

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Fourth Session
(Fourteenth Lok Sabha)



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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Monday, May 2, 2005/Vaisakha 12, 1927 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

[*English*]

OBITUARY REFERENCE

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I have to inform the House of the sad demise of our former colleague, Shri Akbor Ali Khandoker.

Shri Akbor Ali Khandoker was a Member of the Twelfth and Thirteenth Lok Sabhas from 1998 to 2004 representing Serampore Parliamentary Constituency of West Bengal.

Earlier, Shri Khandoker was a Member of the West Bengal Legislative Assembly from 1996 to 1998.

An able parliamentarian, Shri Khandoker was a Member of the Committee on Urban and Rural Development; Committee on Absence of Members from the Sittings of the House and the Consultative Committee, Ministry of Urban Development during the Twelfth Lok Sabha. In the Thirteenth Lok Sabha, he was a Member, Committee on Transport and Tourism and Consultative Committee, Ministry of Urban Development.

Shri Khandoker was actively associated with various social and cultural organisations. He was a very popular Member.

Shri Akbor Ali Khandoker passed away on 24th April, 2005 at New Delhi at a very early age of 48 years only.

We deeply mourn the loss of this friend and I am sure the House would join me in conveying our condolences to the bereaved family.

The House may now stand in silence for a short while as a mark of respect to the memory of the departed.

11.01 hrs.

The Members then stood in silence for a short while.

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I am happy that I have been informed that the hon. Members of the Opposition will join the House in the discussion on the Finance Bill. I will be very happy.

Now, the House will take up Q. No. 501. Shrimati Anuradha Choudhary.—not present.

Shri Mohd. Shahid.

11.04 hrs.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[*Translation*]

Scheme for Development of Pulses and Oilseeds

+
*501. MOHD. SHAHID:
SHRIMATI ANURADHA CHOUDHARY:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is formulating a scheme for development of pulses and oilseeds and to develop alternative crops in order to arrest the depletion of water table;

(b) if so, whether the Government has initiated training programmes for farmers through agricultural institutions for cultivation of such crops;

(c) whether the scientists have developed and tested any new techniques for cultivation of pulses and oilseeds;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) 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 (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (e) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) In order to give special thrust towards increasing the production of oilseeds and pulses, Government is implementing a Centrally Sponsored

Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize (ISOPOM) during the 10th Five Year Plan. These crops are inherently less water consuming compared to the traditional high water demanding crops like rice, sugarcane and other cereals. Under the ISOPOM, financial assistance is provided for imparting training to farmers and extension workers on improved crop production and protection technologies. These training programmes are organized in collaboration with Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and State Agricultural Universities (SAUs). Besides, block demonstrations and Integrated Pest Management (IPM) demonstrations are organized by State Department of Agriculture, and ICAR, to popularize latest improved technologies among the farmers.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Indian Council of Agricultural Research and SAUs have developed high yielding varieties, hybrids, drought tolerant varieties of oilseeds and pulses. Besides, improved production and crop protection technologies like raised bed cultivation, ridge planting, mulching techniques using crop residues/polythene, cropping systems for efficient use of resources, Integrated Nutrient Management (INM), Integrated Pest Management (IPM) have also been developed to increase production and productivity of oilseeds and pulses in the country, as a consequence of which productivity, production and area coverage under pulses and oilseeds have improved.

(e) Government of India announces Minimum Support Price (MSP) for major pulses and oilseeds every year on the basis of recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) to provide remunerative prices to the oilseeds and pulses growers. Whenever market prices of these crops fall below the MSPs, National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd. (NAFED), as Central Nodal Agency, undertakes procurement of pulses and oilseeds under Price Support Scheme (PSS) in the country.

MOHD. SHAHID: Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon. Minister, in part "a" of his reply, has said that financial assistance is provided to the personnel for imparting training for improved crop production and protection technologies but the hon. Minister has not told as to how much financial assistance is provided to the farmers under it, its state wise details and what extent the farmers have been benefited from that? Similarly, in the part "c" and "d" of the reply it has been stated that as a result of it the productivity, production and area coverage under pulses and oilseeds has improved. But, no details have been

provided as to how much improvement has taken place in the farming of pulses and oilseeds and how much the farmers have benefitted from the Government schemes in operation? No details are available in this regard. Hon. Minister has told that the Government announces the minimum support price every year for major oilseeds and pulses on the basis of the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices.

The support prices for the farmers are determined on the basis of its recommendations but no details regarding the items whose rates have been increased for 2004-05 have been made available. I request that the complete details should be made available in the House.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Let him answer your other questions. You want details. How can the details be given?

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): As far as the question regarding increase in the area and production of pulses is concerned, the total production of pulses in 1989-90 was 12.86 million tonnes in the country which rose to 14.94 million tonnes in 2003-04. Similarly, the area increased to 24.45 million hectares in 2003-04 from 23.41 million hectares in 1989-90. As far as the question of oilseeds production is concerned, it was 10.83 million tonnes in 1985-86 which increased to 25.29 million tonnes in 2004 from 10 million tonnes. As far as the area under oilseeds is concerned, it was 19.2 million hectares in 1985-86 which increased to 23.44 million hectares in 2003-04.

The second question asked here was as to what assistance has been provided to the State Government's? I have a detailed statement regarding all the states. I can provide you the information regarding any specific state, otherwise the whole information is too much. ...*(Interruptions)* A total amount of Rs. 7.85 crore has been provided to Uttar Pradesh this year. As far as your question on MSP is concerned, the MSP for the year 2004-05 for groundnut has been fixed at Rs. 1520 and Rs. 1700 for mustard, Rs. 1500 for sunflower, Rs. 900 for black variety and Rs. 1010 for yellow variety of soyabean, Rs. 1550 for sesame. Price for gram has not been decided yet. The price for Arhar has been fixed at Rs. 1400 and Rs. 1520 for Moong and Rs. 1520 for Urad ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Ask. You have the right to ask a second question.

MOHD. SHAHID: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to ask the hon. Minister whether the production in the country for domestic use is sufficient considering the oil production and the magnitude of farming here. If not, what is the quantum of our imports and the time by which we are likely to become self dependent to meet our domestic needs? By when our need to import can be done away with? The hon. Minister may give further information in this regard.

[English]

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: The domestic requirement in the country for edible oil is around 10 million tonne and the production up to last year was 7.5 million tonne

[Translation]

i.e. there is a gap of 2.5 million tonne in it. The programme has only been taken to fill this gap but, today, we import 2.5 million tonne from abroad.

MOHD. SHAHID: What is the assessment of the Government regarding the time by which we can meet our requirement?

MR. SPEAKER: You have asked both of your questions. You have asked five questions.

[English]

SHRI B. VINOD KUMAR: Sir, according to the Tenth Five Year Plan, there is a shortage of pulses and oilseeds. That is due to the faulty policies; and we are importing them. The Annual Report of Ministry of Agriculture 2004-05 says that erstwhile schemes were revamped and a new scheme is being implemented from 1st April, 2004.

I would like to know from the Minister, whether any production targets had been fixed, at least, under the newly revamped schemes.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: This particular scheme has been executed by all the State Governments.

There were 4 or 5 schemes. All those schemes are merged under the Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize (ISOPOM). Last year also, one

scheme has been introduced. There is no specific target. In regard to pulses, definitely there is a shortage of two million tonnes, which we are importing. Our desire is that we should stop this import and become self-sufficient. In regard to edible oil, there is a shortfall of about 2.5 million tonnes. Here also, our desire is that we should stop this import and become self-sufficient.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Sir, in Kerala, the coconut farms are now facing a crisis. They are infected with a disease called 'Coconut Mite'. The result is that. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: This is with regard to pulses and oilseeds.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Coconut is an oilseed. Now, the question is. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, I accepted it.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Now, if leaves wither away, ultimately the tree itself will get withered. Coconut is not only confined to Kerala but it is grown in other Southern States also. Now, there is no effective medicine or effective cure for this withering away of leaves, and the only remedy is to cut off the tree and replant it. I would like to know whether the Government of India has taken any initiative to find out any effective cure for this disease. I would also like to know how far the Government can compensate the coconut farmers in our country. So, I again want to know whether there is any plan before the Government.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Sir, whatever the scheme, which we are discussing in this House just now, coconut is not part of that scheme. It does not exactly come under oilseeds. It is a different thing. If you want to know about it, I require a separate notice for that. I would like to tell you one thing. It is a serious problem. It has affected Kerala in a big way. A substantial amount of money has been provided to that particular State to handle this particular disease. One of the suggestions is to remove trees and encourage new plantation.

[Translation]

SHRI CHHEWANG THUPSTAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as the hon. Minister has just told that new varieties for oilseeds and pulses are being developed and a new technique is also being developed. But, whatever be your research and study, it does not apply to Ladakh as the ecological zone and climatic conditions there are totally

different. Through you, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he will make some arrangements for conducting research and study separately for an area like Ladakh having different ecological zones and climatic conditions, since whatever be the result of your study, it will not apply to Ladakh.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: The development of the improved variety has been done in many years and they are of different kinds. There number is quite large, around more than three hundred. ...*(Interruptions)*

(English)

MR. SPEAKER: He wants to know whether there is any special package for Ladakh.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: I do not have any specific information with regard to Ladakh. I will definitely collect the information and provide to the hon. Member.

PROF. M. RAMADASS: Sir, the hon. Minister has accepted that the production targets fall short of the consumption level in the country. There is a shortage of two million tonnes of oilseeds and pulses. If we really want to meet the domestic consumption, we have to definitely increase production. This can be done either by increasing the acreage under oilseeds and pulses or by stepping up productivity. Both require providing incentives to the farmers. The best incentive is to provide remunerative prices.

Now, on the question of remunerative prices, the hon. Minister has informed that the Government announces the Minimum Support Price (MSP) fixed by the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP). Very often, we receive complaints that farmers prices fixed by the Commission are not remunerative enough in the sense that they are not able to make a mark up. Now, I would like to know from the hon. Minister the basis and the criteria on which the Commission fixes the prices. I would also like to know whether it takes the current cost of cultivation or the average cost of cultivation of the last three or four years. I again want to know whether it brings about a mark up for the farmers and whether it is sufficient to encourage them to bring more acreage under oilseeds and pulses.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Sir, the factors which are studied by the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) for determination of Minimum Support Price are:

- Cost of production
- Changes in input prices
- Input-output price parity

- Trends in market prices
- Demand and supply
- Inter-crop price parity
- Effect on industrial cost structure
- Effect on cost of living
- Effect on general price level
- International price situation
- Parity between prices paid and prices received by the farmers
- Effect on issue prices and implications for subsidy.

So, there are 12 criteria which are studied while fixing the Minimum Support Price. As far as whether remunerative price has been paid to the farmer is concerned, I can give only one example. The prices which have been announced recently for oilseeds have definitely created a welcoming impact. For example, till last year mustard procurement was somewhat near to 4 lakh tonnes, but this year the procurement has gone up to 12 lakh tonnes. So, a substantial jump is there. That shows the farmer is responding.

(Translation)

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the best quality pulses especially rajma are grown in some areas in Marva and Badwan Dathan. There is a need to develop it further. Poor quality rajma is being adulterated with the good quality rajma. With your kind permission, I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to whether he would give some special precedence to such areas especially Doda, Udampur, Rajauri and Punch so that rajma crop could be further developed there.

MR. SPEAKER: Is rajma also an oil-seed?

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have got no information about any research conducted in this regard. But, if the hon. Member writes to me, efforts will be made to solve the problem especially in Doda and Jammu and Kashmir region after talking to the scientists of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research.

PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, my question is related to part 'e' of the said question which refers to the remunerative prices of agricultural produce

which is the biggest problem facing the farmers. Mr. Minister must be knowing that representatives of agricultural universities in the states, economists and many experts meet every year to recommend the minimum support price of a particular commodity after taking into account the cost price thereof. But, I have come to know and it is also a fact that the minimum support price fixed by the Commission is less than that recommended by the states and even less than the cost price. Will the hon. Minister consider the reports given by the State Governments and arrange to pay more than the cost price to the farmers and then only we can call it remunerative price?

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is true that according to recommendations received from different State Governments the cost of cultivation vary from state to state. Therefore, the CACP examines and goes into detail of each and every item before taking a final decision. This is a fact that it is very difficult to accede to the suggestions of the State Governments in toto. This is the reason for the said variation. But so far as the pulses and oilseeds are concerned, there is a need to encourage the farmers and pay higher prices to them in order to check the import of pulses and oil seeds. The Government has also admitted it. Therefore, the prices this year have been fixed after taking into consideration all these factors. The farmers are responding to it well.

[English]

SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY: Thank you Sir. As my colleague has already submitted, the best incentive for the farmers would be to increase the Minimum Support Price.

In my constituency, Chidambaram in Tamil Nadu, the farmers have brought up alternative crops like Bengal Gram, Black Gram and Gingili Oil Seeds. But due to heavy rains and floods, they have lost everything; and also due to lack of fixed Minimum Support Price, which is not forthcoming from the State Government of Tamil Nadu, the farmers are suffering.

I would like to know from the hon. Minister, whether the Government is contemplating to take steps to instruct the State Government in regard to fixing of Minimum Support Price to come to the rescue of the farmers.

MR. SPEAKER: This cannot be allowed.

Depletion of Ground Water Resources

+
*502. SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:
SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has reviewed the report brought out by the International Water Management Institute during 2002 on depletion of ground water resources;

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

(c) whether the Government has taken any steps to improve the situation; and

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

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

Yes, Sir. The Government is aware about the report brought out by the International Water Management Institute (IWMI) during Annual Partners' Meet 2002, dealing with depletion of ground water resources in India. The report discusses three dominating problems of depletion, salinization and pollution, which have far reaching socio-economic and environmental consequences and suggests the following approach for the resource management:-

- (a) *Information Systems and Resource Planning*:- To understand the ground water resource through appropriate systems for ground water monitoring on regular basis, and incorporating the monitoring data in planning the use of the resource. Also to undertake systematic and scientific research on occurrence, use and ways of augmenting and managing the ground water.
- (b) *Demand Side Management*:- An effective system for regulating the withdrawals to sustainable levels; including registration of users through permit or license system; appropriate laws and regulatory mechanisms; systems of pricing,

promotion of conjunctive use; precision irrigation and water saving crop production technologies and approach etc.

- (c) *Supply Side Management*- Augmenting ground water recharge through community based rain water harvesting and ground water recharge programmes, maximizing surface water use for recharge and improving incentives for water conservation and artificial recharge.
- (d) *Ground Water Management in the River Basin Context*- Ground water resource to be planned and managed for maximum basin level efficiency involving transbasin movement or dedicated surface water system for recharge.

"Water" being a State subject, it is primarily the responsibility of the concerned State Governments to take steps to improve the situation of depleting ground water resources. However, the following steps have been taken by the Union Government in this direction:-

Steps taken regarding Information Systems and Resource Planning:-

- (i) Circulation of manual/Guidelines on Artificial Recharge of Ground Water to the States/Union Territories to enable them to formulate area specific artificial recharge schemes to check the declining trend of ground water levels.
- (ii) Central Ground Water Board (CGWB), under the Ministry of Water Resources, monitors the ground water level throughout the country through a network of about 15000 national monitoring stations.
- (iii) Launching of a website on Roof Top Rain Water Harvesting (www.cgwb.net) to make aware and educate the public about various techniques of harvesting rainwater and store it for future use.
- (iv) Organisation of mass awareness programmes and training courses on rainwater harvesting and artificial recharge of ground water.
- (v) Rain Water Harvesting campaign has been launched keeping in view the various target groups like youth and children, women, farmers and villagers, policy and opinion makers. Publicity through print media, telecasting of spots on the television, broadcasting messages on radio, holding of seminars, workshops, conferences etc., have been undertaken for the purpose.

Steps taken regarding Demand Side Management:-

- (i) The Union Ministry of Water Resources has circulated a Model Bill in the year 1970, which was re-circulated in 1992 and again in 1996 to all the States/Union Territories to enable them to enact suitable legislation for regulation and control of ground water development. A revised Model Bill, 2005 to regulate and control the development and management of ground water has been again circulated to all the States/Union Territories.
- (ii) Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) constituted under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 has notified 11 critical areas on consideration of over-exploitation of ground water resources and 32 over-exploited areas for registration of ground water structures.
- (iii) CGWA is regulating withdrawal of ground water by industries/projects. List of these critical areas has been circulated to the State Pollution Control Boards and the Ministry of Environment & Forests which refer the new industries/projects to CGWA for obtaining permission.

