State Governments during the year 2004-05 (upto 31.12.2004) is as per enclosed statement.

Statement

State-wise Tourism Projects Sanctioned during the year 2004-2005 (up to 31.12.2004)

(Rs. in Lakh)

S.No.	State/UT	2004-05 (upto 31.12.2004)		
		No. of Project Sanctioned	Amount Sanctioned	Amount Released
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	11	2750.81	2191.92
2.	Assam	6	955.88	742.10
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	6	1285.70	905.52
4.	Bihar	7	1901.23	1527.55

1	2	3	4	5
5	Chhattisgarh	4	1086.26	869.01
6	Goa	2	10.00	8.00
7	Gujarat	2	138.93	111.14
8	Haryana	5	678.55	501.64
9	Himachal Pradesh	5	2620.00	1736.00
10	Jammu and Kashmir	2	805.00	644.00
11	Jharkhand	1	474.97	379.97
12	Karnataka	8	2432.76	1914.37
13	Kerala	5	2148.63	1718.88
14	Madhya Pradesh	8	1285.46	783.03
15	Maharashtra	6	1576.38	1260.10
16	Manipur	0	0.00	0.00
17	Meghalaya	2	963.30	807.91
18	Mizoram	3	1081.28	927.09
19	Nagaland	5	2165.69	1731.40
20	Orissa	5	1316.48	999.69
21	Punjab	4	846.41	581.26
22	Rajasthan	2	39.31	31.45
23	Sikkim	6	1005.81	805.13
24	Tamil Nadu	6	876.92	702.72
25	Tripura	0	0.00	0.00
26	Uttaranchal	3	1412.93	1125.56
27	Uttar Pradesh	7	1037.43	825.19
28	West Bengal	5	480.04	384.03
29	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0	0.00	0.00
30	Chandigarh	1	457.00	365.60
31	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0	0.00	0.00
32	Delhi	1	500.00	400.00

1	2	3	4	5
33	Daman & Diu	0	0.00	0.00
34	Lakshadweep	0	0.00	0.00
35	Pondicherry	2	451.00	360.00
Total		130	32784.16	25320.26

**Declines of Private Investment
in Agriculture**

2658. SHRI S. K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the private sector investment in agriculture sector has been declining over the years;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the agriculture sector has proposed a separate lending rate on the pattern of the prime lending rate available for other categories; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government to boost the agriculture sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) The Private Sector investment in agriculture including allied sectors measured in terms of gross capital formation has shown an upward trend, as may be seen from the enclosed statement.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) During 2003-04, it was proposed to have a separate agricultural lending rate on the pattern of prime lending rate. During 2003-04, the then Union Finance Minister, in a joint press conference with the then Union Agriculture Minister, had announced on July 16, 2003, a reduction in the lending rate for agriculture with a view to extending the full benefit of declining interest rates to agriculture sector, particularly to the small and marginal farmers. Consequently, the Indian Banks' Association advised all public sector banks to reduce their lending rate to a single digit rate of not more than 9% per annum on crop loans up to a ceiling of Rs.50,000/-.

With a view to increasing agricultural production, the Government have identified thrust areas for focused and priority attention, which include agricultural credit, irrigation,

horticulture, and marketing reforms. The Union Budget for 2005-06 has underscored the importance of efforts aimed at turning the focus of commercial banks, regional rural banks and cooperative banks towards providing credit, especially production credit to farm households. The other areas highlighted in the Budget include micro irrigation technology comprising drip and sprinkler irrigation, National Horticulture Mission with focus on backward and forward linkages, and development /strengthening of agricultural marketing infrastructure, grading and standardization.

Statement

**Gross Capital Formation (GCF) of Private Sector
in Agriculture Including allied Sectors.**

(Rs. Crore at 1993-94 prices)

Year	GCF
1993-94	10331
1994-95	11416
1995-96	12367
1996-97	13176
1997-98	13791
1998-99	13026
1999-00	15268
2000-01	15374
2001-02	14872
2002-03	16740
2003-04	18487

Source: Central Statistical Organization.

Fishing Harbour

2659. SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of fishing harbours functioning in Gujarat during the last three years;
- (b) whether the Union Government proposes to set up some new fishing harbours in the State during 2005-2006;
- (c) the steps being taken to ensure quality and hygiene at each harbour; and

(d) the action taken to promote fisheries in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) Four fishing harbours viz. Veraval, Mangrol (Stage-I and Stage-II), Porbandar and Jakhau are functioning in Gujarat during last three years.

(b) The Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India, during current financial year (2004-05) has accorded approval to the proposal of Government of Gujarat for construction of two new fishing harbours one Dholai in Navasari District and other at Okha in Jamnagar District. At present the Government of Gujarat proposes no new fishing harbours for 2005-06.

(c) The Government of India under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme has been providing 50% financial assistance for modernization and upgradation of the existing fishing harbours and fish landing centres to ensure the hygienic handling of fish catches.

In March 2001, a sum of Rs.49 lakh has been released to the Government of Gujarat for repair and renovation of three fishing harbours, namely, Veraval, Mangrol and Porbandar.

(d) The Government of India has been providing financial and technical assistance under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes to promote the fisheries in Gujarat as detailed below:

- (i) Besides four fishing harbours, 21 fish landing centres have been developed along the coast of Gujarat with the Central assistance.
- (ii) Under the scheme on Re-imbusement of Central Excise duty on HSD Oil, a total of 37895 numbers of fishing vessels have been provided with HSD subsidy during the period from 1997-98 to 2001-02.
- (iii) Under the programme on Motorization of Traditional Craft, a total of 675 traditional craft have been motorized during the period from 1999 to 2003-04.
- (iv) The programme of Fresh Water Aquaculture Development has been implemented through 21 Fish Farmers Development Agencies (FFDAs) and an area of 61322 hectares has been brought under farming involving 17583 till 2003-04. A total of 25886 fish farmers have also been trained under

this programme in improved fish farming practice.

- (v) Under the National Scheme of Welfare of Fishermen financial assistance has been provided to Government of Gujarat for construction of 2428 fishermen houses, 72 tube wells and 10 community halls since 9th Plan period and till date.
- (vi) In order to promote information technology in fishery sector, adequate financial assistance has been extended to the Government of Gujarat under the Central Sector Scheme on Strengthening of Database and Information Networking for Fishery Sector.

In addition, French technical/financial assistance through soft loan has also been provided to the Government of Gujarat for development of a fresh water prawn seed hatchery with a capacity to produce 40 million post larvae per annum at Umarwada.

Funds for Micro-Irrigation Development

2660. SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP:

SHRI M. RAJA MOHAN REDDY:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any request has been received from the Andhra Pradesh Government regarding allocation of funds for micro-irrigation development from the Agriculture Infrastructure Fund; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and action taken by the Government thereon so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) During 2003-04, the Government of Andhra Pradesh sent a proposal to NABARD to sanction Rs.588.15 crore under Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) for implementation of Andhra Pradesh Micro Irrigation Project. The NABARD has sanctioned Rs.588.15 crores as loan under the RIDF - IX during 2003-04 and the project is under implementation.

Procurement of Wheat

2661. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the production and procurement of wheat during the 2005-06 Rabi season is likely to be higher than previous year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has directed the State Governments to undertake decentralised procurement and create adequate storage space before the commencement of procurement operations; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the State Governments thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The production of wheat, as per the Second Advance Estimates, during crop year 2004-05 is expected to be 73.03 million tonnes as against estimated production of 72.06 million tonnes during crop year 2003-04. The estimated procurement of wheat during RMS 2005-06 is 180.00 lakh tonnes as against 167.96 lakh tonnes during RMS 2004-05.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. All arrangements for the procurement and storage of wheat and coarse cereals for the Rabi Marketing season 2005-06 have been finalized during the meeting of Food Secretaries of wheat producing States held on 8th February 2005.

[Translation]

Development of Rain Fed Agricultural Area

2662. SHRI HEMMAL MURMU:

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken and resources made available for the development of rain fed agricultural area;

(b) whether the existing and potential irrigation facilities have been developed and exploited effectively to enhance production; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) The Government of India are implementing the following schemes for the development of rainfed agricultural area and some categories of degraded lands:

Schemes of Ministry of Agriculture

1. National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas (NWDPR)
2. Soil Conservation in the Catchments of River Valley Projects and Flood Prone Rivers (RVP & FPR)
3. Watershed Development Project for shifting Cultivation Areas (WDPSA)

Schemes of Ministry of Rural Development

1. Drought Prone Area Programme (DPAP)
2. Desert Development Programme (DDP)
3. Integrated Wasteland Development Programme (IWDP)

The achievements under these scheme up to the end of Ninth Plan and the first two years of the Tenth Plan (2002-03 and 2003-04) are given in the enclosed statement.

(b) and (c) Up to the end of Ninth Plan an irrigation potential of 93.81 million hectare has been created against which the potential utilized is 80.06 million hectare.

Statement

Achievements under Government of India Schemes for Rainfed Agricultural Areas and Some Categories of Degraded Lands

Sl. No.	Name of Scheme	Implementing Ministry	Achievements up to Ninth Plan		Achievements in the Tenth Plan (Up to March 2000)	
			Physical (in million ha.)	Financial (Rs. in crores)	Physical (in million ha.)	Financial (Rs. in crores)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	NWDPR	Ministry of Agriculture	6.99	1877.73	0.50	284.83

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
2.	RVP & FPR	Ministry of Agriculture	5.48	1516.23	0.39	247.41
3.	WDPSCA		0.26	166.27	0.04	41.21
4.	DPAP		9.82	1768.24	2.50	544.99
5.	DDP	Ministry of Rural Development	2.38	1242.58	1.58	399.80
6.	IWDP		1.73	1039.76	1.34	521.82

[English]

Prices of Agricultural Produce

2663. SHRI S. AJAYA KUMAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the price of agricultural produce have been facing a downward trend particularly the cash crops during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons therefor alongwith the steps taken to improve the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) According the Wholesale Price Index (1993-94=100), the prices of agricultural commodities increased by 4.1% in 2003-04 compared with 3.4% in 2002-03. During 2004-05 (April - January), the Wholesale Price Index (WPI) for agricultural commodities increased at relatively lower rate of 2.8%. In regard to cash crops like oilseeds, raw rubber and raw cotton, the WPI revealed a mixed trend. For oilseeds as a group, the WPI increased by 11 % in 2003-04 compared with 16.4% in 2002-03. During April 2004 to January 2005, the WPI for oilseeds increased at a lower rate of 3.1%.

As regards raw rubber, the WPI increased by 18.1% and 16.3% respectively during 2002-03 and 2003-04. During April 2004 to January 2005, the WPI for raw rubber increased by 13.1%. As regards raw cotton, the year 2003-04 witnessed a significant increase by 27.1% in WPI compared with a decline of 4.4% in 2002-03. However, during April 2004 to January 2005, the WPI of raw cotton declined by 4.5% which reflected higher production at home and abroad in 2004-05 compared to 2003-04.

(c) The prices of commodities depend on supply

and demand and the variations in supply vis-a-vis demand affect prices. With a view to protecting the farmers from distress sale, the Government has been announcing Minimum Support Prices (MSP) each season for major crops covering cereals, pulses, oilseeds and cotton. The announcement of MSPs is backed by procurement by designated agencies with a view to protecting the interests of farmers during periods of fall in prices vis-a-vis MSPs.

[Translation]

Hospitals and Schools for Workers Family

2664. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has any scheme to set up hospitals and schools for the families of workers working in various factories in Unnao district of Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government have received any requests in this regard from public representatives during January 2005;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRA SHEKHAR RAO): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The ESI Corporation provides only medical care to its Insured Persons (IPs) and not educational facilities.

(c) No such request has been received.

(d) and (e) Question do not arise in view of reply to (c) above.

*[English]***Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Ltd.**

2665. SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY :

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN :

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether an expert committee was set up to examine the future of Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Ltd. (IDPL); and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the recommendations made by the committee in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN):

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Department has constituted a five members Expert Committee to conduct techno-financial feasibility study for rehabilitating IDPL. The Expert Committee has been asked to submit its final report by 15th April, 2005.

*[Translation]***Employment to Disabled Persons**

2666. SHRI MUNSHI RAM:

PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the target fixed for providing employment to the disabled persons during the Tenth Plan Period;

(b) the total percentage of disabled unemployed persons; and

(c) the efforts being made by the Government to achieve this target during the Tenth Plan Period?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRA SHEKHAR RAO): (a) No target has been fixed.

(b) As per the survey conducted by National Sample Survey Organisation during July-December 2002, around 0.7% of the disabled persons were unemployed on usual status basis.

(c) Tenth Plan document provides for making efforts towards empowering the persons with disabilities by making as many disabled as possible active, self reliant and productive contributors to the national economy.

Construction Work in Buddhist Research Institute

2667. YOGI ADITYA NATH: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the construction work on Buddhist Research Institute at Gorakhpur in Uttar Pradesh has been lying incomplete for many years;

(b) if so, the reason therefor; and

(c) by when the construction work is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) No such project has been sanctioned by the Ministry of Tourism.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

*[English]***Export of Generic Drugs**

2668. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Hungary has evinced interest in buying generic drugs from India;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the brand of generic drugs required by Hungary;

(c) the names of Indian companies who were invited for negotiations by Hungary; and

(d) the outcome of negotiations?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN):

(a) to (d) During 20-25 February, 2005, representatives of PHARMEXCIL and Indian companies such as M/s. Cadila Pharmaceutical Ltd., M/s. IPCA Laboratories Ltd., M/s. Lupin Ltd., M/s. Ranbaxy Laboratories Ltd., M/s. Torrent Pharmaceutical Ltd. and M/s. Unique Pharmaceuticals Laboratories visited Budapest, Hungary as desired by Ambassador of India in Budapest. The delegation interacted with the officials of the Government of Hungary and business and industry community of Hungary. The details of regulatory standards and business opportunities were explained by Hungarian side but no sale-purchase decision was taken.

Shortage of Anti Epilepsy Drugs

2669. SHRI NAVJOT SINGH SIDHU: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is acute shortage of Anti-epilepsy drugs;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the steps being taken to provide the drugs to the patients on priority?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN):

(a) to (c) The National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) monitors the shortage and availability of medicines based on the monthly reports received from State Drugs Controllers, NGOs and Public Complaints etc. In the recent past, NPPA has not received any report of acute shortage of Anti-epilepsy drugs from any of the State Drugs Controllers and other sources. It is, however, mentioned that as and when the reports of shortage of any particular drug(s) are received, in any part of the country, immediately the concerned company is advised to rush the stock and to make the drug available.

[Translation]

Utilisation of Ravi River Water

2670. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH "LALAN":
DR. CHINTA MOHAN:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether under the Indo-Pak agreement of 1960 the water of Ravi river was to be utilized by India;
- (b) if so, whether Ravi river is still flowing towards Pakistan; and
- (c) if so, the facts and details thereof alongwith corrective steps proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) The Indus Waters Treaty 1960 between India and Pakistan provides that all the waters of the Eastern Rivers i.e. The Ravi, The Beas and The Sutlej, shall be available for the unrestricted use of India, except as otherwise expressly provided. The Treaty further states that except for

Domestic Use and Non-Consumptive Use, Pakistan shall be under an obligation to let flow, and shall not permit interference with, the waters of the Sutlej Main and the Ravi Main in the reaches where these rivers flow in Pakistan and have not yet finally crossed into Pakistan.

(b) There has been negligible flow during the last few years.

(c) Government of Punjab has been requested to undertake the maintenance and upgradation of Headworks and to expedite Shahpukandi Dam for better utilisation of Ravi waters. Concerned State Governments have also been requested to implement suitable schemes on tributaries/nallahs of river Ravi.

[English]

Veterinary Universities and Colleges

2671. SHRI K. S. RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is a acute shortage of veterinary doctors and nursing staff in the country;
- (b) if so, the remedial steps taken in this regard;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to impart basic training to village youth to attend to sick animals;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the Government proposes to encourage State Governments to start separate Veterinary Universities and Colleges; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) The Government has not received any information from the States/UTs about the shortage of veterinary doctors and nursing staff.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. However, short-term training is imparted to the rural unemployed youths for undertaking artificial insemination under the scheme on National Project on Cattle and Buffalo Breeding.

(e) and (f) Veterinary education is a state subject and veterinary universities and colleges are set up by the respective states.

**Amendment of Seeds
Act, 1996**

2672. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVARAO:

SHRI P. MOHAN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to amend the Seeds Act, 1966;

(b) if so, by when;

(c) whether the Government is also planning to amend the Indian Patent Act, 1970 for according to patent rights over transgenic seeds may amount to royalty payment to farmers;

(d) the details of the proposed amendment to be made;

(e) whether suggestions of all the State Governments have been incorporated in the proposed amendment; and

(f) if so, the details of the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) Government of India has decided to replace the present Seeds Act, 1966 with a new Act for which the draft Seeds Bill, 2004 has been introduced in the Parliament and is currently under examination of the Standing Committee of Parliament on Agriculture.

(c) and (d) The Patents Act, 1970 as amended by the Patents (Amendments) Ordinance, 2004 does not provide for patenting of seeds.

(e) and (f) State Governments provided their comments for incorporation in the Seeds Bill in particular on the issues related to registration of the variety, definitions, seed testing laboratories, constitution of apex bodies, seed certification, accreditation of Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) centers, State Agricultural Universities (SAUs) Private organizations for testing the varieties, labeling provisions and penalties for infringement etc.

The suggestions given by the state governments were examined and were incorporated in the proposed Seeds Bill, 2004 appropriately.

[Translation]

Houses for Beedi Workers

2673. SHRI CHANDRABHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposal in regard to construction of houses for Beedi workers under Beedi Workers Housing Scheme in various district of States are pending with the Government;

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

(c) the details of various schemes and programmes alongwith the cost involved therein; and

(d) the time by when the Government is likely to begin work/approve the said proposal?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRA SHEKHAR RAO): (a) and (b) All proposals submitted by various regions of the Labour Welfare Organisation have been approved by the Ministry. So far, in the year 2004-05 till date, we have issued administrative approvals for construction of 9949 houses. Incomplete proposals are returned for rectification. However, proposals recently received from the State Governments of Andhra Pradesh, Tamilnadu and Rajasthan would be promptly accorded administrative approvals on the basis of eligibility.

(c) The Government is implementing an Integrated Housing Scheme for Beedi Workers. Under this Scheme, financial assistance of Rs.40,000/- per workers w.e.f 1st July, 2004, or 50% of the actual cost of construction, whichever is less, is provided under the Beedi Workers Welfare Fund (BWFF), to eligible workers engaged in the beedi making, in various States. The remaining cost towards the construction is either raised by the workers, in case the worker build house on his own and in case of construction under EWS or Group Housing Scheme, the remaining funds are raised through beneficiaries' contribution of their own or through EPF and loan from financial institutions like HUDCO etc.

(d) Under the Integrated Housing Scheme, 2004 a period of 18 months has been stipulated for the

construction by the State Governments and individual beedi worker; in case of construction under the Group Housing Scheme the specified period for completion of project is 24 months. The subsidy is released in three phases @ 35%, 40% and 25% on reaching the construction at plinth level, roof-level and on completion of construction in all respect, respectively. In case of EWS Scheme, full subsidy is released to the concerned State Govt. on reaching the construction at roof-level.

Irregularities in Procurement

2674. SHRI ILYAS AZMI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 3131 dated December 20, 2004 and state:

- (a) the total quantity and value of rice that was found to be of Below Rejection Limit (BRL) quality;
- (b) the mode of disposal of the said BRL rice;
- (c) the details of the loss suffered by FCI as a result thereof;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to recover the said amount from the Officers held responsible;
- (e) if so, the action taken in this regard;
- (f) whether some officers were deputed for procurement despite enquiries pending against them; and
- (g) if so, details thereof and reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) A total quantity of 10,177 MT of rice of the value of Rs. 98.00 lakhs was found to be Below Rejection Limit (BRL).

(b) The above stocks of BRL rice were well within the issuable limits and were issued to the State Government under various schemes with the acceptance of the State Government. Some of the stocks were moved to other stations as per the movement plan of the FCI.

(c) Stocks of BRL rice were issued through the normal channel. As such, there was no loss.

(d) to (g) Do not arise.

[English]

Rice Procurement

2675. SHRI G. M. SIDDESWARA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of target set for procurement of rice, State-wise;
- (b) whether the Government of Karnataka has requested the Union Government for increasing procurement of rice in the State and creating necessary infrastructure for storage;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the action taken/proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) No target is set for procurement of rice to the States. However, a statement indicating State-wise estimate of procurement of rice is enclosed statement.

(b) to (d) The Government of Karnataka has opted for procurement of rice/paddy under the decentralized scheme of procurement. For this purpose, a Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of India and Government of Karnataka has been executed on 23.2.2005.

Statement

(In lakh tonnes)

State	Procurement		
	Paddy	Levy Rice	Estimated Procurement (In terms of rice)
1	2	3	4
Madhya Pradesh	2.00	1.00	2.00
Chhattisgarh	25.00	5.00	22.00
Bihar	9.00	-	6.00
West Bengal	5.00	7.00	10.00
Maharashtra	2.00	2.00	3.00

1	2	3	4
Punjab	93.00	20.00	82.00
Haryana	9.00	6.00	12.00
Uttar Pradesh	9.00	14.00	20.00
Orissa	3.00	11.00	13.00
Utaranchal	-	3.00	3.00
Andhra Pradesh	5.00	42.00	45.00
Tamil Nadu	8.00	-	5.00
Others	3.00	-	2.00
Total	173.00	111.00	225.00

Closure of Industries not cleared Under Environment (Protection) Act, 1986

2676. SHRI UDAY SINGH:

SHRI KAMLA PRASAD RAWAT:

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

(a) whether Hon'ble Supreme Court has recently ordered for closure of many industrial and mining units across the country for not taking the mandatory clearance under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986;

(b) if so, the details of the industrial and mining units of which Supreme Court has ordered for closure;

(c) whether the Union Government has since taken any concrete steps to ensure compliance of orders of Hon'ble Supreme Court; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) The Hon'ble Supreme Court vide its order dated 21.02.2005 in W.P. (Civil) No.460 of 2004, *Goa Foundation Versus Union of India* had directed the Government of India to issue requisite order within a period of 10 days directing closure of defaulting units continuing to operate in violation of environmental laws.

(c) and (d) In pursuant to the above order, the Central Government in exercise of the powers conferred upon it under Section (5) of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986,

had directed on 2nd March, 2005 all State Governments and Union Territory Administrations to close down all defaulting units continuing to operate in violation of environmental laws. This operation of the above order, however, has been stayed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court through its subsequent order dated 11.3.2005 till the next date of hearing in Writ Petition (Civil) No.460 of 2004.

[Translation]

Water Management Scheme

2677. SHRIMATI KIRAN MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is contemplating to start a comprehensive water management scheme in the State;

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

(c) the expenditure likely to be incurred by the Government thereon; and

(d) by when the scheme is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) The Government is not contemplating to start a comprehensive water management schemes in the States, as the water management aspects are being taken care of under the existing schemes of various Ministries.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

[English]

Killing of Foreign Tourists

2678. SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the number of foreign tourists killed during the last three years, Country-wise;

(b) whether the Government proposes to make India a safe tourist destination; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) Safety and security of tourists is a State subject and no data in this regard is compiled by the Ministry of Tourism.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The Ministry of Tourism has advised the State Government/ UTs for the deployment of Tourism Police at all important tourist centres/ destinations. States/ UTs have also been requested to consider creating special police groups by employing ex-servicemen. The States of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Goa, Kerala, Maharashtra, Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, J&K, Uttar Pradesh and Delhi have already deployed Tourism Police.

[Translation]

**Fertilizer Sale Centres of IFFCO
and KRIBHCO**

2679. SHRI MUNAWAR HASSAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Fertilizers Sales Centres and Kisan Sewa Kendras of Indian Farmers Fertilizer Cooperative Ltd. (IFFCO) and Krishak Bharati Cooperative Ltd. (KRIBHCO) functioning at present in the country especially in Uttar Pradesh; and

(b) the details and location of such centers opened during 2004-05 and proposed to be opened during 2005-06, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN):

(a) As on date, 37381 Coop. Societies are engaged in selling IFFCO fertilizer in the country, which include 5630 Societies in the State of Uttar Pradesh. IFFCO also distributes its fertilizers through its 157 Farmers Service Centres in the country, no Farmers Service Centre is operating in Uttar Pradesh. Similarly, KRIBHCO is currently operating 61 Krishak Bharati Sewa Kendras (KBSKs) in the country, 36 KBSKs are in operation the state of Uttar Pradesh.

(b) During the year 2004-05 IFFCO has not opened any new selling centers where as KRIBHCO has opened two (2) KBSKs in Uttar Pradesh only. As on date, no proposal for opening such new centers is there with IFFCO or KRIBHCO.

**Financial and Technical Assistance
for Setting up of FPI**

2680. SHRI BHUPENDRASINH SOLANKI:
SHRI BALESHWAR YADAV:

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

(a) whether some State Governments including

Uttar Pradesh have sent any proposal seeking financial and technical assistance for setting up food processing industries in the State during the last three years and thereafter;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government of Gujarat has also sent any proposal in respect of Godhra Panchmahal district; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) and (b) During the period from 2002-03 to 2004-05, 145 project proposals seeking financial assistance under the Plan Schemes of the Ministry were forwarded by the State Nodal Agency of Uttar Pradesh. As many as 30 proposals pertaining to establishment/modernization of bakery, F&VP, milk processing, grain milling units etc. have been approved.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. One proposal has been received in the milk sector from M/s Panchmahal District Cooperative Milk Producers, Godhra, Gujarat in the year 2003-04. The cooperative has been asked to furnish information which was found to be deficient in the proposal

[English]

**Approval of Four Varieties
of BT Cotton**

2681. SHRI B. VINOD KUMAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Genetic Engineering Approval Committee (GEAC) had approved four varieties of Bt. Cotton for commercial cultivation by farmers in the country, after due trials;

(b) if so, whether any sample survey had been conducted at the farm level, in different States, to assess the performance of these varieties in terms of crop yield and pest resistance etc.; and

(c) the outcome of these surveys, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) The Government, through the Genetic Engineering Approval Committee (GEAC) of the Ministry of Environment & Forests

had accorded approval for four Bt. Cotton hybrids for commercial cultivation by farmers in the Central and Southern part of the country after conducting due trials.

(b) and (c) On the directions of the Government of India, the monitoring committees have been set up in all the cotton growing States to assess the performance of Bt. Cotton. From the reports received from the State Governments, it was observed that the performance of Bt. Cotton was satisfactory and farmers have derived economic benefits due to reduction in insecticides applications.

The area of Bt. Cotton has increased from 0.70 lakh acres in Kharif, 2002 to 2.30 lakh acres in Kharif, 2003 and further increased to 12.00 lakh acres in Kharif, 2004.

Development of Tourism

2682. SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to develop tourism in the country;

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

(c) whether World Travel and Tourism Council has revealed that India is the second fastest growing travel and tourism economy in the World;

(d) if so, whether tourist arrivals in India are on the increase over the previous year; and

(e) if so, the concrete steps the Government proposes to take to improve the tourism sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) Development and promotion of tourism is primarily the responsibility of State Governments/UTs. Ministry of Tourism, Government of India extends financial assistance for the tourism related projects which are identified in consultation with the State Governments based on their inter-se priority, merit subject to availability of funds in a particular financial year.

(c) As per the 2004 report of World Travel & Tourism Council (WTTC) for India called "India - Travel & Tourism Forging Ahead" India's Travel & Tourism Economy is expected to generate 4.9% of GDP and 24,456,600 jobs during 2004.

(d) An estimated 3.37 million foreign tourists visited India during the year 2004 as against 2.73 million during 2003 showing a growth of about 23.5%.

(e) Various steps taken by the Government to improve the tourism sector and flow of foreign tourists into the country include:-

- Development of tourist spots under its various schemes of infrastructure development of tourist circuits and destinations;
- Direct approach to the consumers through Electronic and print media through the "Incredible India" Campaign;
- Creation of World Class Collaterals;
- Centralized Electronic Media Campaign;
- Direct co-operative marketing with tour operators and wholesalers overseas;
- Greater focus in the emerging markets, particularly in the region of China, North East Asia and South East Asia;
- Participation in Trade Fairs & Exhibitions;
- Optimizing Editorial PR and Publicity;
- Use of Internet and web marketing;
- Generating Tourist Publications;
- Re-inforcing hospitality programmes including grant of air passages to invite media personnel and tour operators on familiarization tours to India to get first hand knowledge on various tourism products;
- Launching of Road Shows in key source markets of Europe;
- Focusing on growth of hotel infrastructure particularly budget hotels; and
- Enhancing connectivity through augmentation of air capacity and improving road infrastructure to major tourist attractions.

Suicide by Farmers

2683. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the cases of suicide by farmers in the country, particularly in Karnataka have increased during the last six months;

(b) if so, the details of such cases reported in various States during the said period, State-wise, including Karnataka;

(c) the main reasons for sudden spurt in such incidents;

(d) whether the Union Government proposes to provide any special package to State Governments, especially to Karnataka, to check such incidents; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Construction of Structures in M.P.

2684. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether certain structures have been constructed in the catchment area of the Gandhi Sagar Project in Madhya Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the list of such structures alongwith relevant details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) The Government of Madhya Pradesh has reported that about 151 Water Harvesting structures have been constructed in the catchment area of Gandhi Sagar Project in Madhya Pradesh. The details of structures as reported by the Government of Madhya Pradesh are given in the Statement enclosed.

Statement

Construction of Structures in Madhya Pradesh

Sl. No.	Name of District	No. of Schemes	Gross Capacity in million cubic metre (M. Cu.m)	Capacity as on 21-09-04 (M. Cu.m)
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Indore	31	29.093	23.907

1	2	3	4	5
2.	Dhar	4	10.920	10.290
3.	Dewas	12	13.788	12.920
4.	Shajapur	3	1.722	1.538
5.	Ujjain	34	94.721	80.510
6.	Neemuch	22	14.802	13.831
7.	Mandsaur	23	42.436	33.792
8.	Ratlam	22	21.854	21.455
Total		151	229.336	198.243

[Translation]

Interests of Small Farmers

2685. SHRI KAMLA PRASAD RAWAT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to encourage labour intensive and value added agriculture keeping in view the interests of the small farmers;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to encourage sericulture, cultivation of pepper and organic farming; and

(c) if so, the steps the Government has taken to provide facility and encourage the farmers of Uttar Pradesh to undertake this type of farming?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) The National Agriculture Policy (NAP), July 2000, has laid emphasis on creation of employment in rural areas. The Union Budget for 2005-06 has also taken into account the employment potential in Indian agriculture, and accordingly proposed higher outlays in agriculture. India has continued with the policy of input subsidies in view of the overwhelming proportion of small farmers in the country.

(b) and (c) The Government has sanctioned a Scheme – National Project on Organic Farming with an outlay of Rs.57.05 crore for production, promotion, certification and market development of Organic Farming in all States of the country including Uttar Pradesh for the remaining period of 10th Five Year Plan. The main objectives under the Scheme are:

- (1) Putting in place a system of certification of Organic produce.
- (2) Capacity building through service providers.
- (3) Financial support for commercial production units for production of organic inputs like:
 - (a) Fruits and vegetables waste compost;
 - (b) Bio-fertilizer production; and
 - (c) Hatcheries for vermiculture
- (4) Promotion and extension of Organic Farming

- (iii) Siddhartha Tubes Ltd., Indore
- (iv) AVN Tubes Ltd., Malanpur
- (v) Steel Tubes of India Ltd., Dewas
- (vi) Dee Tee Industries, Indore
- (vii) Metalman Industries Ltd., Indore
- (viii) Perfect Tools and Forgings P. Ltd., Indore
- (ix) Shine Safe Industries, Indore
- (x) Modern Iron Works, Indore
- (xi) STI Sanoh (I) Ltd., Indore

As regards pepper, assistance for cultivation of pepper is being provided under the Macro Management Scheme of the Ministry of Agriculture.

Import of Duty Free Raw Material by Private Steel Industries

2686. SHRI CHANDRA MANI TRIPATHI:

SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of private sector steel industries in Madhya Pradesh which have imported duty free raw material for meeting the export orders for steel pipes from 1999 to till date;
- (b) the details of industries out of them which could not export steel pipes after such import;
- (c) whether the said industries have paid the customs duty for importing raw material after having failed in exporting steel pipes;
- (d) if not, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the action being taken by the Government against those industries?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN):

(a) and (b) As per available information private sector industries in Madhya Pradesh which have imported duty free raw material for meeting the export order for steel pipes from 1999 to till date is as under:

- (i) MGM Tools Pvt. Ltd., Indore
- (ii) Flex Tubes, Indore

Out of the above companies Siddhartha Tubes Ltd. Indore could not export steel pipes after import of duty free raw material.

(c) to (e) Siddhartha Tubes Ltd., Indore is liable to pay custom duty of Rs.151302/- in addition to interest thereon against advance license number 1096144 dated 11.06.1999 and customs duty of Rs.104697/- approximately in addition to interest thereon against advance license number 197494 dated 30.08.1999 on account of failure in part fulfillment of export obligation. The company has been declared defaulter and no further licence under any scheme of Foreign Trade Policy is being issued to them. The company has also been directed to deposit the above-mentioned custom duty along with interests by 31.3.2005.

[English]

Formation of India Council for Veterinary and Fishery Research

2687. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a proposal for formation of Indian Council for Veterinary and Fishery Research is under consideration of the Union Government;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) by when a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (c) Proposals have been received from various fora from time

to time for establishment of an Indian Council of Veterinary Research including for Fisheries matters especially by carving out of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research. The issue has been considered carefully and the Ministry is of the opinion that in view of the emphasis on an integrated approach to farming, which calls for integration of agriculture, livestock and fisheries sectors, creation of a separate Council of Veterinary and Fishery Research is not feasible.

**Uttar Pradesh Drugs and
Pharmaceuticals Ltd.**

2688. SHRI ASHOK KUMAR RAWAT: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Uttar Pradesh Drugs & Pharmaceuticals Ltd. (UPDPL), a public sector undertaking is running in loss;

(b) if so, since when and the total losses suffered by the said company so far;

(c) the reasons therefore; and

(d) the steps taken to improve the working of the PSU?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN):

(a) to (d) Consequent on the rehabilitation scheme sanctioned by the BIFR, the equity share holding of IDPL, a Central Public Sector Undertaking has been transferred to Government of Uttar Pradesh w.e.f. 1.4.2004. At present UPDPL is a state PSU. The requisite information is being collected from UPDPL and the same will be placed on the Table of the House on receipt of the same from them.

[Translation]

Reduction in Export by SAIL

2689. SHRI TUFANI SAROJ: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the details of total steel exported by the Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) during the years 2003 and 2004;

(b) whether SAIL is now planning to reduce its exports by 6 percent; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS

AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN):

(a) The details of exports of Steel by Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) Plants during the year 2003-04, 2004-05 (April-Dec.) are as follows:

(Qty.: '000 MT)

Category	2003-04	April-Dec., 2004
A. Mild Steel		
Billets	486.0	105
Wire Rods	38.0	17.8
Structurals	1.0	2.3
TMT Bars	9.0	0
HR Coils/Sheets	240.0	13.6
CR Coils/Sheets	11.0	0.2
Plates	355.0	123.6
CRNO	1.0	0
Total	1141.0	262.5
B. Special Steel		
Total (A+B)	28.0	36.4
Total (A+B)	1169.0	298.9

(b) Exports of steel from SAIL during April-Dec. 2004 was about 67% less than the corresponding period last year. Under the MoU signed between SAIL and Ministry of Steel for the year 2004-05, SAIL has committed to export 400 thousand tonnes of steel (level 3) from four Integrated Steel Plants during 2004-05. As against this, cumulative exports of steel products from SAIL's Integrated Steel Plants during April-Dec., 2004 is 262.5 thousand tonnes.

(c) With a view to increasing availability of steel in the domestic market, exports have been limited during the current year.

**Committee for Strengthening
Co-operative Financing**

2690. SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR KUSHAWAHA:

SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA:

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Committee for Strengthening Co-operative Financing Institutions has submitted its report to the Government;

(b) if so, the details of the recommendations made by the said committee;

(c) the details of the recommendations implemented by the Government so far;

(d) whether the Government proposes to announce any package for revival of such societies;

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

(f) the number of societies running in losses in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) The Government had constituted a Task Force under the Chairmanship of Prof. A. Vaidyanathan for revival of co-operative credit institutions in August, 2004. The Task Force has submitted its Report on 15th February, 2005.

(b) The Task Force has recommended a financial package of Rs. 14,839 crore for the credit co-operative institutions. The package covers accumulated losses, unpaid invoked guarantees, receivables from State Governments, return of share capital to State Governments, Human Resources Development, conduct of special audits, computerization, implementation costs etc. Provision of financial assistance is linked to reforms in co-operative sector.

(c) to (e) Recommendations of the Task Force have been accepted by the Government in Principle for implementation.

(f) As informed by the National Bank for Agriculture & Rural Development (NABARD), 53,626 Primary Agriculture Credit Societies are running at loss as on 31st December, 2004.

[English]

Survey on Ground Water

2691. PROF. CHANDER KUMAR: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Ground Water Board has

conducted any survey to ascertain the quantum of ground water in the country; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Central Ground Water Board (CGWB), under the Ministry of Water Resources, in association with the concerned State Ground Water Organisations makes periodical assessment of the availability of ground water in the country. The total annually replenishable ground water resources of the country have been estimated as 432 billion cubic meter (BCM). The State-wise details are given in enclosed statement.

Statement

State-wise details of Replenishable Ground Water Resources in the Country

Sl. No.	States	Replenishable Ground Water Resources (BCM/Yr.)
1	2	3
1	Andhra Pradesh	35.29
2	Arunachal Pradesh	1.44
3	Assam	24.72
4	Bihar	26.99
5	Chhattisgarh	16.07
6	Delhi	0.29
7	Goa	0.22
8	Gujarat	20.38
9	Haryana	8.53
10	Himachal Pradesh	0.37
11	Jammu and Kashmir	4.43
12	Jharkhand	6.53
13	Karnataka	16.19
14	Kerala	7.90
15	Madhya Pradesh	34.82
16	Maharashtra	37.87
17	Manipur	3.15
18	Meghalaya	0.54

1	2	3
19	Mizoram	Under Estimation
20	Nagaland	0.72
21	Orissa	20.00
22	Punjab	18.66
23	Rajasthan	12.71
24	Sikkim	Under Estimation
25	Tamil Nadu	26.39
26	Tripura	0.66
27	Uttar Pradesh	81.12
28	Uttaranchal	2.70
29	West Bengal	23.09
Total States		431.77

Union Territories

1	Andaman and Nicobar	Under Estimation
2	Chandigarh	0.030
3	Dadar and Nagar Haveli	0.042
4	Daman and Diu	0.013
5	Lakshadweep	0.002
6	Pondicherry	0.029
Total UTs		0.116
Grand Total		431.886 (say 432)

*[Translation]***Supply of Foodgrains to Bihar**

2692. SHRI GANESH PRASAD SINGH:

SHRI ALOK KUMAR MEHTA:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Food Corporation of India (FCI) was required to supply 12 lakh tonnes of foodgrains to Bihar under various rural development schemes during the year 2004-05;

(b) if so, the quantity of foodgrains supplied to the State during the current year and till date;

(c) the efforts made to supply the remaining quota of foodgrains; and

(d) the scheme formulated to supply adequate quantity of foodgrains to the State during 2005-2006?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir. 11.92 lakh tonnes of foodgrains was allocated to Bihar under rural development schemes.

(b) A statement showing scheme-wise allocation and offtake is enclosed.

(c) Foodgrains are being despatched to the State of Bihar on monthly basis as per the requirement of the State of Bihar and availability of railway rakes.

(d) Allocation has not been finalized for Bihar for the year 2005-06 by the nodal ministry, i.e., Ministry of Rural Development, so far.

Statement**Scheme-wise Allocation and Offtake of Foodgrains during 2004-05 to Bihar**

(Figures in lakh tonnes)

Scheme	Allotment	Offtake (upto January, 2005)
Sampoorna Gramin Rojgar Yojana (SGRY)	5.17	1.67
Special Component of SGRY	3.84	0.00
National Food for Work Programme	2.71	0.00
Annapurna	0.20	0.08
Total	11.92	1.75

Development of Tourist Places

2693. SHRI SITA RAM YADAV:

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the number of places related to historical personalities like Sri Mahavir, Lord Buddha and Mahatma Gandhi selected for development from tourism point of view in Bihar; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the assistance provided to the State Government during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a)

Development of tourist places is primarily undertaken by the State Governments/UT Administrations. However, Ministry of Tourism, Government of India, provides financial assistance for development of tourism related sites of national/international importance, which are identified in consultation with them every year.

(b) Details of projects sanctioned in Bihar during the current financial year are as follows:-

(Rs. in lakh)

S.No.	Name of Project	Amount sanctioned	Amount released
1	Construction of new High School Building and shifting of existing High School from frontage Mayasarovar Lake, Bodhgaya	33.11	33.11
2.	Eco-Tourism Development at Bhimbandh (Munger)	370.00	296.00
3	Development of tourist Resort at Maner	407.20	325.76
4	Eco-Tourism development of Valmiki Nagar (West Chamaparan)	300.06	240.00
5	Development of Vishnu Vihar at Gaya	271.06	216.84
6	Construction of Tourist Complex at Maner Sharif, Patna	500.00	400.00
7	GOI-UNDP Endogenous Tourism Project at Village Nepura in Kamrup District	19.80	15.84

[English]

National Dairy Development Board

2694. SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) has wound up Mother Dairy Foods Ltd.;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the NDDB has any proposal to diversify activities and to extend the same to various States; and

(d) if so, the details of the programmes drawn up by NDDB for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) The Mother Dairy Foods Ltd. (MDFL), has been merged with its holding company Mother Dairy Fruits and Vegetable Ltd.,

as the purpose for which it was created, no longer existed.

(c) and (d) Eighty eight Cooperative Unions/ Federations in various states have made Perspective Plans, with the assistance of NDDB, covering activities in Processing and Manufacturing facilities, Quality Assurance, Productivity Enhancement, Institutional Building & Society Organization, National Information Network and Market Development etc.

Workshops on Solid Waste Management

2695. SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of workshops, on management of solid waste and cost of provision of sewerage, waste water treatment and drainage in Urban Centres organised for creating sustainable and viable waste-energy initiative in the country during the last three years and current year; and

(b) the details of cities and small towns of the country selected for this environmentally friendly programme, State wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Environment and Forests and the Central Pollution Control Board support organizations and institutions in the country for organising workshops on solid waste management including creating awareness for setting up of appropriate waste processing facilities. Ten National level workshops in the past three years and four workshops in the current year have been organized at various cities. The Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources also have a National Programme on Waste-to-Energy.

The Ministry of Environment & Forests has an ongoing scheme entitled National Environment Awareness Campaign (NEAC) since 1986 with the objective of creating environmental awareness at the national level. This year, the theme for NEAC is "Solid Waste Management". The sub-themes for this include household waste and composting/vermi-composting, municipal waste, and bio-medical waste. NEAC is conducted through 29 Regional Resource Agencies (RRAs) identified by the Ministry. The RRAs invite registered NGOs, Voluntary Organisations, Educational Institutions, and State Government Agencies etc. for the conduct of the campaign. The activities under the scheme include conduct of Seminars and workshops on selected themes through out the country through the year.

Afforestation and Seizure of Timber in North Eastern Region

2696. SHRI MANI CHARENAMI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that since the formation of the High Powered Committee, the forest cover in the entire North Eastern Region has further depleted;

(b) if so, the data of forest cover in each State of the North Eastern Region for the period 1999 to 2004; and

(c) the figures of timber seized within the same period with separate seizure figures for timber of Myanmar origin and that of timber of Indian origin?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) The High Powered Committee was constituted on 06.03.1997 pursuant to Hon'ble Supreme Court's order dated 04.03.1997. Forest cover of the country is assessed by Forest Survey of India on a two-year cycle using satellite data. As per the last two assessments made in the years 1999 and 2001, the forest cover in North Eastern Region is as under:

(Area in km.)

1999 Assessment	2001 Assessment
1,66,917	1,69,366

(b) The State-wise data of forest cover of North Eastern Region as per the State of Forest Reports of 1999 and 2001 is given in enclosed statement..

(c) The figures of timber seized as reported by Government of Assam is as under:

(in cubic meters)

1999-2000		2000-2001		2001-2002		2002-2003		2003-2004	
Myanmar origin	Indian origin	Myanmar origin	Indian origin	Myanmar origin	Indian origin	Myanmar origin	Indian origin	Myanmar origin	Indian origin
Nil	9556	Nil	12459	Nil	11619	Nil	8975	Nil	6080

Statement

The State-wise data of forest cover of North Eastern Region as per the State of Forest Reports of 1999 and 2001

(Area in sq. kms.)

S.No.	Name of the State	1999 Assessment	2001 Assessment
1	2	3	4
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	68,847	68,045

1	2	3	4
2.	Assam	23,688	27,714
3.	Manipur	17,384	16,926
4.	Meghalaya	15,633	15,584
5.	Mizoram	18,338	17,494
6.	Nagaland	14,164	13,345
7.	Tripura	5,745	7,065
	Total	1,66,917	1,69,366

**Development of Molecules for
Pharmaceutical use**

2697. DR. SUJAN CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to take action for the development of new molecules for pharmaceutical use;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the amount allocated for the purpose during 2005-06;

(c) the amount allocated and actually spent in Research and Development (R&D) for pharmaceuticals sector during the last three years;

(d) whether the Ministry is coordinating with other research organisations of various Government departments for new molecule development;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the details of new molecules developed for pharmaceutical use during the last three years and out of them which molecules are in actual used by different pharmaceutical companies?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN):

(a) and (b) The "Drugs & Pharmaceuticals Research Programme" of the Department of Science & Technology is an important initiative towards this objective. The Pharmaceuticals Research and Development Support Fund (PRDSF) has been set up with an initial corpus of Rs.150 crores during 2003-04 and the Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Research programme has been merged with PRDSF Scheme. The interest earned from this fund will be used for R & D in pharmaceuticals sector. An initial budgetary support of Rs. 10 crores was provided for sustaining various activities during the Financial year 2003-04, since the interest on this corpus will be accrued only after a year. During the financial year 2005-06 an amount of Rs 160 crore have been allocated towards this Fund.

(c) The details are as follows:

Year	Funds released (Rs. in lakhs)		
	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04
Amount allocated	400.00	975.00	975.00
Amount spent	398.00	975.00	934.00

(d) to (f) The R & D in CSIR laboratories is supported through collaboration with other national agencies/ organizations viz. Department of Biotechnology, Department of Science and Technology, Indian Council of Medical Research, international agencies and industry. The following molecules have been developed during the last 3 years:

New Synthetic Molecules

S.No.	Activity	Status
1	Hypolipidemic	Collaborative-cum-licensing agreement executed with Cadila Pharmaceuticals in 2004
2	Antimalarial	Collaborative-cum-licensing agreement done with IPCA Laboratories on 24.11.04.
3	Antiulcer	Under Development
4	Antiosteoporotic	Under Development
5	Treatment and management of stress	Under Development

Further, a list of new molecules developed for pharmaceutical use, in India during the last three years by the pharmaceutical companies is in enclosed statement. These molecules are under various stages of clinical trials as per Drugs and Cosmetics Rules. Therefore, these molecules have not yet been approved for marketing in the country.

Statement

S.No.	Name of New Molecules under development in India
1	2
1	LL-4218
2	RBx 7644 (Ranbezold)
3	LLL-3348 (Desoris)
4	133H
5	LL-4558 (Sudoterb)

1	2
6	WCK-1152
7	RBx 11180
8	DRF 10945
9	ZYH1
10	RBx 10558
11	RBx 10416
12	RBx 11082
13	Thrombinase
14	CT-1
15	RBx 9841
16	CDR 134D-123

[Translation]

**Appointment of SCs/STs/
OBCs Teachers**

2698. SHRI AJIT JOGI: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that not a single teacher belonging to the SCs/STs/OBCs has been appointed on permanent basis in the Indian Institute of Tourism and Travel Management since its inception in 1983; and

(b) if so, the number of the employees belonging to the reserved and unreserved categories who have not been regularised so far alongwith the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) Recruitment to all the teaching posts, except one post of Professor, in the Indian Institute of Tourism & Travel Management (IITTM) has been made on "contract basis". The only regular incumbent to the post of Professor belongs to General category. As the Recruitment has been made on contract basis, there is no proposal at present to offer regular appointment to any of the incumbents. The details of the teachers working on contract basis at present is as under:-

S.No.	Name of the Post	No. of Teachers	Category
1.	Professor & Administrator	01	01 General
2.	Reader	01	01 General
3.	Lecturer	08	07 General and 01 OBC

[English]

**Protection of Interest of
Milk Producers**

2699. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA:

SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether milk powder and other milk related products are being dumped in the country at cheaper rates which has caused less demand and loss to small milk producers; and

(b) if so, the corrective measures taken by the Government so far to protect dumping and to produce more milk?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

**Losses to Employees
Pension Scheme**

2700. SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:

SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA:

SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH:

SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA:

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the losses incurred on account of liabilities and assets under the employees pension scheme was Rs. 19,291 crores during the year 2002-2003;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the said liability has increased further during the year 2003-2004;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the reasons for continuous increase in the burden of the said liability; and

(f) the corrective measures that are proposed to be taken by the EPFO in respect of retiring employees?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT

(SHRI K. CHANDRA SHEKHAR RAO): (a) and (b) No, Sir. No such losses have incurred. However, the 7th Annual Valuation report has disclosed a valuation deficit of Rs.19,291 crore as on 31.03.2003 which is different from cash loss.

(c) and (d) The 8th Annual; Valuation (as on 31.3.2004) exercise is presently being done by the Valuer Actuary.

(e) Pension liability is a consequence of various factors e.g. number of members, pensionable service, pensionable salary, number of pensioners, life expectancy and mortality etc. Since the membership, number of pensioners and pensionable service are increasing every year, the liability is also increasing.

(f) The major corrective measures recommended by Valuer and consultant Actuary are:

- (i) to increase the age for grant of superannuation pension from 58 to 60 years.
- (ii) to revise Table 'B' and 'D' under Employees Pension Scheme, 1995.
- (iii) to increase discount rate in early pension cases from 3% to 5%
- (iv) to link corresponding service period to the corresponding wage/wage ceiling for calculation of member pension.

Medical Facilities to the Employees of Rourkela Steel Plant

2701. SHRI B. MAHTAB: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the medical facilities provided for the employees of the Rourkela Steel Plant (RSP) are satisfactory;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) the annual budget for the Rourkela Ispat Hospital;

(e) the funds allocated to the hospital during each of the last three years and the current year;

(f) the details of the sanctioned posts of the medical specialists lying vacant in this hospital; and

(g) the action being taken to fill up these posts?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN):

(a) Yes, the medical facilities provided for the employees of Rourkela Steel Plant are satisfactory.

(b) Ispat General Hospital and Fertilizer Hospital being run and managed by Rourkela Steel Plant have a total of 715 beds with indoor & outdoor treatment facilities. Additionally, RSP have provided 4 health centres in the steel township and one occupational health services centre located in the plant.

List of specialized units for providing diagnostic and treatment facilities are as under:

1. Intensive care unit
2. Haemodialysis unit
3. Nuclear Medicine Lab
4. Mohan Kumar Mangalam Burn Centre & Plastic Surgery
5. Neurology & Neuro Surgery Clinic
6. Haematology Clinic
7. Cardiac Clinic
8. Diabetic Clinic
9. Nephrology Clinic
10. Psychiatry Clinic
11. Orthopaedic Clinic
12. Leprosy & Venerology Clinic.
13. Retina Photo Coagulation & Orthoptic Unit
14. Anaesthesiology Clinic
15. Clinical Chemistry Auto Analyser
16. Whole Body Ultra Sound Unit
17. Endoscopic Unit
18. CT Scan Unit
19. Community Welfare Activities
20. Immunozation Clinic
21. Gastro Enterology Clinic

22. Anti-Rabies Prophylactic Clinic
 23. Physiotherapy
 24. Speech Therapy & Audiometry Clinic
 25. Post Partem Unit
 26. Blood Transfusion & Dept. of Immuno-Haematology
 27. New X-Ray Unit & Super M-100
 28. Occupational Health Service Centre (Inside Plant)
 29. Laproscopic Surgery Facilities
 30. Vapoclave, Shredder, Boller & Conveyor System with computerized control for Biological-waste Management
 31. Molecular Biology Laboratory

(c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e) The Annual Budget allocation for the last three years and the current year for Ispat General Hospital of RSP is as under:

2001-02	Rs. 2493 Lakhs
2002-03	Rs. 2938 Lakhs
2003-04	Rs. 2993 Lakhs
2004-05	Rs. 3088 Lakhs

(f) One post each of Consultant, Nephrology (E-4), Consultant, Cardiology (E-4) and Senior Medical Officer (Radiology) (E-2) are lying vacant.

(g) Action has already been taken to fill up these posts by advertisement in newspaper.

**Corruption and Mismanagement
in EPF**

2702. SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:
 SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA:
 SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH:

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the corruption and mismanagement in the Employees Provident

Fund as reported in Business Standard dated December 13, 2004;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the action taken/being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRA SHEKHAR RAO): (a) to (c) As and when any fraud, financial irregularity or any matter relating to demand and acceptance of illegal gratification on the part of any employee of Employees Provident Fund Organisation is noticed, necessary corrective measures to avoid recurrence of the same, and also, penal action as required under the rules is duly taken.

[Translation]

**Continuation of Scheme of Medicinal and Aromatic
Plants in Agriculture College, Indore**

2703. SHRI KRISHNA MURARI MOGHE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps being taken on the proposal sent by the Agriculture College, Indore (Madhya Pradesh) for continuing the schemes of medicinal and aromatic plants; and

(b) by when the approval is likely to be accorded?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) After review of the centre the Quinquennial Review Team recommended that performance of the institute did not justify further continuance. Accordingly the centre has been closed w.e.f. 01.04.2004, as per the decision of the Standing Finance Committee/Expenditure Finance Committee.

However, in the vicinity, there is another centre for Medicinal and Aromatic plants at Distt. Mandasaur (Madhya Pradesh), which is serving the needs of the area around Indore.

[English]

**Cleaning of Fuel for Use
in Automobiles**

2704. SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the engineers at Automobile Research Association of India have invented a system for cleaning fuel for use in automobiles;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the benefits, the auto industries are to get therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (c) The Automobile Research Association of India is engaged in providing Prototype approvals for automobiles. However, Indian refineries have initiated action to provide cleaner fuels.

[Translation]

Crops Including Under Minimum Support Price Scheme

2705. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether cluster-bean, moth, coriander, cumin seed, fenugreek, garlic and isabgol are important crops of Rajasthan;

(b) if so, reasons for not including these crops under minimum support price scheme;

(c) whether the Government is considering to announce the minimum support price of these crops; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) These crops, in Rajasthan, account for around 18 percent of the total cropped area and only around 7 percent of the total agricultural production of the State.

(b) to (d) Under the Minimum Support Price Scheme those commodities are covered which are mostly items of mass consumption of all India nature with fairly long shelf life and/or necessary for food/nutrition security. The Government implements the Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) for procurement of horticultural commodities. In order to protect the growers of horticultural commodities from

distress sales in the event of bumper crop, MIS is implemented for a particular commodity on the request of the State Government which is ready to bear 50% loss (25% in case of North-Eastern States), if any, in its implementation.

[English]

Pending Irrigation Projects

2706. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether despite spending Rs. 13,823.05 crores in 24 States during 1996-2003, the Government failed to achieve the intended objective of accelerating irrigation benefits due to inadequate planning and lack of co-ordination with the State Governments;

(b) if so, the details thereof and steps taken to achieve the desired objectives; and

(c) the details of irrigation projects lying pending as on date indicating their financial and physical progress, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) The Central Government commenced Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) in the year 1996-97 to provide Central Loan Assistance (CLA) to such on going approved major/medium irrigation projects which are beyond the resources capability of the States and are in an advanced stage of completion with the twin objectives of accelerating completion of on going irrigation projects and to realize bulk benefits from the completed projects. The Central Government has provided an amount of Rs. 14347.68 crore in 24 states as CLA for major/medium irrigation projects under AIBP upto March, 2004. By injecting this amount an additional irrigation potential of 2657.575 thousand hectare could be created and complete 32 major/medium irrigation projects up to March, 2004. AIBP has given a boost to the development of irrigation sector as a whole and the projects receiving CLA specifically. In view of experience gained over 5-6 years, AIBP was thoroughly restructured by Ministry of Water Resources in 2003 and 2004 with more comprehensive guidelines.

(c) The physical and financial details of pending irrigation projects are given in the enclosed statement.

Statement**Pending Irrigation Projects**

Sl. No.	Name of State	Ongoing Projects			(Amount in Rs. Crore)			(Potential in Thousand Hectare)		
					Latest Estimated Cost	Likely Expdr. up to March, 2004	Balance cost as on 1.4.2004 (Anticipated)	Ultimate Potential	Likely Potential Created up to March 04	Balance Potential as on 1.4.2004 (Anticipated)
		Major	Medium	Total	6	7	8	9	10	11
1	Andhra Pradesh	15	9	24	18075.03	9496.03	8579	2353.48	1647.4	706.08
2	Assam	5	5	10	1840.88	496.13	1344.75	268.17	131.22	136.95
3	Bihar	9	3	12	4624.82	2320.66	2304.16	811.19	131.86	679.33
4	Chhattisgarh	3	5	8	1932.33	1582.3	350.03	744.62	586.39	158.23
5	Goa	1	0	1	966.56	501.61	464.95	26.89	13.21	13.68
6	Gujarat	3	18	21	31961.79	17255.66	14706.13	1908	269.48	1638.52
7	Haryana	4	0	4	962.13	770.82	191.31	254	168	86
8	Himachal Pradesh	1	2	3	288.57	93.02	195.55	33.15	1.11	32.04
9	Jammu and Kashmir	0	7	7	226.3	143.07	83.23	34.55	10.34	24.21
10	Jharkhand	5	19	24	5747.99	1844.81	3903.18	513.57	11.46	502.11
11	Karnataka	16	18	34	20538.85	12976.67	7562.18	1872.72	1068.03	804.69
12	Kerala	4	4	8	2608.8	1520.25	1088.55	220.73	86.09	134.64
13	Madhya Pradesh	16	5	21	17996.63	6149.63	11847	1827.61	203.15	1624.46
14	Maharashtra	58	95	151	39695.56	18807.73	20887.83	3703.24	1382.44	2320.8
15	Manipur	2	1	3	702.32	434.74	267.58	55.94	4	51.94
16	Meghalaya	0	1	1	57.07	22.59	34.48	5.15	0	5.15
17	Orissa	10	10	20	7178.52	3553.9	3624.62	793.78	291.92	501.86
18	Punjab	1	0	1	1324.18	128.09	1196.09	0	0	0
19	Rajasthan	4	4	8	6863.95	4497.23	2366.72	1217.35	818.69	398.66
20	Tamil Nadu	0	2	2	105.36	86.12	19.24	7.19	0	7.19
21	Tripura	0	3	3	178	137.61	40.39	26.72	3.3	23.42
22	Uttaranchal	3	0	3	5334.11	253.08	5081.03	311.6	21	290.6

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
23	Uttar Pradesh	9	0	9	7534.32	4247.39	3286.93	2152.27	711.99	1440.28
24	West Bengal	2	8	10	2728.42	1038.95	1689.47	660.58	139.79	520.79
Total		169	219	388	179472.49	88358.09	91114.4	19802.5	7700.87	12101.63

Implementation of CADP

2707. SHRI JUAL ORAM: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the irrigation projects in those States where Command Area Development Programme is being implemented;

(b) the year of inclusion of projects under CADP; and

(c) the allocation of funds made for projects during the last three years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) The Command Area Development Programme has been restructured and renamed as "Command Area Development and Water Management" Programme with effect from 1.4.2004. The State wise list of the irrigation projects where the Programme is being implemented along with year of inclusion is enclosed as statement-I.

(c) Project wise and State wise allocation of Centrally Sponsored grant is not made under the Programme. The Central Assistance is released to the States on the basis of physical and financial progress in accordance with the prescribed Cost norms and financing pattern. The details of Central assistance released during the last three years, statewide, are furnished in statement-II.

Statement-I

Statewise list of irrigation Projects in which Command Area Development and Water Management Programme is being implemented and their year of inclusion under the Command Area Development and Water Management Programme

S.No.	Project Name	Year of Inclusion
1	2	3
I. Andhra Pradesh		
1.	Sriramasagar	1974-75
2.	Srisaillam Right Bank Canal	1995-96
II. Arunachal Pradesh		
3	Cluster of 62 Minor Irrigation in 4 panchayats in the district of Papumpare namely Sagalee, Mengio, Balijan and Itanagar	2000-01
4	Cluster of 7 Minor Irrigation namely Kharsang, Jonglim, Pather, Changlang and Simrang, Kengkut, Simari and Panchao	2000-01
5	Cluster of 6 Minor Irrigation projects namely Remgong, Sireng, Korong, Soso Korong and Sibum, Along and Sipir	2000-01
III. Assam		
6	Bordikarai	1992-93
7	Kaldiya	1992-93
8	Dakadon	1992-93

1	2	3
IV. Bihar		
9	Gandak	1974-75
10	Badua and Chandan	1974-75
11	Kosi	1974-75
12	Sone	1974-75
V. Chhattisgarh		
13	Ballar	1985-86
14	Mahanadi, Pai , Tandula, Jonk and Kodar	1983-84
15	Hasdeo Phase-2	2003-04
VI. Gujarat		
16	Karjan	1985-86
17	Sardar Sarovar Phase-I	2003-04
VII. Haryana		
18	Bhakra Canal Project	2003-04
19	Western Yamuna Canal Phase-4	2003-04
20	Western Yamuna Canal Phase-5	2003-04
VIII. Himachal Pradesh		
21	Flow Irrgn. Project (Hydro kuhl) Joginder Nagar Tehsil, Mandi District.	1997-98
22	14 No.Flow Irrigation Schemes Chauntra Block	2000-01
23	24 Minor Irrigation Scheme in Noorpur Command Jawali Tehsil in Kangra District	2000-01
24	Cluster of 40 Minor Irrigation schemes in Drang & Sadar block of Dist. Mandi.	2003-04
25	Cluster of 38 Minor Irrigation schemes in Pandonga Haroli Saloh area in Tehsil Una of Dist. Una.	2003-04
26	Cluster of 3 Minor Irrigation schemes under IPH division of Thural District Kangra	2003-04
27	Cluster of 42 Minor Irrigation schemes in Tehsil Sarkaghat District Mandi	2003-04
28	Cluster of 27 Minor Irrigation schemes in Nallagarh area of District Solan	2003-04
29	Cluster of 12 Minor Irrigation schemes in Rampur block of District Shimla	2003-04
IX. Jammu and Kashmir		
30	Ego-Phey Canal	1987-88

1	2	3
31	Marval Stage-IV	2001-02
32	Martand	2001-02
33	Ratiabad	2001-02
34	Ravi Canal	1979-80
35	Tawi Lift Irrigation	1974-75
36	Aharbal Command Srinagar (CADA)	2003-04
37	Poonch Canal Command (Jammu CADA)	2003-04
38	Zainageer Canal (Kashmir CADA)	2003-04
39	Bringi Canal Command (Srinagar CADA)	2003-04
40	Kathua Canal Command (Jammu CADA)	2003-04

X. Jharkhand

41	Kanchi Weir Scheme	2003-04
42	Mayurakshi Left Bank Canal System	2003-04

XI. Karnataka

43	Taraka	1993-94
44	Tunga Anicut	1996-97
45	Ghataparaba	1974-75
46	Malaparaba	1974-75
47	Tungbhadra	1974-75
48	Upper Krishna	1974-75
49	Bhadra Reservoir	1996-97
50	Amarja	2003-04
51	Ventora	2003-04
52	Hirehalla	2003-04

XII. Kerala

53	Pamba	1992-93
54	Periyar Valley	1992-93
55	Kanhirapuzha	1998-99
56	Pasais	1998-99

1	2	3
XIII. Madhya Pradesh		
57	Kolar	1985-86
58	Rani Avanti Bai (Bargi)	1990-91
59	Upper Wainganga	1985-86
60	Bagh	1985-86
61	Harsi	1985-86
62	Kunwar Chain Sagar (Dudhi) Project	2003-04
XIV. Maharashtra		
63	Khadakwasla	1983-84
64	Kukadi	1979-80
65	Surya	1983-84
66	Krishna	1974-75
67	Chaskaman	1996-97
68	Upper Penganga	1974-75
69	Upper Wardha	1996-97
70	Lower Wunna	1996-97
71	Bhima	1974-75
72	Wan Project	2003-04
XV. Manipur		
73	Imphal Barrage	1993-94
74	Thoubal Multipurpose	1995-96
75	Loktak Lift Irrigation	1974-75
76	Singda Multipurpose Project	2000-01
77	Cluster of 8 Minor Irrigation projects namely Saikot, Masemlok, Wangoo, Ethei Maru, Haipei, Lamlang, Sitalok and Serou	2000-01
XVI. Meghalaya		
78	Cluster of 10 Minor Irrigation schemes viz. Tienglam and Pdem etc.	2001-02
XVII. Mizoram		
79	A Cluster of 40 Minor Irrigation projects consisting of 36 (29 Flow and 7 Lift) Schemes in Aizwal District. and 4 Minor Irrigation Flow schemes in Lunglei District.	2000-01

1	2	3
80	Cluster of 60 Minor Irrigation Schemes (Phase-III Aizwal, Lunglet and Chhimituipui District)	2003-04
XVIII. Nagaland		
81	Madziphema bowl	2001-02
XIX. Orissa		
82	Daha	1998-99
83	Jayamangla	1998-99
84	Hirakud	1974-75
85	Salki	1994-95
86	Mahanadi Delta	1974-75
87	Rushikulya	1994-95
88	Salandi Right Bank Canal	1994-95
89	Baitarani	1998-99
90	Potteru	1985-86
91	Upper Kolab	2003-04
92	Kansabahal	2003-04
93	Kunaria	2003-04
XX. Punjab		
94	Kotla Branch	2003-04
95	Eastern Canal System	2003-04
96	Upper Bari Doab Canal Command	2003-04
XXI. Rajasthan		
97	Chambal	1974-75
98	Indira Gandhi Nahar Parityojna	1974-75
99	Amar Singh Sub-Branch and Jassana District of Bhakra Canal System	1998-99
100	Sidhmukh Nohar	2003-04
XXII. Sikkim		
101	A Cluster of 17 Minor Irrigation schemes of North and East Districts of Sikkim.	2000-01
102	A Cluster of 21 Minor Irrigation schemes of South and West Districts of Sikkim	2000-01

1	2	3
XXIII. Tamil Nadu		
103	Thoppaiyar Project Salem & Dharamapuri Districts	2000-01
104	Cauvery System	1974-75
105	Parambikulam Alivar	1983-84
106	Tambiraparani	1998-99
107	Palar Poandalar Project in Dindigul District	2000-01
108	Krishnagiri	2000-01
109	Cluster of II Medium Irrigation Schemes	2003-04
XXIV. Tripura		
110	Cluster of 4 Minor Irrigation Projects	2003-04
XXV. Uttar Pradesh		
111	Devkali Pump Canal	2000-01
112	Tumaria Dam Canal System	2000-01
113	Sarda Canal System	1989-90
114	Saryu Canal System-I	1997-98
115	East Ganga Canal	1990-91
116	East Jamuna Canal	1990-91
117	Betwa & Gursarai Canal	1990-91
118	Ken Canal System	1990-91
119	Belam Pump Canal System	1997-98
120	Tons Pump Canal System	1997-98
121	Gyanpur Pump Canal System	1997-98
122	Son Pump Canal System	1997-98
123	Narainpur Pump Canal	2000-01
124	Upper Ganga Canal	1990-91
125	Madhya Ganga Canal	1990-91
XXVI. Uttaranchal		
126	Laster Canal's Offshoots	2001-02
127	Nathuwala & Balawala Canals	2001-02

1	2	3
128	Jatowala & Prateetpur Canal	2001-02
129	Tumaria Dam Canal System	2003-04
XXVII. West Bengal		
130	Damodar Valley Corporation System	1974-75
131	Kangsabati	1974-75
132	Mayurakshi	1974-75
133	Teesta Barrage	1983-84

Statement-II

Details of Central Assistance Released to the States under Command Area Development and Water Management Programme during the Last Three Years (2001-02 to 2003-04)

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of States	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04
1	2	3	4	5
1	Andhra Pradesh	0.00	0.00	0.00
2	Arunachal Pradesh	34.75	125.13	0.00
3	Assam	35.00	0.00	0.00
4	Bihar	300.00	0.00	0.00
5	Chhattisgarh	46.32	148.45	174.64
6	Goa	0.00	0.00	0.00
7	Gujarat	0.00	0.00	0.00
8	Haryana	2321.79	620.92	0.00
9	Himachal Pradesh	155.95	182.21	118.07
10	Jammu and Kashmir	171.22	344.00	417.09
11	Jharkhand	0.00	0.00	0.00
12	Karnataka	3423.84	2652.61	2653.87
13	Kerala	507.94	0.00	108.31
14	Madhya Pradesh	15.86	615.05	203.56
15	Mizoram	6.88	9.14	9.11
16	Maharashtra	744.72	331.33	214.61

1	2	3	4	5
17	Manipur	0.00	211.03	124.15
18	Meghalaya	0.00	11.34	15.99
19	Nagaland	133.16	0.00	0.00
20	Orissa	504.76	264.90	299.45
21	Punjab	0.00	1622.06	1002.80
22	Rajasthan	2654.66	2939.27	2038.30
23	Sikkim	5.50	1.25	0.00
24	Tamil Nadu	1336.14	2305.80	2025.85
25	Tripura	0.00	0.00	0.00
26	Uttar Pradesh	2274.19	2279.40	4738.91
27	Uttaranchal	0.00	75.00	0.00
28	West Bengal	0.00	284.00	0.00
Total		14672.68	15022.83	14144.71

Elephant Festival

[Translation]

2708. SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether an elephant festival, which also involved mock elephant fights and other elephant games, was allowed to take place in Kaziranga sanctuary;

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

(c) the reasons for permitting this illegal event; and

(d) the action taken by the Government against the erring officials?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) As informed by the State Government, no such show involving elephants performing unnatural acts was arranged during the centenary celebration of the Kaziranga National Park.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

Ghatghar Project

2709. SHRI DEVIDAS PINGLE: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to incorporate the 'Ghatghar Project' of Ahmednagar district in Maharashtra under the Command Area Development Programme (CADP) for implementation;

(b) if so, the amount spent thereon and the progress made in this regard so far; and

(c) the target set for completion of the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

[English]

Clearance to IV Mumbai (Middle-Vaitarna) Water Supply Project

2710. SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD:

SHRI Y. G. MAHAJAN:

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

(a) whether the Union Government has since approved the Maharashtra Government proposal for environmental clearance of IV Mumbai (Middle-Vaitarna) water supply project;

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

(c) whether the World Bank has indicated willingness to provide assistance for this project;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the original estimated cost of the project as per original report of the Tata Consulting Engineers of 1992 and the cost escalation suffered thereby so far; and

(f) the steps taken to clear the project without any further delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) The proposal for diversion of 634.00 ha of forest land for construction of IV Mumbai (Middle-Vaitarna) Water Supply Project in Thane, Nasik District of Maharashtra has been approved by the Central Government. The approval has been granted subject to usual stipulations including raising of Compensatory Afforestation on the non-forest land, declaration of such land as Reserved Forests and Payment of Net Present Value etc.

(c) and (d) There is no information about any willingness indicated by the World Bank to provide assistance for this project.

(e) According to information given in the proposal submitted by the user agency for forestry clearance, total cost of the project was Rs. 285 crores at 1996 price level. The anticipated cost as per the year 2002 is about Rs. 1,250 crores.

(f) The approval for diversion of 634.00 ha of forest land for construction of IV Mumbai (Middle-Vaitarna) Water Supply Project has been granted on 27.04.2004 subject to usual stipulations.

National Steel Policy

2711. SHRI G. V. HARSHA KUMAR: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has drafted any National Steel Policy as reported in The Hindu dated January 1, 2005;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has also set the target of producing 100 million tonnes of steel by 2020; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to meet the target?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The basic objective of the National Steel Policy (NSP) is to prepare a roadmap for the Indian Steel Industry in its journey towards reform, restructuring and globalisation. The long-term goal of the NSP is that India should become self-reliant and globally competitive in the steel sector.

(c) The steel sector was deregulated, delicensed and decontrolled in 1991-92. Therefore the market determines production targets and investment decisions in the steel sector. Nonetheless, in the proposed National Steel Policy it has been estimated that in order to become self-reliant and globally competitive in the steel sector, the country would require indigenous production of over 100 million tonnes of steel per annum by 2020 from the 2004 level of 35 million tonnes.

(d) In order to achieve the goal of over 100 million tonnes of steel production by 2019-20 the NSP seeks to remove the supply-side constraints to the growth of this industry in an open, globally integrated and competitive environment. Apart from the broad-based policy statements, the NSP also chalks out specific action points to achieve the policy objectives.

Wastage of Rivers-Water Into Sea

2712. SHRI S. MALLIKARJUNIAH: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that a large quantity of rivers-water in Karnataka goes waste into sea;

(b) if so, whether the Union as well as State Governments have taken any policy decision to curb the flow of water and make it available for agriculture, power generation by adopting latest technology; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (c) As per the reports received from

Government of Karnataka, most of the water from west flowing river systems go into sea. The Government of Karnataka has not taken any policy decision to curb the flow of water into sea. However, the National Water Policy, 2002 provides that water should be made available to water deficit areas by transfer from other areas including transfers from one river basin to another, based on a national perspective, after taking into account the requirements of the areas/basins.

Modernisation of Fishing Harbours

2713. SHRI P. RAJENDRAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to modernise fishing harbours in the country;

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

(c) the funds sanctioned for the purpose during the current year, State-wise;

(d) whether the Government of Kerala has submitted any proposal in this regard;

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

(f) the steps being taken to ensure quality and hygiene at each harbour in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e) A statement is enclosed.

(f) The Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India under a Centrally Sponsored Scheme has been providing 50% financial assistance to the State Governments and 100% financial assistance to the Union Territories of the coastal areas of our country for modernization and upgradation of the existing fishing harbours and fish landing centres to ensure quality and hygiene of fish handling. Besides, the Ministry of Commerce is also providing assistance under the programme on "Assistance to States for Infrastructure Development for Exports and Allied Activities" (ASIDE) for modernization of fishing harbours and fish landing centers. Statewise information as per the attached statement.