Steps taken regarding Supply Side Management:-

- (i) Central Ministries/Departments of Railways, Defence, Posts, Telecommunications, Central Public Works Department and National Highways Authority of India have been requested to provide roof top rain water harvesting structures in the buildings under their control.
- (ii) States/UTs have been requested to provide water harvesting structures in buildings under their administrative control.
- (iii) All the States/Union Territories have been requested for advising the local bodies in their respective States/Union Territories to allow rebate in property tax to persons, who adopt roof top rainwater harvesting in their premises.
- (iv) CGWB has provided technical guidance on rain water harvesting to around 1800 agencies, including State Government agencies, educational institutions, private entrepreneurs and individuals.
- (v) The Ministry of Urban Development & Poverty Alleviation, Government of India have amended Building Bye-laws, 1983, making provision for water harvesting through storing of water run-off

including rain water in all new buildings on plots of 100 square meters and above in Delhi mandatory. Similarly, State Governments of Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Haryana, Rajasthan and Kerala have made roof top rain water harvesting mandatory in specified cases.

- (vi) During the IX Plan, CGWB have implemented successfully artificial recharge projects under the Central Sector Scheme for "Study of Recharge of Ground Water" in 27 States/UTs in the country. The State-wise details are given in the enclosed Annexure.
- (vii) A scheme for "Artificial Recharge to Ground Water and Rain Water Harvesting" during the remaining part of the X Five Year Plan at an estimated cost of Rs. 175 crores is under consideration.

Steps taken regarding Ground Water Management in the River Basin Context:-

- (i) Ministry of Rural Development (Department of Land Resources) and the Ministry of Agriculture are implementing area development programmes under which funds are allotted for various activities, which includes soil and water conservation works. However, funds are not exclusively allotted for checking declining ground water, which is a resultant activity of moisture conservation works undertaken for the development of watershed areas.
- (ii) CGWB has prepared a report entitled "Master Plan for Artificial Recharge to Ground Water", which envisages recharge of 36453 Million Cubic Meter volume of surplus monsoon runoff, through construction of 39.25 lakhs artificial recharge and roof top rain water harvesting structures.

Annexure

State-wise details of artificial recharge projects implemented by CGWB under Central Sector Scheme "Study of Recharge to Ground Water" during the IX Plan

Sl.No.	States/Union Territory	No. of projects sanctioned	Cost of projects approved (Rs. in lakh)
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	10	54.55
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1	20.00

1	2	3	4
3.	Assam	1	63.50
4.	Bihar	2	10.52
5.	Chandigarh	7	64.23
6.	Delhi	18	96.07
7.	Gujarat	3	20.05
8.	Haryana	8	107.17
9.	Himachal Pradesh	6	81.65
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	8	78.96
11.	Jharkhand	5	25.73
12.	Karnataka	2	43.30
13.	Kerala	13	88.18
14.	Madhya Pradesh	5	53.85
15.	Maharashtra	4	126.63
16.	Meghalaya	1	20.32
17.	Mizoram	1	28.00
18.	Nagaland	3	116.43
19.	Orissa	8	1508.29
20.	Punjab	17	361.92
21.	Rajasthan	18	122.80
22.	Tamil Nadu	10	161.14
23.	Uttar Pradesh	10	139.07
24.	Uttaranchal	1	2.00
25.	West Bengal	7	154.09
26.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	3	12.92
27.	Lakshadweep	2	19.85
Total		174	3581.22

SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I want to tell the hon. Minister that in most parts of the country, the rain water is going waste and this is the reason for depletion of ground water all over the country. Schemes of irrigation with ground water are being implemented in hilly areas of the country especially in Balsar Dang of southern areas of Gujarat. Reservoirs, check dams, boribunds of small designs are in vogue in

relation to basin ground water. Reservoirs and check dams are damaged due to silt accumulation as rain water brings soil with it given the terrain conditions of hilly areas of the country as well as in the South Gujarat.
...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: You ask your question, please.

SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to ask the hon. Minister as to what action the Government proposes to take to construct reservoirs and check dams of bigger designs in hilly areas of the country and Balsar Dang in Gujarat and to save the funds allocated for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): Sir, the question of the hon. Member is related to Gujarat. I want to tell him that the Gujarat Government has taken a lot of measures and constructed check dams. Sometime back, I met the Water Resources Minister of Gujarat in Surat. He gave us details indicating the good progress made in this regard. But so far as the question of improving the condition of ground water that is recharging, we have cleared three schemes of Gujarat government under our plan. We have already given them rupees 20 lac for the said three schemes. If they need more funds for that we have got concurrence of the Planning Commission for providing rupees 175 lac demanded by them for recharging under the tenth five year plan. Now we are going to the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs. If we get something from there, we would provide that for the next plan.

SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Gujarat Government has imposed ban on installation of new tube wells for extracting ground water in 54 talukas. I want to know from the hon. Minister as to what are the names of those 54 talukas where the said ban has been imposed.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, such situation is prevailing in the entire country and not only in Gujarat. We have 643 such talukas or blocks which have become over exploit zones. We have more than 400 dark zones. We can seek information from the Gujarat Government and give it to the hon. Member as to in which talukas or blocks out of these 643 throughout the country, the Gujarat Government has enforced it.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Patel, I compliment you on your maiden intervention.

SHRI SURESH KURUP: Sir, I would like to know whether it has come to the notice of the Central Government that certain multinational companies, like Coca-Cola, have set up their plants in various parts of the country where already the water resources are quite meagre. They utilise large quantity of water thereby resulting in denial of water to the people of that area.

MR. SPEAKER: This has already been discussed.

SHRI SURESH KURUP: Sir, for example, in Kerala and Rajasthan, large-scale local resistance has already built-up against the exploitation of ground water resources by these companies.

I would like to know whether the Government would send a team of technical experts to study and try to solve this problem.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: There is a standard norm for every State for providing any permission for any industrial activity that requires ground water. It is for the satisfaction of the concerned State Government whether they will give permission or licence to a particular company or not, subject to the knowledge of the Central Ground Water Board.

Insofar as Coca Cola units in Kerala and Rajasthan are concerned, as I gathered before, they went to the Court, and the parties went to the Court. This was done with the clear approval of the concerned State Government of the day, after having examined the potential of the ground water level. However, the matter concerning Kerala has been strongly resisted by the Gram Panchayat, and we did not interfere. It is because it is up to the State Government and the matter has been taken up also in the Court.

Insofar as Rajasthan is concerned, also we have applied the similar norm. Now, the basic thing is this. We have sent a modal Bill for legislation from various States in regard to check of the over-exploited zone and the dark zone. A few States have enacted the legislation, and a few States are still considering enacting it. I must say the enactment process is very slow. Since 1970, 1992 and 1996, repeated reminders are being given to the State Governments for enactment of this whole thing. I hope it will take shape very soon. Meanwhile, I would like to inform the hon. Member, yes we have taken a very firm view. Where it is clear that ground water has been over-exploited or there is dark zone, there such kind of activities cannot be permitted unless the Central Ground Water Board would examine it. In regard to your

suggestion to send a team to further study the situation in Kerala and Rajasthan, I assure the hon. Member I will do so.

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: Sir, 'Water' is a State Subject and the hon. Minister has given a detailed information relating to Gujarat. The entire State of Gujarat is facing an acute shortage especially of depletion of ground water. Though the Central Government is giving a lot of money through the various schemes, yet in various parts of Gujarat there are always water riots. People are being murdered.

I would like to know from the hon. Minister what kind of a monitoring mechanism the Union Government has in the State relating to the Programme for which it gives money to the State to recharge the ground water as well as to carry out the Projects relating to water. If Those States violate the various Schemes and Programmes relating to ground water, what action the Union Government intends to take?

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: First of all, I would like to say that yes we are monitoring the State Governments. Whatever technical support the State Governments need from us, even from our stations, we always provide to them.

In so far as violation of any such norm is concerned, the Central Government is not competent to take any action because it is a State Subject. The State Governments do proceed in such a matter with firm hand.

[Translation]

SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, a survey had been conducted recently which revealed that water level has gone down in 316 districts of 23 states in the country resulting in recession of water table by 20 cm each year. Sir, it is a record of last ten years. Sir, through you, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government has any scheme under which water table can be raised in a time bound manner? If remedial measures are not taken immediately for it, then it will lead to a grave water crisis in nearly 250 villages of four tehsils—Meja, Bara, Karchhna and Koraon—in Allahabad district where water level has already gone down too deep.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, hon. Member has rightly said that the ground water level has recorded a sharp downfall during the last twenty years in our

country and if a proper technological solution to it is not found then it may lead to some serious problems in the coming days. At present, there are 673 blocks in our country from where a large quantity of water has been drawn and there are more than 400 blocks, which had to be declared dark zone, from where it is not possible to draw ground water beyond a certain limit.

As far as the schemes in this regard are concerned, I would like to inform the hon. Member that our Government has implemented a new scheme called rain water harvesting scheme besides the artificial recharging system. In this scheme monsoon water is stored on the roof-top. We have sent the model legislation procedure of this scheme to each of the states, so that it can be included during construction of big buildings and houses. Many states are also assisting in it and I would like to thank the Governments of all those states. As far as rain water harvesting and artificial recharging schemes are concerned, they were implemented smoothly during the Ninth Five Year Plan. But, the fund was not made available at the outset of the Tenth Five Year Plan. At present, we have demanded a sum of Rs. 175 crore for this purpose which has been approved by the Planning Commission. This amount is likely to be made available soon so that we will take steps more quickly to complete the remaining scheme by the year end. As far as critical areas are concerned, we have identified 11 areas in which Delhi's situation is very dangerous. Punjab and Delhi have been included in this list. In addition, two-three pockets in Gujarat and Andhra Pradesh have also been identified. We are constantly monitoring it with the State Governments so that the scheme could be implemented successfully.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I think the hon. Minister should consider involving the Members of Parliament in rainwater harvesting.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: All Right.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJARAM PAL: In the year 2002, International Institute of Water Management expressed its concern about depleting water table. We, the Members of the Parliament are also worried in this regard and if, at all, any war takes place in future, it will be fought for water. Ganga barrage is there in my parliamentary constituency Kanpur. The barrage was constructed to solve the water

problem of Kanpur which is big city having a population of one crore. But, the water table in that area has depleted considerably resulting in emergence of drinking water crisis there. Besides Ganga barrage, thousands of villages are located on both sides of Rind and Pandav rivers in Kanpur district. Water table has gone down considerably in those villages too. Our farming depends on the natural resources. I would like to know from the Government whether it will formulate any scheme to construct check dams in Rind and Pandav rivers for raising the water table in that areas.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Is it a Central matter? It is not a Central matter.

[Translation]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: It is a state matter. We can provide them technical support only.

[English]

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: In view of the campaign that has started regarding the new modern and the effective concept of roof top rainwater harvesting, may I know from the hon. Minister—as it has already become mandatory for the new buildings above 100 metres—whether the MPs' flats like the MS flats, the bungalows and the bungalows of important Ministers are being used for this purpose, while the public is being made aware of this thing?

MR. SPEAKER: Is it for which purpose?

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, it is a very good suggestion which the hon. Member has given. I can only inform the hon. Member that several higher secondary schools including buildings of our Ministry in Delhi have already adopted this method. However, so far as the MPs' flats and bungalows are concerned, I shall certainly pass on this good suggestion to the CPWD and the concerned desk so that in future we can show them as models.

Plan for Flood Control

*503. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has drawn up any action plan to permanently control floods in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) Flood throughout the world cannot be fully controlled. It is to be managed to best of ability on technical merit of the problem from place to place. However, Flood Management being within the purview of States, the schemes for flood control are planned, funded and executed by the State Governments. The role of Central Government is technical, catalytical and promotional in nature. UPA Government gave special emphasis on this issue in the National Common Minimum Programme.

Central Government, however, has also been initiating various measures for assisting the States in the management of floods. The Rashtriya Barh Ayog, set up by the Government of India in 1976 to look into flood problem and suggest remedial measures, submitted its report in 1980. The recommendations of the Rashtriya Barh Ayog which formed the framework for flood management strategy in the country were forwarded to the various State Governments for implementation. Several other expert committees were also constituted by the Government from time to time to study the problem relating to flood and its management, the recommendations of which were also sent to the respective State Governments for implementation. Ganga Flood Control Commission for Ganga Basin States constituted in 1972 prepared Comprehensive Plans for Flood Management for all the 23 river systems of Ganga. Likewise, Brahmaputra Board which started functioning at Guwahati in 1982 prepared Master Plans for Flood Management for Brahmaputra, Barak and its major tributaries. These plans were forwarded to concerned State Governments for implementation.

During 2004, the Government of India had constituted a Task Force for Flood Management/Erosion Control under the Chairmanship of Chairman, Central Water Commission with representatives of State Governments, various Central Ministries and experts as members to examine the problem of flood and erosion in Assam and neighbouring States, West Bengal, Bihar and Eastern Uttar Pradesh. The Task Force has *inter alia* recommended taking up of reservoir projects as permanent/long term measures for flood management.

The Government of India have been taking effective steps in this direction. An agreement was reached with Nepal for survey and investigation and preparation of Detailed Project Report for Sapta Kosi High Dam Multipurpose Project and Sun Kosi Storage Cum Diversion Scheme for which a Joint Project Office has already been opened in Nepal in August, 2004. This project has flood control as one of the major benefits. Nepal has also agreed for undertaking the joint feasibility study of Kamla and preliminary study of Bagmati Multipurpose Project to ascertain likely constraints in implementation of these projects so that the same could be appropriately addressed.

As regards North-East, the Master Plans prepared by Brahmaputra Board have emphasized that the flood problem in the Brahmaputra Valley can be solved satisfactorily and enduringly only after construction of large storage dams in the basin and that too in the upper part of the basin. Keeping this in view investigations of the two most promising project namely the Siang (Dihang) Dam Project and the Subansiri Dam Projects were pursued and project reports were prepared by the Brahmaputra Board. These projects which are now to be taken up in three stages each have since been transferred to National Hydro-electric Power Corporation (NHPC) for detailed investigation and implementation. Detailed Project Report of another major project namely Tipaimukh Multipurpose Project on river Barak has also been prepared which will *inter alia* have flood control benefits in the Barak Valley. The Government of India also approved implementation of Pagladiya Multipurpose Project in Assam in 2001 at a cost of Rs. 542.90 crore (Revised tentative cost Rs. 1069.40 crore) which has flood control as a major benefit. In addition to the above, the Government of India has also been providing Central assistance to the State Government of India has also been providing Central assistance to the State Governments to take up critical anti erosion/flood management works. A scheme amounting to Rs. 178.85 crore with Central Share of Rs. 136.17 crore was approved during the 10th Plan for Ganga Basin States. Similarly a scheme of Rs. 150 crore has been approved for North Eastern Region including Sikkim, North Bengal. Brahmaputra Board has also executed anti erosion works worth Rs. 21.91 crore. Another scheme amounting to Rs. 41.28 crore has been approved to be fully funded by the Government of India for the protection of Majuli Island. Government of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar are being provided financial assistance for maintenance of Gandak and Kosi embankments (Nepal portion) which they execute after every flood season. Assistance is being rendered to

Bihar for the scheme namely, "Extension, raising and strengthening of embankments for rivers Lalbakeya, Kamla, Bagmati and Khando".

SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is the irony of the nation that every year during the rainy season, some parts of the country face severe drought and some parts of the country face devastating floods. Despite several schemes to deal with the recurring problem of flood and drought and having spent a lot of money on implementation, there are no fruitful results. However, such natural calamities are recurring every year. In view of this, I would like to ask the Government whether the Government of West Bengal has submitted any Master Plan for strengthening the embankment of Sunderban rivers to the Central Government for financial assistance.

If so, the details of the funds allocated by the Centre in this regard.

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): So far as flood scenario is concerned, before I address the issue of Sunderbans, the fact remains that since Independence, the constitutional mechanism provided the whole apparatus in the hands of the State Government, based on the plan share of the Centre and the States. Considering the magnitude of the devastation in the recent few floods, especially in Assam, Brahmaputra Valley, West Bengal, Bihar and parts of Western UP, the UPA Government in its Common Minimum Programme provided a new emphasis. Okay, it may be a State subject but a give it a national emphasis and importance, we have adopted, and formed a Task Force which submitted its Report very quickly in December, 2004. The recommendations are of a huge magnitude for which, in long-term and short-term, we need a huge amount of not less than Rs. 5,000 crore. In that Task Force, we have included Sunderbans and Ichhamati zones also. I am informing the hon. Member that that recommendation also includes that part of the matter where the West Bengal Government, and their representatives deposed before the Task Force. They required the support for the whole thing combining with the required amount of, as I said, not less than Rs. 5,000 crore for the Tenth Plan and spill over to the Eleventh Plan. A comprehensive, decisive and precise Master Plan in this regard has not been placed before the Planning Commission, but it was placed before the Task Force. We are taking the matter very seriously.

I would like to inform the hon. Member that as a short-term measure on river erosion, we have already responded, and started working in the Ganga Basin and the Mahanadi Basin. As and when we will decisively get the signal of the Planning Commission for the funds position and on other details of Sunderbans and Ichhamati, we shall step into.

SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: My second supplementary is. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: He has given an exhaustive answer.

SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Have any comprehensive disaster preparedness plans been chalked out for the coming rainy season which is the flood prone period for a year to minimise the devastation due to the floods? If so, the details thereof.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: I am glad to inform that the West Bengal Government, for the last two months, have started responding to implement a few Centrally-Sponsored Schemes, which have already been agreed to last year in West Bengal, and a few of them are on the verge of completion. I hope, by the 30th of June, a few of them will be completed. Insofar as our Task Force's short-term recommendations, as I have stated, regarding the anti-erosion measures in the Ganga Basin are concerned, we have started in Murshidabad and Malda zones. Hopefully, it will also be completed substantially before 30th of June.

In so far as other programmes are concerned, I cannot give the guarantee that before monsoon, they will be taken up. So far as the disaster is concerned, the UPA Government is bringing a National Disaster Management Bill in the House very shortly, which will take care of the disaster-affected victims.

SHRI ANWAR HUSSAIN: I would like to know from the hon. Minister, through you, Sir, is this. Is he aware of the fact that hon. Prime Minister while visiting Assam, expressed his astonishment at Guwahati on November, 21, 2004 on the non-existence of any appropriate institutional arrangement for addressing the problems of flood in Assam? He also assured the people of Assam that it was the time to think for a new institution for handling this gigantic task of flood control. My question is this. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Put your question please.

SHRI ANWAR HUSSAIN: What steps have so far been taken to handle the gigantic flood problem in Assam, and by which time the Government will complete its task of erecting an appropriate institutional arrangement as has been promised by hon. Prime Minister.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, in response to the hon. Prime Minister's appeal, on his direction, as I stated earlier, we appointed a Task Force, which has submitted its Report in December, 2004.

In so far as Assam is concerned in particular, the overall flood situation of Assam is not confined within Assam. The Brahmaputra leaves right from China and flows through Arunachal Pradesh. Unless the two comprehensive flood management programmes of Siang Project and Subansiri Project are done completely, it would be difficult to predict how much less would be the magnitude of the flood in future. The projects have been transferred to NHPC and they have started work on one of them, the Lower Subansiri Project. On the other two projects on the Subansiri River, there is a writ petition in the Supreme Court. We are waiting for the final opinion in this regard. Otherwise, we cannot proceed in that direction.

In so far as the Brahmaputra Valley and the Barak Valley are concerned, I would like to inform the hon. Member that several other projects have been conceived. One of them is the Tipaimukh Project for Barak Valley. So far as the Brahmaputra Valley is concerned, under the Prime Minister's direction, in the Task Force, we are conceiving a new concept to have a North-Eastern River Valley Authority. Excepting Arunachal Pradesh, all the States have consented. The moment I get the consent of Arunachal Pradesh, I would come back with a Bill for the North-Eastern River Valley Authority.

SHRIMATI M.S.K. BHAVANI RAJENTHIRAN: Thank you, hon. Speaker, Sir. For a long time, we are talking about uniting the River Ganga in the north with the River Cauvery in the south. I would like to know from the hon. Minister, through you, whether there is any proposal for undertaking this major project. I hope, it would help control the floods and also help maintain national integrity.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: I think, this is not so much linked with the basic Question on floods. The hon. Member is aware that the river linking concept requires some more time for getting the political consensus of the nation.

MR. SPEAKER: That is a different matter altogether.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon. Minister in his reply, has especially mentioned that areas of Bihar and Assam get affected by floods every year causing damage of life and property worth crores of rupees. All are concerned as to how to arrive at a permanent solution to control the floods.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please put your question.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Hon. Minister has said in his reply that the Government has constituted a Central Water Commission in 2004 to look into the problem of soil erosion caused by floods in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh. I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to when the Water Commission, constituted for suggesting permanent solution to the problem of floods in Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and other related states like Assam will submit its complete report especially regarding Bihar. What action has been taken after holding talks with Nepal in this regard? You have mentioned about the opening of office at Nepal. By when the permanent solution to the problem of floods will be found and what action is being taken in this direction? By when its results will start coming so that the people of Bihar may be benefited.

MR. SPEAKER: All the States should be benefited.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, so far as the question of floods in Bihar is concerned the situation is grim. The issue has been debated in the House earlier also. The Government has taken various steps but the crux of the problem is that unless we control it in a planned manner, we will not be able to move an inch because the flood in Bihar, is caused by the river which originates from within the periphery of Nepal and flows through this state. I would like to begin with a happy note that for the within three months of the formation of UPA Government we have first time given so much importance to this issue that after such a long period both the countries have agreed on Sankosi, Saptakosi scheme and the Government of India has

allowed to undertake work on DPR and our office too has been opened in Nepal, accordingly. Both these works will be finished soon following which people could be saved from major calamity. So far as the joint feasibility report is concerned, both the countries have agreed for the multi-feasibility report in respect of both Kamla and Bagmati rivers. We had expressed our consent regarding this during the visit of the Prime Minister of Nepal, but the situation there is a bit serious. We are trying to take further action on this.

[English]

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: As you are aware, the Damodar Valley Corporation was created to control floods in some parts of West Bengal, especially in the southern parts.

But it could not succeed and it became a cause of woe for the common people in Burdwan, Hooghly, Howrah and all the lower Ganges areas. The lower Damodar Project was also not completed.

So, I would like to ask the hon. Minister as to what steps the Government will take to complete the lower Damodar project to protect this region from floods.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: First of all, it is not a Government project.

Secondly, in so far as lower Damodar is concerned, I am fully aware of the problem and I share the concern of the hon. Member. I know how the situation becomes during monsoon. The basic problem is oversiting and silting creates a situation where the required water availability in the storage sometimes surpasses beyond the capacity during the monsoon. Therefore, the barrage protection has to be taken care of to release the water for which the people suffer. In this regard, I will have to inform the hon. Member—I associated with the hon. Member in that meeting—that in the month of June, the DVC Authority, West Bengal Government's Irrigation Desk and Farraka Authority are having a meeting, involving the Jharkhand Government also, for a comprehensive mechanism of release of water and also the disilting plan whether we can adopt it at all or not.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Shailendra Kumar. Please do not repeat the same question.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, my constituency is located between rivers Ganges and Yamuna which spreads over stretch of 120 Km. every year during rains water logging is caused due to floods and many villages are submerged.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I have been liberal with all these 'supplementaries'.

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: Whether such areas have also been identified under this and whether you have formulated any action plan for the villages which have submerged?

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have already given reply to it that a task force was constituted and after receiving funds from Planning Commission the State Governments. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: It has already been answered. So, you need not repeat it.

...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. CHANDER KUMAR: In the Himalayan rivers, there are a lot of floods, particularly in the whole of the Northern India. I would like to know whether the Government of India has any perspective plan to channelise these rivers so that the land can be reclaimed along these rivers to check the flood control.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: As far as Himachal Pradesh is concerned the basic problem is linked with the recent occurrence of the flash floods in Parichhoo river. The hon. Member will be glad to know that we have exchanged our views with China. China has agreed to control as much as possible for their lake water of the Parichhoo river so that there are no flash floods in Himachal Pradesh.

So far as other issue is concerned, we have taken it up with the Himachal Government.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Sugriv Singh—not present.

Shri Anandrao V. Adsul—not present.

Agreement between India and China on Flood Control

*505. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO:
PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the agreement has been signed between India and China on sharing of river water and flood control;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the names of rivers originating from China and flowing through the country;

(c) whether both the countries have agreed to control the floods;

(d) if so, whether they have also agreed to exchange hydrological information; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the steps proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (e) Major rivers that originate in China and flow into India are Brahmaputra, Sutlej, Lohit, Subansiri and Indus. At present no agreement has been signed with China on sharing of river waters.

However, cooperation exists relating to flood control measures. In this regard a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) had been signed between India and China in January, 2002 for provision of hydrological information namely rainfall, water level, discharge and other relevant information on Brahmaputra (Yaluzangbo) river in respect of three stations namely Nugesha, Yangcum and Nuxia in flood season by China to India from 1st June to 15th October, every year. The Chinese side have started transmitting data to India for the above mentioned three stations since June, 2002. An Agreement regarding the provision of hydrological data on Sutlej (Langqen Zangbo)

was also concluded during the visit of Hon'ble Premier of China in April, 2005 for which an MoU has been signed. As per MOUs, the Chinese side has also agreed to provide information on any abnormal rise/fall in the water level/discharge and other information, which may lead to sudden floods on the basis of existing monitoring and data collection facilities on real time basis. The two sides have also agreed to continue bilateral discussions to finalize at an early date similar arrangements for the Partung Zangbo and Lohit (Zayu Qu) rivers (which are Tributaries of Brahmaputra).

Further, regarding the artificial lake created in 2004 on Parechu river in China due to a land slide dam, the discussions were held during the visit of Secretary level delegation to Beijing in March, 2005 and during the current visit of Hon'ble Premier of China to India in April, 2005. The Chinese side has agreed to take measures for controlled release of accumulated water of the land slide dam as soon as the conditions permit.

SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: The hon. Minister had stated that in the recent visit of the hon. Chinese Premier, they have signed an agreement. Under this agreement, China will be providing all the necessary information to the Indian Government so that the Indian Government can take precautionary measures in checking the floods from Chinese rivers.

Secondly, I would like to know whether both countries have agreed to have joint inspections by Expert Committees to monitor the situation and take necessary steps to check the damage that may occur due to overflow of rivers from China.

MR. SPEAKER: This covers both of your supplementaries!

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): The answer is very clear and exhaustive. Even then I would like to inform that between China and India, we have agreed in 2002 to share the hydrological information linked with Brahmapura and, particularly, in this visit of the hon. Prime Ministers of China and India, we have further agreed to share hydrological information on Sutlej, which is also linked with India.

Finally, they have agreed to share the information insofar as the agreement is concerned. As far as sharing of water is concerned, there is no such agreement. But as far as information about sharing agreement is concerned, it has already been done. I think let us work from this June and see the progress.

MR. SPEAKER: Prof. Mahadeorao Shiwankar—not present.

SHRI RAYAPTI SAMBASIVA RAO: Sir, please allow my second supplementary.

MR. SPEAKER: No, you have asked two questions. I will not allow these types of things in future. Full answer has been given. Just for the sake of supplementary, please do not ask it. We have to be brief.

Ban on Plastic Bags

*506. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a chemical has been developed which if mixed with plastic makes, it degradable;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any steps are afoot to replace the non degradable plastic bags by the ones which could be degraded by living organism, heat, light, radiation or combination of these factors; and

(d) if so, by when plastic bags would be completely banned and replaced by degradable bags?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) Plastic materials can be made degradable by the addition of specific additives and starch. Some of the biodegradable plastic materials under development are (1) PHA's (Polyhydroxyalkonates), (2) Polylactides,

(3) Aliphatic polyesters (4) Polysaccharides (5) Co-polymers and/or blends of the above.

(c) and (d) Research and Development are underway in National Environmental Engineering Research Institute, Nagpur, National Chemical Laboratory, Pune and Central Tuber Crops Research Institute, Trivandrum to develop degradable plastics. All the technologies are at the innovative stage and are yet to be available on a commercial scale indigenously. Banning or replacement of non-degradable plastic bags can be considered when commercially viable technologies are available.

As per available information made available steps have been taken only by the Delhi Government to introduce the use of degradable plastic bags within the NCT of Delhi by an amendment to the Delhi Plastic bags (Manufacture, Sale and Usage and Non-biodegradable Garbage Control) Act 2001, in December, 2004. The amendments of 2004 are yet to come into force.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Sir, while plastics have revolutionised our lifestyle, yet plastics have played havoc also with the environment. We find the rail tracks, pathways, parks and road-side areas all littered with plastic bags in almost all the cities and the countryside as well. You find that the garbage dumps are also overflowing with the plastic bags.

MR. SPEAKER: What do you want to know?

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Whatever we have done in limiting the thickness of the plastic bags in the form of 20 microns or stopping recycling has not really had the desired effect. I would like to know one thing from the hon. Minister. He has said that the banning or replacement of non-biodegradable plastic bags can be considered when commercially viable technologies are available for producing bio-degradable bags. That was only incidental. The basic question remains.

What are we going to do to ban plastic bags to ensure that they do not play havoc which they are doing with the environment?

MR. SPEAKER: When substitutes are found, he will do that. Anyway, let him answer.

SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA: Sir, I would like to bring to the kind notice of the hon. Member that demand of the bio-degradable plastics is estimated to be 46,000 tonnes per year and it is expected to go up to 96,000 tonnes by 2007. The consumption of plastics in the country is four million kilo tonnes today and it is going to be 12 million kilo tonnes by 2010 and 50 per cent of this is being consumed in the packaging sector. This is the requirement of the country. For the bio-degradable plastic bags there is no standard fixed in the country. The methods of testing are not there in the country.

MR. SPEAKER: Nobody follows it either.

SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA: Sir, it will be difficult for us to ban the plastics. Plastics is not harmful as such. Therefore, it will not be possible to ban the plastics.

MR. SPEAKER: You are encouraging them.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Sir, the usage of plastics for large-scale packaging is understood. My concern is about its effects on daily life, the quality of life in the cities, that is when the plastic bags, the recycled ones or the ones of even 20 micron thickness continue to be used with impunity all over. What are we going to do with that? My question relating to bio-degradable plastic was only as a supplement to ensure that we do something in this regard. But the problem continues to prevail. What are we going to do about it?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, what are you going to do?

SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA: The solution of the plastic waste lies in reducing their use firstly.

MR. SPEAKER: You use jute bags.

SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA: It will be collected and recycled. That is the only answer.

MR. SPEAKER: Is anything being done?

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Sir, it is banned. If I understand correctly, the Government has banned recycling. The use of recycled ones is banned.

MR. SPEAKER: It is not implemented.

SHRIMATI TEJASWINI SEERAMESH: Sir, plastic wastage is causing a problem and also posing a great challenge to the street animals, particularly where thousands of animals—cows and buffaloes—were eating these plastic bags and we are removing tonnes of kilograms from them. It is an inhuman attitude. We must bring some special laws to control this throwing of plastic wastage particularly in public places and in parks. Recently I visited a park in Bannerghatta which has got a very good name in Bangalore city where they are strictly preventing usage of plastic. We must save the innocent animals from this menace. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Why should the people not stop throwing them?

SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA: Sir, the littering of plastic bags is a problem. There are so many problems associated with the littering of plastics like choking of drains, consumption by cattle sometimes leading to death.

MR. SPEAKER: The cattle should not be on the streets also.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, in view of the fact that the use of plastic is not being allowed because of environmental pollution and toxic hazards, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether jute as alternate packaging material is being promoted as there is now enough diversification of jute. In the case of foodgrains, there is mandatory use of jute packaging, but in the case of sugar, it is 90 per cent. There is no mandatory use of jute packaging in the case of fertilisers and cement. Jute is also now being used for clothing.

MR. SPEAKER: You are asking about use of jute bags for daily purchases in the markets.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: I would like to know from the Minister whether the Government would consider the proposal for mandatory use of jute packages for carrying the material of daily purchases and for other purposes, without any provision for dilution.

SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA: Sir, under the Recycled Plastic Manufacture and Usages Rules, 1999, as amended in 2003, the use of recycled plastic bags is prohibited for storing, carrying, dispensing packages of foodstuffs. It also prohibits manufacturing, stocking,

distribution or selling of carry-bags made of re-cycled plastics which are below 8x10 inches in size and 20 microns in thickness. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is for sure that since the plastic bags came into vogue, consumption thereof has lead to the country wide death of cattle and these plastic bags are non-bio-degradable wherever they are littered. Their usage increased unemployment too. Earlier, people used to make paper bags in the villages. It used to provide employment to whole village folk and they earned their livelihood from it. Country has suffered massive harm due to the use of plastic bags. Drains get clogged with these bags. I would like to know from hon. Minister whether enactment of such an act is underway through which ban on manufacturing of plastic bags could be imposed countrywide. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Who follows the law? Nobody follows it.

SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I share the concerns expressed by hon. Members. I have already told you that plastic is not generally harmful but unless general awareness is created among the masses it is not possible to ban it. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Such expressions only encourages the use of plastic. ...(*Interruptions*) we should create such an environment, which must not encourage it. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: We shall have a fuller discussion, if you want.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: If the hon. Members want, we can have a fuller discussion.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: This will not be permitted.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: There may be a Half-an-Hour Discussion. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: I am suggesting that if you want a fuller discussion, there are methods under the rules.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Q. No. 507. Shri Bhupendrasinh Solanki—not present. Shri Mahesh Kanodia—not present.

Report of Agricultural Biotechnology Task Force

*508. SHRI PRABODH PANDA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has accepted the report of the Agricultural Biotechnology Task Force;

(b) if so, the main features of this report;

(c) whether the Government has decided to implement all the recommendations of this report; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

[*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 KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) The Government have examined the report of the Task Force on Agricultural Biotechnology and have decided priorities for implementation. Certain other recommendations with wider implications are under consideration.

(b) The main features of the report *inter-alia*, include recommendations providing directions to research and development, application of biotechnology in agriculture, animal husbandry, and fisheries sector, capacity building in biotechnology, conservation and protection of centres of genetic diversity, promotion of organic farming zones, creation of biotechnology parks in each State, strengthening of regulatory/approval mechanism with a view to expedite the process of evaluation and release of products, liability and compensation, setting of National Biotechnology Regulatory Authority and promoting public awareness on matters relating to biotechnology.

(c) and (d) On the basis of Inter-Ministerial consultations on the recommendations of the Task Force with various Ministries/Departments, the Government has decided ten priorities for implementation. The details are enclosed in Annexure.

Annexure

Priorities for Agri-Biotechnology

1. Finalisation of National Biotech Policy by the Department of Biotechnology.
2. Rationalisation of approval process under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 as suggested by Prof. M.S. Swaminathan's Task Force.
3. Release of Bt. Cotton varieties for North Zone.
4. Post-release monitoring to be started by Department of Agriculture & Cooperation and Indian Council of Agricultural Research.
5. Capacity building for post-release monitoring and training.
6. Public awareness campaign to be launched by the Department of Agriculture & Cooperation in association with State Agricultural Universities and other scientific organizations/institutes.
7. Finalising combined strategy for arresting spread of non-approved Bt. Cotton seeds.
8. Developing the testing facilities for Genetically Modified seeds.
9. To finalise Action Plan for the components relating to Agri-biotechnology in the National Biotech Policy.
10. Identification of crops and traits for use of application of biotechnology.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Prabodh Panda, you never thought that your Question would come. Are you ready with supplementaries or will you ask supplementaries next time?

SHRI PRABODH PANDA: Yes, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: You are ready.

SHRI PRABODH PANDA: I would like to know from the Minister whether Biotechnology Task Force has been set up in all the agricultural universities and the IITs or not so that they can help a lot.

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): Sir, I could not understand the question.

MR. SPEAKER: He has asked whether Agricultural Biotechnology Task Force has been set up in all the agricultural universities.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Sir, this Task Force was set up to finalise the country's policy of biotechnology. Ultimately, we accepted some of the suggestions and that would be applicable to all the States, including the universities also.

SHRI PRABODH PANDA: Sir, I would like to ask my second supplementary.

MR. SPEAKER: Do you have any supplementary to ask from the hon. Minister on this issue or are you still thinking about it?

SHRI PRABODH PANDA: Is the Government contemplating to conduct awareness campaigns for the *kisans* to make them aware about this matter? If it is so, then I would like to know the details with regard to this issue.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Sir, certainly it is being done. One of the recommendations made was to create awareness among the farming community, and it, probably, is being taken care of.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Declining Trend in Investment in Agriculture Sector

*504. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:
SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to reverse the declining trend in investment in agriculture sector by increasing funds for agriculture research and extension and stepping up credit flow to farmers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to encourage investments in agriculture sector and step up credit flow to farmers during 2004-05 and 2005-06; and

(d) the details of the credit related relief to farmers announced by the Government alongwith details of the funds earmarked and funds utilized till March 31, 2005, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The plan outlay for agricultural research and education, including extension, has been raised by 15 per cent from Rs. 1,000 crore in 2004-05 to Rs. 1,150 crore in 2005-06. Though investment in agriculture, including allied sectors, measured in terms of Gross Capital Formation (GCF), increased in real terms (at 1993-94 prices) from 15,249 crore in 1993-94 to Rs. 24,186 crore in 2003-04, GCF in relation to Gross Domestic Product (GDP) declined from 1.8 per cent to 1.6 per cent during the same period. It may be noted in this context that the entire outlay for the Department of Agricultural Research and Education is categorised under the revenue component, which is not counted as part of investment measured in terms of the statistics of GCF compiled by the Central Statistical Organisation. Since the decline in GCF referred to above is almost entirely on account of the decline in public investment in agriculture, which is essentially investment in irrigation, for increasing investment in agriculture, the immediate need is to raise public investment. In keeping with this need, the outlay on the Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP) has been raised from Rs. 2,800 crore in 2004-05 to Rs. 4,800 crore in 2005-06. Similarly, a sum of Rs. 400 crore has been provided in the Union Budget, 2005-06, for promoting micro irrigation.

As regards credit, the flow of credit to agriculture and allied sectors by all agencies amounted to

Rs. 1,15,243 crore as on 31st March, 2005, forming about 110 per cent of the targeted credit flow of Rs. 1,05,000 crore to agriculture sector. There has been a growth of 32 per cent in credit flow in 2004-05 over the actual disbursement of Rs. 86,981 crore during 2003-04. Around 66.32 lakh new farmers have been financed by commercial banks and RRBs as against a target of 50 lakh farmers. Besides, around 12.52 lakh new farmers have been financed by Cooperative Banks. Private Sector Commercial banks have financed 2.24 lakh new farmers. As mentioned in the Union Budget for 2005-06, the banking sector is required to increase the credit flow by 30 per cent in 2005-06 over the credit disbursed in 2004-05.

(d) A comprehensive credit policy was announced by the Government on 18th June, 2004 containing measures for doubling of agriculture credit flow in next three years and provision of debt relief to the farmers affected by natural calamities. The target of agriculture credit flow for the year 2004-05 was fixed at Rs. 1,05,000 crore and the achievement as on March, 2005 is Rs. 1,15,242.81 crore. Several policy initiatives like broadening the scope of Kisan Credit Cards and revision in the norms for fixing scale of finance have been taken to meet the realistic credit needs of farmers. A package providing for restructuring of debts of farmers in distress and in arrears have been put into operation which provides for rescheduling of outstanding loans over a period of five years including moratorium of two years. The banks have been advised to implement a special One Time Settlement scheme for settling the old and chronic loan accounts of

small and marginal farmers and also to redeem the loan taken by the farmers from private moneylenders. Steps have also been taken to reduce the rate of interest on agricultural loans. Pegging of the interest rate at 9% per annum on crop loans up to Rs. 50,000 from the Commercial Banks has to be seen as a positive step in this direction. Government has been impressing upon RBI and NABARD to take measures for ensuring adequate credit flow to farmers at affordable rate of interest in hassle free manner. In order to reduce the hassles in making available loans to the farmers, RBI has advised all the banks to waive margin/security requirements for agricultural loans up to Rs. 50,000 and agri-business and agri-clinics loans up to Rs. 5 lakh. Under the programme of restructuring of loans to farmers in distress/arrears, commercial banks, cooperative banks and regional rural banks together allowed rescheduling/conversion of loans amounting to Rs. 10,953.61 crore during the year 2004-05. Similarly, these banks together have settled an amount of Rs. 756.83 crore under the one-time settlement scheme during 2004-05. Commercial banks have extended loans to 16,758 farmers indebted to informal sources like moneylenders to redeem their debts with them and provided about Rs. 57 crore upto 31st March, 2005.

As regards details of the credit disbursement in agriculture sector, only agency-wise performance on credit disbursement is available for 2004-05 which is given in the enclosed statement-I. State-wise figures of credit disbursed during 2003-04 are given in enclosed statement-II.

Statement I

Agency-wise performance in terms of actual disbursement

Agency	Disbursement during 2003-04	Disbursement during 2004-05	% Growth
Commercial Banks (Public and Private)	52,441	72,886.26	39%
Cooperative Banks	26,959	30,638.38	14%
RRBs	7,581	11,718.17	55%
Total	86,981	1,15,242.81	32%

(Rs. in crores)

Statement II**State-wise/Agency-wise Ground Level Credit (GLC) disbursements under Agriculture and Allied Activities during 2003-04**

(Rs. Lakh)

Name of the State/UTs	Commercial Banks	Cooperative Banks	RRBs	Total
1	2	3	4	5
Chandigarh	37240	5	—	37245
New Delhi	242073	294	—	242367
Haryana	229804	356937	41879	628620
Himachal Pradesh	25725	8881	3626	38232
Jammu and Kashmir	2578	2268	1773	6619
Punjab	505089	380037	29664	914790
Rajasthan	144956	128362	40678	313996
Northem Region	1187465	876784	117620	2181869
Arunachal Pradesh	234	125	31	390
Assam	16202	310	2617	19129
Manipur	152	233	195	580
Meghalaya	4799	173	212	5184
Mizoram	342	80	122	544
Nagaland	476	223	43	742
Tripura	2077	225	698	3000
Sikkim	381	44	—	425
North Eastern Region	24663	1413	3918	29994
Bihar	65574	56111	20487	142172
Jharkhand	18187	0	3274	21461
Orissa	38579	72434	16765	127778
West Bengal	157017	47172	8755	212944
Andaman and Nicobar	230	155	—	385
Eastern Region	279587	175872	49281	504740
Madhya Pradesh	151066	148309	43560	342935
Chhattisgarh	17341	30036	5000	52377
Uttar Pradesh	356845	280817	173171	810833

1	2	3	4	5
Uttaranchal	21301	17690	3598	42589
Central Region	546553	476852	225329	1248734
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0	0	0	0
Daman and Diu	0	0	0	0
Gujarat	229967	222894	26961	479822
Goa	3285	653	—	3938
Maharashtra	285173	233791	9523	528487
Western Region	518425	457338	36484	1012247
Andhra Pradesh	580940	283600	136884	1001424
Karnataka	329670	123030	79900	532600
Kerala	180313	121691	75498	377502
Lakshadweep	78	—	0	78
Pondicherry	6099	871	—	6970
Tamil Nadu	483537	178428	33201	695166
Southern Region	1580637	707620	325483	2613740
Total	4137330	2695879	758115	7591324
Private sector Commercial Banks	1023008	—	—	1023008
RIDF	83747	—	—	83747
Grand. Total	5244085	2695879	758115	8698079

[Translation]

Theft of Wood

*507. SHRI BHUPENDRASINH SOLANKI:
SHRI MAHESH KANODIA:

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

(a) whether the Government is aware that theft of wood from many forests in the country is still continuing unabated;

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

(c) whether the Government has taken/proposes to take some measures to check it; 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) No, Sir. Though incidents of theft of wood (illicit felling of trees) do take place from time to time in different parts of the country, but these are not going on unabated. Over all there is an increasing trend in the forest cover of the country as reported in the State of Forest Report published by Forest Survey of India on a two year cycle.

(c) and (d) The measures taken by the Government to check illicit felling of trees and theft of wood in the country are as under:

(i) Legal measures like Indian Forest Act, 1927, Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, Forest

Conservation Act, 1980 and Environment Protection Act, 1986 and the rules, guidelines thereof.

- (ii) Management measures like working of forests according to approved Working Plans, Forest Development Agencies and Joint Forest Management.
- (iii) Financial measures like providing assistance to the States/Union Territories under Centrally Sponsored Schemes and Externally Aided Projects. Under the Centrally Sponsored scheme called 'Integrated Forest Protection Scheme', funds were provided to States and Union territories primarily for strengthening of infrastructure for protection of forests from illicit fellings, fires, encroachments, etc.
- (iv) A network of protected areas has been established.

Changes in Agriculture Market System

*509. SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA:
SHRI TUKARAM GANPAT RAO RENGE
PATIL:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by the Government to bring about changes in the agriculture market system by doing away with the system of middlemen and brokers to ensure direct marketing benefits to the farmers;

(b) the arrangements made by the Government to give direct benefit to the farmers;

(c) whether the Government has conducted any review in this regard; and

(d) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) Agriculture Sector needs well-functioning markets to achieve growth employment and economic prosperity in rural areas of the country. Under the Agricultural Produce Marketing (Regulation) Act (APMC Act), which is the existing law dealing with agricultural markets, the State Government alone is empowered to initiate the process

of setting up of markets for agricultural commodities in notified areas. The processing industry cannot buy directly from the farmers. The farmer is restricted from entering into direct contract with any manufacturer as the produce is required to be canalized through Licensee traders and regulated markets. These restrictions are acting as disincentive to farmers, trade and industry. The State Governments have, therefore, been advised to bring reforms in the APMC Act to allow direct marketing and contract farming and to permit setting up of competitive markets. Development of alternative competitive markets in private and cooperative sectors would provide freedom to farmers to sell their produce in the markets providing better prices/services.

A model Agricultural Produce Marketing (Development & Regulation) Act has been circulated by this Ministry to all the States, to guide them in bringing changes in their respective APMC Act for the removal of all restrictions on direct marketing by the farmers. The Ministry also implemented a new reform linked Central Sector Scheme for Development/Strengthening of Marketing Infrastructure, Grading and Standardization. Under this scheme, investment subsidy is provided for the development of agricultural marketing infrastructure projects. Subsidy under the Scheme is made available only in those States/Union Territories that have amended the APMC Act, wherever required, on the lines suggested in the Model Act.

(c) and (d) Reforms in agricultural markets were discussed with the State Governments and Union Territories at the National Conferences held at Delhi on 07.01.2004 and at Bangalore on 19.11.2004, wherein all the States regard to amend the Agricultural Produce Marketing (Regulation) Act. Several States have since initiated action for the amendments.

[English]

Implementation of Integrated Crop Management

*510. SHRI T.K. HAMZA:
SHRI ANANTA NAYAK:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any plan to implement integrated crop management for improving the crop productivity;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has conducted any study for evaluating the integrated crop management; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) The Government is promoting the adoption of Integrated Crop Management approach for improving the crop productivity through crop production oriented schemes like Integrated Cereals Development Programme in Rice Based Cropping System's Areas (ICDP-Rice); Integrated Cereals Development Programme in Wheat Based Cropping System's Areas (ICDP-Wheat); Integrated Cereals Development Programme in Coarse Cereals Based Cropping System's Areas (ICDP-Coarse Cereals); and Sustainable Development of Sugarcane Based Cropping System (SUBACS) which have since been subsumed under the Macro Management Programme of the Department of Agriculture & Corporation (DAC).

Besides, the schemes of Technology Mission on Cotton (TMC); Integrated Scheme on Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize (ISOPOM); and Special Jute Development Programme (SJDJ) are also promoting improved crop production technologies, Integrated Pest Management (IPM) and Integrated Nutrient Management (INM) technologies to increase crop productivity.

(c) and (d) Evaluation studies have been conducted on the schemes of Sustainable Development of Sugarcane Based Cropping System (SUBACS); Integrated Cereals Development Programme in Coarse Cereals Based Cropping System's Areas (ICDP-Coarse Cereals); Technology Mission on Cotton (TMC); Special Jute Development Programme (SJDJ); Oilseeds Production Programme (OPP); National Pulses Development Project (NPDP); Accelerated Maize Development Programme (AMDP); etc. and on the Frontline Demonstrations organised under the ICDP-Rice, ICDP-Wheat and ICDP-Coarse Cereals.