Statement

Modernisation of Fishing Harbours

S. No.	Name of the State	Name of the FH/FLC	Present Status	Estimated cost (Rs. in lakhs)
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Tamil Nadu	Chennai FH	Funds already sanctioned under ASIDE.	638.00
		Tuticorin FH	-do-	504.41
2.	Karnataka	Malpe FH	The State Government is to finalize the proposal for upgradation under the ASIDE programme.	100.00
3.	Andhra Pradesh	Kakinada FH and Nizamapatnam FH	Fund has already been released to the State Governments under ASIDE programme.	40.00 each
		Machilipatnam FH	Proposal has been approved by the State Level Expert Promotion Committee under the ASIDE programme.	45.37
4.	Gujarat	Veraval FH	Work in progress. Concreting of finger jetty No.1 to 5 completed under ASIDE programme.	381.26
		Mangrol FH	The State is to finalize the Proposal for assistance under ASIDE programme.	54.67

1	2	3	4	5
5.	Orissa	Dhamara FH	The State is to finalize the Proposal for assistance under ASIDE programme.	150.00
6.	Goa	Malim Landing Centre	The State is to finalize the Proposal for assistance under ASIDE programme.	-
		Cutrona FLC	-do-	-
7.	Kerala	Neendakara FH	The proposal has been recommended by MPEDA for assistance under ASIDE programme by the Ministry of Commerce.	650.00
		Beyapore FH	-do-	490.00
		Puthiyappa FH	-do-	277.00
		Munambam FH	Proposal approved under ASIDE programme.	227.00
		Cochin FH	Upgradation work nearing completion	170.00
8.	Maharashtra	Sassoon Dock FH and new Ferry Wharf FH	The Port Trust is to finalize the proposal.	Nil

River Erosion

2714. SHRI KIRIP CHALIHA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of erosion caused by Dhansiri river in Assam;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has taken any initiatives for anti-erosion measures; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As informed by Government of Assam, at present, river Dhansiri is causing erosion in various reaches on its right banks at Kordoiguri (Dhansirpar), Old Kamargaon, Barpathar Simalu-Chapari & Near Saontoli Railway Station, and on its left banks at Kuruabahi and Molnapar areas.

(c) and (d) The Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region has extended financial support of Rs. 3.75 crore under Non Lapsable Central Pool of Resources (NLCPR) for anti-erosion schemes of river Dhansiri in Assam during 2001-02, namely, (i) Protection of different reaches from the erosion of river Dhansiri at Assam, Karbi Anglong

District Phase-I and (ii) Protection of different reaches from the erosion of river Dhansiri at Assam, Karbi Anglong District Phase-II. Further, the State Government of Assam has taken up the anti-erosion works in Kuruabahi and Barpathar Simalu-Chapari areas which are under execution.

Setting-up of Health Resorts

2715. SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to set-up Health Resorts in States; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith assistance provided to the State Governments during the last three years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) The development of infrastructure is primarily the responsibility of State Governments. The Ministry of Tourism, under its scheme of Integrated Development of Tourist Circuits and Product/Infrastructure Development of Destinations, has been assisting the State Governments for development of tourism infrastructure.

Agro-Forestry Projects

2716. SHRI JUAL ORAM: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) the States where agro-forestry projects have been launched during the last three years;
- (b) the funds sanctioned by the Union Government for implementing these projects, State-wise; and
- (c) the progress of these projects as on date and the amount spent thereon, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) Ministry of Environment and Forests is neither implementing nor it has launched any agro-forestry scheme or project in the country during the last three years.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Felling of Trees for Developmental Activities

2717. SHRI BALESHWAR YADAV: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has granted permission for the felling of thousands of green trees for the Mega railway station to be built in Anand Vihar area of Delhi;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any assurance for proportionate plantation of new trees in their place had been taken from the Ministry of Railways before granting such permission; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Permission for felling of 15,462 trees has been granted for construction of Railway Terminal at Anand Vihar.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The permission is subject to planting of 1,21,290 trees at 25 identified locations for the purpose of compensatory afforestation by the Railway authorities.

[English]

More Items Under PDS

2718. SHRI RAVICHANDRAN SIPPAPARAI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is considering any proposal for distributing more food items like pulses and edible oils through Public Distribution System;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) to (c) At present the Central Government makes available wheat, rice, sugar & K.Oil under the Public Distribution System to the State Governments for distribution through the fair price shops (FPS). In order to increase the viability of fair price shops, under the System, the State Governments have been advised to allow the FPSs, to deal in the items of daily consumption such as pulses, salt, edible oil, tea etc.

Indian Water Bank Programme

2719. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has received any proposal under 'Indian Water Bank Programme' to supply water to drought prone areas of Vidarbha region of Maharashtra; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith action proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Funds for Agricultural Research and Teaching

2720. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Indian Council of Agricultural Research has sought more funds from the Government for Agricultural Research and Teaching;
- (b) if so, the details of funds required;
- (c) whether the shortage of funds has adversely affected agricultural production; and
- (d) the steps being taken by the Government to release the necessary funds, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The DARE/ICAR has sought Rs.1900 crore under the Annual Plan for the year 2005-06. The Planning Commission/Ministry of Finance have allocated, Rs.1150 crore under the Plan and Rs.792 crore under Non-Plan.

(c) ICAR has prioritized its agricultural research to address the emerging issues so that the shortage of funds may not adversely affect the present level of agricultural production.

(d) ICAR does not release funds to any State Government. However, the funds are released to the ICAR Institutes and State Agricultural Universities, directly, located in different States of the Country.

[Translation]

Vocational Training to Women and Girls

2721. SHRI BAPU HARI CHAURE: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the initiatives taken by the Directorate of Employment and Training for providing Vocational Training to women and girls in the country particularly in Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh during the last three years; and

(b) the number of women and girls benefited by it during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRA SHEKHAR RAO): (a) and (b) Some of the new initiatives taken during the last three years by DGE&T to promote skill training in the country are:

- 36 new trades have been introduced for training in Industrial Training Institutes/ Industrial Training Centers (ITIs/ITCs) and seven obsolete trades have been deleted.
- Course curriculum, as per market need, is revised periodically. During last 3 years, course curriculum for nine trades has been revised as per the need of the labour market.
- For better participation of women in skill training, the upper age limit for women, in women exclusive ITIs/Wings has been waived off.

- A provision for reservation of 25% seats for women in general ITIs has been made.

At present under various State/UT Govts there are 218 women exclusive ITIs and 582 women Training Wings in general and private ITIs, with a total seating capacity of 46658. Under DGE&T there are 11 women exclusive Training Institutes with a seating capacity of 3092.

During last 3 years, 8852,8916 & 9485 trainees were trained in 2002, 2003 & 2004 respectively in the State of Maharashtra. And similarly 1320, 1407 & 1895 trainees were trained in the State of Madhya Pradesh.

Minimum Wages for Unorganised Sectors

2722. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT:

SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU:

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the minimum wages being given to workers in the unorganized sectors in the country during the last three years, State-wise and year-wise;

(b) the minimum wages received by male and female workers in the agriculture sector in various states during the last three years, State-wise and year-wise;

(c) whether the Government considers that the present minimum wages for workers in the unorganized sector is adequate; and

(d) if so, the basis thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRA SHEKHAR RAO): (a) A statement, as per the information available, indicating the range of minimum wages for unskilled workers in Central and State spheres during last three years is enclosed as statement-I.

(b) The Minimum Wages Act, 1948 ensures payment of wages as fixed by appropriate Government and does not discriminate between the male and female workers. As per the information available, a statement indicating minimum wages for unskilled workers in Agricultural employment in the Central and State spheres during last three years is enclosed as statement-II.

(c) and (d) Under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, the rates of minimum wages are fixed by taking into consideration the norms recommended by ILC in 1957 and other guidelines based on family requirement of food, shelter, clothing and other miscellaneous items.

Statement-I**Range of Minimum Wages for Unskilled Workers in Central & State Spheres during last three years**

Sl. No.	States/UTs.	Rates of Minimum Wages per day (in Rupees)		
		2001-02	2002-03	2003-04
1	2	3	4	5
1	Andhra Pradesh	49.08 to 106.04	52.00 to 96.38	52.00 to 109.54
2	Arunachal Pradesh	39.87 to 42.11	39.87 to 42.11	39.87 to 42.11
3	Assam	50.00	50.00 to 63.00	25.00 to 63.00
4	Bihar	45.00 to 64.62	45.18 to 64.62	50.00 to 64.62
5	Chhattisgarh	-	52.87 to 79.13	52.87 to 79.13
6	Goa	60.00 to 125.00	60.00 to 125.00	56.00 to 94.00
7	Gujarat	50.00 to 101.40	50.00 to 99.20	50.00 to 95.00
8	Haryana	74.61	83.31	84.29 to 88.29
9	Himachal Pradesh	51.00	60.00	65.00
10	Jammu and Kashmir	45.00	45.00	45.00
11	Jharkhand	-	64.73	64.73
12	Karnataka	51.63 to 84.22	51.63 to 84.22	22.20 to 91.50
13	Kerala	30.00 to 143.67	67.14 to 169.70	67.14 to 169.70
14	Madhya Pradesh	51.80 to 74.34	54.56 to 82.58	56.96 to 86.62
15	Maharashtra	45.00 to 116.55	45.00 to 161.58	45.00 to 161.58
16	Manipur	62.15 to 65.15	66.00	66.00
17	Meghalaya	50.00	50.00	70.00
18	Mizoram	84.00	84.00	84.00
19	Nagaland	45.00	50.00	50.00
20	Orissa	52.50	52.50	52.50
21	Punjab	72.38 to 82.08	82.65	87.59
22	Rajasthan	60.00 to 63.31	60.00 to 70.65	73.00 to 75.92
23	Sikkim	Minimum Wages Act has been extended w.e.f. 1.10.2004.		
24	Tamil Nadu	44.93 to 115.80	52.66 to 125.20	54.00 to 133.88

1	2	3	4	5
25	Tripura	25.00 to 53.05	50.00 to 53.00	50.00 to 53.00
26	Uttar Pradesh	53.73 to 83.81	58.00 to 105.07	57.40 to 110.27
27	Uttaranchal	-	58.00 to 106.31	58.00 to 106.31
28	West Bengal	58.90 to 165.78	62.42 to 203.86	62.42 to 203.86
29	Andaman and Nicobar	70.00 to 88.88	100.00 to 124.42	100.00 to 107.00
30	Chandigarh	81.65	100.00	100.00
31	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	50.00 to 80.00	50.00 to 80.00	84.00
32	Daman and Diu	50.00 to 60.00	50.00 to 60.00	50.00 to 60.00
33	Delhi	102.60	107.10	110.10
34	Lakshadweep	46.80	52.00	52.00
35	Pondicherry	45.00 to 65.00	19.25 to 100.00	45.00 to 100.00
36	Central Sphere	54.52 to 97.12	90.05 to 100.48	56.71 to 94.04

Statement-II**Range of Minimum Wages for Unskilled Workers in Agricultural Employment in Central and States Sphere during last three years**

Sl. No.	States/UTs.	Rates of Minimum Wages per day (in Rupees)		
		2001-02	2002-03	2003-04
1	2	3	4	5
1	Andhra Pradesh	52.00 to 55.50 (According to Zones)	52.00 to 55.50 (According to Zones)	52.00
2	Arunachal Pradesh	39.87 (Area -I) 42.11 (Area-I) (According to Area)	39.87 (Area -I) 42.11 (Area-I) (According to Area)	39.87 (Area -I) 42.11 (Area-I) (According to Zones)
3	Assam	38.60 with food, shelter and clothing 45.00 with out food, shelter and clothing	50.00 with food, shelter and clothing 60.00 with out food shelter and clothing	50.00 with food, shelter and clothing 60.00 with out food, shelter and clothing
4	Bihar	45.18	45.18	50.00
5	Chhattisgarh	-	52.87	52.87
6	Goa	58.00	58.00	94.00
7	Gujarat	50.00	50.00	50.00

1	2	3	4	5
8	Haryana	74.61	79.31 with meal 83.31 without meal	84.29 with meal 88.29 without meal
9	Himachal Pradesh	51.00	60.00	65.00
10	Jammu and Kashmir	45.00	45.00	45.00
11	Jharkhand	\$	\$	\$
12	Karnataka	51.63	51.63	56.30
13	Kerala	30.00 for light work 40.20 for hard work	100.00 for light work 150.00 for hard work	100.00 for light work 150.00 for hard work
14	Madhya Pradesh	51.80	54.56	56.96
15	Maharashtra	Zone-I 51.00 Zone-II 49.00 Zone-III 47.00 Zone-IV 45.00	Zone-I 51.00 Zone-II 49.00 Zone-III 47.00 Zone-IV 45.00	Zone-I 51.00 Zone-II 49.00 Zone-III 47.00 Zone-IV 45.00
16	Manipur	62.15 For Valley Areas 65.15 For Hill Areas	66.00	66.00
17	Meghalaya	50.00	50.00	70.00
18	Mizoram	84.00	70.00	84.00
19	Nagaland	45.00	50.00	50.00
20	Orissa	52.50	52.50	52.50
21	Punjab	72.38 with meal 82.08 without meal	82.65	87.59
22	Rajasthan	60.00	60.00	73.00
23	Sikkim	The Minimum Wages Act, 1948 has been extended w.e.f. 1.10.2004.		
24	Tamil Nadu	54.00	54.00	54.00
25	Tripura	45.00	50.00	50.00
26	Uttar Pradesh	58.00	58.00	58.00
27	Uttaranchal		\$	58.00
28	West Bengal	58.90 with meals 62.10 without meal	108.57 with meal 111.77 without meal	107.99 with meal 110.97 without meal
29	Andaman and Nicobar	70.00 (Andaman) 75.00 (Nicobar)	100.00 (Andaman) 107.00 (Nicobar)	100.00 (Andaman) 107.00 (Nicobar)
30	Chandigarh	81.65	100.00	100.00

1	2	3	4	5
31	Dadar and Nagar Haveli	60.00	60.00	84.00
32	Daman and Diu	\$	\$	\$
33	Delhi	102.60	107.10	110.10
34.	Lakshadweep	46.80	52.00	\$
35	Pondicherry			
	Pondicherry	45.00 to 100.00	45.00 to 100.00	45.00 to 100.00
	Mahe Region	30.00 for light work 40.20 for hard work	30.00 for light work 40.20 for hard work	30.00 for light work 40.20 for hard work
	Yanam Region	19.25.00 to 26.25	19.25 to 26.25	55.00 to 75.00
	Karaikal	45.00 to 100.00	45.00 to 100.00	45.00 to 100.00
36	Central Sphere	87.01 to 97.12	90.05 to 100.48	94.04 to 104.89

Note: \$ Not applicable

**Production and Sale of Super
Single Phosphate**

2723. SHRI RAMSWAROOP KOLI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of subsidy sought and actually provided to Rama Phosphate in Indore for Super Single Phosphate during the last three years and the current year; and

(b) the quantum of production and sale of phosphate recorded during the last three years by the said industry?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN):

(a) The subsidy (concession) released to Indore (M.P.) based Single Super Phosphate (SSP) unit of M/s Rama Phosphates Ltd. on year-wise SSP sales beginning 2001-2002 is as under:

Year	Concession (Rs. in crore)
2001-2002	9.61
2002-2003	6.33
2003-2004	6.04
2004-2005 (April to Nov. 2004)	4.99

(b) The quantum of production of Single Super Phosphate recorded in respect of the above unit during the last three years is as under:

Year	Production (in thousand MTs)
2001-2002	78.200
2002-2003	90.300
2003-2004	99.926

Majauli Island

2724. SHRI ATIQ AHAMAD:

DR. K. S. MANOJ:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Majauli Island in Assam is likely to disappear due to erosion;

(b) if so, whether any preventive measures have been taken to save the Island; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the area of Island in 1956 and at present?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN

YADAV): (a) and (b) No Sir. To combat the erosion problem in Majuli Island, preventive measures have been taken to save the island.

(c) The problem of erosion is tackled by Government of India on a short-term as well as long-term basis. As regards short-term measures, a scheme costing Rs. 6.22 crore has been successfully completed by the Brahmaputra Board. As regards the long-term measures, Phase-I works amounting to Rs. 41.28 crore have been approved by Government of India in January, 2005 and have already been taken up by the Brahmaputra Board.

The area of the island was 1246 sq. km. in 1950. The problem of flood and erosion aggravated after the earthquake of 1950 and as per available revenue records, the island lost 370 sq. km. of area in 50 years.

[English]

**Assistance to Karnataka for
Irrigation Projects**

2725. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Karnataka has requested the Union Government for financial assistance to complete all irrigation projects;

(b) if so, whether the State Government has asked for Rs. 25,000 crores over the next five years to complete the projects under Krishna Nirvani river and also Rs. 5,000 crores for repair and modernisation of Krishnarajasagar Dam on Cauvery River;

(c) if so, whether the Government has agreed to assist the State Government; and

(d) if so, the total amount provided by the Union Government to the State Government for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (d) No proposal for financial assistance to complete all irrigation projects has been received in the Central Government from the Government of Karnataka.

However, the Central Government has been providing Central Loan Assistance (CLA) under Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) for accelerating completion of 8 ongoing major/medium irrigation projects from 1996-97 and an amount of Rs. 2111.79 crore has been provided upto 15th March, 2005. Out of these 8 projects one project has already been completed with the CLA provided under AIBP.

[Translation]

Illegal Production of Mineral Water

2726. SHRI GANESH SINGH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of mineral water companies allotted ISI marks by Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) along with their brand names, State-wise;

(b) whether proper sampling and tests were conducted before allotting the ISI marks; and

(c) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) has granted 7 licences for Packaged Natural Mineral Water as per IS 13428:1998 out of which one licence is under Foreign Manufacturers Certification Scheme. Details of the state-wise brand names are given in enclosed statement.

(b) and (c) BIS verifies the manufacturing capabilities, process controls, in-house testing facilities, competence of testing personnel, hygienic conditions and conformity of sample to relevant Indian Standards of the concerned applicant before granting licence. Sample of the product is drawn by BIS and got tested at BIS laboratory/BIS approved laboratory for testing for all the requirements specified in the relevant Indian Standard. On receipt of satisfactory test report and on completion of other conditions, applicant is considered for grant of licence by BIS. The validity of licence is one year and is renewed subsequently on the basis of performance.

Statement

List of Licencee of Packaged Natural Mineral Water as per IS 13428:1998

Himachal Pradesh

Sl.No.	Name and Address of the Licencee	Brand Name
1	2	3
1.	Himachal Plywood Pvt. Limited, 1-2, Industrial Area, Shamshi, Distt. Kullu	Manali

1	2	3
2.	Mount Everest Mineral Water Limited; Village & P.O. Dhaula Kuan, Tehsil Paonta Sahib, Distt. Sirmaur.	Himalayan
3.	Dharampal Satyapal Limited, Village Raison, Distt. Kullu	Catch and Rhotang
4.	G.C. Beverages, Plot No. 63, HPSIDC, Baddi, Distt. Solan	Life Spring and Natural Spring
5.	Manali Food & Beverages Industries, Village Bashing, P.O. Babeli, Distt. Kullu	Life
Uttaranchal		
1.	Alfa Aqua Associates, 7/1, Industrial Area, Rudrapur, Distt. Udham Singh Nagar	Hamara Dalmiya No.1
France		
(Under Foreign Manufacturers and Others Certification Scheme)		
1.	S.A. Des Eaux Minerais d'Evian France	Evian

[English]

**Productivity Level of
Major Crops**

2727. SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has set up targets for raising the productivity level of major rabi crops; and

(b) if so, the disparity in productivity level of major crops in India and other countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) No targets for raising the productivity levels of major crops are set. However, the production targets are fixed annually. The production targets are aimed to be achieved through enhancing the productivity and increasing the area coverage of different crops.

As per the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) production Year Book 2002, the details of productivity of major crops in India vis-a-vis some of the countries of the world for the year 2002 are given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

Country	Yield in kg/ha.							
	Rice	Wheat	Jowar	Maize	Groundnut	R/Mustard	Seed Cotton	Sugarcane
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
World	2611	2720	1280	4343	1381	1486	1788	65802
India	1943	2770	743	1705	794	1000	754	68049
USA		2373	3179	8157	2870		1902	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
France		7449		8813		3100		
China	4177	3885	3619	5022	2986	1504	3978	66353
Indonesia	2955				1538			
Brazil				2989				71235
Mexico			3280	2437				74746
Nigeria			1090		970			
Pakistan							1867	48056

Implementation of Indo-US Joint Collaboration on Child Labour

2728. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) on October 13, 2004 cleared the implementation of an Indo-US Joint Collaboration on child labour; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRA SHEKHAR RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Ministry of Labour and Employment, Government of India and the Department of Labour of United States of America have launched a child labour project called INDUS (Indo-US) as a follow-up of the Joint Statement on "Enhanced Indo-US Cooperation on Eliminating Child Labour" signed between the Ministry of Labour and Employment and the US Department of Labour in August 2000. The aims and objectives of the Indus Project are to ensure elimination of child labour in identified districts through effective convergence with the Department of Education. The Project proposes to eliminate child labour in all the hazardous occupations and processes. The Project is to be implemented in 20 districts of the four States of Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and in the NCT of Delhi.

Increase in Price of Steel

2729. MOHD. MUKEEM: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is in the process of hiking steel price;

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

(c) whether the Government is aware that this will adversely affect all the sectors including poor consumers; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to rectify the situation?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN):

(a) In a liberalised scenario, prices are determined by the free interplay of market forces. Therefore commercial decisions including prices are taken by the respective steel producers.

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

(c) and (d) During the last two years Government has taken various steps to ensure both adequate availability and stability in prices of steel in the domestic market. The measures taken by the Government inter-alia include considerable reduction in import duties on steel as well as steel making inputs, reduction in DEPB rates on steel items and fixation of value caps for all items of iron and steel and ferro alloys, increasing allocation of iron and steel materials for the SSI sector and advising steel PSUs to export only after fulfilling the domestic requirement.

Nationalisation of Rivers

2730. SHRI K. C. PALANISAMY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is contemplating to nationalise rivers and water resources in the country due to water dispute between certain States;

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

(c) the concrete steps taken by the Government for equal distribution of water among States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The provision in the National Water Policy, 2002 regarding 'Water Sharing / Distribution' amongst the States is as under:

"21.1 The water sharing/distribution amongst the states should be guided by a national perspective with due regard to water resources availability and needs within the river basin. Necessary guidelines, including for water short states even outside the basin, need to be evolved for facilitating future agreements amongst the basin states."

"21.2 The Inter-State Water Disputes Act of 1956 may be suitably reviewed and amended for timely adjudication of Water dispute referred to the Tribunal."

The Inter-State Water Disputes Act, 1956 has been amended in August, 2002.

Establishment of Factory by SAIL

2731. SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is planning to establish any factory of SAIL in the country including one at Alang Port in Gujarat;

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

(c) by when the plan is to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) At present, Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) has no plan to establish any steel factory in the country including the State of Gujarat.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Development of Tourist Spots in States

2732. SHRI JAI PRAKASH (MOHANLAL GANJ): Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the names of tourist spots in the States

including Uttar Pradesh and Uttaranchal which had received foreign aid for their development during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) the criteria adopted to provide foreign aid to such tourist spots; and

(c) the names of tourist spots developed so far through such aid, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) The tourist places are identified for development through foreign aid on the basis of their national and international importance with emphasis to converge all resources and expertise to develop these places/circuits to international standards for the benefit of tourists. However no foreign aid has been received in the last three years for the development of tourist spots in Uttar Pradesh and Uttaranchal.

(c) The State wise tourist spots developed so far with foreign aid include Sarnath, Kushinagar, Piprawaha and Sravasti in Uttar Pradesh and Bodhgaya, Nalanda, Rajgir and Vaishali in Bihar. An infrastructure development project was undertaken along the Buddhist circuit in these States and the project was completed in the year 1998. In Maharashtra, Phase I of the Ajanta Ellora Conservation and Tourism Development Project was undertaken at Ajanta and Ellora with foreign assistance and was completed in 2002. Phase (II) of this Project commenced in the year 2003 and the locations to be covered under this project are Pithalkhora, Aurangabad, Daulatabad, Patnadevi, Lonar, Nasik, Pune, Elephanta Caves, Bhaja and Bedsa, Shivneri, Malshej and Kolvan besides Ajanta and Ellora.

[English]

Calculation of Prices of Non-Scheduled Drugs

2733. SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the role of monitoring of prices of non-scheduled drugs to the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA);

(b) the norms and basis on which maximum retail prices of a non-scheduled drugs is calculated in the country vis-a-vis scheduled drugs;

(c) the details of such exercises on pricing of non-

scheduled drugs conducted by the NPPA during each of the last three years; and

(d) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) to (d) In accordance with the provisions of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995, (DPCO' 1995) the Government fixes/revises prices of the drugs listed in its First Schedule and formulations based thereon. In case, there is any violation of the approved/notified price of a Scheduled formulation, action is taken under the provisions of the DPCO'1995.

Prices of non-Scheduled formulations are fixed by the manufacturers themselves keeping in view the various factors like cost of production, marketing/selling expenses, R&D expenses, trade commission, market competition, product innovation, product quality etc.

The Government / National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) regularly monitors the movement of prices of medicines of mass consumption marketed through trade channel and intervenes whenever instances of unreasonable increase in prices affecting public interest adversely are noticed.

[Translation]

**Agricultural Scientist
Recruitment Board**

2734. **SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR CHOUDHARY:** Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has set up the Agricultural Scientist Recruitment Board (ASRB) for recruiting officers in Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR);

(b) if so, the composition of the said board;

(c) whether the some members of the said board have boycotted the selection procedure of the board in last three years;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) the details of those officers who were selected by the board during the said period but yet to be appointed; and

(f) the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As per the Rules and Bye-laws of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) the Agricultural Scientists' Recruitment Board (ASRB) shall comprise of a full time Chairman and other members.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) and (f) Only one appointment has not been made in view of restrain order of Hon'ble CAT Lucknow Bench. In all other cases recommendations of the ASRB after acceptance by the President ICAR, under rules, appointment orders have been issued.

[English]

**Conservation and Promotion of
Biodiversity in North East**

2735. **SHRI M. K. SUBBA:** Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Kaziranga National Park has celebrated its centenary in February this year;

(b) if so, the highlights of these celebrations;

(c) whether the need for conservation and promotion of biodiversity of the North East was highlighted during the celebrations;

(d) if so, whether any proposal for the purpose have been submitted to the Union Government;

(e) if so, the details and cost thereof; and

(f) the response of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The highlights of the celebrations included:

(i) Elephant Procession and Biodiversity Rally

(ii) International seminars on "Nature Tourism", "Man - Animal coexistence", "Grassland management", "Avifaunal diversity and its conservation", "Vision

Kaziranga: Beyond 2005" and "Rescue and Rehabilitation of Wild Animals".

- (iii) Tribute to the Sentinels of Kaziranga.
- (iv) Exhibition of wildlife and environment related films and photographs.
- (v) Establishment of a Biodiversity Park by planting unique species from the North Eastern States.

(d) and (e) No separate proposal has been submitted, but the proposals submitted under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes on Wildlife are all aimed at conservation of the biodiversity of the region.

(f) The proposals submitted under different Centrally Sponsored Schemes are considered according to their merit subject to availability of fund.

[Translation]

Excess Units in Ration Card

2736. SHRI RAGHUVeer SINGH KOSHAL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) the instances where the number of units entered in the ration cards have been found to exceed the number of residents of the area;
- (b) the details thereof, State-wise;
- (c) whether this gross anomaly exist as there is no mechanism to cross check the entries with electoral rolls;
- (d) if so, whether cards were issued even to the illegal immigrants;
- (e) if so, the steps being taken to check such illegal issue of cards;
- (f) whether the Government propose to create a national citizenship register; and
- (g) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) to (c) The information regarding the number of units entered in the ration cards by various State Governments is not

maintained by the Central Government. Under the Targeted Public Distribution System. (TPDS), the responsibility for procurement of foodgrains and their transportation upto the principal distribution centers of the Food Corporation of India rests with the Central Government and that of identification of beneficiaries, issue of ration cards and distribution of foodgrains through the Fair Price Shops rests with the respective State Governments.

(d) and (e) Government has not received any such information about issue of ration cards to the illegal immigrants. However, the State Governments who issue the ration cards are expected to verify the antecedents of the beneficiaries before issue of the ration cards.

(f) and (g) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Computerisation of EPFO Account

2737. KUNWAR MANVENDRA SINGH: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the present status regarding computerisation of accounts at the Employees Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO); and
- (b) the date for completion of work relating to computerisation of EPFO accounts?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRA SHEKHAR RAO): (a) and (b) Major activities in Employees Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) like receipt of contribution, pension payment, issue of account slips and settlement of claims are presently computerized. However, the accounts are being maintained on the basis of Single Entry Accounting System (Cash Accounting System). The EPFO has launched modernization project "Re-inventing EPF India" which, on implementation, will result in 100% computerization of all activities. Further, the Accounting System will also be changed to Double Entry Accounting System (Accrual System of Accounting).

After crossing the milestones of Business Process Re-engineering Report, Software Requirement Specifications, Software Design Document, the project is at the stage of software development.

**Proposal to Ban Monsanto's
Bt. Cotton**

2738. SHRI P. MOHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware that the Bt. Cotton requires more pesticides and gives lower yields;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has any proposal to ban the Monsanto's Bt. Cotton;
- (d) whether the Government has any proposal to force the Monsanto's Company to compensate the farmers;
- (e) if so, whether the Government has tested the effect on cattle and milk since they are regularly fed on cakes made of Bt. Cotton; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) No, Sir.

- (b) Question does not arise.
- (c) and (d) No, Sir.
- (e) Department of Biotechnology conducted trials on animals like cows, buffalo, poultry and fish and the results indicated that Bt. Cotton has no harmful effect as food or feed on the target animals.
- (f) The studies were conducted at National Dairy Research Institute (NDRI), Karnal on lactating cows; Department of Animal Nutrition, College of Veterinary Science, G.B. Pant University of Agriculture and Technology, Pantnagar on lactating buffaloes; Central Avian Research Institute (CARI), Izatnagar on poultry; and Central Institute of Fisheries Education (CIFE), Mumbai on fish.

**Functioning of Forest
Department**

2739. SHRI GIRIDHARI YADAV: Will the Minister for ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Hon'ble Supreme Court had directed that the High Power Committee for North Eastern Region (NER) should regulate /monitor the functioning of Forest Departments as well as wood based industries in the NER;

(b) If so, whether the said order has been implemented in the respective States of the NER;

(c) if so, the outcome of such regulation / monitoring done by the said committee;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken towards implementation of Hon'ble Court's directive?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) The High Power Committee (HPC) had been constituted in pursuant to Supreme Court Orders dated 4.3.1997 to oversee the strict and faithful implementation of the orders of the Court in the North Eastern Region, and for preparation of inventory of all timber in all forms, including timber products, lying in the forests or in transit depots, and lying in mill premises. All the States have reported compliance.

(c) to (e) The outcome of regulation/monitoring done by HPC are -

- (i) The State Forest Departments and Corporations are conducting sales of timber or timber products as per the directions of HPC.
- (ii) Industrial Estates have been established to relocate HPC cleared wood based industries/ units.
- (iii) Actions have been initiated to close down the wood working units, not cleared by HPC.

Bumper Cotton Crop

2740. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether bumper cotton crop all over the world coupled with a massive price reduction has resulted in serious crisis for the cotton farmers in the country; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) Production of cotton in 2004-05 is significantly higher than that in the last year both in India and abroad. In view of the higher production at national and international level, there has been a downward pressure on cotton prices. However,

with a view to protecting the cotton farmers, the Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) has been procuring cotton at Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) fixed for 2004-05. As on 16th March 2005, a quantity of 132.57 lakh quintals of kapas (seed cotton), equivalent to 25.79 lakh lint bales, have been procured. Keeping in view the need to strengthen the infrastructure for cotton procurement the Government have recently declared National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Limited (NAFED) as an agency for undertaking cotton procurement in addition to CCI.

Tourism Triangle

2141. SHRI RAKESH SINGH: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government are exploring the possibilities of 'Tourism Triangle' in Jabalpur region;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken to exploit tourism potential of this region?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) Development and promotion of tourism is a continuous process to increase the tourism infrastructure in the country including the State of Madhya Pradesh.

(c) The Ministry of Tourism provides central financial assistance on the basis of project proposals prioritized every year in consultation with the State Governments/UT Administrations including the State of Madhya Pradesh. It also promotes the places of tourist interests/spots through its 20 India tourism offices located in India, 13 abroad and through the 'Incredible India' campaign.

Diversion of Rice from Mid-Day Meal Scheme

2742. SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether some employees and officials of FCI were arrested for siphoning off rice earmarked for Mid-Day Meal Scheme in Manipur;
- (b) if so, whether the said stock was used for anti-national activities;
- (c) if so, the remedial steps being taken by the Government to check such activities; and

(d) The action taken/proposed to be taken against the guilty employees and officials?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. However, the FCI has reported that the employees are not involved with underground organisations.

(c) and (d) The delinquent official have been placed under suspension. Disciplinary action will be taken against the official found involved in irregularities on receipt of the investigation report from the State Government.

Health Hazards due to Use of Carcinogenic Sulphurous Waste

2743. SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Carcinogenic Sulphurous waste being dumped by National Rayons Company in Ambivali in Maharashtra is being used as an alternative fuel by slum dwellers;
- (b) if so, the health hazards caused to the residents of the area as a result thereof; and
- (c) the efforts being made to prevent the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) No Sir. As reported by the Maharashtra State Pollution Control Board (MPCB), the sulphurous hazardous waste generated by M/s National Rayon Corporation Ambivali, Maharashtra is stored in a confined area within the company premises. The waste therefore is not accessible to the residents of the area, including slum dwellers.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) As per Authorisation granted under Hazardous Wastes (Management & Handling) Rules 1989, amended 2003, by MPCB, M/s National Rayon Corporation is required to dispose off the hazardous wastes generated by them at the Common Treatment, Storage and Disposal Facility (CTSDF) for industrial hazardous wastes being operated by the Mumbai Waste Management Ltd. at the MIDC Industrial Estate - Taloja, District Raigarh, Maharashtra.

Minimum Support Price for Copra

2744. SHRI M. SHIVANNA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has decided to increase Minimum Support Price (MSP) of Copra with immediate effect; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government of India announced the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for Fair Average Quality (FAQ) of Milling Copra at Rs.3570/- per quintal and for Ball Copra (FAQ) at Rs. 3820/- per quintal for 2005 season on 13th January, 2005. The MSPs for 2005 season mark an increase of Rs.70/- per quintal each for Milling Copra and Ball Copra over their respective MSP's last year.

Extraction of Iron Ore

2745. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated iron ore available in mines of Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) and the quantum of iron ore so far extracted therefrom, location-wise and mine-wise; and

(b) the amount of royalty so far paid to each one of the concerned States?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN):

(a) The estimated iron ore available and the quantum of Iron Ore so far extracted from the captive mines of Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL), Mine-wise & Location-wise are given below:

Name of the Mine	Location	Approx. Mineable Reserves (Million Tonnes)	Approx. Iron Ore extracted since Inception (Million Tonnes)
Kiriburu	Jharkhand	44*	116
Meghataburu	Jharkhand	26*	56
Bolani	Orissa	154*	78
Barsua	Orissa	42*	51
Kalta	Orissa	70*	33
Rajhara	Chhattisgarh	21**	-101
Dalli	Chhattisgarh	46**	79
Jharandalli	Chhsttisgarh	13**	25
Mahamaya including Dulki	Chhattisgarh	12**	6

* As on 1.03.2005

** As on 1.01.2005

(b) The amount of Royalty paid to the States during the years 2002-03, 2003-04 & 2004-05 (April-Dec. 2004) is as under:

State/ Year	(Rs. in lakhs)		
	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05 (April-Dec. 2004)
Jharkhand	775	823	562
Orissa	633	635	470
Chhattisgarh	761	962	659

*[Translation]***Augmentation of Natural Resources**

2746. SHRIMATI ANURADHA CHOUDHARY:

SHRI MOHD. TAHIR:

SHRI MUNSHI RAM:

PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:

SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR KUSHAWAHA:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is formulating any scheme to focus more on natural resources like land and water in agriculture sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the percentage of irrigated land in the country;

(d) whether drawal of ground water in huge quantity is required for irrigation of new high yield crops in various parts of the country;

(e) if so, whether there is any scheme to provide the additional means of irrigation for such areas; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) Formulation of schemes for development of land and water resources comes under the purview of the State Government. However, the National Common Minimum Programme of UPA Government has laid due emphasis on these issues. The Ministry of Water Resources has formulated a pilot scheme on "National Project for Repair, Renovation and Restoration of Water Bodies directly linked to Agriculture" with a plan outlay of Rs. 300 crore for Tenth Five Year Plan. The scheme has been approved in January 2005.

(c) As per Land Use Statistics brought out by the Ministry of Agriculture the Net irrigated Area is about 39.6% of the Net Sown Area.

(d) Drawal of huge quantity of ground water is not necessarily required for irrigation of new high yield crops.

(e) and (f) Do not arise.

*[English]***Fertilizer Prices in W.B.**

2747. SHRI JOACHIM BAXLA:

SHRI HITEN BARMAN:

SHRI SUBRATA BOSE:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that fertilizer prices in West Bengal are increasing at an alarming rate;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government has received any complaint about black marketing of fertilizers in the State; and

(d) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken to curb this black marketing and supply the fertilizer at the subsidised price to the farmers of West Bengal, particularly Jalpaiguri and Darjeeling?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN):

(a) to (d) With the objective of making available fertilizers to farmers at affordable prices, urea, being the only controlled fertilizer, is sold at statutorily notified maximum retail price (MRP), and the decontrolled phosphatic and potassic fertilizers, such as DAP, MOP and NPK complexes are sold at indicative MRPs. MRP of single super phosphate is indicated by the respective State Governments. MRP/indicative MRPs of urea and decontrolled phosphatic and potassic fertilizers except SSP are uniform throughout the country including West Bengal. Selling prices of fertilizers have not been increased since 28.2.2002. A marginal increase in selling prices of fertilizers announced on 28.2.2003 was withdrawn w.e.f 12.3.2003.

No complaint of black marketing of fertilizers in the State of West Bengal has been received during 2004-05. Under clause 21 of the Fertilizer Control Order (FCO), 1985, it is mandatory to print the maximum retail price on the container of all kinds of fertilizers, whether under statutory price control or out of the purview of the statutory price control. No person shall charge higher than the price printed on the bag. Any person violating this mandatory provision of FCO is held liable to be proceeded against for administrative/punitive measures under the provisions of FCO and Essential Commodities Act. The State Governments are the enforcement agencies and are adequately empowered to take appropriate action against the offender who indulge in any kind of malpractices.

Fertilizer Plant's

2748. SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA:

SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:

SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Government of Sultanate of Oman for setting up of fertilizer complex in Oman;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the terms and conditions of said MoU;

(c) the details of equity shares held by Indian companies;

(d) the estimated expenditure to be incurred thereon; and

(d) the latest progress of the project and by when it is likely to be completed and become operational?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between Government of India and the Government of Sultanate of Oman on 15th June, 1993 providing for cooperation between Indian and Omani sponsors for establishing technical feasibility and commercial viability of a joint venture gas based fertilizer project in Oman.

This was followed by signing of another MoU on 30th July, 1994 amongst Governments of Oman and India as well as sponsors from respective sides agreeing to abide by the requirements in the following areas by the Indian and Omani sponsors:

- (i) Preparation of Detailed Feasibility Report;
- (ii) Constitution of Joint Management Committee to manage the activities upto completion of Detailed Feasibility Report;
- (iii) Incorporation of Joint Venture Company (JVC) in the name of Oman-India Fertilizer Company (OMIFCO);
- (iv) Capital structure, financial participation, management and operations of the JVC;
- (v) Provisions governing transfer/sale of shares of JVC;
- (vi) Rights and obligation of JVC;

(c) to (e) Presently, the Indian companies viz., KRIBHCO and IFFCO each hold an equity of US\$ 80 Million (equivalent of Rs. 344 crores) which is 50% of the total equity of US\$ 320 Million of Oman India Fertilizer Company (OMIFCO). The total cost of the project is US\$ 969 Million.

As on 3rd February, 2005 the project has achieved an overall cumulative progress of 98.88%. The commercial production from the project is scheduled to commence on 15.7.2005.

[Translation]

Pending Tourism Schemes

2749. **SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH VERMA:**

SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR:

SHRI JAI PRAKASH (MOHANLAL GANJ):

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the number of tourism schemes of various States lying pending with the Union Government for approval, particularly of UttAranchal;

(b) since when these schemes are pending with the Union Government, State-wise; and

(c) by when these schemes are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Tourism assists project proposals of the State Governments/UT Administrations for Central Financial Assistance, in consultation with them based on the inter-se priority, merit and availability of funds in a particular financial year, as well as provision of detailed project report, detailed cost estimates, land availability etc.

Ongoing Irrigation Projects

2750. **SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR:**

SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH VERMA:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the names and number of ongoing irrigation projects in States including Uttar Pradesh and Uttaranchal which have received foreign aid alongwith locations thereof;

(b) the date from which the said projects were started; and

(c) by when the projects are likely to be completed?

YADAV): (a) to (c) There are 11 externally assisted on-going irrigation projects. The Statewise details of the projects including the date of agreement and the date of completion are given in enclosed statement.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN

Statement

S.No.	State	Name of Projects	Date of Agreement	Date of Completion
A. World Bank				
1.	Andhra Pradesh	A.P. Economic Restructuring Project (Irrigation component)	04.02.1999	30.09.2005
2.	Karnataka	Karnataka Community Based Tank Management Project	04.06.2002	31.01.2009
3.	Madhya Pradesh	Madhya Pradesh Water Sector Restructuring Project	30.11.2004	30.09.2010
4.	Rajasthan	Rajasthan Water Sector Restructuring Project	15.03.2002	31.03.2008
5.	Uttar Pradesh	UP Water Sector Restructuring Project	08.03.2002	31.10.2007
B. European Economic Community				
6.	Orissa	Orissa Minor Irrigation Project	03.07.1995	31.12.2005
C. Bilateral Assistance				
(JBIC Japan)				
7.	Andhra Pradesh	Modernization of Kurnool-Cuddapah Canal	25.01.1996 (Tranche-I)	26.02.2005
			31.03.2004 (Tranche-II)	22.03.2009
8.	Madhya Pradesh	Rajghat Canal Irrigation Project	25.02.1997	29.05.2006
9.	Orissa	Rengali Irrigation Project	12.12.1997 (Tranche-I)	31.12.2004
			31.03.2004 (Tranche-II)	31.12.2007
Germany				
10.	Maharashtra	Minor Irrigation Project	31.12.1998	30.12.2006
11.	Himachal Pradesh	Minor Irrigation & Rural Water Supply Project	31.10.2002	31.12.2005

Drying up of Ponds

2751. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA:

DR. CHINTA MOHAN:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether nearly 2.77 to 2.92 lakh ponds have dried up during the previous decade in the country;

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

(c) the extent to which water storage capacity in the country has decreased owing to drying up of such a large number of ponds; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) Water is a State subject. Information on number of ponds and those which have dried up is not available with all states. As per Minor Irrigation Census carried out by states and compiled by Ministry of Water Resources for the year 1993-94, 3,50,239 Minor Irrigation Tanks/Ponds/Bundhies were in use. 59,224 such ponds were not in use out of which 9889 were dried up ponds.

(c) Decrease in water storage capacity of ponds is usually not owing to drying up but is a result of siltation/filling up by debris due to various reasons. Data on decrease in storage capacity of ponds is not maintained.

(d) The State Governments take up works of deepening and desilting of ponds to increase the storage capacity. Work of construction of structures for creating new storages and for other works for augmentation of water supply are also taken up. The Union Government has approved a Pilot Scheme "National Project for Repair Renovation and Restoration of Water Bodies directly linked to Agriculture" at a cost of Rs. 300 crore for funding implementation of pilot projects by states during the remaining period of the X Five Year Plan. This will enable restoration and augmentation of storage capacity of the water bodies and recover and extend their lost irrigation potential. Once the pilot projects are completed and validated, launching of National Water Resources Development Project to include all water bodies in the country is proposed.

*[English]***Central Institute of Plastics Engineering and Technology**

2752. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has sanctioned assistance of Rs.80 crores to Central Institute of Plastics Engineering and Technology (CIPET) during the tenth Five Year Plan under externally aided projects;

(b) if so, whether there was a proposal of loan of US\$ 13.67 million, which could not be finalised;

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

(d) the steps being taken by the Government to obtain said loan for CIPET?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) Yes, Sir, In the plan, under Externally Aided Projects Rs. 80 crore investment was to be funded by OPEC Loan of US\$15 million and US\$1.67 million as counterpart funding from the Government of India.

(b) to (d) CIPET had sought this amount as grant from OPEC which was not agreed to by OPEC. Hence the project size was reduced to US\$13.67 million (Rs.61.52crore) comprising US\$12.30 as OPEC loan and US\$1.37 million as plan assistance. The loan agreement could not be finalized due to certain conditions in the draft loan agreement sent by OPEC. The matter of these loan conditions has been taken up with the Deptt. of Legal Affairs, in order to finalise the loan agreement.

*[Translation]***Agriculture Under Income Tax Net**

2753. SHRI RAOSAHEB DANVE PATIL:

SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR CHOUDHARY:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to bring the agriculture under the Income Tax net and wind up the system of Minimum Support Price (MSP);

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

(c) the remedial measures taken by the Government to improve the condition of the small and medium level agricultural farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) To improve the condition of the farmers, including small and medium farmers, Government have taken a number of measures relating to irrigation, credit and other inputs and insurance of crops against production loss due to natural calamities. The Government provides assistance to farmers for purchase of seed, plant protection chemicals and equipments, etc. Under the National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS), small and marginal farmers are entitled to a subsidy of 50% of the premium, which is shared on 50:50 basis by the Central and State Governments.

[English]

Mangalore Fishing Harbour

2754. SHRI D.V. SADANANDA GOWDA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has approved the proposal of Government of Karnataka for Mangalore Fishing Harbour State-II;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the proposal of Rs.144.67 lakhs is also pending with the Union Government; and

(d) if so, by when the amount is likely to be released?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Union Government in September 1997 had accorded approval to the proposal of the Government of Karnataka for Mangalore Fishing Harbour stage-II at a cost of Rs. 75 lakhs under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS). The Central share to the tune of 50% of the project cost was released in two instalments to the State Government, the first instalment of Rs. 30 lakhs in July 2000 and the second of Rs. 7.50 lakhs in June 2003.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. On a proposal for Revised Cost Estimate of Rs.144.67 lakhs submitted by the Government of Karnataka, the State Government has been requested in August 2004 to furnish adequate justification for the deviation in the approved project and inclusion of additional items together with firm project completion period.

New Wage Board

2755. SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a delegation of newspaper employees had submitted a memorandum regarding appointment of a New Wage Board;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRA SHEKHAR RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A deputation of Federation of PTI Employees Union, UNI Workers Union and the All India Newspaper Employees Federation submitted a memorandum regarding constitution of new Wage Boards for the Working Journalists and other Newspaper Employees.

(c) The recommendations of the last Wage Boards, namely, the Manisana Wage Boards, accepted by the Central Government in December, 2000 are yet to be fully implemented by the States/Union Territories. However, in view of the various representations received the matter is under examination.

Production of Oilseeds

2756. SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO:

SHRI M. ANJAN KUMAR YADAV:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering to give incentive to increase the production of oilseeds in lieu of coarse cereals;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of oilseeds production during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE

MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) Government of India has been announcing higher Minimum Support Price (MSP) of oil seeds in comparison to coarse cereals to encourage farmers to diversify their crop cultivation to oilseeds from coarse cereals. Further, assistance is being provided under a Centrally Sponsored "Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize" (ISOPOM) for purchase of breeder seed, production of foundation seed, production and distribution of certified seed, distribution of seed minikits, distribution of plant protection chemicals, plant protection equipments, weedicides, supply of Rhizobium culture/phosphate solubilising bacteria, distribution of gypsum/pyrite/liming dolomite, distribution of sprinkler sets and water carrying pipes, publicity, etc. to encourage farmers to grow oilseeds. In order to disseminate information on improved production technologies amongst the farmers, block demonstrations and Integrated Pest management (IPM) demonstration are being organized through State Department of Agriculture and Front Line Demonstrations through ICAR.

(c) The total production of oilseeds in the country during the last three years is given below:

Year	Production (lakh tonnes)
2001-02	206.62
2002-03	150.58
2003-04	251.43

[Translation]

National Pulses Development Scheme in U.P.

2757. SHRI ATIQ AHAMAD: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of scheme being implemented under the National Pulses Development Scheme by the Government in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) the assistance provided to Uttar Pradesh under this scheme during the last three years; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to organize demonstration of the Integrated Pest Management in all the districts of Uttar Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE

MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) Government of India implemented a Centrally Sponsored National Pulses Development Project (NPDP) from 1990 to 2003-04 for increasing production and productivity of pulse crops in the country including Uttar Pradesh Under this scheme, financial assistance was provided on various inputs like production and distribution of seeds, distribution of seed minikits, distribution of improved farm implements, sprinkler sets, Rhizobium culture, micronutrients etc. In order to disseminate the production technology amongst the farmers' frontline demonstrations by the I.C.A.R. and block demonstrations by the State Deptt. of Agriculture were organized.

However, in order to provide flexibility to the States in implementation based on regionally differentiated approach and to provide focused approach to the programmes, the scheme of NPDP has been merged into a Centrally Sponsored Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oilpalm and Maize (ISOPOM) during the 10th Five Year Plan which is being implemented from 1.4.2004 in 14 major States in the country including Uttar Pradesh.

The financial assistance provided to Uttar Pradesh under NPDP scheme during the last three years is as under:

Year	Amount Released (Rs. in lakh)
2001-02	107.00
2002-03	60.00
2003-04	172.00

(c) Assistance is provided to State Governments under ISOPOM for organizing demonstrations on Integrated Pest Management (IPM) on farmers fields. Besides, assistance is also provided for supply of bio-agents to the farmers in all the pulses growing districts of Uttar Pradesh.

[English]

Open Sky Policy

2758. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether open sky policy adopted by the Government has adversely affected tourism sector in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to reconsider its policy;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government for minimising its impact in tourism sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) No, Sir. The limited open sky policy during tourist season is targeted towards meeting the increasing demand in foreign tourist arrivals.

(b) to (e) Does not arise.

Removal of Toxic Waste Lying In and Around Union Carbide Factory

2759. SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:

SHRI T. K. HAMZA:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government in consultation with the State Government of Madhya Pradesh has filed its letter of No Objection on June 28, 2004 in the US District Court;

(b) if so, the details of the letter thereof;

(c) whether the Government has also issued any direction to M/s Union Carbide of India or its successor, the Dow Chemicals Company for providing fund for the victims and removal of toxic waste lying in and around the Union Carbide Factory, Bhopal;

(d) if so, the details thereof, and

(e) the response received for the said company in this matter?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Details of letter of the 'no objection' filed by the Consul General of India, New York in the US District Court of Southern District of New York, are given in the enclosed statement.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Does not arise.

Statement

Consul General of India
New York

No. NYCG/161/1/2004

June 28, 2004

VIA HAND DELIVERY

United States District Judge John F. Keenan
United States District Court
Southern District of New York
500 Pearl Street,
New York, New York 10007-1312

Re: Bano et al. v. Union Carbide, 99 Civ. 11329 (JFK)

To the United States District Court :

On behalf of the Union of India and as its duly authorized consular representative in the United States of America, we submit this letter in the above-referenced matter to present the official position of the sovereign government of India with regard to environmental remediation of the land and premises formerly occupied by the Union Carbide plant in Bhopal, India.

The Union of India submits that neither the Madhya Pradesh State government or its instrumentalities nor the Union of India has any objection to any such relief for environmental remediation of the former Union Carbide plant premises in Bhopal being ordered or directed by a competent court or tribunal of the United States. Further, the Union of India and the Madhya Pradesh State government and their respective instrumentalities will cooperate with any such relief as and when issued by the United States District Court. The Union of India will monitor and supervise such environmental remediation including decommissioning of plant and machinery, remediation/disposal of contaminated soil and appropriate disposal of toxic chemicals and wastes on the plant site by Union Carbide in order to ensure that it is undertaken in compliance with the norms and parameters laid down by a specific organization of the Government of India, the Central Pollution Control Board, for that purpose.

Union Carbide will also be held responsible for any loss/ damages caused to life or property in the process of remediation and disposal. Pursuant to the "polluter pays" principle recognized by both the United States and India, Union Carbide should bear all of the financial burden and cost for the purpose of environmental clean-up and remediation. The Union of India and the State Government of Madhya Pradesh shall not bear any financial burden for this purpose.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, nothing in this official statement on behalf of the Union of India may be construed or read, by implication or otherwise, as an intention to submit either the Union of India or the Madhya Pradesh Government to the jurisdiction of the United States District Court as parties to this litigation. The Union of India and the State Government of Madhya Pradesh are entitled to sovereign immunity under international law and do not waive those immunities by this submission.

In addition, nothing in this submission should be construed, by implication or otherwise, to convey any authority to plaintiffs in the above matter to assert or pursue claims on behalf of the Union of India or State Government of Madhya Pradesh. Nor shall the plaintiffs in the above-referenced matter be entitled, by virtue of this submission, to assert or pursue any claims against either the Union of India or the Madhya Pradesh Government in this litigation or before the U.S. District Courts.

Finally, it is the official position of the Union of India that the previous settlement of claims concerning the 1984 Bhopal Gas Disaster between Union Carbide and Union of India has no legal bearing on or relation whatsoever to the environmental contamination issues raised in the case at bar. Nothing in this submission should be construed, by implication or otherwise, as an intention to reopen or question the validity of that previous settlement.

Accordingly, the Union of India hereby formally urges the U.S. District Court to order such relief, as required by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit in this matter.

Respectfully submitted,

Sd/-
(Pramathesh Rath)
Consul General of India
Consulate General of India
3 East, 64th Street
New York, New York 10021-7097

[Translation]

Diversion of PDS Foodgrain

2760. SHRI KIREN RIJUJ:

SHRIMATI KARUNA SHUKLA:

SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of foodgrains including wheat and rice lifted from the Food Corporation of India (FCI) godowns during the last three years, State-wise and year-wise;

(b) whether most of these subsidised foodgrains fail to reach the needy;

(c) if so, whether foodgrains worth crores of rupees is diverted from the Public Distribution System (PDS) clandestinely;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken to check it;

(e) whether the Government is formulating any separate scheme for the North-Eastern States; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH) : (a) Statements of allotment and off-take of foodgrains (Wheat & Rice) under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) during the last three years are given in the enclosed statements-I, II and III.

(b) The Public Distribution System is operated under the joint responsibility of the Central and State Governments. The Central Government is responsible for the procurement and transportation of food grains up to the Principal Distribution Centres of the Food Corporation of India while the State Governments are responsible for the identification of families living Below the Poverty Line, the issue of Ration Cards and the distribution of food grains to the beneficiaries through a vast network of about 4.77 lakh Fair Price Shops scattered all over the country. The percentage offtake of foodgrains by various States/UT's under BPL and Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) during last three years is given below:

	% offtake	
	BPL	AAY
2001-02	56.26	85.62
2002-03	60.27	85.73
2003-04	70.08	91.42

(c) and (d) Some instances of diversion of foodgrains have come to the notice of the Department of Food and Public Distribution. The following measures exist to strengthen the system and to ensure that foodgrains reaches the poor:

- (i) The State Governments and the Union Territory Administrations have been asked to actively involve the Panchayati Raj Institutions to monitor the functioning of the Fair Price Shops, as a measure of social audit;
- (ii) The States and Union Territories have also been asked to constitute Vigilance Committees on the PDS at the State, District, Block and FPS levels;
- (iii) To ensure proper distribution of PDS commodities to the consumers in a transparent

manner, a model Citizens' Charter has been issued by the Central Government for adoption by the State Governments/UT Administrations;

- (iv) In order to strengthen the hands of the State Governments, the Public Distribution System (Control) Order, 2001 has been issued on 31st August, 2001 under section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 with a view to curb wilful adulteration, substitution, diversion etc. of the PDS commodities. An offence committed in violation of the provisions of the Order shall invoke criminal liability under the EC Act.

(e) and (f) Under T.P.D.S., allocation of foodgrains is made uniformly to all the States/UTs @ 35 kg., per family per month. There is no separate scheme for North-Eastern States under T.P.D.S.

Statement-I

Allocation and Offtake of Rice & Wheat for the year 2001-2002 (P) under TPDS

(In '000 Tonnes)

Sl. No.	States/UTs	Allotment			Offtake				% Offtake				
		BPL	APL	AAY	Total	BPL	APL	AAY	Total	BPL	APL	AAY	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
1	Andhra Pradesh	1470.96	1591.68	186.84	3249.48	972.35	571.53	191.52	1735.40	66.10	35.91	102.51	53.41
2	Arunachal Pradesh	27.02	76.68	1.13	104.84	26.72	23.86	0.74	51.32	98.88	31.12	65.26	48.95
3	Assam	515.06	434.88	28.15	978.09	429.83	115.31	28.52	573.65	83.45	26.51	101.29	58.65
4	Bihar	1820.87	174.34	150.00	2145.21	378.11	1.01	108.55	487.68	20.77	0.58	72.37	22.73
5	Chhattisgarh	393.35	101.11	86.22	580.68	187.94	2.00	77.88	267.82	47.78	1.98	90.33	46.12
6	Delhi	114.17	576.34	2.40	693.41	86.76	26.30	1.20	114.25	76.00	4.56	49.79	16.48
7	Goa	9.85	63.12	0.98	73.95	3.54	5.56	0.73	9.83	35.93	8.81	74.97	13.29
8	Gujarat	889.54	570.00	61.75	1501.29	444.18	3.97	56.75	504.90	51.08	0.70	91.89	33.63
9	Haryana	182.54	8.64	27.35	218.53	71.35	0.00	22.66	94.00	39.09	0.00	82.85	43.02
10	Himachal Pradesh	248.24	101.16	23.62	373.01	133.73	9.26	23.09	166.08	53.87	9.15	97.78	44.52

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
11	Jammu and Kashmir	151.76	238.44	25.41	415.61	162.51	175.44	7.27	345.21	107.08	73.58	28.60	83.06
12	Jharkhand	567.49	63.26	91.63	722.39	229.06	6.47	62.79	298.32	40.36	10.23	68.53	41.30
13	Karnataka	807.72	555.00	84.11	1446.83	798.87	450.66	80.80	1330.33	98.90	81.20	96.06	91.95
14	Kerala	374.96	1828.08	71.46	2274.50	371.49	119.54	61.51	552.54	99.08	6.54	86.07	24.29
15	Madhya Pradesh	985.98	174.89	189.72	1350.59	582.27	7.10	173.56	762.93	59.05	4.06	91.48	56.49
16	Maharashtra	2096.21	765.12	267.86	3129.19	1162.91	3.31	234.37	1400.59	55.48	0.43	87.50	44.76
17	Manipur	35.14	54.84	1.91	91.39	25.46	0.00	0.74	26.20	72.45	0.00	38.66	28.51
18	Meghalaya	44.24	126.36	3.52	174.12	43.28	10.85	2.81	56.94	97.83	8.58	80.00	32.70
19	Mizoram	16.46	93.84	3.16	113.46	16.17	27.82	3.16	47.14	98.22	29.64	100.00	41.55
20	Nagaland	30.12	122.04	2.84	155.00	30.12	15.46	2.84	48.42	100.00	12.67	100.00	31.24
21	Orissa	907.05	44.64	86.47	1040.15	488.65	11.58	87.28	587.51	53.87	25.95	98.66	56.48
22	Punjab	114.36	21.48	19.72	155.57	45.94	0.00	8.07	54.01	40.17	0.00	40.92	34.72
23	Rajasthan	916.27	401.52	111.78	1429.57	559.37	10.62	102.78	672.77	61.05	2.64	91.95	47.06
24	Sikkim	11.21	36.84	1.18	49.22	11.37	6.57	1.15	19.09	101.48	17.84	97.45	38.78
25	Tamil Nadu	1350.42	461.28	35.48	1847.18	1040.75	0.00	24.76	1065.51	77.07	0.00	69.80	57.68
26	Tripura	62.72	124.80	7.92	195.44	61.12	18.36	6.79	86.26	97.44	14.71	85.71	44.14
27	Uttar Pradesh	2339.79	377.30	260.79	2977.88	1149.20	8.75	246.43	1404.37	49.12	2.32	94.49	47.16
28	Uttaranchal	109.72	23.14	11.45	144.31	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
29	West Bengal	1254.37	905.16	109.93	2269.46	523.26	188.30	56.91	768.47	41.71	20.80	51.77	33.86
30	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	5.45	36.36	0.82	42.63	4.44	12.12	0.43	16.99	81.38	33.33	52.43	39.84
31	Chandigarh	5.68	13.68	0.32	19.68	0.11	0.00	0.32	0.42	1.85	0.00	100.00	2.15
32	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	3.76	2.76	0.84	7.36	2.96	0.96	0.76	4.72	78.79	35.33	92.38	64.05
33	Daman and Diu	0.97	1.80	0.18	2.95	0.08	0.23	0.11	0.42	7.84	13.00	63.33	14.38
34	Lakshadweep	0.04	7.06	0.04	7.14	0.00	3.00	0.00	3.00	0.00	42.49	0.00	41.99
35	Pondicherry	22.70	3.72	1.13	27.55	8.50	0.44	0.92	9.85	37.45	11.69	81.51	35.77
Total		17866.19	10181.86	1960.08	30008.12	10052.37	1836.37	1678.19	13566.92	56.26	18.04	85.62	45.21

Statement-II

Allocation and Offtake of Rice & Wheat for the year 2002-2003 (P) under TPDS

Sl. No. States/UTs	Alotment										Offtake					Total	AAY	APL	BPL	Total	
	BPL	APL	AAY	Total	BPL	APL	AAY	Total	BPL	APL	AAY	Total	BPL	APL	AAY						Total
	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	11	12	13						14
1	1444.8	2268.74	261.576	3973.116	1441.322	350.133	234.646	2026.101	99.759	15.447	89.705	51.00	99.759	15.447	89.705	51.00					
2	35.148	73.701	6.348	115.197	32.103	41.181	5.708	78.972	91.337	55.849	89.918	68.55	91.337	55.849	89.918	68.55					
3	692.284	958.115	118.236	1758.635	529.474	415.923	104.931	1050.328	77.603	43.411	88.747	59.72	77.603	43.411	88.747	59.72					
4	2244.184	2291.52	420	4955.704	438.328	3.517	333.909	775.754	19.532	0.153	79.502	15.65	19.532	0.153	79.502	15.65					
5	579.672	1045.8	120.708	1746.18	82.816	4.932	4.654	92.402	14.287	0.472	3.856	5.29	14.287	0.472	3.856	5.29					
6	158.34	1102.917	13.44	1274.697	130.366	145.04	11.594	287	82.333	13.151	86.265	22.52	82.333	13.151	86.265	22.52					
7	12.888	119.802	3.072	135.762	6.456	6.644	2.254	15.354	50.093	5.546	73.372	11.31	50.093	5.546	73.372	11.31					
8	762.713	2858.433	136.5	3757.646	393.747	29.631	115.539	538.917	51.625	1.037	84.644	14.34	51.625	1.037	84.644	14.34					
9	260.892	1148.838	46.968	1456.698	182.229	43.549	42.899	268.677	69.848	3.791	91.337	18.44	69.848	3.791	91.337	18.44					
10	170.872	359.325	33.06	563.257	141.479	21.856	32.633	195.968	82.798	6.083	98.708	34.79	82.798	6.083	98.708	34.79					
11	228.077	425.04	47.424	700.541	209.119	256.733	32.232	498.084	91.688	60.402	67.966	71.10	91.688	60.402	67.966	71.10					
12	814.692	216.3	153.936	1184.928	226.117	3.657	109.701	339.475	27.755	1.691	71.264	28.65	27.755	1.691	71.264	28.65					
13	1113.903	2070.6	200.373	3384.876	1095.286	559.455	179.943	1834.684	98.329	27.019	89.804	54.20	98.329	27.019	89.804	54.20					
14	552.564	1808.94	100.044	2461.548	323.623	174.472	99.528	597.623	58.568	9.645	99.484	24.28	58.568	9.645	99.484	24.28					
15	1274.292	2765.469	265.608	4305.369	985.419	29.508	251.621	1266.548	77.331	1.067	94.734	29.42	77.331	1.067	94.734	29.42					
16	2323.584	5013.615	420.72	7757.919	1383.894	20.66	363.687	1768.241	59.559	0.412	86.444	22.79	59.559	0.412	86.444	22.79					

(In '000 Tonnes)

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
17	Manipur	43.884	47.46	10.716	102.06	38.314	9.793	10.963	59.07	87.307	20.634	102.305	57.88	
18	Meghalaya	65.052	44.058	11.808	120.918	60.788	12.712	10.876	84.376	93.445	28.953	92.107	69.78	
19	Mizoram	24.264	48.114	4.416	78.794	24.263	46.709	4.416	75.388	99.998	97.080	100.000	98.17	
20	Nagaland	44.136	73.503	7.944	125.583	45.264	24.06	7.953	77.277	102.558	32.733	100.113	61.53	
21	Orissa	1484.376	1285.088	212.316	2981.79	382.044	62.823	181.697	606.564	24.390	4.869	85.579	20.34	
22	Punjab	166.416	1632.975	30.12	1829.511	88.179	10.539	15.211	113.929	52.987	0.645	50.501	6.23	
23	Rajasthan	804.048	3002.592	156.492	3963.132	636.493	147.013	149.144	932.65	79.161	4.896	95.305	23.53	
24	Sikkim	15.42	39.204	2.82	57.444	15.062	8.229	2.878	28.169	97.678	20.990	102.057	45.56	
25	Tamil Nadu	1751.881	3841.95	290.495	5884.326	1316.734	21.27	287.553	1625.557	75.161	0.554	98.987	27.63	
26	Tripura	104.904	181.674	18.996	305.574	100.562	27.23	18.845	146.637	95.861	14.988	99.205	47.99	
27	Uttar Pradesh	3688.477	7840.76	685.418	12214.655	2366.408	17.179	695.807	3079.394	64.157	0.219	101.516	25.21	
28	Uttaranchal	161.814	431.919	32.052	625.785	96.214	5.92	19.244	121.378	59.460	1.371	60.040	19.40	
29	West Bengal	1702.752	4246.77	307.788	6257.31	953.272	278.739	203.575	1435.586	55.984	6.564	66.141	22.94	
30	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	7.44	36.36	1.8	45.6	3	19.806	-	22.806	40.323	54.472	0.000	50.01	
31	Chandigarh	8.748	79.212	0.988	88.848	1.44	0.06	0.888	2.388	16.461	0.076	100.000	2.69	
32	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	5.544	7.14	1.176	13.86	2.829	1.308	0.86	4.997	51.028	18.319	73.129	36.05	
33	Daman and Diu	1.428	10.005	0.252	11.685	0.34	0.127	0.181	0.648	23.810	1.269	71.825	5.55	
34	Lakshadweep	0.372	5.195	0.168	5.735	-	2.65	-	2.65	0.000	51.011	0.000	46.21	
35	Pondicherry	31.262	50.853	3.85	85.965	10.75	0.707	3.143	14.6	34.387	1.990	81.636	16.98	
	Total	22,771.123	47,429.997	4,127.528	74,328.647	13,723.734	2803.745	3538.713	20,068.182	60.268	5.911	85.734	26.997	

Statement-III

Allocation and Offtake of Rice & Wheat for the year 2003-2004 (P) under TPDS

(in '000 Tonnes)

Sl. No.	States/UTs	Allotment					Offtake					% Offtake					
		BPL	APL	AAY	Total	BPL	APL	AAY	Total	BPL	APL	AAY	Total	BPL	APL	AAY	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14				
1	Andhra Pradesh	1368.43	2266.74	337.946	3973.116	1319.231	434.289	330.659	2084.179	96.405	19.159	97.844	52.46				
2	Arunachal Pradesh	35.148	64.206	6.348	105.702	33.897	55.5	6.231	95.628	96.441	86.441	98.157	90.47				
3	Assam	682.284	735.14	118.236	1535.66	628.166	343.616	112.266	1084.048	92.068	46.742	94.951	70.59				
4	Bihar	2219.184	2291.52	420	4930.704	627.119	7.1	380.872	1015.091	28.259	0.310	90.684	20.59				
5	Chhattisgarh	566.226	1045.8	155.987	1767.993	509.173	23.2	147.141	679.514	89.924	2.218	94.341	38.43				
6	Delhi	158.34	996.516	13.44	1168.296	165.223	346.739	12.989	524.951	104.347	34.795	96.644	44.83				
7	Goa	12.888	118.296	3.072	134.256	6.959	4.963	2.408	14.33	53.996	4.195	78.385	10.67				
8	Gujarat	753.948	2787.564	136.5	3678.012	473.951	41.453	55.286	570.69	62.863	1.487	40.503	15.52				
9	Haryana	274.004	1014.204	47.664	1335.872	228.889	98.524	45.804	373.217	83.535	9.714	96.098	27.94				
10	Himachal Pradesh	195.872	348.9	33.06	577.832	177.198	68.968	33.099	279.265	90.466	19.767	100.118	48.33				
11	Jammu and Kashmir	261.66	443.94	47.424	753.024	253.097	257.78	47.368	558.245	96.727	58.066	99.882	74.13				
12	Jharkhand	839.268	216.3	153.936	1209.504	297.369	11.285	139.541	448.195	35.432	5.217	90.649	37.06				
13	Karnataka	1095.996	2070.6	218.28	3384.876	1048.154	839.788	196.471	2084.413	95.635	40.558	90.009	61.58				
14	Kerala	534.551	1808.94	118.057	2461.548	440.186	137.125	117.405	684.716	82.347	7.580	99.448	28.22				
15	Madhya Pradesh	1225.343	2535.372	330.605	4091.32	1049.194	30.369	318.297	1397.86	85.625	1.198	96.277	34.17				

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
16	Maharashtra	2293.204	4700.88	451.1	7445.184	1580.159	28.524	391.325	2000.008	68.906	0.607	86.749	26.86
17	Manipur	43.884	47.46	10.716	102.06	44.356	18.05	11.094	73.5	101.076	38.032	103.527	72.02
18	Meghalaya	65.052	45.024	11.808	121.884	69.503	18.992	12.567	101.062	106.842	42.182	106.428	82.92
19	Mizoram	23.19	54.564	5.49	83.244	23.727	51.043	4.953	79.723	102.316	93.547	90.219	95.77
20	Nagaland	42.12	86.688	9.96	138.768	43.228	66.079	9.304	118.611	102.631	76.226	93.414	85.47
21	Orissa	1484.376	1155.564	212.316	2852.256	632.892	148.92	209.274	991.086	42.637	12.887	98.567	34.75
22	Punjab	166.416	1473.24	30.12	1669.776	120.195	16.057	16.824	153.076	72.226	1.090	55.857	9.17
23	Rajasthan	757.509	2763.756	181.852	3703.117	619.442	111.073	170.297	900.812	81.774	4.019	93.646	24.33
24	Sikkim	14.636	25.812	3.604	44.052	14.676	13.272	3.49	31.438	100.273	51.418	96.837	71.37
25	Tamil Nadu	1742.352	3787.98	300.024	5830.356	1782.975	228.641	311.361	2322.977	102.332	6.036	103.779	39.84
26	Tripura	104.904	179.232	18.996	303.132	102.15	34.109	18.922	155.181	97.375	19.031	99.610	51.19
27	Uttar Pradesh	3854.295	6494.46	830.885	10979.64	2121.809	10.669	808.835	2939.313	58.063	0.164	97.105	26.77
28	Uttaranchal	177.12	333.552	32.052	542.724	148.288	19.412	27.175	194.875	83.722	5.820	84.784	35.91
29	West Bengal	1702.752	4089.18	307.788	6099.72	1215.756	477.595	218.558	1911.909	71.399	11.679	71.009	31.34
30	Andaman and Nicobar islands	7.434	36.36	1.806	45.6	4.67	14.151	2.306	21.127	62.819	38.919	127.685	46.33
31	Chandigarh	8.748	75.516	0.888	85.152	0.785	-	0.733	1.518	8.973	0.000	82.545	1.78
32	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	5.544	7.14	1.176	13.86	3.044	0.899	0.83	4.773	54.906	12.591	70.578	34.44
33	Daman and Diu	1.428	9.42	0.252	11.1	0.792	0.195	0.149	1.136	55.462	2.070	59.127	10.23
34	Lakshadweep	0.372	3.708	0.168	4.248	-	2.85	-	2.85	0.000	76.861	0.000	67.09
35	Pondicherry	30.736	13.2	4.376	48.312	17.667	0.549	3.413	21.629	57.480	4.159	77.994	44.77
Total		22,549.214	44126.774	4,555.912	71231.9	15803.92	3961.779	4165.247	23930.946	70.086	8.978	91.425	33.596

[English]

**Fellowship to PG and
PhD Students**

2761. SHRIMATI BHAVANA P. GAWALI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the fellowship awarded to the P.G. and Ph.D. students of Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) for research;

(b) whether the Government is planning to increase the Junior Research Fellowship and Senior Research Fellowship of ICAR;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) by when the final decision is likely to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) The ICAR awards Junior Research Fellowships to P.G. students and Senior Research Fellowships to Ph.D. students on All India level. These Fellowships are based on merit in the All India Competitive Examinations conducted by the ICAR. The details of these Fellowships are as follows:

Junior Research Fellowships (JRF)

Number - 475

Disciplines - 87

Rates

- Rs. 5,760/- per month for Non-Veterinary students
- Rs. 8,000/- per month for Veterinary students
- Rs. 6,000/- per year contingent grant to all

Senior Research Fellowships

Number - 202

Disciplines - 56

Rates

- Non-Veterinary students - Rs.8,000/- per month for the first two years, and Rs.9,000/- for the 3rd year
- Veterinary students - Rs.9,500/- per month for the first two years, and Rs.10,000/- for the 3rd year.
- Rs.10,000/- per year contingent grant to all

In addition to the above Fellowships, ICAR Institutes with Deemed to be a University Status (IARI, IVRI, NDRI & CIFE) also provide Institute level Scholarships to P.G. and Ph.D. students at following rates.

- For P.G.: Rs.5,040/- per month fixed

- For Ph.D.: Rs. 7,000/- per month fixed

(b) No, Sir. The amount has recently been increased for Senior Research Fellowship on 22.8.2003 and for Junior Research Fellowship on 26.10.2004 with effect from April 01, 2002.

(c) Not applicable.

(d) Not applicable.

**Huge Wastages of
Agricultural Produce**

2762. SHRI RAJESH VERMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of huge wastages of agricultural produce in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for such wastages; and

(c) the steps taken to avoid such wastage?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A High Level Expert Committee on Cold Storage and Storage constituted by Department of Agriculture & Cooperation has estimated that 25 to 30% of fruits and vegetables and 8 to 10% of food grains are wasted annually due to lack of post harvest technology and non-existence of integrated transport, storage and marketing facilities.

(c) Indian Council of Agricultural Research has been developing new techniques/systems to minimize the wastage in agricultural produce in the country through the Central Institute of Post Harvest Engineering & Technology, Ludhiana and the All 'India Coordinated Research Project on Post Harvest Technology.

The All India Coordinated Research Project on Post Harvest Technology has 33 cooperating centers located throughout the country to develop regionally differentiated

post harvest technology packages for crops, livestock products and fisheries produce in terms of reducing post harvest losses, adding value to the main produce and by-products. The Department is also implementing schemes for the Construction/Modernization of Cold Storage and Rural Godowns in rural areas of the country. The aim of the Scheme is to provide scientific storage facility to meet the requirement of farmers for storing farm produce. This would prevent wastage of agriculture produce. Under this scheme, so far cold storage capacity of 38 lakh MT and Rural storage of 127 lakh MT has been sanctioned.

Funds to Fishermen Community

2763. SHRI HITEN BARMAN:

SHRI SUBRATA BOSE:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has ever made a survey to find out the total number of fishermen in the country;

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

(c) if not, by when the said survey is likely to be done and completed;

(d) whether the Government has made any special scheme or allocation in the current Budget for this community;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) As per the 17th Livestock Census conducted by Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Government of India in 2003. Fisheries sector is a source of livelihood to 14.48 million people in the country. State/UT wise detail is given in the enclosed statement.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e) Yes Sir. The following Centrally Sponsored Schemes with total Budget allocation of Rs.109.00 crore (proposed) in 2005-06, are in operation during the Tenth Plan for the benefit of fishing community:

(i) Development of Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture;

(ii) Development of Marine Fisheries, Infrastructure & Post Harvest Operations.

(iii) Scheme for Fisheries Training and Extension.

(iv) National Scheme of Welfare of Fishermen.

(f) Does not arise.

Statement

State-wise Details of persons engaged in Fishing Occupation

State/UT	Total
1	2
Andhra Pradesh	893400
Arunachal Pradesh	4400
Assam	390400
Bihar	4959500
Chhattisgarh	1911400
Goa	14000
Gujarat	493300
Haryana	16500
Himachal Pradesh	5600
Jammu and Kashmir	30500
Jharkhand	1930900
Karnataka	159000
Kerala	747800
Madhya Pradesh	717000
Maharashtra	171800
Manipur	70500
Meghalaya	2400
Mizoram	17900
Nagaland	14900
Orissa	180000
Punjab	9100

1	2
Rajasthan	7300
Sikkim	26800
Tamil Nadu	476600
Tripura	46700
Uttar Pradesh	179100
Uttaranchal	100
West Bengal	911600
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	17600
Chandigarh	500
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0
Daman and Diu	25500
Delhi	2500
Lakshadweep	13000
Pondicherry	38000
Total	14485600

[Translation]

Polluting Industrial Units

2764. SHRIMATI KALPANA RAMESH NARHIRE:
 SHRIMATI BHAVANA P. GAWALI:
 SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG:
 SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD:
 SHRI B. MAHTAB:
 SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA:
 SHRI DAHYABHAI VALLABHBHAI PATEL:
 SHRI J. M. AARON RASHID:
 SHRI TUKARAM GANPATRAO RENGE PATIL:
 SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA:
 SHRI V.K. THUMMAR:
 SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE:

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

(a) the names of private/public sector companies/factories/industrial units in the country which are discharging toxic effluents etc. thereby affecting the quality of ground water and polluting the environment as on date, State-wise and Union Territory-wise;

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

(c) whether Pollution Control Boards have issued notices to them/instructing them for installation of Effluent Treatment Plants (ETPs) or closure or to shift elsewhere;

(d) if so, the details thereof, State/Union Territory-wise;

(e) the details of those units which have installed ETPs or have been shifted/closed during the last three years as well as current year, location-wise;

(f) whether any time bound action plan has been prepared to shift/close the polluting industrial units; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (g) The information is being collected and would be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Assistance to Karnataka

2765. SHRIMATI MANORAMA MADHAVRAJ: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Karnataka has sought Central assistance to the extent of Rs. 12.50 crores to undertake feasibility survey of river water to be harnessed through garland canals;

(b) if so, whether such canals when completed will utilise surplus waters of rivers Tunga, Bhadravati and Netravati to provide irrigation facilities for drought hit areas in Tumkur, Chitradurga, Mandya, Kolar and Hassan districts; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

**Revitalization of Sick Dairy
Co-operative Unions**

2766. SHRI KULDEEP BISHNOI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had launched a scheme in 2000 for revitalization of sick dairy co-operative unions;

(b) if so, the details of assistance provided to them during each of the last three years;

(c) whether the Government proposes to change the funding pattern of the scheme by making it more attractive; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details of assistance provided under the scheme "Assistance to Cooperatives" during each of the last three years are given in the enclosed statement.

(c) and (d) At present, there is no proposal to change the funding pattern of the scheme.

Statement

*Funds Released during last three years under the
scheme "Assistance to Cooperatives"*

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of State & Milk Union	Fund released		
		2001-02	2002-03	2003-04
1	2	3	4	5
Madhya Pradesh				
1.	Gwalior	-	150.00	-
2.	Ujjain	105.00	53.41	-
3.	Jabalpur	220.00	145.00	-
Chhattisgarh				
4	Raipur	-	20.00	-
Karnataka				
5.	Bijapur	85.00	40.00	-

1	2	3	4	5
6.	Gulbarga	115.00	50.00	-
Uttar Pradesh				
7.	Allahabad	260.04	-	-
8.	Moradabad	-	351.04	-
9.	Mathura	-	-	21.00
10.	Varanasi	-	-	25.00
Kerala				
11.	Eranakulam	-	31.10	-
Maharashtra				
12.	Pune	125.00	125.00	-
13.	Wardha	30.00	34.45	-
14.	Latur	-	-	25.00
West Bengal				
15.	Himul	150.00	75.00	-
Assam				
16.	West Assam	15.00	210.00	-
Nagaland				
17.	Kohima	5.00	5.24	-
Punjab				
18.	Hoshiarpur	75.00	-	-
19.	Amritsar	24.96	-	-
20.	Jalandhar	210.00	-	-
Tamil Nadu				
21.	Villupuram	-	150.00	50.00
22.	Erode	-	225.00	150.00

**Re-introduction of Subsidy
for Foodgrains**

2767. SHRI CHENGARA SURENDRAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received a Memorandum from the State Committee of All Kerala Ration Dealers Association demanding re-introduction of subsidy for foodgrains;

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

(c) whether the Government has received complaints about the quality of foodgrains being supplied through the PDS; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The memorandum received from the all Kerala Ration Dealers Association inter alia states to restore central subsidy for foodgrains supplied to PDS in Kerala, as is given to the North Eastern States/UTs. So far as Targetted Public Distribution System (TPDS) is concerned, the Government has neither withdrawn nor reduced subsidy on the foodgrains being distributed for different categories of beneficiaries under the System.

(c) and (d) Complaints about malpractices including quality of foodgrains are occasionally received. As per the extant instructions, the Food Corporation of India are expected to supply foodgrains of Fair Average Quality under the Targetted Public Distribution System. The representatives of State Governments or their nominees and the FCI shall conduct joint inspection of the stocks of foodgrains intended for issue to ensure that the stocks conform to the prescribed quality specifications. With a view to check such malpractices, the Government has notified the Public Distribution System (Control) Order, 2001 on 31st August, 2001. Apart from this, instructions have been issued to all the State Governments for constitution of Vigilance Committees at Fair Price Shop, Block, District and State level and involve the Panchayati Raj Institutions to oversee the functioning of the TPDS.

Demand and Supply of Urea

2768. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA:

SHRI JUAL ORAM:

SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of demand and supply of Urea in the country during the last three years;

(b) the details of quantum of indigenous production, company-wise and the quantum of Urea imported to meet the demand during the said period;

(c) whether there is severe scarcity of Urea at present in the country;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken to ensure the availability of Urea in the country?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN):

(a) The demand and supply of Urea in the country during the last three years is given below:

(in lakh MT)		
Year	Assessed requirement	Supply/availability
2001-2002	213.06	230.99
2002-2003	213.68	215.90
2003-2004	211.59	215.96

(b) Statement indicating the company-wise indigenous production of urea and imports is enclosed.

(c) No, Sir.

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

Statement

Company-wise Production & Import of Urea for the last three years

(.000 MTs)				
Sl. No.	Name of Plants	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04
1	2	3	4	5
Public Sector				
1	FCI: Sindri Modn.	76.3	0.0	0.0
2	NFL	3190.7	3212.1	3255.2
3	BVFL	64.3	186.4	240.6
4	FACT: Cochin-I	22.2	9.6	0.0
5	RCF	1490.4	1558.2	1749.0
6	MFL: Chennai	286.9	401.3	387.7

1	2	3	4	5
7	NLC: Neyveli	62.0	0.0	0.0
Total (Public)		5192.8	5367.6	5632.5
Cooperative Sector				
8	IFFCO	3490.5	3685.4	3600.6
9	KRIBHCO: Hazira	1694.1	1603.4	1773.0
Total (Co-op)		5184.6	5288.8	5373.6
Private Sector				
10	GSFC: Vadodara	321.8	239.1	300.4
11	SFC: Kota	330.1	393.7	364.0
12	DIL: Kanpur	658.7	0.0	0.0
13	ZIL: Goa	419.5	390.0	398.5
14	SPIC: Tuticorin	600.1	589.7	621.1
15	MCF: Mangalore	340.0	380.0	334.8
16	GNFC: Bharuch	644.1	636.9	636.7
17	IGCL: Jagdishpur	850.2	864.6	862.1
18	NFCL	1221.9	1187.3	1193.9
19	CFCL	1714.7	1729.7	1762.5
20	TCL: Babrala	853.5	864.8	864.8
21	OCF: Shahjahanpur	840.6	814.5	857.8
Total (Private)		8795.2	8070.3	8196.6
Total (Pub.+Coop.+Pvt.):		19172.6	18726.7	19202.7
Imports		220.0	Nil	Nil

Tourism Projects

2769. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the number of tourism projects in States including West Bengal undertaken by the Government during the last three years and the current year;

(b) whether any steps have been taken to improve and provide more facilities at Sundarbans National Park and also to develop the Eco-tourism in the area; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) The details of the tourism projects sanctioned by the Ministry of Tourism, Government of India during the last three years to the various States/Union Territories, including West Bengal is as per enclosed statement.

(b) The Ministry of Tourism assists State Governments/UT Administrations in the development of tourist infrastructure based on the projects received from them. No project proposal has been received from the Government of West Bengal to improve and provide more facilities at Sundarbans National Park and also to develop the Eco-tourism in the area.

(c) Does not arise.

Statement

State-wise Tourism Projects Sanctioned during the 10th Plan (as on 31.12.2004)

(Rs. in lakhs)

S. No.	State/UT	2002-03			2003-04			2004-05 (up to 31.12.2004)		
		No. of Project Sancd	Amount Sancd	Amount Released	No. of Project Sancd	Amount Sancd	Amount Released	No. of Project Sancd	Amount Sancd	Amount Released
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2	507.50	195.00	6	946.50	896.44	11	2750.81	2191.92
2.	Assam	9	768.13	618.85	3	313.46	313.06	6	955.88	742.10
3	Arunachal Pradesh	5	41.30	32.50	6	1044.60	700.00	6	1285.70	905.52

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
4.	Bihar	8	505.00	505.00	6	1019.42	913.89	7	1901.23	1527.55
5	Chhattisgarh	9	308.00	98.50	6	1005.00	364.00	4	1086.26	869.01
6	Goa	1	0.50	0.50	2	36.76	34.76	2	10.00	8.00
7	Gujarat	2	197.12	59.13	8	920.51	815.82	2	138.93	111.14
8	Haryana	8	332.25	311.00	16	1215.38	879.23	5	678.55	501.64
9	Himachal Pradesh	30	779.32	760.38	4	182.32	85.00	5	2620.00	1736.00
10	Jammu and Kashmir	3	94.38	89.47	5	895.00	895.00	2	805.00	644.00
11	Jharkhand	0	0	0	2	1109.00	774.60	1	474.97	379.97
12	Karnataka	6	902.49	625.49	14	932.66	792.51	8	2432.76	1914.37
13	Kerala	11	861.36	829.86	6	608.50	564.15	5	2148.63	1718.88
14	Madhya Pradesh	18	711.18	574.79	10	621.90	394.51	8	1285.46	783.03
15	Maharashtra	8	623.46	546.25	10	931.83	914.58	6	1576.38	1260.10
16	Manipur	2	5.24	2.82	1	82.44	24.73	0	0.00	0.00
17	Meghalaya	3	70.35	21.20	2	40.22	24.92	2	963.30	807.91
18	Mizoram	6	141.16	48.46	5	567.70	186.75	3	1081.28	927.09
19	Nagaland	5	360.50	323.43	4	711.00	220.80	5	2165.69	1731.40
20	Orissa	2	47.50	15.75	5	419.55	138.50	5	1316.48	999.69
21	Punjab	3	23.00	14.60	2	96.00	12.30	4	846.41	561.26
22	Rajasthan	13	1098.70	1096.20	14	1644.81	1414.25	2	39.31	31.45
23	Sikkim	13	346.24	269.76	8	1151.09	681.49	6	1005.81	805.13
24	Tamil Nadu	5	559.00	316.10	14	1339.82	850.53	6	876.92	702.72
25	Tripura	5	216.13	67.78	6	450.17	135.16	0	0.00	0.00
26	Uttaranchal	3	548.00	418.00	4	230.44	203.94	3	1412.93	1125.56
27	Uttar Pradesh	3	295.00	295.00	7	1115.80	916.26	7	1037.43	825.19
28	West Bengal	5	201.10	60.00	10	717.44	384.34	5	480.04	384.03
29	Andaman and Nicobar	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0.00
30	Chandigarh	3	7.75	6.63	2	10.00	8.00	1	457.00	365.60
31	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	2	8.07	6.46	0	0	0	0	0.00	0.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
32	Delhi	14	504.00	449.02	17	3316.28	3222.13	1	500.00	400.00
33	Daman and Diu	3	49.50	16.90	1	265.07	238.56	0	0.00	0.00
34	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0.00
35	Pondicherry	2	7.87	6.30	1	245.17	73.55	2	451.00	360.00
Total		212	11121.10	8680.93	207	24185.84	18073.76	130	32784.16	25320.26

Grant of Forest Land for Mining

2770. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK:

SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG:

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

(a) the details of industries/firms that have been granted lease to undertake mining for minerals in the country including Orissa since 1995 to till date, State-wise and Mineral-wise;

(b) the exact area granted to each of them for the purpose during the said period indicating the area out of it falling under forest land as per the judgement of Hon'ble Supreme Court;

(c) whether Environmental and Forestry clearance had been granted to them before start of the work;

(d) if so, the details of such industries/firms which were granted said clearance, State-wise; and

(e) the action taken/to be taken against the industries/firms who started work before clearance indicating their names, State-wise? statement.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (e) Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, is applicable only on notified forest areas under Indian Forest Act, 1927, and the areas covered under the definition of forests, as identified by the respective State/ UT Governments as deemed forests in pursuance of the orders of the Hon'ble Supreme Court. No industry/firm can start the mining work in forest areas without seeking necessary statutory clearances including Environmental and Forestry clearances. It is the responsibility of the State/ UT Governments to check such industries/firms who do not abide by the requirements of laws. The mining over forest lands, prior to seeking necessary clearances amounts to illegal breaking of forest lands, which is dealt under Section 26 of Indian Forest Act, 1927 and various other State Acts in force for the time being. Indian Forest Act, 1927, and other State Acts are enforced by the respective State / UT Governments, and, therefore, records of prosecution/action against law-breakers are maintained by them. However, as per the available information, the list of proposals cleared since 1995, for diversion of forest lands for mining under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, is in the enclosed

Statement

Grant of Forest Lands for Mining

Proposals cleared since 1995

Sl.No.	Proposal	State	Area Diverted (ha.)	Name of Mineral
1	2	3	4	5
1	ML for Barytes in F/O Sri S. Shankar Reddy	Andhra Pradesh	2.69	Barytes
2	ML for Extraction of Barrites in F/O Mehaboob Minerals	Andhra Pradesh	4	Barytes
3	Renewal of Mining Lease for China Clay and White Shale in F/O V. Satyam Yadav	Andhra Pradesh	2.82	China Clay

1	2	3	4	5
4	Renewal of Mining Lease in F/O M. Changal Reddy for China Clay	Andhra Pradesh	0.81	China Clay
5	M&M - Renewal of ML for China Clay & White Shale to An Extent in Patur RF of Vontimitta Range Cuddapah Divn in F/O Sri V. Satyam Yadav	Andhra Pradesh	1.62	China Clay
6	Cenetary Incline at Yellandu in F/O SCCL	Andhra Pradesh	4.77	Coal
7	Ravindra Khani No. 8 Incline Project	Andhra Pradesh	6.2	Coal
8	Mine Entry and Other Activities for Ravindra Khani New Tech. in F/O SCCL	Andhra Pradesh	8.96	Coal
9	Mining Lease in F/O M/s SCCL	Andhra Pradesh	13.85	Coal
10	Opening of New Mine in Ravindra Khani No. 58 Additional Incline (Case Processed by Ministry)	Andhra Pradesh	4.85	Coal
11	Realignment of Nallaer at Venkatesh Khani 7 Incline in Favour of M/s SCCL	Andhra Pradesh	11.96	Coal
12	Diversion of 11.96 Ha. Ramavaram RF in Kothagudem Range of Khammam Circle for Re-alignment of Nallah at Venkatesh Khani-7 Incline in Favour of M/s SCCL	Andhra Pradesh	11.96	Coal
13	Diversion of FL of Tandur RF for Goleti ia Incline Underground Mines Enterics in Rebbena (A) in Favour of SCCL, Bellampally	Andhra Pradesh	4.56	Coal
14	Mining Lease to M/s SCCL in Indavam	Andhra Pradesh	1054.84	Coal
15	Mining Lease to M/s SCCL	Andhra Pradesh	1790	Coal
16	Mining Lease to M/s SCCL for Opencast Project II Phase - III	Andhra Pradesh	286.25	Coal
17	Mining Lease Favoring SCCL	Andhra Pradesh	140.3	Coal
18	Mining Lease to M/s SCCL for Opencast Project-II	Andhra Pradesh	32.7	Coal
19	Mining Lease to M/s SCCL	Andhra Pradesh	236	Coal
20	ML to SCCL	Andhra Pradesh	261.31	Coal
21	Mining Lease to SCCL for Satu Pally -I Opencast Project	Andhra Pradesh	244.02	Coal
22	Mining Lease for Manuguru in Favour of M/s SCCL	Andhra Pradesh	104	Coal

1	2	3	4	5
23	Mining Lease for Gowtham Khani OCP Phase-II in Favour of M/s SCCL	Andhra Pradesh	124	Coal
24	Mining Lease to SCCL	Andhra Pradesh	431.85	Coal
25	Mining Lease to M/s SCCL in Kakatiya	Andhra Pradesh	144	Coal
26	Mining Lease for Kothagudem to SCCL	Andhra Pradesh	2338	Coal
27	Mining Lease to M/s SCCL in Khairaguda	Andhra Pradesh	29.85	Coal
28	Mining Lease to M/s NCL Industries	Andhra Pradesh	46.356	Coal
29	Mining Lease to SCCL for OCP III Manuguru Coal Mine	Andhra Pradesh	75	Coal
30	Mining Lease to M/s SCCL	Andhra Pradesh	235	Coal
31	Mining Lease to M/s Singareni Collieries Company Limited in Tadicherla Reserve Forest	Andhra Pradesh	250	Coal
32	Mining Lease in Favour of M/s SCCL Limited for Yallandu OCP-II	Andhra Pradesh	48	Coal
33	Mining Lease in Favour of M/s Singareni Collieries Company to SCCL	Andhra Pradesh	253	Coal
34	Renewal of Mining Lease in F/O SCCL for OCP II Ph III Manuguru in Kondapur/ Ext.1 of Aswapura Range	Andhra Pradesh	125.9	Coal
35	Mining Lease to M/s SCCL	Andhra Pradesh	49.75	Coal
36	Mining Lease to M/s Singareni Collieries Company Limited	Andhra Pradesh	4.85	Coal
37	Mining Lease to SCCL for Shantikhani Extension Block	Andhra Pradesh	285.89	Coal
38	Mining Lease for Steatite and Dolomite in F/O Sri Peram Nagireddy of Sri Sai Minerals	Andhra Pradesh	4.05	Dolomites & Steatite
39	Renewal of ML in F/O South India Co. Ltd., for Statite and Dolomite in Julakalava	Andhra Pradesh	8.5	Dolomite & Steatite
40	ML for Steatite, Dolomite Etc. in F/O Narsu & Co.	Andhra Pradesh	9.85	Dolomite & Steatite
41	ML for Quarrying Colour Granite in F/O Sri Manohar Reddy of M/s Raghunath Granites	Andhra Pradesh	4	Granite
42	ML in F/O Sri V. Ramesh Kumar for Mining of Granite	Andhra Pradesh	8.65	Granite

1	2	3	4	5
43	Granting of Quarry Lease for Black Granite in F/O Tirumala Granites, Chittoor	Andhra Pradesh	8	Granite
44	Quarrying of Granite Metal in Favour of Smt. T. Satyavathi	Andhra Pradesh	1.25	Granite
45	Diversion of Forest Land for Extraction of Black Granite in Favour of M/s Nagamani Granites	Andhra Pradesh	5.4	Granite
46	Diversion of Forest Land for Quarrying of Granite Metal in Favour of Smt. T. Sathyavathi of Mugada (V)	Andhra Pradesh	1.25	Granite
47	Diversion of FL in Basavapalli RF of Chittoor District for Extraction of Black Granite in Favour of M/s Sri Lakshmi Granites & Exports	Andhra Pradesh	3.187	Granite
48	Renewal of ML for Iron Ore in F/O Ananthapur Mining Corpn.	Andhra Pradesh	6.5	Iron Ore
49	ML in F/O Navabharat Ferro Alloys in Block No. 33 of Kalvapally Range	Andhra Pradesh	4.8	Iron Ore
50	Mining Lease to G. Ram Mohan Reddy	Andhra Pradesh	25.98	Iron Ore
51	ML to M/s Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited	Andhra Pradesh	900	Iron Ore
52	Mining Lease to Y. Mahabaleswarappa & Sons	Andhra Pradesh	20.24	Iron Ore
53	ML to M/s Bellary Iron Ore (P) Limited	Andhra Pradesh	27.12	Iron Ore
54	Mining Lease to M/s Hindustan Zinc Limited	Andhra Pradesh	200	Lead Ore
55	Mining Lease in F/O KCP Ltd., Macharla	Andhra Pradesh	18.14	Lime Stone
56	ML for Limestone Calcite and Serpentine in Gulamalibagh North Block in F/O Brahmaramba Minerals	Andhra Pradesh	1.765	Lime Stone
57	Renewal of Mining Lease in F/O Deccan Limestone Min. Co. (P) Ltd., Dhone	Andhra Pradesh	18.62	Lime Stone
58	Mining Lease for Purpose of Aerial Ropeway in Favour KCP Limited	Andhra Pradesh	8.18	Lime Stone
59	Mining Lease to Kesoram Cement	Andhra Pradesh	230.66	Lime Stone
60	Mining Lease to M/s Orient Cement Company	Andhra Pradesh	100	Lime Stone
61	Mining Lease in Favour of M/s KCP Limited in Mandadi Reserve Forests Block-II	Andhra Pradesh	34.98	Lime Stone

1	2	3	4	5
62	Mining Lease to M/s ACC Limited	Andhra Pradesh	80.44	Lime Stone
63	Mining Lease No 27 to M/s Deccan Cement Limited	Andhra Pradesh	73.93	Lime Stone
64	Mining Lease to Kakatiya Cement Sugar Industrial	Andhra Pradesh	121.46	Lime Stone
65	Mining Lease to M/s A.P. Minerals Development Corporation	Andhra Pradesh	110	Lime Stone
66	Compartment No. 29 of Pasupulabodu Block of Nalgonda Forest Division in Favour of M/s Chanakya Cements	Andhra Pradesh	162.56	Lime Stone
67	ML to M/s Madras Cement Limited	Andhra Pradesh	60.72	Lime Stone
68	Mining Lease to KCP Ltd	Andhra Pradesh	18.14	Lime Stone
69	Mining Lease to Y.K. Krishna Rao	Andhra Pradesh	29.48	Manganese Ore
70	ML for Mico in Sy. No. 530 to 534 of Molakalapundla in F/O Krishna Mining Co.	Andhra Pradesh	18.9	Mica
71	ML for Mica in Sy. No.612, 826 to 827 of Molakalapundla in F/O Krishna Mining Co.	Andhra Pradesh	19.91	Mica
72	Mining Lease Mica, Felspar, Quarts & Vermiculate S.No 504 & 505 & 528 of Kkalapundla	Andhra Pradesh	19.91	Mica, Quartz
73	Quartz-Mica and Vermialate in Sy. No. 675 Pemullopadu - Thammala R.F. Raipur TQ	Andhra Pradesh	12.14	Mica, Quartz
74	Quarrying Lease in F/O Sri Thirupalu	Andhra Pradesh	4	NA
75	ML in F/O Lakshminarasimha Metal Industries	Andhra Pradesh	4	NA
76	Renewal of ML in Batrapalam of Madinapadu in F/O Swamy Kasi Ratnam	Andhra Pradesh	4.85	NA
77	Renewal of ML in F/O K.T. Mines	Andhra Pradesh	2.89	NA
78	Renewal of Mining Lease in F/O Tellabodu Co	Andhra Pradesh	17.63	NA
79	Renewal of ML in Sy. No. 553 & 537 of Chaganam - Utuku Respectively in Sydapuram	Andhra Pradesh	16.19	NA
80	Mining Lease for Quartz Vermaculite in F/O Bibijan	Andhra Pradesh	2	Quartz
81	ML of Quartz From Poolbagh in F/O V. Manickam	Andhra Pradesh	0.99	Quartz

1	2	3	4	5
82	Miling for Steatite in F/O Srinivasa Mineral Co.	Andhra Pradesh	4.05	Steatite
83	ML for Satelite in F/O Smt. A. Sumana of Tadapatri	Andhra Pradesh	2	Steatite
84	Mining for Steatite, White Shale in F/O South India Mining Co.	Andhra Pradesh	2.833	Steatite
85	Stone Quarry of Vattivagu Project	Andhra Pradesh	2	Stone
86	Quarry Lease for Road Metal and Building Stone in F/O Sri D. Shiva Kumar Reddy	Andhra Pradesh	2	Stone
87	ML for Lime Stone Quarry in Sy. No. 138 Compartment No. 502 & 503 in Asifabad	Andhra Pradesh	13.75	Stone
88	Kondavidu RF - Quarrying Road Metal & Building Stone in F/O Sri Koteswara Rao	Andhra Pradesh	7.74	Stone
89	Grant of Quarry Lease in Favour of Sri T.S. Mallikarjuna Rao	Andhra Pradesh	3.61	Stone
90	Diversion of Forest Land in Manglagiri RF for Quarry Minor Minerals in Favour of Shri Ch. Tirupalu	Andhra Pradesh	2	Stone
91	Mines & Minerals - Application of Sri. T.S. Mallikarjuna Rao, for Grant of Quarry Lease	Andhra Pradesh	3.61	Stone
92	Mining of Statite, White Clay and Dolomite in Jalakalava in F/O Brahmaramba Minerals	Andhra Pradesh	4.68	White Clay
93	Mining Lease to APMDTCL for Coal Mining in Namchik - Namphuk Coal Fields	Arunachal Pradesh	128.97	Coal
94	Coal Mining in Namchik-Namphuk Coalfield	Arunachal Pradesh	4.55	Coal
95	1 No. of Dudhnath Hill Stone Mahal & Opening of 4 Nos of New Mahals Under Dhubri Division	Assam	0.5	Stone
96	Renewal of Nakkati Hill Stone Quarry 2	Assam	0.5	Stone
97	Stone/ Sand Mahal Mining Under Nagaon South Division	Assam	3.1	Stone
98	Quarrying for Boulder by Amdc.	Assam	20	Stone
99	Renewal of 10 Number of Stone Mahals and 9 Number of Sand Mahal	Assam	12.8	Stone
100	6 Year Lease for Rock Quarry in Favour of M/s Rock Product Traders	Assam	5	Stone

1	2	3	4	5
101	Makrijhora Sand and Gravel Mahal Under Dhubri Forest Division	Assam	3	Stone
102	Mining Lease to PPCL	Bihar	297.06	Pyrites
103	Stone Quarry by Ajit Kumar Singh	Bihar	0.858	Stone
104	Stone Quarry by Smt. Prem Jain	Bihar	4.33	Stone
105	Stone Quarry by Vivek Jhanjhri	Bihar	2.31	Stone
106	Stone Quarry by Ajay Jhanjhri	Bihar	4.98	Stone
107	Mining Lease to Hindalco Industries Limited	Chhattishgarh	798.827	Bauxite
108	Mining Lease to Hindalco Industries Limited	Chhattishgarh	514.019	Bauxite
109	Mining Lease to Hindalco Industries Limited	Chhattishgarh	124.109	Bauxite
110	Open Caste Mining Lease by SECL	Chhattishgarh	15.42	Coal
111	Open Caste Mining Lease by SECL	Chhattishgarh	9.6	Coal
112	Renewal of Mining Lease by SECL	Chhattishgarh	2.32	Coal
113	Renewal of Mining Lease (Deepika) by SECL Ltd.	Chhattishgarh	19.975	Coal
114	Opencast Mining in F/O SECL, West Chirmiri	Chhattishgarh	30.55	Coal
115	Mining Lease to M/s SECL	Chhattishgarh	19	Coal
116	ML to M/s SECL for Amarpura Underground Coal Mine	Chhattishgarh	297.608	Coal
117	Mining Lease to Jayaswal NECO Ltd.	Chhattishgarh	419.887	Coal
118	Mining Lease to M/s SECL	Chhattishgarh	33.84	Coal
119	Mining Lease to SECL DHEL Wadh U/G Project	Chhattishgarh	355.463	Coal
120	Mining Lease to South Eastern Coal Fields Limited (Shivani Project)	Chhattishgarh	268	Coal
121	Mining Lease to South Eastern Coal Fields Limited (Rajendra Project)	Chhattishgarh	36.364	Coal
122	Mining Lease to M/s WCL (Chirimiri Project)	Chhattishgarh	160.234	Coal
123	Mining Lease to M/s SECL	Chhattishgarh	82	Coal
124	Mining Lease to M/s WCL	Chhattishgarh	31.088	Coal
125	Mining Lease to South Eastern Coal Fields Limited (Nawapura Project)	Chhattishgarh	71.98	Coal

1	2	3	4	5
126	Mining Lease to M/s WCL	Chhattishgarh	5.02	Coal
127	Mining Lease to SECL	Chhattishgarh	1607.05	Coal
128	Mining Lease to M/s SECL	Chhattishgarh	541.787	Coal
129	Mining Lease to M/s SECL	Chhattishgarh	124.54	Coal
130	Mining Lease to South Eastern Coal Fields Limited (New Kumda Project)	Chhattishgarh	83	Coal
131	Mining Lease to M/s SECL	Chhattishgarh	1050.823	Coal
132	Mining Lease to M/s SECL	Chhattishgarh	547.012	Coal
133	Mining Lease to M/s SECL	Chhattishgarh	137.178	Coal
134	Mining Lease to M/s Jindal Power Limited	Chhattishgarh	48.208	Coal
135	Mining Lease to Ashok Kumar	Chhattishgarh	2	Geru
136	Mining Lease in Favour of Shri Jeevan Lal Jain for Mining of Iron Ore in Village Barbaspur	Chhattishgarh	14.714	Iron Ore
137	Prospecting of Iron Ore in Favour of NMDC	Chhattishgarh	83	Iron Ore
138	Mining Lease to Nagpur Alloys Castings Ltd	Chhattishgarh	25	Iron Ore
139	Prospecting of Iron-Ore Mining by HEG Limited	Chhattishgarh	326	Iron Ore
140	Prospecting of Mining in F/O Shree Radha Industries Limited	Chhattishgarh	200	Iron Ore
141	Mining Lease to Bhilai Steel Plant	Chhattishgarh	84	Iron Ore
142	Mining Lease to M/s Bhilai Steel Plant	Chhattishgarh	155	Iron Ore
143	Mining Lease to BALCO	Chhattishgarh	376.924	Iron Ore
144	Mining Lease to Jayaswals NECO Limited (Nagpur Alloy Casting Ltd)	Chhattishgarh	91	Iron Ore
145	Mining Lease to NMDC Limited	Chhattishgarh	322.368	Iron Ore
146	Mining Lease to NMDC Limited	Chhattishgarh	309.34	Iron Ore
147	Mining Lease for Bailadila Iron Ore Project (14 NMZ Mine) to NMDC Limited	Chhattishgarh	506.742	Iron Ore
148	Prospecting of Mining Lease to Raipur Alloys & Steel Ltd	Chhattishgarh	124.32	Iron Ore
149	Mining Lease to NMDC Limited	Chhattishgarh	322.368	Iron Ore
150	Mining Lease in F/O Jaisawal NECO for Boria Tibbu Iron Ore Deposits	Chhattishgarh	41	Iron Ore

1	2	3	4	5
151	Mining Lease to M/s Raipur Alloys & Steel	Chhattishgarh	80.71	Iron Ore
152	Mining Lease to Bhilai Steel Plant (SAIL)	Chhattishgarh	283.6	Iron Ore
153	Mining Lease to Bhilai Steel Plant (SAIL)	Chhattishgarh	100.76	Iron Ore
154	Mining Lease to Steel Authority of India	Chhattishgarh	100	Iron Ore
155	Prospecting of Mining Lease to M/s Ispat Godowari Ltd	Chhattishgarh	200	Iron Ore
156	Mining Lease to M/s Manet Ispat Limited	Chhattishgarh	340.6	Iron Ore
157	Mining Lease to NMDC Limited	Chhattishgarh	142.8	Iron Ore
158	Mining Lease to NMDC Ltd. Balladila Iron-Ore Project	Chhattishgarh	1767.14	Iron Ore
159	Renewal of Corundum Mining Lease by MP Mining Corporation	Chhattishgarh	3.7	Lime Stone
160	Construction of Fly Ash Dyke by MPEB	Chhattishgarh	20	NA
161	Renewal of Mining Lease by M/s. OCL India Ltd	Chhattishgarh	9.8	NA
162	Renewal of Deemed ML No. 21/54 in F/O V.S. Dembo & Co.Ltd.	Goa	15.0769	Iron Ore
163	Renewal of ML Cajumol TC No. 26/1995 of Sesagoa	Goa	3.5	Iron Ore
164	Renewal of ML No. 29/54 in F/O V.M. Salgokar & Bros. Ltd.	Goa	11.3125	Iron Ore
165	Renewal of ML No. 8/57 of Sri Atchuta V.S. Velingarkar	Goa	16.56	Iron Ore
166	Renewal of ML No. 44/1956 in F/O Salgaonkar & Bros	Goa	16.47	Iron Ore
167	Mining Lease No - 2/51 to MS Talaulikar & Sons (P) Limited	Goa	33.247	Iron Ore
168	Mining Lease No - 67/52 to A.V.S. Velingkar	Goa	36.38	Iron Ore
169	Mining Lease No - 23/53 to M/s EMCO Goa (P) Limited	Goa	57.97	Iron Ore
170	Mining Lease No - 88/1952 to Soccidale Tible Irmaos	Goa	0.64	Iron Ore
171	Mining Lease to Hiru Bombo Gauns	Goa	15.4175	Iron Ore
172	Mining Lease No - 21/1954 to VS Dempo & Company	Goa	15.0769	Iron Ore

1	2	3	4	5
173	Mining Lease No - 29 to M/s Salgaokar & Brothers Limited	Goa	11.3125	Iron Ore
174	Mining Lease 29/55 in F/O Atchuta V.S. Velingkar	Goa	38.87	Iron Ore
175	Mining Lease No - 84/53 to M/s Damodar Mangalji & Company	Goa	46.79	Iron Ore
176	Mining Lease No - 40/53 & 3/51 to VS Dempo & Company	Goa	135.6175	Iron Ore
177	Mining Lease No - 40/57 to Chowgule & Company Limited	Goa	57.96	Iron Ore
178	Mining Lease No - 42/57 in F/O Chowgule & Company	Goa	45.16	Iron Ore
179	Mining Lease No - 63/51 to Sh Chandra Kant Nayar	Goa	16.1139	Iron Ore
180	Mining Lease No - 14/52 to Badruddin Mavani	Goa	31.4598	Iron Ore
181	Mining Lease No - 19/1952 to M/s V.M. Salgaochar & Brothers	Goa	72.85	Iron Ore
182	Mining Lease to Atma Ram Palondikar	Goa	44.69	Iron Ore
183	Mining Lease No - 26/60 to Damodar Mangalji	Goa	23.4	Iron Ore
184	Mining Lease 8/41 in F/O G. N. Aggarwal	Goa	66.719	Iron Ore
185	Mining Lease No - 46/56 to Damodar Mangalji & Company	Goa	28.1513	Iron Ore
186	Mining Lease 30/50 in F/O Dr. Prafulla R. Hede	Goa	30.5688	Iron Ore
187	Mining Lease to M/s V.M. Salgaochar & Brothers	Goa	15.67	Iron Ore
188	Mining Lease 13/55 in F/O VM Salgaokar Brothers Limited	Goa	35.1525	Iron Ore
189	Mining Lease 10/52 in F/O Haider Kasim Khan	Goa	12.466	Iron Ore
190	Mining Lease 45/54 in F/O Sova	Goa	43.9951	Iron Ore
191	Mining Lease 5053 in F/O V.M. Salgaokar Brothers Limited	Goa	28.7805	Iron Ore
192	Mining Lease No 60/51 to Sh Miguil Mascaronhas	Goa	15	Iron Ore
193	Mining Lease No 43/53 to Noor Mohd. Abdul Karim	Goa	9.39	Iron Ore
194	Mining Lease 14/51 in F/O V.D. Chowgule	Goa	13.6355	Iron Ore

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195	Mining Lease 53/52 in F/O Sh. Ashok Kudchadkar	Goa	6.34	Iron Ore
196	Mining Lease 100/53 in F/O Ashok Kudchadkar	Goa	3.32	Iron Ore
197	Renewal of Mining Lease No 31/54 in Favour of M/s Chowgule of Vasco	Goa	9.5	Iron Ore
198	Renewal of Mining Lease No 35/52 in Favour of V.S. Dempo	Goa	12.1644	Iron Ore
199	Renewal of Mining Lease 39/56 in Favour of M/s V.M. Salgaokar & Brothers Limited	Goa	12.141	Iron Ore
200	Renewal of Mining Lease No 55/53 in Favour of Shri Zacaria Antao	Goa	15.3918	Iron Ore
201	Mining Lease to M/s Commercial Store Supplying Company	Gujarat	5	Dolomite & Lime Stone
202	Mining Lease to Gujrat Minerals Development Corp.	Gujarat	32	Flourspar
203	Mining Lease to M/s Gujrat Minerals Development Corporation	Gujarat	31.2	Flourspar
204	Mining Lease to Marble Industries at Ambaji	Gujarat	190	Marble
205	Mining Lease by Kantilal A Patel	Gujarat	1.2141	Stone
206	Mining Lease by KB Kansara	Gujarat	4.7146	Stone
207	Mining Lease by Kantilal Ambalal	Gujarat	2.0234	Stone
208	Mining Lease by Ambalal M Patel	Gujarat	2.0234	Stone
209	Mining Lease by Smt.Prabhavatiben J Parmar	Gujarat	1.902	Stone
210	Mining Lease by Jayantibai D Patel	Gujarat	1.98	Stone
211	Mining Lease by Smt. Prabhavatiben J Parmar	Gujarat	0.66	Stone
212	Mining Lease by Smt. Chandraben V Shah	Gujarat	0.07	Stone
213	Mining Lease by Dayalibhai R Vadgama	Gujarat	1.6617	Stone
214	Mining Lease by Chandrakant C Patel	Gujarat	1.46	Stone
215	Mining Lease by Ambalal M Patel	Gujarat	1.9121	Stone
216	Mining Lease by Chandrakant C Patel	Gujarat	2.02	Stone
217	Mining Lease by Ramesh CD Patel	Gujarat	1.2849	Stone
218	Mining Lease by Smt.Chandrikaben V Shah	Gujarat	2.02	Stone

1	2	3	4	5
219	Mining Lease by Chandrakant C Patel	Gujarat	0.46	Stone
220	Mining Lease by Ramesh CD Patel	Gujarat	0.9611	Stone
221	Mining Lease by Jayantibhai D Patel	Gujarat	0.4856	Stone
222	Mining Lease by Chandrakant C Patel	Gujarat	0.87	Stone
223	Mining Lease by Indubhai C Patel	Gujarat	3.97	Stone
224	Mining Lease by PM Jadeja	Gujarat	0.9814	Stone
225	Mining Lease by Smt.Girjaben G Patel	Gujarat	4.95	Stone
226	Mining Lease by Dattubai M Patel	Gujarat	0.8903	Stone
227	Mining Lease to Ali Husain Haji Mohammad Ali	Gujarat	18.88	Stone
228	Quartize Mining by Alembic Glass Industry	Gujarat	19.3	Quartzite
229	RML to Saurashtra Salt Industries	Gujarat	679.44	Salt
230	RML to Dwarka Das Valaji Salt Works	Gujarat	162.73	Salt
231	RML to Navanagar Salt and Chemical Industries	Gujarat	509.08	Salt
232	RML to Saurashtra Cheeu Salt Works	Gujarat	671.6	Salt
233	RML to Ballarpur Industries Limited	Gujarat	1214.04	Salt
234	RML to Saurashtra Cheere Salt Works	Gujarat	496.95	Salt
235	RML to Sikka Salt Works	Gujarat	202.34	Salt
236	RML to Saurashtra Cheer Salt Works	Gujarat	588.63	Salt
237	RML to Salt & Allied Industry	Gujarat	955.88	Salt
238	RML to Varun Salt Works	Gujarat	60.7	Salt
239	RML to Shri Ram Salt Works	Gujarat	101.17	Salt
240	RML to Maruti Salt Works	Gujarat	60.7	Salt
241	RML to National Salt Works	Gujarat	141.23	Salt
242	RML to Gayatri Salt & Cherru Works	Gujarat	134.15	Salt
243	RML to Shah Salt & Cheru Works	Gujarat	141.23	Salt
244	Mining Lease to Sanctuary Chemicals for Manufacturing Salt	Gujarat	742.6	Salt
245	RML to Chowgle (P) Ltd.	Gujarat	2023.5	Salt
246	Mining Lease by M/s Gujarat Stone	Gujarat	2.0234	Stone

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247	Mining Lease to Ambika Minerals Stone Supply Co.	Gujarat	74.13	Stone
248	Mining Lease to M/s Gujrat Ambuja Cement Limited	Himachal Pradesh	102.8	Lime Stone
249	Mining Lease to M/s Gagaj Cement Works	Himachal Pradesh	103.02	Lime Stone
250	F.Land in F/O Gagaj Cement Works Bilaspur HP for Mining	Himachal Pradesh	103.02	Lime Stone
251	F. Land on Lease to Cement Corporation of India.	Himachal Pradesh	0.257	Lime Stone
252	ML to M/s Cement Corp of India	Himachal Pradesh	172.3	Lime Stone
253	Mining Lease in F/O Cement Corp. of India Ltd. Rajban Forest Division Paonta Sahib	Himachal Pradesh	242.3	Lime Stone
254	Mining Lease to Larson & Toubro Ltd & Setting UP Cement Factory	Himachal Pradesh	138.1476	Lime Stone
255	Mining of Lime Stone by M/s Gujrat Ambuja Cement Limited	Himachal Pradesh	19.38	Lime Stone
256	Mining of Lime Stones in Favour of Sh. Sant Ram Village Bharwana	Himachal Pradesh	1.5	Lime Stone
257	ML to Minerals Development Corporation	Himachal Pradesh	148.96	Na
258	Mining Lease in Favour of Smt. Chandal Nagar R/O Chamba	Himachal Pradesh	0.4842	Na
259	F.Land in F/O M/s Bushair Lagu Udyog Pashada Forest Division Rampur Lease for 10 Years.	Himachal Pradesh	0.5348	Na
260	Extraction of Quartzite for Cement Manufacturing in Billaspur in Favour of M/s Gagaj Cement Works	Himachal Pradesh	4.88	Quartzite
261	F.Land in F/O CCI Rajban Cement Factory for Mining of Sandstone Forest Division Paonta Sahib.	Himachal Pradesh	0.075	Sand Stone
262	Slate Mining by Industries Department	Himachal Pradesh	25	Slate
263	Extraction of Slates by Industries Deptt. In Mauza Gehara F. Divn. Chamba	Himachal Pradesh	1.392	Slate

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264	Renewal of Mining Lease in F/O M/s Luxmi Stone Crusher in Distt. Mandi	Himachal Pradesh	0.78	Stone
265	Forest Land for Crusher Quarry and Dumping Sites in F/O Nathpa Jhakri	Himachal Pradesh	48.1304	Stone
266	Establishment of Stone Quarry by M/s Jai Durga Stone Quarry Baggi-Kawial Distt. Mandi	Himachal Pradesh	0.265	Stone
267	Est. of Stone Quarry at Bataur Jole in Mandi Forest Div.	Himachal Pradesh	0.095	Stone
268	Quarrying of Stone Cursher in Favour of M/s Ashapuri Stone Cursher, Huria, Parbati Forest Division	Himachal Pradesh	0.4	Stone
269	Stone Quarry for Feeding Stone Crusher, M/s Asha Puri Stone Crusher From Chagola in Kot-Dandi-III Huria Forest Range Kullu on 30 Year Lease.	Himachal Pradesh	0.4	Stone
270	Stone Quarry for Feeding M/s Bhuvneshwari Stone Crusher From Chagola, Parbati Forest Division Kullu.	Himachal Pradesh	1.2	Stone
271	Estt.of Stone Crusher & Quarry in F/O Sh.Ashok Sood, Vill.Chuhebagh, Tehsil Rampur.	Himachal Pradesh	0.96	Stone
272	Lease of 10 Yrs. in F/O Ashok Kumar Sood Prop. Himalyan Crusher & Quarry Rampur	Himachal Pradesh	0.19	Stone
273	Stone Crusher/Quarry in F/O M/s Mehta Crushers.Rampur Tehsil	Himachal Pradesh	1.13	Stone
274	F.Land in F/O HP Industries Corp. Ltd. (On Lease for 20 Yrs.) Vill. Kogi Tehsil Sadar.	Himachal Pradesh	4.68	Stone
275	Mining & Installation of Stone Crussher in F/O Abhishek Thakur R/O Vill.	Himachal Pradesh	0.35	Stone
276	Sikni Coal Project of BSMDC	Jharkhand	19.83	Coal
277	Muradihi OCP (Expansion) of CCL	Jharkhand	7.6	Coal
278	Mining Lease to Eastor Coal Field Ltd (Rajmahal Proj)	Jharkhand	20.03	Coal
279	Hurilung Coal Project in Favour of M/s CCL	Jharkhand	782.27	Coal
280	Rajrappa Opencast Mining Lease to CCL	Jharkhand	510.82	Coal

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281	Mining Lease to M/s Central Coalfields Limited for Karma Opencast Mining Project	Jharkhand	132.28	Coal
282	Mining Lease to CCL for Tarmi OCP	Jharkhand	55.06	Coal
283	Mining Lease for Coal Mining in Saunda 'D' Project by CCL	Jharkhand	99.69	Coal
284	Amlo Opencast Mining Lease to CCL	Jharkhand	222.324	Coal
285	New Giddi C Opencast Mining Lease to CCL	Jharkhand	73.55	Coal
286	Mining Lease in F/O Panem Coal Mines Limited	Jharkhand	400	Coal
287	Mining Lease to M/s CCL (Ashoka Opencast Project)	Jharkhand	166.91	Coal
288	Giddy 'A' Project of CCL,	Jharkhand	1.44	Coal
289	Kaveri Opencast Mining Lease to CCL	Jharkhand	77.43	Coal
290	Mining Lease to CCL	Jharkhand	148.167	Coal
291	Khasmahal Opencast Mining Lease to CCL	Jharkhand	174.48	Coal
292	Pundi Opencast Project of CCL	Jharkhand	52.97	Coal
293	Mining Lease to CCL	Jharkhand	28.22	Coal
294	Mining Lease to M/s CCL (Jharkhand Opencast Project)	Jharkhand	57.94	Coal
295	Jharkhand Opencast Mining Lease to CCL	Jharkhand	96.28	Coal
296	Argada Underground Mining Lease to CCL	Jharkhand	90.1	Coal
297	Mining Lease to CCL	Jharkhand	101.87	Coal
298	Mining Lease to M/s Central Coalfields Limited for Kedla OCP	Jharkhand	168.5	Coal
299	Mining Lease to CCL	Jharkhand	71.98	Coal
300	Mining Lease to CCL for Kuju Project	Jharkhand	115	Coal
301	Mining Lease to CCL ARA OCP Mines	Jharkhand	166.9	Coal
302	Tapin North Opencast Project in Favour of CCL	Jharkhand	55.69	Coal
303	Sayal 'D' Project in Favour of M/s Central Coalfields Limited	Jharkhand	192.32	Coal
304	Mining Lease to CCL Religara OCP Mines Project	Jharkhand	135.66	Coal

1	2	3	4	5
305	Mining Lease to CCL for Pindra Underground Mining Project	Jharkhand	54.79	Coal
306	Urimari Opencast Project of M/s Central Coalfields Limited CCL	Jharkhand	91.04	Coal
307	Dhori Opencast Project of CCL	Jharkhand	69.183	Coal
308	Laiyo Underground Mining Lease to CCL	Jharkhand	78.59	Coal
309	Giddi C Opencast Mining Lease to CCL	Jharkhand	237.3	Coal
310	Giddi A Mining Lease to CCL	Jharkhand	232.42	Coal
311	Mining Lease to Central Coalfields Limited for Sarubera Opencast Mining	Jharkhand	196.55	Coal
312	Topa Opencast Project of M/s CCL	Jharkhand	77.3	Coal
313	Sirka Opencast Mining Lease to CCL	Jharkhand	50.8	Coal
314	Mining Lease to Central Coalfields Limited for K.D. Hesalong Coal Mine	Jharkhand	101.41	Coal
315	Dhori Khas Underground Mining Lease to Central Coalfields Limited	Jharkhand	172.2	Coal
316	Topa OCP of CCL	Jharkhand	17.3	Coal
317	Hindgiri Project of CCL	Jharkhand	9.06	Coal
318	Mining Lease to ECL for Rajmahal Open Cast Mining	Jharkhand	69.75	Coal
319	Mining Lease to Hindustan Copper Ltd.	Jharkhand	203.62	Copper Ore
320	Mining Lease to M/s Hindustan Copper Limited	Jharkhand	203.62	Copper Ore
321	Mining Lease to M/s Hindustan Copper Limited	Jharkhand	184.8	Copper Ore
322	Kunderkochha Gold Mine Project of MM Industries	Jharkhand	19.5	Gold
323	Tailing Dam for Expansion Kiriburu Iron Ore M.L.	Jharkhand	8.7	Iron Ore
324	Renewal of ML of M/s Nirmal Kumra & Pradeep Kumar	Jharkhand	13.96	Iron Ore
325	Renewal of ML of M/s Nirmal Kumra & Pradeep Kumar	Jharkhand	3.7	Iron Ore
326	Renewal of ML of Gua Iron Ore Mines of IISCO	Jharkhand	8.958	Iron Ore
327	Renewal of Noamundi Iron Mines of SK Ghosh	Jharkhand	10.056	Iron Ore

1	2	3	4	5
328	Renewal of ML of M/s Singhbhum Mineral Co.	Jharkhand	18.69	Iron Ore
329	Renewal of Baraiburu & Tatiba Mining Lease	Jharkhand	2.03	Iron Ore
330	Mining Lease for Iron Ore in Favour of M/s Usha Martin Industries in Ghatkuri Forests	Jharkhand	29.4648	Iron Ore
331	Mining Lease to Gyan Chand Jain	Jharkhand	32.94	Iron Ore
332	Mining Lease to M/s Sail for Sukri Latur	Jharkhand	33.4	Iron Ore
333	Mining Lease to Rungta Mines Pvt Ltd	Jharkhand	31.319	Iron Ore
334	Mining Lease to IISCO (Sail)	Jharkhand	29.411	Iron Ore
335	Mining Lease to Tata Iron and Steel Co. Ltd.	Jharkhand	346.49	Iron Ore
336	Mining Lease to Sail	Jharkhand	24	Iron Ore
337	Renewal of Tulsidamar Mine of Sail	Jharkhand	101.32	Iron Ore
338	Mining Lease to Rungtra Mines Ltd	Jharkhand	31.319	Iron Ore
339	Mining Lease to Bokaro Steel Plant (Sail)	Jharkhand	608.06	Iron Ore
340	Mining Lease to IISCO (Sail)	Jharkhand	32.11	Iron Ore
341	Mining Lease to M/s Sail	Jharkhand	8.7	Iron Ore
342	Mining Lease to BSMDC for Mining of Lime Stone	Jharkhand	50.69	Lime Stone
343	Renewal of Iron & MN. ML of Devika Velji	Jharkhand	32.416	Manganese Ore
344	Mining Lease to Shah Brothers for Karampada Iron and Manganese Ore	Jharkhand	24.856	Manganese Ore
345	Feldspar, Quartz and Mica Mining by Sachin Sahana	Jharkhand	2.42	Mica, Quartz
346	Stone Quarry by Praveen Kumar Sukhani	Jharkhand	2.298	Stone
347	Stone Quarry by Uma Shankar Prasad	Jharkhand	2.38	Stone
348	Stone Quarry by Sanjay Rampal & Hemant Rampal	Jharkhand	1.206	Stone
349	Stone Quarry by Neeta Rampal	Jharkhand	3.157	Stone
350	Mining Lease of M/s Crush Well, Meera Singh	Jharkhand	2.023	Stone
351	Renewal of Mining Lease of Harshavardhan Pandey	Jharkhand	1.21	Stone
352	Renewal of Marble Stone by M/s Qumaruddin & Sons	Jharkhand	2.02	Stone

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353	Stone Quarry in F/O M/s Jai Shree Ram Stone Industries	Jharkhand	4.994	Stone
354	National Highway Authority of India Basarda & Kumardhia - Kunharkala Stone Quarry	Jharkhand	7.878	Stone
355	Mining Lease to Bharat Raj Singh	Jharkhand	10.081	Stone
356	Bandhuhurang Uranium Project in Favour of Uranium Corporation of India Limited	Jharkhand	130.82	Uranium
357	Mining Lease to M/s Uranium Corp of India for Jadugoda Mining Project	Jharkhand	53.783	Uranium
358	Extraction of Gold in F/O Hutti Gold Mines Ltd. in Ajjanahalli Village	Karnataka	18	Gold
359	Extraction of Gold in F/O Hatti Gold Mines in Ajjanahalli - Gungarapet	Karnataka	19.94	Gold
360	Diversion of 0.8094 HA of FL for Granite Quarrying in Favour of M/s Venkateswara Granites in S.No.887 of Gudekote RF, Kudligi Taluk of Bellary District.	Karnataka	0.8094	Granite
361	Diversion of 2.2 Acres (0.89034 Ha.) for Granite Quarrying in Favour of M/s SKJS Granites in S.No.887 of Gudekote RF Kudligi (T)	Karnataka	0.8903	Granite
362	Extraction of Iron Ore in F/O A.M. Minerals in Sandur TQ.	Karnataka	2.032	Iron Ore
363	Renewal of ML of M/s Mineral Syndicate (Iron Ore)	Karnataka	2.12	Iron Ore
364	For Extraction of Iron Ore in Belagal RF in F/O Gavisiddeswara Enterprises	Karnataka	5.67	Iron Ore
365	Renewal of ML No. 109 (Iron Ore) at Vittalapura Village in F/O Mehaboob Transport Co.	Karnataka	16.18	Iron Ore
366	Mining of Iron Ore in Bellary Dist. in F/O Gogga Gurushantiah & Bros.	Karnataka	15.1	Iron Ore
367	Iron Ore Mining Lease Application of Sri Sathyanarayana, Bellary	Karnataka	15	Iron Ore
368	Renewal of ML (Iron Ore) No. 1625 in F/O Smt. K.M. Parvathamma	Karnataka	15.24	Iron Ore
369	ML for Iron Ore in F/O Hind Traders, Bellary	Karnataka	19.63	Iron Ore

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370	Renewal of ML (Iron Ore) in F/O M/s Mineral Enterprise (P) Ltd.	Karnataka	12.87	Iron Ore
371	Renewal of ML No. 625 (Iron Ore) in F/O Associated Mining Co.	Karnataka	10.12	Iron Ore
372	Mining Lease in Favour of Shri N. Shaiksub in Village Siddepur	Karnataka	15	Iron Ore
373	Diversion of 30.00 Ha. of Additional FL for Iron Ore ML No.2141 in RM Block of Yeswanthanagar Village in Favour of M/s Kumaraswamy Mineral Exports in Bellary District	Karnataka	30	Iron Ore
374	Mining Lease to Zeenath Transport Co.	Karnataka	50	Iron Ore
375	Mining Lease to HG Rangangaud	Karnataka	41.16	Iron Ore
376	Mining Lease to M/s P. Balasubha Setty & Company	Karnataka	44.11	Iron Ore
377	Mining Lease to M/s NDMC Limited	Karnataka	608	Iron Ore
378	Mining Lease No 1898 in F/O M/s P. Balasubba Setty & Sons	Karnataka	44.11	Iron Ore
379	Mining Lease to M/s SB Minerals	Karnataka	40.47	Iron Ore
380	Mining Lease No 1703 to M/s Tungbhadra Minerals Limited	Karnataka	33.97	Iron Ore
381	Mining Lease to Tungbhadra Minerals Ltd.	Karnataka	196.46	Iron Ore
382	Mining Lease No. 122 to Trident Minerals	Karnataka	32.27	Iron Ore
383	Mining Lease to M/s Doddannavar Brothers	Karnataka	39.2	Iron Ore
384	Mining Lease to SA Tawab	Karnataka	24.72	Iron Ore
385	Mining Lease No. 2183 To Sh Abubaker in N.E Block	Karnataka	44	Iron Ore
386	Mining Lease No. 2093 to Gogga Gurushanthaiah & Brothers	Karnataka	42.9	Iron Ore
387	Renewal of Mining Lease No 130/1190 in F/O Chowgule & Co. Limited	Karnataka	100	Iron Ore
388	Mining Lease No 432/631 to M/s Balaji Mines & Minerals (P) Limited	Karnataka	22.66	Iron Ore
389	Mining Lease No 1468 to M/s Godagi Minerals Company	Karnataka	39.63	Iron Ore

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390	Mining Lease to Lakshminarayana Mining Co.	Karnataka	105.22	Iron Ore
391	Mining Lease to M/s Doddannavar Brothers	Karnataka	30.33	Iron Ore
392	Mining Lease No. 823/1646 to Tungbhadra Minerals Limited	Karnataka	125.58	Iron Ore
393	Mining Lease to Tungbhadra Minerals Ltd.	Karnataka	36.3	Iron Ore
394	Mining Lease to M/s Auro Minerals	Karnataka	31	Iron Ore
395	Mining Lease to Zeenath Transport Co.	Karnataka	36.42	Iron Ore
396	Mining Lease to H.R. Gaviappa & Co.	Karnataka	34	Iron Ore
397	Mining Lease No 1966 to Visvesvaraya Iron & Steel Limited	Karnataka	40.12	Iron Ore
398	Mining Lease No 1193 to Vibhutigudda Miner (Pvt.) Limited	Karnataka	55	Iron Ore
399	ML No 2245 to M/s Bharat Mines & Minerals	Karnataka	26.2	Iron Ore
400	ML to M/s Zeenath Transport Co.	Karnataka	44.13	Iron Ore
401	Mining Lease to KIOCL (Kudremukh Iron Ore Co. Ltd)	Karnataka	1452.74	Iron Ore
402	Mining Lease No. 1524 to M/s VS Lad & Sons	Karnataka	105.06	Iron Ore
403	Mining Lease No 1634 to M/s S.V. Srinewasulee	Karnataka	60	Iron Ore
404	Mining Lease to K.C. Thimma Reddy	Karnataka	80.97	Iron Ore
405	Mining Lease No 1046 to P. Vengana Setty & Bros	Karnataka	50	Iron Ore
406	Mining Lease to M/s Maneer Enterprises	Karnataka	36.4	Iron Ore
407	Mining Lease to M/s Kariganur Mineral Mining Industries	Karnataka	129.43	Iron Ore
408	Mining Lease to R. Pampopally	Karnataka	101.5	Iron Ore
409	Mining Lease to M/s Trident Mining Company	Karnataka	5.26	Iron Ore
410	Mining Lease to M/s S.B. Minerals	Karnataka	80.94	Iron Ore
411	ML to M/s Laxminarayana Mining Company, Bangalore	Karnataka	105.22	Iron Ore
412	ML to M/s Mineral Enterprises	Karnataka	105	Iron Ore
413	Mining Lease to M/s Bharat Mines & Minerals	Karnataka	26.2	Iron Ore

1	2	3	4	5
414	Mining Lease to M/s Hothur Traders	Karnataka	32.38	Iron Ore
415	Mining Lease No 1842 to Milan Minerals	Karnataka	43.93	Iron Ore
416	Mining Lease No 1404/1903 to Sh.E. Ramamurthy	Karnataka	50.58	Iron Ore
417	Mining Lease No 1481 to Smt. K M Parvathamma	Karnataka	31.835	Iron Ore
418	Mining Lease to M/s Veerabhadrapa Sangappa & Company	Karnataka	51	iron Ore
419	Mining Lease No 1712 to Allaur Veerabhadrapa	Karnataka	28.07	Iron Ore
420	Mining Lease No 622 in F/O Ramgad Minerals Pvt. Ltd	Karnataka	20.23	Iron Ore
421	Mining Lease in F/O M/s B. Kumaragowda	Karnataka	83.62	Iron Ore
422	Mining Lease to KM Parvathamma	Karnataka	50.59	Iron Ore
423	Mining Lease to M/s Ramghad Minerals	Karnataka	20.23	Iron Ore
424	Mining Lease to Smt. V. Nagamma	Karnataka	50.47	Iron Ore
425	Quarry Lease in F/O KPC Ltd.for Kadra Dam Project Work	Karnataka	1.88	Lime Stone
426	ML (Limestone) in F/O Mysore Cements Ltd.	Karnataka	19.38	Lime Stone
427	ML to Dalmia Cements Ltd	Karnataka	201.5	Lime Stone
428	Renewal of ML in F/O Omkaramma (Manganese'ore)	Karnataka	5.39	Manganese Ore
429	Renewal of ML No. 1534 (Iron and Manganese Ore) in F/O Sri Dasaratharamareddy	Karnataka	19.95	Manganese Ore
430	Renewal of ML No. 1826 (Manganese Ore) in F/O Goel Bros.	Karnataka	8	Manganese Ore
431	Mining Lease No 1584 to K. Vishwanath	Karnataka	20.23	Manganese Ore
432	Mining Lease to M/s Mysore Minerals Limited	Karnataka	80.93	Manganese Ore
433	Renewal of Kumsi Mining Lease in Favour of Mysore Minerals Limited	Karnataka	24.55	Manganese Ore
434	Mining Lease No 1952 to M/s Sandur Manganese & Iron Company Ltd	Karnataka	85	Manganese Ore
435	Mining Lease No - 1179 to Smiore	Karnataka	629.9	Manganese Ore

1	2	3	4	5
436	Mining Lease No. 2002 to M/s Mysore Minerals Limited.	Karnataka	176.724	Manganese Ore
437	Mining Lease to Mysore Minerals Ltd.	Karnataka	98.224	Manganese Ore
438	Mining Lease to Mysore Minerals Ltd.	Karnataka	23.8	Manganese Ore
439	Mining Lease to M/s Hothur Traders	Karnataka	21.11	Manganese Ore
440	Mining Lease to M/s West Coast Paper Mills Limited	Karnataka	80	Manganese Ore
441	Mining Lease No 1659 to Mysore Minerals Limited	Karnataka	38.45	Manganese Ore
442	Mining Lease to VNK Menon	Karnataka	22.45	Manganese Ore
443	Mining Lease to AK Madhavatnarayana	Karnataka	163.5	Manganese Ore
444	ML to Sugamma Gudda Mining & Co	Karnataka	10.1 1	NA
445	Extraction of Orange Quartz in Hutchaganahalli Village in F/O Vs Padmavathi	Karnataka	8.1	Quartz
446	Mining Lease to VISL	Karnataka	40.12	Quartz
447	Collection of Rubble by Local People	Kerala	29.196	Rubble
448	Pyrophyllite Mining Lease by Khajuraho Minerals	Madhya Pradesh	5	Pyrophyllite
449	Renewal of Bauxite Mining Lease by M/s. Ramchandra Bansal	Madhya Pradesh	10.92	Bauxite
450	Bauxite Mining Lease by Shri Nisar Ahmed Siddiqui	Madhya Pradesh	16.18	Bauxite
451	Renewal of Bauxite Mining Lease by Shri Rameshwar Prasad	Madhya Pradesh	13.54	Bauxite
452	Renewal of Surface Right by SECL at Lohagpur	Madhya Pradesh	2.902	Coal
453	For the Dipelring Work of Dhanpuri U/G Mining in Favour of South Eastern Coal Field Ltd.	Madhya Pradesh	5	Coal
454	Renewal of Surface Right by SECL	Madhya Pradesh	12.87	Coal
455	Underground Mining Lease by SECL (Kapildhara)	Madhya Pradesh	9.286	Coal
456	Renewal of Mining Lease by SECL Ltd.	Madhya Pradesh	6.547	Coal

1	2	3	4	5
457	Renewal of Mining Lease by SECL Ltd.	Madhya Pradesh	18.9	Coal
458	Opencast Mining in F/O WCL, Damua Region	Madhya Pradesh	8.5	Coal
459	Mining Lease to M/s SECL	Madhya Pradesh	36	Coal
460	ML to M/s NCL (Amlorhi Coal Project)	Madhya Pradesh	300	Coal
461	Mining Lease to Western Coalfields Limited	Madhya Pradesh	169.668	Coal
462	Mining Lease to South Eastern Coal Fields Limited (Dhanpuri Project)	Madhya Pradesh	351.205	Coal
463	Mining Lease to SECL	Madhya Pradesh	309	Coal
464	Mining Lease to M/s WCL in Pathakhera	Madhya Pradesh	1349.248	Coal
465	Mining Lease to NCFL Jayant Opencast Project	Madhya Pradesh	68.29	Coal
466	Mining Lease to Western Coal Fields Limited (WCL)	Madhya Pradesh	39.809	Coal
467	Mining Lease to South Eastern Coal Fields Ltd. Hasdeo Area	Madhya Pradesh	55.03	Coal
468	ML to M/s WCL for Neharia Underground Coal Mines	Madhya Pradesh	206.562	Coal
469	Mining Lease to M/s WCL	Madhya Pradesh	35.966	Coal
470	Mining Lease to BLA Industries Under Dharamtal Coal Project	Madhya Pradesh	158.714	Coal
471	Mining Lease to Western Coalfields Limited	Madhya Pradesh	157.545	Coal
472	Mining Lease to NCFL Jayant Opencast Project	Madhya Pradesh	100	Coal
473	Mining Lease to M/s WCL	Madhya Pradesh	83.083	Coal
474	Mining Lease to SECL	Madhya Pradesh	126.372	Coal

1	2	3	4	5
475	Surface Right to SECL & U/G Mining of Coal	Madhya Pradesh	747.92	Coal
476	Mining Lease to WCL (Pathakheda)	Madhya Pradesh	44.473	Coal
477	Mining Lease to M/s WCL (Thesgera - MA -Thani Project)	Madhya Pradesh	215.303	Coal
478	Mining Lease to South Eastern Coal Fields Limited	Madhya Pradesh	216.147	Coal
479	Mining Lease to NCL for Jayant OCP Coal Mining	Madhya Pradesh	50.881	Coal
480	ML to M/s WCL for Shobhapur Underground Coal Mining Project	Madhya Pradesh	42	Coal
481	Mining Lease to M/s WCL (Tawa Project)	Madhya Pradesh	195.2	Coal
482	Mining Lease to N D M C for mining of Diamond	Madhya Pradesh	74.018	Diamond
483	Renewal of Dolomite Mining Lease M/s Orissa Cement	Madhya Pradesh	19.22	Dolomite
484	Renewal of Dolomite Mining Lease by Shri Sanjeev Kumar Gupta	Madhya Pradesh	1	Dolomite
485	Dolomite Mining Lease by Shri Arunkumar Dongsarey	Madhya Pradesh	1.4	Dolomite
486	Dolomite Mining Lease by KU. Salyadha Sipten	Madhya Pradesh	3.4	Dolomite
487	Mining Lease to MP State Mineral Corporation Limited	Madhya Pradesh	29.036	Granite
488	Mining Lease to MP State Mineral Corporation Limited	Madhya Pradesh	44.645	Granite
489	Mining Lease to M.P. State Minerals Corpn.	Madhya Pradesh	50	Granite
490	Mining Lease to BALCO	Madhya Pradesh	35.855	Iron Ore
491	Mining Lease to Maihar Cements Company	Madhya Pradesh	163.898	Lime Stone
492	Renewal of Mining Lease by M/s. Pacific Minerals Pvt. Ltd	Madhya Pradesh	10	Manganese Ore

1	2	3	4	5
493	Renewal of Mining Lease by M/s. Pacific Minerals	Madhya Pradesh	20	Manganese Ore
494	Manganese Ore Mining by Prafull Chand J. Trivedi	Madhya Pradesh	4.959	Manganese Ore
495	Mining Lease to M/s J.K. Minerals	Madhya Pradesh	33	Manganese Ore
496	Renewal of Mining Lease by M/s. Swastik Bagda Tiles	Madhya Pradesh	0.364	Marble
497	Renewal of Mining Lease by Shri Ghanshyam Yadav	Madhya Pradesh	5	NA
498	Renewal of Phairo Phulite Mining Lease by M.P. Mining Department	Madhya Pradesh	5	NA
499	Ochre Mining Lease by Sharadkumar Bansal	Madhya Pradesh	8	Ochre
500	Renewal of Mining Lease by Shri Surendra Singh Chauhan	Madhya Pradesh	0.402	NA
501	Renewal of Mining Lease by Shri Surendra Singh Chauhan	Madhya Pradesh	9.1	NA
502	Renewal of Mining Lease by Smt. Kirandevi Verma	Madhya Pradesh	2	NA
503	Renewal of Mining Lease by M/s. Jindutt Minerals	Madhya Pradesh	12.8	NA
504	Renewal of Diasphore/Pyrophyllite Mining Lease in F/O M/s Khajuraho Mineral	Madhya Pradesh	0.873	Pyrophyllite
505	Renewal of Farsi Pathar Mining Lease by Shri Ramakant Sharma	Madhya Pradesh	1	Stone
506	Renewal of Parsi Pathar Mining Lease Shri Dinesh Katare	Madhya Pradesh	1	Stone
507	Farsi Pathar Mining Lease by Shri Sanjay Shukla	Madhya Pradesh	1	Stone
508	Farsi Pathar Mining Lease by Shri Sanjay Katare	Madhya Pradesh	1	Stone
509	Renewal of Farsi Pathar Mining Lease by M/s. Devik Minerals.	Madhya Pradesh	4	Stone
510	Farsi Pathar Mining Lease by Shri Ramesh Narayan Tiwari	Madhya Pradesh	1	Stone

1	2	3	4	5
511	Farsi Pathar Mining Lease by Shri Nitesh Kumar	Madhya Pradesh	0.885	Stone
512	Farsi Pathar Mining Lease by Shri Bhupendra Singh Yadav	Madhya Pradesh	1	Stone
513	Farsi Pathar Mining Lease by Shri Akhilesh Chouksey	Madhya Pradesh	0.915	Stone
514	Farsi Pathar Mining Lease by Shri Arjun Singh Yadav	Madhya Pradesh	0.855	Stone
515	Farsi Pathar Mining Lease in Favour of Shri Jeevanlal Patel	Madhya Pradesh	4.5	Stone
516	Farsi Pathar Mining Lease by Shri Rajesh Yadav	Madhya Pradesh	1	Stone
517	Renewal of Quarry Lease for Farshi Stone	Madhya Pradesh	930.73	Stone
518	Mining Lease to M/s Indal & Construction of Road	Maharashtra	106.76	Aluminous Laterite
519	Durgapur Open Cast Mining by WCL	Maharashtra	80.77	Coal
520	Mining Lease to M/s WCL	Maharashtra	680.78	Coal
521	Mining Lease to M/s Western Coalfields Limited for Durgapur Opencast Mining Project	Maharashtra	172.54	Coal
522	Mining Lease to M/s WCL	Maharashtra	18.44	Coal
523	Mining Lease to M/s WCL	Maharashtra	26.44	Coal
524	Mining Lease to WCL	Maharashtra	5.66	Coal
525	Mining Lease to Manikgarh Cement	Maharashtra	24.96	Lime Stone
526	Extraction of Manganese Mining Lease by M/s Manganese Ore India Ltd	Maharashtra	6.81	Manganese Ore
527	Extraction of Manganese Mining Lease by M/s Manganese Ore India Ltd	Maharashtra	5.72	Manganese Ore
528	Mining Lease of Magnease by Gumgaon Khapa	Maharashtra	15.61	Manganese Ore
529	Extraction of Mangense Minerals by M/s Manganese Ore India Ltd	Maharashtra	0.97	Manganese Ore
530	Mining Lease by M/s. Manganese Ore India Ltd	Maharashtra	3.4	Manganese Ore
531	Mining Lease by M/s. Manganese Ore India Ltd	Maharashtra	12.15	Manganese Ore

1	2	3	4	5
532	Mining Lease by M/s. Manganese Ore India Ltd	Maharashtra	0.55	Manganese Ore
533	Mining Lease to Maganese Ore India Ltd	Maharashtra	37.82	Manganese Ore
534	Mining Lease to M/s Manganese Ore (I) Limited	Maharashtra	34.43	Manganese Ore
535	ML to Manganese Ore (India) Ltd	Maharashtra	59.21	Manganese Ore
536	Mining Lease to M/s Manganese Ore (I) Limited	Maharashtra	70.07	Manganese Ore
537	Forest Land for Metal Quarry & Forest Land for Grant of Renewal of Mining Lease	Maharashtra	0.85	NA
538	Grant of Mining Lease in Favour of M/s Sandip Stone	Maharashtra	0.92	Stone
539	Grant of Extraction Lease in Favour of M/s Hindustan Stone Company	Maharashtra	0.95	Stone
540	Mining Lease by M/s. Mukesh Stone	Maharashtra	1.17	Stone
541	Mining Lease by M/s. Raghuvansh Stone	Maharashtra	1.19	Stone
542	Mining Lease by M/s. Prabhat Stone	Maharashtra	1.328	Stone
543	Renewal of Mining Lease by M/s. Patel Querries	Maharashtra	1.165	Stone
544	Mining Lease by M/s. Manoj Stone	Maharashtra	1.2	Stone
545	Renewal of Mining Lease by M/s. D.R. Mhotre	Maharashtra	1.06	Stone
546	Mining Lease by M/s Mahavir Stone	Maharashtra	1.21	Stone
547	Renewal of Mining Lease by M/s. J.P. Shende	Maharashtra	1.05	Stone
548	Grant of Mining Lease for Traditional Stone Quarry Mukesh & Company	Maharashtra	1	Stone
549	Mining Lease by M/s. Harisiddha Stone	Maharashtra	1.478	Stone
550	Renewal of Mining Lease by M/s. D.N. Pawar	Maharashtra	0.66	Stone
551	Extraction Lease on The Permit Basis	Maharashtra	0.2	Stone
552	Mining Lease by M/s Uma Stone	Maharashtra	1.52	Stone
553	Renewal of Mining Lease by M/s. Mangal Singh & Co.	Maharashtra	1.47	Stone
554	Renewal of Mining Lease by M/s. Ravi Stone	Maharashtra	0.71	Stone
555	Mining Lease by Shri NG Ajawani	Maharashtra	1.42	Stone