The Evaluation studies have revealed that the programmes have created awareness about improved varieties and production technologies among the farmers; helped in popularising the latest seed varieties, improved agricultural implements and machines; adoption of

Integrated Pest Management (IPM); Resource Conservation Technologies and Micro Irrigation techniques, etc. Adoption of these technologies by the farmers have resulted in increased crop productivity.

[Translation]

Scheme for Production and Distribution of Seeds

*511. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the schemes of Ministry of Agriculture for developing and strengthening the basic facilities for the production and distribution of seeds alongwith the details of the funds spent on these schemes during the Tenth Five Year Plan, State-wise and year-wise;

(b) whether the National Seed Corporation (NSC) and State Farms Corporation of India (SFCl) have been restructured; and

(c) If so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) Following schemes for developing and strengthening the basic facilities for the production and distribution of seeds are being implemented during the Tenth Plan:

1. Quality Control Arrangements on Seeds.
2. Transport Subsidy on movement of seeds to North Eastern States, etc.
3. Establishment & Maintenance of Seed Bank.
4. Development and Strengthening of Infrastructure facilities for Production and Distribution of Quality Seeds.
5. Loan and advances to National Seeds Corporation and State Farms Corporation of India. The details are in the statement enclosed.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Question does not arise.

Statement**(1) Quality Control Arrangements on Seeds:**

The Scheme aims at strengthening of quality control arrangements for seeds to ensure that farmers get good quality seeds. Under the Scheme grant-in-aid is provided for strengthening of State Seeds Certification Agencies, State Seed Testing Laboratories, imparting training to the officials working in the seed development programmes and to strengthen the Central Seed Testing Laboratory.

The position of release of funds during the Xth Five Year Plan to various States is as under:-

Sl.No.	State	Amount released, Rs. in lakhs		
		2002-2003	2003-2004	2004-2005
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	0.50	—	15.00
2.	Assam	0.50	15.00	—
3.	Andaman and Nicobar	0.50	—	—
4.	Arunachal Pradesh	—	0.50	—
5.	Bihar	—	—	—
6.	Chandigarh	—	—	—
7.	Chhattisgarh	—	15.00	15.50
8.	Delhi	—	—	—
9.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	—	—	—
10.	Daman and Diu	—	—	—
11.	Gujarat	0.50	—	15.50
12.	Goa	—	—	—
13.	Haryana	0.50	15.00	0.50
14.	Himachal Pradesh	0.50	—	—
15.	Jammu and Kashmir	—	0.50	15.50
16.	Jharkhand	—	—	15.00
17.	Karnataka	1.00	15.00	—
18.	Kerala	0.50	0.50	15.50

1	2	3	4	5
19.	Lakshadweep	—	—	—
20.	Madhya Pradesh	—	0.50	15.00
21.	Meghalaya	0.50	0.50	15.00
22.	Maharashtra	—	15.00	30.50
23.	Manipur	—	0.50	0.50
24.	Mizoram	0.50	15.00	—
25.	Nagaland	—	0.50	—
26.	Orissa	0.50	0.50	15.50
27.	Punjab	0.50	—	0.50
28.	Pondicherry	—	—	—
29.	Rajasthan	—	15.50	—
30.	Sikkim	—	0.50	—
31.	Tamil Nadu	1.00	1.00	1.00
32.	Tripura	—	15.50	0.50
33.	Uttar Pradesh	0.50	15.00	15.00
34.	Uttaranchal	15.50	0.50	30.50
35.	West Bengal	—	0.50	15.50

(2) Transport Subsidy on Movement of Seeds:

Due to topographical situation and climatic condition not conducive for the production of seeds in the North Eastern States including Sikkim, Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttaranchal and Hill areas of West Bengal, a Central Sector Scheme on Transport Subsidy on Movement of seeds is being implemented. The basic objective is to make timely availability of seeds at reasonable rates to the farmers of these regions. Under this Scheme, 100% difference between rail and road transportation charges for movement of seeds made from outside the State to State Capital/District H.Q. of these identified States is reimbursable. Similarly, actual cost restricted to maximum limit of Rs. 60/- per Qtl. whichever is less for movement of seeds within the State from State Capital/District H.Q. to State sales outlets/sale counters is also reimbursable.

Amount released/reimbursed to various states during Xth Plan period is as under:

(Amount Rs. in Lakh)

Sl.No.	State/Agency	Amount reimbursed		
		2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
1.	Nagaland	1.06	7.53	2.90
2.	Mizoram	6.53	—	14.31
3.	Sikkim	2.19	4.67	5.76
4.	Jammu and Kashmir	19.69	9.30	11.86
5.	Uttaranchal	—	14.45	10.11
6.	National Seeds Corporation	54.67	27.10	34.47
7.	W.B. State Seeds Corpn.	5.38	0.38	—
8.	State Farms Corpn. of India (SFCI)	8.10	0.12	0.42
9.	Assam Seeds Corporation	66.39	90.82	131.06
10.	Uttaranchal State Cooperative Marketing Federation	—	2.18	2.20

(3) Establishment & Maintenance of Seed Bank:

This Scheme was launched with the basic objective of meeting requirements of seeds during natural calamity and also development of necessary infrastructure for storage of seed. The Scheme is being implemented through National Seeds Corporation, State Farms Corporation of India and State Seed Corporations of several States. Under the Scheme, reimbursement of expenditure is made to the participating State Seed Corporations in respect of maintenance of certified and foundation seeds of identified crops/varieties and for meeting the cost of revolving funds for procurement of seeds as well as for creation of storage facilities and setting up of a Data Bank & Information System.

Amount released/reimbursed to various states during Xth Plan period is as under:

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl.No.	Name of the State	Year of Release		
		2002-2003	2003-2004	2004-2005
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	—	42.00	30.89
2.	Assam	10.50	23.32	65.41

1	2	3	4	5
3.	Gujarat	40.63	3.30	3.51
4.	Haryana	64.58	—	15.40
5.	Karnataka	101.15	47.17	31.56
6.	Madhya Pradesh	39.71	0.32	49.84
7.	Maharashtra	41.29	—	22.45
8.	Orissa	25.14	13.56	25.00
9.	Punjab	3.50	—	25.00
10.	Rajasthan	25.00	—	—
11.	Uttar Pradesh	—	30.60	5.00
12.	Uttaranchal	40.50	83.78	54.80
13.	West Bengal	—	25.00	17.65
14.	NSC	214.52	306.39	280.33
15.	SFCI	93.48	108.66	153.07

(4) Scheme on Development & Strengthening of Infrastructure Facilities for Production and Distribution of Quality Seeds:

This is a re-structured Scheme in which the above three schemes have also been subsumed and some new components have been added. This scheme has recently been approved for implementation in the 10th Plan. It will be implemented in the years 2005-06 and 2006-07. Following are the new components under the scheme:-

4.1 Seed Village Scheme:

To upgrade the quality of farmer-saved seed, it is proposed to provide financial assistance for distribution of foundation/certified seed at 50% cost of the seed of crops for production of certified/quality seeds only and to provide training on seed production and technology to the farmers. Assistance will also be given to farmers for storage bins for storing of seed produced by the farmers on their farms.

4.2 Assistance for Creation/strengthening of Infrastructure Facilities for production and distribution of quality seeds:

In order to establish/strengthen infrastructure facilities for production and distribution of quality seeds for the

newly carved states/newly created State Seeds Corporations, assistance for creating facilities of seed cleaning, grading, processing, packing and seed storage is available. Assistance for strengthening of the existing Seed Corporations with respect to above mentioned infrastructure facilities will also be considered on case to case basis.

4.3 Assistance for Boosting Seed Production in the Private Sector:

It provides for credit linked back-ended capital subsidy at the rate of 25% of the project cost subject to a maximum limit of Rs. 10.00 lakh per unit on seed infrastructure development. The scheme will be implemented through Commercial Banks and National Co-operative Development Corporation (NCDC). The assistance would be limited to creation of infrastructure facility relating to seed cleaning, grading, processing, seed treating, packaging and storage units as well as for seed testing facilities.

4.4 Human Resource Development

This component supports training on seed production and seed technology to farmers, assistance to State Seed Corporations and State Seed Certification Agencies for training of officers connected with seed development programme.

4.5 Assistance for Seed Export

Assistance for obtaining membership of international organisations like International Seed Testing Association (ISTA) and the Organization of Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) for the development of Indian Seed Industry and promotion of export of Seed.

4.5 Promotion of Bio-technology in agriculture

This component of the scheme deals with post release monitoring of Genetically Modified (GM) crops through State Agriculture Departments and State Agriculture universities. Funds will be provided for capacity building, training and actual monitoring. Strengthening of State Seed Testing Laboratories for testing of GM seeds will also be taken up. Apart from this, public awareness, promotion is also part of this scheme. Promotion of tissue culture technology is also proposed to be taken up.

4.7 Promotion for use of Hybrid Seed for Rice

A two pronged strategy has been proposed to promote production as well as distribution of hybrid Rice. Production subsidy will be given @ Rs. 20 per kg. to

Seed Corporations/State Agriculture Departments whereas distribution of hybrid Rice Seeds will be undertaken by the State Agriculture Departments for which subsidy will be available to them @ Rs. 25 per kg.

4.8 Evolution and Review

An indepth evolution of all the components of the Scheme will be undertaken at the end of the 10th Plan by an independent agency.

5. Loan and advances to National Seeds Corporation and State Farms Corporation of India

During 9th Five Year Plan, a scheme 'Loan to SFCI/NSC' was initiated with an approved outlay of Rs. 1175 lakh for SFCI. Funds were released to SFCI as loans and advances during the Plan period for various purposes. This scheme has been continued during 10th Five Year Plan and funds were released to SFCI & NSC as loans mainly for implementation of Voluntary Retirement Scheme and clearing the statutory liabilities etc. The funds released to SFCI/NSC as loans during the past three years are as under:-

Loans and Advances to SFCI/NSC during last 3 years

	(Rs. in lakhs)		
Name of organizations	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
NSC	—	228.00	—
SFCI	100.00	495.00	67.00

[English]

Foodgrain Scam

*512. SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY:
SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of a recent study conducted by Planning Commission which has revealed that nearly 50 per cent of the foodgrains meant for the Below Poverty Line (BPL) families do not reach the targeted people;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the said study has also indicated that the benefits meant for the BPL families is being availed by the people belonging to Above Poverty Line (APL) category;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the names of the States where such corrupt activities have come to light; and

(f) the steps being taken to check such activities?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (f) The Planning Commission has intimated on 28th April, 2005 that the final report of a Study by its Programme Evaluation Organisation taken up on the request made in 1999 by the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution, is in the process of printing, copies of which will be made available in due course.

The requisite reply would, therefore, be made available on receipt of the final report.

Targets under Afforestation

*513. SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY:
SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI:

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

(a) whether the Government is aware of the Planning Commission's mid-term appraisal of Tenth Plan which concludes that bringing 33 per cent of the country under tree cover by 2012 is not achievable and the target needs to be dropped;

(b) if so, the basis thereof and view of Environment and Forests Ministry thereon;

(c) the present percentage of tree cover in the country, State-wise;

(d) the targets fixed for each State and their achievement in this regard;

(e) the States which have lagged behind in achieving targets and the reasons therefor;

(f) the total allocations made and spent in the Tenth Plan for bringing more areas under forest cover, State-wise; and

(g) the steps taken/to be taken to achieve the targets within stipulated time?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) According to available information the mid-term appraisal of the Tenth Plan has not yet been finalized. Planning Commission has, however, said that resources have been inadequate to achieve the desired increase in Forest/Tree Cover. Ministry of Environment and Forests agrees with the view of the Planning Commission regarding the inadequacy of the resources.

(c) The State-wise Forest and Tree Cover percentage is given in enclosed Statement-I.

(d) and (e) The Forest and Tree Cover (FTC) targets are for the country as a whole. However, State-wise tree planting targets are fixed on an annual basis under the 20 Point Programme, 1986 which contribute to the FTC. The State-wise targets and achievements of tree planting during the Tenth Plan period so far (between 2002-03 to 2004-05) and targets for 2005-06 are stated in enclosed Statement-II. There are two components of targets, i.e. 16-A (tree plantation on private lands, seedlings in lakhs) and 16-B (area covered-public and forest lands, in hectares). As per progress report upto December 2004, Madhya Pradesh, Nagaland, Rajasthan and Dadra & Nagar Haveli have achieved the targets under both 16-A and 16-B, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir and Uttar Pradesh have achieved targets under 16-A and Chhattisgarh, Orissa, Tripura and Chandigarh have achieved targets under 16-B only. The reasons or shortfall in meeting the targets include paucity of funds, non-availability of lands, adverse climate conditions, among others.

(f) The State-wise releases made under the National Afforestation Programme (NAP) being implemented by the Ministry of Environment and Forests during the Tenth Plan (2002-03 to 2004-05) are stated in enclosed Statement-III.

(g) Following steps have been taken to achieve the target within stipulated time:

(i) Consultations with State Government and Union Territories Administrations have been held, including Forest Ministers' Conference on 5-6 August 2004 to sensitize them of the increased tree planting targets.

- (ii) Consultations have been held with other Ministries of Government of India, research institutes and non-government organizations. Views on eminent persons (Indira Priyadarshini Vrikshamitra Award winners) have been taken.
- (iii) Guidelines for rationalization of felling and transit regulations for tree species grown on non-forest private lands have been issued.
- (iv) State Government and Union Territories Administrations have been requested to formulate and implement Media Plan to create mass awareness about tree planting.
- (v) State Government and Union Territories Administrations have been requested to constitute Chief Secretary level Committee of all land owning and other concerned Departments to involve them in tree planting activities.
- (vi) A new component has been added in National Afforestation Programme to extend Joint Forest Management to all 1.73 lakh forest fringe villages in the country.
- (vii) Planning Commission has given in-principle approval for National Mission on Bamboo Technology and Trade Development.