1	2	3	4	5
556	Renewal of Mining Lease by M/s. Shah Ibrahim	Maharashtra	0.95	Stone
557	Mining Lease by M/s. B M Yadav	Maharashtra	1.04	Stone
558	Renewal of Mining Lease by M/s. Ram Stone Co.	Maharashtra	1.08	Stone
559	Mining Lease by M/s. Mumbra Stone	Maharashtra	1.22	Stone
560	Renewal of Mining Lease by M/s. P.S. Shendge	Maharashtra	0.98	Stone
561	Renewal of 32 Stone Quarry	Maharashtra	12.834	Stone
562	Mining Lease by M/s Patel Stone	Maharashtra	1.16	Stone
563	Renewal of Mining Lease by M/s. Vijay Traders	Maharashtra	1.03	Stone
564	Renewal of Mining Lease by M/s. V. M. Kurdukar	Maharashtra	1.11	Stone
565	Renewal of Mining Lease by M/s. M.A. Patil.	Maharashtra	1.26	Stone
566	Renewal of Mining Lease by M/s. Raji Tayade & Co	Maharashtra	0.81	Stone
567	Mining Lease by M/s Trishul Co.	Maharashtra	1	Stone
568	Renewal of Mining Lease by M/s. Sikandar Ebrahim Shaikh	Maharashtra	1.03	Stone
569	Mining Lease by M/s. Akshaya Industries	Maharashtra	2.28	Stone
570	Mining Lease by Shri K S Wekhande	Maharashtra	2.43	Stone
571	Mining Lease by M/s Jaydeep Minerals	Maharashtra	7.7	Stone
572	Mining Lease by M/s Jaydeep Minerals	Maharashtra	5.67	Stone
573	Mining Lease By Shri G R Nilapawar	Maharashtra	1.3	Stone
574	Mining Lease by Shri A R Baluch	Maharashtra	0.8	Stone
575	Renewal of Mining Lease by M/s H.M. Shaha	Maharashtra	1.72	Stone
576	Mining Lease by M/s Nimji Stone Co	Maharashtra	0.95	Stone
577	Mining Lease by M/s Rahul Stone Metal	Maharashtra	0.9	Stone
578	Mining Lease by M/s. Jaydeep Minerals	Maharashtra	2.65	Stone
579	Mining Lease by Shri D P Garg	Maharashtra	0.99	Stone
580	Mining Lease by Shri Vasantkumar Betharia	Maharashtra	0.99	Stone

1	2	3	4	5
581	Renewal of Mining Lease by M/s. Bombay Quarries	Maharashtra	1.29	Stone
582	Mining Lease by Shri Awtarsingh Sadana	Maharashtra	0.98	Stone
583	Mining Lease by Shri Ramchand Kawalramani	Maharashtra	0.96	Stone
584	Mining Lease by Shri Srichand Daswani	Maharashtra	0.98	Stone
585	Mining Lease by Shri Mahesh H Khedia	Maharashtra	0.99	Stone
586	Renewal of Mining Lease by M/s. Sanjay Stones	Maharashtra	1	Stone
587	Mining Lease by Shri Neeraj H. Khedia	Maharashtra	0.99	Stone
588	Renewal of Mining Lease by PWD	Maharashtra	2	Stone
589	Extraction of Minor Minerals by PWD	Maharashtra	4	Stone
590	Mining Lease by M/s.R.T Banode	Maharashtra	2.832	Stone
591	Mining Lease by M/s Sabir Stone	Maharashtra	1.99	Stone
592	Mining Lease by M/s. B R Akre	Maharashtra	2.832	Stone
593	Mining Lease by M/s. SSS Enterprises	Maharashtra	1.119	Stone
594	Mining Lease by M/s.Saleem Ahmed	Maharashtra	0.99	Stone
595	Mining Lease by M/s. Indirabai Girade	Maharashtra	3.6	Stone
596	Mining Lease by Shri L B Pitale	Maharashtra	1.0929	Stone
597	Extraction of Minor Minerals by M/s. Shyamsunder	Maharashtra	1.005	Stone
598	Mining Lease by M/s.Rajesh Jaiswal	Maharashtra	1.45	Stone
599	Mining Lease by M/s Sawala Traders	Maharashtra	0.95	Stone
600	Mining Lease by M/s Shah Brothers	Maharashtra	0.98	Stone
601	Mining Lease by M/s.Patel Brothers	Maharashtra	2.91	Stone
602	Mining Lease by Shri Chandrajit Singh Bagga	Maharashtra	1.61	Stone
603	Mining Lease by M/s Laxmi Stones	Maharashtra	2.42	Stone
604	Mining Lease by M/s D176 Swastik Complex	Maharashtra	2.02	Stone
605	Mining Lease by M/s Mahavir Stones	Maharashtra	1.218	Stone
606	Mining Lease by M/s Jameel Ahmed	Maharashtra	2.02	Stone
607	Mining Lease by Shri Choltram B. Kubnani	Maharashtra	1.011	Stone
608	Mining Lease by Shri R J Purushwani	Maharashtra	2.023	Stone

1	2	3	4	5
609	Mining Lease by Shri Shyamial Jaswani	Maharashtra	4.046	Stone
610	Traditional Stone Quarry by M/s. Karveer Kamgar Labour Society	Maharashtra	4.04	Stone
611	Mining Lease by M/s. Pavri Kyanite	Maharashtra	6.5589	Stone
612	Mining Lease by Smt. Baranbai Sitaram Kamble	Maharashtra	0.809	Stone
613	Mining Lease by M/s. Akil Ahmed	Maharashtra	1.011	Stone
614	Mining Lease by Smt. Kanchan Shankarlal Chordia	Maharashtra	1.62	Stone
615	Renewal of Mining Lease Favouring N G Ajwani for Stone Quarry	Maharashtra	1.42	Stone
616	68 Traditional Quarry Lease	Maharashtra	9.711	Stone
617	Renewal of Traditional Stone Quarry	Maharashtra	128.828	Stone
618	Extraction of Minor Minerals (Stone) Favouring CIDCO	Maharashtra	138.07	Stone
619	Mining Lease to Indial Aluminum Ltd	Orissa	45.46	Aluminium
620	Dhanurjaypur Chromite Mines of IMFA	Orissa	0.339	Chromite
621	Mining Lease to Mishra Lal Mines (P) Ltd	Orissa	224.63	Chromite
622	Mining Lease to M/s Faccor Limited	Orissa	187.03	Chromite
623	ML to ICCL	Orissa	63.91	Chromite
624	Mining Lease to M/s Aoikath for Chromite Mining	Orissa	14.836	Chromite
625	Mining Lease for Kallapani Chromite Mines by M/s. Jindal Strips Limited	Orissa	22.8	Chromite
626	Mining Lease to M/s Facor	Orissa	113.312	Chromite
627	Mining Lease for Sukinda Chromite Mines to Tisco Ltd	Orissa	73.697	Chromite
628	Mining Lease to M/s B.C. Mohanty	Orissa	101.85	Chromite
629	Mining Lease to IDC Ltd	Orissa	17.483	Chromite
630	Mining Lease to Facor	Orissa	68.424	Chromite
631	Kaniha OCP in Lingaraj Area of MCL	Orissa	2.307	Coal
632	Mining Lease for Belpahar OCP by Mahanandi Coal Fields Ltd	Orissa	103.52	Coal

1	2	3	4	5
633	Mining Lease to M/s SECL	Orissa	35.152	Coal
634	Mining Lease to M/s SECL in Telchar	Orissa	193.743	Coal
635	Mining Lease to M/s Talchar Colleiry	Orissa	33.925	Coal
636	Mining Lease for Samaleswari OCP by M/s MCL	Orissa	167.232	Coal
637	Mining Lease to Mahanandi Coal Fields Ltd	Orissa	227.89	Coal
638	Mining Lease to Mahanandi Coal Fields Ltd for Bhubneshwari OCP	Orissa	112.521	Coal
639	Mining Lease to Maha Nandi Coal Fields Ltd	Orissa	21.58	Coal
640	Mining Lease for Bharatpur to M/s SECL in Telchar	Orissa	74.64	Coal
641	Anantha Extension Opencast Project in Favour of Mahanadi Coal Fields Limited	Orissa	62.67	Coal
642	Mining Lease for Chhendipada to M/s MCL	Orissa	24.3	Coal
643	Mining Lease to Mahanandi Coal Fields Ltd Basundhara (West)	Orissa	149.5	Coal
644	Jagannath Extension Opencast Project of Mahanadi Coalfields Limited	Orissa	58.096	Coal
645	Nandira Underground Coal Mine of Talcher Area of Mahanadi Coalfields Limited	Orissa	325.38	Coal
646	Underground Coal Mining in Natraj in Favour of Mahanadi Coalfields Limited	Orissa	289.656	Coal
647	Mining Lease to Essel Mining Industries	Orissa	152.229	Dolomite
648	Talabasta Fireclay Mines of JPKP Jhunjhunwala	Orissa	19.62	Fire Clay
649	Fireclay Mining by M/s Konark Minerals Ltd	Orissa	19.5	Fire Clay
650	Mining Lease to K.C. Pradhan	Orissa	39.582	Fire Clay
651	Mining Lease to Tata Refractories	Orissa	58.5	Fire Clay
652	Mining Lease to K.C. Pradhan	Orissa	31.313	Fire Clay
653	Graphite Mining by FC Agrawal	Orissa	4.876	Graphite
654	Graphite Mining by M/s T.P. Mineral Industries	Orissa	12.75	Graphite
655	Mining Lease to Girdharilal Agrawal	Orissa	23.24	Graphite

1	2	3	4	5
656	Mining of Iron Ore by M/s Feegrade and Company in Bonai Forest Division	Orissa	39.309	Iron Ore
657	Iron Ore Mining in Village Patabeda of Bonai Subdivision by M/s M.G. Mohanty	Orissa	12.058	Iron Ore
658	Mining Lease to M/s M.G. Mohanty of Bhubaneswar.	Orissa	23.581	Iron Ore
659	Kalaparbat Iron Mines of BD Patnaik	Orissa	18.02	Iron Ore
660	Baglaburu Iron Mines of OMC Ltd	Orissa	17.083	Iron Ore
661	Jaribahal Iron Mines of M/s Patnaik Minerals	Orissa	3.179	Iron Ore
662	Balita Iron Mines of S. Pradhan	Orissa	18.347	Iron Ore
663	Raikela Iron Mines of SN Mohanty	Orissa	14.618	Iron Ore
664	Iron Ore Mining by Sh. J. N. Patnaik in Village Bhanjapalli and Koira	Orissa	3.921	Iron Ore
665	Mining Lease in F/O Shri Rudrasen Sindhu M/s Rohtak Engineering Company	Orissa	41.839	Iron Ore
666	Mining Lease to DC Jain	Orissa	16.464	Iron Ore
667	Mining Lease to OMC Ltd	Orissa	41.34	Iron Ore
668	Mining Lease to Rungta Mines Ltd	Orissa	15.95	Iron Ore
669	Mining Lease to M/s Lal Trades & Agencies Pvt Limited	Orissa	117.84	Iron Ore
670	Mining Lease to OMC Ltd	Orissa	142.73	Iron Ore
671	Mining Lease to Khatau Narbherum of Co.	Orissa	27.1	Iron Ore
672	Mining Lease to OMC Ltd	Orissa	77	Iron Ore
673	Mining Lease to Orissa Mining Corporation Limited in Kurmitar Mines	Orissa	28.802	Iron Ore
674	Mining Lease to OMDC Ltd	Orissa	702.053	Iron Ore
675	Mining Lease to OMC Ltd in Rolda 'C' Iron & Manganese Mines	Orissa	96.783	Iron Ore
676	Mining Lease to National Enterprises	Orissa	37.317	Iron Ore
677	Mining Lease to Rungta Mines Pvt Ltd	Orissa	80.94	Iron Ore
678	Mining Lease in F/O M/s Rungta Sons (P) Limited	Orissa	52.742	Iron Ore
679	Mining Lease to M/s OMC Limited in South Kallapani Chromite Mines	Orissa	306.047	Iron Ore

1	2	3	4	5
680	Mining Lease to Keypee Enterprises	Orissa	42.843	Iron Ore
681	Mining Lease in Favour of M/s Kaypee Enterprises For Thakurani Iron Ore Mines	Orissa	146.726	Iron Ore
682	Mining Lease in F/O Orissa Mining Corporation Limited	Orissa	95.6	Iron Ore
683	Mining Lease to Sall in Bolani Iron Ore Mines	Orissa	1050.15	Iron Ore
684	Mining Lease to KJS Abluwalia	Orissa	371.192	Iron Ore
685	Mining Lease to S. Pradhaji for Kalaparnat Iron Ore Mines	Orissa	52.002	Iron Ore
686	Mining Lease to Rungta Sons (P) Ltd	Orissa	60.616	Iron Ore
687	Mining Lease to Tisco Limited	Orissa	521.622	Iron Ore
688	Mining Lease to NALCO	Orissa	300	Iron Ore
689	Mining Lease to M/s Ghanshyam Mishra & Sons	Orissa	518.77	Iron Ore
690	Mining Lease to Smt Maitri Sukla	Orissa	54.4	Iron Ore
691	Mining Lease to Essel Mining and Industries Ltd	Orissa	75.489	Iron Ore
692	Mining Lease to M/s Indra Metals & Ferro Alloys Limited	Orissa	26.62	Iron Ore
693	Mining Lease to Gandhamardhase Sponge Industries (P) Ltd	Orissa	19.5157	Iron Ore
694	Mining Lease to Jindal Strips Ltd	Orissa	36.422	Iron Ore
695	Mining Lease to Sall	Orissa	465.62	Iron Ore
696	Mining Lease to OMDC Ltd in Belakundi Iron Ore Mines	Orissa	384.54	Iron Ore
697	Mining Lease to Rungta Mines (P) Ltd	Orissa	44.7	Iron Ore
698	Mining Lease to Sall in Barsuan Iron Mines	Orissa	395.639	Iron Ore
699	Mining Lease in F/O M/s Rungta Mines Limited	Orissa	53.55	Iron Ore
700	Mining Lease to R. P. Sao for Guali Iron Ore Mines	Orissa	42.417	Iron Ore
701	Mining Lease to S.L. Sarada and M. Sarada	Orissa	865.276	Iron Ore
702	Mining Lease for Langibarna Mines to Orissa Cement Ltd	Orissa	62.39	Lime Stone
703	Manganese ML of Sun Alloys & Minerals Ltd	Orissa	0.453	Manganese Ore

1	2	3	4	5
704	Inganijharan Iron & Mn. Mines of S. Pradhan	Orissa	15.316	Manganese Ore
705	Joruri Iron & Mn. Mines of Kalinga Mining Corp.	Orissa	6,008	Manganese Ore
706	Mining Lease to Mangilal Rungta	Orissa	139.736	Manganese Ore
707	Mining Lease to Bonal Industries Ltd	Orissa	38.026	Manganese Ore
708	Mining Lease to Serajudoline & Co.	Orissa	24.446	Manganese Ore
709	Mining Lease to AMTC (P) Ltd	Orissa	227	Manganese Ore
710	Mining Lease to A.M.T.C (P) Ltd	Orissa	244.327	Manganese Ore
711	Mining Lease to Bharat Process and Mechanical Eng.	Orissa	352.504	Manganese Ore
712	Mining Lease to Bharat Process and Malhn-Engineers	Orissa	119.502	Manganese Ore
713	Mining Lease to BP & ME Ltd	Orissa	167.187	Manganese Ore
714	Mining Lease to Aroy & B. Roy	Orissa	111.58	Manganese Ore
715	Renewal of Lease for Mahulsukha Manganese Ore Mines in Favour of M/s AMTC Pvt. Limited	Orissa	227	Manganese Ore
716	Mining of Pyrophyllite & Quartzite by S K Sahoo	Orissa	3.92	Pyrophyllite
717	Sukarna Quartz Mins by Sarwati Siau	Orissa	2.308	Quartz
718	Stone Quarry Part-IV by M/s Laxmi Stone Prod	Orissa	9	Stone
719	Stone Quarry by M/s Henraux (I) Pvt Limited	Orissa	9.847	Stone
720	Stone Quarry by M/s N.M. Panda, Swarnachuda	Orissa	17	Stone
721	Mining Lease to Hindustan Zinc Ltd	Orissa	72.16	Zinc
722	Mining Lease to M/s Rajasthan Barytes Limited	Rajasthan	31	Barytes
723	M/L of Byrites in Favour of M/s. Ramnarayan & Brothers	Rajasthan	8.315	Byrites
724	M/L of Barytes in Favour of Sri Ram Minerals	Rajasthan	3.789	Byrites
725	Mining Lease to M/s Wolkem India Limited	Rajasthan	41.652	Calcite
726	Mining Lease to M/s P.I Industries	Rajasthan	54.13	Calcite
727	Mining Lease to M/s Walken India Limited	Rajasthan	41.652	Calcite

1	2	3	4	5
728	M/L of Calcite in Favour of M/s. Modi Mineral Grinding Mills	Rajasthan	12.259	Calcite
729	M/L of Calcite in Favour of Modi Minerals Grinding Mills Ltd.	Rajasthan	16.22	Calcite
730	Mining Lease to M/s Ojha & Company	Rajasthan	32.37	China Clay
731	Mining Lease to Modi Minerals	Rajasthan	12.375	China Clay
732	Mining Lease to M/s Modi Lanigated Kaoling	Rajasthan	40	China Clay
733	Mining Lease to M/s Modi Lanigated Kaoling	Rajasthan	21	China Clay
734	Mining Lease to M/s Hindustan Copper Limited	Rajasthan	161.83	Copper
735	Mining Lease to M/s Hindustan Copper Limited	Rajasthan	165.175	Copper
736	Mining Lease to M/s Hindustan Copper Limited	Rajasthan	95.51	Copper
737	M/L of Dolomite in Favour of MS. Modi Minerals & Grinding Mills	Rajasthan	7.425	Dolomite
738	M/L for Fireclay in Favour of R.M.Gupta	Rajasthan	4.7305	Fire Clay
739	M/L of Fireclay in Favour of Satish Mohan Gupta	Rajasthan	3.746	Fire Clay
740	M/L of Flourspar in Favour of R S M D C	Rajasthan	2.29	Flourspar
741	M/L of Felspar in Favour of R S M D C	Rajasthan	1.774	Flourspar
742	M/L of Flourspar in Favour of R S M D C	Rajasthan	16.44	Flourspar
743	M/L of Flourspar in Favour of R S M D C	Rajasthan	10.54	Flourspar
744	Mining Lease to RSMDC	Rajasthan	27.888	Flouspar
745	Mining Lease to RSMDC	Rajasthan	5.788	Flouspar
746	Renewal of Mining Lease to Rajasthan State Mineral Development Corporation Limited	Rajasthan	60.503	Flouspar
747	Mining Lease to Supreme Marbles and Granite	Rajasthan	30.5116	Granite
748	M/L of Granite in Favour of 8 L/H	Rajasthan	13.7	Granite
749	M/L for Granite in Favour of 3 L/H	Rajasthan	6	Granite
750	M/L of Granite in Favour of 3 L/H	Rajasthan	4.02	Granite
751	M/L of Granite in Favour of 7 LH	Rajasthan	14.476	Granite
752	M/L of Granite in Favour of 2 L H	Rajasthan	2.372	Granite

1	2	3	4	5
753	ML of Granite in Favour of Nagrin Granite	Rajasthan	1	Granite
754	ML of Granite in Favour of 2 LH	Rajasthan	2.9553	Granite
755	ML of Granite in Favour of Nidhi Granite	Rajasthan	4	Granite
756	ML of Granite in Favour of 4 L/H	Rajasthan	5.2353	Granite
757	ML of Granite in Favour of 2 Lessee	Rajasthan	4.015	Granite
758	ML of Granite in Favour of 3 L/H-A	Rajasthan	2	Granite
759	ML of Granite in Favour of Two LH	Rajasthan	2.7324	Granite
760	ML for Granite in Favour of 3 LH	Rajasthan	6.65	Granite
761	ML of Granite in Favour of 2 L H-A	Rajasthan	2.204	Granite
762	ML of Granite in Favour of Chaganram	Rajasthan	1	Granite
763	ML of Granite in Favour of Kastura Ram	Rajasthan	1	Granite
764	ML Granite in Favour of 5 LH	Rajasthan	9.4845	Granite
765	ML of Granite in Favour of Aggarwal Minerals	Rajasthan	1	Granite
766	ML of Granite in Favour of Mangal Granites	Rajasthan	1	Granite
767	ML of Granite in Favour of Sri Maluram	Rajasthan	1.33	Granite
768	ML of Granite in Favour of Nidhi Granites	Rajasthan	3	Granite
769	ML of Granite in Favour of Ibrahim Khan	Rajasthan	1	Granite
770	ML of Granite in Favour of 2 L H	Rajasthan	3.357	Granite
771	Mining Lease to Rajasthan State Mineral Dev. Corp. Ltd	Rajasthan	102.6136	Gypsum
772	ML of Iron Ore Infavour of Nandlal Aggarwal	Rajasthan	7.913	Iron Ore
773	ML of Iron Ore in Favour of Nandlal Aggarwal	Rajasthan	19.6	Iron Ore
774	ML to M/s Hindustan Lime Limited	Rajasthan	114.94	Lime Stone
775	Mining Lease to M/s ACC Cement Works	Rajasthan	108	Lime Stone
776	Mining Lease to ACC Ltd	Rajasthan	28	Lime Stone
777	Mining Lease to M/s Lucky Minimal (P) Limited	Rajasthan	40	Lime Stone
778	Mining Lease to Birla Cement Works	Rajasthan	27.13	Lime Stone
779	Mining Lease to Udaipur Mineral Development Dydicate	Rajasthan	641.86	Lime Stone

1	2	3	4	5
780	M/L in Favour of ACC Cement at Saandelhala	Rajasthan	13.5	Lime Stone
781	M/L of Lime Stone in Favour of Shri Gappu Lal Modi	Rajasthan	0.9893	Lime Stone
782	M/L of Limestone in Favour of Shri Om Prakash Gupta	Rajasthan	9.08	Lime Stone
783	M/L of Limestone in Favour of K.C. Vyas and P.L. Vyas	Rajasthan	6.355	Lime Stone
784	M/L of Maginate in Favour of Ram Singh	Rajasthan	0.86	Maginate
785	Mining Lease to 3 Lease Holders	Rajasthan	20.3078	Marble
786	Mining Lease to M/s Ganesh Kumar Agarwal	Rajasthan	27.3234	Marble
787	Mining Lease to 36 Mining Lease Holders in Rishabhdev Block	Rajasthan	281	Marble
788	ML to 50 Mining Leasers	Rajasthan	45.65	Marble
789	Mining Lease to 19 Lease-Holders	Rajasthan	45.9056	Marble
790	M/L of Marble in Favour of 6 L/H	Rajasthan	4.6921	Marble
791	M/L of Marble Stone in Favour of 3 L/H	Rajasthan	1.788	Marble
792	M/L of Marble in Favour of Smt. Gulkundi Devi	Rajasthan	0.5	Marble
793	M/L of Marble Stone I Favour of 2 Lessee	Rajasthan	1.6	Marble
794	M/L of Marble in Favour of Sri Abdul Sattar	Rajasthan	1	Marble
795	M/L of Marble Stone in Favour of 7LH	Rajasthan	3.401	Marble
796	M/L of Marble in Favour of Kishan Aggarwal	Rajasthan	1	Marble
797	M/L for Mica, Felspar in Favour of Srimati Shakuntala Gupta	Rajasthan	2	Mica, Felspar
798	M/L of Chejatatthar in Favour of Sri Prabhulal Gurjar	Rajasthan	0.3125	NA
799	Mining Lease to Vishnu Kr. Agrawal	Rajasthan	12.899	Quartz
800	M/L of Quartz in Favour of Shri Rakesh Kumar & Co.	Rajasthan	4.1753	Quartz
801	M/L of Quartz and Felspar in Favour of West Chemical Limestone Industries	Rajasthan	10.05	Quartz
802	M/L of Silica Sand & Quartz in Favour of G.L. Modi	Rajasthan	2.3225	Quartz
803	M/L of Quartz in Favour of Shrimati Madhu Aggarwal	Rajasthan	5.15	Quartz

1	2	3	4	5
804	Mining Lease to M/s Rajasthan State Mines & Minerals Limited	Rajasthan	270.795	Rock-Phosphate
805	Mining Lease to K.L. Ghatiwala	Rajasthan	104.34	Sand Stone
806	Mining Lease to 6 Lease Holders	Rajasthan	23.89	Sand Stone
807	Mining Lease to 35 Lease Holders	Rajasthan	38.04	Sand Stone
808	Mining Lease to 4 Lease Holders	Rajasthan	14.4006	Sandstone
809	Mining Lease to M/s K.L. Ghatiwala	Rajasthan	41.6	Sand Stone
810	Mining Lease to Nirmai Kumar Jindal	Rajasthan	7.9	Sandstone
811	M/L of Sand Stone in Favour of 10 Person	Rajasthan	13.039	Sand Stone
812	M/L of Sand Stone in Favour of 16 L/H	Rajasthan	18.21	Sand Stone
813	M/L of Sandstone in Favour of 7 L/H	Rajasthan	7.95	Sandstone
814	M/L of Sand Stone in Favour of Sh. Rampal	Rajasthan	0.72	Sand Stone
815	Mining Lease of Sandstone in Favour of 8 L/H	Rajasthan	5.1322	Sand Stone
816	Mining of Sandstone in Favour of 9 L/H	Rajasthan	11.588	Sand Stone
817	M/L of Sandstone in Favour of Mohan Lal/Dultchand	Rajasthan	0.72	Sandstone
818	M/L of Sandstone in Favour of 7 L/H-A	Rajasthan	7.4666	Sandstone
819	M/L of Sandstone in Favour of 5 L/H-A	Rajasthan	5.4757	Sand Stone
820	M/L of Sandstone in Favour of 5 L/H/B	Rajasthan	5.5288	Sand Stone
821	M/L of Sandstone in Favour of 5 L/H	Rajasthan	7.72	Sandstone
822	M/L of Sandstone in Favour of 3 L/H	Rajasthan	3.243	Sand Stone
823	M/L of Sandstone in Favour of Sri Jaswant Singh	Rajasthan	0.349	Sandstone
824	M/L of Sandstone in Favour of Rajendra Kumar	Rajasthan	0.92	Sand Stone
825	M/L of Sandstone in Favour of Shrimati Rajkali Devi	Rajasthan	0.76	Sand Stone
826	M/L of Sandstone in Favour of Shri Ashok Kumar	Rajasthan	0.72	Sand Stone
827	M/L of Sand Stone in Favour of Salim	Rajasthan	1.5372	Sand stone
828	M/L of Sandstone in Favour of Kanhaiyalal	Rajasthan	0.72	Sand Stone
829	M/L of Sandstone in Favour of Sri Narendra Birla	Rajasthan	0.97	Sandstone

1	2	3	4	5
830	M/L of Sandstone in Favour of 5 L/H-C	Rajasthan	4.9577	Sand Stone
831	M/L of Sandstone in Favour of 2 L/H	Rajasthan	1.282	Sand Stone
832	M/L of Sandstone in Favour of 2 L/H	Rajasthan	4.276	Sand Stone
833	M/L of Sandstone in Favour of Shri Mishrilal	Rajasthan	1.0301	Sand Stone
834	M/L of Serpentine in Favour of 10 L/H	Rajasthan	12.734	Serpentine
835	Mining Lease to 31 Lease Holders	Rajasthan	30.7	Serpentina
836	M/L for Serpentine in Favour of Smt. Samrath Devi	Rajasthan	2.0256	Serpentine
837	Mining Lease to 7 Lease Holders	Rajasthan	118.7562	Silica Sand
838	Mining Lease to Mahavir Trading Co	Rajasthan	34.22	Soap Stone
839	Mining Lease to M/s Mahaveer Trading Company	Rajasthan	30.24	Soap Stone
840	Mining Lease to Laxmi Soap Stone	Rajasthan	8.2	Soap Stone
841	Mining Lease to Padam Chand Jain & Prakash Chand Jain	Rajasthan	22.0963	Soap Stone
842	Mining Lease to M/s Associated Soap Stone Dist Co (P) Limited	Rajasthan	1.66	Soap Stone
843	Mining Lease to Associated Soap Stone Distributing Co (P) Ltd	Rajasthan	8.646	Soap Stone
844	Mining Lease to M/s Mangilal Dadwania	Rajasthan	32.37	Soap Stone
845	Mining Lease to Laxmi Soap Stone Mines	Rajasthan	24.8016	Soap Stone
846	Mining Lease to M/s Oriental Talc Prod Limited	Rajasthan	8.9087	Soap Stone
847	Mining Lease to Oriental Talc Products Pvt. Ltd	Rajasthan	36.6107	Soap Stone
848	Mining Lease to M/s Associated Soap Stone Distributing Co (P) Limited	Rajasthan	70.4	Soap Stone
849	Mining Lease to M/s Natwaya Minerals India (P) Limited	Rajasthan	31.91	Soap Stone
850	Mining Lease to M/s Natwaya Minerals Industries (P) Limited	Rajasthan	31.39	Soap Stone
851	Mining Lease in F/O of Sh Shah Kastoor Mal	Rajasthan	25.78	Soap Stone
852	Mining Lease to M/s Krishna Minerals & Traders	Rajasthan	24.63	Soap Stone
853	M/L of Soap Stone in Favour of Sh. Sohan Singh	Rajasthan	9	Soap Stone
854	M/L of Soapstone in Favour of M/s Ashoka Minerals	Rajasthan	4.46	Soap Stone

1	2	3	4	5
855	M/L for Soapstone in Favour of Amrik Singh	Rajasthan	19.14	Soap Stone
856	M/L of Soapstone in Favour of M/s Associated Soapstone Distributory Co.	Rajasthan	17.83	Soap Stone
857	M/L of Soap Stone in Favour of M/s Associated Soapstone Distributing Company	Rajasthan	6.55	Soap Stone
858	M/L of Soap Stone in Favour of Dhartidharan Pvt. Ltd	Rajasthan	17.83	Soap Stone
859	M/L Soap Stone in Favour of Shah Kastoor Mal	Rajasthan	7.64	Soap Stone
860	M/L of Soapstone in Favour of M/s Industrial Mineral Suppliers	Rajasthan	6	Soap Stone
861	M/L of Soap Stone in Favour of Associated Soapstone Distributaries	Rajasthan	12.72	Soap Stone
862	M/L of Soapstone in Favour of Kantilal Shah	Rajasthan	6.6	Soap Stone
863	M/L of Soap Stone in Favour of M/s Associated Soap Stone Distributaries	Rajasthan	1.9	Soap Stone
864	M/L of Soap Stone in Favour of Subhash Chand Singhal	Rajasthan	10.966	Soap Stone
865	M/L of Soapstone in Favour of Prakash Jain	Rajasthan	8.4	Soap Stone
866	M/L of Soapstone in Favour of Sri Laxmi Chand Gupta	Rajasthan	4.9616	Soap Stone
867	M/L of Soap Stone in Favour of Nirmal Kumar Patni	Rajasthan	4.99	Soap Stone
868	M/L of Soapstone in Favour of Dhartidhan Pvt. Ltd.	Rajasthan	14.47	Soap Stone
869	Mining Lease to Mine Owners	Rajasthan	77.834	Stone
870	Mining Lease to 42 Lease Holders	Rajasthan	59.748	Stone
871	Mining Lease to 20 Lease Holders	Rajasthan	26.08	Stone
872	M/L of Marble in Favour of Shri Akshay Deep Mathur	Rajasthan	0.44	Stone
873	M/L of Masonary Stone in Favour of 41 L/H	Rajasthan	6.847	Stone
874	M/L of Masonary Stone in Favour of 55 L/H	Rajasthan	14.384	Stone
875	M/L of Masonary Stone in Favour of 21 L/H	Rajasthan	8.6656	Stone
876	M/L of Masanory Stone in Favour of Satya Narayan Chamar	Rajasthan	2.34	Stone

1	2	3	4	5
877	M/L of Masonary Stone in Favour of Babulal Sharma	Rajasthan	0.72	Stone
878	M/L of Cheza Stone in Favour of 4 L/H	Rajasthan	3.6849	Stone
879	M/L of Masanory Stone in Favour of 11 L/H	Rajasthan	7.5999	Stone
880	M/L of Cheza Stone in Favour of 2 L/H	Rajasthan	1.5362	Stone
881	M/L of Masonary Stone in Favour of Laburam	Rajasthan	1	Stone
882	M/L Masonary Stone in Favour of JK Stone	Rajasthan	1	Stone
883	M/L of Masonary Stone in Favour of Shri Dashrath Singh	Rajasthan	0.077	Stone
884	M/L of Masonary Stone in Favour of 5 L/H	Rajasthan	5.279	Stone
885	M/L of Marble in Favour of Shri Ashok Kumar	Rajasthan	1	Stone
886	M/L of Masonary Stone in Favour of 2 L/H-B	Rajasthan	3.644	Stone
887	Minings Lease for Masonary Stone in Favour of Sri Gupal Singh	Rajasthan	0.66	Stone
888	M/L of Masonary Stone in Favour of Sri Akhraj Jatav and Shrimati Batti Sai	Rajasthan	2.6464	Stone
889	M/L of Masonary Stone in Favour of Laxmi Narayan Meena for 3 L/H	Rajasthan	2.742	Stone
890	M/L for Masonary Stone in Favour of M/s Shanker Industry	Rajasthan	2.8548	Stone
891	M/L of Cheza Stone in Favour of Siraj Mohammed	Rajasthan	0.335	Stone
892	M/L of Masonary Stone in Favour of Yogesh Soni	Rajasthan	0.362	Stone
893	M/L of Masonary Stone in Favour of Shri Khem Ram	Rajasthan	0.5	Stone
894	M/L of Masonary Stone in Favour of 2 L/H	Rajasthan	1.25	Stone
895	M/L of Masonary Stone in Favour of Devanand	Rajasthan	1.658	Stone
896	M/L of Masonary Stone in Favour of Yogesh Saini	Rajasthan	0.795	Stone
897	M/L of Masonary Stone in Favour of Raghunath Meena & R S Meena	Rajasthan	0.595	Stone
898	M/L of Masonary Stone in Favour of Vinod K Aggarwal	Rajasthan	1.4945	Stone

1	2	3	4	5
899	ML of Masonary Stone in Favour of M/s Laxmi Stone Store Crusher Co.	Rajasthan	1.9084	Stone
900	ML of Masonary Stone in Favour of Mohammed Kasim	Rajasthan	1.121	Stone
901	ML of Cheza Stone in Favour of Mangilal	Rajasthan	0.3624	Stone
902	ML of Cheza Stone in Favour of Chiter Giri	Rajasthan	0.4	Stone
903	ML of Masonary Stone in Favour of Ram Sahai Meena	Rajasthan	0.3	Stone
904	ML of Cheza Stone in Favour of Sri Nanskram Meena	Rajasthan	0.33	Stone
905	ML of Masanory Stone in Favour of Shri Ram Kishor Meena	Rajasthan	0.424	Stone
906	ML of Masonary Stone in Favour of Ramji Lal Nath	Rajasthan	0.394	Stone
907	ML of Masonary Stone in Favour of Shri Mulchad	Rajasthan	1.29	Stone
908	ML of Masonary Stone in Favour of Devi Lal	Rajasthan	1.05	Stone
909	ML of Masonary Stone in Favour of Bhawar Singh	Rajasthan	1	Stone
910	ML of Marble Stone in Favour of M/s Shruti Marbles	Rajasthan	4.01	Stone
911	ML of Slab and Masonary Stone in Favour of 10 L/H	Rajasthan	8.6192	Stone
912	ML for Cheza Stone in Favour of M.R. Meena	Rajasthan	0.5935	Stone
913	Mining Lease to AS Mathur	Rajasthan	6.6345	White Clay
914	ML of White Clay in Favour of Durga Pd. Aggarwal	Rajasthan	5	White Clay
915	Quarrying of Black Granite in Palthur RF- BIT-I, II, III	Tamil Nadu	11.84	Granite
916	Mining Lease to M/s India Cement Limited	Tamil Nadu	96.71	Lime Stone
917	Mining Lease to M/s Tamil Nadu Minerals Limited	Tamil Nadu	177.96	Manganeseite
918	Lease for Stone Quarry	Tamil Nadu	7.3158	Stone
919	Mining Lease to M/s NCL for Bina Coal Mine	Uttar Pradesh	258	Coal
920	Krishnashila Opencast Project in Favour of Northern Coalfields Limited	Uttar Pradesh	235.99	Coal

1	2	3	4	5
921	Renewal of Mining Lease in Favour of M/S Himalayan Stones & Lime Co. Rishikesh	Uttaranchal	6.47	Lime Stone
922	Mining Lease to Almora Magnesite Ltd	Uttaranchal	111.8793	Manganesite
923	Mining Lease of Bauxite in Asena Patti-Koti-Paigul in Favour of THDC	Uttaranchal	9.45	Bauxite
924	Mining Lease to Pyrites Phosphate & Chemicals Ltd	Uttaranchal	44.34	Pyrites
925	Mining of Stone Sand in Katansyu Devad at Srikot Gangnali	Uttaranchal	1.61	Sand Stone
926	Mining Lease of Soap Stone in Favour of N S Corporation Jharkot	Uttaranchal	7.529	Soap Stone
927	Renwal of Magnesite/Soap Stone Mining Lease in Favour of N B Minerals Corp. at Village Dund	Uttaranchal	2.291	Soap Stone
928	Mining of Stone in Koteshwar Patti Jalansyu Srikot Gangnali by GMVN	Uttaranchal	1.42	Stone
929	Renewal of Mining Lease in Favour of M/s. Haldwani Stone Co. Otalkuan	Uttaranchal	8.9	Stone
930	Mining Lease to Arun Kumar Banerjee Prop of Java Clay Mines	West Bengal	8.44	Clay
931	Jaya Clay Mines	West Bengal	8.44	Clay
932	Parasea Open Cast Project of ECL	West Bengal	15.5	Coal
933	Mining to ECL	West Bengal	90.3	Coal
934	Mining Lease to Integrated Coal Mining (P) Ltd of CESCL	West Bengal	154.23	Coal

Sampling of Packaged Water

2771. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received representations from the representatives of packaged drinking water industry regarding sampling and investigations by Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS);

(b) if so, whether the Industry has requested for the provision of second sampling in case of failure of the first sample; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) and (b) Yes Sir.

(c) The decision of issuing stop marking instructions after receiving failure of the first sample, was taken in July, 2003. However, since stop marking orders amounted to temporary closure of the unit, which has caused difficulties to the BIS licensees, the procedure has been reviewed and amended in February, 2005.

**Revival of Fertilizers and Chemicals
Travancore Ltd. in Kerala**

2772. SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has any proposal to revive the Fertilizers and Chemicals Travancore Ltd. in Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reason for closure of the unit; and

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken to revive the unit?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The restructuring proposal of Fertilizers and Chemicals Travancore Ltd. (FACT) seeking certain reliefs/ concessions is under active consideration of the Government. Only the operation of Ammonia-Urea Plant has been stopped due to vintage of the plant and techno-economic non-viability. The other units of FACT are in operation.

Consumer Courts in Rural Areas

2773. SHRI S. K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the Consumer Courts set up in the rural areas of the country, State-wise particularly in Tamil Nadu;

(b) the nature and functions of the said Consumer Courts; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to set up more Consumer Courts in the rural areas of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) to (c) According to the provisions of the Consumer Protection Act, 1986, State Governments and UT Administrations are responsible to set up District Forum in each districts. They are also empowered to establish more than one District Forum in a district where it is justified. State Governments and UT Administrations decide the location of the district forum in

each district as per the provisions of the Consumer Protection Rules of the respective States/UTs.

The number of district forums set up in the country state-wise is given in the enclosed statement. In so far the State of Tamil Nadu is concerned names of the district forums as provided by the State Govt. is as under:

(1) Chennai South, (2) Chennai North, (3) Tiruchi, (4) Erode, (5) Madurai, (6) Srivilliputhur, (7) Nagarcoll, (8) Vellore & Tiruvannamallai, (9) Salem & Dharmapuri, (10) Coimbatore, (11) The Nilgiris, (12) Chengleput & Villupuram, (13) Cuddalore, (14) Thanjavur, (15) Nagapattinam, (16) Dindigul & Pudukkottai, (17) Sivagangai & Ramanathapuram, (18) Tirunelveli & Tuticorin, (19) Tiruvallur, (20) Tiruvarur, (21) Theni, (22) Namakkal, (23) Karur and (24) Perambalur. Six district forums are clubbed together making the total number as 30.

The consumer forums established under the Consumer Protection Act, 1986 are quasi-judicial in nature and their function is to adjudicate complaints of aggrieved consumers against any defects in the goods purchased or deficiencies in the services availed including the restrictive trade practices or unfair trade practices adopted by the trade or any person.

Statement

Consumer Courts in Rural Areas

State-wise details of District Forums in the Country

Sl.No.	State/UT	Number of District Forums
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	29
2.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	2
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	15
4.	Assam	23
5.	Bihar	37
6.	Chandigarh	2
7.	Chhattisgarh	16
8.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli/ Daman and Diu	2
9.	Delhi	9
10.	Goa	2

1	2	3
11.	Gujarat	19
12.	Haryana	19
13.	Himachal Pradesh	12
14.	Jammu and Kashmir	2
15.	Jharkhand	22
16.	Karnataka	30
17.	Kerala	14
18.	Lakshadweep	1
19.	Madhya Pradesh	45
20.	Maharashtra	34
21.	Manipur	8
22.	Meghalaya	7
23.	Mizoram	8
24.	Nagaland	8
25.	Orissa	31
26.	Pondicherry	1
27.	Punjab	17
28.	Rajasthan	33
29.	Sikkim	4
30.	Tamil Nadu	30
31.	Tripura	3
32.	Uttar Pradesh	70
33.	Uttaranchal	13
34.	West Bengal	20
Total		588

Misuse of Funds

2774. SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government is aware of

misuse of funds by the State Governments including Gujarat which were sanctioned for various tourism projects during the last five years;

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

(c) whether his Ministry has revealed that such projects which were funded by the Union Government during the last five years are still incomplete and the State Government has either diverted the funds or siphoned off several crores of rupees;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps the Government has taken/proposed to be taken to prevent such diversion and misutilisation of funds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Execution, implementation and maintenance/management of the project proposals sanctioned under various schemes of the Ministry of Tourism is the responsibility of the State Government concerned. However, Ministry of Tourism regularly monitors the progress of projects sanctioned under Central Financial Assistance.

(d) and (e) Does not arise.

EPF Scheme

2775. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Employees Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) proposes to restrict the facility of depositing additional amount each month over and above the statutory contribution by salaried employees covered under the EPF scheme;

(b) if so, whether EPFO will have to draw from its suspense account and expedite the recovery of its arrears to meet additional demand on account of increase in rate of interest; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRA SHEKHAR RAO): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

[Translation]

**Development of New Varieties of
Pulses and Oilseeds**

2776. **SHRI HEMMAL MURMU:** Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the initiatives the Government has taken to develop new varieties of crops like pulses and oil seeds produced by poor farmers in marginal areas and to make available new techniques to them;

(b) the details of varieties of pulses and oilseeds developed in the country at present;

(c) whether the Indian Agriculturists have taken any initiatives to study and the techniques adopted abroad to increase the varieties and production of pulses and oilseeds;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the measures taken by the Government to increase its share in International market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) The Indian Council of Agricultural Research has taken initiative to develop improved varieties of pulses and oilseeds with high yield potential and resistance to important diseases, such as, wilt in chickpea and pigeonpea, Yellow Mosaic Virus in mungbean, urdbean and soybean, downy mildew in sunflower, wilt in castor, blight in groundnut among others. Integrated pest management technology has been developed for control of *Helicoverpa* in chickpea and pigeonpea, cut worm, hairy caterpillar, and thrips in sunflower, castor, and other insect pests of oil seeds and pulses. Effective cytoplasmic male sterility system has been developed for the development of hybrids in pigeonpea. In addition, efforts are also made for developing short duration varieties which can resist drought. Low cost improved agronomic practices have been developed for marginal areas. Through front line demonstrations the Ministry of Agriculture & Cooperation has taken initiative to familiarize the farmers with the new technologies.

(b) Details of varieties/hybrids of various pulses and oil seeds released during the years 2001-04 are given in the enclosed statement.

(c) and (d) The Indian Council of Agricultural Research has active collaboration with international institutions, such as, International Crop Research Institute for Semi Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) and International Centre for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA) that are mandated with the development of improved varieties suitable for various countries. In addition, germplasm of pulses and oilseed crops from various countries is also evaluated under Indian conditions to test their suitability in our agriculture.

(e) At present, pulses are in short supply to meet domestic requirement. However, small quantity of pulses and oil seeds are exported. Technology is developed to manage the problem of quality, such as, *afatoxin* in groundnut, erucic acid in oil of rapeseed-mustard to enhance prospects for export. Steps are taken through a special scheme of Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperation, namely, Integrated Scheme on Oilseeds, Pulses, Oilpalm and Maize (ISOPOM), for increasing the production and productivity of oilseeds and pulses in the country.

Statement

List of Varieties of Pulses and Oilseeds Crops Released during the period 2001-04

Pulses	Varieties
Chickpea	RSG 888, HK 94-134, JKG 92337, Vihar (Phule G 9531), Haryana Chana 3 (HK 98-155), Anvita (RSG 931), RSG 963,
Pigeonpea	Laxmi (ICPL 85063), AKT 8811, Fuga 992, MA 6 (Malviya Vikash), GAUT 001E, GTH 1 (Hybrid), CORG 9701, NDA 98-1,
Mungbean	ML 818, Kamadeva (OUM - 11-5), Malviya Janchetna (HUM-12), IPM 99-125, COGG 912, TM 99-37,
Urdbean	KU 300, NDU 99-2, KU 96-3,
Lentil	NDL 94, KLS 218, HUL 57,
Fieldpea	IPF 27, IPF 99-25, IPFD 99-13,
Rajmash	IPR 96-4 (Amber), IPR 98-5,
Mothbean	RMO-435, CZM 45, CZM-99,
Cowpea	GC 9714, Co Vu- 702,
Horsegram	AK-42,
Guar	RGC-1017, RGM 112,

Oilseeds	Varieties
Groundnut	VG 9521, VRI (GN) 5, VRI (GN) 4, JSP 28, Dh 86, AK 159, TG 41, CSMG 9510, JSSP 15, TG 37 A, GPBD 4, JSP 35,
Rapeseed-Mustard	JTC-1, PC 5-17, TERI (OE) R-03 (TERI UNNAT), Geeta (RB 9901), Vasundhra (RH 9304), Swam Jyoti (RH 9801), Maya (RK9902), Mahon-8 (Shivalik), Fuga Swarnim (IGC-01), CS 614-4-1-4 (CS54), JD 6, RGN-48, RL-99-27, RK-01-03, GSC 5 (GSC3A),
Soybean	MAUS 61, LSb 1, Palam Soya, JS 93-95, MAUS 61-2, MAUS-71, RAUS 5 (Pratap Soya), MAUS 81, SL 525,
Sunflower	KBSH-44 (H), PSFH 118, HSFH 848, DRSF-108,
Safflower	NARI-NH-1 (PH-6), Phule Kusum (JLSF-414),
Castor	RHC-1, RG 109, RG 724, DCH 519,
Sesamum	JTS-8, Nirmala (OS Sel164), AKT-101, MT 75, Gujarat Til-10, Chandana, Prachi (ORM-17), Thilarani,

1	2
Niger	Gujarat Niger-1, JNC-6, JC-1, NRS-96-1, JNS-9, Birsra Niger-2 (Pooja),
Linseed	KL 21, SLS 27, RLU 6, RL 914, KL 224,

**Wildlife and Forest Tourism In
Uttar Pradesh**

2777. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Uttar Pradesh has vast potential of wildlife life and forest tourism; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to exploit the tourism potential in the State and the assistance provided to the State Government during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) It is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments/ Union Territory Administrations to identify and develop areas with tourism potential including wildlife and forest tourism.

In order to improve the tourism infrastructure in the States, Ministry of Tourism, Government of India, extends financial assistance for the tourism related projects which are identified in consultation with the State Governments/ UT Administrations under the schemes of Integrated development of Tourist Circuits, Product/Infrastructure and Destination Development; and Assistance for Large Revenue Generating Projects.

Details of projects sanctioned during the current financial year for Uttar Pradesh are as follows:-

(Rs. in lakhs)

S.No.	Name of the project	Amount sanctioned	Amount released
1	Development of (1) Ma Shakumbhari Devi Temple (2) Baba Haridas Mandir (3) Qutabe Alam Dargah at Gangoh in Saharanpur District.	49.28	40.00
2	Renovation of Radha Kund and Shyam Kund in Mathura District	145.35	116.28
3	Setting up of Modern Reception Centre at Gorakhpur	245.66	200.00
4	Renovation/Beautification of Kusum Sarovar at Govardhan (Distt. Mathura)	100.77	80.00
5	Extension and development Assi Ghat at Varanasi	464.78	362.00
6	Floodlighting of Mahatma Gandhi Statue at Hazrat Ganj and Vijay Stambh at La Martiniere College at Lucknow	11.84	10.75
7	GOI-UNDP Endogenous Tourism Project at village Bhaguwala in Sharanpur District.	19.75	15.50

**Meeting Between India and Nepal on
Utilisation of Water**

2778. SHRI MUNSHI RAM:

PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether dispute on sharing of rivers water between India and Nepal has been resolved;

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government of India and Nepal have recently held discussions with regard to cooperation in water resources and sharing of rivers water originating from Nepal;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the Government of Nepal are considering to lease land to India for construction of barrage on these rivers; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) Several rivers from Nepal enter India and bilateral agreements/ treaty have been entered to between the two countries to resolve the issue and pursue schemes jointly in order to develop water resources of these rivers. Following treaty/agreements have been signed between His Majesty's Government of Nepal and Government of India in the area of Water Resources:

- (i) Agreement on Sarda Barrage and Banbasa dated 23.8.1920
- (ii) Agreement on Gandak Project dated 4.12.1959 and revised agreement dated 30.4.1964.
- (iii) Revised agreement on Kosi dated 19.12.1966.
- (iv) Mahakali Treaty concerning integrated development of the Mahakali river including Sarda Barrage, Tanakpur Barrage and Pancheshwar Project signed on 12.2.1996.

(c) and (d) Discussions with Nepal are held as a follow up action of the above treaty/agreements. The India-Nepal Joint Committee on Water Resources headed by Secretary, Ministry of Water Resources, Government of India and Secretary, Water Resources HMG/Nepal held its 2nd meeting on 7-8th October 2004 in which bilateral issues on water resources were discussed. It was *inter alia* agreed that the feasibility study of the Kamla and preliminary study of the Kamla and preliminary study of Bagmati Multipurpose Projects would also be carried out by the Joint Project Office of Sapta Kosi – Sun Koshi Projects to ascertain the likely constraints in implementation of these projects so that these could be appropriately addressed.

(e) and (f) There is no such proposal.

[English]

Modernisation of ESI Network

2779. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is lack of specialist doctors, medical equipments and non-availability of medicines and inadequate number of ESI Hospitals/Dispensaries in the States including Maharashtra;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken for restructuring, upgrading and modernising the ESI network and for providing better services;
- (d) the expenditure incurred on the ESI Hospitals/Dispensaries in the country during the last three years, year-wise and State-wise; and
- (e) the number of employees getting medical facility during the said period, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRA SHEKHAR RAO): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However a few complaints have been received regarding untimely, non-availability of drugs, specialist doctors and medical equipments in some ESI Hospitals and dispensaries.

(c) The major steps taken for upgrading and modernizing the ESI medical care are:

- (i) Rs. 50 per IP family unit has been placed in a Revolving Fund to facilitate super-speciality treatment and reimbursements to insured persons.
- (ii) Action Plans for improving equipment availability and other services in Hospitals have been prepared.
- (iii) The State Govt. of Maharashtra has been sanctioned equipment worth more than Rs. 7 crores during the period 1999-2000 to 2003-2004.
- (iv) The State Govt. has been advised to operate the Central Rate Contracts for procurement of medicines to avoid delay in getting supplies of good quality.

(d) The desired information is given in enclosed statement-I.

(e) The desired information is given in enclosed statement-II.

Statement-I

Sl No.	Name of the State	Expenditure on Medical Care during 2001-2002 (Rs. In Lacs)	Expenditure on Medical Care during 2002-2003 (Rs. In Lacs)	Expenditure on Medical Care during 2003-2004 (Rs. In Lacs)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	5326.44	5064.47	7241.39
2.	Assam	459.92	407.44	311.53
3.	Bihar	553.06	430.73	407.70
4.	Chandigarh Admn.	197.94	207.41	214.75
5.	Chhattisgarh	253.44	277.94	308.45
6.	Delhi	6417.90	7432.11	8189.04
7.	Gujarat	6875.69	6772.23	6886.75
8.	Goa	417.15	435.76	768.04
9.	Haryana	2426.32	2599.24	2832.74
10.	Himachal Pradesh	229.59	228.75	220.55
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	80.08	83.02	86.28
12.	Jharkhand	547.63	507.46	509.10
13.	Karnataka	4813.22	4984.24	4815.64
14.	Kerala	3380.81	3514.76	4060.98
15.	Madhya Pradesh	2157.45	2369.93	2379.99
16.	Maharashtra	9884.83	10551.58	11010.05
17.	Meghalaya	23.12	23.28	24.60
18.	Orissa	1252.13	1315.45	1256.23
19.	Pondicherry	459.42	485.27	517.65
20.	Punjab	3137.27	3583.67	3120.03
21.	Rajasthan	2426.78	2144.56	2055.15
22.	Tamil Nadu	8033.04	7673.43	7695.91
23.	Uttar Pradesh	4572.62	4692.91	5053.40
24.	Uttaranchal	101.47	99.24	91.92
25.	West Bengal	6860.55	6867.32	6639.57
	Total	70,887.87	72,752.20	76,897.09

Statement-II

Sl. No.	Name of the State	2001-2002		2002-2003		2003-2004	
		IPs	Families	IPs	Families	IPs.	Families
1.	Andhra Pradesh	17,44,621	22,86,104	14,25,265	18,02,146	21,80,176	25,92,820
2.	Assam	38,515	32,487	33,686	31,713	36,488	34,775
3.	Bihar	25,055	28,118	57,765	44,361	67,088	46,528
4.	Chandigarh	94,646	62,954	87,143	56,733	80,761	48,546
5.	Delhi	18,51,024	31,39,117	16,64,290	24,44,111	18,15,184	26,39,721
6.	Goa	1,00,591	1,07,710	1,15,878	1,15,076	1,26,359	1,22,850
7.	Gujarat	14,76,622	22,61,553	11,88,084	15,61,687	13,80,060	19,20,667
8.	Haryana	5,56,704	7,54,380	5,60,887	7,46,879	6,19,366	8,51,267
9.	Himachal Pradesh	18,475	18,012	14,557	12,248	1,44,639	1,53,411
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	40,036	2,908	32,389	21,916	38,377	23,470
11.	Karnataka	11,21,824	12,71,962	10,39,877	11,90,926	10,38,935	11,65,544
12.	Kerala	23,43,052	25,67,693	16,78,440	17,52,264	16,55,741	20,07,930
13.	Madhya Pradesh	9,13,898	1,23,881	8,45,213	10,96,047	7,51,719	9,39,243
14.	Maharashtra	11,21,524	6,53,370	10,85,366	10,77,248	9,69,090	9,73,748
15.	Meghalaya	1,420	1,573	2,002	2,212	2,157	2,203
16.	Orissa	4,69,543	3,51,672	4,38,563	5,71,922	4,48,099	5,65,936
17.	Pondicherry	1,61,350	38,946	1,64,277	1,67,551	1,72,465	1,68,236
18.	Punjab	6,54,135	6,59,672	5,60,018	5,55,120	5,90,625	6,55,739
19.	Rajasthan	9,77,783	7,11,944	9,49,300	11,69,522	10,20,736	12,66,464
20.	Tamil Nadu	30,16,576	13,15,256	26,97,734	33,54,723	21,23,125	24,26,378
21.	Uttar Pradesh	3,54,465	2,31,537	7,50,943	8,40,045	5,90,638	6,72,002
22.	West Bengal	NR	NR	NR	NR	11,40,410	9,06,538
23.	Chhattisgarh	1,11,364	1,48,330	88,968	1,16,844	1,06,261	1,33,450
24.	Jharkhand	NR	NR	NR	NR	84,775	87,492
25.	Uttaranchal	NR	NR	NR	NR	36,360	42,378

Balpahari Dam Project

2780. SHRI NAVJOT SINGH SIDHU: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Damodar Valley Corporation proposes to revive the Balpahari Dam Project; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) For the proposed construction of Balpahari Dam Project on the river Barakar between Tilaiya and Maithon Dam in Jharkhand State, the Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC) has submitted the pre-feasibility Report to the concerned ministries and the participating State Governments of West Bengal and Jharkhand for their concurrence.

Encouragement of Sheep and Goat Rearers

2781. SHRI K.S. RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any schemes to encourage sheep and goat rears in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the quantum of meat exported to Gulf and African countries during each of the last three years; and

(d) the incentives proposed to be provided to sheep rearers as well as exporters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) Presently there is no Centrally Sponsored Scheme in the Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries to encourage sheep and goat rearers in the country. However, a Central Sheep Breeding Farm located at Hissar, District Hissar (Haryana) is engaged in the supply of high quality rams and bucks for sheep and goat development.

(c) The information is given in enclosed statement.

(d) Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) under the Ministry of Commerce and Industries has been operating various schemes under which financial assistance is provided to the exporters for creation of infrastructure, implementation of international quality systems such as Hazard Assessment and Critical Control Point (HACCP), ISO-9000 etc. setting up of in-house quality control laboratories, conducting surveys and feasibility studies, market development and packaging development etc.

Central Wool Development Board (CWDB) under the Ministry of Textiles also has some programmes for the benefit of shepherds.

Statement

Products	2001-02		2002-03		2003-04	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
Buffalo Meat						
Gulf	68130.53	32326.62	82455.31	37442.1	98802.27	48484.88
African countries	42218.92	20790.41	53695.71	22771.62	48700.48	18860.48
Sheep & Goat Meat						
Gulf	3768.86	3219.18	4631.91	3804.61	9792.11	7965.82
African countries	1.00	1.03	27.49	7.83	1000.67	375.47

Pollution Level Check Plan

2782. SHRI MADHU GOUD YASKHI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Union Government has drawn any plan for checking the pollution level in various forms in townships and cities having population of more than 3 lakhs;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the States are being provided any assistance by the Union Government under the said plan; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (d) Based upon the Ambient Air Quality Monitoring data, Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has identified 54 non-attainment cities in the country, most of which have population more than 3 lakhs. To control and regulate air pollution in these cities, CPCB has evolved guidelines which have been sent to the Governments of all the States/ Union Territories and Pollution Control Boards. State Governments in coordination with the Pollution Control Boards and local level authorities have initiated action plans in the identified cities. These action plans include measures for control of vehicular pollution, industrial pollution and burning of bio-mass. The Government has also taken various steps to control air pollution, which include the following:-

- Notification of general and source specific emission standards.
- Enforcement of auto exhaust emission standards for new vehicles at manufacturing stage.
- Improved fuel quality.
- Use of beneficiated coal in the thermal power stations.
- Regular monitoring for compliance of environmental standards in 17 categories of industries.
- A road map up to 2010 has been developed to control vehicular pollution for both the new and in-use vehicles.
- New emission norms for in-use vehicles have been implemented from October, 2004.

Incentive for Procurement

2783. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Conference of State Food Ministers adopted all the resolutions passed by the Conference of State Food Secretaries;

(b) if so, the extent to which these proposals have been implemented by the States so far;

(c) whether the Government has proposed a package of incentives for the State Governments for undertaking procurement and distribution through their designated agencies;

(d) if so, whether the State Government's have accepted the said proposals; and

(e) if so, by when it is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As per the recommendations of these conferences all the State Governments/UT administrations have been instructed, amongst other things, to ensure that all families at the risk of hunger including migrant labour/ displaced persons/homeless population are issued ration entitlement authority slips; priority is given to Cooperatives of women and Ex-servicemen in the matter of allotting Fair Price Shop licenses; priority is given in the allotment of Fair Price Shops to the legal heirs of a Fair Price licensing; publicizing the information about the scale of issue, the price of foodgrains, availability, etc.; procurement under decentralized procurement of foodgrains, so as to make the PDS more cost effective as well as to cater to local taste. The implementation of these recommendations by the State Governments/UTs are at various stages.

(c) to (e) Yes, Sir. Under the Decentralised Procurement Scheme, which is already under implementation in various States, the following additional components of costs have already been sanctioned for procurement by State agencies:-

- (i) Transportation cost from the procurement centre to the storage point and from the storage point to the milling point;
- (ii) Commission to societies at 1% of MSP;
- (iii) Payment of cost towards transportation of gunnies from rail heads to procurement centres; and
- (iv) Enhancement of milling rate of parboiled rice from Rs. 15 per quintal to Rs. 20 per quintal.

*[Translation]***Development of ESI Hospitals**

2784. SHRI CHANDRABHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the ESI has announced any scheme of developing model hospitals; and
- (b) if so, the details of such proposed hospitals, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRA SHEKHAR RAO): (a) and (b) ESIC in its meeting held on 16.02.2001 had decided to take over one ESI Scheme hospital in each State from the respective State Governments and to develop it as a model hospital. So far, 10 hospitals have been taken over at Nacharam, Hyderabad (Andhra Pradesh), Beltola, Guwahati (Assam), Phulwari Sharif, Patna (Bihar), Ranchi (Jharkhand), Rajajinagar, Bangalore (Karnataka), Asramam, Kollam Dist. (Kerala), Rourkela (Orissa), Ludhiana (Punjab), Jaipur (Rajasthan) and Sahibabad (Uttar Pradesh).

*[English]***Scarcity of Water**

2785. SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Tata Energy Research Institute has revealed that there will be shortage of water in most parts of the country in coming years;
- (b) if so, whether the efforts made by the Government to augment more resources to meet water scarcity have been proved ineffective; and
- (c) if so, the facts thereof and the steps the Government proposes to take to overcome the shortage of water in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) In some of the reports of Tata Energy Research Institute renamed as The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) there are references to reducing per capita water availability in view of population growth and uneven distribution of water temporarily and spatially. However, the assessment made in one of the reports that the per capita water availability in India will be less than 750 cubic metre

by 2050 is not supported by any analytical details. The National Commission for Integrated Water Resources Development Plan has concluded that the population of India will be 1640 million by the year 2050 and accordingly the per capita water availability has been worked out as 1140 cubic metre.

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

*[Translation]***Establishment of Environment Courts**

2786. SHRI TUKARAM GANPATRAO RENGE PATIL:
SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD:
SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD:

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken note of the observations made by the Hon'ble Supreme Court as well as Law Commission suggesting setting up of special environment courts to deal with the cases of violation of environmental laws;
- (b) if so, the steps taken by the Government so far in this regard;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to strengthen the institutional machinery at Central as well as State levels in order to ensure the implementation of anti-pollution laws and hold the head of the unit/agency responsible for any violations; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Law Commission, in its 186th Report, has inter alia recommended establishment of separate 'Environment Courts' at the State level consisting of judicial and scientific experts in the field of environment, for dealing with environmental disputes besides having appellate jurisdiction in respect of appeals under the various Pollution Control Laws. The recommendations of the report are under consideration of the Government.

(c) and (d) In order to strengthen the institutional mechanism at the Central and State levels, the Government has delegated powers under the Environment (Protection)

Act, 1986 to the Central Pollution Control Board, State Pollution Control Boards and Committees. Personal responsibility is provided under the environmental laws. For any offence committed, the person responsible is deemed to be guilty of the offence and proceeded against.

[English]

Development of Taj Mahal

2787. SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to promote domestic tourism on the eve of 350th Anniversary of "Taj Mahal";

(b) if so, whether the "Taj Mahotsava" could not become successful to draw world's attention;

(c) if so, whether the mis-management is responsible for it's failure; and

(d) the steps the Government has taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) Ministry of Tourism promotes domestic tourism and the same is being done during the 350th anniversary of Taj Mahal.

(b) to (d) Taj Mahotsava is a festival organised by the Government of Uttar Pradesh.

ILL Effects of Pesticides

2788. SHRI B. VINOD KUMAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government maintains data with regard to farmers/agricultural workers whose health are affected by the use of pesticides on account of inhalation/exposure/poisoning etc.;

(b) if so, the total number of victims affected by pesticides, State-wise;

(c) whether any death has been reported as a result thereof;

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

(e) whether any compensation had been paid to the victims;

(f) if so, the number of farmers who were paid compensation;

(g) whether the Government has taken any measures to educate farmers and also create awareness about the ill effects of the use of pesticides; and

(h) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) As per section 26 of the Insecticides Act, 1968, State Governments maintain data regarding effects of pesticides on the health of farmers and agricultural workers.

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

(g) Yes, Sir.

(h) Government has adopted Integrated Pest Management (IPM), encompassing cultural, mechanical and biological methods and need based use of pesticides as the cardinal principle and main plank of Plant Protection in the country. The Government is promoting the IPM Approach through the State Governments and its Central Integrated Pest Management Centres (CIPMCs). The mandate of these Centres is pest disease monitoring, production and releases of biocontrol agents, conservation of bio-control agents and human resource development in IPM by imparting training to Agricultural Extension Officers and farmers at the grassroots level by organizing Farmers' Field Schools (FFSs) in the farmers' fields. Good agricultural practices are demonstrated to farmers and emphasis laid upon need based judicious and appropriate use of chemical pesticides and the hazards posed by misuse, overuse and abuse of pesticides through these Farmers' Field Schools.

Package to Boost Tourism

2789. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Governments particularly Karnataka have urged the Union Govt. of More package to boost tourism industry;

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

(c) the total number of schemes started by the States, particularly by Karnataka; and

(d) the steps the Union Govt. propose to take to provide adequate funds to State Government and facilities to foreign tourists and create confidence among them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) The project proposals for development and promotion of tourist places/spots are prioritized every year in consultation with the State Governments/UT Administrations including the State of Karnataka.

(b) and (c) 628 projects worth Rs.40916.29 lakhs, out of which 28 projects worth Rs.2089.91 lakhs were for Karnataka State, have been sanctioned during the last three years.

(d) Ministry of Tourism provides funds to the State Government under various scheme for development and promotion of tourism infrastructure including the facilities for foreign tourists.

[Translation]

Distribution of Spurious Edible Oil

2790. SHRI KAMLA PRASAD RAWAT: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether some fake edible oil companies distributing spurious oil using wrappers, containers and holograms of some renowned oil companies have been detected in various parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken against such companies and their owners?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) to (c) According to information available, no such cases regarding fake edible oil companies distributing spurious oil using wrappers, containers and holograms of some renowned oil companies have been found, particularly in the major oil producing States, namely, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra and Kerala. However, preventive mechanism exists to prevent the falsifying or the false application of trademarks, false trade descriptions, etc. under the Trade Mark Act, 1999. The remedies available under the Trade Mark Act, 1999 relate to the protection of

the Intellectual Property Rights inherent in a trademark and provide both civil and criminal remedies for registered trademark owners. Besides, distribution of spurious oil attracts the provisions of the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954.

Any aggrieved consumer can also seek redressal in the Consumer Forums established under the Consumer Protection Act, 1986 against any defect in the goods purchased or deficiency in the service availed including the restrictive trade practices or unfair trade practices adopted by any person.

Employment Generation by FPI

2791. SHRI SUBHASH SURESHCHANDRA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the potential of employment generation and spin-off income by the Food Processing Industries in the agriculture sector; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) and (b) According to an estimate, food processing industry is growing at a rate which generates 2.5 lakh jobs every year. It is further estimated that indirect employment in allied sectors is generated to an extent of 2.4 times the direct employment created in this industry. Food processing industry also have spin off by way of providing a market to agri produce which in turn provide income to farmers.

[English]

Implementation of AGCP

2792. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether commissioning of Assam Gas Cracker Project (AGCP) has been finalised;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of issues yet to be resolved and target set to complete all clearances towards implementation of AGCP alongwith progress made till date?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN):

(a) to (c) A fresh Feasibility Report about the Assam Gas Cracker Project has been prepared by the Gas Authority India Limited (GAIL). The Report is being examined from various angles namely, viability of the project, continuous availability of feedstock, the amount of subsidy/concessions required from the Central/ State Government also. The Government will take a decision in the matter after taking into consideration the above factors.

[Translation]

Employment Opportunities

2793. SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD:

SHRI M. ANJAN KUMAR YADAV:

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons unemployed in the country by the end of Ninth Five Year Plan and in the Tenth Five Year Plan;

(b) the achievements made to generate employment opportunities for the unemployed persons during the current plan period;

(c) whether the Government has adopted any new policy to generate additional employment opportunities during the Tenth Five Year Plan;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRA SHEKHAR RAO): (a) and (b) Estimates of employment and unemployment are obtained through quinquennial labour force surveys conducted by National Sample Survey Organisation. Last two such surveys were carried out during 1993-94 and 1999-2000. As per these surveys number of unemployed persons in the country during 1993-94 & 1999-2000 on usual status basis was around 75 lakh and 90 lakh respectively.

(c) and (d) Government have identified the following strategy to create the additional employment opportunities during 10th Plan.

- Creation of around 3 crore employment opportunities in the normal growth process assuming around 8% per annum growth rate of Gross Domestic Product.

- Creation of around 2 crore employment opportunities through special employment generation programmes.

- Special emphasis on labour intensive sectors such as agriculture, irrigation, agro forestry, small and medium enterprises, tourism, information communication technology and other services.

(e) Does not arise.

Varsha Bima Yojana

2794. SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR KUSHAWAHA:

SHRIMATI ANURADHA CHOUDHARY:

SHRI MOHD. TAHIR:

SHRI MUNSHI RAM:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the main features of Varsha Bima Yojana introduced on pilot basis during Kharif 2004; and

(b) the number of farmers benefited therefrom so far, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) The Varsha Bima Yojana was launched by the Agriculture Insurance Company of India Ltd. (AIC) on pilot basis during Kharif 2004 in selected areas of four States. The main features of the scheme are given as under:-

- Varsha Bima is a mechanism for providing effective risk management aid to the farmers likely to be impacted by adverse rainfall incidence.
- Varsha Bima Guarantees a pay out of claims on a graded scale, upon the adverse incidence of rainfall.
- Claims arise when the actual rainfall incidence during the period of insurance falls short of the normal incidence.
- The India Meteorological Department (IMD) provides normal rainfall data and actual rainfall data.
- Varsha Bima provides five options of insurance coverage as per requirement of farmers.
- Varsha Bima is implemented on pilot basis by AIC for major crops across four states.

(b) 966 farmers in Andhra Pradesh and 18 farmers in Uttar Pradesh are benefited from the Pilot Project on Varsha Bima Yojana implemented in Kharif 2004 season.

[English]

Problems of Soyabean Growers

2795. SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the problems of Soyabean growers in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to provide minimum support price and other incentives to the soyabean farmers of Rajasthan and other States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The major problems being faced by the soyabean growers in the country are low productivity on account of its large scale cultivation under rainfed conditions, non-availability of good quality seeds, problem of poor germination and longevity of seed, infestation of insect pests, diseases and weeds etc.

(c) In order to provide remunerative price to the Soyabean growers, Government of India has been announcing Minimum Support Price (MSP) every year for soyabean in the country including Rajasthan. The Minimum Support Price of soyabean has been increased from Rs.930/- per quintal in 2003-04 to Rs.1000/- per quintal in 2004-05 for yellow soyabean and Rs.840/- per quintal in 2003-04 to Rs. 900/- per quintal in 2004-05 for black soyabean. National Agricultural Co-operative Marketing Federation of India Limited (NAFED) as Central Nodal Agency undertakes procurement of soyabean if market prices fall below MSP.

Further, Government of India is implementing a Centrally Sponsored "Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize" (ISOPOM) in 14 major oil seeds growing States including Rajasthan with a view to increase the production and productivity of oilseeds including soyabean in the country. Under the Scheme, assistance is provided for purchase of breeder seed, production of foundation seed, production and distribution of certified seed, distribution of seed minikits, distribution of plant protection chemicals, plant protection equipments, weedicides, supply

of Rhizobium culture/phosphate solubilising bacteria, distribution of gypsum/ pyrite/liming/dolomite, distribution of sprinkler sets and water carrying pipes, publicity, etc. to encourage farmers to grow oilseeds. In order to disseminate information on improved production technologies amongst the farmers, block demonstrations and Integrated Pest Management (IPM) demonstrations are being organized through State Department of Agriculture and Front Line Demonstrations through ICAR.

Foreign Assistance for Phasing out Ozone Depleting Substance

2796. SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY:

SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:

SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:

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

(a) whether India has received foreign assistance for over 350 projects to phase out about 12,000 tonnes of Ozone Depleting Potential (ODP);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the assistance given for each project to phase out ODP;

(d) the number of projects completed so far; and

(e) the policy and fiscal measures taken by the Government for smooth implementation of Ozone depleting substances?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) The Multilateral Fund Secretariat of the Montreal Protocol had approved 272 investment projects in India for phasing out Ozone Depleting Substances (ODS) having 60,524.6 Ozone Depleting Potential (ODP) tons.

(c) The list of approved investment projects by the Multilateral Fund of the Montreal Protocol is given in enclosed statement.

(d) 252 investment projects have been completed so far and the remaining are under implementation.

(e) The policy and fiscal measures taken by the Government include the following:

- The country programme has been prepared for phasing out various ODS and is under implementation in India.
- Adopted licensing system for import and export of certain ODS.
- Fiscal incentives extended by way of exemption from payment of Customs and Excise duties for goods exclusively designed for non-ODS technology.
- Ban on trade of ODS with countries which are not Party to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer.

Statement**Aerosols Sector**

S.No.	Name of the Enterprises	ODP tons to be phased out	Funds Approved (in US\$)
1	2	3	4
1	Aero Pharma Aerosol Conversion, Maharashtra	36.0	62,250
2	My Fair Lady Aerosol Conversion, New Delhi	59.4	128,792
3	Aerol Formulations Aerosol Conversion, New Delhi	31.60	78,479
4	Texas Enterprises Aerosol Conversion, New Delhi	31.2	79,100
5	Ultra Tech Specialty Chemicals Pvt. Ltd. Aerosol Conversion, Maharashtra	30.8	79,100
6	Accra Pack India Pvt. Ltd. Aerosol Conversion, Gujarat	52.0	146,550
7	Stella Industries Ltd. Aerosol Conversion, New Delhi	105.0	304,168
8	Aeropress Aerosol Conversion, Gujarat	50.0	165,952
9	Aero pack Products Aerosol Conversion, Maharashtra	20.4	107,875
10	Asian Aerosols Pvt. Ltd. Aerosol Conversion, Gujarat	25.0	102,706
11	Aerosols D'Asia Pvt. Ltd. Aerosol Conversion, Gujarat	18.0	78,479
12	A.A. Attarwala and Co. Pvt. Ltd. Aerosol Conversion, Maharashtra	30.6	151,703
13	Aero Industries Aerosol Conversion, Gujarat	27.6	137,561
14	Chem Versa Consultants Ltd., Maharashtra	18.6	76,076
15	Sara Chem Pvt. Ltd. Aerosol Conversion, Maharashtra	23.3	100,755
16	Spray Products Ltd. Aerosol Conversion, Maharashtra	16.8	73,999
17	Sunder Chemicals Ltd. Aerosol, Delhi	15.0	67,678
18	Maja Cosmetics Pvt. Ltd., Delhi	31.3	141,521
19	Midas Care Pharmaceuticals Ltd. Maharashtra	25.2	125,294
20*	Syncaps Aerosols, Maharashtra	53.5	182,515

1	2	3	4
21	Ruby Aerosol, Delhi	22.2	51,754
22	Vimsons Aerosol, Gujarat	18.2	75,145
23*	Terminal Umbrella Project Aerosol Sector	1327.5	657,130
Total		873.0	3,174,582

* Ongoing project. Remaining projects have been completed.

Foam Sector

1	Camphor & Allied Products Ltd., Gujarat	120.0	316,406
2	Sunpra Ltd., Pune, Maharashtra	20.0	467,820
3	Eagle Flasks Industries Ltd., Maharashtra	20.0	412,450
4	U-Foam Pvt. Ltd.(A.P)	35.0	371,205
5	Bakelite Hylam Ltd., Secunderabad	58.0	414,710
6	Alfa Foams , Maharashtra	19.0	248,487
7	Blue Star Ltd., Maharashtra	13.0	253,120
8	Duroflex Coir industries P. Ltd, Karnataka	10.0	113,904
9	Industrial Foam P. Ltd., New Delhi	35.0	361,600
10	Ishwar Arts, Gujarat	8.0	136,674
11	Ishwar Ashish Plastics P. Ltd., Gujarat	8.0	136,674
12	Karnataka Consumer Product Ltd.(Kurlon), Karnataka	27.0	286,116
13	Madras Polymounds, T.N.	10.0	189,501
14	Milton Plastics Ltd., Maharashtra	30.0	515,845
15	Milton Polyplast, Maharashtra	15.0	266,680
16	Tranquil Rubbers Sales P. Ltd., T.N	17.0	243,233
17	Vikram Plastics, Gujarat	15.0	266,860
18	Panorama Plastics, Gujarat	8.0	136,674
19	Polynate Foams P. Ltd., Karnataka	20.0	314,140
20	Polyflex (India) P. Ltd., Karnataka	40.0	251,312
21	Real Polymers, New Delhi	35.0	312,106
22	Vijyajyot Seats Ltd., Gujarat	49.0	379,115
23	Bharat Seats Ltd., Haryana	55.0	581,456

1	2	3	4
24*	PUR Polyurethane Products P. Ltd., New Delhi	17.0	212,286
25	Pfeda Synthetics (P) Ltd., New Delhi	30.0	379,373
26	SDC Polyurethane Products Ltd., Gujarat	24.0	181,897
27	Shroff Textiles Ltd., Maharashtra	25.0	222,836
28	Harita Grammer Ltd., Karnataka	26.0	183,512
29	Punjab Scooters Ltd., Punjab	39.0	352,786
30	Amit Polyseats Ltd.U.P	19.3	274,590
31	Meenakshi Polymers Pvt. Ltd., Delhi	15.0	241,820
32	Beardsell Ltd, T.N.	21.2	145,770
33	Asha Handicraft., Maharashtra	19.4	138,425
34	Wimco Pen Co., Maharashtra	18.5	134,798
35	Llyod Insulation (India) Ltd., Delhi	76.7	565,000
36	Cello Plast, Daman	21.0	159,692
37	Cello Thermoware Ltd., Daman	17.4	146,245
38	Polyproducts, Gujarat	18.5	158,415
39	Kaygee Foams P. Ltd., Maharashtra	33.0	245,493
40	Preto Foams, Hyderabad, A.P.	11.5	188,823
41	Bharat Plastic Products, Daman	25.0	108,480
42	Inalsa Ltd. New Delhi	28.9	138,990
43	Mahavir Enterprises, Maharashtra	19.4	106,785
44	Omkar PUF Insulation, Maharashtra	10.6	66,670
45	Krishna Fabrications Ltd., Karnataka	13.0	185,320
46	K.B. Poly Industries P. Ltd., Orissa	10.0	168,370
47	Vora Cork Industries, Maharashtra	39.6	298,885
48	Best Plastronics Pvt. Ltd. , New Delhi	19.5	145,770
49	Bharat Plast, Daman	10.6	80,230
50	Amar Enterprises, Maharashtra	16.2	135,600
51	Deccan Engineering Enterprises, A.P.	8.3	72,320
52	Bharat Cottage Industries, Maharashtra	7.8	68,930

1	2	3	4
53	80 Small and medium sized enterprises - group project SMEs	290.0	1,586,520
54	Super Urethane Products P. Ltd., Daman	39.1	320,920
55	Blowkings KFTZ, Maharashtra	17.6	149,160
56	Delta Foams Engineering Co., Maharashtra	12.0	96,050
57	Panna International, Gujarat	9.7	54,240
58	Viral Corporation, Gujarat	11.8	94,920
59	Ras Polybuild Products P. Ltd, A.P.	17.7	144,640
60	Alaska Industries., Daman	17.6	144,640
61	Bluplast Corporation, Maharashtra	10.1	85,880
62	Reliable Rotomoulders Pvt. Ltd., West Bengal	8.7	71,190
63	Malanpur Entech Pvt. Ltd, M.P.	18.9	167,240
64	Nissan Thermoware P. Ltd., Daman	15.4	125,430
65	K. J. Polymers P. Ltd., Delhi	30.0	144,132
66	Venus Auto P. Ltd. U.P	21.0	155,093
67	Shri Krishna polyurethane Industries (P) Ltd, Delhi	19.2	217,949
68	Sidhi Polymer P. Ltd., Karnataka	7.5	85,033
69	Legend Interiors .Delhi	9.6	140,120
70	National Flask Industries Ltd., Gujarat	36.9	230,373
71	Sintex Industries Ltd., Gujarat	10.9	71,167
72	Jayson Industries, Delhi	12.9	100,457
73	Duab International, Haryana	13.4	118,074
74	Jaypee Technoplast P. Ltd Jammu	18.5	158,042
75	Galaxy FRP Pvt. Ltd., Haryana	18.5	163,633
76	Ajay Corrugating & Plastics P. Ltd., Gujarat	10.3	91,310
77	Puff Insulators, Delhi	10.6	93,960
78	Joti Foam Products P. Ltd., Maharashtra	37.6	196,948
79	Bansal Plastic Industries, Delhi	20.4	77,777
80	Baba Insulators, Delhi	14.4	66,778
81	Shree Nath Plastics, Delhi	13.9	69,348

1	2	3	4
82	R.S. Insulators, Delhi	10.3	61,924
83	P.K. Construction Co., Delhi	10.6	83,814
84	Ganga Thermoware P. Ltd. U.P.	10.1	89,116
85	Shivathene Linogack, H.P.	119.0	236,170
86	Nav Texfeb Pvt. Ltd., U.P.	32.4	185,300
87	Ashok Metals, Delhi	12.5	78,915
88	O.K. Industries, Delhi	10.7	74,837
89	28 small and medium-sized enterprises-group project	105.7	786,044
90	Devisons P. Ltd., Delhi	15.3	129,882
91	Varivar Plast Products Pvt. Ltd., U.P.	12.3	108,688
92	Supertek International, Delhi	10.6	94,018
93	Standard Electric Appliances, T.N.	10.0	88,294
94	N.D.Plastics, Delhi	12.9	114,457
95	Primrose Multiplast Pvt. Ltd, Delhi	9.6	132,329
96	Delite Foam and Polymers, Haryana	11.2	213,380
97	Reactive Polymer, Ltd., Gujarat	29.6	400,218
98	National Plastics, Daman	36.2	240,104
99	Tokyo Plast International Ltd., Daman	30.5	221,925
100	Crystal Electronics and Plastics, U.P.	18.3	139,378
101	Mayur Jugs Pvt. Ltd., Delhi	16.9	134,936
102	Santech Industries, Punjab	14.7	130,064
103	Saddle Poly Products P. Ltd., A.P.	15.2	134,568
104*	24 Small and medium-sized Enterprises	97.7	994,108
105	Harjas Plastic and Metal Components P. Ltd. Maharashtra	20.2	278,416
106	Naorang Plast, Delhi	13.5	60,083
107	16 Spray Foam Enterprises	211.1	1,224,969
108	Crown Industries, Gujarat	22.5	127,814
109	Eversiline Plastic Industries P. Ltd, U.P.	16.2	80,060

1	2	3	4
110	Ramakrishna Moulders, Delhi	15.7	88,681
111	Sanjay Industries, West Bengal	15.7	112,183
112	Enertech Engineering P. Ltd., A.P.	15.8	139,113
113	M-Plast, Delhi	13.0	105,405
114	Raipur Agencies, Chhattisgarh	16.3	163,361
115	Pyarelal Coir Products Ltd., U.P.	18.5	189,141
116	Alka International Ltd., U.P.	18.5	195,665
117	SR Poly Steel P. Ltd., Haryana	14.9	163,058
118	Nindra Foams, Delhi	11.0	168,149
119	R.H. Industries, Punjab	11.3	173,901
120	Pinnacle Industries Ltd., M.P.	13.0	210,623
121	Coolweis Automobile Engineers, Haryana	15.8	150,540
122	Jaiswal Industries, New Delhi	13.1	171,839
123	Premium Mouldings & Pressing P. Ltd., Haryana	17.7	156,428
124	Sawhney Seating Systems, Haryana	28.0	273,029
125*	Sun Steering Wheels Ltd., Haryana	15.6	163,148
126	Netplast Ltd., U.P.	18.0	200,263
127	Group Project Spray and Insitu Insulation 14 Enterprises	178.4	852,673
128	SR Polymers and Printers, New Delhi	19.6	107,352
129	Roome Plastics P. Ltd., Rajasthan	18.1	113,617
130	Apollo Steelcrafts, Delhi	13.7	86,925
131	17 Small and Medium-sized Enterprises	55.8	472,046
132	Solvay Moulding P. Ltd., Dadar & Nagar Havelli	26.1	222,480
133	Polyrub industries, Gujarat	12.5	110,687
134	Prince Plastoware Ltd., Daman	9.4	83,631
135	Nandadeep Fibrotech P. Ltd., Maharashtra	11.3	100,034
136	Lear Insulation Engineering P. Ltd., Maharashtra	10.6	93,301
137	Essa Aircons Ltd., Daman	13.9	122,986
138	UNC Plast Industries, Navi Mumbai	11.4	101,256

1	2	3	4
139	Poly Glass Fibre Industries P. Ltd., New Delhi	17.1	151,889
140	Caryaire Equipments India P. Ltd., U.P.	17.0	150,865
141	Bhatia Plastics, New Delhi	11.1	98,389
142	Flexo Foam P. Ltd., Haryana	19.4	209,372
143	Malvika Polymers, Haryana	20.0	222,169
144*	Nu-Foam Rubber Industries P. Ltd., Haryana	15.6	180,970
145	Sutlej Coach Products P. Ltd., Punjab	18.6	211,862
146	Viking Engineers P.Ltd., U.P.	13.3	163,737
147	Oto Industries P. Ltd., Haryana	12.7	157,879
148*	Precision Engineering Tools and Components	22.0	226,319
149*	Pramukh Polymers	27.0	254,038
150	Enkay Foam P. Ltd., U.P	16.6	183,443
151	Manali Petro Chemicals Ltd., Madras	490.0	700,000
152	UB Petrochemicals Ltd., Madras	464.0	585,684
153	Expanded Incorporation, Mumbai	72.6	562,136
154	Polymermann (Asia) P. Ltd., Mumbai	290.0	435,050
155*	Sectoral Phaseout plan for elimination of CFCs in the Foam sector involving 99 Small and Medium Enterprises	673.5	8,959,077
Total		5869.8	43,031,216

*Ongoing Project Remaining Projects have been completed.

Halon Sector

1	Vijay Fire Protection Systems Ltd., Gujarat	292.0	247,642
2	Nitin Fire Protection Industries Ltd., Maharashtra	212.0	187,374
3	New Age Industries, Maharashtra	133.0	149,440
4	Steelage Industries Limited, T.N.	116.0	149,064
5	Vimal Industrial Safety Equipment Corporation, Baroda	133.0	210,352
6	Atkins, New Delhi	37.0	61,879
7	Ashoka Engineering Co., New Delhi	34.0	56,862
8	Standard Casting Pvt. Ltd., Delhi	64.1	103,960
9	Bharat Engineering Works, Maharashtra	49.5	82,784

1	2	3	4
10	Zenith Fire Services, Maharashtra	36.0	60,206
11	New Fire Engineers Pvt. Ltd., Maharashtra	120.0	146,900
12	Cascade Counsel Ltd., New Delhi	54.0	90,310
13	Kooverji Devshi & Co Pvt. Ltd., Maharashtra	25.5	42,646
14*	Umbrella project for the closure of Two Plants in India - SRF & NFI	556.0	2,834,000
15*	National Halon Management and Banking Program (Canada, Australia)	427.2	515,970
Total		2289.3	4,939,389

* Ongoing project. Remaining projects have been completed.

Refrigeration and Air Conditioning (RAC) Sector

1	Blue Star Ltd., Maharashtra	36.6	567,000
2	Subros Ltd., New Delhi	84.0	1,710,000
3	Meghdoot Refrigeration Industries, Maharashtra	18.0	185,987
4	V. Krishna & Co., Maharashtra	14.8	166,133
5	Friz-Tech. P. Ltd., Maharashtra	11.5	150,200
6	V. Krishna P. Ltd., Maharashtra	17.0	229,153
7	Rockwell Devices P. Ltd., A.P.	18.0	204,535
8	Rabi Run Refrigeration Pvt. Ltd., Karnataka	14.0	161,163
9	Sethia Appliances P. Ltd., A.P.	16.0	195,924
10	Seepra Refrigeration P. Ltd., Maharashtra	15.0	194,258
11	Shakti Fabricators, Punjab	13.5	179,930
12	Supercold Refrigeration Systems., Kerala	11.0	151,160
13	Murali Refrigeration and Engineering Co., Kerala	9.0	142,928
14	Godrej-GE Appliances Ltd., Maharashtra	568.0	3,041,474
15	Standard Refrigeration Appliances, Maharashtra	18.8	192,303
16	Polar Enterprises, Maharashtra	10.8	156,155
17	Refrigerators and Home Appliances P. Ltd., New Delhi	11.3	166,449
18	Hindustan Refrigeration Industries, New Delhi	10.1	149,522

1	2	3	4
19	Refrigeration Components and Accessories, New Delhi	9.5	141,668
20	Sheetal Engineering Works P. Ltd., Gujarat	8.7	44,222
21	Videocon Appliances Ltd., Maharashtra	351.7	2,708,290
22	Voltas Ltd., A.P.	354.0	3,591,627
23	Electrolux - Kelvinator Ltd. (Maharaja International Ltd.), Rajasthan	59.8	646,710
24	Pranav Vikas India Ltd., Haryana	-	1,067,753
25	Sanden Vikas India Ltd., Haryana	8.4	554,627
26	Arkay Industries., Goa	19.8	170,547
27	Saikrupa Industries, Maharashtra	14.8	153,840
28	Sarkar Refrigeration Industries., Maharashtra	12.0	140,364
29	Sidwal Refrigeration, Delhi	11.7	197,658
30	BPL Refrigeration Ltd., Karnataka	136.0	1,163,161
31	Sandeep Refrigeration, Maharashtra	9.9	121,683
32	Whirlpool of India Ltd., Haryana	200.6	1,090,698
33	Fedders Lloyd Corporation Ltd. U.P.	21.2	290,894
34	Sandlas Air-Com Systems P. Ltd. Punjab	23.3	258,224
35	Umbrella Project of three Commercial Refrigeration Enterprises , Delhi	27.3	371,650
36	Nine Enterprises for Commercial Refrigeration	53.5	886,262
37	Five Enterprises for Commercial Refrigeration	22.0	365,699
38	Nine Enterprises for Commercial Refrigeration	56.5	816,357
39	Fourteen Enterprises for Commercial Refrigeration	68.0	1,075,708
40	Ice-Make Refrigeration	12.4	177,755
41	Konark Refrigeration Appliances	13.1	206,433
42	Subros Ltd., New Delhi (Phase-II)	-	1,404,588
43*	Plan for phase out of CFCs in the Refrigeration (Manufacturing) Sector	732.0	3,721,623
44*	National CFC consumption phase out plan focussing on the Refrigeration Service Sector (UNDP, Switzerland, Germany, UNEP)	1006	2,445,223
45	Shriram Industrial Enterprises Ltd. Hyderabad	18.0	685,000

1	2	3	4
46	Kirloskar Copeland Ltd., Karad, Maharashtra	125.5	547,900
47	Freeze King Industries, New Delhi	35.0	240,500
48	Godrej G.E. (Compressor), Maharashtra	71.7	2,285,500
Total		4388.6	35,762,450

* Ongoing project. Remaining projects have been completed.

Solvent Sector

1	ITI Manakpur, U.P.	36.0	689,481
2	Hindustan Syringes & Medical Devices P. Ltd., Haryana	53.2	481,000
3	Electronics Research Ltd., Bangalore, Karnataka	17.5	217,436
4	ITI, Palakkad, Kerala	15.0	266,391
5	ITI, Bangalore, Karnataka	7.0	121,988
6	Modi Xerox, UP.	6.1	147,825
7	Malhotra Shaving Products Ltd., A.P.	17.0	288,277
8	Harbans Lal Malhotra & Sons Ltd., West Bengal	16.0	349,056
9	Vidyut Metallics Ltd., Maharashtra	19.7	254,761
10	Microraj Electronics Pvt. Ltd., A.P.	4.3	96,537
11	Videocon Group (VCD), Gujarat	7.2	265,525
12	Excel Industries Ltd, Gujarat	375.0	413,580
13	Blue Star Ltd, Maharashtra	6.6	85,911
14	Alpha Drugs India Ltd., Punjab	69.7	169,205
15	Doctors Organic Chemicals, A.P.	94.6	362,616
16	Svis Labs Ltd., Ranipet, T.N.	54.2	281,785
17	Satya Deeptha Pharmaceuticals P. Ltd., Karnataka	27.9	293,950
18	Sapna Coils Ltd., Maharashtra	22.8	276,877
19	Engineering Industries, Maharashtra	20.2	269,817
20	Sapna Engineering, Maharashtra	14.5	271,692
21*	Pradeep Shetye Ltd., Maharashtra	133.9	315,271
22*	Benzo Chemical Industries, Maharashtra	23.0	154,568
23*	FDC Limited, Maharashtra	34.1	269,359

1	2	3	4
24	GRD Chemicals Ltd., M.P.	17.9	144,264
25	Rishiroop Organics P. Ltd. & Rishiroop Polymers P. Ltd., Gujarat	248.8	2,312,473
26	Chiplun Fine Chemicals Ltd., Maharashtra	16.7	176,088
27	Amoli Organics Limited	38.5	435,465
28*	Navdeep Engineering, Palghar, Maharashtra	53.9	744,645
29*	Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL), Bangalore	16.0	164,907
	Total	1467.3	10,320,750

* Ongoing project. Remaining projects have been completed.

CFC Sector

1*	Gradual Phase out of Production of Chlorofluorocarbons(CFCs) by four CFC producers in India	22,588	82,000,000
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* Ongoing project.

CTC Sector

1*	Umbrella Project for Phase out of Production and Consumption of CTC for non feedstock applications	23,058	52,000,000
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* Ongoing project.

Setting up of Oil Seeds and Vegetable Projects in Orissa

2797. SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) has signed an Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Government of Orissa in 1986 to set up the Oil Seeds and Vegetable Projects in Orissa;

(b) if so, whether in Phase-II of the said project was extended to the district of Kalahandi, Koraput, Bolangir and Phulbani;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the details of funds allocated for the purpose; and

(e) by when said project is likely to be started and completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE

MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) The details of funds allocated in principle for Kalahandi, Koraput, Phulbani and Bolangir Project is as under:

Contribution of Govt. of Orissa & Govt. of India	Rs.579.80 Lakh
NDDB funding Loan	Rs.922.60 Lakh
NDDB funding Grant	Rs. 1199.80 Lakh
NDDB Share Capital & Working Capital	Rs. 323.90 Lakh
Total	Rs.3027.10 Lakh

(e) The project started in August, 1991 after NDDB conveyed its in principle agreement to allocated funds. The funding continued till March, 1997. The project continues to be in operation.

[Translation]

Separation of BSP From SAIL

2798. SHRI AJIT JOGI: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received any proposal from the Government of Chhattisgarh to separate the Bhilai Steel Plant (BSP) located in Chhattisgarh from the Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL); and

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

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The proposal was not found acceptable.

Medical Facilities to Agricultural Labourers

2799. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the medical facilities available for the agricultural labourers which come under the unorganised sector;

(b) whether the Government proposes to implement separate medical facility on the line of 'Employees State Insurance' for the above labourers; and

(c) if not, the steps being taken by the Government to ensure and meet the medical need of that category?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRA SHEKHAR RAO): (a) The Ministry of Labour and Employment has not been implementing any scheme for providing medical facilities to the agricultural workers. However, there are certain schemes providing medical facilities being implemented for some categories of unorganised sector workers viz; workers engaged in beedi rolling, certain non-coal mines and cine workers under their respective welfare funds. The redesignated Universal Health Insurance Scheme is available for the families living below poverty line (BPL) which, inter-alia, include agricultural labourers also at subsidized annual premium of Rs. 165, Rs. 248 and Rs. 330 for individual, for a family of five and for a family of seven respectively. The scheme provides

for reimbursement of hospitalization expenses up to Rs. 30,000/- on floater basis per family, coverage of death of worker due to accident (Rs. 25,000/-) etc.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) So far as, Central Government Hospitals like Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital, New Delhi, Safdarjung Hospital, New, Delhi, Lady Hardinge Medical College and Smt. Sucheta Kriplani Hospital, New Delhi and Jawaharlal Institute of Postgraduate Medical Education and Research, Pondicherry are concerned, free treatment is provided to general public including agricultural labourers also. Agricultural labourers alongwith others are availing the facilities of medical and health care infrastructure of States also viz; from the State/District Hospitals, Primary Health Centers and sub-center level spread all over the country.

Conversion of Wasteland Into Cultivable Land

2800. SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:

SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any target for converting wasteland into cultivable land in the country was fixed in the Tenth Plan;

(b) if so, the area of land proposed to be made cultivable as per the target;

(c) the area of land made cultivable till March, 2004 as per the target, State-wise; and

(d) the amount spent so far for such conversion of wasteland into cultivable land in each State under the Tenth Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Govt. of India is implementing various programmes for the development of degraded lands including wastelands in the country. Under these programmes an area of 209.4 lakh. ha. has been proposed to be developed during the Tenth Plan. The Xth Plan targets under various programmes are as follows:

Department of Agriculture and Cooperation

(Lakh ha.)

(i)	National Watershed Development Projects in Rainfed Areas	-	20.00
(ii)	Soil Conservation in the Catchments of River Valley Project and Flood Prone Rivers	-	7.30
(iii)	Reclamation of Alkali Soils	-	1.30
(iv)	Watershed Development Projects in Shifting Cultivation areas	-	0.80

Department of Land Resources

(v)	Integrated Wasteland Development Programme	-	68.00
(vi)	Drought Prone Areas Programmes	-	44.00
(vii)	Desert Development Programme	-	68.00

Total

209.4
lakh ha.

(c) and (d) Statements showing state-wise degraded lands including wasteland developed and the amount spent during the first two years of the Tenth Plan are enclosed as statement-I to VII.

Statement-I

State-wise area treated and the amount spent during the first two years (2002-03 and 2003-04) of Xth plan for National Watershed Development Projects in Rainfed Areas (NWDPRRA)

Area in lakh ha. Rs. in crores			
S. No.	States	Area Treated	Amount spent
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	0.11	4.91
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.02	1.35
3.	Assam	0.06	2.88
4.	Bihar	0.00	0.02
5.	Chhattisgarh	0.26	11.60
6.	Goa	0.01	0.89
7.	Gujarat	0.25	12.97
8.	Haryana	0.02	1.46
9.	Himachal Pradesh	0.02	1.82
10.	Jharkhand	0.14	15.62
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	0.00	0.06

1	2	3	4
12.	Karnataka	0.20	25.20
13.	Kerala	0.00	1.46
14.	Madhya Pradesh	0.56	18.19
15.	Maharashtra	0.24	15.38
16.	Manipur	0.03	2.37
17.	Meghalaya	0.13	7.76
18.	Mizoram	0.10	7.70
19.	Nagaland	0.09	5.30
20.	Orissa	0.24	9.90
21.	Punjab	0.01	0.68
22.	Rajasthan	1.23	64.25
23.	Sikkim	0.04	2.81
24.	Tamil Nadu	0.65	29.33
25.	Tripura	0.07	4.84
26.	Uttar Pradesh	0.34	20.70
27.	Uttaranchal	0.21	14.21
28.	West Bengal	0.01	0.43
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Island	0.01	0.69
Total		5.05	284.78

Statement-II

State-wise area treated and the amount spent during the first two years (2002-03 and 2003-04) of Xth plan for Soil Conservation in the Catchments of River Valley Project and Flood Prone Rivers Programmes (RVP & FPR)

		Area in lakh ha. Rs. in crores	
S. No.	States	Area Treated	Amount spent
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	0.19	15.91
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.00	0.00
3.	Assam	0.02	1.48
4.	Bihar	0.00	0.00
5.	Chhattisgarh	0.08	2.81
6.	Goa	0.00	0.00
7.	Gujarat	0.12	10.80
8.	Haryana	0.10	3.17
9.	Himachal Pradesh	0.08	11.92
10.	Jharkhand	0.00	0.00
11.	Jammu and Kashmir*	0.10	10.09
12.	Karnataka	0.82	25.16
13.	Kerala	0.04	4.03
14.	Madhya Pradesh	0.51	20.49
15.	Maharashtra	0.34	25.53
16.	Manipur	0.00	0.00
17.	Meghalaya	0.00	0.00
18.	Mizoram	0.02	2.00
19.	Nagaland	0.00	0.00
20.	Orissa	0.04	1.58
21.	Punjab	0.00	0.00
22.	Rajasthan	0.45	31.10
23.	Sikkim	0.002	0.20
24.	Tamil Nadu	0.08	10.83

1	2	3	4
25.	Tripura	0.008	0.94
26.	Uttar Pradesh	0.61	31.85
27.	Uttaranchal	0.06	4.54
28.	West Bengal	0.02	2.85
29.	DVC	0.21	22.30
Total		3.90	239.58

*Inclusive of Prime Minister's Special Package to J&K States

Statement-III

State-wise area treated and the amount spent during the first two years (2002-03 and 2003-04) of Xth plan for Reclamation of Alkali Soils (RAS)

		Area in lakh ha. Rs. in crores	
S. No.	States	Area Treated	Amount spent
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh		
2.	Arunachal Pradesh		
3.	Assam		
4.	Bihar		
5.	Chhattisgarh		
6.	Goa		
7.	Gujarat	0.08	3.76
8.	Haryana	0.22	6.18
9.	Himachal Pradesh		
10.	Jharkhand		
11.	Jammu and Kashmir*		
12.	Karnataka	0.02	2.54
13.	Kerala		
14.	Madhya Pradesh		
15.	Maharashtra		

1	2	3	4
16.	Manipur		
17.	Meghalaya		
18.	Mizoram		
19.	Nagaland		
20.	Orissa		
21.	Punjab	0.01	0.20
22.	Rajasthan	0.08	1.20
23.	Sikkim		
24.	Tamil Nadu	0.01	
25.	Tripura		
26.	Uttar Pradesh	0.01	0.09
27.	Uttaranchal		
28.	West Bengal		
Total		0.43	13.99

Statement-IV

State-wise area treated and the amount spent during the first two years (2002-03 and 2003-04) of Xth plan for Watershed Development Projects in Shifting Cultivation Areas (WDPSCA)

Area in lakh ha. Rs. in crores			
S. No.	States	Area Treated	Amount spent
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh		
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.02	1.78
3.	Assam	0.09	7.55
4.	Bihar		
5.	Chhattisgarh		
6.	Goa		
7.	Gujarat		
8.	Haryana		

1	2	3	4
9.	Himachal Pradesh		
10.	Jharkhand		
11.	Jammu and Kashmir.		
12.	Karnataka		
13.	Kerala		
14.	Madhya Pradesh		
15.	Maharashtra		
16.	Manipur	0.05	3.41
17.	Meghalaya	0.04	5.50
18.	Mizoram	0.09	9.70
19.	Nagaland	0.08	7.50
20.	Orissa		5.44
21.	Punjab		
22.	Rajasthan		
23.	Sikkim		
24.	Tamil Nadu		
25.	Tripura	0.05	
26.	Uttar Pradesh		
27.	Uttaranchal		
28.	West Bengal		
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Island		
Total		0.42	40.88

Statement-V

State-wise area treated and the amount spent during the first two years (2002-03 and 2003-04) of Xth plan for Integrated Wasteland Development Programme (IWDP)

Area in lakh ha. Rs. in crores			
S. No.	States	Area Treated	Amount spent
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	0.72	48.40
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.88	8.10

1	2	3	4
3.	Assam	1.74	31.70
4.	Bihar	0.45	4.37
5.	Chhattisgarh	0.40	17.48
6.	Goa	0.10	0.82
7.	Gujarat	0.57	32.28
8.	Haryana	0.20	5.95
9.	Himachal Pradesh	0.43	28.50
10.	Jharkhand	0.33	3.14
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	0.05	4.63
12.	Karnataka	0.514	37.14
13.	Kerala	0.15	4.11
14.	Madhya Pradesh	0.94	59.55
15.	Maharashtra	0.45	16.57
16.	Manipur	0.74	9.55
17.	Meghalaya	0.28	4.67
18.	Mizoram	0.80	17.68
19.	Nagaland	0.97	36.09
20.	Orissa	0.38	28.25
21.	Punjab	0.00	0.51
22.	Rajasthan	0.45	28.69
23.	Sikkim	0.18	4.53
24.	Tamil Nadu	0.55	28.31
25.	Tripura	0.00	0.32
26.	Uttar Pradesh	0.65	36.31
27.	Uttaranchal	0.38	7.00
28.	West Bengal	0.10	0.82
Total		13.384	505.47

Statement-VI

State-wise area treated and the amount spent during the first two years (2002-03 and 2003-04) of Xth plan for Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP)

Area in lakh ha. Rs. in crores			
S. No.	States	Area Treated	Amount spent
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2.89	97.92
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.00	0.00
3.	Assam	0.00	0.00
4.	Bihar	0.60	5.73
5.	Chhattisgarh	1.16	29.29
6.	Goa	0.00	0.00
7.	Gujarat	2.45	66.36
8.	Haryana	0.00	0.00.
9.	Himachal Pradesh	0.45	9.00
10.	Jharkhand	1.82	17.66
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	0.66	6.45
12.	Karnataka	2.19	54.81
13.	Kerala	0.00	0.00
14.	Madhya Pradesh	2.67	97.43
15.	Maharashtra	2.98	27.79
16.	Manipur	0.00	0.00
17.	Meghalaya	0.00	0.00
18.	Mizoram	0.00	0.00
19.	Nagaland	0.00	0.00
20.	Orissa	1.53	19.55
21.	Punjab	0.00	0.00
22.	Rajasthan	1.04	34.10
23.	Sikkim	0.00	0.00
24.	Tamil Nadu	1.52	34.61

1	2	3	4
25.	Tripura	0.00	0.00
26.	Uttar Pradesh	1.59	32.16
27.	Uttaranchal	0.93	8.50
28.	West Bengal	0.52	3.51
Total		25.00	544.87

Statement-VII

State-wise area treated and the amount spent during the first two years (2002-03 and 2003-04) of Xth plan for Desert Development Programme (DDP)

Area in lakh ha. Rs. in crores			
S. No.	States	Area Treated	Amount spent
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1.10	17.79
2.	Arunachal Pradesh		
3.	Assam		
4.	Bihar		
5.	Chhattisgarh		
6.	Goa		
7.	Gujarat	2.87	90.30
8.	Haryana	1.19	37.30
9.	Himachal Pradesh	0.61	16.38
10.	Jharkhand		
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	0.59	20.29
12.	Karnataka	1.69	37.32
13.	Kerala		
14.	Madhya Pradesh		
15.	Maharashtra		
16.	Manipur		
17.	Meghalaya		
18.	Mizoram		

1	2	3	4
19.	Nagaland		
20.	Orissa		
21.	Punjab		
22.	Rajasthan	7.79	180.40
23.	Sikkim		
24.	Tamil Nadu		
25.	Tripura		
26.	Uttar Pradesh		
27.	Uttaranchal		
28.	West Bengal		
Total		15.80	399.79

Atithi Devo Bhava

2801. PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:

SHRIMATI ANURADHA CHOUDHARY:

SHRI MOHD. TAHIR:

SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR KUSHAWAHA:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to launch a campaign viz Atithi Devo Bhava; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the funds allocated during the current year for the said campaign?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) Ministry of Tourism has already launched a campaign 'Atithi Devo Bhava' during the year 2004-05.

(b) 'Atithi Devo Bhava' is an Awareness Campaign aimed at providing the inbound tourist with a sense of being welcome by and to the country. The campaign targets the general public as a whole, while focusing on the stakeholders of the tourism industry. The main components of the campaign are training and orientation to taxi drivers, guides, immigration officers, tourist police and other personnel directly interacting with the tourists, while simultaneously creating a brand equity for the trained persons. "Atithi Devo Bhava" involves

Sensitisation, Screening, Induction, Training & Orientation, Certification and Feedback of key stakeholders of the Tourism industry in India. Approximately 26,300 stakeholders which include taxi drivers, porters, security staff, immigration & custom staff, railway employees are being trained in the Phase I. An allocation of Rs.497 lakhs has been made during the current year for the said campaign.

[English]

**Insurance Scheme for Small Growers
In Plantation Sector**

2802. SHRI D. VITTAL RAO:

SHRI RAVICHANDRAN SIPPIPARAI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has announced a personal accident insurance scheme for small growers in the plantation sector under the Price Stabilisation Fund Scheme; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the main features of the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) On the recommendations of the High Powered Committee, Personal Accident insurance cover to all small growers of Tea, Coffee, Rubber and Tobacco, who have enrolled under Price Stabilisation Fund (PSF) Scheme has been introduced by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

The main features of Personal Accident Insurance are:-

- The insurance covers death/disablement due to accidents caused by external violent and visible means e.g. fire, drowning, snake bite, road/rail accidents, electrocution, attack by wild animals. Sterilization risk is also covered.
- The exclusions are death, injury or disablement arising out of (a) intentional self injury, suicide, insanity, drunkenness (b) breach of law with criminal intent and (c) war or warlike operations and/or nuclear devices.
- The scope of cover is as under:

(a) Death due to accident	Rs.25,000/-
(b) Permanent total disablement due to accident	Rs.25,000/-

(c) Loss of one or one limb Rs.12,500/-

(d) Loss of two limbs, one eye & one limb or both eyes Rs.25,000/-

- The insurance coverage is being provided by the United India Insurance Company Ltd.

**Achievements of Integrated
Dairy Development Projects**

2803. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the achievements of Integrated Dairy Development Projects (IDDPs) in non-operation flood, hilly and backward areas are much below than targeted;

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

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto;

(d) the funds spent thereon during the last three years; State-wise;

(e) whether the areas selected under IDDPs have either very little or no infrastructure in terms of animal husbandry and dairying; and

(f) if so, the steps taken by the Government to make available infrastructures in these areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (f): The IDDP in Non Operation Flood Hilly and Backward Areas is being implemented in the areas, which as the name suggests, are hilly and backward and have very little or no infrastructure in animal husbandry and dairying. Against a cumulative target of formation of 13,941 village level Dairy Cooperative Societies (DCS) with a membership of 9.37 lakhs farmer, 11,194 DCS (89.3%) have been organized with a membership of 6.66 lakhs farmers (71.1%) upto 30.9.04. Government of India is providing assistance at 100% grant basis for these areas for all components including building up of infrastructure.

A statement indicating funds released to various States during the last three years is enclosed.

Statement

*Fund released during last three years
under IDDP scheme*

(Amount Rs. in Lakh)

Sl. No.	State	Amount Released 2001-02	Amount Released 2002-03	Amount Released 2003-04
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	4500	25.00	22.00
2.	Andhra Pradesh	-		150.00
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	-		14.20
4.	Assam	149.34		
5.	Bihar	64.47	56.79	100.00
6.	Jharkhand	-	160.00	99.91
7.	Haryana	38.75		
8.	Himachal Pradesh	200.00	100.00	50.75
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	-	40.00	
10.	Madhya Pradesh	-	98.79	
11.	Chhattisgarh	479.20	29.52	
12.	Maharashtra	500.00	200.00	
13.	Meghalaya	-		50.00
14.	Mizoram	59.17	72.41	
15.	Nagaland	132.07		
16.	Orissa	-	288.21	
17.	Sikkim	84.98	90.82	324.80
18.	Tripura	56.51		
19.	Uttar Pradesh	217.58		325.09
20.	Uttaranchal		476.59	483.00
Total		2027.07	1613.13	1619.75

Wheat/Mango Varieties for Cultivation

2804. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Agricultural Research

Institute (IARI) released six varieties wheat and two varieties of mango for cultivation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any scheme for providing technical training for improving different varieties of crops; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) During 2004, Indian Agricultural Research Institute has developed five wheat varieties namely, HD 2864, HI 2827, HW 5001, HD 2851 and Pusa Gold. Two mango varieties viz. Pusa Arunima and Pusa Surya have been developed by IARI during 2002 for their commercial cultivation in India.

(c) and (d) IARI organises various short term trainings for providing technical know-how for improving the crop varieties from time-to-time.

Anti-Erosion Works in States

2805. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAIISI:

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY:

SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA:

SHRI KIRIP CHALIHA:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government provides assistance under critical anti-erosion works to coastal and other Ganga Basin States;

(b) if so, the details of assistance provided to such States during each of the last three years;

(c) whether the Government proposes to make some changes in the said scheme after the recent Tsunami waves in Southern coast of the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken to check sea erosion in coastal States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN

YADAV): (a) and (b) Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme "Critical anti erosion works in Coastal and other than Ganga Basin States" taken up in March 2004 on pilot basis, Central Government provides assistance to the State Governments in the form of grant. The details of the assistance provided to various State Governments is as under:

S. No.	States/UTs	(Rs. in crores)	
		Year	
		2003-04	2004-05
1.	Karnataka	0.50	-
2.	Kerala	0.50	-
3.	Orissa	0.50	-
4.	Maharashtra	-	1.00
5.	Tamil Nadu	-	1.00
6.	Pondicherry	-	1.00
	Total	1.50	3.00

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Amount for Seed Development Programme

2806. SHRI G. M. SIDDESWARA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount provided by the Union Government to various State Governments for the Seed Development Programme in Government agriculture farms during the last three years, State-wise, particularly in Karnataka;

(b) the financial assistance proposed to be provided to them by the Union Government under the said programme during the year 2004-2005, State-wise, particularly in Karnataka;

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

(d) the remedial measures being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (d) A statement showing State-wise details is enclosed.

Statement

State-wise details of Amount for Seed Development Programme

S.No.	Name of State	Amount Provided by the Union Government to various State Governments for the seed development programme in Govt. agriculture farms during the last three years	Amount provided during 2004-05	Total number of Agriculture Farms running in losses	Remedial Measures Taken
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Nil	Nil	4	Accountability on concerned officer fixed. Infrastructure facilities provided to avoid contingency.
2.	Tamil Nadu	Nil	Nil	22	The farms are functioning as a model farms and to produce quality certified seeds to farmers at reasonable prices. They are not functioning fully on a commercial

1	2	3	4	5	6
					<p>basis. The farms run into losses due to continuous drought situation prevailed during the past years. Measures are being taken to improve the irrigation facilities i.e. deepening of wells, introduction of sprinklers etc.</p> <p>Action is being taken to minimize the expenditure and increase the receipts. Efforts are being made to take up wasteland development by raising trees such as Jatropa, Simaruba to increase the farm income.</p>
Tamil Nadu (Horticulture)	Nil		Nil	18	<p>Action is being taken to increase Mother Plant Area under improved varieties to increase the production of plants of improved varieties. Steps are being taken to convert the unproductive areas into productive areas. To follow high-tech horticulture techniques effectively and minimize the expenditure and increase the receipts.</p>
3. West Bengal	Nil		Nil	198	<p>Financial assistance have been provided to 12 number of farms. Initiatives are going taken to provide financial assistance under Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) through National Bank for Agriculture & Rural Development (NABARD) for strengthening the infrastructure of agriculture farms and for their effective utilization.</p>
4. Kerala	2001-02 Rs. 5.07 lakhs 2002-03 Rs. 30.52 lakhs 2003-04 Rs.106.93 lakhs		Rs.152.88 lakhs	57	<p>Perspective master plan has been prepared jointly by District Panchayat and Department of Agriculture.</p> <p>Hardening Unit of tissue culture plantlets like vanilla, Anthurium and orchids are being set up in selected farms of the State with a view to provide quality planting materials of high value crops to farmers at reasonable rates. Commercial floriculture has been started in orange and vegetable farms, Nelliampathy, Palakkad district to make the farm profitable. The</p>

1	2	3	4	5	6
					proposed modernization of fruit processing unit will also increase the receipt of the farm. Plan for five years is prepared and it is proposed to start organic farming in selected farms and to develop and multiply high yielding planting material and seeds of recently released varieties.
5.	Pondicherry	NII	NII	4	These farms are being run for demonstration/experimental/seed production purpose etc. not with a commercial motive.
6.	Manipur	2001-02 NII 2002-03 Rs.22.00 lakhs 2003-04 Rs.33.00 lakhs	Rs.28.86 lakhs	10	Only the economically viable farms are taken care of under Macro Management.
7.	Meghalaya	NII	NII	NII	Does not arise
8.	Mizoram	Rs.72. lakhs	Rs.3.00 lakhs	NII	Does not arise
9.	Gujarat	NII	NII	NII	Does not arise.
10.	Himachal Pradesh	2001-02 Rs.21.60 lakhs 2002-03 Rs.46.31 lakhs 2003-04 Rs.39.46 lakhs	Rs.79.38 lakhs	21	The seed farms are not meant for earning profit; but to produce quality seeds. However, steps have been initiated to implement the recommendations of the State Agriculture University (SAU) for the production of crops.
11.	Haryana	NII	NII	NII	Does not arise.
	Haryana Horticulture	2003-04 Rs.12 lakhs	Rs.14 lakhs	2 farms are running in loss and preparation of profit and loss account of 17 farms is in progress and the actual position will be clear later on.	Strengthening of these Nurseries by creation of infrastructure such as latest machinery and tools, fencing, irrigation facilities, plantation of new orchards, economy in wasteful expenditure, production of maximum number of elite fruit plant material and adoption of improved cropping plans at these farms.
12.	Karnataka	2001-02 Rs.50 lakhs 2002-03 Rs.30 lakhs 2003-04 Rs.30 lakhs	Rs.20 lakhs	49	5 Farms transferred to University of agriculture Science (UAS) Bangalore/Dharwad and three farms are proposed to be transferred to University of Agriculture Science, Bangalore/Dharwad. One Agriculture farm each already

1	2	3	4	5	6
					transferred to Department of Revenue and Forest and Karnataka Horticulture Board. One Agriculture farm each proposed to be transferred to Karnataka State Seed Certification Agency, KAWADA, Kaveri water Nigam, Tharabalu organization, and Karnataka Sugar Factory. Approval of the Government of Karnataka is awaited 17 Agricultural Farms proposed to be handed over to the unemployed Agriculture Graduates/ private organizations on lease basis.
13	Orissa	2001-02 Rs. 7.00 lakhs 2002-03 Rs.6.53 lakhs 2003-04 Rs.5.72 lakhs	Nil	4	The Government in Agriculture Department of Orissa have constituted a Committee under the Chairmanship of Director, Watershed Mission to review the farm activities in order to arrive at a concluding decision to sell the loss making farms.
14.	Madhya Pradesh	2000-01 to 2003-04 Rs.407.60 lakhs	Rs.56.67 lakhs	25	Sufficient remedial measures have already been taken to increase the productivity.
15.	Chhattisgarh	2001-02 Rs.30.00 lakhs 2002-03 Rs.15.00 lakhs 2003-04 Rs.25.00 lakhs	Rs.55.00 lakhs	13	Five year action plan for all the farms have been prepared Seed rolling plans for the year 2003-04 to 2009-10 have been prepared and seed multiplication programme at the farms are being taken according to the rolling plan. Proposal for strengthening of Government farms is being finalized. New tractors, farm equipments, development of infrastructure and irrigation sources will get a boost under this programme. Seed processing, grading and packing under expert supervision will be done in the farm itself so that remunerative prices for the seeds produced could be obtained.
16.	Maharashtra	2003-04 Rs.200 lakhs	Rs.200 lakhs	64	Government has taken a policy decision for conversion of these farms into Agro-Policlinics-cum-Farmers' Training Centres to impart training to farmers on advanced

1	2	3	4	5	6
					agro-techniques; organizing demonstrations on innovative agro-techniques of crop production, water harvesting, use of bio-fertilizers and Integrated Pest Management, Green house, organic and precision farming. The farms are being used as centers of services and technology transfer to farmers.
17.	Andaman and Nicobar	Nil	Nil	No profit/loss are calculated of 33 farms as these farms are meant for demonstration/trial purpose to motivate farmers of these islands.	Does not arise.
18.	Rajasthan	2003-04 Rs.438.59 lakhs	493.39 lakhs	Nil	None
19.	Uttaranchal	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
20.	Jharkhand	2001-02 Rs.90.00 lakhs 2002-03 Rs.137.52 lakhs 2003-04 Rs.125.97 lakhs	Nil	The State Government have informed that details are being collected	State plan scheme to strengthen seed multiplication are in progress in 105 seed multiplication seed farms.
21.	Chandigarh	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
22.	Uttar Pradesh	2001-02 Nil 2002-03 Rs.1456.75 lakhs 2003-04 Rs.667.97 lakhs	Rs.860 lakhs	42	Replacement of old tractors, provision of new tube wells for irrigation purpose, change in cropping pattern, substitute of high input requiring crops by low input requiring crops. Production of vegetable and potato seed farms are being ensured as per norms in the Government units of the State and alternative use of the unproductive and loss making
	UP (Hort)	2001-02 Rs.22.31 lakhs 2002-03 Rs.45.61 lakhs 2003-04 Rs.63.19 lakhs	Rs.159.63 lakhs	88	units is also being considered. The State Government have taken a decision to run the departmental production units under Farm Management Council (FMC) which will further help in making these units financially viable.
23.	Goa	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
24.	Arunachal Pradesh	2001-02 Rs.20.95 lakhs 2002-03 Rs. 7.50 lakhs 2003-04 Rs. 1.25 lakhs	Rs.3.20 lakhs	9	Cutting expenditure on post and maintenance. To take alternative crop in case of crop failure.

	1	2	3	4	5	6
					Green manuring and use of organics to improve soil condition Raising crops throughout the year as per agro-climatic suitability. Utilization of undeveloped land in farm area. Providing irrigation in some of the farms with stress on use of machinery to reduce labour cost.	
25.	Punjab	Nil	Nil	Nil	Not Applicable	
26.	Daman and Diu	Nil	Nil	3	All possible steps are being initiated to reduce expenditure and increase production.	
27.	Tripura	2001-02 - Nil 2002-03 - Rs.5 lakhs 2003-04 - Rs.11 lakhs	Rs.60 lakhs	13 farms	For revival of the farms action already taken by way of chalking out of different cropping programmes.	
28.	Sikkim	2001-02 - Rs.20 lakhs 2002-03 - Rs.37.50 lakhs 2003-04 - Rs.37.00 lakhs	Rs.43.20 lakhs	1	Irrigation facilities are being provided to increase the production and productivity of Government farms; and More emphasis are given to quality seed production programme in Government farms to minimize the loss.	
29.	Jammu and Kashmir	2002-03- Nil 2003-04 - Rs.3.87 lakhs	Rs.15.00 lakhs	21	The remedial measures have already been taken by projecting the proposal for upgrading/ improvement of these farms to the State Government and NABARD for financial assistance.	
30.	Nagaland	2001-02 - Rs.23.00 lakhs 2002-03 - Rs.40.00 lakhs 2003-04 - Rs. 60.00 lakhs	Rs.50.00 lakhs	The development programme in the State being implemented either for research or demonstration purpose and the farms are not being run on commercial/revenue basis.	Does not arise.	
31.	Assam	2001-02 - 18.50 lakhs 2002-03 - 23.41 lakhs 2003-04 - Rs. 12.25 lakhs	Rs.35 lakhs	33	State Government of Assam has taken policy decision for leasing out Agriculture Seed Farms to the private parties phase-wise for production of certified/quality seeds.	
32.	Bihar	Nil	Nil	220 (As reported by Government of Bihar in the year 2000.	Government of Bihar reported in the year 2000 that due to non-availability of funds, seed production programme had not been taken up in these agricultural farms. However, programme for cultivation and re-vitalization of State Farms has been under consideration by Government of Bihar.	

Master Plan for Irrigation

2807. SHRI RUPCHAND MURMU: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has formulated any master plan for irrigation in the States including West Bengal; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) Irrigation being State subject, master plan for irrigation in States is prepared by the respective State Government. The Ministry of Water Resources has not formulated statewide master plan for irrigation.

Tourist Circuits

2808. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN:

SHRI V. K. THUMMAR:

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA:

SHRI K. C. PALANISAMY:

SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD:

SHRI ILYAS AZMI:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the details of tourist circuits set up in the country at present, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government proposes to develop such circuits;

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

(d) the expenditure incurred and details of funds allocated/released to State Governments during the last three years;

(e) whether the Government has formulated any plan for creation of more tourist circuits during the Tenth Five Year Plan; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) to (c) A list of tourist circuits taken up for development during the year 2004- 2005 upto 31.12.2004 is as per enclosed statement-I.

(d) The details of funds sanctioned/released to the State Governments for the infrastructure development during the last three years upto 31.12.2004 is as per enclosed statement-II.

(e) and (f) The Ministry of Tourism assists the State Governments in developing the tourist circuits under its scheme of Integrated Development of Tourist Circuits based on the receipt of project proposals, merit, inter-se-priority and availability of funds etc.

Statement**Development of Tourist Circuits during 2004-2005**

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	Circuits	Amount Sanctioned	Amount Released
1	2	3	4
1.	Kurnool Circuit Andhra Pradesh	800.00	640.00
2.	Khammam Circuit, Andhra Pradesh	797.47	637.98
3.	Eco-Tourism Circuit, Chhattisgarh	648.35	518.68
4.	Belur-Halebid/Sravanabelagola Circuit, Karnataka	798.50	638.80
5.	Northern Karnataka Circuit, Karnataka	800.00	640.00
6.	Malabar Circuit	795.56	636.48
7.	High Range Tourism Circuit, Kerala	783.07	626.40

1	2	3	4
8.	Konkan Riviera Circuit, Part- II, Maharashtra	685.87	548.70
9.	Integrated Tourist Circuit, Shimla, Himachal Pradesh	800.00	640.00
10.	Kangra Circuit, Himachal Pradesh	800.00	640.00
11.	Integrated Buddhist Circuit, Orissa	740.67	592.52
12.	Dayara Bugyal Circuit, Uttaranchal	536.36	429.08
13.	NE Travel Circuit, Assam	437.75	350.00
14.	Travel Circuit Meghalaya	674.15	576.59
15.	Circuit Development, Mizoram	634.00	570.28
16.	Travel Circuit at 6 places of Nagaland	766.50	613.20
17.	Tourist Circuit in East Sikkim	355.00	284.00
18.	Tourist Circuit in West Sikkim	396.00	316.80
19.	Buddhist Circuit at Tashiding, West Sikkim	181.00	144.80
20.	Integrated Tourist Circuit, Srinagar, Kashmir	800.00	640.00

Statement-II*State-wise Tourism Projects Sanctioned during the 10th Plan (as on 31.12.2004)*

(Rs. in lakhs)

S. No.	State/UT	2002-03			2003-04			2004-05 (up to 31.12.2004)		
		No. of Project Sancd	Amount Sancd	Amount Released	No. of Project Sancd	Amount Sancd	Amount Released	No. of Project Sancd	Amount Sancd	Amount Released
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2	507.50	195.00	6	946.50	896.44	11	2750.81	2191.92
2.	Assam	9	768.13	618.85	3	313.46	313.06	6	955.88	742.10
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	5	41.30	32.50	6	1044.60	700.00	6	1285.70	905.52
4.	Bihar	8	505.00	505.00	6	1019.42	913.89	7	1901.23	1527.55
5.	Chhattisgarh	9	308.00	98.50	6	1005.00	364.00	4	1086.26	869.01
6.	Goa	1	0.50	0.50	2	36.76	34.76	2	10.00	8.00
7.	Gujarat	2	197.12	59.13	8	920.51	815.82	2	138.93	111.14
8.	Haryana	8	332.25	311.00	16	1215.38	879.23	5	678.55	501.64
9.	Himachal Pradesh	30	779.32	760.38	4	182.32	85.00	5	2620.00	1736.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
10	Jammu and Kashmir	3	94.38	89.47	5	895.00	895.00	2	805.00	644.00
11	Jharkhand	0	0	0	2	1109.00	774.60	1	474.97	379.97
12	Karnataka	6	902.49	625.49	14	932.66	792.51	8	2432.76	1914.37
13	Kerala	11	861.36	829.86	6	608.50	564.15	5	2148.63	1718.88
14	Madhya Pradesh	18	711.18	574.79	10	621.90	394.51	8	1285.46	783.03
15	Maharashtra	8	623.46	546.25	10	931.83	914.58	6	1573.38	1260.10
16	Manipur	2	5.24	2.62	1	82.44	24.73	0	0.00	0.00
17	Meghalaya	3	70.35	21.20	2	40.22	24.92	2	963.30	807.91
18	Mizoram	6	141.16	48.46	5	587.70	186.75	3	1081.28	927.09
19	Nagaland	5	360.50	323.43	4	711.00	220.80	5	2165.69	1731.40
20	Orissa	2	47.50	15.75	5	419.55	138.50	5	1316.48	999.69
21	Punjab	3	23.00	14.60	2	96.00	12.30	4	846.41	561.26
22	Rajasthan	13	1098.70	1096.20	14	1644.81	1414.25	2	39.31	31.45
23	Sikkim	13	346.24	269.76	8	1151.09	681.49	6	1005.81	805.13
24	Tamil Nadu	5	559.00	316.10	14	1339.82	850.53	6	876.92	702.72
25	Tripura	5	216.13	67.78	6	450.17	135.16	0	0.00	0.00
26	Uttaranchal	3	548.00	418.00	4	230.44	203.94	3	1412.93	1125.56
27	Uttar Pradesh	3	295.00	295.00	7	1115.80	916.26	7	1037.43	825.19
28	West Bengal	5	201.10	60.00	10	717.44	384.34	5	480.04	384.03
29	Andaman and Nicobar	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0.00
30	Chandigarh	3	7.75	6.63	2	10.00	8.00	1	457.00	365.60
31	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	2	8.07	6.46	0	0	0	0	0.00	0.00
32	Delhi	14	504.00	449.02	17	3316.28	3222.13	1	500.00	400.00
33	Daman and Diu	3	49.50	16.90	1	265.07	238.56	0	0.00	0.00
34	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0.00
35	Pondicherry	2	7.87	6.30	1	245.17	73.55	2	451.00	360.00
Total		212	11121.10	8680.93	207	24185.84	18073.76	130	32784.16	25320.26

[Translation]

Demands of Representative Organizations

2809. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH "LALAN":

DR. CHINTA MOHAN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn toward the Joint charter of demands of the forty farmers representative organizations from all over country;

(b) if so, whether the above charter of demands was sent to the Government by these organizations in December 2004;

(c) if so, the facts in this regard;

(d) the details of the demands placed before the Government by these organizations; and

(e) the action taken by the Government in this regard so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (d) Letters have been received from Shri P.Chengal Reddy, C/o Confederation of Indian Industry and Shri Sanat Mehta of Gujarat Pradesh Nationalist Congress Party in the month of December 2004. The demands raised by the Farmers Associations are related to:-

(i) Policy issues:-

1. Need for separate Union Budget presentation by Minister for Agriculture.
2. Need to consider inclusion of Agriculture in concurrent list.
3. Government should take steps to prepare National Agriculture index.
4. Transport cost for agricultural produce and other allied products be subsidized (both for interstate transport and overseas transport).
5. Disinvestment in public sector and reinvestment in irrigation sector.
6. Reorganizing Commodity Boards and establishing new Commodity Boards.

(ii) Financial issues:-

1. Agricultural credit facility from banks should be enhanced and the rate of interest should be fixed 6% P.A.
2. Crop Insurance.
3. Tax holiday on agriculture implements to achieve global competitiveness.
4. Saving 30,000 crore crop losses from pests and diseases.
5. Assistance for seed replacement for resource poor farmers.
6. Assistance for breed improvement.
7. Rationalising duties on imported agricultural commodities.

(iii) Agriculture Ministry issues:-

1. Minimum support prices - to be converted as remunerative prices.
2. Give Status of Agriculture to Aqua-culture & Poultry.
3. National Aqua-culture Development Board.
4. To activate and enlarge the activities of agriculture TV channel.

(iv) Infrastructural issues:-

1. Encourage value addition, cold storage and agro-processing in a big way.

(e) Agriculture being a State Subject, the State Government is responsible for implementation of policies and programmes for development of agriculture in the States. The Union Government recognizes its responsibility towards the agriculture; sector. Steps are accordingly undertaken by the Department of Agriculture & Cooperation. Plan provision have been made to enhance agricultural production and productivity through various schemes and programmes to raise the income of farmers and for augmentation of their living standards. The plan allocations inter-alia cover crop production programmes marketing reforms and creation of marketing & storage infrastructure like godowns and cold storages, soil and water conservation, on Farm Water Management to provide irrigation facilities in Eastern India, plant protection measures, cooperation,

horticulture development and promotion of high yielding varieties of seeds. Promotion of agricultural extension through scheme of Mass Media support to Agriculture Extension under which existing infrastructure of Doordarshan, All India Radio and Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) to provide information to the farming community is being utilized. Under risk management a number of schemes like National Agricultural Insurance Scheme, Minimum Support Price Scheme and Market Intervention Scheme are being implemented as a safety net for farmers.

Handover of Work of BBMB to Punjab

2810. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether head works of Ropar Hatike and Ferozpur are under control of Punjab;

(b) whether as per clause 79 of Punjab Reorganisation Act, 1966, the control of these works should sort with Bhakra Beas Management Board;

(c) if so, whether the Bhakra Beas Management Board shall not take these head works under its jurisdiction;

(d) whether the Government proposes to issue directions to BBMB to take these head works under its jurisdiction; and

(e) if so, by when, if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Section 79(1) of the Punjab Reorganisation Act, 1966 provides for the administration, maintenance and operation by the Bhakra Management Board (now the Bhakra Beas Management Board) of, inter alia, the irrigation headworks of Rupur, Harike and Ferozpur.

(c) to (e) It has been the continuing endeavour of the Central Government to resolve the issue of transfer of control of the said head works from Punjab to the Bhakra Beas Management Board amicably among the concerned States and accordingly request the Bhakra Beas Management Board. Keeping in view that no agreement is arrived at so far, despite two Inter-State meetings in which the issue was discussed, further action would be possible at an opportune time after the outcome of a Presidential Reference in the matter of Punjab Termination of Agreements Act, 2004.

[English]

Agricultural Technology Information Centres

2811. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY:
SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:
SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has established Agriculture Technology Information Centres in various locations which are not dominated by the farmers;

(b) if so, the reasons for setting up of such centres in State capitals or important towns rather than in farmer dominated belt;

(c) whether the Government is aware that poor farmers have to commute centres from far flung areas of the country;

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to set up such centres in the midst of rural areas of the country; and

(e) the details of the activities undertaken in such centres alongwith the assistance given by the Union Government to each of such centres during each of the last three years, till date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) The Agriculture Technology Information Centres (ATICs) have been set up in the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) Institutes and State Agricultural Universities to facilitate access to the technology for dissemination to farmers. For easy access the ATICs have been set up right at the gates of the ICAR's Institutes and Universities. The ICAR has established 44 such centres under the State Agricultural Universities (SAUs) and ICAR Institutes in the respective places of their locations.

(c) and (d) From the establishment of these centres, 60.03 lakhs farmers have been benefited from quality seeds/planting materials; soil/water/plant sample analysis and veterinary services; books/periodicals and extension literatures; and other advisory services. There is no proposal for establishment of more such centres.

(e) The activities of the centres include providing technology products, diagnostic services, and technology information to the farmers and other end users. These centres were established in three phases from 1998-99. The major portion of funds was provided by 2000-01. During

the last three years (2001-02 to 2003-04), an amount of Rs. 313.28 lakhs has been released based on the need of these centres, the details of which are given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

Details of release of funds to each of the 44 ATICs during last three years (2001-02 to 2003-04)

(Rs. in lakhs)

S.No.	ATIC Centres	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology, Srinagar	-	1.89	-	1.89
2	Marathwada Agricultural University, Parbhani	-	7.36	-	7.36
3	Jawaharlal Nehru Krishi Vishwa Vidyalaya, Jabalpur	-	4.73	-	4.73
4	Indira Gandhi Krishi Vishwavidyalaya, Raipur	-	4.12	-	4.12
5	University of Agricultural Sciences, Bangalore	-	4.23	-	4.23
6	Dr. Punjabrao Deshmukh Krishi Vidyapeeth, Akola	-	3.37	-	3.37
7	Mahatama Phule Krishi Vidyapeeth, Rahuri	-	1.46	-	1.46
8	Chandra Shekhar Azad University of Agriculture and Technology, Kanpur	-	-	-	-
9	Tamil Nadu University of Veterinary and Animal Sciences, Chennai	-	6.17	-	6.17
10	Bidhan Chandra Krishi Vishwa Vidyalaya, Nadia	-	3.77	-	3.77
11	Central Arid Zone Research Institute, Jodhpur	-	4.09	-	4.09
12	Central Institute of Freshwater Aquaculture, Bhubneshwar	-	2.69	-	2.69
13	ICAR Research Complex for NEH Region, Barapani	-	38.70	-	38.70
14	Central Institute of Cotton Research, Nagpur	-	3.29	-	3.29
15	University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad	-	1.95	-	1.95
16	Indian Institute of Spices Research, Calicut	-	-	-	-
17	National Dairy Research Institute, Karnal	-	-	-	-
18	Kerala Agricultural University, Thrissur	-	2.95	-	2.95
19	Acharya NG Ranga Agricultural University, Hyderabad	-	19.42	-	19.42

1	2	3	4	5	6
20	Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute, Cochin	-	2.23	-	2.23
21	Central Institute of Fisheries Technology, Cochin	-	2.99	-	2.99
22	Central Potato Research Institute, Shimla	-	2.21	-	2.21
23	Central Agricultural Research Institute, Port Blair	-	1.44	-	1.44
24	Central Institute of Agricultural Engineering, Bhopal	-	3.94	-	3.94
25	Central Plantation Crops Research Institute, Kasargod	-	4.61	-	4.61
26	CCS Haryana Agricultural University, Hissar	-	1.12	-	1.12
27	Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore	-	0.43	-	0.43
28	CSK Himachal Pradesh Krishi Vishwavidyalaya, Palampur	-	3.19	-	3.19
29	Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana	-	1.33	-	1.33
30	Assam Agricultural University, Jorhat	-	8.17	-	8.17
31	Dr. YS Parmar University of Horticulture and Forestry, Solan	-	1.21	-	1.21
32	Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi	-	1.91	-	1.91
33	Sardar Krushi Nagar Dantiwara Agricultural, University, Sardar Krushi Nagar	-	1.42	-	1.42
34	Rajasthan Agricultural University, Bikaner	-	4.42	-	4.42
35	Birsa Agricultural University, Ranchi	35.59	4.10	-	39.69
36	Indian Institute of Horticultural Research, Bangalore	-	2.06	-	2.06
37	BBS Konkan Krishi Vidyapeeth, Dapoli	-	2.16	-	2.16
38	GB Pant University of Agriculture and Technology, Pantnagar	-	-	-	-
39	Narendra Deva University of Agriculture and Technology, Faizabad	1.00	0.20	-	1.20
40	Indian Veterinary Research Institute, Izatnagar	-	0.30	-	0.30
41	Orissa University of Agriculture and Technology, Bhubaneshwar	35.59	4.47	-	40.06
42	Rajendra Agricultural University, Smastipur	-	1.11	-	1.11
43	Indian Institute of Vegetable Research, Varanasi	-	38.75	-	38.75
44	Maharana Pratap University of Agriculture and Technology, Udaipur	-	35.88	1.26	37.14
Total		72.18	239.84	1.26	313.28

[Translation]

**Promotion of Medicinal Plantation
in Bihar**

2812. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to formulate any scheme to promote the Medicinal Plantation in Bihar;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any such scheme being run in the State; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (d) The Ministry of Agriculture is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Macro Management in Agriculture – Supplementation/Complementation of State Efforts through Work Plan. Under this scheme the State Governments are free to implement programmes as per their priorities and felt needs which includes programme on development of medicinal plants. Under this assistance is being provided for activities like production and distribution of quality planting material, establishment/maintenance of herbal gardens at Rajendra Agricultural University, Samastipur. Besides

programmes on setting up of demonstration plots, and area expansion are being taken up through the State Horticulture Department. The National Medicinal Plants Boards under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare is also providing assistance for contractual farming of identified medicinal plants, setting up of herbal gardens in the state of Bihar.

Utilisation of Funds

2813. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL:

SHRIMATI SUSHEELA BANGARU LAXMAN:

SHRI MOHAN SINGH:

SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the details of amount allocated and spent till date during the year 2004-2005 from the Budget earmarked for promoting tourism;

(b) whether Rs. 233 crores was spent in the month of December, 2004; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) to (c) The details of funds allocated in the B.E. 2004 -2005 (plan) for Ministry of Tourism under various heads, expenditure in the month of December, 2004 and the expenditure upto 28.2.05 are given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

Scheme-wise Allocation in B.E. 2004-05 (Plan), Expenditure in the Month of December, 2004 and Expenditure up to 28.2.2005

		(Rs. in Crores)		
S.No.	Name of Schemes	Approved B.E. 2004-05	Expd. in the month of December 2004	Expd. Upto 28.2.2005
1	2	3	4	5
I Central Sector Schemes (CS)				
1.1	a) Externally Aided Projects	7.50	0.40	0.83
	b) UNDP Endogenous Tourism	2.50**	2.24	4.01
1.2	Assistance to IHMs/FCIs/IITTM/NIWS/NIAS/NCHMCT	25.00	10.03	24.25

1	2	3	4	5
1.3	Capacity Building for Service Providers	3.00	0.21	0.94
1.4	Overseas Promotion and Publicity including Market Development Assistance	90.00	24.74	54.78
1.5	Domestic Promotion and Publicity including Hospitality	14.00	1.10	14.35
1.6	Incentive to Accommodation Infrastructure	10.00	2.56	6.65
1.7	Construction of Building for IISM at Gulmarg Kashmir (J&K Package)	6.00	-	4.00
1.8	Total-CS Schemes (1.1-1.7)	158.00	41.34	109.81
II Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CCS)				
2.1	Computerization & Information Technology	17.00	4.05	6.55
2.2	Market Research including 20 years perspective plan	3.00	4.05	6.55
2.3	Integrated Development of Tourist Circuits	85.00	97.73*	111.11
2.4	Product/Infrastructure and Destination Development	140.00	92.89*	157.38
2.5	Assistance for Large Revenue Generating Projects	18.00	-	0.33
2.6	Revival of Tourism in J&K (J&K Package)	9.00	4.00	9.00
2.7	Tourism Infrastructure Development Fund	20.00	-	-
2.8	Total-CCS Schemes (2.1-2.7)	292.00	-	285.29
2.9	Total-CS to CSS Schemes (1.8+2.8)	450.00	-	395.10
III 10% Lumpsum provision for NE region & Sikkim				
	Capital	35.00		
	Revenue	15.00		
3.1	Total-North East Region & Sikkim	50.00		
3.2	Grand Total (2.9+3.1)	500.00	240.24	395.10

* Included expenditure incurred on projects on NE Region

** Supplementary of Rs. 3.50 crore has been obtained.

[English]

Unemployed Below Poverty Line

2814. SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are a number of families living below the poverty line where all the members of the family are unemployed;

(b) if so, whether any survey has been undertaken to identify such families and to provide employment to some member of that family; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRA SHEKHAR RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Identification of families living below the poverty line is done and various poverty alleviation schemes

implemented to provide employment. In addition to these a National Rural Employment Guarantee Bill to provide 100 days of employment to each family below the poverty line living in rural areas has already been tabled in Parliament in December, 2004.

[Translation]

Storage of Foodgrains

2815. SHRI DEVIDAS PINGLE: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Food Corporation of India (FCI) has decided to make arrangements for the storage of foodgrains in some States to avoid the transportation costs running into crores of rupees;

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

(c) the profit likely to accrue to the farmers of these States as a result to this steps; and

(d) the names of the districts where warehouses under the said scheme is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) The Food Corporation of India (FCI) makes adequate arrangements for safe storage of foodgrains in various States, based on requirements. The details of the Storage Capacity with the FCI, State-wise, is in the enclosed statement.

(c) By opening adequate purchase centres by the FCI and State agencies, farmers are assured of minimum support prices for their foodgrain produce conforming to specifications.

(d) The storage capacity created by the FCI during 2004-05 (upto 31.1.2005) is as under:

1. Manmad (Maharashtra) - 11920 MTs
2. Tumkur (Karnataka) - 5000 MTs
3. Koppal (Karnataka) - 10000 MTs

Statement

As on 31.1.2005
Figures in Lakh Tonnes

Name of the State	Total Storage Capacity (Covered & CAP/Owned and Hired)
1	2
Bihar	4.92
Jharkhand	1.11

1	2
Orissa	5.99
West Bengal	10.55
Sikkim	0.11
Assam	2.52
Arunachal Pradesh	0.18
Meghalaya	0.19
Mizoram	0.18
Tripura	0.24
Manipur	0.20
Nagaland	0.27
Delhi	3.70
Haryana	23.23
Himachal Pradesh	0.26
Jammu and Kashmir	1.03
Punjab	77.98
Chandigarh	1.06
Rajasthan	9.21
Uttar Pradesh	25.87
Uttranchal	1.81
Andhra Pradesh	33.89
Kerala	5.46
Karnataka	6.17
Tamil Nadu	7.67
Pondicherry	0.42
Gujarat	5.79
Maharashtra	15.87
Goa	0.15
Madhya Pradesh	5.43
Chhattisgarh	8.49
Total	259.95

Policy for Increasing Agricultural Area Under Irrigation

2816. DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the policy, assistance and programme of the Government for increase in agricultural area under irrigation;

(b) the details of targets and achievements set for agricultural production in the current Five Year Plan in context of prominent grains like oilseeds, pulses etc.; and

(c) the details of the action plan to achieve the targets for present irrigated area and for increase in irrigated area by the end of the current Five Year Plan, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) Irrigation development, planning, execution and funding of irrigation projects are carried out by the State Governments. However, for early completion of ongoing major and medium irrigation projects, Government of India provides Central Loan Assistance (CLA) to the State Government under the Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP) since 1996-97 through the Ministry of Water Resources. Central Loan Assistance under AIBP is also provided for minor irrigation schemes of the special category States comprising of North Eastern States and Sikkim, the Hilly States of Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttaranchal as well as the drought prone Kalahandi, Bolangir and Koraput districts of Orissa with effect from 1999-2000. AIBP has been modified from April 2004 to provide central assistance in the form of

70% loan and 30% grant for non-special category States and 10% loan and 90% grant for special category States.

Besides, a Central Sector Scheme of "On-farm water management for increasing crop production in Eastern India" is also implemented in ten eastern States of Bihar, West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh (Eastern Part), Orissa, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Assam, Mizoram, Manipur and Arunachal Pradesh for exploitation of abundant surface and underground water. Under the Scheme, assistance is provided to farmers for the construction of shallow tube wells with pumps, low lift irrigation points, dug wells and pumpsets. The funding pattern of the scheme is 20:30:50 i.e. 20% of the project cost as beneficiaries' contribution, 30% as grant from the Government of India and 50% as the bank loan. The scheme is implemented by National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) through banks in cooperation with concerned State Governments.

(b) The agricultural production are fixed annually. The targets and achievements of agricultural production during 2002-03 to 2004-05 of Tenth Five Year Plan period is given in the enclosed statement-I

(c) Overall targets of 151.54 lakh hectare has been set for creation of irrigation potential during the Tenth Five Year Plan. The State - wise details are given in the enclosed statement.-II.

Statement-I

(Production in Lakh Tonnes)

Crop	2002-2003		2003-2004		2004-2005	
	Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement*	Target	Achievement**
Rice	930.00	726.60	930.00	870.00	935.00	878.00
Wheat	780.00	651.00	780.00	720.60	795.00	730.30
Coarse Cereals	330.00	252.90	340.00	377.70	368.00	318.80
Pulses	160.00	111.40	150.00	152.30	153.00	136.70
Oilseeds	270.00	150.58	247.00	251.43	261.99	248.42
Cotton***	150.00	87.16	150.00	137.88	150.00	170.68
Jute and Mesta****	120.00	113.77	120.00	111.97	118.00	97.10
Sugarcane	3200.00	2815.75	3200.00	2361.76	2700.00	2341.53

* 4th Advance Estimates

** 2nd Advance Estimates

*** Lakh Bales of 170 Kgs each

**** Lakh Bales of 180 Kgs each

Statement-II

State	Target for creation of irrigation potential during Tenth Plan (in 000 ha.)		
	Major and Medium Irrigation	Minor Irrigation	Total
1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh	739.88	195.40	935.28
Arunachal Pradesh	4.00	20.00	24.00
Assam	116.10	116.10	232.20
Bihar	948.42	264.60	1213.02
Chhattisgarh	305.00	55.00	360.00
Goa	26.66	4.54	31.20
Gujarat	1904.00	66.00	1970.00
Haryana	119.00	42.50	161.50
Himachal Pradesh	8.00	10.00	18.00
Jharkhand	315.00	NF	315.00
Jammu and Kashmir	25.00	NF	25.00
Karnataka	999.89	221.29	1221.18
Kerala	90.00	50.00	140.00
Madhya Pradesh	265.30	125.00	390.30
Maharashtra	1276.43	158.00	1434.43
Manipur	28.15	14.45	42.60
Meghalaya	-	12.50	12.50
Mizoram	-	1.66	1.66
Nagaland	-	9.43	9.43
Orissa	465.07	132.37	597.44
Punjab	160.30	NF	160.30
Rajasthan	413.80	50.00	43.80
Sikkim	0.00	5.00	5.00
Tamil Nadu	9.38	9.02	18.40

1	2	3	4
Tripura	-	32.40	32.40
Uttar Pradesh	1000.76	3616.80	4617.56
Uttaranchal	6.20	11.88	18.08
West Bengal	700.00	NF	700.00
Total of States	9926.34	5228.94	15150.28
Total of Union	0.00	4.43	4.43
All India Grand Total	9926.34	5228.37	15154.71

NF: Not Fixed

* Minor Irrigation includes irrigation through Ground Water also.

[English]

**Diversion of Forest Land for
Railway Projects**

2817. SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the total forest area diverted for railway projects in the country from 2001 to 2004, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government has taken up any afforestation schemes to make good of such loss of forests;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the funds released and spent during the said period, State-wise; and

(d) if not, by when such works are to be taken up by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) 1896.78 ha of forest area has been diverted for railway projects in the country from 2001 to 2004, State-wise details of diverted forest area are given in enclosed statement-I.

(b) and (c) Yes, the diverted forest area is made good of by undertaking Compensatory Afforestation. In respect of railway projects cleared from 2001 to 2004, compensatory afforestation is contemplated on an area of 3099.15 ha. The details of funds released and utilized for compensatory

afforestation are not maintained in the Ministry. However, as per the information made available by the State Forest Departments, the user agencies have provided an amount of Rs. 7.23 crores for the purpose of compensatory afforestation. Against this an amount of Rs. 75.01 lakhs has been utilized so far. State-wise details of funds released and spent during the said period are given in enclosed statement-II.

(d) Since raising of Compensatory Afforestation is an ongoing activity, no time frame can be fixed for it.