Statement I*State-wise Forest and Tree Cover as per State of Forest Report, 2001*

Sl.No.	State/UT	Forest Cover (Area in Km ²)	%age	Tree Cover (Area in Km ²)	%age	Total Forest and Tree Cover (Area in Km ²)	%age
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	44637	16.23	9011	3.28	53648	19.50
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	68045	81.25	478	0.57	68523	81.83
3.	Assam	27714	35.33	1942	2.48	29656	37.81
4.	Bihar	5720	6.07	3693	3.92	9413	10.00
5.	Chhattisgarh	56448	41.75	3535	2.62	59983	44.37
6.	Delhi	111	7.51	40	2.69	151	10.18
7.	Goa	2095	56.59	62	1.68	2157	58.27
8.	Gujarat	15152	7.73	4036	2.06	19188	9.79
9.	Haryana	1754	3.97	1526	3.45	3280	7.42
10.	Himachal Pradesh	14360	25.79	397	0.71	14757	26.51
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	21237	9.56	2217	1.00	23454	10.55
12.	Jharkhand	22637	28.40	2694	3.38	25331	31.78
13.	Karnataka	36991	19.29	7446	3.88	44437	23.17
14.	Kerala	15560	40.04	1146	2.95	16706	42.99
15.	Madhya Pradesh	77265	25.07	5751	1.87	83016	26.93
16.	Maharashtra	47482	15.43	8269	2.69	55751	18.12

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
17.	Manipur	16926	75.81	95	0.43	17021	76.24
18.	Meghalaya	15584	69.48	140	0.82	15724	70.11
19.	Mizoram	17494	82.98	95	0.45	17589	83.44
20.	Nagaland	13345	80.49	70	0.42	13415	80.92
21.	Orissa	48838	31.36	4364	2.80	53202	34.17
22.	Punjab	2432	4.83	1634	3.24	4066	8.07
23.	Rajasthan	16367	4.78	5286	1.54	21653	6.33
24.	Sikkim	3193	45.00	14	0.20	3207	45.19
25.	Tamil Nadu	21482	16.52	6054	4.65	27536	21.17
26.	Tripura	7065	67.38	68	0.65	7133	68.02
27.	Uttar Pradesh	13746	5.71	7545	3.13	21291	8.84
28.	Uttaranchal	23938	44.76	448	0.84	24386	45.60
29.	West Bengal	10693	12.05	3264	3.68	13957	15.73
30.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	6930	84.01	83	1.01	7013	85.02
31.	Chandigarh	9	7.51	2	1.63	11	9.65
32.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	219	44.6	27	5.54	246	50.10
33.	Daman and Diu	6	5.53	4	3.29	10	84.38
34.	Lakshadweep	27	85.91	0	0.27	27	14.79
35.	Pondicherry	36	7.45	35	7.19	71	14.79
Grand Total		675,538	20.55	81,472	2.48	757,010	23.03

Statement II*Point No. 16A : Tree Plantation on Private Lands (Units : Seedlings in lakhs)**Point No. 16 B : Area covered—Public and Forest Lands (Units : Area in Hectares)*

Sl.No.	Name of State/UT	Targets 2002-2005		Achievements 2002-2005*		Targets 2005-2006	
		Pt. No. 16A	Pt. No. 16B	Pt. No. 16A	Pt. No. 16B	Pt. No. 16A	Pt. No. 17B
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	10000.00	720000.00	7326.81	392972.00	3000.00	250000.00
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	16.00	18500.00	5.51	6547.00	6.00	700.00
3.	Assam	120.00	57500.00	61.14	6677.00	60.00	30000.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
4.	Bihar	550.00	55000.00	273.84	16480.00	125.00	40000.00
5.	Chhattisgarh	650.00	115000.00	437.54	138680.00	175.00	100000.00
6.	Goa	35.00	3200.00	23.85	1475.00	10.00	900.00
7.	Gujarat	4700.00	190000.00	4189.16	169105.00	2000.00	85000.00
8.	Haryana	805.00	65000.00	907.40	51835.00	375.00	26000.00
9.	Himachal Pradesh	60.00	55000.00	73.89	44040.00	25.00	25000.00
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	70.00	65000.00	149.68	35555.00	30.00	30000.00
11.	Jharkhand	500.00	160000.00	6.53	32585.00	200.00	65000.00
12.	Karnataka	1550.00	170000.00	916.66	89372.00	350.00	65000.00
13.	Kerala	40.00	18000.00	10.05	12288.00	10.00	20000.00
14.	Madhya Pradesh	1000.00	425000.00	1000.25	442558.00	450.00	200000.00
15.	Maharashtra	3600.00	230000.00	1210.40	95795.00	2000.00	100000.00
16.	Manipur	45.00	19000.00	1.56	1973.00	10.00	7500.00
17.	Meghalaya	105.00	15000.00	63.41	3237.00	15.00	5000.00
18.	Mizoram	72.00	23500.00	69.55	17492.00	20.00	8500.00
19.	Nagaland	105.00	25000.00	637.80	50021.00	100.00	25000.00
20.	Orissa	950.00	141510.00	596.41	148517.00	250.00	60000.00
21.	Punjab	90.00	55000.00	63.36	29142.00	30.00	25000.00
22.	Rajasthan	300.00	37500.00	303.49	73082.00	80.00	45000.00
23.	Sikkim	66.00	23000.00	6.70	1129.00	15.00	12000.00
24.	Tamil Nadu	390.00	320000.00	353.07	180290.00	200.00	115000.00
25.	Tripura	105.00	23500.00	83.74	25987.00	25.00	15000.00
26.	Uttar Pradesh	3500.00	170000.00	4252.52	116679.00	2500.00	100000.00
27.	Uttaranchal	500.00	320000.00	397.45	247693.00	175.00	125000.00
28.	West Bengal	800.00	80000.00	206.30	25796.00	300.00	40000.00
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	5.50	10500.00	4.05	5394.00	3.00	2000.00
30.	Chandigarh	2.50	430.00	0.90	470.00	1.00	125.00
31.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	15.00	1050.00	19.22	1057.00	7.00	300.00
32.	Daman and Diu	2.50	90.00	0.37	70.00	1.00	30.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
33.	Delhi	44.00	750.00	23.67	0.00	10.00	0.00
34.	Lakshadweep	3.00	225.00	0.00	24.00	1.00	20.00
35.	Pondicherry	9.00	225.00	5.92	97.00	1.00	100.00
Total		30805.50	3613480.00	23682.00	2464214.00	12560.00	1629475.00

*Achievements upto December 2004 for the year 2004-05

Statement III

Funds released to Forest Development Agencies under National Afforestation Programme (NAP) during last 3 years (2002-2003 to 2004-2005)

Sl.No.	State	Release (Rs. Crores)
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	33.00
2.	Chhattisgarh	33.59
3.	Gujarat	15.84
4.	Haryana	25.80
5.	Himachal Pradesh	18.15
6.	Jammu and Kashmir	16.22
7.	Karnataka	52.41
8.	Madhya Pradesh	41.91
9.	Maharashtra	29.90
10.	Orissa	30.36
11.	Punjab	2.13
12.	Rajasthan	14.81
13.	Tamil Nadu	36.52
14.	Uttar Pradesh	59.51
15.	Uttaranchal	18.69
16.	Goa	0.64
17.	Jharkhand	19.29
18.	Bihar	4.62

1	2	3
19.	Kerala	5.57
20.	West Bengal	13.84
Total (Other States)		472.80
21.	Arunachal Pradesh	8.01
22.	Assam	13.57
23.	Manipur	12.91
24.	Nagaland	23.05
25.	Sikkim	11.76
26.	Tripura	11.78
27.	Mizoram	35.91
28.	Meghalaya	2.45
Total (NE States)		119.44
Grand Total		592.24

Allocation for 2005-06 is Rs. 280.85 Crores including North East States.

Unemployment Rate

*514. SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA:
SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT:

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

(a) whether the unemployment rate has shot up significantly during the last three years as the jobs in organized sectors have declined;

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

(c) the impact thereof on GDP, regional imbalance and economy of the poor and populous States; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRA SHEKHAR RAO): (a) to (d) Estimates of employment and unemployment are obtained through quinquennial labour forces surveys carried out by National Sample Survey Organisation. Last such survey was undertaken during 1999-2000. As per these surveys, unemployment rate in the country on current daily status basis had gone up from approximately 6.03 percent in 1993-94 to 7.32 percent in 1999-2000.

As per the information available employment in organized sector had gone down from 2.77 crore in 2001 to 2.70 crore in 2003.

Employment in the organised sector constitutes only around 7% of the total employment in the country. A marginal decline in organised sector employment may not have a significant impact on the overall unemployment rate as well as on the overall growth of the Gross Domestic Product, regional imbalances and economy of poor and populous States.

Government is tackling the problem of unemployment in its various facets. In view of the fact that scope for additional employment creation is not much in the organised sector, Government is targeting creation of around 5 crore employment opportunities during the 10th Plan period both in organised and unorganised sectors taken together with special emphasis on labour intensive sectors such as agriculture, irrigation, agro-forestry, small and medium enterprises, information communication technology, tourism and other services. Besides this, a National Rural Employment Guarantee Bill has been introduced in Parliament, which provides for 100 days of employment in a year for poor families in the rural areas. A food for work programme has already been launched in selected backward districts of the country.

Hazardous Waste Units

*515. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY:
SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR:

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

(a) whether the Ministry of Environment & Forests has directed the various State Pollution Control Boards and Pollution Control Centres to submit their reports about implementation of its orders on hazardous waste units;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is an increase of hazardous waste units in the country and there is no proper check on them; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government to check the spread of hazardous waste units?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) The Ministry has written on 10th November, 2003 to all the State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs) and the Pollution Control Committees (PCCs) of Union Territories to submit an Action Taken Report on the implementation of the orders dated 14.10.2003 of the Supreme Court regarding hazardous waste management.

As per the information made available by the SPCBs/PCCs and as contained in the report of the High Power Committee constituted by the Supreme Court on management of hazardous wastes, there are 13011 units generating hazardous wastes in the country as per the Hazardous Wastes (Management & Handling) Rules, 1989.

(c) and (d) Based on the new definition of hazardous wastes in the Hazardous Wastes (Management & Handling) Amendment Rules, 2003, steps have been taken by the SPCBs/PCCs to identify all hazardous waste generating units.

It is expected that the number of hazardous waste generating units may increase due to the new definition of hazardous waste in the Hazardous Waste (Management & Handling) Amendment Rules, 2003.

In addition to regulations, new and innovative concepts such as Corporate Responsibility for Environment Protection (CREP), extended producer responsibility and green production are being promoted. Waste Minimisation and recycling/reprocessing of wastes are also encouraged and regulated.

[Translation]

Illegal Felling of Trees in National Parks

*516. SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN:
SHRI HEMMAL MURMU:

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

(a) whether cases of violation of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 in the country have been brought to the notice of the Government during the last three years and current year;

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

(c) whether the Himalayan Chipko Foundation and other NGOs have drawn attention of the Government towards the issues relating to conservation of forests;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether several thousand trees have been felled in the Rajaji National Park and Tehri Garhwal district in violation of rules;

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

(g) the steps taken by the Government to check felling of trees and any action taken against those found guilty; and

(h) the number of no-objection certificates issued by the Government for cutting of forests against the total proposals received during the last three years and as on March 2005 State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The State-wise details of

projects, involving violation of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, for last three years and the current year are enclosed as Statement-I.

(c) and (d) Ministry have been receiving representations from NGOs from time to time on various issues relating to conservation of forests. Appropriate action on such representations is taken.

(e) to (g) As per information received from Government of Uttaranchal, 1712 trees were illegally felled in Dholkhand Range of Rajaji National Park. Action was initiated against the responsible officers and staff, and one Range Officer, one Forester and two Forest Guards were suspended. As an administrative measure, Dholkhand Range has been split into two parts to enable intensive patrolling and management.

(h) During last three years, and upto 31st March, 2005, 4249 developmental project proposals from various State/UT Governments were received for grant of forestry clearance. Out of these, 2965 proposals were granted forestry clearance under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. The State-wise details are enclosed as Statement-II. Since, the developmental project proposals include construction of power projects (hydro-power, thermal power, transmission lines etc.), railway lines, roads, irrigation projects, defence projects, schools, drinking water supply schemes etc., felling of trees is invariably involved in implementation of such projects.

Statement I

(01.01.2002 to 31.03.2005)

Sl.No.	Name of Proposal	State	District	Area Diverted (ha.)	Penal CA Imposed (ha.)
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Mining Lease for Lime Stone Quarry in Sy. No. 138 Compartment No. 502 and 503 in Asifabad	Andhra Pradesh	Adilabad	13.75	21
2.	Mining Lease in Favour of M/s Singareni Collieries Company to SSCL	Andhra Pradesh	Adilabad	253	307.7
3.	Laying Approach Road from Varadaihpaalem to Tada R&B Road to Golden City Hospital and Lecture Hall	Andhra Pradesh	Chittoor	0.13	0.26

1	2	3	4	5	6
4.	Road from Mines to Factory in F/o NCL Industries	Andhra Pradesh	Nalgonda	2.71	1.598
5.	Compartment No. 29 of Pasupulabodu Block of Nalgonda Forest Division in Favour of M/s Chanakya Cements	Andhra Pradesh	Nalgonda	162.56	2.96
6.	For use of right of way in F/o M/s Prasad Seeds Limited	Andhra Pradesh	Ranga Reddy	0.48	0.96
7.	Mining lease to APMDTCL for Coal Mining in Namchik-Namphuk Coal Fields	Arunachal Pradesh	Changlang	128.97	18.2
8.	Const., widening and Improvement of Dirang-Mandela Road	Arunachal Pradesh	Dibang Valley	42	252
9.	Const. of Miggning-Tuting Road	Arunachal Pradesh	East Siyang	37	222
10.	Ditte-Dime-Miggung Road by BRTF	Arunachal Pradesh	East Siyang	152	304
11.	Estb. of Industrial Estate at Namsai	Arunachal Pradesh	Lohit	34	136
12.	Estab. of Industrial Estate	Arunachal Pradesh	Lohit	34	136
13.	Construction, widening & Improvement of Itanagar-Gohpur Road Ph-I	Arunachal Pradesh	Papumpara	30.98	57.08
14.	Estb. of Industrial Estate at Deomali	Arunachal Pradesh	Tirap	38	25.2
15.	Jong to Ramasappar Road by BRTF	Arunachal Pradesh	Towang	48	96
16.	Const. of Nacho-TCC (Nacho-Tamachungchung Road) by BRTF	Arunachal Pradesh	Upper Subansiri	57.43	574
17.	Const. of Kaying-Tato Road	Arunachal Pradesh	West Siyang	73.6	147.2
18.	2000 MW Subansiri Lower HEP by National Hydroelectric Power Corporation Limited	Arunachal Pradesh	West Siyang	3999.3	2.2

1	2	3	4	5	6
19.	Subansiri Lower HEP by NHDC 2000 MW	Assam	Dhemaji	571.3	2.2
20.	Kasartida Minor Irrigation Project	Chhattisgarh	Bastar	668.09	1336.18
21.	P.V. 103 Tank Project	Chhattisgarh	Bastar	95.93	191.86
22.	Chapi Minor Irrigation Project	Chhattisgarh	Bilaspur	256.745	26.726
23.	Upper Khuji Irrig. Project	Chhattisgarh	Bilaspur	66.2	132.4
24.	Kamthi Tank Project	Chhattisgarh	Bilaspur	37.59	75.18
25.	Mining Lease in favour of Shri Jeevan Lal Jain for Mining of Iron Ore in Village Barbaspur	Chhattisgarh	Kanke	14.714	2.428
26.	11 KV TL	Chhattisgarh	Koera	1.54	3.08
27.	Gohan Nalla Tank Project	Chhattisgarh	Raipur	37.6	75.2
28.	Constn. of Canal in favour of PWD	Chhattisgarh	Rajnandgaon	14.52	29.04
29.	Mining lease 10/52 in F/o Haider Kasim Khan	Goa	South Goa	12.466	4.4932
30.	Mining lease 30/50 in F/o Dr. Prafulla R. Hedge	Goa	South Goa	30.5688	10.48
31.	Mining lease 8/41 in F/o G.N. Aggarwal	Goa	South Goa	66.719	0.24
32.	Diversion for damping favouring Nathpa Jhakri Power Corporation	Himachal Pradesh	Shimla	48.1304	44.8273
33.	Kaveri Opencast Mining Lease to CCL	Jharkhand	Bokaro	77.43	109.06
34.	AMLO Opencast Mining Lease to CCL	Jharkhand	Bokaro	222.324	275
35.	Mining Lease to CCL	Jharkhand	Bokaro	148.167	296.334
36.	Khasmahal Opencast Mining Lease to CCL	Jharkhand	Bokaro	174.48	179.6
37.	Dhori Opencast Project of CCL	Jharkhand	Giridih	69.183	25

1	2	3	4	5	6
38.	Dhansingh Tank Project	Jharkhand	Gumla	53.26	106.52
39.	Jharkhand Opencast Mining Lease to CCL	Jharkhand	Hazaribagh	96.28	192.56
40.	Tapin North Opencast Project in favour of CCL	Jharkhand	Hazaribagh	55.69	2.72
41.	Sirka Opencast Mining Lease to CCL	Jharkhand	Hazaribagh	50.8	42.28
42.	Laiyo Underground Mining lease to CCL	Jharkhand	Hazaribagh	78.59	68.28
43.	Argada Underground Mining Lease to CCL	Jharkhand	Hazaribagh	90.1	4.54
44.	Topa Opencast Project of M/s CCL	Jharkhand	Hazaribagh	77.3	154.6
45.	Mining Lease to CCL Ara OCP Mines	Jharkhand	Hazaribagh	166.9	109.58
46.	Rajrappa Opencast Mining lease to CCL	Jharkhand	Hazaribagh	510.82	1021.64
47.	Mining Lease to CCL Religara OCP Mines Project	Jharkhand	Hazaribagh	135.66	43
48.	Giddi CCL Opencast Mining Lease to CCL	Jharkhand	Hazaribagh	237.3	4.78
49.	Pundi Opencast Project of CCL	Jharkhand	Hazaribagh	52.97	6.48
50.	Mining Lease to M/s Central Coalfields Limited for Kedla OCP	Jharkhand	Hazaribagh	168.5	224.2
51.	Urimari Opencast Project of M/s Central Coalfields Limited CCL	Jharkhand	Hazaribagh	91.04	182.08
52.	Mining Lease to CCL for Kuju Project	Jharkhand	Hazaribagh	115	26.84
53.	Mining Lease to M/s Central Coalfields Limited for Karma Opencast Mining Project	Jharkhand	Hazaribagh	132.28	77.68
54.	Sayal 'D' Project in Favour of M/s Central Coalfields Limited	Jharkhand	Hazaribagh	192.32	12.424

1	2	3	4	5	6
55.	Giddi A Mining Lease to CCL	Jharkhand	Ranchi	232.42	59.3
56.	Dhori Khas Underground Mining Lease to Central Coalfields Limited	Jharkhand	Ranchi	172.2	82.2
57.	Renewal of Iron & MN. ML of Devika Velji	Jharkhand	West Singhbhum	32.416	29.26
58.	220 KV Hubli-Belgaum-Narendra (Hubli-II) T/L	Karnataka	Bangalore (Urban)	27.72	55.44
59.	Markandaya MIP	Karnataka	Belgaum	334.17	16
60.	Mining Lease to SA Tawab	Karnataka	Bellary	24.72	49.44
61.	Mining Lease No. 2002 to M/s Mysore Minerals Limited	Karnataka	Bellary	176.724	23
62.	Laying of Water Pipeline, Break Pressure Tank and 11 KV line in S. No. 25 of Munirabad	Karnataka	Raichur	0.9755	1.951
63.	Mundia Khera Tank	Madhya Pradesh	Balaghat	79.037	158.074
64.	Construction of Upper Chandiya Irrigation Project	Madhya Pradesh	Chatarpur	149.288	298.576
65.	Jampaati Tank Project	Madhya Pradesh	Khargaon	59.66	119.32
66.	Mining Lease to NMDC for	Madhya Pradesh	Panna	74.018	444.108
67.	Patna Tank Project	Madhya Pradesh	Satna	27	1.64
68.	Upperwam Gangee Irrigation Project	Madhya Pradesh	Seoni & Balaghat	923.187	1800.276
69.	Construction of Bulhar PT	Maharashtra	Ahmadnagar	3.65	7.3
70.	Mining Lease to M/s Manganese Ore (I) Limited	Maharashtra	Bandara	34.43	68.86
71.	Sirsala Minor Irrigation Project-2	Maharashtra	Bandara	47.5	95
72.	Const. of Gudru MI Tank	Maharashtra	Bandara	8.33	16.66
73.	Mining Lease to M/s Western Coalfields Limited for Durgapur Opencast Mining Project	Maharashtra	Chandrapur	172.54	345.08
74.	Constn. of PT at Mhasdi-2	Maharashtra	Dhule	2.5	5

1	2	3	4	5	6
75.	Shelkui-II PT	Maharashtra	Dhule	4.38	8.76
76.	Bhagwanpur MIP	Maharashtra	Gadchiroli	47.98	95.96
77.	Const. of Umarti Project	Maharashtra	Jaigaon	14.3	28.6
78.	Nagya Sakya Project	Maharashtra	Nashik	141.36	282.72
79.	Khadakohal PT	Maharashtra	Nashik	4.1	8.2
80.	Dhulghat PT	Maharashtra	Nashik	1.9	3.8
81.	Kachorpada PT	Maharashtra	Nashik	2.8	5.6
82.	Pogarwadi Phata to Are Dare Rewande Road	Maharashtra	Satara	3.3	6.6
83.	Const. of Indo-Bangladesh Border RD	Mizoram	Lunglei	140.4	224
84.	Anantha Extension Opencast Project in favour of Mahanadi Coal Fields Limited	Orissa	Angule	62.67	125.34
85.	Nalam Talapada Road under PMGSY	Orissa	Angule	0.4	1
86.	Talabasta Fireclay Mines of JPKP Jhunjhunwala	Orissa	Cuttack	19.62	39.24
87.	Spill Way & Approach Road for Bhanjanagar Dam	Orissa	Ganjam	0.43	1
88.	Mining Lease to OMC Ltd.	Orissa	Jaipur	142.73	285.46
89.	Mining Lease to R.P. SAO for Guali Iron Ore Mines	Orissa	Keonjhar	42.417	84.834
90.	Mining Lease to DC Jain	Orissa	Keonjhar	16.464	32.928
91.	Mining Lease to Essel Mining Industries	Orissa	Keonjhar	152.229	167.76
92.	Mining Lease to Rungta Mines Ltd.	Orissa	Sundergarh	15.95	31.9
93.	Mining Lease to A.M.T.C. (P) Ltd.	Orissas	Sundergarh	244.327	120
94.	Mining Lease in F/o M/s Rungta Mines Limited	Orissa	Sundergarh	53.55	0.1
95.	M/L of Masanory Stone in Favour of 11 L/H	Rajasthan	Alwar	7.5999	7.888

1	2	3	4	5	6
96.	M/L of Fireclay in Favour of Satish Mohan Gupta	Rajasthan	Alwar	3.746	3.15
97.	M/L of Masonary Stone in Favour of Laxmi Narayan Meena-for 3 L/H	Rajasthan	Alwar	2.742	5.28
98.	M/L of Byrites in favour of M/S Ramnarayan & Brothers	Rajasthan	Alwar	8.315	11.02
99.	M/L of Limestone in favour of K.C. Vyas and P.L. Vyas	Rajasthan	Alwar	6.355	3.06
100.	M/L of Marble Stone in favour of 7 LH	Rajasthan	Banswara	3.401	6.4
101.	Mining lease to Oriental Talc Products Pvt. Ltd.	Rajasthan	Banswara	36.6107	30.3826
102.	M/L of Granite in favour of Nagrin Granite	Rajasthan	Barmer	1	2
103.	Mining lease of Silica Sand in favour of M/S Madan Lal Purohit	Rajasthan	Bharatpur	2.3638	4.7376
104.	Mining lease to Udaipur Mineral Development Dydicate	Rajasthan	Bhilwara	641.86	1283.72
105.	Devari Nellab Irrigation Project	Rajasthan	Bhilwara	20.12	40.24
106.	Mining lease to Rajasthan State Mineral Dev. Corp. Ltd.	Rajasthan	Bikaner	102.6136	31.97
107.	M/L of Sandstone in Favour of 5 L/H-C	Rajasthan	Bundi	4.9577	9.9
108.	Mining lease to 35 Lease Holders	Rajasthan	Bundi	36.04	76.08
109.	Mining lease to 31 lease Holders	Rajasthan	Dungarpur	30.7	99.48
110.	M/L of Flourspar in favour of RSMDC-A	Rajasthan	Dungarpur	16.44	9.04
111.	M/L for Cheza Stone in favour of M.R. Meena	Rajasthan	Jaipur	0.5935	0.67
112.	Mining lease to RSMDC	Rajasthan	Jalore	5.788	23.152
113.	M/L of Granite in favour of 7 LH	Rajasthan	Jalore	14.478	10
114.	M/L of Masonary Stone in favour of 5 L/H	Rajasthan	Jalore	5.279	7.2

1	2	3	4	5	6
115.	Mining lease to 4 lease Holders	Rajasthan	Jhalawar	14.4006	57.6024
116.	M/L of Cheza Stone in Favour of 4 L/H	Rajasthan	Sikar	3.6948	7.2
117.	Mining lease to Mahavir Trading Co.	Rajasthan	Udaipur	34.22	28.44
118.	M/L for Serpentine in favour of Smt. Samrath Devi	Rajasthan	Udaipur	2.0256	0.82
119.	Radio Astronomy Centre	Tamil Nadu	Nilgiris	27.51	7.8
120.	Quarrying of Black Granite in Paithur RF Bit-I, II, III	Tamil Nadu	Salem	11.84	60
121.	IBB Boalkhali to MK Pura Road	Tripura	Dhalai	126.5	549
122.	Establishment of 9th BN HQR Tripura State Rifles at Lalcherra	Tripura	Dhalai	55	110
123.	Construction of Road of IBB from Dhalai-Kanthalbari-Vishnupur-Karangichara	Tripura	Tripura (North)	24.29	48.58
124.	Establishment of B.S.F., BOP at Baishnabpur	Tripura	Tripura (North)	2.2	4.4
125.	Establishment of B.S.F., BOP at Ghagrabasti	Tripura	Tripura (North)	1.3	2.6
126.	Establishment of B.S.F., BOP at Kathalchari	Tripura	Tripura (North)	1.215	2.43
127.	Construction of Road by PWD from Santipur to Serhmontilla	Tripura	Tripura (North)	3.468	6.936
128.	Establishment of Polide Station & Staff Quarter at Pacharthal	Tripura	Tripura (North)	1.218	2.436
129.	Establishment of 5th BN of TSR at Duluma	Tripura	Tripura (South)	51.82	10
130.	Establishment of Battalion HQ of Tripura State Rifles	Tripura	Tripura (South)	51.82	10
131.	Construction of IBB Road in Radhanagar	Tripura	Tripura (South)	29.6	59.2

1	2	3	4	5	6
132.	Establishment of B.S.F, BOP at Dyke-4 in Gumti	Tripura	Tripura (South)	0.75	1.5
133.	Establishment of B.S.F., BOP at Raishyabari	Tripura	Tripura (South)	0.336	0.672
134.	Establishment of B.S.F., BOP at Harbatolin	Tripura	Tripura (South)	1	2
135.	Establishment of B.S.F., BOP at Magroom	Tripura	Tripura (South)	1.52	3.04
136.	Establishment of 7th BN Tripura State Rifles at Hichhacherra	Tripura	Tripura (South)	42.461	84.922
137.	Widening of Agartala to Sabroom Road	Tripura	Tripura (South)	1.129	2.258
138.	Construction of IBB Road from Kulubari to Nidaya	Tripura	Tripura (West)	0.42	0.84
139.	Establishment of B.S.F., B.O.P. at Khengraibari	Tripura	Tripura (West)	0.93	3.72
140.	Establishment of B.S.F., B.O.P. Bhatiabari	Tripura	Tripura (West)	1.215	4.86
141.	Establishment of B.S.F., B.O.P. Chaplinchera	Tripura	Tripura (West)	1.15	4.6
142.	Establishment of B.S.F., B.O.P. Jalayc	Tripura	Tripura (West)	1.3	5.2
143.	Establishment of B.S.F., B.O.P. at Mahan	Tripura	Tripura (West)	1.25	5
144.	Establishment of B.S.F., B.O.P. at Thalchera	Tripura	Tripura (West)	1.25	5
145.	Establishment of B.S.F., B.O.P. at Bahadur	Tripura	Tripura (West)	1.25	5
146.	Establishment of B.S.F., B.O.P. at Garjanpassa	Tripura	Tripura (West)	1.25	5
147.	Establishment of B.S.F., B.O.P. at Tulpaibari	Tripura	Tripura (West)	1.25	5
148.	Construction of Drill Site & Approach Road at Site BMS-P	Tripura	Tripura (West)	1.73	6.92
149.	Construction of Drillsite at site MND-A (Rokhia O)	Tripura	Tripura (West)	2.148	8.992

1	2	3	4	5	6
150.	Establishment of B.S.F., B.O.P. Bhandrima	Tripura	Tripura (West)	1.215	4.86
151.	Establishment of B.S.F., B.O.P. Amar	Tripura	Tripura (West)	1.215	4.86
152.	Establishment of B.S.F., B.O.P. Bijoy	Tripura	Tripura (West)	1.215	4.86
153.	Laying Railway Line from Teliamura to Jirania	Tripura	Tripura (West)	54.08	4
154.	Construction of Khowai-Karangicherra IBB Road and Fencing	Tripura	Tripura (West)	12.5	25
155.	Renewal of lease in favour of M/s Bajaj Hindustan Ltd. Gola	Uttar Pradesh	Lakhimpur Khiri	3.144	6.288
156.	Renewal of lease in favour of M/s Bajaj Hindustan Ltd. Gola Gorakhnath	Uttar Pradesh	Lakhimpur Khiri	7.8375	15.38
157.	Renewal of Lease in favour of M/S Bajaj Hindustan Ltd.	Uttar Pradesh	Lakhimpur Khiri	0.9919	2
158.	Modernisation of Lachura Dam	Uttar Pradesh	Mahoba	48.212	16.94
159.	Garuda Banj Bhatkanya Light Vehicle Motor Road	Uttaranchal	Almora	4.723	9.446
160.	Saingad Pantgaon Chamadkhan Motor Road	Uttaranchal	Almora	4.4513	12.0225
161.	Masi Gair Khet-Sarai Khet Motor Road	Uttaranchal	Almora	24.03986	6.5
162.	Construction of Jalikhan Uttamchhina Naubara Daula Bajan Sinar Motor Road	Uttaranchal	Almora	5.0231	10.05
163.	Construction of Gaziabad Jhumakhet LV Road	Uttaranchal	Chamoli	0.11	0.22
164.	Const. of Gairsain Pajiana Motor Road	Uttaranchal	Chamoli	1.078	2.156
165.	Lisa Factory to Director (WL) Office Light Vehicle Road	Uttaranchal	Chamoli	1.903	3.806
166.	Diversion of for Const. of Govt. Inter College, Tangsa	Uttaranchal	Chamoli	4	8

1	2	3	4	5	6
167.	Const. of Ghughukhan Saud Motor Road	Uttaranchal	Nainital	1.224	2.448
168.	Const. of Don Parewa Patkot Motor Road	Uttaranchal	Nainital	4.56	9.12
169.	Padampuri-Herakhan-Kathgodam Motor Road	Uttaranchal	Nainital	42.93	128.79
170.	Const. of Approach Road to Chamgad Dam	Uttaranchal	Pithoragarh	1.254	5
171.	Bankot Dhari Dhumla Kot Light Vehcile Road	Uttaranchal	Pithoragarh	3.6	7
172.	Const. of Kempti Thaiyur Motor Road	Uttaranchal	Tehri Garhwal	3.408	6.816
173.	Mandkuli Canal	Uttaranchal	Champawat	0.343	0.686
174.	Renewal of Mining Lease in favour of Ms. Haldwani Stone Co. Olalkuan	Uttaranchal	Nainital	8.9	17.8
175.	Mining of Stone sand in Katansyu Devad at Srikot Gangali	Uttaranchal	Pauri Garhwal	1.61	3.22
176.	Const. of Mora Canal	Uttaranchal	Uttarkashi	0.03	0.12
177.	Salla Canal	Uttaranchal	Uttarkashi	0.546	2.184

Statement II

(01.01.2002 to 31.03.2005)

			1	2	3
			Chhattisgarh	132	68
			Dadar and Nagar Haveli	92	38
			Daman and Diu	1	0
			Delhi	2	2
			Goa	26	19
			Gujarat	286	208
			Haryana	172	116
			Himachal Pradesh	382	268
			Jammu and Kashmir	0	0
			Jharkhand	87	58
State/UTs	Number of Proposals Received	Number of Proposals Approved			
1	2	3			
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	18	6			
Andhra Pradesh	188	95			
Arunachal Pradesh	50	41			
Assam	39	29			
Bihar	17	11			
Chandigarh	11	8			

1	2	3
Karnataka	233	141
Kerala	55	25
Lakshadweep	0	0
Madhya Pradesh	184	99
Maharashtra	333	224
Manipur	3	3
Meghalaya	18	16
Mizoram	7	6
Nagaland	0	0
Orissa	122	82
Pondicherry	1	1
Punjab	795	646
Rajasthan	128	100
Sikkim	47	39
Tamil Nadu	89	56
Tripura	64	48
Uttar Pradesh	135	101
Uttaranchal	523	407
West Bengal	9	4
Total	4249	2965

[English]

Stocks for Welfare Schemes

*517. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:
SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH:

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

(a) the norms prescribed for keeping of buffer stock of foodgrains in the Central pool;

(b) the various welfare schemes for which the buffer stock of foodgrains is earmarked during Tenth Plan;

(c) whether additional quantum of foodgrains is required to be provided under the Antyodaya Anna Yojana, Sampoorna Gramin Rozgar Yojana and the Food for Work Scheme;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the steps taken to ensure sufficient supply of foodgrains under the said schemes; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to ensure foodgrain supplies at fair price during emergency situations such as crop failure or natural calamities?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) The minimum buffer norms for stocking of foodgrains in the Central Pool with effect from 1st April, 2005 for the 10th Plan period are as follows:

	(In lakh tonnes)		
	Wheat	Rice	Total
1st April	40	122	162
1st July	171	98	269
1st October	110	52	162
1st January	82	118	200

(b) Besides Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), various important Welfare Schemes for which the buffer stock of foodgrains is earmarked for the 10th Plan period are:

- (i) Sampoorna Gramin Rojgar Yojana (SGRY)
- (ii) Sampoorna Gramin Rojgar Yojana (Special Component)
- (iii) Mid Day Meal Scheme (MDM)
- (iv) National Food For Work Programme (NFFWP)

(c) to (e) Adequate provision for meeting the requirement of foodgrains for Antyodaya Anna Yojana, (AAY), SGRY, SGRY (Special Component), NFFWP, etc. has already been made while framing the buffer norms for the 10th Plan. The Food Corporation of India (FCI)

and the Railways are fully geared to plan and to despatch the required number of rakes of foodgrains every month for each consuming State/Union Territory (UT) at an optimally feasible level and to prioritise movement of rakes to take care of any special concern of a State/UT.