Statement-I

Diversion of Forest Land for Railway Projects

Sl. No.	Name of the State	Forest Area Diverted (ha.)
1	2	3
1.	Bihar	36.11
2.	Chandigarh	1.74
3.	Chhattisgarh	30.17
4.	Delhi	0.38
5.	Gujarat	1.50
6.	Haryana	3.80

1	2	3	1	2	3
7.	Himachal Pradesh	1.83	13.	Punjab	16.80
8.	Jharkhand	1347.31	14.	Rajasthan	46.03
9.	Karnataka	33.84	15.	Tamil Nadu	0.98
10.	Madhya Pradesh	14.64	16.	Tripura	268.32
11.	Maharashtra	31.51	17.	Uttar Pradesh	57.94
12.	Orissa	3.88	Total		1896.78

Statement-II

*Diversion of Forest Land for Railway Projects due
for Reply on 21.03.2002*

Sl.No.	Name of the State	Forest Area Diverted (ha.)	Compensatory Afforestation stipulated (ha.)	Funds provided by the User Agencies (Rs. in Thousand)	Funds utilized (Rs. in Thousand)
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Bihar	36.11	72.23	1380.768	633.752
2.	Chandigarh	1.74	1.73	1972.930	4.062
3.	Chhattisgarh	30.17	60.34	*	*
4.	Delhi	0.38	0.38	921.500	*
5.	Gujarat	1.50	3.00	62.500	*
6.	Haryana	3.80	20.89	1996.772	1280.317
7.	Himachal Pradesh	1.83	4.00	197.400	50.400
8.	Jharkhand	1347.31	2217.21	39275.460	533.752
9.	Karnataka	33.84	33.84	172.000	172.000
10.	Madhya Pradesh	14.64	15.33	*	*
11.	Maharashtra	31.51	49.24	*	*
12.	Orissa	3.88	3.88	*	*

1	2	3	4	5	6
13.	Punjab	16.80	32.38	3734.690	110.979
14.	Rajasthan	46.03	42.65	.	.
15.	Tamil Nadu	0.98	Nil	Nil	Nil
16.	Tripura	268.32	542.05	22577.061	4716.473
17.	Uttar Pradesh	57.94	Nil	Nil	Nil
Total		1896.78	3099.15	72291.081	7501.735

* The details are not available.

National Wage Policy

2818. SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to evolve a new National Wage Policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRA SHEKHAR RAO): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) National Wage Policy has not been conceived so far because wages are linked with factors like income, prices of essential commodities, paying capacity etc., which vary from State to State and industry to industry.

Dereservation of Reserve Forest

2819. SHRI KIRIP CHALIHA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received any proposal from the Government of Assam to dereserve the Doyang Reserve Forest in Golaghat district of the State;

(b) if so, whether the State Government has also sought permission of the Union Government to legalise thousands of inhabitants who have settled down in the Doyang Reserve Forest in 1960; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and reaction of the Union Government thereupon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) No Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Regularisation of Workers

2820. SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Industries Tribunal Chennai has directed Food Corporation of India (FCI) to regularise the workers working in various FCI depots; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to implement the said directive?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The award of the National Industrial Tribunal, Chennai was examined by the FCI and it was found that the judgement for regularisation of the workmen of the ex-contractors from retrospective effect was not justified since the workmen in question were not the employees of the FCI during that period. In view of this, the said award of the Tribunal, Chennai has been challenged by the FCI before the Hon'ble High Court at Chennai. The matter is subjudice.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Secretary-General may call Shri Rajesh Ranjan alias Pappu Yadav to take oath.

12.02 hrs.

MEMBER SWORN

Shri Rajesh Ranjan Alias Pappu Yadav
(Madhepura)

[English]

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI (Garhwal): I have given a privilege notice.

MR. SPEAKER: I have not yet got it. I will look into it.

12.04 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Standards of Weights and Measures (Packaged Commodities) Second Amendment Rules, 2005 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 143 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 1st March, 2005 under sub-section (4) of section 83 of the Standards of Weights and Measures Act, 1976.

[Placed in Library, See No. L T 1794/05]

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STEEL, (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table-

- (1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:-
 - (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Brahmaputra Valley Fertilizer Corporation Limited, Dibrugarh, for the year 2003-2004.
 - (ii) Annual Report of the Brahmaputra Valley Fertilizer Corporation Limited, Dibrugarh, for the year 2003-2004, along with Audited

Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. L T 1795/05]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Institute of Pesticide Formulation Technology, Gurgaon, for the year 2003-2004, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Institute of Pesticide Formulation Technology, Gurgaon, for the year 2003-2004.

- (4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. L T 1796/05]

- (5) A copy each of the following Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions):-

- (i) Ministry of Steel for the year 2005-2006.

[Placed in Library, See No. L T 1797/05]

- (ii) Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers for the year 2005-2006.

[Placed in Library, See No. L T 1798/05]

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Finance for the year 2005-2006.

[Placed in Library, See No. L T 1799/05]

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions)-

- (1) Ministry of Agro and Rural Industries for the year 2005-2006.

[Placed in Library, See No. L T 1800/05]

- (2) Ministry of Small Scale Industries for the year 2005-2006.

[Placed in Library, See No. L T 1801/05]

[English]

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Water Resources for the year 2005-2006.

[Placed in Library, See No. L T 1802/05]

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRA SHEKHAR RAO): I beg to lay on the Table-

- (1) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Employees' Provident Fund Organization, New Delhi, for the year 2003-2004.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. L T 1803/05]

- (3) A copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Labour and Employment for the year 2005-2006.

[Placed in Library, See No. L T 1804/05]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): On behalf of my senior colleague, Dr. Anbumani Ramdoss, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare for the year 2005-2006.

[Placed in Library, See No. L T 1805/05]

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Tourism for the year 2005-2006.

[Placed in Library, See No. L T 1806/05]

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): I beg to lay on the Table-

- (1) A copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Food Processing Industries for the year 2005-2006.

[Placed in Library, See No. L T 1807/05]

- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Paddy Processing Research Centre, Thanjavur, for the year 2003-2004, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (2) above.
- (3) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (2) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. L T 1808/05]

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table-

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Coconut Development Board, Kochi, for the year 2003-2004.
- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Coconut Development Board, Kochi, for the year 2003-2004, together with Audit Report thereon.
- (iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Coconut Development Board, Kochi, for the year 2003-2004.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. L T 1809/05]

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): I beg to lay on the Table-

- (1) A copy of the Ozone Depleting Substances (Regulations and Control) Amendment Rules, 2004 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. S.O. 929 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 17th August, 2004 under section 26 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.
- (3) A copy of the Notification No. S.O. 56 (E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 14th January, 2005 making certain amendments in the Order published in Notification No. S. O. 489 (E) dated 30th April, 2003 issued under section 3 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

[Placed in Library, See No. L T 1810/05]

- (4) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Pollution Control Board, Delhi, for the year 2003-2004.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Central Pollution Control Board, Delhi, for the year 2003-04.
- (5) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (4) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. L T 1811/05]

- (6) A copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Environment and Forests for the year 2005-2006.

[Placed in Library, See No. L T 1812/05]

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PARKASH NARAYAN YADAV): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table-

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Hydrology, Roorkee, for the year 2003-2004, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Institute of Hydrology, Roorkee, for the year 2003-2004.

- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. L T 1813/05]

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table-

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Food Corporation of India, New Delhi, for the year 2002-2003, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Food Corporation of India, New Delhi, for the year 2002-2003.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. L T 1814/05]

12.07 hrs.

MESSAGES FROM RAJYA SABHA

[English]

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Sir, I have to report the following messages received from the Secretary-General of Rajya Sabha:-

- (i) "In accordance with the provisions of sub-rule (6) of rule 186 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to return herewith, the Appropriation (Vote on Account) Bill, 2005, which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 17th March, 2005 and transmitted to the Rajya Sabha for its recommendations and to state that this House has no recommendations to make to the Lok Sabha in regard to the said Bill."
- (ii) "In accordance with the provisions of sub-rule (6) of rule 186 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to

return herewith the Appropriation Bill, 2005, which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 17th March, 2005, and transmitted to the Rajya Sabha for its recommendations and to state that this House has no recommendations to make to the Lok Sabha in regard to the said Bill."

- (iii) "In accordance with the provisions of sub-rule (6) of rule 186 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to return herewith the Goa Appropriation (Vote on Account) Bill, 2005, which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 18th March, 2005 and transmitted to the Rajya Sabha for its recommendations and to state that this House has no recommendations to make to the Lok Sabha in regard to the said Bill."
- (iv) "In accordance with the provisions of sub-rule (6) of rule 186 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to return herewith the Goa Appropriation Bill, 2005, which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 18th March, 2005 and transmitted to the Rajya Sabha for its recommendations and to state that this House has no recommendations to make to the Lok Sabha in regard to the said Bill."

12.08 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON PETITIONS

Fifth and Sixth Reports

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajganj, Bihar): Sir, I beg to present the Fifth and Sixth Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Petitions.

12.08 ½ hrs.

COMMITTEE ON ABSENCE OF MEMBERS FROM THE SITTING OF THE HOUSE

Third Report

[English]

SHRI RAJESH VERMA (Sitapur): I beg to present the Third Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Absence of Members from the sittings of the House.

12.09 hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES, LAW AND JUSTICE

(I) Third Report

[English]

DR. SHAFIQR RAHMAN BARQ (Moradabad): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Third Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law and Justice on the Right to Information Bill, 2004.

(II) Evidence

DR. SHAFIQR RAHMAN BARQ (Moradabad): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Evidence tendered before the Standing Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law and Justice on the Right to Information Bill, 2004.

12.10 hrs.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

- (i) **Status of Implementation of Recommendations in the First Report of Standing Committee on Food, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution***

[English]

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): Sir, I am making this statement on the status of implementation of recommendations contained in the First Report of Standing Committee on Food, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution. Department of Food and Public Distribution in pursuance of Direction 73 A of the hon. Speaker, Lok Sabha issued *vide* Lok Sabha Bulletin-Part II, dated September 1st, 2004.

A statement indicating the action taken/status of all the recommendations contained in the Standing Committee on Food, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution, Department of Food and Public Distribution is annexed. It may be noted that the report contains 25 recommendations. These recommendations of the Committee have been examined carefully by the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and

* [Placed in Library, See No. L T 1815/05]

Public Distribution, Department of Food and Public Distribution. And, as many as 22 recommendations have been accepted and action taken thereon. The remaining three recommendations could not be accepted for reasons mentioned against these recommendations in the attached annexure.

The action taken replies have been sent to the Committee on 8th December, 2004.

MR. SPEAKER. Thank you.

I must compliment the hon. Minister for Agriculture for making the statement He is very regularly submitting the reports. I must express my views that many hon. Ministers have not complied with that Direction. I request them to please look into it and see that they are complied with at the earliest. This is my request to all of them; otherwise something may happen.

...(Interruptions)

12.11 hrs.

PENSION FUND REGULATORY AND
DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY BILL, 2005*

[English]

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the establishment of an Authority to promote old age income security by establishing, developing and regulating pension funds, to protect the interests of subscribers to schemes of pension funds and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

MR. SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the establishment of an Authority to promote old age income security by establishing, developing and regulating pension funds, to protect the interests of subscribers to schemes of pension funds and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto."

...(Interruptions)

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): Sir, we have given a notice to oppose this. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I will come to that. The Minister has just sat down.

Now, Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan. It cannot be just to say that you do not like Ordinance. That is no ground for opposition.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: I am coming to that.

Sir, I oppose the motion for leave to introduce this Bill, mainly on two Constitutional grounds. Article 311 provides for service conditions of Government employees and the present Bill is a deviation from that Article. Mr. Speaker may kindly note that this Bill is being introduced in connection with the new pension scheme.

This new pension scheme or this system came into operation on 01.01.2004. The Government had 15 months' time for bringing forward this Bill. That could have been brought forward during that period, which they did not.

MR. SPEAKER: I am sorry. It is becoming a total violation of the rules. Nobody bothers about the rules.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Please allow me to place it before the House.

MR. SPEAKER: I know what it is. Please wait for just a second.

We have specifically amended the rules providing that in such cases, specific grounds for objection had to be mentioned in the notice. Your notice says that you do not like the Ordinance and why should it be in the form of Ordinance. Already it is established that it has to deal with the Constitutional issues. This is violated every day.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: This is a Bill to replace the Ordinance. The Ordinance was promulgated under Article 123 of the Constitution.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you!

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Here is a violation of that provision because Article 123 is explicitly clear that whenever there is an emergent situation, an immediate action is required; and in that circumstance, an Ordinance is allowable.

Here, the position is that it was in existence for more than 15 months. The Government would also admit that they have issued a notification in early December 2003. This

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2, dated 21.3.05.

provision came into existence on 01.01.2004. Now, after a lapse of so many months, the Government is issuing an Ordinance in violation of the provision of Article 123 of the Constitution, which is very clear, as I said earlier.

MR. SPEAKER: It is enough!

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: That is the most important thing. Moreover, I would like to inform the House that the provision of Article 311 of the Constitution is there.

MR. SPEAKER: How can the introduction of a Bill be wrong? Kindly listen to me. How can the introduction of a Bill be opposed on that ground?

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: I oppose the introduction because it is a violation of Article 123.

MR. SPEAKER: It is rejected.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: That is my position. It is a violation of Article 123.

MR. SPEAKER: The Bill is not brought forward under Article 123.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Article 123 says that if the President is satisfied, he could take immediate action. But that 'immediate action' was taken long before. Hon. Speaker, we should not presume the House to be impotent. The issuance of Ordinance is something like 'artificial insemination'. The law should be enacted in this House. So, it is in violation of Article 123 of the Constitution.

MR. SPEAKER: I think, you should move for deletion of Article 123 of the Constitution!

Now, Shri Basu Deb Acharia.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Sir, I oppose the introduction of the Pension Fund Regulatory Development Authority Bill. I oppose it on constitutional, legislative as well as on moral grounds.

[Translation]

SHRI HARIN PATHAK (Ahmedabad): How come moral ground its in here.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Constitutional morality.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, the Ordinance was

promulgated and the new scheme was started from 1.1.04. A Regulator was also appointed. What was the urgency of bringing an Ordinance and thereby replacing the Ordinance by legislation? The enactment of this law will affect lakhs and lakhs of employees of our country who are contributing to it. The interests of not only those who are in the new scheme but also those who are in the old scheme, will be affected. The other employees also will follow later on. Money will be invested in the share market. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You are going into the merits of the Bill. I am sorry.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Lakhs and lakhs of our employees will be affected. This is the only social security that is today available to the employees of our country and that has also been, by enacting this law, withdrawn. That is why we are opposing this Bill at the introductory stage.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE (Calcutta South): Sir, I associate myself with what Shri Basu Deb Acharia has just now said. Pension fund should not go to the share market because we have to protect the interests of the employees.

MR. SPEAKER: I have not called her. However, it is being recorded.

May I take this opportunity, with your kind permission, to make some observations? I am not against allowing anything to be raised here but it has to be within the rules. Rule 72 is very clear. Shri Radhakrishnan knows it very well. Had he been in the Chair he would not have allowed all these. The Rule says:

"If motion is opposed on the ground that the Bill initiates legislation outside the legislative competence of the House."

None of the hon. Members has mentioned that. It again says:

"Notice to oppose introduction of a Bill shall be – shall be – given by 10.00 hours on the day on which the motion for leave to introduce the Bill is included in the List of Business."

In the notice the Members shall specify clearly and precisely the objections to be raised. I have got two notices and nothing has been mentioned except that they want to oppose the introduction. I, therefore, cannot admit them. Shri Gurudas Dasgupta had come and met me.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA (Panskura): With your kind indulgence, may I submit, Sir?

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, you may submit.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Sir, today I have given the notice late because my plane was late. On many occasions you have allowed hon. Members from that side to raise issues in the House which are not in consistent with the rules.

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not refer to it. References are not necessary, Shri Dasgupta. Do not make such comparisons. I do not appreciate it. However, you may say that today because of non-functioning of the Ministry of Shri Praful Patel, you had come late.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: I stand corrected.

MR. SPEAKER: I will allow you if your objection is on the question of legislative competence. It may not be treated as precedent Please be brief.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Sir, I am opposing lock, stock and barrel to the Ordinance because it is a total misuse of the Ordinance. Since the scheme came into force on 1st January, 2004, the hon. Finance Minister would have come straight to the House with the Bill. The scheme was already in place. A Regulator was also in place. What was the hurry to issue the Ordinance? It is a total misuse of the Government power. I am opposing it.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: It may be referred to the Standing Committee.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: I am opposing it because the Bill is an open backdoor policy. Hon. Minister is playing his cards close to his chest. He is talking about the Regulator but he is not saying that he will be allowing money to go to the stock market. He has his love for the stock market. He is going to the stock market. The interest of the workers will be affected. In the name of protecting the interest of all the private sector employees, I oppose it tooth and nail. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: All right Contrary to the rules, I have allowed you.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi). On the admissibility...*

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will be recorded. With all humility, I have not called you. You are a knowledgeable person. Had you given one notice that would have been sufficient. I have allowed him only because his plane was late.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Sir, I am only saying that there was no need for this Ordinance.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, do you want to say something?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, this Ordinance and this Bill are within the legislative competence of Parliament. On the merits of the Bill. I have had discussion and I will continue to discuss it. We can debate it when the discussion takes place on the Bill. I would respectfully urge the hon. Members to state whatever objections they have got to the content of the Bill when the Bill is discussed. I will make every effort to satisfy them. Many of these apprehensions are without basis. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the establishment of an Authority to promote old age income security by establishing, developing and regulating pension funds, to protect the interests of subscribers to schemes of pension funds and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, we are totally against the introduction of this Bill. Therefore, we are walking out in protest.

12.21 hrs.

(At this stage, Shri Basu Deb Acharia and some other hon. Members left the House.)

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Sir, this is totally going against the United Front's Common Minimum Programme. We oppose it. We shall vote against this. I call upon everybody to join us in voting out this Bill. We are walking out in protest. ...*(Interruptions)*

12.22 hrs.

(At this stage, Shri Gurudas Dasgupta and some other hon. Members left the House.)

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Leave is granted. The Minister may now introduce the Bill.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, I introduce* the Bill.

* Not recorded.

* Introduced with the Recommendation of the President.

12.22 ½ hrs.

STATEMENT RE: PENSION FUND REGULATORY AND DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY ORDINANCE

[English]

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table an explanatory statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for immediate legislation by the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority Ordinance, 2004 (No.8 of 2004).

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 1817/05]

12.23 hrs.

RE: QUESTION OF PRIVILEGE

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Gen. Khanduri, I have received your notice on the question of privilege dated 21st March, 2005 against the Minister of Health and Family Welfare for allegedly giving contradictory information to the House while replying to your Calling Attention on 12th December, 2004 regarding the status of implementation of the decision taken to set up medical institutes on the lines of AIIMS, Delhi in six States and your Unstarred Question No.898 dated 9th March, 2005 regarding sanction of funds for the proposed AIIMS at Rishikesh. The matter is under my consideration.

[Translation]

YOGI ADITYA NATH (Gorakhpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I want to draw the attention of the Government towards encroachments by land mafia on the land of cowsheds. Along with this I want to draw the attention of the Government towards the proposal of Delhi Government to forcefully acquire the land of cowsheds. Sir, cows have an important role in the agro-based economy of India along with religion and culture of the country. Cows have been worshipped in India even more than the mother and the motherland. Today cow slaughter and smuggling of cows is being promoted in the entire country due to vested political interests.

Sir, Delhi Government has recently passed a proposal under which inspired by political illwill and prejudice it is going to forcefully acquire 75 to 80 per cent of the land of cowsheds including Gopal Gosadan, Krishna Goshala,

Bharat Gosadan, Susil Gosadan etc. being run by some voluntary organisations. Sir, as such the stray cows already wander on roads in cities and metropolitans in the country.

Delhi Government is creating impediments in the way of those voluntary organisations which are taking initiative in looking after the stray and unclaimed cows. Through you I request the Union Government to stop Delhi Government from committing this immoral act. Delhi Government should participate in the endeavour to run cowsheds by various voluntary organisations in the country. Delhi Government has made an arrangement that 100 cows should be kept in one acre which is not feasible for any of the organisations.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: This is a State matter.

[Translation]

YOGI ADITYA NATH: Sir, only 10 cows can be kept in one acre so the cowsheds should be allotted lands accordingly keeping in view their capacity and the Delhi Government should be stopped from perpetrating such an injustice.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Yogi Adityanath, I have kept my word. I have called you first

SHRI RAHUL GANDHI (Amethi): Sir, kindly permit me to raise, during the Zero Hour, a matter relating to the sugarcane farmers of our country.

The cane growers work hard and contribute immensely to our economy. It is the responsibility of the State Government to ensure that our farmers get the correct price for their produce. The Uttar Pradesh Government made a statement in the Supreme Court on 11th January, 2005 stating that the private sugarcane mills had paid all the arrears to the cane farmers of Uttar Pradesh. However, the Uttar Pradesh Cane Commissioner has recently said in 'Aajtak' that a sum of Rs. 517 crore which were the arrear for the year 2002-03 has not yet been paid. This is extremely unfair to our farmers.

I urge upon the Government of India to see that the State Government complies with the directions given by the Supreme Court in their final judgement dated 5th May, 2004 and our farmers are given their due.

MR. SPEAKER: I compliment you on your maiden speech.

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH (Uluberia): Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government and the entire House to a fact which would show how a foreign Government is trying to interfere with the national economy of our country. We need gas for our gas-based industries in the country. The Government is engaged in the process of entering into an agreement with Iran for laying a gas pipeline from Iran to India. But unfortunately, last week, the US Ambassador, Mr. David Mulford has told our Minister for Petroleum to keep in mind the fact that their relation with Iran was not good and that Iran had some problems and we should be careful about that. Even, Ms. Condolezza Rice has warned the Government to keep away from doing such a thing.

Sir, a foreign Government has no right to interfere in the areas of our economic interest. They have destroyed countries like Afghanistan, Iran and Iraq and now they are trying to interfere with our economic interests. Our Government should not surrender to this and take a firm stand on this issue. The whole country is behind the Government in fighting the forces who are trying to interfere with our economic interests. I hope the Government will make a statement in the House and make it clear that Government will not allow anybody, whoever may be the forces who are conspiring against us to damage our national economy, to stand in the way of our national interests.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV (Madhepura): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to speak on a very important issue. Media is called the fourth and most powerful pillar of democracy. The way media is perpetrating mental torture on the people in public life is a very serious issue. It has really hurt me and my family. I had gone to Madhepura Court and when I came back from Madhepura, the media publicised that I had gone there to campaign for Lalu Yadavji while it is wrong.

I had gone to the court and it is there on record. It affects our image adversely. The Supreme Court has received the report from the Government of Bihar. They have said that Pappu Yadav is not involved in anything. Under these circumstances how did the media publicise this kind of thing? Dainik Jagran has in particular published my routine, that I watch TV, I am happy at Lalu Prasad's defeat and unhappy with the budget while all these things are baseless. The media has not lost a single opportunity to publicise against me. Media and several other elements have maligned me. I am not saying that everybody is involved in malicious campaigning. 2 to 5 percent people of the media

are delivering the goods and they have contributed towards strengthening the democracy in the country but all the people in the media are not good. I am not saying that people from all other political parties or other persons are wrong. I only want to submit that my family has suffered mentally from the onslaught of media. Don't we have any system to keep a check on the media? We saw the kind of role media played yesterday? The role of the media after the verdict of High Court and Supreme Court in Lalujji's case. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Media also has its rights. Its freedom is there in the constitution. You are affected by that.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am really hurt. You are our guardian.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: That is why I have allowed you to express your anguish.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV: You are our guardian.

MR. SPEAKER: Does anyone listen to the guardian?

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV: I only want to make this submission that as a Speaker, as a Member of Parliament, you are our guardian. My request is that there should be a system to take care of things if someone's personal life is targetted. Attention should be paid towards this. Everybody is involved in something or the other and everybody falls in this web. I am not alone to be affected by it. Attention should be paid towards this. You have taken initiatives to strengthen democracy and it is not that only new members want to thank you for this. I have been a Member for four times and an MLA for five times. You can strengthen it more by taking an active interest. With these words I thank you for giving me a chance to speak.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Girdhari Lal Bhargava. I want to impress upon hon. Members that patience and cooperation pays.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (Jaipur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to draw the attention of the Government towards a very important issue. There is only one bird sanctuary in India and that is Keoladev National Park in Bharatpur. It is spread over 29 square kilometers. Keoladev National Park which is famous all over the world for birds is facing a crisis of water shortage due to which it is not being visited by birds. Birds are not going there due to excessive growth of acacia trees. The main source of water for Keoladev National Park is Ajan dam situated at a distance of 600 meters. Ajan dam receives water from the Gambhir river and the Ban-Ganga river. Ban Ganga river's contribution has been nominal for the past few years. Gambhir river is the main source of water. Water is released from Ajan dam to Keoladev National Park through Ghana stream from the month of July to September. Very few birds visit the park due to scarcity of water. The State Government has sent a proposal worth Rs. 100 crore to the Union Government for making an alternative arrangement for water from Chambal river through pipeline. The Government of India should soon approve this scheme so that the National Park is visited by birds every year. It is their habit of several years to visit this park. This bird sanctuary is famous all over the country. Arrangement of water should be made for this birds sanctuary and the Government of India should allocate Rs. 100 crore to save this park. This national park does not belong to Rajasthan only, it belongs to the entire country. I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shrimati Kalpna Ramesh Narhire - not present.

[Translation]

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE (Calcutta South): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to request to the Minister of Finance regarding VAT. The Government should ponder over situation that has arisen due to VAT. I would like to submit to the Government that no state should implement VAT before 1st April.

[English]

Government can convene a meeting and they can talk to the traders and trade organisations.

I think the unemployment problem is very enormous. If they start it from 1st of April, then small shopkeepers and

small traders will be affected. So, the common people will suffer. That is why I would request the Government to consider it. The BJP has already said that the BJP-ruled States will not implement the VAT from the 1st of April.

I would request the Government, through the Leader of the House, Shri Pranab Mukherjee, who is present here that the Government of India must give an instruction to the State Governments not to implement the VAT from the 1st of April, 2005. Otherwise, that would create a lot of disturbances in the country.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is being continuously reported in the newspaper for the last few days that oil companies intend to hike the prices of diesel and petrol. It is being also published that the prices of diesel and petrol will be increased by Rs. 2.80 and Rs. 2 respectively and the hike will be enforced in two instalments first from 1st April and second from 1st May. The present Government had increased the prices of petrol and diesel in November. Seven-eight days back the price of crude oil in the international market increased to \$55-56 per barrel. So, it is a compulsion to increase the prices of diesel and petrol. In December, January and February the price of crude oil in the international market was \$40 per barrel. The consumer institutions had submitted that while increasing the price of petrol and diesel, oil companies had taken a plea that since the price of crude oil had increased in the international market so they were compelled to hike the price. Similarly, in the event of decline in the price of crude oil in the international market, the price should have been decreased but it is not so. Whenever Government desire, it increase the prices of petrol and diesel. I feel that such reckless hike in petroleum products will certainly lead to increase in the freight charges and will affect the common people. I would like to know from the Government regarding the news item reported in newspaper that the prices of petrol and diesel are going to be increased by Rs. 2.80 and Rs. 2 respectively. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Suman, you have made your point.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: The Government should

tell as to what is the fact regarding the news being reported in newspaper. Whether the Government propose to increase the price of petrol and diesel and burden the common people. Mr. Speaker, Sir, we need your protection. The Minister is present in the House. The Government should give clarification in this regard. The session of the House will last upto 24 of this Month. I feel that once the House is prorogued the Government will hike the prices of petrol and diesel which is not justified at any cost. I need your protection and would like to submit that the Government should clarify its position as to what is its intention. In any situation it is not justified to burden the common people.

SHRI GANESH SINGH (Satna): Our country is predominantly an agricultural country and Agriculture contributes a lot to our economy. 75 percent of the total population of our country is engaged in agricultural activities. It is a fact that the expectations of the farmers from the Government have not been fulfilled. The farmers along with their family members work day and night. The number of marginal farmers in the country is increasing day by day. The only reason responsible for this is that with the increase in population, the size of the holdings of farmers are getting smaller. I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards some important subjects. The farmers should be given the benefit of crop insurance scheme. They are not getting this benefit because the area prescribed for this is at tehsil level while it should have been at Patwari level. The crops of the farmers are damaged due to various pests like - illi, Gerua, Mahu, Ukatha and locusts alongwith the spread of several crop diseases. These things have not been covered under crop insurance scheme. My demand is that it should be covered under the crop insurance scheme. I would like to submit that if both the Central Government and the State Government agree to pay the premium of the crop insurance of farmers as a part of subsidy, then it will certainly benefit the farmers. It will also save the farmers from committing suicides that have been frequently taking place due to burden of loans and recurring losses in cultivation. I would like to demand that the Government must take some action in this regard at the earliest.

[English]

*SHRI M. SHIVANNA (Chamarajanagar): Hon. Speaker, Sir, I thank you for calling me. There is no head post office in my constituency, Chamarajanagar even though it is a district headquarter. There is a head post office in Kollegal. Kollegal is a Taluk headquarter. Therefore all the treasury transactions have to be carried out from Kollegal.

This has created a lot of problems for the officers, pensioners and many others. My constituency is one of the most backward districts in the country. I am demanding for a head post office in Chamarajanagar for the last several years. Through you Sir, once again I appeal to the Government of India to provide a head post office at Chamarajanagar. I also urge the Centre to provide one head post office in all the districts of the country. This will generate revenue to the Government and enable the public, officials, pensioners, to have very smooth transactions. I urge the Centre to sanction one head post office to Chamarajanagar without insisting any norm. I hope the hon. Minister of Communications will do the needful in this and help the people of my constituency Chamarajanagar.

Sir, I thank you once again and with these words I conclude my speech.

[Translation]

SHRI ALOK KUMAR MEHTA (Samastipur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw your attention towards Samastipur district of Bihar where crops on thousands of acres of land have been destroyed due to hailstorm and cyclone that strude on 19th of March last. The Houses in villages collapsed and several persons got injured. This devastating natural calamity completely destroyed thousands of acres of wheat and maize crops. The farmers were somehow managing to get out of the ones caused by flood that came few days back but the recent hailstorm and cyclone has completely ruined the prospects of farmers. Now they are facing the problems of starvation. There is President's Rule in Bihar. The Government should conduct survey regarding all types of damages suffered by the farmers whether it is of agriculture of life and property alongwith these whose houses have collapsed and the compensation should be provided to the farmers at the earliest.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now, Shri Prabhunath Singh - No allegation against any individual should be made.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajganj, Bihar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to speak upon the Pradhan Mantri Gramin Sadak Yojana. Do you consider me a Member of allegation party?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I say this because you have not given any notice. So, that is being apprehended.

*Translation of the speech originally delivered in Kannada.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Hon'ble Mr. Speaker, Sir, the previous NDA Government had started the Pradhan Mantri Gramin Sadak Yojana to connect villages with the major roads. Retired officials of Chief Engineer level were temporarily appointed to monitor this. The reason behind this was to ensure that if there was anything wrong in quality then the contractors would be given proper guidance and if the contractor does not take any action then action will be taken against him. It is estimated that Rs. 50 thousand are required to be spent on them per month. Under this programme work is given for 15 days at the rate of 1500 rupees per day. Besides they are also paid return air fare. Such monitoring has been done in various States of the country like Bihar, Sikkim, Maharashtra and Karnataka etc. The Ministry of Rural Development has already received this monitoring report. As per my information it has been mentioned in this report that substandard material is being used for construction of roads under the Pradhan Mantri Gramin Sadak Yojana but the Ministry has issued no such instructions on the basis of which action could be taken. Through you, I would like to urge upon the Government to seriously think over the monitoring reports. The contractors who are not taking any action on the basis of monitoring reports regarding substandard quality of work being done, should be blacklisted.

Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, I have received one more information. I would like to inform that the reports of the Monitors who have submitted their reports in respect of the regions where substandard work is being done, have been thrown away in dustbins with connivance of both contractors and officials and no action is being taken in this regard. Along with this a conspiracy is being hatched to prevent the monitors from working there. Therefore, through you I would urge the Government to take strict action on the basis of those reports, so that the substandard work that is being carried out over there could actually be improved.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Certainly this is an important matter.

SHRIMATI MINATI SEN (Jalpaiguri): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I draw the kind attention of the hon. Minister of Communications about the failure of telecommunication network following the 'work-to-rule' and other types of movements adopted by officers and executives of BSNL. It is learnt from the Press reports that the agitating organisations are ready to withdraw their movements subject to negotiation with the Government and settlement of their

demands. Since many of us, including me, are completely cut off from our constituencies, especially constituencies located in North Bengal, I urge upon the Government to sit across the table with the agitating organisations and bring an end to the present situation.

MR. SPEAKER: This matter, I am sure, would be looked into and should be looked into.

[Translation]

SHRI MAHAVIR BHAGORA (Salumber): Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of Union Government and Minister of Environment and Forests that a decision was taken in the House to regularise the encroachments of forest land made before the year 1980. Vajpayee ji's Government had also taken a decision to regularise the tribal encroachments till the year 1993. But even after so many years, the encroached forest land has not been regularised due to which people from different corners of the country who have encroached their have been coming to the capital from time to time to request their protest. But the Union Government and Minister of Forest have not paid attention towards this. It is my request that in comparison to the total encroachment of forest land by tribals there has been much more encroachment under illegal mining and various other projects. Therefore, I urge the Union Government that it should change its stand of not regularising these encroachments on the pretext of Supreme Court's stay order and it should appeal against this stay and get it vacated and then possession of land by tribals should be regularised at the earliest.

[English]

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY (Sabarkantha): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I associate myself with this matter.

MR. SPEAKER: Since it is a bilateral matter I allow it.

Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan, do you wish to say something?

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): Yes, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: I have permitted you to make your submission in an appropriate manner.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Sir, it was reported in yesterday's newspaper that the State Governments ruled by NDA parties are not going to implement VAT system. This system was discussed for long

and it was unanimously decided to implement VAT system in the country. Of course. States may incur some loss, but non-implementation of this system will create confusion, especially in consumer States like Kerala if the neighbouring States do not implement VAT system and the State's revenue will be adversely affected. The neighbouring States like Tamil Nadu and other NDA ruled States are not going to implement VAT system. There is already a confusion among the public after the leakage of question paper in Kerala. Now, when VAT system is introduced from 1.4.2005, it will create utter confusion because the trading communities are on a warpath. They have declared a war against it. The Government has already declared that they would implement this system. So, I request the Central Government to immediately intervene in the matter.

The Government should also see that uniform procedure is adopted in the matter of implementing the VAT system. Either they should give them the power not to implement it or they should impress upon other States also to follow suit.

Sir, I again request the Central Government to take a serious view of the matter.

SHRIMATI NEETA PATERIYA (Seoni): Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, today the revolution that has come in the telecom sector in the country has led to the increase in the use of mobile phones and the common people have adopted to this stage. There are as many flip sides of this telecom revolution as it uses are which does not anger well. Presently maximum use of mobile phones is being done by boys and girls students due to which their studies are getting disturbed and their exam results are also being adversely affected. A ban should be put upon bringing mobile phones by students in the government and private schools and of the country because everybody knows about the way mobile phones have been misused during last few days. The trend of watching in schools colleges obscene photos and MMS incident that took place recently which occurred is an issue of serious concern. When such incidents like watching pornography like the one at MMS take place, the most affected are girl students and women. Their emotions are hurt and they feel insulted. Therefore, I request the Government to ban the use of mobile phone in educational institutions.

[English]

SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR (Vadodara): Sir, I also associate with it.

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN (Kasargod): Sir, I would like

to invite the attention of the Government and the concerned Minister to the problems being faced by the Marati community in the Northern part of Kerala and in some parts of Karnataka.

Sir, this Marati community was included in the list of STs up to 2002. They had been getting all the benefits from 1956 onwards, but during the period of NDA Government, without much verification and without much assessment they were excluded from the list. As a result of it, their children have not got any scholarships or educational facilities. The farmers are not getting the facilities. There is no justification for this.

Knowing this issue, the Government of Kerala, the National Minorities Commission and also the SC/ST Commission of Kerala has taken a unanimous decision to include this community in the SC/ST list. With regard to the tribe, the character of the tribe, the backwardness of the tribe, its geographical features, etc. these features are still alive. The most important issue is that the same family, which is residing in Mangalore, is getting the benefits, but at the same time, if it comes to Kasargod in Kerala, it is not getting any benefit.

Sir, this is the most important issue. The States of Kerala and Karnataka have been giving the status to them from the very beginning. But now, they have been rejected this status in the State of Kerala alone. It was because of an amendment passed by the Parliament during the NDA Government's tenure or maybe by mistake, not because of much verification was done in this matter, they have been excluded from the list.

I would like the hon. Minister and the Government to give justice to this poor tribe in this regard.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Narendra Kumar Kushawaha.

Go to your seat. It is no favour you are doing to this House.

[Translation]

SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR KUSHAWAHA (Mirzapur): Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, my Lok Sabha constituency Mirzapur Bhadohi is completely devoid of any industry. It is surrounded by forest and river and drains. Tribals and hilly region people live there. There is an acute shortage of water there. Till now people used to bring water from rivers and drains to drink. The water level has gone down and the wells have dried up. The people over there are on the verge of dying for want of water. I had placed their demand in the house and

requested hon'ble Minister of Finance and had given a letter to hon'ble Prime Minister also in this regard. On some special occasions when Prime Minister delivers his speech from the ramparts of Red Fort, mention is made of making some provisions for the tribal majority areas where no industries are located but no follow up action has been taken.

Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, all the rivers and rivulets of my constituency have dried up. If the Government is sincere about the welfare of tribals then I would request it to make immediate arrangements to provide water facilities. On the 19th last month the police superintendent and the police of my constituency had physically assaulted freedom fighter Shri Lalita Maurya and also fired bullets. This was done because he was demanding supply of electricity.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: This is a State issue. Please do not bring law and order issue here.

[Translation]

SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR KUSHAWAHA: Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, you do not give any time. I have to say something on one more issue.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You cannot bring the State matter here. I have allowed you but do not bring the Assembly matter here. We have sufficient problems ourselves.

SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR KUSHAWAHA: The Central Schools. ...*(Interruptions)* The Coupon that has been given has a lotus flower upon it. This sign belongs to which party.

MR. SPEAKER: You have been given a chance already.

Shri Basu Deb Acharia.

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Sir, the bank employees are going on strike tomorrow against certain policies of the Government, namely hike in FDI in private sector banks up to 74 per cent of their capital, merger and amalgamation of nationalised banks to make them international banks, and reduction of Government capital in the nationalised banks up to 51 per cent thus allowing private capital in the banks up to 49 per cent.

Sir, by allowing FDI up to 74 per cent with 70 per cent

voting rights, which is being proposed, the foreigners will take over the private banks, which are also dealing with the savings of the people of our country. The total capital of 29 private banks is less than Rs. 3,000 crore but the deposits are more than three lakh crores. This is a dangerous step that the Government is taking.

Sir, only last year there has been an increase of Rs. 25,000 crore in the Non Performing Assets (NPA). The Government is not taking any steps to recover the money which is locked under NPA. There are bad debts. The banks were nationalised in 1969. Now, there is a move to denationalise the banks. What will happen to the priority sector lending and lending to agricultural sector?

Sir, this move of the Government to allow the foreign banks to grab the share of the private banks and to dilute the Government's share in the nationalised banks will harm the interest of crores and crores of people of our country.

Sir, I demand that the Government should not take such steps and it should review its decisions in regard to allowing up to 74 per cent FDI in the private banks, diluting the Government's share in the nationalised banks, and also merger and amalgamation of the nationalised banks.

MR. SPEAKER: Now, Shrimati Jayaben B. Thakkar.

SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR: Not now, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: I have already covered 21 notices under 'Zero Hour'. There is a notice under your name. You do not want to raise it.

SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR: I want to raise it under Rule 377. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P. S. GADHAVI (Kutch): Sir, I have given a notice. Please allow me to raise it. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: You learn something from Shri Girdhari Lal Bhargava.

He should hold classes.

[English]

Now, Dr. K. S. Manoj. Please be brief.

13.00 hrs.

DR. K. S. MANOJ (Alleppey): All right, Sir,

I would like to draw the attention of the Parliament as

well as the hon. Minister for Agro and Rural Industries to the sad plight of the traditional coir factory workers in Kerala. There are about four lakh coir factory workers out of which two lakhs are women workers. They are working in the traditional sector. There are about 12,000 coir factory co-operative societies. But the future of these coir factory co-operative societies and also those who are working in these factories is in danger.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur): Sir, please allow me.

MR. SPEAKER: It is all going against you. When I called you, you were not present. You have to wait. Please wait. I will try to give a chance. Do not interrupt others.

DR. K. S. MANOJ: Sir, formerly, in order to facilitate production and marketing of coir products, subsidies and rebates were given, but now all the rebates and subsidies are withdrawn. Instead of rebates, MDA, that is, Marketing Development Assistance is given. But this is not given timely. These co-operative societies are not allowed to use the MDA for their day-to-day activities. So, I urge upon the Government that instead of MDA, rebate should be given. Also, formerly there was minimum export price as well as minimum purchase price for the coir products, but now it is not there. So, the small-scale manufacturers as well as the co-operative societies have to give their products at a very low price. The exporters make them sell their products at a very low price. So, I urge upon the Government that minimum export price as well as minimum purchase price for the coir products should be re-instituted, and instead of MDA, rebates should be given to the coir products.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Gadhavi, kindly listen. I am trying to accommodate everybody. The only thing is that you are raising a matter on which the Government has made its position absolutely clear at the level of the hon. Prime Minister. Do you want to thank him today?

SHRI P. S. GADHAVI: Therefore, I have to only thank him.

Sir, I thank the hon. Prime Minister and the Government of India for expressing their concern over the denial of the entry visa to the elected Chief Minister of the Government of Gujarat. I really express my thanks to the hon. Prime Minister and the Government of India for their reaction also. Yesterday, it was also thanked in the *Bharat Swabhiman* rally. Again my thanks to the Government of India and the Prime Minister, in particular. Thank you.

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Chail): Hon'ble Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to bring to the notice of Government that bridges have been constructed over rivers to reduce the distance between States in the country. In my constituency there is Yamuna river over which Pontoon bridge is constructed every year. Lakhs of rupees are spent every year over this bridge. Traffic gets restricted due to flood in the river as a result of which movement of lakhs of people get hindered. It causes loss to trade and tourism also and due to restriction of traffic people have to face many kinds of difficulties.

Through you, I would like to bring to the notice of the Government that there is a need to construct a big bridge in Maheba Ghat situated in my parliamentary constituency. The State Government is ready to provide assistance. Therefore, I would like to request the Central Government to give financial assistance for the construction of that bridge. Alongwith Bundelkhand and Purvanchal, it will help in reducing the distance of Madhya Pradesh, Bihar and Jharkhand states also. It will promote tourism and trade and will facilitate the movement of the people also.

Sir, with these words, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Ramdas Athawale, I am giving this chance with the warning that in future if you are not present, you will not get a second chance.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Sir, I am here only.

MR. SPEAKER. Please do not give explanation. You come to the point. You have to be very brief. Do not take the House for granted.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, prior to partition of India and Pakistan, East Bengal and West Bengal were also a part of our country. Partition took place on 15th August, 1947 and the people of Hindu community came to India and to West Bengal also in large number. Many people belonging to Scheduled castes also came to India in 1971 after Indo-Pak war because they had to face many difficulties in Bangladesh. India was formed for the people belonging to Hindu religion and Pakistan was formed for the people of Muslim religion. The people who came after 1971 and the

people who lives in West Bengal are more than 30 lakhs. They include Namoshudra. Christian community and Buddhists also.

I would like to tell the Government that if the people who want to live in India honestly visit Bangladesh then the Government of Bangladesh says that they do not belong to their country. Therefore my request is that these 30 lakh people should get citizenship of our country and the cut off date which is 71 should be removed. I have met the hon'ble Prime Minister and Minister of Home Affairs and they have given me an assurance in this regard. However, I would like to say that these 30 lakh people should get citizenship at the earliest. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, 25 Members raised Matters of Urgent Public Importance.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER. This is very unfortunate. Shri P. Mohan, I am trying to help you, I am only saying that those hon. Members whose names I could not call today, may please give their fresh notices tomorrow.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P. MOHAN (Madurai): Yesterday also I gave the notice. But, today, you did not call me. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Therefore, you think that the Chair is against you.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P. MOHAN: No, Sir. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: That is why, I am requesting you to give another notice tomorrow. I shall accommodate you.

...*(Interruptions)*

13.05 hrs.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

(ii) Private Universities **

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now, we will take up Supplementary List of Business. Shri Arjun Singh to make a statement

regarding Private Universities. Since it is a long statement, you can lay it on the Table of the House.

...*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): Sir, with your kind permission, I would like to lay, on the Table of the House, a statement which arose out of Starred Question No. 163, raised by the hon. Members, Shri Baleshwar Yadav and Shri Badiga Ramakrishna on 15.3.2005 regarding Private Universities. The hon. Speaker was pleased to direct that a comprehensive statement on this subject, which affects a large number of students, should be made. Accordingly, I seek your kind permission to lay the Statement on the Table of the House.

*Recently, the Supreme Court of India, *vide* its Order dated 11 February, 2005 in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 19/2004: Prof. Yash Pal & Ors. Vs. State of Chhattisgarh & Ors., has declared the provisions of Sections 5 and 6, of the Chhattisgarh Niji Kshetra Vishwavidyalaya (Sthapana Aur Viniyaman) Adhiniyam, 2002, to be ultra vires of the Constitution. The Supreme Court has further directed the State Government that, in order to protect the interests of the students who may be actually studying in the institutions established by such private universities, it should take appropriate measures to have such institutions affiliated to the already existing State Universities in Chhattisgarh and, that the affiliation of an institution shall be made only if it fulfills the requisite norms and standards laid down for such purpose.

As the Hon'ble Members are aware, the subject of the "incorporation, regulation and winding up of universities" is within the legislative competence of States. However, the powers of the state legislature are circumscribed by the powers of the Parliament particularly in regard to the "coordination and determination of standards in institutions for higher education or research and scientific and technical institutions", as well as the entry in the Concurrent List pertaining to the subject of Education including technical and medical education and universities.

The trend towards supplementing public investment in higher education, with private investment, points to the need for particular focus on the issues of quality and standards with regard to private institutions. While Parliament has created the necessary statutory framework through the creation of bodies such as the University Grants

** [Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 1816/05]

* Statement was laid on the Table

Commission (UGC), the All India Council of Technical Education (AICTE) and other similarly mandated Councils, in order to bring a legislation with regard to establishment and regulations of the private universities in the country, the Union Government introduced "The Private Universities (Establishment And Regulations) Bill, 1995" in the Rajya Sabha on August 25, 1995. After its presentation in the Upper House, the Bill was referred to the Department related Parliamentary Standing Committee and the Committee submitted its Report, along with certain suggestions, to the Chairman, Rajya Sabha on 26.3.1996. Some of the specific recommendations made by the Committee were incorporated in the Bill. However, the Government decided in February 1999 that, instead of pursuing the Private Universities Bill pending in the Rajya Sabha, it should be "subsumed within overall ambit of the Dr. Amrik Singh Report" on 'Amendment to the UGC, Act, 1956'. Some State Legislatures have created private universities through their State Acts and, accordingly, private universities were established in the States of Uttar Pradesh (2001), Himachal Pradesh (2002), Uttaranchal (2002), Chhattisgarh (2002) and Gujarat (2003) after promulgation of the respective Acts for establishment of private universities in the respective states.

The State of Chhattisgarh enacted the Chhattisgarh Niji Kshetra Vishwavidyalaya [Sthapana Aur Viniyaman] Adhiniyam, 2002. Section 5 of the State Act originally, provided that the State Government may, by notification in the gazette, establish a University by such name and with such jurisdiction and location of campus as may be specified therein, having regard to "the desirability to establish a University" [section 5(1) (a)], and also having regard to "recognition or authorization as may be required under any other law for the time being in force, to conduct the syllabus and to grant degrees or diplomas or awards." [section 5(1) (b)]. The Government of Chhattisgarh initially gave its "in principle" approval to 108 proposals for setting up private universities, out of which 97 'universities' were notified by it. The State Act put the onus on the private universities "to ensure that the standard of degrees, diplomas, certificates and other academic distinctions are not lower than those laid down by AICTE/NCTE/UGC/MCI and Pharmacy Council etc." [Section 3 (11)], no prior recognition or authorization was sought by any of the 'universities' from statutory authorities such as the UGC, the AICTE, NCTE etc. as provided under the State Act itself. The State Government had not also referred the proposals to the UGC. The State Act also provided that the private universities could "affiliate any college or other institution or set up more than one

campus", with the prior approval of the State Government. However, given that the jurisdiction of the State Act extended "to the whole of Chhattisgarh", by implication the affiliation of any college or any institution, or the setting up of more than one campus had to be lawfully only within the State of Chhattisgarh.

In order to prevent the mushrooming growth of private universities and commercialization of education, the UGC, in exercise of its powers conferred under section 26(l)(f) and (g) of the UGC Act, 1956, notified the University Grants Commission (Establishment of and Maintenance of Standards in Private Universities) Regulations, 2003, on 27.12.2003. One of the objectives of the aforesaid regulations is to provide an effective regulatory mechanism for maintaining the standard of teaching, research, examination and extension services in the private universities. The Regulations were laid before this House on July 13, 2004 and in the Rajya Sabha on August 19, 2004.

The State of Chhattisgarh amended its Act of 2002, and the Chhattisgarh Niji Kshetra Vishwavidyalaya (Sthapana & Viniyam) Sansodhan Adhiniyam, 2004 came into force with effect from the 18th February, 2004. The amended Act provided for the establishment of "Off-campus centre" and "Off-shore campus. The other salient features of the amended State Act were: the establishment of an endowment fund for use as a security deposit to ensure that the universities function as per the provisions of the Act, Statutes and Ordinances made thereunder and the setting up of a Regulatory Commission for monitoring the working of private universities; the Regulatory Commission could take "all such steps as it considers necessary for determination and maintenance of standards of teaching, examination and research in universities", "in consultation with the universities and/or other bodies concerned with regulatory function of higher education system in the country such as the UGC, AICTE and NCTE, MCI, Pharmacy Council, and such agency /agencies established by the Central Government for regulation of education." (Section 24 (9) (a))

Out of the 97 Universities notified under the original State Act of 2002, as many as sixty were denotified by the State Government on the 1st July, 2004 for not meeting the provisions of the amended Act. On the 23rd March, 2004, the University Grants Commission decided to inspect all private universities in the country in terms of the powers under the Regulations of 2003, mentioned earlier. The Commission set up inspection committees for the purpose.

Based on the inspection of all notified universities in Chhattisgarh, the Commission conveyed its reports to the State Government on the 22nd September, 2004 for its comments. The UGC drew the attention of the State Government on the 30th October, 2004 to the provisions of the UGC Regulations relating to the opening of off-campus centres and off-shore centres and study centres. The State Government informed the Commission on the 20th December, 2004 for the inclusion of 17 private universities in the list universities under Section 2(f) of the UGC Act. In view of certain discrepancies noted by the UGC in the proposal, the Commission invited the State Government for a joint meeting on the subject. In the meanwhile, the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India gave its verdict in the Writ Petitions referred to at the opening of this Statement. The Supreme Court also held that "the impugned Act which specifically makes a provision enabling a University to have an off-campus centre outside the State is clearly beyond the legislative competence of the Chhattisgarh legislature."

As per the information furnished by the Chhattisgarh Government and the UGC, out of the 37 notified universities, 19 universities were providing class room teachings and approximately 23 thousand students were enrolled with these erstwhile private universities. A majority of the students were enrolled with the Off-campus centres outside the State of Chhattisgarh.

Sir, as this House is aware, the incorporation of universities within the State of Chhattisgarh, is well within the legislative competence of the state legislature; and therefore, while it is for the State Government to take appropriate corrective steps in the light of the observations of the Supreme Court in regard to the constitutionality of the State Legislation; however, the State Legislation would not be able to come to the rescue of the affected students enrolled in the off-campus centres and off-shore centres of the erstwhile private universities. Sir, I would like to assure the House that my Ministry is extremely concerned about the future of the thousands of students, who were studying in these now defunct private 'universities', particularly those outside Chhattisgarh.

Immediately after the Hon'ble Supreme Court's decision on the Writ Petitions, the Government of Chhattisgarh were asked by my Ministry, whether any specific intervention was required to be taken by the Government of India in the matter. The UGC was also requested to examine the judgment and its implications and to be in readiness in regard to the bonafide students enrolled with these erstwhile private universities so that, should the

need arise, the Commission could be requested to take appropriate steps in the matter.

In order to find a way out and, to protect the future of the affected students, I had invited the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh for discussions. H.E. the Governor in his capacity as the Chancellor of the existing State Universities, who is also the Visitor to the private universities under the State Act was kind enough to attend the meeting. They briefed me about the steps being contemplated at their end, and wanted the statutory bodies, such as the UGC and the AICTE, to guide them in the matter. We have promised expeditious action on whatever procedural obligations are expected under the relevant laws governing these bodies, so that the standards of higher education are maintained in the State. Sir, we have also asked the State Government to give us institution-wise detailed information in regard to the syllabus, courses of study, degrees, fee structure, and the physical infrastructure in the institutions that were part of the erstwhile private universities. We expect the State Government to provide all relevant information so that the central agencies could intervene effectively, wherever it is so felt by the State Government. We have also pointed out to the State Government that, in terms of the Hon'ble Supreme Court's directions, the affected institutions could seek affiliation to the existing State universities, for which the State Universities at Raipur and Bilaspur were themselves competent under the relevant State Universities Act, and the Statutes and the Ordinances under the State Act. The UGC and the other statutory bodies would willingly provide any technical or academic assistance for determining the standards of education or equivalence of degrees or other awards.

Sir, since a majority of the affected students enrolled in the off-campus centres are reported to be from the National Capital Region (NCR) of Delhi, the Chief Minister of Delhi, who is also deeply concerned, discussed the problems such students. As a follow up of my meeting with her, officials in my Ministry and representatives of the UGC and the AICTE have held discussions with the Vice-Chancellor of the Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University, Delhi for the affiliation of the affected off-campus centres. The Vice Chancellor of the Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University has, in principle, agreed that requests received before the 31st March, 2005 would be considered for affiliation as 'special cases', provided such institutions met the required standards of higher and professional education. The GGSIP University has also agreed to constitute evaluation and inspection committees, where ever required, jointly with the AICTE, to inspect the affected institutions expeditiously, in order to

ensure that quality is not compromised with; and, subject also to such institutions obtaining the necessary NOC from the 'jurisdictional' state governments wherein these off-campus centers may be located.

The GGSIP University has also agreed to work out a system of credit-transfer for the students who are enrolled in courses and programmes that could be equated with the existing degrees offered by the University. My Ministry has written to all the state governments to furnish complete details about the private universities and off-campus centers functioning in their respective states and, considering that in some cases more than one State may be involved, we would use our good offices to request the States to expedite the various formal processes involved in the best interests of the affected students. Sir, we now expect that the sponsors of the erstwhile private universities, who manage the affected institutions, to show the same alacrity with which the central and the state governments are approaching the issue — these managements must initiate action to approach the local universities in the States in whose jurisdiction the affected institutions are situated, for seeking affiliation; and where the local State government is to be approached for the formal No Objection Certificates, they must do so. They must furnish all the relevant information to the appropriate authorities including the appropriate State governments so that the involved processes could be expedited — through this august House, Sir, I would like to send out a clear message to all such private sponsors that they must cast aside all considerations, other than the interests of the affected students. Nothing should come in the way that would affect or add to the anxiety of students.

From the information made available to my Ministry by the Government of Chhattisgarh, it has been noticed that the nomenclatures of several programmes and degrees offered by the private universities are not the same as the degrees offered by the existing State universities or those approved by the UGC; in order to work out possible equivalence of the course curricula and degrees, these would have to be looked into by the appropriate statutory bodies, which, I am sure, they would attend to. Sir, I would like to inform the Hon'ble Members that we have already issued instructions to the officials of all concerned statutory authorities to cut down all procedural delays and to inspect the affected institutions, on priority.

Sir, I must return to the issue of the pending central legislation on private universities, which I had mentioned very briefly at the outset. Sir, without in any way promoting the commercialization of higher and professional education,

we have to address all the relevant issues in financing higher education and the university system. There are several involved issues that need to be debated some are easy to discern: should the central law be an all encompassing one in the form in which it was introduced earlier, or should it be confined to a framework for regulation and maintenance of standards of private universities without providing for their establishment, which could be left to the states as it is within the State legislatures' competence. There are several other issues particularly those affecting equity — for example, that of the representation to the weaker sections of the society in private universities. Sir, this House would agree with me that the entire issue of private universities has several public policy dimensions and calls for a wider national debate. As the Hon'ble Members are aware, we had taken the initiative to revive the process of consultation by constituting the Central Advisory Board of Education (CABE), which has started functioning through its various Committees. Sir, the CABE is the highest policy advisory body in our federal structure, with representation from distinguished personalities, eminent academics, educationists and the Ministers in charge for Education in the States. A Committee of the CABE, under Prof. B.L. Mungekar, Member of the Planning Commission, is specifically looking into all issues relevant to the financing of higher and technical education. The terms of reference of the Committee are: to examine the adequacy of investments and to find ways of augmenting the resource flow in Higher Education; to examine the question of a fair share of 6 percent of the GDP to Higher Education; and to suggest the ways of encouraging and regulating private participation and investments in Higher/ Technical Education.

Under our constitutional scheme, the States have to be active partners in all matters of public policies in education. Therefore, any formulation on what should be the discipline for private participation in higher education, should be arrived at only after a meaningful dialogue with the State Governments. I find that no such consultation was held, in respect of the central bill pending with Parliament, either at the level of the CABE (which was revived after nearly a decade) or with the States. Recently, my Ministry had organized a conference of Ministers of Higher & Technical Education of all the States. We have heard the States on their anxieties in regard to the issue of private universities. There was no clear consensus on whether there should be a central legislation, as some States felt otherwise. States of Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh and Uttaranchal have also established private universities. We have drawn the attention of all States to the Supreme Court's

decision in the Chhattisgarh matter and, have asked for information on whether off-campus centres have been established by their respective State Acts.

Sir, I am clear in my perception of the problem. In the short term, we have to assure help to the affected *bonafide* students, even though the Hon'ble Supreme Court has asked the State Government to see that all remedial measures are taken in terms of the provisions of the State Act. I have already described the efforts being made in bringing the various stakeholders together. All our central bodies such as the UGC, the AICTE, the NCTE would, without compromising with the quality and standards of higher education and technical education, collapse the processing time required, in the best interests of the affected students. Also in the short run, we have to see that those who obstruct a practical and just solution to the problem, only because their commercial interests are uppermost in their minds, are dealt with sternly and appropriately. Let me assure the Hon'ble Members that I would not allow fly-by-night operators to trifle with the sanctity of our temples of learning - the university system. And, this goes for not only the domestic ones. Sir, One of the issues discussed at the conference of State Ministers was about the entry of foreign universities and, it was decided to form a committee under Prof. C.N.R. Rao to examine all relevant issues pertaining to the entry of foreign universities in India. The wide range of consultations that we have held so far would, I am sure, lead us to a pragmatic long term solution through strengthening the regulatory mechanism. Sir, I thank you for the opportunity to present the Government's views on this sensitive issue.

MR. SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet at Two o' clock.

13.06 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till
Fourteen of the Clock.*

14.02 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at two
minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.*

(MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*)

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Matter under Rule 377 listed

*Treated as laid on the Table.

for today may be treated as laid on the Table of the House.

(I) Need to provide funds for the Chanshal-Shimla-Solan multi-purpose project of Himachal Pradesh

[Translation]

DR. COL. (RETD.) DHANI RAM SHANDIL (Shimla): Sir, Shimla, the present capital of Himachal Pradesh, was settled by the Britishers and drinking water project set up at that time had the capacity to provide water to 30,000 people originally. Gradually the population of Shimla increased and the need of the people was somehow met by augmented old drinking water scheme but now the problem is increasing.

The State Government has formulated Chanshal-Shimla-Solan multi-purpose project to deal with this situation and financial assistance from Centre has been sought. The estimated cost of this project is Rs. 500 crore. Through this project drinking water would be provided to 50 lakh people and livestock of one lakh hectare area would get drinking water and same area would also get irrigation facility. This ambitious scheme, which will continue for 100 years, will change the scenario of Himachal Pradesh. My request is that while approving this scheme, Central assistance should be provided to Himachal Pradesh immediately.

(II) Need to take steps to conserve water of river Mandovi, for meeting drinking water requirements of Hubli-Dharwad cities of Karnataka

[English]

SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK (Raichur): Mandovi is a West flowing inter-State river in Western Ghat. The total catchment area of this river is 2032 sq. kms. out of which 375 kms. is in Karnataka. Almost the entire river water flows to the sea and it is not utilised properly. Hence, it is a very good idea to utilize the water of this river to meet the drinking water requirement of Hubli-Dharwad cities. All the three States Karnataka, Goa and Maharashtra had held a number of meetings with Central Water Commission. But, till now no solution has been found. The State Government of Karnataka has requested the Central Government to intervene in the matter and instruct the Ministry of Water Resources to withdraw the abeyance letter dated 19.09 2002 without any further delay.

(III) Need to ensure that minority educational institutions are not restrained through regulatory provisions of the State in controlling their institutions

SHRI FRANCIS FANTHOM (Nominated): Article 30 of the Constitution has granted minorities the Fundamental Right to establish and administer educational institutions of their choice. While the Article is a promise of reality in functional terms there is considerable interference and restrictions by State agencies in the implementation of the provisions that enable the rights to establish and administer, to manifest these dimensions. Consequently enormous resources are spent by minorities to safeguard their rights.

The Government in view of past experiences has taken a much needed step to establish the National Commission for Minorities Educational Institutions to facilitate affiliation of institutes of higher learning.

The Government needs to consider provisions that will provide clarity to this enabling provision so as to enable minorities to effectively control their educational institutions and that no minority institution is coerced by regulatory provisions of the State to surrender control of these institutions.

(iv) Need to include Rajbhar Caste of Uttar Pradesh in the Scheduled Castes List

[Translation]

DR. RAJESH MISHRA (Varanasi): Sir, Rajbhar Caste of Uttar Pradesh is an economically weaker and socially backward caste. No effective steps have been taken for social and economic upliftment of this caste for centuries. Few years ago, the hon'ble High Court of Uttar Pradesh had issued instructions to the Government of Uttar Pradesh to include Rajbhar Caste in the list of scheduled castes. The State Government of Uttar Pradesh has forwarded this request to the Central Government. Hence my request to the Union Government is that for the upliftment of people of Rajbhar Caste, this caste should be included in the list of scheduled castes.

(v) Need to provide a halt to Ashram Express at Beawar railway station in Rajasthan

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Sir, Beawar under district Ajmer is an important industrial and business centre having more than 1.50 lakh population. It is surrounded by that hilly area of Aravalli named Magra Merwara the brave people of which feel pride in joining

armed forces. While coming from and going to their service area they have to board the train from Beawar railway station only. Beawar has been the work place of freedom fighters. Several revolutionaries and freedom fighters of this place contributed a lot by participating in freedom struggle. Thousands of traders of Beawar are engaged in various industries, business and trade activities in Gujarat, Maharashtra and Southern India and they have to visit frequently to these places. There is a big Market of cloth, wool and cotton in this place. In such an important town not having stoppage of superfast Ashram Express (2915/2916) which runs on broad gauge line between Delhi and Ahmedabad is very unfortunate whereas this train has been provided stoppage in towns smaller than Beawar. If stoppage of this train is provided at Beawar, it will facilitate traders, soldiers and farmers in their movement. Many social organisations, labour organisations, trade unions and elected representatives have demanded stoppage of this train by submitting representations several times in this regard.

Therefore my request to hon'ble Minister of Railways is that stoppage of superfast Ashram Express (2915/2916) at Beawar railway station should be ensured in public interest.

(vi) Need to take steps for early release and repatriation of Indian fishermen taken captive by Pakistan Marine Security Agency

[English]

SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR (Vadodara): 586 Indian Fishermen and their boats have been held captive by Pakistan and are still to be got repatriated. For this Government and Gujarat had written a letter to External Affairs on 08.02.2005 for their release and repatriation from Pakistan Marine Security Agency.

I urge the Central Government for the speedy release of these fishermen and their boats.

(vii) Need to develop Bilaspur town in Himachal Pradesh as a place of tourist importance

[Translation]

SHRI SURESH CHANDEL (Hamirpur, H.P.): Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the House towards Bilaspur town of Himachal Pradesh which is an ancient, historical and ascetic place of Saint Vyas. Bhakhra Dam was constructed in District Bilaspur so as to generate more hydro-electric power in the country as a result of which the people had to migrate to other places. There is not a single place of entertainment for the citizens in newly settled Bilaspur town. There is Govind Sagar lake near Luhnu

ground in District Bilaspur but its water keeps falling and rising due to which this place could not be developed in the form of tourist centre. Therefore my request to Minister of Tourism is that embankment should be constructed on a big rivulet situated near Luhnu ground to give the form of artificial lake to that rivulet so that its water remains stable and the tourists can use it for water game. A cafeteria and a park should be developed at this place so that citizens of Bilaspur and tourists could get tourist place.

(viii) Need to simplify the procedure for getting permission to mine iron ore from agricultural land in Bellary, Karnataka

[English]

SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY (Bellary): I would like to mention that farmers in Karnataka, especially in Bellary, are facing great difficulties to lead their lives as they are not able to produce crops due to drought for last more than five years and also due to the absence of canal system. In some drought affected/dry areas, farmers are getting small quantity of iron ore in agricultural land within 3 to 5 feet and they are doing in manually. But procedure for getting permission for this mining is very lengthy. They have to seek permission from State Government first and then from Central Government. There is an urgent need to simplify the procedure for getting permission so that farmers can earn their livelihood. Farmers are willing to pay any royalty fixed by Government for this purpose.

I urge upon the Government to consider simplification of procedure for getting permission keeping in view of problems being faced by farmers.

(ix) Need for taking over the Bio-technology Centre at Trivendrum, Kerala by the Central Government

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): Biotechnology offers immense possibilities for our country. The first Biotechnology Centre in the country was set up at Trivendrum in the name of late Shri Rajiv Gandhi. But the proposal of the State Government, that the Government of India may take over the Institute to develop it as a world class centre for bio-technology has not yet found favour with the Government of India, though it has been declared that development of biotechnology is a priority subject of the Government. I am bringing the above instance to the personal notice of the Hon. Prime Minister to bring home my point that often the response of the implementing Ministries, on important development proposals is

inconsistent and contrary to the resolve of the Government in public domain.

(x) Need to provide adequate funds to the State Government for consolidation of river embankments in Hardoi Parliamentary constituency, Uttar Pradesh

[Translation]

SHRIMATI USHA VERMA (Hardoi): Sir, rivers like the Ganga, Ramganga, Kunda, Gambhiri, Neelam and Garra flow through 74 Vilgram Assembly Constituency which falls in my constituency, Hardoi. Every year thousands of acres of land is inundated due to flood in these rivers and crops/property worth crores of rupees get destroyed. Flood occur in Garra river due to release of water from Nanaksar dam situated in Uttaranchal. As a result, embankments of Garra and Kunda rivers are eroded in 25-30 villages and this problem is taking more and more villages in its grip every year.

Therefore, I request the Government to consolidate river embankments near villages by putting in stones so that embankments are saved from erosion. If the embankments are not consolidated then there would be problem of rehabilitation of villagers in the future.

Therefore, the Union Government is requested to provide required funds to the Uttar Pradesh State Government for this purpose.

(xi) Need to ensure uninterrupted supply of power in Nawada Parliamentary constituency, Bihar

SHRI VIRCHANDRA PASWAN (Nawada): Sir, day to day life and business is getting affected due to shortage of electricity, and farmers are facing irrigation related problems in my Parliamentary constituency, Nawada, Bihar. There is resentment among the people as electricity is not being made available in sufficient quantity. There is an urgent need to establish a power grid station in Rajauli and a power substation in Rajauli, Sirdala, Miskaur etc.

Therefore, I request the Union Government to make electricity available in sufficient quantity to ensure uninterrupted supply of electricity in Nawada, Bihar, and establish power grid station and power substations at the said places.

(xii) Need to allocate more funds under 'Sam Vikas Yojna' for extending the existing bridge on Garra river in Shahabad Parliamentary Constituency, Uttar Pradesh

SHRI ILYAS AZMI (Shahabad): Sir, in my Parliamentary Constituency, Shahabad Garra river has changed its course near a bridge constructed over it and now it is flowing beside the bridge due to which almost 100 villages have been cut off from Shahabad. Under such situation, either the course of the river should be changed by constructing a concrete wall near the bridge or the bridge should be extended by constructing 3 or 4 pillars.

I request the Government through the House to enhance the allocation for 'Sam Vikas Yojna' being implemented in Hardoi and instruct the district administration to make the bridge operational and connect the aforesaid 100 villages with the district immediately under the said yojana.

(xiii) Need for laying of a new railway line between Jolarpettai and Hosur via Tirupattur – Sulagiri

[English]

SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM (Krishnagiri): Sir, there has been a long pending demand for laying of a new railway line between Jolarpettai and Hosur via Tirupattur-Baragur Kandikuppam-Krishnagiri-Sulagiri. People's representatives from Krishnagiri Constituency cutting across the party lines have made so many representations for executing the project.

Sir, it is learnt that about 50 years ago, there were rail services on this route. With the passage of time, the services were suspended and the line was worn out. Recently, a survey was conducted for laying of a new line and the data was collected but till date there is no progress. Because of the absence of a railway line, the road traffic in this area is congested. Agriculturists, businessmen and general public are suffering huge hardship to travel and to transport their goods. If the line is commissioned, the goods and passenger traffic will be diverted from road and it will fetch huge revenue to the Railways. Bangalore is the nearest city. This line will connect both Karnataka and Tamil Nadu.

Hence, I urge upon the Government to take immediate steps and adequate funds may be allotted for laying of a new railway line during this year itself.

(xiv) Need to upgrade the existing ESI hospital at Kunnicode, Quilon, Kerala to a super speciality hospital and construct a building for the same

SHRI CHENGARA SURENDRAN (Adoor): The E.S.I. hospital at Kunnicode in Pathanapuram Taluk, Quilon in Kerala is functioning in a rented building. There are 17,000 workers working in 34 Cashew factories situated in the area. Besides, there are another 5000 scattered workers having

E.S.I. benefits. Now they have to go either to E.S.I. hospital Ezhukone or to the E.S.I. hospital, Arramom, Quilon for speciality treatment. These hospitals are far away from Kunnicode. In the above circumstances, I request that the Hon. Minister may kindly take urgent steps to upgrade the status of E.S.I. Hospital Kunnicode to superspeciality hospital in the line of that in Arramom, Quilon and also take urgent steps to construct building for the speciality Hospital in the land acquired years back.

(xv) Need to set up a fertilizer factory In Barauni, North Bihar

[Translation]

SHRI SURAJ SINGH (Balua, Bihar): Sir, Barauni, the only industrial town in North Bihar is situated in Begusarai. Due to lack of industrialisation in this area, over the last 25 years and the closure of fertilizer factory useful for the public and farmers for want of maintenance and modernisation during the 8 years, the industrial development has slowed down and development has come to a halt. Agricultural yield has also got a set back as the farmers have not been getting the urea on time. Unemployment has increased in the area and there is a unrest among the people.

I request the hon. Minister of Chemicals and Fertilizers to revive the factory lying closed in the only industrial town of North Bihar which has every facility barring technical modernisation, be it land, building, transport facility or industrial environment. If it is expensive to manufacture urea in this unit then composite fertilizer can be manufactured here at low price. There is not a single fertilizer plant in the State so it is necessary to set up a new fertilizer and chemicals plant at this place immediately. Through the House it is my request to the hon. Minister of Chemicals and Fertilizers to take necessary action in this direction to remove the backwardness of this area, give a new direction to the industrial development and start the process of development in this area so that the feeling of unrest prevalent among the public of this area might be dispelled and development might take place.

14.04 hrs.

**RE: STATUTORY RESOLUTION DISAPPROVING
PATENTS (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE
AND
PATENTS (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2005**

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House will not take up

item nos. 25 and 26 together. I have received a request from hon. Member Shri Bachi Singh Rawat that in his place Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra may be allowed to speak. So, I request Prof. Malhotra to speak now.

[Translation]

SHRI L. K. ADVANI (Gandhinagar): Resolution on disapproval would come later.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have to submit that the Patents Bill that has been brought today for consideration regarding which ordinance has been issued by the Government is very important, WHO has also expressed its apprehensions as to what would be its results if it is implemented,

[English]

as to what would be its impact particularly on life saving drugs.

[Translation]

It has expressed its concern about its impact on the price of life saving drugs. Specific cases have been mentioned that anti cancer drug which is available in India at a very low price would become very costly and will be priced at Rs. one thousand per pill. I have also gone through the letter of WHO.

But I have to raise different issues. Recently, the hon. Minister met me and sought the cooperation of NDA regarding Patent Bill particularly because that was the same Patent Bill which had been introduced by our Government. He said that they have accepted it, in its original form with a minor modification and that too at the suggestion of the former Minister in our Government. Subsequently a meeting was held. It was attended by my eminent colleagues and friends and Shri Kamal Nathji was also there. Discussions were held for one hour and we were made to understand in the discussion that they were not very happy with the Bill in the form it was presented by the NDA Government. We had this at the back of our mind that we are bringing it by the end of year 2003, we have time till 1 January, 2005. We would refer it to the Standing Committee to look into all aspects be it the pharmaceutical concerns or the concerns of the people related to agriculture and it would get a better and refined form. However, that could not happen as some time after this the Government decided to dissolve the House and conduct the elections. So it could not be referred to the Standing Committee. When this Government assumed power, 1 January, 2005 was quite far away. Had they brought this Bill at that time, it would have been feasible to refer it to

the Standing Committee. But they did not bring it at that time, instead they issued an ordinance by the end of December. I remember that an ordinance was issued by the end of December. Our Parliamentary party has said it publicly that it should not be done through ordinance. It should be discussed properly. The Chairman of Standing Committee on Commerce, Shri Murl Manohar Joshi was present there and he said that even if it had to be passed in this session only, it could be sent to the Standing Committee and I would give the report after having conducted discussions on it on day to day basis, at least we would cover the areas of concern. I would admit that the hon. Minister did not make any commitment but it seemed that he has agreed to this suggestion and he said that he would inform us after consulting his colleagues.

[English]

When I am speaking today, he has not come back to me or to anyone of my colleagues. He just spoke to me now and I recounted the whole episode and told him that this is not fair.

[Translation]

Meanwhile they had a talk with their colleagues from the Left. Left Parties are against the patent even more than us. They gave some suggestions which have been accepted. We have not even had the opportunity to look at those suggestions. It is my request to defer discussion on it till tomorrow. We would give our decision after that.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we signed it under WTO in 1994 and so much time has passed since then. It has not been discussed comprehensively. It is an issue of national interest. It is a very serious issue and I think it would not be in the interest of the nation to make haste in this regard. There is a need to have a comprehensive discussion in the matter. It should be referred to the Standing Committee. Afterwards the House would discuss the report of the Committee. It is my request that discussion on it should be deferred for some other day. There is no need to do it today. There is a need to take the entire nation and the House in confidence. It should be discussed comprehensively. The interest of the nation should be kept in mind. Through you, I request the Government not to take up this issue atleast today.

[English]

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU (Srikakulam): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, hon. Minister, Shri Kamal Nath has

[Shri Kinjarapu Yerrannaidu]

presented the Patents (Amendment) Bill, 2005 before Parliament which seeks to replace the Patents (Amendment) Ordinance, 2004. Again, they have amended the present Bill with some amendments from the Government side. We have just received. ...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): We have not received. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: I have received it just now. A lot of discussion is required on this Bill. That is why, today the Bill has to be referred to the Standing Committee on Commerce for further discussion. Anyhow, the Chairman of the Standing Committee on Commerce has given a promise to the Minister that they will discuss the Bill on day-to-day basis and submit a Report to the Parliament. Otherwise, you defer it to tomorrow.

In the meanwhile, we will read all the provisions, implications and every thing else. Not only the Parliament, other organisations are also working on this area. So, we have to take the advice and opinion of other bodies also. Then only, everybody will appreciate it. We are not opposing this Bill. On the basis of consensus, we have to approve this Bill. So, I would request that we may defer this Bill.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): Sir, if a discussion is held on this issue, then we are prepared for it. We will have our own say in the matter but we need time to speak on it.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Varkala Radhakrishnan, I will allow you to express your views on this issue.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: The Leader of Opposition has raised an issue, but we will have our own say in the matter. We will definitely be expressing our opinion in this matter.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajganj, Bihar): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I associate myself with whatever the Leader of Opposition Shri Advaniji has said and would like to submit that it is a very sensitive and serious issue. It would affect the entire society. It should not only be sent to the Standing Committee but a national debate should be initiated on such issues for eliciting the public opinion. I would not be appropriate to bring it in the House before having comprehensive discussion on it. Through you I request the Government to at least put off this discussion today.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE (Kolkata, South): Thank

you, Sir, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, It is a very important and sensitive Bill. The prices of medicines are increasing in the country otherwise too.

[English]

The prices of medicines for Thalassemia patients, cancer patients and even the life saving drugs are increasing day by day and after the passage of this Bill, the prices will reach sky high. Can the Government assure the House that they will not increase. It can not do so.

[Translation]

The pharmaceutical companies of our country are being given right to representation in PMR under the patent Bill but not the right to object. It might harm them. The prices of medicines have increased so much in the country that poor people are not even getting gelusile in government hospitals. Privatization has taken place. So even I agree with hon. Advaniji

[English]

that it should be discussed in the Standing Committee. We should have taken into confidence the people from the pharmaceutical field, etc. as we want to address their views also. Hence, we have to take into confidence those people, and then discuss this matter. I do not think that we should hurriedly pass a Bill, which will harm the country. I would request the Minister to consider these aspects of the matter.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Sir, now, it is not the proper time to refer it to a Standing Committee or a Select Committee. It is another matter, which the Leader of Opposition has expressed here. If a discussion is allowed, then we will give our opinion on this issue. I am not expressing any opinion about the views expressed by the Opposition. So far as we are concerned, we have certain objections in the Bill, and, if possible, we will try to sort out those objections in the Bill. This is the present position on this issue. ...*(Interruptions)*

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI (Garhwal): Have you read the amendments?

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: We have certain objections with regard to certain provisions in the Bill, especially, with regard to drugs, and especially with regard to the chemicals used in the drugs. We require a detailed discussion on all these matters.

It is for the Government to decide whether it should be

referred to a Standing Committee or it should be passed. As far as we are concerned, we are making our position explicitly clear.

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI (Pilibhit): Sir, even if this were a Bill, which affects only India, still it would be an extremely important one. But it is a Bill, which affects most parts of the world. We are supplying 50 per cent of the cheapest drugs in the world to places like Papua New Guinea, Laos, Kenya, Africa, etc. All these countries have complained to the WHO about this Bill.

The two biggest international health organisations in the world, namely, WHO, and Medicines Sans Frontiers have written to the Government saying that this is a very very serious matter. This has been the subject of editorials all over the world right from America onwards to every country from Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Nairobi, Korea, Laos, Thailand, Vietnam, etc. All of them have complained about our Bill. It is a Bill that affects so many parts of the world. Do you not think that we should have a slightly more serious discussion on it, rather than attempting to pass it through?

There is a belief that we are late on this issue. Perhaps, we are late, but the UK is also late. They have said that even their small country, with little medicines want a full-fledged discussion on it before they pass it. As a result of that they have delayed it. In that case, we – who affect the rest of the world – should think about it.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY (Puri): Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this has very serious implications.

[Translation]

200 countries have focussed their attention on our bill. The patent bill that has been brought here would have its impact on 200 countries. The poor countries of the world have focussed their attention on India to see how our Parliament passes this bill. There is a news item in the daily "New York Times" regarding this bill, it is a serious matter. It would affect crores of people. The drugs and chemicals which are to be patented, I do not want to go into the merit of it all.
...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Ilyas Azmi, I will give you time to speak only if you go to your own seat.

[Translation]

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: My submission is

that this bill should not be passed in a hurry. Hon. Advaniji has suggested just now that this bill should be referred to the Standing Committee where it should be discussed seriously. I would like to know about its impact on the poor. It should be considered how the general public would buy medicines when their prices are increased. Why are we in the Parliament if we cannot spare a thought for the public? The Patent bill should not be passed in a hurry. There would not be any problem if this bill is not passed today. We still have six months' time. It will not hurt India's prestige or independence if it is not passed by 4 April. Britain has also taken time over it and other countries too are taking their own time, so we should also give it some more time. The Chairman of the Standing Committee has also made this commitment that

[English]

he is interested in completing it during the inter-session period.

[Translation]

They should be given time for it. It should be sent to them timely. I request the Government not to pass it in a hurry.

SHRI ILYAS AZMI (Shahabad): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is a very sensitive issue. It amounts to capitalists robbing the poor. I would particularly ask my colleagues from the Congress not to move on the path of dictatorship and consider the feelings of their colleagues who are running the Government with them. They should not get it into their head that they alone are running the Government and they can victimise the public as much as they like. I would like to say that instead of using the House, the Government should refer the bill to the Standing Committee on its own and give it proper time for comprehensive discussion on it.

[English]

SHRI SURESH KURUP (Kottayam): Widespread apprehensions have been expressed about this Bill because of certain controversial provisions. I would like to know, taking into consideration the criticism expressed both inside and outside the House, whether the Government is moving some amendments. If at all the Government is moving some amendments, we have not received copies of those amendments. Therefore, we need time to study those amendments.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Ram Kripal Yadav, first

of all, you have to go to your seat. Otherwise, you will not get the chance to speak.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to request the hon. Minister that this bill is regarding a very sensitive matter. Coming to a decision in a hurry would not be in public interest. As Shri Advaniji has said this bill was brought by their Government twice. My party's opinion is clear in this regard, we have always opposed the Patent Bill and our stand is not new. I would like the Government to give this bill a chance to be considered seriously, and come to a decision after ample deliberations. The Government must have gauged the mood of the House. Everybody has said that the hon. Minister should not be rigid and this bill should be referred to the Standing Committee; there is no need then to take an immediate decision in this regard and we should be given opportunity to study the amendments brought in by our colleagues from the Left Parties.

They can bring it in the House tomorrow itself. I feel that the NDA which is opposing it now should have done so earlier, today it has no right to do so. It is their bill. The hon. Minister should never have brought this bill. He is committing a mistake. It is not in public interest. That is why it is my request that discussion on this bill should be deferred and we should be given opportunity to discuss it thoroughly before coming to any decision so that we could save the public from the implications of this bill otherwise it would be a great injustice. Therefore, I request to bring it tomorrow.
...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please sit down. You have expressed your views. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Not to be recorded.

...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: He should give his views in this regard. Why is he not doing so? ...(Interruptions) What do they want to do with the country-run it or sell it?
...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): Sir, I will put a

* Not recorded.

single question to the hon. Minister. I am going to speak on behalf of my party. I was a member of the Joint Select Committee on Patents Bill. We worked very hard for one year in that Committee. Even though I am going to speak on this issue, till now I have not received the amendments moved by the Government. Should I go on appealing to the Minister for them? Should I not have the right to go through the amendments that have been proposed by the Minister? Without even going through them, how can I participate in the debate? So, I appeal to the hon. Minister that we should not have the debate today. As the hon. Leader of Opposition has already requested, it should be deferred at least till tomorrow. That is my appeal.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA (Panskura): Sir, the issue is complicated, undoubtedly. It involves the future of the peasantry, future of scientific research, future of economic development in this country. I understand that there is a predicament for the Government because they have to issue an Ordinance. It is true that discussions have been going on between some of the parties which are supporting the Government. But it is also true that the discussions have not been conclusive. Considering the seriousness of the whole thing and considering the far-reaching implications involved in the Patents Law which we are supposed to pass because the Government wants us to ratify the Ordinance, I believe it would be better if there is a little more deliberation on that. Let the Government try to find out a method through which more consultation can be done and misgivings can be cleared. After all, this issue is a by-product of the policy of the earlier Government. Let us not take pride in saying, that we want to sell the country. Even you wanted to do so. You also wanted to sell the country at that point of time. Such consultations did not take place. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN' (Begusarai):
Who signed the WTO Agreement?

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: You followed it. It is the Congress Government which signed it. ...(Interruptions) We opposed it but the BJP carried forward their flag.
...(Interruptions)

Let the Opposition not try to score a point because it has no point. While they were in the Government, they did not look for a change; while they were in the Government they only followed the footsteps of the earlier Government. During the earlier Government, they had no occasion to consult other parties. At least Shri Kamal Nath is too generous to have some consultation. Either fruitful or fruitless, he is having some consultations, some facade of

consultations. But you did not do it at that time. Anyway, that is not the issue. The issue is, it is having serious implications. Considering the serious implications, let us not bulldoze the Parliament. Kamal Nathji, please do not bulldoze the Parliament. Let us consult. All of us are committed for the betterment of peasantry and agriculture. Please give that opportunity. There is no need for such a hurry. Let there be a Committee and within a specific period let that Committee give the verdict.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (Chandigarh): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this amendment Bill is the third in the series of initiatives that the Government of India had to take. The Government of India run by any party had to take this initiative to meet the obligations arising out of the Trade-Related aspects of Intellectual Properties Rights on joining the WTO. Before joining the WTO, the matter did come up before the Standing Committee - the Standing Committee was then chaired by Shri I.K. Gujral - and there was a unanimous Report of the Standing Committee supporting the Government's move and the necessity of the country to join the WTO. After having joined the WTO, the NDA Government brought about two amendments in that series. This is the third one, which is necessary to meet those obligations. ...*(Interruptions)* The WTO did not thrust its membership on us. It was we who sought it. Then all things go together in a package - either you take it or leave it. The only important thing is, the Government of a sovereign country reserves the right to protect its interests. After the reading of this Bill, I can say that all the concerns which the hon. Members here have expressed are met by this Bill. All the concerns are met. Kindly see the amendments which have been circulated. ...*(Interruptions)* All that I wish to say is, I am for a debate, an elaborate discussion on the Bill. Every Member should get an opportunity to discuss and that we can do only if we start discussing it right now. We can discuss the whole day today and we can discuss it the whole day tomorrow.

A point was made that a lot of time has elapsed between the fall of the last Government and the bringing of the Ordinance by the present Government. I do not want to recapitulate the circumstances which, in fact, stymied the efforts of this Government to carry out any business during the last three Sessions. How much time did we have at our disposal to have this? Therefore, I stress, finally there is a point that I have to make - there is an Ordinance and according to the provisions of the Constitution, the Ordinance would lapse after about a fortnight's time The Parliament is adjourning. We are rising for the meetings of the Standing Committees only after four days. Otherwise, there will have

to be a promulgation of another Ordinance. Then, you will say that we are bringing about Ordinances. There is a legal vacuum. ...*(Interruptions)* Sir, kindly, let me make my point. If the Bill is not passed, if the Ordinance is not replaced by this Bill, there will be a legal vacuum which will create greater problems for us than what we are thinking of now. All these concerns have been addressed and there is nothing stopping us from airing this here and then trying to find a solution to this.

All that I would like to urge upon is, we begin with the discussion today. We carry out the discussion today, we carry out the discussion even tomorrow. That will give us more time. Why are we running away from that?

Coming to the Standing Committee, the Standing Committee system was started by the Congress Government. We all know it. We have always asked for it. But then, occasions do arise. Our friends from the other side know how many legislations were passed by them through the Ordinance route. Occasions do arise where Ordinance is the only alternative left. Given the obligations, given the international obligations which we are duty-bound to fulfil, as I said, arising out of the TRIPS, by joining the WTO, this Bill has to be taken up for discussion. Let us discuss this for two days. Why do we stop discussion on it?

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hooghly): Sir, we are opposed to the method of Ordinance route on such an important Bill. We could have discussed it, all the sections of the House could have discussed it. We know that the BJP has no moral right because it is their Bill. It is their child. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH (Uluberia): Are you calling your child an illegitimate one? ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Were you not a member of that Committee? ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: I am not yielding. ...*(Interruptions)* This is a very important Bill. We have given very important amendments. We have given very important suggestions. In the amendments that have come, we find that some of the important amendments are there. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): It seems he is in connivance with them. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: It has come from various

[Shri Rupchand Pal]

sources, through the media and others. ...*(Interruptions)* We do not know the mind of the Government. ...*(Interruptions)*

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI: We do not have the amendments. How do we know that? ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: You also do not know; we also do not know. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI HARIN PATHAK (Ahmedabad): That is not the procedure. You are not the Minister. It is my right to get the amendments. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Rupchand Pal, please address the Chair.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except what Shri Rupchand Pal speaks.

...*(Interruptions)**

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: From the reading of the situation, I do not know the mind of the Government. But I know their mind. It is their child. ...*(Interruptions)* What I suggest is that, we want some time to read between the lines. Heavens will not fall if it is deferred for a few hours and within this session, we can take it up again. ...*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI KAMAL NATH): Have we started a debate? ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhanjharpur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this bill is controversial. I would like to recall that during NDA regime this bill was brought in the House twice. It is again before the House. Definitely it needs detailed discussions and the entire House should be taken into confidence on this. This bill is not only related to the prices of life saving drugs, rather it is also related to the issue of self-reliance in the Indian pharmaceutical industry. Through you, I would like to request that there is a need for detailed discussion on this bill. It should not be passed in such a hot haste. It involves national interests, therefore, it should not be taken up today on any condition.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Kamal Nath.

...*(Interruptions)*

* Not recorded.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): Sir, ten Members have spoken from their side including the CPI and the CPM. Please allow him only for two minutes. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI UDAY SINGH (Purnea): Sir, I want to say a very few things. From personal experience, I know that it is difficult to explain to the Congress party any other point of view than their own because they think that they know everything. And they unfortunately, now have friends who keep vacillating from this end to the others, busy cursing parties. They do not know where they stand. ...*(Interruptions)*

Now, the manner in which this Bill has been introduced is objectionable. What the Bill contains - as we know what it contains - is objectionable. What the Government wants us to do and what the Government wants this House to do, namely, pass it, is objectionable.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir you have seen the general consensus in the House. Not even one single Member should be left dissatisfied. I would only request that it should be sent to the Standing Committee. In the Standing Committee, the Chairman has promised to send it back within one week. So, it must be sent to the Standing Committee. Thank you.

SHRI KAMAL NATH: Sir, three issues have been made out - one, by the hon. Leader of the Opposition, on the discussion I had; second, that there is an effort to bulldoze the Bill, and the contents are not known and so on and so forth; and third, that it is better dealt with by being deferred.

Sir, just to inform the House - I am happy that Advaniji raised this issue - our Government came in at the end of the May, 2004 and we all knew that this was an international obligation.

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: What kept you busy for nine months.

SHRI KAMAL NATH: I am telling that only.

[English]

It was not known as an international obligation only in June. In 1995, it was known that we would have this international obligation. It is not that suddenly it has become an international obligation. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI M. P. VEERENDRA KUMAR (Calicut): It was in the Parliament in 1994. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KAMAL NATH: Sir, about this Patents (Amendment) Bill, what I am merely doing for the benefit of the Members is carrying the process forward of the amendments.

In March, 1999 was the first amendment. In June, 2002 was the second amendment. So, I am not doing anything new; I am only carrying forward that process. ...*(Interruptions)*

AN HON. MEMBER: That was the wrong process. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KAMAL NATH: Fine! ...*(Interruptions)*

So, Sir, the process was started by them. It was our commitment. Now, why did we give in to this commitment? That is a larger issue whether we were right to accede to the WTO. As part of our accession to the WTO, we were required to have this TRIPS agreement, and the Multifibre agreement.

So, when I say that there is an international commitment, this international commitment is not in isolation. It is not with regard to TRIPS only. This international commitment is along with other international commitments, which others have made. We said that we would do this, they said that they would do that. What did they say? They said that the Multifibre agreement would also be at the end of 31st December, 2004, and from 1st January, 2005, the quota regime will be over. This was decided in 1995, and not now. It has not been done when we came into the Government.

So, Sir, when we came into the Government, there was a Bill presented. There was a Bill brought on the floor of the House. But it could not be proceeded with because the Lok Sabha got dissolved. What was I to do? I had tried to understand the Bill. I had widespread consultations. On what Bill? On the Bill, that they had brought. I saw from the records which are there today, that before they brought the Bill, they had held consultations. I am not saying that they did not hold consultations. They held consultations, they held meetings; they talked to various interest groups, and then they had brought the Bill. I presume that when any Government brings the Bill, brings a well-considered Bill.

Saying that we brought the Bill to evoke a national debate, I think, would be very incorrect. ...*(Interruptions)* Let me finish. It would be very unfair. ...*(Interruptions)* I did not interrupt when you were talking. ...*(Interruptions)* Let me finish.

So they had brought the Bill. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANIL BASU (Arambagh): Even they withdrew the quantitative restrictions. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except what the hon. Minister says.

(Interruptions) ...*

SHRI KAMAL NATH: They consciously brought this Bill in December 2003. No Government bringing a Bill would say that it is open-ended, we will see. As regards Standing Committee, I understand that the Standing Committee would have gone into it. We would have also taken it to the Standing Committee. I will take that up later. Then what happened is this. When I had this, I wrote to every political party in November. I wrote to the hon. Leader of the Opposition saying that there is a Bill. I wrote it in the month of November, not now, to all the political parties asking them that there was this Bill. We have this international commitment. Can we please meet for your suggestions? I am for the consultations on this. The BJP met me and I told them this was their own Bill. They suggested to me one amendment. They said that they think the Bill should be like this. Then, other parties came. They understood the import of the Bill, the necessity of the Bill.

[Translation]

Nobody can deny that it is a serious and sensitive Bill. I do not want to deny it but we have decided after much consideration that as it is an international binding under a agreement, we better understand all its aspects, sections and provisions minutely. We listened to the suggestion given by Bhartiya Janta Party. It was in the end of November, I do not remember the date but I formally wrote letters to each party.

[English]

My friends of the Left parties, Samajwadi Party and other parties came and talked to me. I had consultations with them.

Sir, the Lok Sabha in December, because of disturbances, did not function very satisfactorily. My cut-off date was 31st December. So, what I had to do! I had no choice before me. Either I have to default. Okay, I will do it. The Multi-Fibre Agreement was ending on 31st; the Quota Regime was ending. There were thousands of crores of textile exports, which had positioned themselves to occupy the space, the space which would be open in the international market because of the end of the quota regime.

* Not recorded.

[Shri Kamal Nath]

So, we had no choice but to bring in this Ordinance. What do we do in the Ordinance? I accepted the BJP's suggestion on their own Bill – their limited suggestion.

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: There has been no disturbance here since 1st December. The House functioned for 14 days and not a single day witnessed any disturbance. Please do not make a wrong statement that BJP has presented an amendment in writing and you have accepted it. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KAMAL NATH: You had participated in a formal discussion before all the officers.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: I was not present

SHRI KAMAL NATH: I am talking about his party. They came after a formal invitation from me. I had invited all the officers. Perhaps they required another briefing, I thought they had brought the bill after much consideration but still I discussed with them. He gave suggestions and all the others did the same. I accepted some of the suggestions including those of Bhartiya Janta Party and have presented them in the form of the ordinance. I will elaborate the same when discussion over the bill takes place, I do not want to take up the substantive issue right now but a sweeping statement is being made.

[English]

as if this an irresponsible Government, as if we are very irresponsibly doing something. I take very serious objection to it. This is not being done casually. Please do not politicise this.

The next point, that will be made, is that we are bulldozing this. Let me say this. An Ordinance has its own compulsions. The very fact that we had to meet the deadline of 31st December and the choice was that either we violated our own international commitments or had an Ordinance. So, we had an Ordinance and then in six weeks, we are required to approve this.

Then, what did the Leader of the Opposition say? I called up the Leader of the Opposition. I was talking to all political parties. I accepted their suggestions. I called up the Leader of the Opposition. He had very kindly fixed a meeting; it was a serious meeting in which I did point out that these are my compulsions. It was suggested in the meeting that this should go to the Standing Committee and that the

Standing Committee will finish this job by the end of the recess, that is by the 18th of April, or whatever it is. I then said that I would go back and discuss it; it was fair enough. I did say that I would go back and discuss it.

We considered it within ourselves to see whether it is possible to do it, since Budget discussion will be there, and whether it would be possible for the Standing Committee to finish this job in 5-10 days' time. There was a JPC constituted in the case of the Second Amendment to this Bill. The JPC of this House took two years to give a report. So, it is not something which has been done casually. The JPC considered it. I am being told that it had held 40 sittings; they took two years. The JPC has gone conceptually into this concept of 'patent'. Why? It is because we knew in 1995, what we were required to do on 1st January 2005. It is not something which happened only when we came to Government. We realised this at that point of time. So, there is no effort to bulldoze this.

I am willing and I am confident – I may be wrong, but I am confident – that all the apprehensions which have been expressed by the hon. Members will be addressed. One hon. Member said that UK had not done this. I must point out that UK has product patent for a long time. I must say this. In fact – it is a question of fact and it is not a question of opinion – it was mentioned that UK also did not have it. But it is not correct.

They expressed other concerns like prices will shoot up. When we get on to the discussions, it will be my effort to convince you. After all, as a responsible Government, we have looked into the facts, like whether the prices would shoot up, what would be the implications of this Bill, etc.

SHRI UDAY SINGH: What is your answer if the prices shoot up?

SHRI KAMAL NATH: Are we starting the discussion now? It will obviously not shoot up. Otherwise, we would not bring forward a Bill to ensure that the prices shoot up! ...*(Interruptions)*

Listen to me. If you were here in the previous Lok Sabha, you would have known what that Bill was about. But unfortunately you were not.

Anyway, we are not getting on to the discussions. The moment we start this, we would convince you.

Sir, are you permitting me to start the discussions now? Should we start it now?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No. I do not know how we should start it.

SHRI KAMAL NATH: On the issue of whether this should be deferred from today, the Leader of the House will make some comments.

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): Sir, most respectfully I would like to submit this. I listened to the Leader of the Opposition. I expected that he would extend support. My mind went back to 1999; and I expected that the Leader of the Opposition would extend support of his Party to this Bill. Why am I saying this? It is because it is me who signed the agreement on WTO in April, 1994 which came into operation from the 1st January, 1995. The country had the obligations to provide Exclusive Marketing Rights for a period of five years, with effect from 01.01.1995. We obtained by bargain – it was not given to us on a platter – ten years' time to amend the Patents Act of 1970, which provided product patents in all areas, except three items, namely, drugs and Pharmaceuticals, agriculture and chemicals, and certain food items. We said that we would require time. So, ten years' time was given to us through negotiations. But we had one obligation.

We were told that we would get ten years' time to amend the Patents Act of 1970, but we were to provide exclusive marketing rights from 1.1.1995. Lok Sabha passed that amendment. We could not do it because of opposition from the then Opposition Party, BJP. So far as the Left is concerned, from day one, they are opposing this Bill, but I am talking of BJP particularly and why I expected the support from BJP. Thereafter the matter went to the Disputes Settlement. We lost twice;. Then a situation arose in 1999 that the country was to pay heavily on some of them, even to the extent of hearing that we may go out of the WTO. The then Government thought that it shall have to amend the Act to give it a retrospective effect. Please remember, in 1999, we shall have to amend the Act and give retrospective effect to provide exclusive marketing rights from 1.1.1995. They did not have the majority in Rajya Sabha. As we have the majority in Lok Sabha. They also had the majority in the Lok Sabha. They got it passed. Some of my colleagues, even abused me in our Party meetings. I commented by saying that mere accident of change of seats need not necessarily be a change in the policy. If I brought a Bill to provide exclusive marketing rights and failed to do so, and if some other political party occupying the Treasury Benches wants to fulfil the obligation, the International commitment, we should extend our support. We extended our support and most respectfully I would like to submit that even maintaining our distance,

many of our Left friends, who were there in Rajya Sabha at that time – I think Prof. Malhotra was also in Rajya Sabha at that time - voted against them but we voted in favour of it because it is a question of principle. It is a question of fulfilling an international obligation. Why it could not be brought through the Standing Committee? Even the very first Bill was studied by the Standing Committee. A JPC sat for two years, in 40 sessions and studied every aspect as to why the Patents Act should be amended.

Therefore, let us go into the whole gamut of it. The Leader of the Opposition has given some suggestions. Most respectfully, on behalf of the Government, I am accepting his suggestions. It is fair and legitimate that the amendments which the Government has proposed yesterday and which have been circulated today, let the Members study them. We will bring this Bill tomorrow and we can take it up then. I request you, Sir, and the hon. Parliamentary Affairs Minister to organise other business for the day. Most respectfully I may submit to the Leader of the Opposition to consider this piece of legislation. He might have considered it before. Please allow me to say that even if we debate for 20 years on these issues, on some of the points we can never agree because there are vital interests concerned. There is the problem of our having all the bargaining powers and there is the problem of those countries who do not have any bargaining power.

Therefore, we shall have to try to find out a way. Simply because you are sitting on the other side, you cannot play the role of an irresponsible Opposition. This is my most respectful submission.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI (Gandhinagar): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I appreciate the statement made by the leader of the House just now that there are responsibilities towards the country which should not be neglected by any party just because the government has changed and somebody is now sitting on the other side. Shri Kamal Nath is here. He would remember that when this issue was discussed for an hour nobody opposed the patent bill. Everybody felt that he had an international obligation to fulfill.

All of us felt that we had some international obligations to fulfill and we also understand as he said that the patent bill was brought after much consideration but even then there was this feeling at the back of the mind that it should be sent to the standing Committee and there was ample time, too. Our complaint was mainly that, truly speaking it should have been brought in the beginning. Problems have arisen as it has been brought in the end and that too through

[Shri L. K. Advani]

the process of an ordinance. To solve those problems, the Chairman of the Standing Committee on Commerce who was present during the discussion gave us the assurance that he would get it finalized within eight days by getting deliberations conducted everyday as we were left with no other option.

[English]

So, even the compulsion that the ordinance path did create for the Government were taken into cognizance.

[Translation]

My objection was that we were not informed of what happened after that. We were not apprised as to whom Kamal Nath ji consulted and what conclusion he arrived at, we only came to know that the hon. Minister would get it passed today. That is why I requested not to get it passed. That is why I made this request to him and I am happy that he has acceded to my request not to pass it. But I would repeat my earlier proposal that it should be sent to the Standing Committee, though the ordinance would lapse on the 8th, even then the House would have ample time to complete the discussion in this regard. By then we would have the opinion of our friends from the Left parties and we would also be able to give our opinion. The then Commerce Minister himself is a Member of the Standing Committee and he is aware of all its aspects. He too has his own compulsions so there will not be any problem. I would reiterate that this discussion should be deferred; tomorrow it should be brought formally and then referred to the Standing Committee. This is my request.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: If the House agrees, the discussion on item nos. 25 and 26 may be deferred for tomorrow.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

14.58 hrs.

DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

Developments in Nepal and visits of Minister of External Affairs to Afghanistan and Pakistan

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, the House shall take up item No.27. Shri C.K. Chandrappan to speak.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order please.

...(Interruptions)

14.59 hrs.

(SHRI AJAY MAKEN *in the Chair*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please speak, Mr. Chandrappan.

SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPAN (Trichur): Sir, I want to speak, but there is a lot of turmoil in the House.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order in the House, please.

15.00 hrs.

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN: Sir, today we are discussing the *suo motu* statement made by Shri E. Ahamed, the hon. Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs – about the developments in Nepal and visits of our hon. Minister of External Affairs to Afghanistan and Pakistan – in the Lok Sabha on 9th March this year.

Sir, our External Affairs Minister visited three countries. Some developments recently had taken place in those countries. First, let us take Nepal. Nepal is our immediate neighbour and is a country with which we share a common and an open border of 1400 kilometres. Certain unfortunate developments have taken place in that country. The Ruling King Shri Gyanendra had taken over the Administration of that country and has imposed his own reign of terror denigrating all democratic institutions of that country. It is a country with which we have historical ties and have very good neighbourly relations. We also share economic relations with that country. But recently, the people as well as the Government of this country was noticing certain serious and unhealthy developments taking place there. The Ruling King was assassinated and a kind of palace *coup* took place and the present king came into power in that manner and it is not an enviable manner into which he has thrown himself into. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record.

*(Interruptions) ...**

SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPAN: Sir, some 15 years ago, the Ruling King of that time had denied all democratic rights to people of that country. The people of Nepal, irrespective

* Not recorded.

of political considerations united like a single man and raised the banner of revolt against the dictatorship imposed on that country, it was through that revolt at that time, they had succeeded in re-establishing not only the democratic institutions, but also a multi-party democracy in that country. This happened some 14 to 15 years ago. Democracy, after that, was being practised in that country, more or less, in a stable manner. Now, this palace *coup* had taken place recently and after that Government after Government have changed and a kind of political instability is now reigning in that country.

Sir, added to it, the problem of Maoist terrorism is raising its head in that country. In the name of terrorism what is happening is most unfortunate. The people of this country, I do not think can subscribe to what has been today happening in Nepal. An unadulterated dictatorship has been imposed on the people of Nepal under the pretext of fighting terrorism in that country. There could have been other means as well. So, we should express our solidarity with the people of Nepal. The people of Nepal had already approached their well-established political parties to face the situation.

They have approached our political parties in India, our Government and Governments all over the world. They wanted democracy to be there in their country. If democracy has to be there in Nepal, then one should ensure that multiparty system and multiparty democracy are established, Parliament starts functioning and normal political life is established. I know that it is for the people of Nepal to decide whether a monarchy type of democracy should be there or not. We are not to sit in judgement whether that is there or not. But we are concerned that, in Nepal, a healthy democratic Government and healthy democratic institutions are functioning. A large number of political leaders are imprisoned there. They should be released and normal political activities should be allowed. Of course, the Government of India has conveyed its displeasure to the Nepalese Government about what has happened. I am sure that the Government of India will stand in solidarity with the people of Nepal who are today waging a very difficult battle to restore democracy in their country. They expect that the Indian people, as in the past, will stand on the side of democracy and support them. That is the very essential need of the hour.

It is very good that the Government has so far expressed its disapproval to the manner in which the political parties are banned, the Parliament is dissolved and all that. But we should continue to extend our support to the people in their fight for restoration of democracy in that country. Sir, that will

help democracy here also because in our border, if there is autocracy coming up, in whatever manner, it will pose a threat to democracy in our country also. So, we should help in keeping up the high values and traditions which we always have upheld. We should support the people of Nepal in their times of difficulty whom they are fighting for democracy and for the restoration of democracy in their country. This is my appeal to the Government in regard to Nepal.

In regard to his visit to Pakistan, as his statement says that it is a very positive development that they could visit Pakistan and they could arrive at certain important agreements. It is very good that the relations between India and Pakistan are getting improved. The people-to-people relations are improving very fast. We have seen that the cricket test match which took place between India and Pakistan. We have seen how we responded to that match allowing tens of thousands of people from Pakistan to cross the border, come and witness the match in Mohali. It is a very good gesture. The peoples of Pakistan and India have enjoyed the match. It was almost like a festival that we were celebrating. We were celebrating the gesture of good relationship shown during the time of the cricket test match. The same thing should continue.

Well, the Pakistan team is here. Yesterday, they lost the test match in Kolkata. They must have taken it in good sportsman spirit. We will also continue to play cricket with them in the coming days. That is one good aspect of people-to-people relationship.

Recently, the two top leaders of the Left Parties, Comrade Harkishan Singh Surjeet, the General Secretary of CPI(M), Comrade A.B. Barthan, the General Secretary of Communist Party of India, visited Pakistan on the invitation of the various parties in that country. They also had a meeting with various parties at their level and also with the Government including the Head of State, Mr. Musharraf.

While reporting about the meeting, they also said that a situation is developing where both the countries and their people desire to have better relations in the coming days. The Government is also trying for that. The Government has said that it has entered into various agreements when they were in Pakistan, like the agreement for a new bus service between Srinagar and the other side of the border, to Muzaffarabad.

When our party leaders visited there, they also discussed the question of release of fishermen who were arrested for crossing international waters. It is not their fault.

[Shri C. K. Chandrapan]

Probably, the poor fishermen would not have known as to which is the limit of international waters. So, they might have gone to the other side. They were arrested and kept in prisons there.

Similarly, some of those who were seeking employment abroad, might have been cheated by agents and they got stranded. When they walked through Pakistan, they were arrested. Hundreds of them are there in prisons. When the left party leaders took it up with the Government of Pakistan, President Musharraf himself told them that these poor people need not be there in prisons for long. If the necessary official formalities are completed, they could be released soon. I take this opportunity to request the Government of India that measures be taken so that these poor fishermen and those job seekers who were stranded there could be released as soon as possible and they can come back to join their near and dear ones in India. These are signs that there are possibilities of good relations between the two countries. Now, this should be taken to the higher levels.

Next, let me come to the pipeline project that is being proposed between India and Iran through Pakistan. I know that America is not very happy about it. Probably, they are not very happy that India and Pakistan are settling their disputes and trying to have good neighbourly relations. They never liked it. But we are taking initiatives to have good trade, economic, political and neighbourly relations with that country and they are responding to that. If this process continues further, then we can hope that this sub-continent will have good times in future. Once people thought that dispute between India and Pakistan would trigger off Third World War. If this peace process is further advanced, if the relations between these two big neighbours of the SAARC region are friendly, then probably the whole Asia will have a better time in the days to come. So, I am happy that the Government is taking initiatives for that. Those initiatives should be taken further in order to have better understanding and better relations in the future.

In the statement, they are mentioning about the Minister's visit to Afghanistan. Afghanistan is a hot bed of various intrigues and also of war. In the name of fighting terrorism and in the name of what had happened in the United States of America a few years ago, that country was invaded by U.S. That country was invaded unilaterally by a decision of the United States of America. They got the cover of UN to make it respectable. Anyway, in that country they had election recently, though the election was monitored by the US and engineered in their own way.

But a new situation is coming up in Afghanistan. We are trying to understand it. We are trying to have a good relationship with the new regime there. We are trying to have better understanding with that country in future also. So, in short, if we come to a conclusion about the results of all the visits, I must say, it was positive that the Government has taken initiative to visit these three countries where a lot of problems are there – both positive and negative. We should be careful about certain things, especially with regard to our visit to Afghanistan. It was after Afghanistan tasting blood, the United State decided that they need not even have a cover – a respectable cover of the United States. They defy the United Nations; they are defying their own close friends in Europe, defying the world 'public opinion'. They attacked Iraq. After the attack on Iraq, one of the bloodiest wars we have witnessed during our time and they have succeeded in that war – the electronic warfare in no time and probably with a very little loss. But, after the war, after the victory of that electronic war, when they try to settle the things and work on the ground, probably more people than what they lost during the war, they are losing and that loss is even today continuing. The people of Iraq are not ready to subject themselves to the diktats of the Americans, though they may have nuclear weapons, they may have missiles to attack and they may have a lot of money about which they themselves boast about. But with all these, they could not subjugate the will of the people there. The people who are fighting against the occupation, the people who are fighting there, they are not supporting Saddam Hussein's dictatorship. They are against the dictatorship of Saddam Hussein. But, at the same time, they are against the new masters who impose themselves upon them with their sheer might. When we speak of our Afghan policy, we have to take care that the very same policy of the United States with which they attacked and subjugated Afghanistan, they did it more blatantly in attacking Iraq. Today, they are not making it any more secret. They are telling that the next target is Iran. We have to make up our mind. They say that after Iran or before Iran, there is another target, namely, North Korea. Can we keep quiet about it? Can we be silent on this? We have to make our position very clear. The United States – in the name of their security or their own interest – attack countries after countries and subjugate them. The world knows what they wanted. Their own Presidents spelt it out in the past. They said that in the Middle East, they have various vested interests. One of the main things is oil. This is the oil-rich region in the world and oil is probably coming to an end in 3-4 decades. Perhaps, this wealth of oil may not be there. So, they want to plunder oil of West Asia and they want to be masters of that region. They want to subjugate one regime

after another. They do not like countries, which are questioning them in any way or in any manner. They want to teach everybody a lesson. We should make India's position very clear in this context.

We should make it clear that we will not support the imperialist attitude of the United States that they will pick and choose their enemies and subject everybody to their liking with their armed might. We have to make that clear. We have to uphold the traditional policy, the policy of friendship, the policy of peace and the policy of Non-Alignment. Well, in this world, probably it may not be easy to uphold the policy of Non-alignment in the fashion in which it was done in the olden days. But it is possible today that there are a large number of countries in the southern hemisphere of America, countries in East Europe and Asia which are questioning the American attitude of policing the whole world because America has the might. That cannot be accepted by India. That was never accepted by India in the past. We should uphold that position.

In relation to Nepal, I will once again say that restoration of democracy in Nepal is one of the very important priorities That will solve Nepal's problems also. We have to stand with the people of Nepal in their fight for democracy.

In relation to Pakistan, I have already said that we have to pursue the policy of friendship and understanding. I hope this discussion will further enunciate the policy of the Government which we support in these issues.

With these words, I conclude.

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the subject we are discussing today, I had thought, would not come up for discussion today as it was slated for tomorrow. But we are discussing it today due to certain special circumstances. It is a very important issue.

Our External Affairs Minister has made a statement in the House regarding his visit to the three countries and the negotiations he held there. As far as foreign policy is concerned there has always been unanimity and we have always come together to solve the issues relating to foreign policy. That is why there were not much difference of opinion regarding that policy but there have been difference of opinion about its implementation particularly with reference to Pakistan. Right now the Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs gave a statement regarding Nepal. We entirely agree with his contention that there should be

constitutional monarchy and a multiparty democratic system in Nepal, and it is the policy of India that Nepal should have this kind of set up. We agree that there should be democracy in Nepal and we are in favour of democracy all over the world. Democracy should be restored in Nepal, opposition leaders should be released from jails and the censorship should be removed. Democracy should be restored, elections should be held. The public of Nepal should have this right. But alongwith this I would like to say that there was no elected government at the time when the king took over the charge, rather a nominated Prime Minister was there. That Prime Minister was not elected through the process of election, he was nominated. That is why it is not right to say that democracy has been smothered just now and it was not so earlier.

As I said earlier, censorship should be removed, opposition leaders should be released from jails to restore democracy there, we have faced a lot during emergency and know what kind of situations emerge during it. We have seen how all the human rights are withdrawn during emergency. I spent 19 months in jail and others were also put in jails so we all know what happens during emergency and thus we can naturally appreciate the situation there and have sympathy for them. But alongwith this I would say that emergency has been imposed in the sensitive areas and gradually normalcy is being restored there.

But it is also that the danger of Maoists pervading there is also spreading in our country. One hundred and fifty districts are naxalite affected and every, month rather every day one or two districts are becoming naxalite affected. The country is in the grip of Naxalism, violence and terrorism which has its roots in Nepal. Should Maoism be allowed to spread in Nepal? Should the Maoists be allowed to reign in Nepal? Would Democracy remain there after their control? Do Maoists believe in Democracy? Even our colleagues in West Bengal have witnessed it that Maoists violate human rights. That is why, even my friend has opposed it and the struggle against the Maoists is continuing there. Maoists, ISI and Pakistan want to have supremacy over Nepal. So, it becomes our cardinal duty to save Nepal from these forces. Nepal may not fall a prey in their hands.

He has stated that we have cultural ties with Nepal. Nepal is the only Hindu nation in the world and we have linguistic and cultural ties with it. There has been cultural coordination between India and Nepal for the last five thousand years. Should we not extend them military aid as suggested by America? Should we let it go in foreign hands? Should it start seeking military aid from Pakistan? Should it

[Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra]

be allowed to fall a prey to China? Is it in our interest? That is why I would, urge upon the Government that Hon'ble Minister of External Affairs should keep it in mind that not even the erstwhile Government of Nepal was democratic. We want a democratic Government to come in power there. But do we not recognise or extend assistance to the countries which do not have democratic Government? Are Myanmar, China and Pakistan democratic? Pakistan is being talked of and my colleague is suggesting that relations with Pakistan should be strengthened. We have given most favoured nation status to Pakistan and so has the United States. One should hold talks with Pakistan, invite their President to a state visit and have trade with them, but do not hold any talks with Nepal since they do not have a democratic set up. The Minister of External Affairs should not go, he should not succumb to the pressure of European countries and the U.S.A. They recommend that until there is democracy in Nepal, India should not extend any assistance whatsoever be it military aid to Nepal. This is the same America which helps Pakistan with millions and billions of Rupees. It follows different yardsticks for different countries. For Pakistan, for the East, West and Afghanistan etc. It has different set of ideologies. The U.S.A. is responsible for sponsoring terrorism through Pakistan which has emerged to be the biggest terrorist state. It is lending Pakistan Rs. Ten-twenty thousand crores and providing F-16 so that it may provide help in Afghanistan and aid in the preparations of attack on Iran. Do not succumb to the pressure of the U.S.A. which may estrange Nepal completely from India and may sever ties with India and the Maoists exercise their supremacy there. ISI bases are brewing everywhere around Nepal. All types of terrorist activities are going on in Nepal and terrorists are pouring in Delhi from Nepal that is why it is mandatory to strengthen the Government of Nepal. We should not harp on democracy lest such a situation arise in Nepal that it falls in the clutches of Maoists. Even China, Pakistan and Myanmar are not democratic. We follow the principles of Panchsheel thereby we accept the kind of Government chosen by the people. We had stated the same thing in respect of Iraq that the USA has no right to interfere whether the country is undemocratic and wage a war on the pretext to end dictatorship there.

If the US is bothered about dictatorship in a country and about amassing weapons of mass destruction, then it should have targetted Pakistan instead of Iraq. So, I would request that the Government should ponder over the situation in Nepal. Our strategy should be not to let Nepal, which is the only nation sharing our cultural concerns, slip out of our hand. If Maoists come in power there, even we will

not survive. Maoism is spreading all over taking North-East in its grip. Bihar, U.P. and West Bengal are in the grip of Naxalism and so are one hundred and fifty districts of the country. It is a big menace of which we must be aware.

Pakistan is very much a subject of discussion these days, there is great euphoria of cricket, we have people from all corners of the country who feel that relations should be improved with them. We also want the same. We also made so many efforts in this direction. Vajpayee ji also inaugurated a bus service, many other efforts were made and I do not want to delve into all of them but this fact should be given due consideration. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please do not interrupt.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: There is always a need to take note of what lies underneath superficial manifestation of friendship when euphoria prevails.

You must have gone through the initial headlines to today's Times of India. It is published:

[English]

"Assembling terror, block by building block — Recent arrests and killing of Lashkar militants have blown the lid off a web spun by foreign terrorists to integrate local youth in their operations by bankrolling them and equipping them with hi-tech gadgets etc."

[Translation]

It is a very big news. Three militants of Lashkar-e-Toiba who were killed in Delhi wanted to blow IIM, Dehradun and a software company of Bangalore. It is not being done without the assistance of Pakistan. Those who were killed, were in possession of Pakistani passport and other documents. Pakistan sponsored terrorism is yet not finished Terrorist activities are going on in Jammu-Kashmir. The Government including the Minister of External Affairs, Home Minister and Defence Minister have admitted it themselves that bases have not been demolished there. Training is being imparted there, it is not falling short of anything. I have gone through the entire report. They are reviving terrorism from April. All these facts may not go unnoticed under their superficial demeanor. The statements read by the Minister of External Affairs of India and his Pakistani counterpart Mr. Kasuri utterly surprised me. It was said-

[English]

Statement by Foreign Minister of Pakistan Mr. Kurshid

Ahmed Kasuri and the External Affairs Minister of India Mr. Natwar Singh at the Joint Press Conference in Islamabad

[*Translation*]

Kasuriji in his third sentence stated-

[*English*]

"We had discussions on the core issue of Jammu and Kashmir and I have impressed upon the Indian Government for an early and final settlement of the issue in accordance with the aspirations of the people of Kashmir."

[*Translation*]

They made us agree on this statement made before we could reach the agreement that Kashmir was the core issue. Thereafter, the Minister of External Affairs did not contradict it in his statement and did not even mention it. Mr. Chairman, Sir, whether Pakistan wants to make Jammu-Kashmir a core issue for which we have been resisting since 1947 that Jammu-Kashmir is not a core issue. We have adopted a resolution on Jammu-Kashmir in our Parliament that we have to take back one third of its territory and the method adopted by Pakistan to resolve this issue is to make it a core issue. Jammu-Kashmir was made the core issue in the first ever talks held by the Minister of External Affairs with his Pakistani counterpart and we tolerated it without any reaction.

There was a joint statement by hon. Minister of External Affairs, the Prime Minister of India and the Pakistan's President Mr. Musharraf in which for the first time, terrorism found no mention. Whether terrorism is not a core issue of talks with Pakistan? It is definitely the core issue because India has been the greatest sufferer of terrorism. More than 80 thousand people have lost their lives on account of terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir and even today innocent people are losing their lives. Our military bases are being targeted every day. He says that some times the intensity of attacks is high and at times it is low. It all depends on Pakistan, it soars and falls as per the wishes of Pakistan. I would like to submit that the talks being held as mentioned by him covered the Simla Agreement he has not focused those issues very strongly as they were focussed in the joint statement of Shri Vajpayee and Musharraf. It was necessary to put your foot down that Jammu-Kashmir is not a core issue. The issue of demolishing their militant bases in Pakistan can be taken up again. These bases are still operating because they are receiving the funds. Recently, a

statement was given by the Government about a man being apprehended while coming out from Pakistan's Embassy. He told the world in his statement that a man carrying fake currency to the tune of crores of Rupees was caught while coming out from Pakistan's Embassy. If their Embassy is circulating fake currency, funding the terrorists when would it be discussed and why it should not be discussed with their Government? Is it not being conveyed that their Embassy should not indulge in such activities and that they should be checked? Terrorism is a core issue, it has nothing to do with communalism. But the people who are being killed in Jammu-Kashmir are Muslims. How brutally a person is treated when he talks of alliance with India is not to be told to the Minister of External Affairs, because he knows, it is reported. Whosoever expresses the desire to join India is maltreated, raped, their tongues are chopped-off.

Recently, the elections which were held in Jammu-Kashmir, were a welcome move. Local elections were held there. It is also true that they were threatened after the local elections. 200 elected Members from Srinagar came to Jammu. They came to Jammu because they are being threatened for life. They are being asked either to resign or get killed. 10-12 out of those elected people have been killed. They have to escape to Jammu. While the Government makes such statement that the situation is under control there. ...(*Interruptions*)

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH (Udhampur): Who are those 200 persons. ...(*Interruptions*)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please do not interrupt. Your submission is not going on record.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: I will read it to you. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is not so. When you or any other Member from your party will get a chance, you may make your submission. It is not proper.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please address the Chair.

...(*Interruptions*)

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: It has been published in four newspapers that 200 elected representatives had to escape to Jammu. Is the statement by 10 Members in regard to their resignation incorrect. It is true that 10 Members gave this statement in the newspaper

* Not Recorded.

[Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra]

that they have resigned. When asked as to why they were submitting resignation after being elected, they replied that they did not want to get killed as the other three Members. If elected representatives can not be protected then the situation is critical. It should be given due consideration so it is necessary to talk to Pakistan in this regard.
...(*Interruptions*)

Though, my party has much time. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have taken 20 minutes out of 30 minutes allotted to your party, other Members may also get some time. You have already spoken for 20 minutes out of 30 minutes.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Sir, our prisoners are in their jails. I remember that when we visited Pakistan, we raised this issue. One person has been released from Pakistan. He arrived here yesterday. He gave a very gory picture. He told that 80 Indians were still in their jails. Their remains are lying in Pakistani jails. He said that he performed last rites of most of them. All those who should have been released, remained there. About 70-80 prisoners of war of 1971 were imprisoned there. Some of them became lunatic, some died and some became converts. It is being said that some of them are still alive. It is a matter of vital importance. We released their 93 POWs. While some of our POWs are still there since 1971. I would like to submit that whenever talks are held with Pakistan then these issues like repatriation of our soldiers should be raised otherwise it will be a great injustice with them.

That is why, I would like to submit that the Government needs to view and raise the issues relating to the core issue of terrorism seriously with Pakistan and make it very clear that until terrorism and terrorist activities continue, Pakistan continues to make ISI bases and operates terrorist activities, friendship between India and Pakistan is impossible. It should be stated categorically. This is my humble submission.

SHRI SANDEEP DIKSHIT (East Delhi): Mr. Chairman, Sir, today the discussion is being held on the statement given by Shri Ahmed Saheb in the House and I would like to submit something in that regard. I would like to submit in brief about the visit of the hon'ble Minister of External Affairs to Pakistan and Afghanistan and political developments of Nepal during the last few months. Everyone knows that we have relations with Nepal for many years. We share long international boundary with Nepal. Our open boundary with Nepal is not only the sign of close relation of our country with Nepal but it also manifests intimate relationship of the

people of both the countries. This is the reason that we have open boundary with Nepal. We have also very close economic relation with Nepal and in many respect we are indispensable for the economic development of Nepal. Similarly Nepal is equally important for our development.

The issue of Bihar has been cited time and again. As long as there is no water treaty with Nepal, hindrance will always be there in the development of Bihar. However, the political development that took place during the last one or one and half months is really a matter of concern for us, especially for those who have faith in democracy. India plays the role of a big brother in South Asian region. However, we have relationship with all the countries on equal footings. So, we cannot ignore the political development taking place in our neighbouring countries. We believe that whatever happens in a particular country is the internal matter of that country and the people and the government of that country should tackle the situation. We have relationship with the people of the neighbouring country and as a neighbour we have some concern as to how the governments should treat the people of their countries. During the last few months or say last few days, the king has in a way sidelined the democracy. Emergency has been declared there. The constitutional monarchy and multiparty democracy system which was adopted by Nepal have been sidelined. It is true that his Excellency and his other representatives have said that efforts would be made by them to restore democracy in the country. However, only our hon'ble Minister of External Affairs knows it well whether honest efforts are being made in this regard or not as at least we do not know. But through this House, I would like to express my concern in this regard and would also like to submit that our government should convey to them that Nepal should expedite the process of restoration of democracy and multiparty democratic system in the country.

It is possible that the way Maoist forces were gaining strength in the country, His Excellency got, apprehensive as he thought that multiparty democracy would not be able to tackle the situation. However, the steps that were taken later on like suspension of fundamental rights of the people, censorship on Media and disconnection of telephone services were a matter of more serious concern. If the king has to take into confidence the people of the state, there are many such steps which may not seem effective in this form. Monarchy is well accepted system of governance in the state. Many people in Nepal have faith in monarchy rule and they have faith in royal family of Nepal. It is not that only people of Nepal have faith in Monarchy but the people of India too have much faith and respect for him. Whenever he

visits India, we express our faith and pay respect to him. However, I would like to submit that several years back the royal family had established multiparty democracy in Nepal and gradually its effect was also visible. Gradually all the democratic institutions of Nepal were taking roots in the country.

It takes time to establish democracy however, the democracy was gradually taking roots in the country. But whatever happened there in last few days is certainly a kind of stumbling block. I do not know as to how much we can interfere or how much we should interfere. But, being a neighbour, the government, through its ambassador in Nepal have expressed its concerns to the king as the Minister of External Affairs submitted in his statement. I believe that whatever is possible should be done by our government for the restoration of democracy there. Prior to me Shri Malhotra ji was expressing his opinion regarding military assistance provided to Nepal before this development. I would not like to give suggestion as to whether it would be proper to stop military assistance to Nepal or not. It is a very sensitive issue. Our relationship with Nepal is very old and Nepal has been functioning as a buffer state between our country and China for a long time. So, it is quite natural that we have strategic relation with Nepal. However, the present political situation of Nepal is a matter of great concern for us. I feel that Nepal would certainly need military assistance to tackle the increasing activities of Maoist rebels and the problem of law and order situation. I would like to submit regarding the Maoist insurgency going on in Nepal and prior to me several other senior colleagues have also expressed their views in this regard in the House that this problem is taking very serious proportions.

Recently, I was in Nepal for some time. There I saw that 60 to 70 percent territory of Nepal is infested with Maoist activities. Required economic development could not be achieved in Nepal during the last many years and I feel that it is also one of reasons for increase in the influence of Maoists and it is on account of this that Maoists got opportunity to spread their influence among people. Maoists activities in Nepal are not only a problem of Nepal but it also influences the Naxalite activities in our country. There is a chain of Naxalite activities that goes upto Andhra Pradesh in the south. Everybody admits that Naxalite problem is a law and order problem, however this problem is also linked some way or the other with the issue of development. Being a democratic country, democratic processes are followed all over the country. Our institutions are democratic and every state makes efforts to ensure that if lack of development in

any area seems to be the root cause of this problem, the problems are solved through democratic ways so that the expectations of the people could be fulfilled and if sympathy towards Naxalites is growing among the people it could also be removed along with that. However, if the democracy is abolished, people's representatives and media that function as the link and medium for the communication between the government and the common mass is broken. The democracy plays a very important role in tackling the Maoists and Naxalite activities. It is possible that terrorism may rise due to democracy, however, democracy is the only effective medium to solve this problem.

Sir, after that I would like to speak on Afghanistan. I would like to extend my thanks to our hon'ble Minister of External Affairs who recently visited Afghanistan and the consensus was made between India and Afghanistan on several issues including telecom.

I would also like to request the Minister of Finance that the Government should also ponder over the prospect of investment by our people, in case, any one desires to contribute to the development of Afghanistan. While initiating the debate our colleagues from the left party submitted that whatever happened in Afghanistan three-four years back some how reflected that imperialism was being started afresh. We will have to keep this in our mind. American attitude towards Afghanistan and Iraq certainly creates doubts in the mind of the people. Especially we people of the third world countries are apprehensive in this regard. It entered into Afghanistan and stayed there. It certainly creates doubts in our mind. We will have to keep this in mind.

The way election was held in Afghanistan and the way the citizens of the country ardently participated in the democratic process they deserve congratulation. Not only the people of Afghanistan, but all those in the world who have faith in democracy deserve congratulation.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I will conclude in one minute. I would like to say something about Pakistan. It has been said about Pakistan that there is alliance between America and Pakistan. Hon'ble Malhotra ji is not present here. I would like to say that whatever may be the attitude of America towards India, but the Congress party and all the parties of this side have always doubted the credibility of America. So we can say that America is not our true friend. It is BJP that always treated America as a true friend. It is not that it is not a good thing, however, I am happy to note that American attitude during the last-few days has also forced our BJP colleagues to admit that we cannot fully rely on America.

[Shri Sandip Dikshit]

American role in the restoration of democracy and war against terrorism is dubious. It is evident from the role of America in Afghanistan and Iraq. Every one gas understood as to where and when America can stand for humanity, democracy and peace. So, it has become clear that America is concerned only about its interest. It does not think about our interest. However, I would certainly like to submit to the hon'ble Minister of External Affairs that he deserves congratulation for confidence building measures that has been undertaken by him. This is a known fact that till now we cannot fully rely on Pakistan. The Government of Pakistan certainly has had links with terrorism. This is the opinion of the common masses of India and it is also reflected in the acts. However, I am confident that through these confidence building measures, the people of our country and the people of Pakistan would certainly come closer. We influence our country and our animosity is reflected through the government. It would be beneficial for all of us if there is less animosity among us.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav. Six minutes have been allotted to your party. I am telling you this because you yourself are a part of the panel of Chairman. So, you can understand it.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhanjharpur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, you have already fixed time limit for me. This discussion on Patent Bill has been deferred for tomorrow. So, I would like to request that time should also be allocated for the present discussion.

Shri Chandrapan ji has raised a very important subject for discussion in the House. Presently we are holding discussion on recent visit of the Minister of External Affairs to Afghanistan and Pakistan and our relation with Nepal. I would like to extend my thanks to Shri Chandrapan ji for moving resolution regarding the discussion.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, first of all I would like to submit regarding Nepal. Nepal is our neighbouring country and is also a friendly country. My parliamentary constituency located along the border area of North Bihar is adjacent to Nepal. India has not only historical, cultural, social and economic but also religious relations with Nepal. The people of India also visit Pasupatinath ji temple.

The history of friendship between India and Nepal is very long and old one. There is a Hanuman nagar jail in Nepal. Lok Nayak Jaiprakash Narayan and Dr. Lohia ji were arrested and kept there during the freedom struggle of India. The people of Nepal have contributed immensely to our

freedom struggle. Nepal has played an important role in the freedom struggle of India. So, we should not remain mute spectator when some incidents are taking place there. Democratic rights of the people in Nepal have been suspended. India is the larger democracy of the world so it is the responsibility of India that we should not remain mute spectator when freedom of the people of that country has been attacked and their freedom has been suspended. There was people's movement for democracy against monarchy in 1990 and it was on account of this that the power of king was curtailed to some extent and multiparty democracy was established. However, on February 1, 2005, the king of Nepal Gyanendra ji took over the command of the country with the help of military power and the democratic rights of the people there were withdrawn. Even the right to expression of the people has been suspended and there is anarchic situation prevailing in Nepal. There is civil war like situation in the country.

Maoist violent activities are going on against monarchy in Nepal for the last ten years and the king has imposed emergency in the country. Thus on the one hand there is Maoist activities and on the other hand there is state emergency in Nepal. Both these factors have completely disturbed the public life in the country.

We are a neighbouring country and our worry in this regard is quite natural. We should seriously ponder over it. The people of Indian origin in Nepal, social workers, supporters of democracy and those who are oppressed by Maoists are wifly vacating the country. After the declaration of emergency, they are entering into Indian border. Today the condition of common people, social workers and the people of Indian origin is very frightful and pitiable and it is a matter of concern for us. The entire House should seriously ponder over it. There is no human right in the country and human rights are being grossly violated. During the last ten years, the economic condition has also worsened.

16.00 hrs.

(SHRI ARJUN SETHI *in the Chair*)

The people of Indian origin reside in Nepal. The life of common people has been severely affected. Presently peace loving citizens reside in the country. What can a political leader do in such situation? Existing party workers have started coming to India to avoid arrest. They are openly entering into Indian territory and are going underground. Maoists are also going underground. The freedom fighters of the Nepali Congress are also entering into Indian territory.

Extra ordinary situation has arisen there. A peculiar situation is also arising in India. The ex Prime Minister of Nepal, Shri Girija Prasad Koirala, who is presently, the President of Nepali Congress along with hundreds of leaders has been kept under house arrest. Shri Girija Prasad Koirala had taken part in freedom struggle with Lok Nayak Jai Prakash Narayan, Babu Suraj Narayan, Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia, Mahatma Gandhi and Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru. Girija Prasad Koirala had intimate relation with them. I would not like to go into details in this regard as there is paucity of time. Earlier, Hon'ble Chairman had hinted me about the paucity of time, otherwise I would have gone into details as to how Hanuman Nagar Jail in Nepal was broken, how he helped freedom fighters and how he got them released from the Jail.

Today censorship has been imposed on Nepali Press. Anarchy has prevailed in Nepal. Will India remain unaffected in the event of infiltration of Maoists in Indian territory? Will it not affect India? The Government should seriously ponder over it. India should ponder over it not only in diplomatic way but otherwise also. Nepal has been our friendly neighbouring country. There is a long history of it. India should find out the way to restore healthy democratic system in Nepal. One should ponder over as to how multi party democracy can be restored in Nepal. It has become essential to make positive and diplomatic efforts for the restoration of peace in that country. It is on account of the open entry of Nepali people inside Indian territory that adverse situation is being created here. India should make efforts to get the Nepali leaders released. This is the time to fulfill the obligation of friendship.

The democratic process had started there. It was started in 1990. Only 14-15 years have elapsed since the restoration of democracy. Democracy was in infantile stage, it had not become matured. The people there were in the process of learning about democracy. Parliament is there in Nepal however, emergency has been declared there and all rights have been suspended there. The Government should seriously brood over it. Whatever country of the world struggles for freedom, it is our moral responsibility to extend support as ours is the largest democracy of the world. We should interfere in it. America is also closely watching the development in Nepal. It is not a matter of Asian continent. Sinister game plan is being hatched behind the curtain. It is a very sensitive issue. From this point of view there is need to ponder over it. A close watch should be kept on the countries of the subcontinent in view of blood shed by America in Afghanistan and the type of a game plan executed

by them. What happened in Iraq? Only Saddam Hussain was not the target in Iraq, rather oil wells were the target. Saddam was merely, a pretension of USA, the target were oil wells and the economic affairs. They are trying to subjugate the entire world. I feel that US will establish its dominance over the entire world in the name of elimination of terrorism. It is my apprehension and I would like to express it. Whatever happened in Afghanistan led to the mutual efforts being made by the India and Pakistan to improve their relation and as a result of this a cordial environment has evolved. The way efforts have been made with the help of the Minister of External Affairs to improve the relationship through cricket – is commendable. Shri Ram Manohar Lohia had visualised the confederation of India and Pakistan. We will have to forget the history and improve our relation. It is not a matter of any political party. As long as terrorism is active along border, disturbance will persist in the mutual relation. So these questions must be addressed. It is very sensitive issue however, as far the economic and trade cooperation or improvement of relationship of India and Pakistan is concerned, we all and the entire India is rallying behind the Government. We are coalition partner of the government however, those who are not and crores of people of the country are also in support of such initiative to maintain cordial relation. Once the relationship of India and Nepal is improved, the moral of the country who want to dominate over other will be discouraged. We can improve our relationship with Pakistan and initiative should be taken by the Government to establish cordial relation with Nepal. I feel that such environment can be made.

Even now, our thousands of fishermen are imprisoned in Pakistan because they unwittingly enter into Pakistani water in the night as they are not aware. As per the international law they are arrested. The Government should make efforts for the release of poor persons who are caught. There are several dimensions of our relation with Pakistan like trade and commerce, economic relations and all the issues related to our relationship with neighbouring countries. The Government should ponder over release of fishermen lodged in Pakistan. I wish that economic and trade relations between India and Pakistan should be improved and all the issues whether it is laying of pipeline or economic development should be addressed. I hope that our relationship with Nepal will be improved and emergency will be lifted. The Government should seriously ponder over release of leaders who are under the house arrest and restoration of normalcy and multiparty democracy in Nepal.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Ramji Lal Suman.

SHRI ANIL BASU (Arambagh): Mr. Chairman, Sir, there is no Member from my party.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Sir, there was multi party democratic system in Nepal till 1st February. After that the King usurped the power. The fundamental rights of common man have been withdrawn in Nepal.

Political leaders and human right activists have been arrested, journalists have been tortured and emergency has been declared in the country. The crisis in Nepal naturally affects India. We are the biggest democracy of the country and we not only protect democracy in our country but also support other nations in their struggle for democracy. India can not but face the repercussions of situations emerging in Nepal. Nepal is our neighbouring country and any situation that emerges in Nepal affects India directly from the point of view of security. Therefore the issue of Nepal is really serious and sensitive and it needs to be discussed seriously.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, we have linguistic and cultural ties with Nepal. We can not view the situation in Nepal from a distance. We have experienced emergency in our country and we have been to jails. We know very well how painful it is when emergency is imposed, common man has to face so many problems. When emergency is imposed in a nation the people there have to face lots of problems. India has played important role in establishing democracy in Nepal. As Shri D.P. Yadav has said the constitution of Nepal was framed under the guidance of Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru. Great leaders like Dr. Lohia and Lok Nayak Jai Prakash Narayan supported the struggle for democracy there. Democracy was established in Nepal after long struggle. Shri Koirala made his base in India and democracy was established there. Democracy has been established in Nepal after sacrifices, hard work and continuous efforts by our predecessors. It is our duty to sustain democracy in Nepal. The present crisis of Nepal should be viewed seriously. At present 80 lakh people from Nepal are living in India. The confidence of youth is getting broken, the economy is in shambles and there is dissatisfaction among youth there. I have information that 10 thousand people have migrated from Kapilvastu only.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would not say much on this topic but I would like to say few things. We have always supported democracy in any of the countries of the world. It is my submission that a resolution of this intent should be passed unanimously. I do not know what the Government is going to do, whether it would take initiative for political and diplomatic ties with Nepal but the world should get this message from

our country that the House and the Public of India support democracy in Nepal.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, as far as Indo-Pak relations are concerned, we visited Pakistan recently. Shri Mani Shankar Aiyarji's old residence is there, it is inhabited by his friend. I have felt that not only Indians but Pakistanis are also peace loving. It is a strange story. It should be found out where the situation has gone wrong. 99 percent people want peace. As we have poverty, destitution, penury in India, likewise Pakistan too is grappling with these problems. All these problems increase when tension increases between two countries.

People of Pakistan are also well aware of this fact. All those funds which could be spent on the development of Pakistan are spent on defence. Dr. Lohia envisaged a confederation of India and Pakistan. Our relations with Pakistan may improve. Our cultural and business ties may improve. There is a talk of bringing a gas pipeline from there. I believe that strengthening ties of India and Pakistan at any level would be in the interest of both the countries.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would reiterate that since we are a neighbouring democratic country, this resolution should be passed on behalf of the entire nation that not a single individual from India has taken kindly to the way the King has smothered democracy in Nepal. It would be a good thing if this message is sent from the Chair.

SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR KUSHAWAHA (Mirzapur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, recent incidents in Nepal have smothered democracy there. There is military rule there. Nepal and Pakistan are our neighbouring countries. It is a good thing the way President of Pakistan said that if India invites then he would like to watch cricket match between India and Pakistan in India and then he came over here for the match. India and Pakistan were one family in the form of one country. Time has come to revert to that situation. If the President of Pakistan has made this kind of initiative then it is really a sign of unity and fraternity. It is a good sign. But it is unfortunate that while we are making efforts to sustain our country as rich agro-based nation, in our neighbouring country of Nepal which has similar culture and way of life, and which is inhabited by our brethren, poor and weak people are of exploited by the King. The way the king has usurped power and smothered democracy is deplorable indeed. I would like to say that we should support the poor public there and we are with them. Governments come and go. The people of Nepal are being exploited. People are not getting vegetables and other essential commodities due to military

rule. Normal day to day life has been disrupted. India is a great nation and a big democratic country and the initiative and role of this country should be well thought out and India should announce its decision emphatically. India should take immediate steps whenever military rule is imposed anywhere in the world to smother the feelings of the public and atrocities are perpetrated.

Sir, through you I would like to say few words about the King of Nepal who is victimizing the public—"Raja ka baja band karen, chale na churi katari aur dhuan lage mare sab ahankari". I would like the House to pass this proposal to add to the prestige of the country.

This proposal before the House is only for the upliftment of humanity and there is no better system than democracy for the welfare of humanity. In other words democracy is a system where different classes of society co-exist with harmony and feel secure. It is possible to establish socialist society in these circumstances. I reiterate myself that suitable action should be taken to restore democracy in Nepal. It is my appeal to the Government to take initiative in this regard. There was a time when India and Pakistan were one country. India is rich in mineral resources. No other country is as rich in mineral resources as ours but it needs to be explored. I want to tell the people of other countries too that they can take lessons in unity and fraternity from my land only as people of all sections live here in safety, they live a dignified life and have every freedom and do not face any threat. European countries have attacked our country several times and tortured our people but our country has maintained its glory and dignity. In this context I would like to say

"Raja ka baja band karo, chale na churi katari,
dhuan lage sab mar jai hai, jitne hain ahankaari."

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE (Ratnagiri): Mr. Chairman, Sir, today we are discussing our foreign policy, the situation in Nepal, the foreign visits of our Minister of External Affairs and his statement in the House.

It is a matter of pride for us that there has never been any political dispute over our foreign policy. Governments have changed from time to time but they have always worked within the framework of foreign policy adopted at the time of Independence.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, we all agree that democracy should be restored in Nepal. We should be proud that being the biggest democracy of the world, several nations look up to us and want to follow in our footsteps. I would like to repeat

what the hon. Vijay Kumar Malhotra has said. Emergency has been imposed in Nepal and no body would support it but we would have to view it in the context of present situation in Nepal and increasing terrorism in our country be it Pakistan sponsored terrorism or Naxalite extremism or the organised crimes in the country.

Questions have been raised about organised criminals and terrorism many times in the House. Be it the Government of Shri Deve Gowdaji, Gujralji, Atalji or Shri Manmohan Singhji, we have always received the same reply from the Minister of Home Affairs in every Government that unfortunately our neighbouring countries are promoting terrorism. Terrorists come from our neighbouring countries like Pakistan occupied Kashmir, Nepal, Bhutan, Myanmar and other neighbouring countries are also mentioned in this regard. It gives rise to one question as to what has gone wrong with the policy that we have adopted for having friendly relations with our neighbouring countries that we have not succeeded. The proxy war being waged by Pakistan in our country for the last several years is indirectly helping terrorism being spread by other neighbouring countries. I would like to repeat what Shri Vijay Kumar Malhotra has said as the King of Nepal has declared emergency. Pakistan and China both have an eye over Nepal. They want to take control of Nepal. Maoism is not confined to Nepal only. It has slowly reached Maharashtra from Bihar. Naxalism is another form of Maoism. All the states on Western coast are in the grip of Maoism so we should have this kind of policy or the role of our Government should be such that Nepal should remain our friend. We should continue to have good relations with Nepal. Democracy should be restored in Nepal. The Government of India should take necessary steps to save Nepal from China and Pakistan until Democracy is restored there and maintain good relations with Nepal that is why I am repeating what Shri Vijay Kumar Malhotraji has said.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, Shiv Sena was also an ally in the NDA Government headed by Shri Atalji, I am not going to say much in this regard, Pakistan is also our neighbour and no doubt we want to have good relations with Pakistan too. The Government of India has been making continuous efforts in this direction but unfortunately Pakistan has not responded in the same way. That is why when we were in the Government, we used to say that hand of friendship should be extended but friendship can not be one sided. It can flourish only when both the parties are interested. But unfortunately if we look at past several years we would find that it has only been the Government of India which has

[Shri Anant Gangaram Geete]

extended hand of friendship towards Pakistan while Pakistan has never reciprocated in the same way.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, that is why we opposed ceasefire and Lahore bus service both though we were a part of the Government. We are offering them our friendship while trained terrorists are coming over here from Pakistan and killing our soldiers. Terrorism has gradually spread from Jammu and Kashmir and has reached Mumbai. Bomb explosions are taking place in big cities. Terrorism has spread its tentacles so widely that terrorists could attack Red Fort and Parliament House. ...*(Interruptions)*

I am also saying the same thing that the Government is not to blame. Terrorists had the audacity to attack our Parliament. That is why I said that friendship should be from both the sides despite the fact that I was a part of the Government then. Every time it is the Government of India which is extending the hand of friendship. Pakistan is not reciprocating in any way. Our willingness for friendship has been taken as our weakness. When we offer Pakistan our friendship, it is interpreted as our weakness and nobody shows mercy towards the weak and neither is anybody in awe of the weak. We should not always extend the hand for friendship and show our weakness. Though yet we are strong enough we are not to attack anyone. That's why our actions should not reflect in any way that we are weak. That's why I have said all this.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the incident of 11/9, the attack on World Trade Centre was quite unfortunate. The whole world including India condemned it. But, immediately after this single incident, the President of America said that it was a "War Against America". ...*(Interruptions)*

The issue of War against Terrorism is an after thought. Initially the President of America had said that it was a War against America and America declared a war against Afghanistan. Later on, Iraq was made a scape goat. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: I am concluding. If America launches an all out war against terrorism India should support war as it has been supporting earlier. But, if, on the pretext of war against terrorism it wants to impose its hegemony then the Government should ponder over it seriously.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, our country has gone through these phases and we have suffered its ill effects. Mughals ruled us for 1500 years and then the English for 150 years. For years India have been falling prey to different colonial rules and now America is bent upon imposing its hegemony. It keeps close watch on the developments in weak or smaller countries, be it Nepal or elsewhere, it wants to take benefits of internal strife going on in small countries and wants to spread its influence. Therefore, my submission is that the Government, especially hon. Minister of External Affairs should view it seriously.

Our policy should clearly be against any kind of colonial impact. Rather, India should be ready to fight it. I would like to tell hon. Minister that Nepal is our neighbour and we have common culture, religion, philosophy and the civilization. I would like to emphasise that the people of Nepal have a special identity – they are honest and brave. The entire country has been experiencing these distinct features of the people of Nepal. Since we are a larger country, so it is our brotherly duty to protect its sovereignty and ensure restoration of democracy therein. I am greatly thankful for having given me an opportunity to speak.

[English]

SHRI NIKHILANANDA SAR (Burdwan): Mr. Chairman, Sir, today this House is engaged discussing the problems, which are not directly involving the people of India. But surely, these problems are so rash due to the alarming situation prevailing in Nepal. We are deeply concerned with this development.

The world is shrinking and becoming smaller day by day due to the technological developments. Anything which happens in one country, creates, at least, some effect throughout the globe or at least, to the neighbouring States. What has happened in Nepal is a danger signal in the entire South Asia because democracy is almost in peril in this part of the globe.

If we look at our neighbouring countries like in Afghanistan, there is no democracy; in Myanmar, there is no democracy; in Bangladesh, fundamentalists are gaining ground; and in Sri Lanka, ethnic conflict has no end. Besides India, a democratic set up was there in Nepal, but that also is under threat now. In this position, how do Nepalese people enjoy some kind of special status in India? Still, the people from Nepal and India can move freely in both these countries. There is no restriction. Thousands of Nepalese are engaged in India and getting employment here. They were there even in our Army also during the British Raj.

So, in this respect, Nepal, as we know, is landlocked. The external trade of Nepal also takes place mainly through the Kolkata Port. So, the thickness or freeness is from the time immemorial. Then, tourism has developed so much in Nepal. That also takes place through India. The highest number of tourists who visit Nepal are from India only. Nepalese students study in Indian institutions in thousands, especially in West Bengal, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and so on.

The people of Nepal took lessons of freedom struggle from India. Finally, they became successful, though there is monarchy. They put an end to the unchecked monarchy and started democratic practice in Nepal. We have full sympathy for the common people, the suffering people of Nepal.

But, at the same time, we should be cautious. It is because the geographical position of Nepal is such that it is in between two great Asian giants — China and India. Due to its strategic position, the imperialists make many plans to subvert democracy, to throw out the elected Government and put an agent of theirs in its place. That type of conspiracy has already started. The imperialists or their agents take part in this type of war. Our another neighbour has already shown some interest in Nepal. At the same time, we have sympathy for the common people of Nepal. We are distressed to see the common people of Nepal suffering.

Now, we see that India is very much concerned about the recent happenings in Nepal. We are very much sympathetic to the sufferings of the common people and subversion of democracy there. But, we also believe that it is the people of Nepal only who will start to shape the destiny of their country themselves. We should have faith in the wisdom of the Nepalese people. As a good neighbour of Nepal, the Indian Government should take initiative. It should very cautiously and very patiently see that our age-old friendship with that country is not spoiled in the present turmoil of events.

That is my opinion in brief. With these words, I conclude.

[Translation]

YOGI ADITYA NATH (Gorakhpur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, today the House is discussing the statement made by the Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs with regard to his visit to Nepal, Afghanistan and Pakistan. I rise to speak on the same.

I was carefully listening to all hon. Members, who have expressed their views in this regard. I was surprised to find

that whenever we talk about Nepal and Pakistan both our neighbours why we have different opinions about them in a way that should not be and a common opinion about them where it is not required.

The people who are totally unaware of history and geography of Nepal, its historical and religious traditions are taking part in discussion on Nepal today. The people who are talking of violation of human rights and restoration of democracy, during last 10 years, same people have been criticising the polity in Nepal and have been covertly or overtly supporting Maoists activities over there.

Sir, I am well aware of history of Nepal. Modern Nepal came into existence around 250 year. The system of governance adopted by the then Maharaja Prithvinarayan Shah ji continued till 1951. The whole system was based on monarchy. The king ruled as His Excellency and the Prime Minister was known as 'Shree Teen Maharaja'. First time, a democratic government was set up there in 1951. Even today, that popular day i.e. his birthday is celebrated as democracy day in the name of Maharaja Tribhuvan. This new system again came into being in Nepal in 1960 known as Nepal Panchayat.

16.46 hrs.

(SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN *In the Chair*)

That system also did not succeed. Subsequently, a multiparty democratic set up was introduced in 1989 which was primarily based on Indian model wherein a Lower House an Upper House came into existence. The king as the constitutional head was conferred with constitutional rights. It has been in vogue for the last 15 years in Nepal. The politician's lust for power and their internal bickering has not only created lawlessness in Nepal but made Nepal a haven for anti-India activities. Today, the politicians from Nepal visit India and cry to save democracy there. But, during election campaign in Nepal, anti-India propaganda used to play a decisive role. Nepal has been affected by Maoist violence during last 10 years and its 60-70 per cent area is worst effected.

Maoist violence is not only Nepal's problem. India's 150 districts spread over 12 states are also affected by it. Pakistan and Bangladesh are also our neighbours. Our border is touching China and we share 1751 kms long border with Nepal. We have open border with Nepal, the only Hindu nation in the world. And it provides us all kinds of security. Therefore, I would like to say that though we are advocating democracy in Nepal, but don't want a Nepal which is a haven

[Yogi Aditya Nath]

for murders, looters, kidnapers, rapists and criminals and those carrying out anti-India activities from there. We want a democratic set up wherein every citizen feels safe. And it should be our priority to restore peace in Nepal. The King of Nepal, in view of internal strife over there, took an immediate step of imposing emergency on 1 February 2005. The blockade declared by Indian Government should be withdrawn in our interest. Economic and military sanctions imposed by the Government of India should be lifted immediately. Nepal should endeavour to tackle Maoist violence since Maoists do not believe in democracy. Do Maoists believe in democracy? If it was so, then what led to massacre of 15 thousand civilians in last 10 years. Large number of people fell prey to Maoist violence and 10-12 lakh people got displaced. The people who criticize censorship in Nepal since imposition of emergency, perhaps are not aware of ground realities over there. I have noticed that the local populace is up in arms against Maoists and they are in support of no political leader. Neither they are with Maoists nor with the democratists, as the behaviour of leaders with the public during past 15 years have forced the public to lose faith in them and that's why they are up in arms against Maoists. People are all out to kill Maoists. People from various sections have demanded restoration of democracy but importantly priority should be given to tackle violence. The Government have decided to suspend economic and educational assistance being provided to Nepal and it has unilaterally decided to abrogate arms supports treaty of 1950. My submission is that the Government of India should reconsider it as the security of Nepal should be given topmost priority. The existence of Nepal as a buffer State between India and China is in our interest.

Pakistan has come forward to supply arms to Nepal. China's hawk eyes are set on Nepal like Tibbet. Strategically America has dreamt of developing Nepal as its own base to corner China and India. We should keep this issue also in mind. Our policy should be framed keeping our national interest in mind and not those of others.

Besides Nepal, I would like to raise two – three points more. We have held discussion on Afghanistan. Our Government have been holding talks with Afghanistan and even extending other help. So, I would urge hon. External Affairs Minister to have talks with the Government of Afghanistan for reconstruction of Budha's statue at Bamiyan which was demolished six years ago. Further, will our Government try to bring back Hindu Emperor, Prithviraj Chauhan's samadhi from Kandhar as often insult in inflicted to it.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude. The time allotted to you is over.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

YOGI ADITYA NATH: Further, I would like to say that our Government should demand restoration of democracy in Pakistan and the Government should make it clear that until and unless, Pakistan restores democracy and stops harbouring terrorists, India is not going to have talks with it. I would urge the Government to withdraw immediately the Bus service between Srinagar-Muzaffarabad. A senior Pakistani-official had gone to the extent of saying that Baghlihar Hydro Power Project's solution lies only in war. ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing, except Shri Yogi Aditya Nath's speech, will go on record.

(Interruptions) ...*

[Translation]

YOGI ADITYA NATH: My submission is that the Government should abandon talks with Pakistan and declare an all out war to recapture the territory illegally occupied by them. Indian Government should adopt a hard line to vacate that area.

With these words, I would urge hon. Minister to reconsider our stand on Nepal. ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record.

(Interruptions) ...*

MR. CHAIRMAN: He has completed his speech, why are you raising it now?

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: You can speak but it will not be on record. Only Mr. Rao's speech will be on record. Nothing else would go on record.

(Interruptions) ...*

* Not recorded.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Athawale, please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. friends, why are you wasting your time? Please do not disturb the House. Please take your seats.

SHRI K.S. RAO (Eluru): Hats off to the vision of Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru and our forefathers for laying down the foreign policy of our country which is admired even today by all the nations of the world, except maybe a few. The basic aspects of our foreign policy, as we all know, are respecting the sovereignty of each country; not interfering in the internal affairs of any other country; and not to encroach upon either the land or the freedom of any other nation. We want to be friendly with almost every nation and more so with our neighbours. These are the pillars of our foreign policy.

Fortunately and luckily, even when the BJP and other parties differ with us on several aspects, they do not differ on the foreign policy basically. When Mr. Malhotra was speaking, he said that they agree with the basic foreign policy — which our forefathers and Congress leaders have laid down — but they do not agree with the manner in which it is being implemented. Our leaders have proved their guts by showing their determination and support to the democracy, irrespective of anything. Sometimes it did do some damage to the nation. We stood by our policies and convictions. That has shown the way to many of the developing countries also to take the same line, though some of them are in poverty and some of them are in the initial stages of development. Freedom is the most important thing. Democracy is relished by everybody not only here but also in the world. Unfortunately, the speeches of people like our friend, Yogi Aditya Nath, are vitiating this atmosphere.

17.00 hrs.

Sir, we have discussed in this House many a time that we have to reduce our Defence expenditure. ... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

YOGI ADITYA NATH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, personal allegation is being levelled against me. I had said that I am in favour of democracy in Nepal. But there is a need to help Maoist violence torn Nepal and democracy in Nepal can survive only under monarchy. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna): Who will permit democracy under Monarchy? Please tell. ... (Interruptions)
Monarchy has murdered democracy. ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Only if he yields, then only your submissions would go on record, otherwise nothing will go on record except the speech of Shri K.S. Rao.

(Interruptions) ...*

SHRI K.S. RAO: Sir, all the hon. Members unanimously agreed that only for the simple reason of lack of trust between our two nations, our Defence expenditure is going up substantially. So, we have to improve our relations between our two countries and in that process a lot of things can be saved. This has been done mostly by the Congress Governments whenever they were in power at the Centre and lately, the BJP led NDA coalition had also tried to improve relations with Pakistan.

The hon. Member mentioned that we must ensure that democracy is restored in Pakistan and he also went on to say that now there should not be any talk with Pakistan. He said that the area occupied by Pakistan in Kashmir should be secured from them. These are the reasons why trust is not being built up between our two countries. It is not that citizens of this country are interested in the internal affairs of Pakistan, but all the time everybody in this country is interested only in improving our relations with that country. I would only request the hon. Member not to make such speeches on the floor of the House. He might speak with his friends at a personal level about it. That is a different matter. But when he speaks such things on the floor of the House, then it has repercussions on the entire country for generations to come. He might say this as an act of heroism, or to show that he is proud of his country or it might even fetch him good publicity in the Press, but he should be aware as to how much damage, in the process of his saying such things on the floor of the House, is being caused to the entire nation.

Sir, in regard to our relations with Nepal, our friends have referred to our historical, linguistic and cultural ties that we share with that country. The most important thing is that we have had no restriction of movement between our two countries. That was the kind of relationship we have had. Unfortunately, some of the incidents in Nepal in the last few years have created some tension. We are not interested in their internal affairs. But having a common boundary with that country we wish that there must be peace in that country. There must be good relations between the King and people of that country. We want nothing more. In any case, if peace

* Not recorded.

[Shri K.S. Rao]

is affected in Nepal, then it would have an impact on our country as well. Naturally we cannot be silent spectators to the deteriorating conditions in that country. We do not want to interfere directly but we wish to see that peace is restored in that country and a relationship is built up between the King and the people either by a process of multi-party democracy or by some other process. We encourage them to do such a thing. We never encourage the Maoists. Maoists are there not only in Nepal, but they are there in India also. We are suffering because of their activities in the State of Andhra Pradesh. So many killings are taking place almost everyday. It is not good for the nation. Under such circumstances, how could we support the Maoists in Nepal? Let there be no apprehension in the mind of King Gyanendra that we are doing any such thing. I hope that wisdom will prevail on King Gyanendra and he would see that peace is restored and wishes of the people of Nepal would be given due consideration. Earlier Kings of Nepal had encouraged democracy in that country and people also vigorously want democracy in that country. So, the present King also should not break that convention of having democracy in that country. Simply because some Maoists have done some wrong there, he cannot bring emergency and curtail the freedom of everybody. It is in his own disinterest. This is not in his interest also. So, we are here to see that peace is restored in Nepal because it will have an impact on us. Otherwise, we would not have said even one word about it. Our Minister also said the same thing that the people who are in jail should be released. He has told to release all those people who are detained because there are human rights claims specially by journalists. What is wrong in it? All the nations of the world will support this view. Suppose we do not do that, then some countries who are waiting for such an opportunity will take advantage of it and vitiate the atmosphere in Nepal and the consequence will be more dangerous for themselves as well as for us. So, this fact has to be taken into account by the King who is ruling there and see that the previous position is restored.

Coming to Pakistan, all of us are making efforts that good relations must be established and trust must be there between the two nations. Everyone of us must do everything possible to restore trust between us. By fighting with each other, we should not become slaves to some other developed nations. Why is America dictating terms to both of us sitting there? Why is it doing so? It is because there is lack of trust between these two nations. The moment trust is restored between both of us, then they cannot speak even one word. Why do we require the services of America on the difference of opinion between India and Pakistan? Till

yesterday, we were brothers. Simply because our nation got divided and two nations were formed, our relations have not faded away. Their relatives and friends are here and their interests are here. We also have got interest in them. We want democracy and we have got peaceful co-existence. This point also must be realised.

I request that the rulers of Pakistan must realise that the relationship between India and Pakistan should be good with mutual trust. Only then, both of us will develop. It is the good economic development that is required today. How can a distant nation dictate terms to us? It is because they think that development is there in their country, they are strong economically and they have got a lot of wealth with them including weaponry. That is why, they are trying to dictate terms to us. If we would also develop in the same way, they would not have done that to us and they would have dared to dictate us. So, the secret lies in both India and Pakistan developing economically and becoming stronger and stronger so that we do not need the advice of any other nation.

Coming to Afghanistan, similarly, our relations are age-old. Today, they have got trust on us and are having good relations with us. The people of Afghanistan have faith in us politically and also economically. It is in their interest also that many things can be done economically if our relationship is good. So, I want the hon. Minister to see that more aid is given to them to develop a good relationship. Many of our companies should be allowed to go there. They should be encouraged to go there and build up their economy also.

With these words, I request the friends on the other side not to vitiate the atmosphere when a lot of things can be done by developing mutual trust between these nations.

SHRI PRABODH PANDA (Midnapore): Hon. Chairman Sir, I rise to welcome the Minister's statement which he made in this august House.

It is quite appreciative that India is deeply concerned at the recent developments in Nepal following the dismissal of the multiparty Government by the King of Nepal. A majority of the people of Nepal are in favour of democracy. In the recent past, a voting process was organised among the students there and around 93 per cent of them voted in favour of democracy in Nepal. The US condemned such a type of coup. Britain condemned such a type of coup. But it is amazing to me but not so amazing to hear one point.

It was amazing to hear what Yogi Adityanath said, though not very amazing because what he said is in conformity with the views of *Panchjanya* which supported this coup. It is very relevant to mention here that the VHP has its headquarters in Kathmandu. The VHP has an international office there and has very close relationship with the King. Therefore, the King has appointed one Shri Tulsī Giri as Deputy in his outfit, who is a known RSS man in India. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

YOGI ADITYA NATH: Hon. Member is misleading the House. The headquarters of Vishwa Hindu Parishad is in Delhi and not in Kathmandu. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record except Shri Prabodh Panda's speech.

*(Interruptions) ...**

MR. CHAIRMAN: This would not come on record.

*(Interruptions) ...**

MR. CHAIRMAN: There cannot be two speeches at the same time.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI PRABODH PANDA: May I ask the hon. Minister, apart from deploring such type of coup, as to what the Government is envisaging to do? How will India translate its words into action, while expressing solidarity with the Nepalese people's democratic aspirations?

In this regard, the hon. Minister might be aware of the recommendations made by the International Commission of Jurists. One of its recommendations is:

"The best way to do so would be stop supplying arms to the Royal Nepal Army and direct aid to the Government (as distant from the NGOs and groups delivering services to the people)."

How is the Government going to respond to this recommendation? What is its response to it?

The SAARC forum is also very important. It could have been used properly to expose and fight the present monarchy system of Nepal. Why did avoid doing that?

* Not recorded.

There is a talk about Maoist problems in Nepal. It is true Most of the 75 districts are under their control. But so far as our country is concerned, the problem is in the heart of our country and it is not in the border areas. So, it should not be linked with the Maoist problem of Nepal. Our problem is not related with the Maoist problem of Nepal. This should not be linked with that. Moreover, the problem in Nepal is very much related to then socio-economic system. This is not for capturing power. That is not the slogan. The Maoist problem of Nepal is related to socio-economic problem of that country. If the socio-economic problem is not solved, this problem also cannot be solved.

My another point is related to an item published in the newspapers. It is regarding India's supply of arms worth Rs. 375 crore to Nepal, including helicopters, landmines, riot control gears so on and so forth, which are liable to be used against the democratic insurgents and peaceful civilians.

What methods and measures are going to be taken in this regard so that these arms should not be used against the democratic people of Nepal? Our helicopter cannot be used against the democratic aspirations of Nepal. I would like to know whether our Government is putting pressure on the Nepal Government or on SAARC or on the international fora - global fora - so that the arms given cannot be used against the democratic mandate of Nepal. All these queries should be clarified. I do support the Government's stand. They have emphatically condemned this sort of coup in Nepal. But the words should be transmitted into practice. So, today's discussion would be very useful for us if our Government or if hon. Minister can say before us as to what sort of measures they are envisaging in this regard. With these words, I conclude my speech.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, Shri P. Chidambaram is allowed to lay on the Table a copy of the Notification.

17.16 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[English]

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Notification No.30/2005-Customs (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 21st March, 2005, seeking to impose final anti-dumping duty on Mica pearl pigment, originating in or exported from the People's Republic of China, Japan, United States of America and the European Union, at the rates recommended by the

[Shri P. Chidambaram]

designated authority, issued under sub-section (7) of section 9A of the Customs Tariff Act, 1975.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 1818/05]

17.17 hrs.

DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193—*Contd.*

Developments in Nepal and visits of Minister of External Affairs to Afghanistan and Pakistan. .. *Contd.*

[*Translation*]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the statement made by the Minister of External Affairs before the House on 9th March and appreciate the stance of the Government of India. India, on account of having historical, fraternal and familial ties with Nepal has always stood by its people whenever there has been a crisis. Whether it was the change of 1989-90 of 1961-62 or of 1951-52, the democratic leadership of India has always supported and dedicated itself to the democracy of Nepal. Even the democracy of Nepal strongly supported India's Movement in the people's struggle for independence against the British Colonial rule. The freedom fighters of India fought from the foothills of Nepal and India got independence. The way great leaders of the freedom struggle of India acquired knowledge in regard to public governance and welfare state by living in England and were able to evolve a similar system of governance in India, similarly, the democratic leadership of Nepal received its education in India and got its training in the welfare state and democratic set-up. That is why, they always struggled to bring in democracy. Nepal has dual system of administration. We have nothing to do with the skirmishes of royalty. Nepal, like other countries, has a long history of monarchical set-up where Empires rise and fall but this country has followed a fixed principle that democracy is only existing in India because it is a Hindu dominated country and democracy thrives in the roots of Hinduism so India must continue as a Hindu dominated country. Incidents of Nepal have falsified this principle and have proved that democracy has nothing to do with Hindutva or Islam. It is a system which is governed by ideology. As per my knowledge. I can say that the people of Nepal have taken up cudgels against Maoism and the people of the bordering area of Uttar Pradesh have wiped out Maoism from then region but simultaneously, the way in which Emergency and censorship have been enforced, I can say on the basis of my personal experience that the democrats have been much more suppressed than the Maoists by the royal army. If one goes through the details of more than two thousand prisoners in

the jails of Nepal, one would find that more than two a half thousand people are in jails who believe in the ideology of democracy. While Maoists number approximately one hundred-one hundred and fifty. That is why to say that the Maoism in Nepal and India have nothing to do with International Communism. The Maoists ideology has been rejected in International Communism. It is a local movement which is less committed to any principle but more committed to vested interests. It has destroyed wild life. It has destroyed forests, environment and has smuggled wood, wild animals by destroying them simply to amass wealth and property. Maoism of Nepal is related to smuggling of narcotics. That is why it is not an ideological movement. It should be suppressed to the extent possible but wiping out democracy on its pretext is condemnable. It should be condemned.

17.23 hrs.

(SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV *in the chair*)

CNN, BBC is on the air in Nepal. All Indian channels are aired but during news time there is black out, which is a wrong practice. Today, all the Indian newspapers have been banned in Nepal. Freedom of expression has been gagged. India has earned fame in the world because India has been vociferous on certain fundamental principles. When the question of human rights was raised in South. Africa. India not only helped by providing weapons, funds but also collected funds through the Government Exchequer and helped the people struggling for human rights there.

When Military dictatorship took over power in Pakistan after annihilating democracy, India raised its voice in the conference of Commonwealth Countries and upon the initiative of our Government, the Membership of Pakistan was terminated from the commonwealth countries. India has always raised its voice for the people of the country falling prey to dictatorship where democracy is annihilated and violation of human rights is there. That is why, I would call upon the Government of India that pressure should be extended on Nepal, through the channels in the Organisations which have been set up for protection of human rights in the international fora so that democracy and human rights could be reinstated and censorship and emergency could be lifted. All the democratic leaders who have been under house-arrest and imprisoned and not only imprisoned but excruciating torture is being perpetrated on them after their arrest. All these facts should be made known to the world and initiatives should be taken by the Government of India to end such tortures.

As far as Afghanistan is concerned, if we go through the history of India properly then we will find that whenever

there has been instability in Afghanistan there have been foreign attacks on India. We shall never favour that democracy is forced upon a country by some other nation but it is a fact that Afghanistan is a democratic country today and as a result of it there has been a check on foreign sponsored terrorism in the North-western Frontiers of India. I would like to submit that establishment of democracy in Afghanistan is the major reason for this downward trend. So, the Government of India must provide assistance to the extent possible to construct Afghanistan and to bring in stability in the democracy there so that foreign sponsored terrorism is stamped out.

As far as Indo-Pak relations are concerned India and Pakistan were not different nations. The freedom struggle was started under the leadership of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru in the year 1920. The call for complete independence was given in the year 1930 from which city. It was given in Lahore. That is why the division of India and Pakistan has been unnatural. One brother remained in India and another in Pakistan. They cannot meet each other because there is visa problem. Indo-Pak relations which are humanities, should not be subjected to question of governance. The people of India and Pakistan could revive their old ties for this we must break down those barriers. I feel it is the need of the hour to which the Government of India must respond. Supporting the foreign policy for Pakistan, I would appeal for strengthening of fraternal ties. Government of India must take initiative in this regard.

With these words. I conclude and thank you for providing me an opportunity to speak.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHWALE: Mr. Chairman. Sir, when is my turn?

[English]

LT. COL. (RETD.) MANABENDRA SHAH (Tehri Garhwal): Mr. Chairman, Sir, we have about six countries on our border, which either have parliamentary or semi-democratic system or military type of Government. With most of these countries, we have common problems. In today's context, what is there is terrorism, infiltration, smuggling of arms, setting up in our soil terrorist camps and mass exodus of the people into India.

It is unfortunate that our Government has different stances for different countries. We have stance for the Islamic countries, and they have different stances for the Hindu country.

In Pakistan, we have been very mellow in our approach. We do not have special sanction issued against Pakistan. We are very kind-hearted in our approach.

As far as Nepal is concerned, we have been very strongly condemning them and we have, in a way, if I loosely use the word, issued sanction against them. That is the basic difference, which I presume. I understand, it defines the word 'secularism'.

Sir, I would also like to know what exactly is the difference between Pakistan and India. In Pakistan, there was a military coup. In Nepal also, first there was a clash between the civilian Government and the Maoists, and now it is a clash between the King and the Maoists. That is the basic difference. In Nepal, the King military lobby took over. There was a cause for this, that is the behaviour of Maoists harming their country. Sir, we condone what is happening in Pakistan, but we condemn what is happening in Nepal. This is the basic difference, which, I am sorry, is very difficult to resolve.

After the sanction, perhaps we are trying to salvage our prestige. The United States of America thinks that it is a big brother of the comity of nations and probably India thinks that it is a big brother of Nepal and, therefore, what they can say and do in a big brother way, I think, we want to do in a similar way with Nepal. This is again anti-democratic and it is against the Indian ethos, nature and mentality.

Sir, many Prime Ministers have come and gone in Nepal and each of them failed to contain Maos. In these repeated failures, democracy was endangered. What was the option left for the King? He first tried the option of trying to have a dialogue with our Prime Minister and I am told that he tried two or three times and he got a rebuff. Now, what was left for him to do? If he wanted to save Nepal from Maoist terrorism, he had to take over the reigns. So, he took over the power and when he took over, he declared that he would rule for three years. Therefore, what he had in mind was only to contain and end the Maoist terrorism, nothing more. Yet, we have tried to condemn him left and right.

The ground reality is, if the King fails today, what will happen in Nepal? There will be a vacuum. Who will fill up the vacuum? The vacuum cannot be filled by politicians because they have been proved a failure not once or twice but many times. The other option is to let the stalemate continue and in that case Maos will take over. If Maos take over the power in Nepal, what will happen? We will be out, China will be in. The influence of China will increase, the

[Lt. Col. (Retd.) Manabendra Shah]

influence of India will go down. Is that what we want? I think, none in this House would like that. No military rule can take place in Nepal without the King being there. Many people are saying that the King should go, but he has to be there.

The only option that I would like to suggest to my very old friend, the Minister of External Affairs is that he should see that a meeting between the Prime Minister of India and the King of Nepal takes place. He should see that they prepare a master plan to remove the insurgency of Maos in Nepal; to stop the exodus of terrorists and political refugees into India; to extradite the undesirable Nepalese citizens from our country; and to set up a machinery for the phased restoration of democracy in Nepal. As a good and friendly gesture, which they have been showing towards Pakistan again and again, I would urge upon the Government of India to remove all the restrictions on giving aids, grants, etc. to Nepal. I am sure both the External Affairs Minister and the Prime Minister of India are quite able to negotiate with the King as the King is keen to find a solution because he is at a dead end. I hope something will come out of it.

With these words, I thank you very much for the opportunity given to me.

[Translation]

DR. RAJESH MISHRA (Varanasi): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for providing me an opportunity to speak. At the outset, I would like to praise hon'ble Minister of External Affairs who has visited all the three countries which are very sensitive for India. There are two main reasons for his visit— firstly, all these three countries are India's neighbour and India should have good relations with all the three nations— it is in the interest of India and her neighbours as well. Another serious aspect is that in the present scenario, the way America is trying to gherao India in Asia with a view to spread its power all these three nations assume even greater importance for India. When we discuss international relations with these three nations in the Indian context, we are reminded of ancient India's Kautilaya and Machievelli's political theory. Both of them had propounded a principle that a country cannot have naturally good relations with its immediate neighbour but can have good relations with the neighbour of her neighbouring country This is the belief of Kautilaya in ancient India and Machievelli. The diplomatic policy of both these political thinkers proves to be true in same way or the other.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the geographical conditions of Nepal are quite similar to those of India. Our life styles are

similar and I think that the entire house would agree to it that we have a lot in common with Nepal. India wants that democracy be established there. It is true that even the common man here would want so but if we discuss the democracy of Nepal in relation to that of India, we cannot make much comparisons. The king is constitutionally supreme, even if there is democracy in Nepal. If we go through the History of Nepal, we will find that whenever an amendment was made in the constitution of Nepal be it any committee, Multiparty constitutional system was enforced or Panchayati Raj system was adopted to frame the Constitution but the King of Nepal was the constitutional head. Today, in most of the houses of Nepal one would find pictures of Nepal's King. No one forces the people to hang those pictures, they do it out of respect. We will have to keep this background in mind while discussing Nepal.

Sir, it is a pleasure that the hon. Minister of External Affairs is very efficient and learned. He must be having all these things in his mind. We want democracy there. But what kind of democracy? It is true that the multiparty system of the recent years there failed as a result of which this situation has been created but the way censorship was enforced there, leaders were put in prison and the public was harassed, no Indian would agree to it. We oppose it. We want that democracy should be strengthened there. What we conjecture of democracy never existed in Nepal. Had democracy prevailed in Nepal then the King would not have been able to do what he has done there. But he has been high handed. I would urge upon the Government that an observation to the effect be made from India the extent to which initiatives could be taken by our Government to improve the situation in Nepal.

As far as Maoists are concerned that they are completely dominating there, some people may not agree with me. I do not believe that the naxalites in India are prototypes of Maoists. It may be possible that certain belts of naxalites in India could be their prototypes but the naxalites scattered in a particular area are not hundred percent prototypes of Maoists. Our Government will have to consider it as well. Indians across the country want that democracy be restored in Nepal. Our Government should take initiatives to take all possible measures.

I would like to say something in regard to Afghanistan and Pakistan also. My colleagues on the opposite side have made their submissions in regard to Pakistan and Afghanistan. Whenever a Government makes any compromises with the terrorists, terrorism definitely increases. Had the Minister of External Affairs of the erstwhile Government

not released the terrorists in Kandhar as a result of the settlement of the plane-hijack, terrorism perhaps would not have assumed its ominous proportion today. It was a blunder. The way talks were held with the terrorists in the plane and they were released, it is the result of that very error that terrorism is increasing.

Pakistan's issue has been discussed. I feel that we have had good relations with Pakistan. It is stated that unless Pakistan stops sponsoring terrorism or demolishes training camps. Our Government should not hold talks with it. I would like to remind that during the regime of the erstwhile Government the then Prime Minister and hon. Home Minister used to make statements in and outside the House that unless Pakistan demolishes terrorist camps we shall not hold any talks but Musharraf Saheb was invited to Agra, dinners were organised in his honour and he left without any talks. There should not be any difference between what you practice and what you preach. I have faith in the present hon. Minister of External Affairs. He is so efficient and seasoned that whatever initiatives and measures he would take, will definitely be good.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, Nepal issue is linked to us because Nepal is our neighbour. Ours is a democratic country. We have adopted the constitution framed by Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar. That is why democracy in our country is functioning smoothly. We may have internal problems but we have strengthened our democratic system and perhaps ours is the most powerful democracy in the world. Nepal was being ruled by a democratically elected Government under Sher Bahadur Deuba which has been toppled by king of Nepal, Gyanendraji. Many governments changed in Nepal during last eight years. Our External Affairs Minister, Shri Natwar Singh is a quite able and experienced Minister. He has been dealing with the foreign policy so nicely. All the countries do not have friendship with their neighbours and enmity with neighbour country hampers their progress. Therefore, we have been maintaining very good relations with Nepal.

At least 11 thousand people have fallen prey to recent spate of Maoist terrorism in Nepal. Since King of Nepal Gyanendra ji has captured power, Maoists have also started talking of restoration of democracy. And it is a good sign. I appeal to the Maoists in Nepal to have dialogue with the Government of Nepal in connection with their demands. Continuance of terrorism is no good and the public has been demanding for restoration of democracy. I, too, demand the same thing. It is all right that it is their internal matter, yet whenever something wrong happens, we point out. Yogi ji

was telling that during Talibani rule in Afghanistan, statues of the Buddha were pulled down. He was demanding restoration of the statues. Similarly, demolished Babri Mosque in Ayodhya should be reconstructed. If so, it would strengthen our national unity. There are people of all religions and castes in our country. Thus our democracy is good. Pakistan has been carved out of India on communal basis but now there is no scope for further division. People are ready to sacrifice themselves for the sake of unity of the country. Adinath is the Guru of Nepal Naresh and if he tries to convince the King of Nepal for restoration of democracy. Perhaps, the King would agree to it. He may say "Well, I accept it." Our External Affairs Minister Natwar Singh ji should endeavour in order to get the elections held in Nepal in a democratic manner. There is a need to convince the King of Nepal. Being a king, he was not a complete ruler, but he has captured the power forcibly. There is a need to amend the constitution of Pakistan. It should not be ruled by the Military. Frequent changes of Government will keep on going in Pakistan. But, there has never been martial law in our country. Our constitution does not provide for it and that's why we are a strong nation. Our foreign policy is Pakistan centred and we should have cordial relationship with it. Our External Affairs Minister has visited Pakistan. Shri Mushraff is coming to India on 17 April. We have invited him. As he was born in Delhi, India and Pakistan should have friendship. Shri Natwar Singh ji should take initiative for establishing friendly relations with Pakistan but we should not accept their hegemony and justice should be done to Jammu and Kashmir. Terrorism should be eliminated. We should march ahead. Nepal is our neighbouring country.

Sir, you are allotting quite less time to speak. 'Hamara padosi hai Nepal, Tanashah ke raaj ne failya jaal, Loktantra ko Khatam Karke Raja ne ki hai dhamal, raja ki tanashahi ko hatane ka Janata karegi kamal'. And it would be through democracy. Our Union Government is very good and so is our External Affairs Minister, therefore, I support it's foreign policy. We should have friendly relations with Pakistan and Afghanistan.

We have good relations with Nepal. And with America also, we have good relations. Since Bush has come forward to fight terrorism so we should support America and Russia. We are everybody's friends. Our country will march ahead in similar way and we will create a good reputation. Shri Natwar Singh ji is our External Affairs Minister and Shri Manmohan Singh, the Prime Minister. Our country will reach new heights under the able leadership of these two leaders.

The present Government is furthering the policy laid

[Shri Ramdas Athawale]

down by the previous government. This Government is following their policy. For the next five years, the Government would frame its own policy. Now I would conclude.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am highly grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak. Hon. Minister of External Affairs visited Pakistan and Afghanistan. He has laid a detailed report of his visit on 9 March, 2005, especially about Nepal. He has sought national consensus with regard to foreign policy. I do fully agree with him but I would like to make a point that the security of Nepal is related to the security of India. We have historical, social and religious relations with Nepal. Lakhs of Nepalese are earning their bread in India with freedom and pride. We have open borders with Nepal and passport is not required. If such a friendly nation faces any crisis the Government should help it out. A friend in need is a friend indeed.

The history of India is witness to it that whenever there has been any kind of crisis in Nepal, India openly came out to render help and the crisis was overcome. Now, too, we need to take each step quite cautiously.

It is a matter of happiness that the people who declared emergency in India in 1975 are now opposing imposition of emergency in Nepal. I welcome this change. Since India is the largest democracy in the world, it is our foremost duty to strongly oppose imposition of emergency, be it in Nepal or elsewhere. We should keep trying for restoration of democracy. But, the issue of restoration of democracy in Nepal has to be viewed from a different angle as the condition prevailing in Nepal in the aftermath of Maoist led terrorism were such that the king had to declare emergency.

Hon. External Affairs Minister is presently here, so I would urge the Government of India to be quite cautious in regard to Nepal affairs. Terrorism caused by Maoists is prevailing in many a districts and they have murdered thousands of Nepalese and lakhs of Nepalis are so much frightened that they fled their country and taken shelter in India. As a consequence thereof we have to deploy armed security forces on our borders.

Sir, Maoists are trying to purchase land in our country also. The king of Nepal had to declare emergency in such circumstances. The Government should think as to under what circumstances the king of Nepal had to declare emergency and since we were supplying arms to Nepal under security treaty, how far it is proper to stop the supply of arms at such an hour of crises. On the other hand Pakistan

is saying that we are ready to supply arms to Nepal. Pakistan is ready to supply arms to Nepal. Therefore, our each step should be calculated.

Sir, earlier also the ISI agents of Pakistan had set up their base in Nepal and the terrorists used to enter into our border from Nepal. Investigation of several incidents has proved this point. We should not allow a minor lapse on our part to enable Pakistan to consolidate its position in Nepal. While Nepal's army has been loyal to the king and king has enjoyed supremacy for over last 250 years, whosoever Government may be in power in Nepal, constitutionally king is the head of the Government in Nepal and we have recognised this fact. Hence we should supply arms to Nepal so that it can fight against Maoists.

We have accepted the sanctity of Nepal and want that the king should remain constitutional head in Nepal. We should keep in mind that democracy should be restored in Nepal. We should support restoration of democracy in Nepal and Constitutional supremacy of the king, which is quite important, should be maintained. We should keep in mind that democracy should be restored in Nepal. Supporting democracy simultaneously we should give importance to monarchy also which is a constitutional status and provide wholehearted support to Nepal so that Maoists insurgent can be tackled as they are encouraging naxalite elements in our country also and have spread their wings in several parts of India such as Bihar, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka. They are trying to kill innocent people here also. Many such incidents regarding kidnapping of teachers and students have taken place in Nepal. Attempt is being made to kill Indian traders, who visit Nepal as tourists. Therefore, the responsibility of Government of India have increased. I feel that the Government of India should take into the entire issue seriously. We should not allow Maoist insurgency to prosper while opposing the emergency in Nepal, else the people of Nepal have to suffer both on account of ongoing emergency and Maoist insurgency.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the political situation in Nepal has taken the shape of a triangle. It's one arm is Maoists, the second arm is democracy and the third arm is monarchy. Monarchy is the strongest arm which has been in dominating position for 250 years, therefore, it has been continuing its existence. The army of Nepal is loyal to the king and therefore they are making effort to crush the Maoists. In such a situation, our duty is to protect democracy and not to let the situation worsen in Nepal and also to ensure as how the people can be saved from the Maoists. All these things will have to be

kept in mind safeguarding the age-old friendship and to avoid that the situation does not deteriorate further, we will have to think seriously to restore military assistance. Though America and Britain are also criticising that democracy is being smothered there, we are also criticising but on this pretext if the countries like Pakistan get chance to consolidate their position then it will create new problem for us which will further deteriorate the situation. Therefore our each step should be calculated.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, we should pay attention towards the safety of the life and property of the Indians living in Nepal. The security arrangements between both the countries should be strengthened so as to check Maoists insurgency in our country. In this connection, I would like to say—

"Bahadur kab kisi ka aasra ehsaan lete hain, usi ko kar gujarte hain jo dil mein than lete hain, Dilbar mard ka loha sab maan lete hain, jo kamjor hota hai, kaan uske sab pakad lete hain."

If our internal position is strong, well-organised and prosperous then certainly our foreign policy would also be strong. Then our neighbouring country also cannot harass us. Our relations with Pakistan should be improved. Borders can be altered but we cannot change our neighbour. Pakistan is our neighbouring country. It is a good thing that cricket matches have been organised and buses and train services have been started but if permits are issued for buses then it can be a danger to our security and terrorists might cross the border and enter our country in connivance with passport authorities on the pretext of getting permit.

The Government had given the assurance to introduce train service between Khokrapaar and Munabaav and I feel that in future that route will be opened. We should improve our relations with Pakistan but not at the cost of compromising with the security of our country. The terrorist camps in Kashmir and in Pakistan should be destroyed. I thank you for giving me time to speak.

18.00 hrs.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is 6 o' clock, if the House agree the time of the House can be extended till the conclusion of discussion on this subject as this subject has to be exhausted today and 6-7 speakers are still left.

SEVERAL HON'BLE MEMBERS: Yes, the time can be extended.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The time is extended with the consent of the House.

KUNWAR MANVENDRA SINGH (Mathura): Hon'ble Chairman, Sir, I express my gratitude for giving me an opportunity to speak.

Today we are discussing about Nepal, Afghanistan and Pakistan which are our neighbouring countries and are adjacent to our borders. Hon'ble Minister of External Affairs Kunwar Natwar Singhji is an experienced Minister and earlier also he played leading and commendable role in the foreign policy which is praiseworthy. I appreciate him in the House.

As far as the question of Nepal is concerned, our relations with Nepal are age-old. This relation is not limited to our borders only as both the countries are adjacent to each other rather we have several other kinds of personal relations also. Many of our relatives are residing in Nepal. I don't want to go into the details as hon'ble Minister is fully aware of all these things. I am fortunate that I had been the Chairman of Indo-Nepal Friendship Association for 10 years. When democracy was established there and Shri Bhattarai, the then interim Prime Minister, was made Prime Minister and he had visited India, at that time we welcomed him.

After that a delegation visited Nepal in 1989 to take part in N.I.C. under my Chairmanship. I remember that a press conference was held. Some speakers have made a mention of that over here. I have spent many years of my childhood in Nepal. Hon'ble Minister probably must be knowing that my uncle Sardul Shamsheer Jang Bahadur Rana has been the Foreign Minister of Nepal as well as Ambassador in many countries. I have been visiting that place since childhood. As one of our colleagues said just now that the people there believe kingdom to be an incarnation of God Vishnu and on the occasion of Dussahera they distribute prasad to the public from large vessels. I have seen this for myself in the times of king Tribhuvan, king Mahendra and King Virendra. The kind of faith people have in kingdom over there is immense. Dynasties were also there in our country but they were smaller and divided. In a press conference held over there I remember to have said that the system you are leading for is worth adopting. The people of Nepal know and demand this today that democracy should be established over there so that people could put their views forward. People should be able to put forth their views openly and live there freely, this is what is required most today. I told them that people over there believed the king to be an incarnation of God Vishnu. Their photographs are

[Kunwar Manvendra Singh]

everywhere, in every house, be it a labourer, rich or poor class family. They need to run their democracy in a manner like once bitten twice shy, otherwise in future they may face problems in running democracy. Later on it was reported by newspapers that the Chairman of the Nepal Mitrasangha who visited there was pro-king, but today the apprehension has been proved. By the time we kept defining democracy over there it actually kept on weakening instead of becoming stronger and the Maoism that we talk about today has reached upto Uttaranchal. We have fought battles with China and Pakistan but there has not been any danger to our country from Nepal which has the longest border line. It has always stood like a safety line. I read this in a newspaper yesterday and the House is also aware of it that Pakistan has lent a supporting hand to Nepal and have offered to provide military assistance also. This is an issue of serious concern. America has always had its eye upon it. Today Tiwan is a result of America and now its looking upon Nepal. China has spread Maoism over there. China wants to acquire Nepal through the movement that was led at the time of king Tribhuvan and King Mahendra. If we imagine that Nepal goes into the hands of those powers then whether India would not require to open another front against Nepal just like it has one against Pakistan. I visited Nepal recently. The youths of Nepal have got married into our country and similarly our youths into Nepal. But today they do not want to get married in India. What is the reason behind that? Maoist powers have tried to sever the ties between India and Nepal so that they could establish their supremacy over there. By establishing their supremacy there they intend to set up a new power group in India.

I would like to tell the hon'ble Minister that we are active supporters of democracy but it should not become so weak over there that other powers could set their foot over there and we get exposed to some threat and we get to struggle with them. We have both cultural and religious ties with Nepal. People from India go there on Shivratri to offer prayers to Lord Pashupatinath. We have cultural, religions and matrimonial ties with Nepal.

I would request that we should call upon the king of Nepal and have across the table talk with him and tell him that we will help them in every manner. India needs to clarify the misunderstanding which are long standing that India is not helping them. Today we need to give complete assurance to Nepal because it has been a part of us. We are like two brothers. Our full support should be extended to them so that democracy could be strengthened there and the country remains safe and harmony remains intact between India and Nepal. ...*(Interruptions)*

There is no time to talk about Pakistan which is why I could not present my views on it.

With these words I conclude.

SHRI CHANDRA MANI TRIPATHY (Rewa): Hon'ble Chairman, Sir, I would like to thank you for giving me an opportunity to take part in this discussion. We have had age old ties with Nepal. Nepal is not just our neighbouring country but as an hon'ble Member was saying just now, it has also been serving as safety line for us in comparison to other neighbouring countries. If Nepal becomes weak and democracy is uprooted from Nepal then it would create problems for India because Nepal works like a buffer state to us as Tibet use to be for us before China invaded it. Once China captured it could muster enough courage to attack India. I am not able to understand the concept of declaring emergency in the name of dealing with Maoist violence, the political leaders over there are being house-arrested and it is being said that all this is being done to deal with terrorism and Maoist violence. It would have been better to deal with the terrorists and Maoists with the help of common people and the democratic Government over there. We oppose imposition of emergency anywhere, by any country and smothering democracy in any nation.

I would like to say that when emergency was declared in our country big slogans were raised. Wars always take place in the name of peace. Any amount of criticism is less for the emergency declared over there and the way democracy has been uprooted.

18.12 hrs.

(MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*)

Monarchy exists not only in Nepal, in England also the constitutional head is a king. We have no objection to a king being the constitutional head in Nepal but if they smother democracy over there then it is beyond our patience. I would like to submit to the Government that there have been some mistakes on the Government's part during the last 10-15 years, as Shri Manvendra Singhji was saying. The people of Nepal have started believing that India is no more their well-wisher. We should make such efforts as our old relations with the people of Nepal remain intact and democracy is restored over there. We should put pressure for this but should also help Nepal deal with the Maoists. We should be cautious of any interference in Nepal from Pakistan or any other neighbouring country which may help America or any other country in gaining any sort of diplomatic or strategic advantage. As far as Pakistan is concerned, I agree with

Mohan Singh ji's view that India's partition was not spontaneous. Our freedom fighters had perhaps got tired. I would like to name one book which has been read by hon'ble Mohan Singh ji also. Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia has written in his book "Guilty Men of India's Partition" that there are some direct and some indirect people guilty of India's partition. He had said that Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru and Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel were directly guilty of India's partition and among the indirectly guilty are Mahatma Gandhi and he himself. Therefore, I would like to say that due to the uncalled for partition, both India and Pakistan have to spend all their resources on the defence budget only, both of us always remain on the look out for an opportunity to attack the other. Therefore, the relations between India and Pakistan should improve but, it should not be a one sided effort. We have been making efforts to strengthen the relations between India and Pakistan but Pakistan is not making any efforts in this direction.

I would like to request the hon'ble Minister to hold peace talks, have cordial relations with Pakistan but we should also be cautious. It is a good step to start bus service from Muzaffarabad but if it is coming without permit then it is suspicious. Therefore, I would like to request the hon'ble Minister that he should think well before doing anything, act wisely and safeguard the interests of India. The Government should help Nepal to deal with Maoist violence and to take effective steps to get democracy restored over there. I would like to thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

[English]

SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL (Vijayawada): Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, a human being is a social animal and therefore, he always looks for peace and prosperity and not war and terror. That is the reason why we need to respect the will of the people. The most important thing in any country or in any part of the world is to see that the will of the people prevails. It is for this reason that we are very unhappy about what happened or what is happening in our neighbouring countries, be it Nepal, be it Pakistan or be it Afghanistan. It is not the country that matters, but what matters is to remember that every individual wants to have peace, every family wants to have peace and every State and every country, and for that matter, the whole world, which includes the Indian Sub-Continent and the Asian Continent wants to have peace. We need to ensure that peace prevails throughout the world. That is the reason why the United Nations was formed so that there is unanimity and consistency in all our approaches. Unless there is sufficient power given to the United Nations or sufficient teeth given to the United Nations, such things will keep on happening all over the world.

It is very important for us that we have the best of relations with Nepal, which is strategically placed between China and India. Apart from Nepal, even Pakistan plays a dominant role. Once we have peace prevailing in this region, we can cut down all our wasteful expenditure on defence and try to refocus our energies in taking care of the needs of the people. It is for this reason that we need to empower the United Nations so that wherever people's will is forgotten or there is a takeover by dictatorship or any other form of governance, it can ensure that such things are not only denounced, but also ensure that such things do not happen again. We need to ensure that such things would never happen again

Coming to Nepal, we all know that it is a small, tiny State, but the tallest mountains in the world are located there. It is very famous because Mount Everest is located there, and that is the reason why many people consider Nepal as a destination for either trekking or tourism. I myself have been there many times. We have the famous Pashupatinath Temple there and many Indians go there. We not only have cultural relations with Nepal, but we also have industrial and trade relationship. A lot of Indian businessmen have gone and established businesses in Nepal. We have seen people having hotels in Nepal. They are also into power generation. Apart from that we also have trade relationship between India and Nepal. If democracy is not prevalent there, it is definitely going to create fear in the minds of the business people as to what will happen to their businesses or their business empires. It is for this reason that we have to ensure that King Gyanendra calls for elections immediately so that the democratic process is established there in Nepal.

We have seen what has happened there in the last couple of years, since 2001, when King Gyanendra assumed office as the Monarch of Nepal. Since then, the Parliament has been suspended and there are no proper elections, and as a result, there is no proper elected Government which is ruling that country. Of course, there are some people, some organisations, which might say that so and so country is an Islamic country or so and so country is a Hindu country and, therefore, we should have different yardsticks depending upon the religion.

We need to remember that it is not the religion which binds us but it is the humanism which binds us. All of us have to remember that Lord Rama might be the King of Ayodhya but he was a slave of *Dharma*. That is why we worship him as a God. That is why, irrespective of our religions we need to ensure that not only in India but also in all our neighbouring countries there is peace and prosperity so that all of us in this region can live peacefully.

[Translation]

SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN (Araria): Hon'ble Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we are holding discussion in the House under Rule 193. Emergency has been imposed in Nepal. Most of the countries from around the world have been urging to restore democracy in Nepal as soon as possible. India and Nepal have age old ties. We are from border areas, and we have old ties with Nepal. In the present situation our country shares approximately 100 kms of border area with Nepal and hundreds of acres of land of our country lie in Nepal and Vice - Versa. We all know very well as to from where these Maoists have come. The present situation over there is similar to what used to happen during the Mugal period when people used to usurp the throne by assassinating their own family members, and in the same fashion the Maoists have set out in Nepal. Over there, all the journalists have been arrested, the political people have been arrested and they have been in constant touch with the Nepalese people to make arrangements for their stay somewhere in India because warrants against them and orders to attach their property have been issued over there. Therefore, we would like to urge the Minister of External Affairs to take necessary steps to restore democracy in Nepal at the earliest.

The people of Nepal are completely dependent on Indian goods. It would become difficult for the people of Nepal to survive if goods are not sent to them from India. In the year 1975 when emergency was declared in India we took refuge in Nepal and now when there is a state of emergency in Nepal some people have come to Delhi and Bihar from there. Those who have any personal relations over here, have taken refuge with them. Therefore, we would like to urge you to take steps to normalise the situation over there as soon as possible because the people of Indian origin who are residing there are being harassed by the Maoists and Nepalese Government. We are 7-8 Members living in the border area of Nepal and Bihar. The contaminated water which comes from Nepal smells so foul that it becomes difficult to live in that area. This type of contaminated water can cause various diseases. Therefore, I would like to request the Government that the hon'ble Minister of External Affairs to positively hold a meeting with the Members of the areas bordering with Nepal. These petty complaints of the border areas may not be reaching the External Affairs Ministry but people come to us with these problems. Therefore, I hope and I would like to request that steps should be taken to resolve the problems of the border areas by holding discussion with the Government of Nepal.

As far as relations between India and Pakistan are concerned, I would like to congratulate the former Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee ji for starting the Bus service between India and Pakistan. This has improved the strained relations between both the countries and I would like to thank the present External Affairs Minister for strengthening the relations. If our neighbours keep disturbing us then this will affect our progress. It is a good news that the President of Pakistan Mr. Musharraf is going to visit our country. This will definitely improve our ties with Pakistan.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna): Hon'ble Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak upon this important issue.

Nepal is our neighbouring country and particularly it is adjoining Bihar to which I belong. Anything that happens in Nepal directly affects our country and the State. We have had age-old historical, commercial, social, cultural and religious ties with Nepal. People of Nepal are living here and Vice-Versa. As Shri Manvendra ji said just now and I also believe that our country would not remain unaffected if anything takes place in Nepal.

Sir, democracy was established in Nepal in the year 1990 but unfortunately it did not last there for long. Many Governments were formed but none of them could provide a stable Government. This caused discontentment in the people there and during this period itself the Maoists rooted themselves gradually. I believe that half of Nepal has been completely acquired by Maoists and this is affecting our country and my State in particular. A number of Nepalese Maoists take shelter in our state. This is a matter of concern. That is why it was often suspected that certain foreign powers which do not have good relations with us are harbouring terrorism in our country through Nepal. Nepal is an important neighbouring country of ours but if our strong friendship with this country does not remain intact then it will not only be unfortunate for Nepal but also for our country, I would like to thank the hon'ble External Affairs Minister that our country has earned a good reputation under his leadership and it has also strengthened our relations with other countries.

Our relations with the neighbouring countries saw some rough weather during the times of NDA Government. I believe the Government is not working effectively. An amicable situation should be developed there and talks should be held with the king of Nepal. He should be brought under our influence so that democracy could be restored over there. In fact, I believe that no country can prosper as long as democracy is not established over there. There would

be no country or person who will tolerate monarchy particularly India. Many countries take lesson from the strong democratic system of our country. Nepal is not just our neighbour but it is like a brother to us. Therefore, the Government should initiate first, so that democracy could be restored over there. What is the reason behind monarchy to raise its head all of a sudden over there on the 1st of February 2005? The people there were deprived of their fundamental rights. Therefore, we should take effective measures. The people are being tortured. The people of Nepali Congress who believe in democracy have been house-arrested and are being harassed. Many hon'ble Members have said here that people from Nepal are taking refuge in our country. Even we did the same when there was emergency in our country. So we should do something to restore democracy there. Many other countries have their eyes upon Nepal. They want the relations between Nepal and India to worsen so that they could establish their colonies over there. Today many countries like China and Pakistan have set their eyes upon Nepal. They want our ties with Nepal to end and to establish their own so that they can work on their plans. Particularly America has always tried to boss the entire world. Therefore the Government should take effective steps, so that our relations with Nepal may continue and the country remains safe.

Pakistan has also been discussed in the House. Our relations with Pakistan are improving since last few days. Both are lending hands of friendship towards each other. This is a positive sign. I believe that in the coming days we should work upon further strengthening our relations. Mr. Musharraff's son is on a visit to India. He visited Lucknow yesterday. I welcome what he said to the youths of both the nations and the feelings he expressed over there. He made an appeal to the youth of both the countries to leave aside political matters and develop personal relations with each other. I would like to thank him for this. As long as we do not improve our relations with the neighbouring countries we will end up spending heavily on our security. We are spending thousands of crores of rupees on our defence. This is ruining our economy and our entire attention goes upon our safety rather than upon development. Until our relations with Pakistan, Afghanistan and Nepal do not improve, our system will not function effectively. We want that we should develop and make progress. But at present our entire thinking and energy is focused on defence. The way terrorism is growing in Jammu & Kashmir or Assam is not a good sign. A similar problem exists in Nepal. Therefore the hon'ble External Affairs Minister should make efforts to improve our relations with these countries. I strongly believe

that our relations with our neighbouring countries will improve as a result of the NDA's foreign Policy under your leadership. We want to live in peace and order. We do not want peace and normalcy of any other country to be disturbed. Live and let live, this is that we believe in. We want love and respect and would also want to give the same in return to other countries.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to request my colleagues in the opposition to adopt a positive attitude and shun the issues related to Hindu-Muslim differences. ...*(Interruptions)* Do not indulge in anything like demolishing mosques.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except the speech of Shri Ram Kripal Yadav.

*(Interruptions) ...**

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Do something for uniting the country. I would humbly urge upon the hon'ble External Affairs Minister to make some sincere efforts to restore peace and order in the neighbouring countries.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, Shri Kharabela Swain.

[Translation]

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would request you to give two minutes' time to our colleague Shri Suresh Angadi ji.

[English]

SHRI SURESH ANGADI (Belgaum): Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the relations between Nepal and India are cordial since ancient days. Most of the hon. Members have expressed their views.

Nepal is the only Hindu nation we can see on the world map. I would honourably request the hon. Minister of External Affairs and the Government of India to take all necessary steps to set up the democratic system in Nepal. Please do not allow America or Pakistan or any enemy nation to fight against India for that place.

Sir, on behalf of this august House, I would once again

* Not recorded.

[Shri Suresh Angadi]

request the Government of India to give all due support for the Hindu nation, which is our neighbouring country.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would not make a speech here; I would only seek some clarifications from the hon. Minister of External Affairs.

Mr. Hon. Minister, Sir, I would seek some clarification from you. Firstly, when there is a vacuum in the arms supply to Nepal by UK, India and the United States of America, is there any possibility of Pakistan and China filling in that vacuum?

Secondly, why is it that on many occasions, anti-Indianism becomes nationalism for the Nepalese even though it is a Hindu country?

Thirdly is there any difference between the issuance of visa and the issuance of permit while dealing with the passengers travelling by Srinagar-Muzaffarabad bus?

Fourthly, the Secretary of State of the United States of America, Madam Condoleezza Rice had come to India on the 15th last. What is her reply with regard to the supply of F-16 warplanes by the United States of America to Pakistan?

Fifthly, is it a fact that the USA administration has objected to the laying of the gas pipeline from Iran to India through Pakistan?

Lastly, has India requested Pakistan through the United States of America to allow India a passage through Pakistan to Afghanistan?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, the hon. Minister Sahab.

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhanjharpur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, hon'ble Pappu Yadav ji will take two minutes because he has to be taken to jail. This would be his maiden speech on this matter.

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV (Madhepura): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, today discussions are being held upon issues like India, Pakistan and Afghanistan. My Parliamentary constituency lies on the border of Nepal. We are next to the border. Our relations with Nepal are not new, rather we have relations with Nepal for ages, for many generations. Apart from the Union Government the people living in the border areas will also

play an important role in restoring democracy in Nepal. Those leaders who believe in democracy have had numerous struggles to usher in democracy in Nepal, and our former Prime Minister Shri Chandra Shekhar ji is one among them. He and many other leaders have struggled for the restoration of democracy in Nepal. The people of the border areas of Bihar which is adjacent to Nepal have totally migrated to Nepal long back. They are totally attached with Bihar's languages, culture and values. The Maoists over there, who get support from outside powers are affecting the regions of Bihar. They are trying their maximum to affect the culture of India and are playing an active role in doing so. The relations of India with Nepal have not only been friendly but it has always been very transparent and free of problems. The hon'ble Minister is sitting here. All the things related to the values, culture, civilization and language of that place are losing themselves to the grip of Nepal. The terrorists' attention is more focused on that area. What steps are the Government taking for the people residing in these areas and who are the most affected by this? We should do something at least for our friendship sake, we should see as to how democracy can be restored and people can be saved over there.

I would like to raise the question of Pakistan here. Pakistan has separated from our own culture, civilization and language. We cannot isolate ourselves from Pakistan in any number of births, what to speak of this birth. We the Hindu nations talk about many religions but we actually belong to an entirely different language, culture and religion. We cannot move with any one particular religion. The UPA Government has been formed to establish the kind of relations Mahatma Gandhi ji and other people of the past had visualised. It definitely wants the relations between both the countries to improve. Nepal has been a friend of India since older times.

Our Union Government should initiate and take some concrete measures to restore democracy in Nepal. We should form such a system in Nepal that our relations can remain good while safeguarding the culture and language of our country. We want only this much. I would like to thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak. Particularly I would like to thank Shri Devendra ji for giving me an opportunity to speak on behalf of RJD.

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, first of all, I want to thank Shri C. K. Chandrappan for initiating this discussion under Rule 193 on the Statement that was laid on the Table of this House by my colleague, Shri E. Ahamed, on the 9th of March, 2005. I want to individually thank the hon. Members.

Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra, Shri Sandeep Dikshit, Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav, Shri Ramji Lai Suman, Shri Narendra Kumar Kushawaha, Shri Anant Gangaram Geete, Shri Nikhilananda Sar, Yogi Aditya Nath – though I do not agree with him on many things – Shri K.S. Rao, Shri Prabodh Panda, Shri Mohan Singh, Lt. Co. (Retd.) Manabendra Shah, Dr. Rajesh Mishra, Shri Ramdas Bandu Athawale, Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat, Shri Chandra Mani Tripathi, Shri L. Rajagopal, Shri Sukdeo Paswan, Shri Ram Kripal Yadav, Shri Suresh Angadi, Shri Kharabela Swain and Shri Rajesh Ranjan alias Pappu Yadav. If I have left somebody's name I seek his apology. I will begin with Nepal

[Translation]

It has been submitted by all my colleagues that we have very close, intimate relations with Nepal. Boundaries are definitely demarcated on the map but Indian citizens can go to Nepal without any passport and Nepalese citizen can do likewise. It is part of our foreign policy. ... that we have to keep an eye on the developments taking place in Nepal be it any difficulty cropping up due to political parties, the monarch or the Maoists. Our efforts should be as has been stated by Shri Rao ji right now, to ponder seriously over this question and take action with all perseverance and carefulness. India is a big country while Nepal is a very small country but we do not want to take any step which may hurt the people of Nepal. The democracy brought in Nepal in the year 1990 functioned for some time. It is opined by our Government and I feel that the entire House opines that there is consensus on all these three questions of Nepal, Pakistan and Afghanistan. It gives me great pleasure since there has been national consensus on the foreign policy of India not from today but for the last 58 years. We are endeavouring to strengthen it, the proof of which we have given right now. We were expecting the visit of His Majesty, the King of Nepal to India but unfortunately, Shri Narsimha Rao ji died and his visit could not take place. Thereafter the decision was taken that he would visit India with our Prime Minister on the 14th December for bilateral talks. One or two days back he telephoned our Prime Minister expressing his inability to visit on 14th December. The day I joined my office my first foreign visit was of Nepal. I myself met the king. I met all the leaders there including Shri Koirala, Shri Deuba and all other leaders and humbly told them that if they do not integrate themselves it will be a setback to democracy. It could not be done and two days before my visit Shri Deuba was appointed Prime Minister but was dismissed on First February. The entire House is aware of the steps, which were taken in Nepal, and I do not wish to repeat them. Now the question arises as to what India will do. We called our

ambassador twice. He met the king once. Before that a message was sent that if talks could be held with all the parties then it could be resumed in that connection. As per section 127 of the Constitution of Nepal the king can declare Emergency and dismiss the Parliament.

[English]

Some efforts should be made to re-start the political process in Nepal, because in our judgement, Nepal needs democracy and a constitutional monarchy. There is a difference between the monarchy which is absolute and a monarchy that is constitutional. That is our endeavour. We are exercising the maximum restraint in dealing with the situation in Nepal.

Fortunately, the stand that the Government of India has taken, was taken after very careful consideration, bearing in mind the special and unique nature of our relationship with Nepal. We have also conveyed to His Majesty, the King, that in our judgement he should, as soon as possible, re-start the process for democracy in Nepal to function once again, which requires the release of all political leaders. There are still two prominent leaders, including Shri Koirala who was still in house detention. Censorship has been lifted to some extent but Indian channels on the TV are still not seen. There are other restrictions also. Business is being affected. We are watching the situation very carefully.

The United States of America has also conveyed similar sentiments to the Government, and His Majesty. So have the United Kingdom, the Secretary General of the United Nations and the European Union. Our friends from China have made a statement saying that they consider, what happened in Nepal, as an internal matter, but they would like the process of reconciliation to start as early as possible.

A question has been raised on the military aid to Nepal. That is under constant review. Our relationship with the Royal Nepali Army is very-very close indeed. The situation is very complicated because of the emergence of Maoists as a factor in Nepali politics. For the first time it began in 1996. I would not go into the reasons for it. But if certain developmental steps have been taken, more progressive policies have been followed and if political parties have worked very well, it is possible that the dimension of the spread of Maoism in Nepal would have been restricted to only few districts. Today, it is very considerable.

[Translation]

Here is the question of foreign policy and diplomacy.

[Shri K. Natwar Singh]

What do you do in foreign policy and how do you act in diplomacy?

[English]

How and what you do with diplomacy? It is a great challenge. As I said, we are using the maximum amount of restraint, bearing in mind the needs of our relationship. I would assure the House that we have also read reports that the retiring Ambassador of Pakistan in Kathmandu, on the day of his departure, had said that if India stops military aid to Nepal, Pakistan would fill the gap.

I just want to say this as lightly as possible that you should disregard this, if this is not possible. I do not want to go beyond this because we are going through a phase where our relations with Pakistan are improving, and I will come to that a little later. So, with regard to the situation in Nepal, all that I can tell the House is that nothing will be done which in any way, puts any kind of permanent strain between India and Nepal. We will continue to press His Majesty to take a long term view of the Emergency that he has declared which is now seven weeks in operation.

The Foreign Minister, Shri Pandey, was here and I had a very long conversation with him. We conveyed our feelings to him. There was a meeting round and on the basis of that he said that His Majesty is very keen to re-start the process but he would need some more time. The initial announcement made by His Majesty was three years, which would not be acceptable to the people of Nepal or anybody else. He said that — I say this bearing in mind the position I hold and the position that he holds — the process for restarting the democratic process will take place sooner rather than later. This is an encouraging sign and with the approval of the House. I would be grateful if the Government is allowed to handle this very delicate situation in the way that we have been doing. From time to time, if necessary, we will keep the House informed. But it is our sincere hope that all political leaders will be released, that they will be allowed to meet, that they will then request His Majesty to recall Parliament, appoint new Government, which he can under article 127, which will be representative, and eventually the elections will take place. Now this is the road-map. There may be difficulties in it. But we will try our best to see that this road-map is implemented.

Now with your permission, I will come to Afghanistan. Our relations with Afghanistan go back many centuries.

[Translation]

We have influences of Afghanistan on our diet. Our

dialects and languages and our dressing in Northern India. While Afghanistan has Indian influence on its culture. Last month, when I visited Afghanistan I met the President there. I met the erstwhile king Baba-E-Millak-Zahir Shah and I also met the Minister of External Affairs Abdullah-Abdullah Saheb. The Government of India has provided financial aid to the tune of \$ 500 million to Afghanistan for power transmission, schools, hospitals and education and for medicines etc. Substantial amount out of this has been utilised and the remaining is likely to be utilised in the months and years to come

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, another amazing thing is that approximately 15 core Muslims live in our country. Wherever I go, I proudly state that not even one Muslim from India joined Al-Qaida or met the Talibans. Everyone appreciates it and wonders that Muslim of every country met them but no Muslim from India has done so. It shows we are strong. We have room for everyone. Afghanistan is not far away, we could not have stopped them, had they wished to go there.

19.00 hrs.

Our Muslim brethren live there, even they did not go to meet them. It is important, it carries some weight. The problem of Afghanistan is serious. It was on war for 25-26 years. USSR took measures and they had to face the music. Then Talibanies were born there. How Osama Bin Laden was created, I do not wish to go into it, you are aware of it. However, an important development is the elections which took place for the first time in the history of Afghanistan. I spoke at length with President Gaddafi since he knows Hindi very well. He has lived in Simla for six-seven years.

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria): He has studied here.

SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH: Yes, he has studied here. Several Ministers, Abdul Saheb and his family members live here. I wondered that 42 per cent women voted in the elections. It is surprising for a place where elections were never held. He told me and it was not a secret which could not be divulged since one should carefully handle such matters at this level. He told me that women were the greatest sufferers. Men used to go on war and the women-folk used to suffer. That is why they went for voting. They need change and it has been brought. Elections are going to be held in September. We have pondered seriously over the talks which we had with Afghanistan. Hon. Prime Minister and I did raise an issue that business goods could come to India from Afghanistan via Pakistan but our goods could not be exported to Afghanistan via Pakistan. He assured that he would

definitely discuss the matter with Musharraf Saheb. He discussed it with him and we spoke to our American friends also. When I visited Pakistan I told them that we had dispute over border with China. There is peace but negotiations are going on. There has been peace since 1988 when Rajiv Gandhi visited China. Our trade is to the tune of 13.6 billion with them which will increase upto \$ 16 billion. Even if \$ 3 billion is taken into consideration which goes via Hongkong then trade is to the tune of \$ 17-18 billion with China, whereas it is \$ 400 million via Pakistan. They said it is not \$ 500 billion but upto \$ 500 billion. I contended that when goods go via Abu Dhabi who is the sufferer? I said if they allowed us it would be better. Thereafter, when we decided to send 500 Tata Trucks, then only 250 trucks were allowed to go through Pakistan, thereafter even that permission was withdrawn. This question will be raised again. If the trade between Pakistan and India increases it will change the entire atmosphere. If their farmers and ours get a stake in the economy then political things will settle on its own. Technology makes the difference, too. I feel the next elections which were scheduled for June in Afghanistan will now be held in September. Whatever support we have sought will be provided by the Election Commission. We hope that our trade will increase more and more and if peace is restored there other countries would be more willing to extend their co-operation. It is true that NATO's army is deployed there, American forces will remain deployed there for quite some time. The present scenario is that Karzai's Government is in power, it is stable and I feel that it will be strengthened after the elections and we pray that peace be restored there. One would be deeply hurt, if one visits Kabul or Afghanistan. There has been massive destruction. Innocent girls have become destitute and women have become widows, houses have been destroyed, there is no electricity. When I visited Afghanistan, temperature was one degree centigrade. Windows in the houses had no glasses. Despite that people are working and are putting their best foot forward. We are doing our best for them.

Now, I come to Pakistan. The Congress Party has always supported the efforts of the NDA Government to resume talks with Pakistan from 1999 to 2004. They went to Lahore. We wished them good luck. After Lahore, Kargil war broke out, the Agra summit failed. To cut the matter short we felt it was necessary to hold talks with Pakistan. Operation Parakram began and cross border war was discussed. But I remember that Vajpayee ji stated on 18th April 2003 in Srinagar that he extended a hand of friendship to Pakistan. One can go through our statement, we had welcomed this step. Then the SAARC summit took place.

We were not sure whether the hon. Prime Minister would attend it or not, but he attended. As a result, a statement was made on 6th January 2004 and signatures were put to commence the process of a composite dialogue on all bilateral issues. We welcomed it. There was an item. 6th January, 2004, Paragraph-5 is very important. We have not paid attention to it. It is written:-

[English]

"Committed to the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations and the universally accepted principle of peaceful co-existence reiterating the determination of both the countries to implement the Simla Agreement in letter and spirit included in the Lahore Declaration."

We supported it although, on return, the then Foreign Minister did say that this meeting had been in defining moment. And unfortunately, Kargil took place. I am not going into that.

Islamabad, 6th January, Joint Press Statement

[Translation]

the most important point is

[English]

"To carry the process of normalisation forward, the President of Pakistan and the Prime Minister of India agreed to commence the process of composite dialogue in February, 2004. The two leaders are confident that the resumption of composite dialogue will lead to a peaceful settlement of all bilateral issues including Jammu and Kashmir to the satisfaction of both sides."

"Prime Minister Vajpayee said that in order to take forward and to sustain the dialogue process, violence, hostility and terrorism must be prevented. President Musharraf re-assured Prime Minister Vajpayee that he will not permit any territory under Pakistan's control to be used to support terrorism in any manner. President Musharraf emphasized that a sustained and productive dialogue relating to all issues would be based on positive results. This was repeated, contrary to what Prof. Malhotra said that in the statement issued on the 24th of September after the meeting of President Musharraf and Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, no mention was made of 6th January. In every speech that I have made anywhere, I begin by saying that the process was started in January and we have carried

[Shri K. Natwar Singh]

this forward in a very big manner. We offered 72 Confidence Building Measures to Pakistan. On some, considerable progress has been made, on some, not so.

On the latest development after my visit last month to Pakistan, we had worked through our channels on the starting of the bus service from Srinagar to Muzaffarabad. Every precaution has been taken, as Prime Minister said the other day in the other House, with regard to security of India and with regard to documentation that is available. The work is underway to ensure that all arrangements are in place so that the bus service can start on 7th April, 2005. All Indian and Pakistani citizens can travel by this bus. The list of travellers from the two sides are to be examined today. It may be delayed by 24 hours.

Sir, with your permission, I would like to read out the procedure that was followed because some doubts have been expressed as to why we did not use the passports. If you consider PoK as part of India, and the Resolution of this House says so, how do you expect that we should have a passport to come to our own country from our own territory? Therefore, a mutual agreement has been arrived at in this manner. Even though the form of a normal passport or visa is not to be insisted upon, in reality all checks and pre-verifications are being carried out as is done for grant of passports and visas. Exactly the same procedure is followed. The designation by us of the RPO, Srinagar on our side as the authority has further highlighted the linkage with the Central Government and the procedures of passports. In effect, therefore the travel to Jammu and Kashmir and within Jammu and Kashmir by persons across the LoC would be on the basis of a document stamped by the Government of India and will not involve accepting or recognizing any document issued by the other side.

I want to make it quite clear that very careful consideration was given to the procedure with regard to the travel. This announcement that there will be a bus service has been widely welcomed. It has been welcomed by the people of Jammu and Kashmir. The Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir rang up the Prime Minister even when I was in Islamabad to say that this is a historic step. He came to Delhi to see me. His distinguished daughter, Ms. Mehbooba Mufti, came to meet me and gave me a shawl and said that we have done something which has not been done for many years.

[Translation]

I am not saying it in my praise, it is in your praise,

rather, in the praise of the entire House that such an atmosphere has been created that the families which had not seen each other for 58 long years will now be able to meet each other. Supposing there are any lacunae in the process they will be plugged. But we will not compromise our security, in case there are any security threats we will discontinue the process. We will first ensure security and wherever we find any lacunae we will plug them. We have security concerns and cannot compromise in any way.

Actually when I spoke with them I mentioned it before Mr. President that the train from Khokhrapar to Munabav has been discontinued since 1965. Our office was closed in Karachi and Mumbai due to which people in Pakistan and India are facing problems in obtaining visa. If this train is introduced it would minimise the hassles in travelling from Delhi to Islamabad and vice-versa. I told them that we were ready. When their Railway Minister came here, Laluji had also talked about it. A broadgauge train from India will start from Rajasthan and will be ready by 2nd October 2005. Some technical difficulties have been stated from Pakistan's side since they have meter gauge and it may take some time for conversion into broad gauge. I suggested them that our passengers would get down at Manubav border and would climb in meter gauge train after taking a bus and the people from Pakistan will also do likewise. They became ready for it. It is extraordinary. Sir, we hope that in this atmosphere it would be possible to introduce this train.

Thereafter Amritsar-Nankana Saheb issue was raised. Recently, the Chief Minister of Punjab met them and if everything goes smooth then by Baisakhi it may be introduced. I cannot guarantee hundred per cent but such an atmosphere has been created that several issues are being discussed and that-too in a law tension atmosphere. One can understand it. I told them that at that moment I was the oldest amongst them all and I had 53 years' experience with me and I have also been Indian Ambassador to Pakistan. There has been a distinct change in the atmosphere.

I went to Lahore from Islamabad, the Chief Minister is a Muslim Jat. He met me very warmly. I gave a speech somewhere, the people gheraoed me requesting that they wanted to come to India for watching cricket, so we issued thousands of visas. It may be remembered that four or five years back the mention of a cricket match reminded one of a war, cricket pitches would be dug, Pakistan would not play. Now, if India wins they also participate in the jubilations. There are fireworks by Muslims. Now the situation is that India scored a thumping victory and Pakistanis also

applauded. Sehwag scored 309 runs in Multan and entire Pakistan was applauding him. Undoubtedly, there is a change. I have been an ambassador, that is why I know

[English]

I am aware that Indo-Pak relations are accident-prone. So, we have to be extremely careful and cautious and, at no stage, have we stopped telling them that the real success of the composite dialogue will be when terrorism is stopped because the structure for terrorism still continues there, as has been pointed out. But, for other areas and for other avenues, there is a distinct improvement in relations between India and Pakistan. Everybody in this House has spoken and welcomed this. This is not being partisan. It is a national matter in our interest. We have a fear at it for 58 year. The Arabs are talking to Israel. Japan and America are very friendly, although atom bomb was dropped on Japan. Germany and France are almost one country. Everybody is asking 'when you are civilisational countries, why cannot you get together?' So, at my age — I will be entering 75 very soon — it is a good feeling that

[Translation]

Visiting each other and talks would be resumed. There will be cultural exchange in the field of music, cricket etc. But this does not mean there will absolutely be no disputes are and will be there.

But dialogue has been resumed and the atmosphere in which it has been resumed, we hope that everything goes well. Musharraf Saheb is coming on 17th. When he was asked whether he was interested in watching cricket he readily acknowledged our invitation we invited him formally, and he would be arriving the evening of 16th and would be available on 17th not only for the match but for talks on any other issue and I feel that the entire House and the Congress Party in particular want to strengthen the relations. I would give an example

[English]

I do not want to get carried away. Just imagine that if there were an Indo-Pak Cricket Team, we could defeat all other countries together. This is one example.

Next, if our trade increased, the standard of living will go up. The entire SAARC region would look different. If Pakistan allows trade through its territory, we can go up to Central Asia. Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar is sitting here. I had also been to Kazakhstan. I would also like to say that in the statement made on the 24th September, 2004 in New York, that pipe-line was specifically mentioned because energy requirements of India are going to be exponentially

increasing by the year. I want to congratulate my colleague because he and I sat together in Pakistan. I was the Ambassador and he was a very popular Consul-General in Karachi. So, if we can cooperate in these things, the pipeline can go up from Pakistan to Afghanistan to Central Asia to India. It can come through Iran, Pakistan to India. There are distinct possibilities.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: The United States of America is objecting to the laying of the pipeline through Pakistan from Iran.

SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH: We are dealing with this issue with Pakistan and Iran independently. When the Secretary of State was here, she gave the American view. I said in her presence that India has no problems with Iran at all; our relations are very good and we are proceeding on that basis.

Our relations with the United States also — although this is not the subject of debate here — have reached their level of maturity where though we can have differences of opinion yet our trade relations are getting better by the day.

So, Sir, in conclusion, I want to say that I am thanking every single Member who has participated in the debate and who gave me an occasion to place, through you, Sir, before the House, before the country the situation which emanates from the statement that was laid on the floor of this House on the 9th March of 2005.

I thank you for your cooperation.

[Translation]

YOGI ADITYA NATH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have to ask certain questions to hon. Minister on 2-3 issues. Firstly, in regard to Nepal the hon. Minister. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH: No query can be raised after the reply on the discussion under Rule 193 is over. You did not use decent words for Nepal.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet tomorrow, the 22nd March, 2005 at 11 a.m.

19.24 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on March 22, 2005/ Chaitra 1, 1927 (Saka)

ANNEXURE-I

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**Published under Rules 379 and 382 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in
Lok Sabha (Eleventh Edition) and Printed by Sunlight Printers, Delhi - 110006**