(f) The emergency situations caused by crop failure or natural calamities are monitored by an Inter Ministerial Group (IMG) under the Ministry of Agriculture or by the Disaster Management Division under the Ministry of Home Affairs. Immediate Assessment of the damage caused and the requirement of foodgrains etc. is made by Central Teams and necessary additional allocation of foodgrains is made to the concerned States/UTs so as to ensure foodgrain supplies at fair price.

[Translation]

Workers of Closed Industrial Units

*518. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the steps taken so far to safeguard the interests of the labourers working in the industrial units to be closed in Delhi in the wake of the direction issued by the Supreme Court in this regard;

(b) whether the Union Government has constituted any committee to safeguard the interests of the labourers;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the said committee has since submitted its report to the Union Government;

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

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRA SHEKHAR RAO): (a) to (f) The Hon'ble Supreme Court of India vide judgment dated 7.5.2004 has appointed a Monitoring Committee comprising (i) Chief Secretary of Delhi (ii) Commissioner of Police, Delhi (iii) Commissioner, Municipal Corporation of Delhi, and (iv) Vice-Chairman of Delhi Development Authority. The Committee would be responsible for stoppage of illegal industrial activity. It would, however, be open to the aforesaid members of the Monitoring Committee to appoint responsible officers sub-ordinate to them to over see and ensure compliance of the directions

contained in the judgment. However, no directions have been given regarding rehabilitation of labour in the order dated 7.5.2004 of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India. The case related to the issue of industrial activity in residential/non-conforming areas.

The Hon'ble Supreme Court in its order dated 06.09.96 and 26.11.96 in the matter of closure/shifting of "H" Category Units (hazardous/noxious industrial units) from Delhi in the case of Shri M.C. Mehta Vs. Union of India and others had directed that the workmen employed in these industries shall be entitled to the rights and benefits as indicated here under:

- (i) The workmen shall have continuity of employment at the new town and place where the industry is shifted. The terms and conditions of their employment shall not be altered to their detriment;
- (ii) The period between the closure of the industry in Delhi and its restart at the place of relocation shall be treated as active employment and the workmen shall be paid their full wages with continuity of service;
- (iii) All those workmen who agree to shift with the industry shall be given on year's wages as "shifting bonus" to help them settle at the new location;
- (iv) The workmen employed in the industries which fail to relocate and the workmen who are not willing to shift along with the relocated industries shall be deemed to have been retrenched as per the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947. They shall also be paid compensation as per the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947. These workmen shall also be paid in addition one year's wages as additional compensation;
- (v) The gratuity amount payable to any workmen shall be paid in addition.

The interests of the workers deployed in the industrial units to be closed in Delhi will be taken care of as per the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court and in terms of existing laws.

[English]

Development of Tourism Industry

*519. SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether tourist arrivals in India last year was around three million;

(b) if so, whether the Government is aware that this is much less as compared to other developed countries and also countries like Malaysia and Mauritius;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) the long term measures proposed to be taken to give boost to tourism industry in India; and

(e) the names of States where there is considerable scope for expansion of tourism industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) An estimated 3.37 million foreign tourists arrived in India during the year 2004.

(b) As per the provisional estimates received from World Tourism Organization (WTO), foreign tourist arrivals in a few developed countries and Malaysia/Mauritius during 2003 and 2004 were as follows:

Country/Year	(In Million)	
	2003	2004
France	75.05	75.12
Spain	51.83	53.59
U.S.A.	41.21	46.12
Malaysia	10.58	16.47
Mauritius	0.70	0.71

(c) The main constraints facing the tourism sector are shortage of air seat capacity, high air fares, shortage of hotel accommodation and high hotel tariffs, facilitation of entry to India by International Tourists, the multiplicity and high level of taxation, restricted land use policies of State Governments, etc.

(d) A number of long term and short term measures have been taken by the Government to give boost to the tourism industry in India, including:

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

- Creation of world class infrastructure;
- Special thrust to rural and small segment tourism;
- Attention to civilization issues and issues pertaining to civic administration, good governance and also of social and cultural values; and
- Development of integrated tourism circuits.

In addition, the Government is also taking the following measures to attract more foreign tourists to India:

- 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 the Airlines, 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.
- Optimize Editorial PR and Publicity.
- Use of Internet and web marketing.
- Generating Tourist Publications.
- Re-enforced hospitality programmes including grant of air passages to invite the media personnel, tour operators on familiarization tour to India to get first hand knowledge on various tourism products.

(e) India is one of the most ancient civilizations of the world. It has many tourism assets which are ecologically sound, culturally enriching and spiritually Elevating. It has vast bounties of nature—majestic mountains, lovely beaches, wonderful wildlife and enhancing bird sanctuaries, and also great treasures of art, architecture and philosophic thought. Every State of India is unique in its own way and has something different to offer to tourists. The present level of foreign tourist arrivals in India is below its potential. All possible steps for expansion of tourism in all the States/UTs in India are being taken effectively.

Improvement in Quality of Milk Products

*520. SHRI KULDEEP BISHNOI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that the funds released under Integrated Dairy Development Project (IDDP) are not being used properly thereby slowing the growth of improvement in the dairy sector in Non-Operation, Flood Area;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the concrete steps taken by the Government to improve yield and quality of milk products in the country?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) Integrated Dairy Development Project (IDDP), a plan scheme was started during 1993-94 in the Non-Operation Flood hilly and backward areas of the country, having no or low potential for milk production. The pace of implementation has been slow in some areas, mainly, due to the fact that the areas covered are very backward, hilly and lack general infrastructure and had no tradition of dairying. Certain shortcomings in the implementation of the scheme as brought out by evaluation studies have been addressed while revising the scheme. Since inception of the scheme, 62 projects with a total outlay of Rs. 334.09 crores have been sanctioned in 26 States and Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands. The Scheme has benefited about 7.12 lakh farm families by organizing them into about 11,600 village level Dairy Cooperative Societies, which are procuring about 6.45 lakh litres of milk per day as on 31st December, 2004.

(c) The Intensive Dairy Development Programme, modified version of IDDP, has provision for providing technical inputs to the farmers to improve yield and quality of milk. The Government of India is also implementing the following schemes to improve yield and quality of milk and milk products in the country:

- i. National Project for Cattle and Buffalo Breeding.
- ii. Strengthening Infrastructure for Quality and Clean Milk Production.
- iii. Assistance to States for Feed and Fodder Development.
- iv. Dairy/Poultry Venture Capital Fund.

[Translation]

Illegal Mining in Forest Areas of Uttar Pradesh

5392. SHRI BALESHWAR YADAV: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a regional chief forest conservator of Uttar Pradesh Forest Department has sent a report on ongoing illegal mining activities in forest areas of Uttar Pradesh particularly in Lalitpur district;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Forest Conservation Act, 1980 is being violated in Uttar Pradesh; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to prevent such violation and to stop illegal mining?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) The Regional Chief Conservator of Forests (Central Zone), Ministry of Environment and Forests sent a report to the Ministry regarding mining leases in Lalitpur district of Uttar Pradesh. The report made observations on illegal mining in forest area and recommended immediate discontinuation of operations in such mines.

(c) and (d) Illegal mining in forest areas is, *inter-alia*, a violation under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. Following action was taken in respect of illegal mining:

- (i) Cases were registered against the offenders and illegal mining stopped.
- (ii) Regular checking and patrolling is carried out by the forest officials in coordination with the district administration and police to prevent illegal mining.

Aid to Rajasthan from Japan

5393. SHRI RAGHUVeer SINGH KOSHAL: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Japan has agreed to provide a loan of Rs. 481 crore to Rajasthan for improving existing minor irrigation system and traditional irrigation system of farmers as reported to Kota edition of Rajasthan Patrika dated March 30, 2005;

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

(c) the details of works proposed to be carried out with the said loan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Government of Japan has agreed to provide a loan assistance of Yen 11,555 million equivalent to Rs. 481.45 crore for Rajasthan Minor Irrigation Improvement Project. An agreement to this effect has been signed between the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) and the Government of India on March 31, 2005 in Tokyo. The project envisages increased agricultural production in the State of Rajasthan by rehabilitating existing Minor Irrigation facilities and improving water management and agricultural practices. The works proposed are civil works, technical and institutional supports and consulting services. The project is expected to be completed by March, 2013.

[English]

Survival of Drug Industry

5394. SHRI A.F.G. OSMANI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether production of bulk drugs have been specified in the red category of industries and Water and Pollution Act;

(b) if so, whether surveys conducted by National Productivity Council has failed to identify and suggest clean, economical, practical and environment friendly schemes under the Water and Air Pollution Act for survival of the drug industry; and

(c) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto and steps taken to provide level playing field to the Indian industry *vis-a-vis* drug industry of China whose raw material of drugs are allowed to be imported in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) The process of production of bulk drugs is considered hazardous as it generates waste water, solid waste and air emissions containing persistent and toxic chemicals. The study conducted by the National Productivity Council has recommended options for management of hazardous waste, waste minimization and treatment of effluent.

(c) The import of raw material for drugs is governed by various statutes including provisions under the Manufacture, Storage and Import of Hazardous Chemical Rules, 1989 and its subsequent amendments.

[Translation]

Proposal for Food Parks from Foreign Countries

5395. SHRI HARISHCHANDRA CHAVAN:
SHRIMATI KIRAN MAHESHWARI:

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

(a) whether the Government has received any proposals from the foreign countries to set up food parks in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by when a decision on/sanction to these proposals is likely to be finalized?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Food Processing Industries, under its plan schemes, provides financial assistance for overall development of the Food Processing Industry including for setting up Food Parks. No proposal from foreign countries for setting up of Food Parks in the country has been received in the Ministry. Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI) has entered into an MOU with an Italian Industries Association to conduct a study in this regard.

[English]

National Commission on Child Labour

5396. SHRI SUBRATA BOSE: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up a National Commission on Child Labour in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) by when the above commission is likely to be set up?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The enforcement of the various provisions of the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulations) Act, 1986 is a subject matter of the respective State Governments. In addition, the respective child labour endemic State Governments have been implementing necessary rehabilitative measures also for the benefit of the working children as a part of the National Child Labour Policy. As such, there is no need for setting up of a National Commission on Child Labour.

(d) There is no proposal pending with the Government for setting up of the National Commission on Child Labour.

Transfer of Land by DSP to REC

5397. SHRI SUNIL KHAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of West Bengal proposed Durgapur Steel Plant (DSP) for purchase of 186.87 acres of land with a view to transfer the land to REC, Durgapur for establishment of its Campus;

(b) if so, the area of land so far transferred and likely to be transferred in this regard; and

(c) by when the remaining area is likely to be transferred to the concerned authorities?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) 186.87 acres of land (under possession of DSP) had been transferred/relinquished in favour of Government of West Bengal in 1959 for establishment of Regional Engineering College (REC), Durgapur.

(b) Entire 186.87 acres of land has been transferred as per Government of West Bengal request. The said transfer has been formalized in pursuance of the Government of West Bengal's Land & Land Reform Deptt. order number 1187-LR/IL-48/83 dated 2.9.83 and number 5792 LA (II) dated 9.12.86.

(c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

National Seed Research and Training Centre in Varanasi

5398. SHRI ATIQ AHAMAD: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the stage of the progress of work to set up the National Seed Research and Training Centre at Varanasi; and

(b) the time by which this centre will start functioning?

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 civil work is largely completed but electrical installations are yet to be operationalised.

(b) The Centre is likely to become operational during 2005-06.

[English]

Distribution of Urea

5399. SHRI NARAYAN CHANDRA BORKATAKY: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to take steps to ensure timely distribution of Urea in Assam;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has withdrawn Special Freight Reimbursement Scheme; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Demand of the State has been assessed in the Zonal Conference in consultation with State Government & Department of Agriculture & Cooperation. Supply plan indicating allocation from different manufacturers to State has been prepared in consultation with State Government and Department of Agriculture & Cooperation. Urea is being moved to the State as per demand and supply plan.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) The question does not arise.

Development of Cotton Picker

5400. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the scientists of Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) have developed self-propelled cotton picker at the Central Institute of Cotton Research at Nagpur;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the ICAR has evaluated the performance of the machine in the fields;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which the machine will be made available to the cotton growers?

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) A 2-row John Deere self propelled cotton picker has been imported under National Agricultural Technology Project (NATP). The machine was field evaluated on nine different varieties of cotton.

(d) and (e) The existing cotton varieties were not found suitable for mechanical picking by this cotton picker. Appropriate cotton varieties need to be identified/developed and work on development/identification of appropriate varieties suitable for harvesting by this cotton picker is being pursued at Central Institute of Cotton Research (CICR), Nagpur.

Development of Plastic Green Houses

5401. SHRI M. SREENIVASULU REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to develop/install plastic green houses for increasing the yield and productivity of horticultural crops, vegetables, flowers and ornamental plants;

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

(c) whether there is any proposal for giving subsidy to the people who installed green houses; 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) The Ministry of Agriculture is implementing Centrally Sponsored Schemes namely (i) Macro Management in Agriculture—Supplementation/Complementation of States efforts through Work Plan and (ii) Technology Mission on Integrated Development of Horticulture in North Eastern States, Sikkim, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir and Uttaranchal under which assistance is provided for Green House cultivation for increasing the yield and productivity of Horticulture crops including vegetables, flowers and ornamental plants. Besides, assistance is provided by the National Horticulture Board (NHB) for development of commercial horticulture, including Hi-tech cultivation under controlled climatic conditions *viz.* Poly houses and Green houses.

(c) and (d) Under the NHB's scheme on Development of Commercial Horticulture through Production and Post-Harvest Management, assistance is provided as back-ended capital investment subsidy for the projects on commercial horticulture including green house cultivation which are found technically and financially viable.

[Translation]

Organic Farming

5402. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that the foodgrains exported by the Government have been returned due to the presence of pesticides in the foodgrains;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to promote concentrated organic farming in view of the adverse effect of chemical fertilizers on human beings and environment;

(d) whether the production area of concentrated organic farming is increasing the country; 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) and (b) No, Sir. Government releases foodgrains of FAQ (Fair, Average, Quality) only for export purposes from the Central Pool.

(c) To promote organic farming in the country, Government has recently approved a Central Sector Plan Scheme, National Project on Organic Farming with an outlay of Rs. 57.05 crores for production, promotion, certification and market development of organic farming during 10th Plan period with the following main components:-

- (i) Putting in place a system of certification of organic produce.
- (ii) Capacity building through service providers.
- (iii) Financial support for commercial production units for production of organic inputs like fruits and vegetable waste compost, bio-fertilizer production and hatcheries for vermiculture.
- (iv) Training, field demonstration, promotion and market development.

Besides, Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) has taken many initiatives for enhancing export of organic produce.

(d) and (e) At present the estimated area under organic farming in India is about 80,000 hectares, with the growing importance in organic farming, its area is continuously increasing.

[English]

Convention of Water Conservation

5403. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Convention was held on Water Conservation in Agriculture and Industrial Sector during 2003-04;

(b) if so, the recommendations made in the convention; and

(c) the recommendations were accepted and implemented by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Yes, Madam. The Tenth National Water Convention was held at Bhubaneswar, Orissa during November 5-7, 2003. Conservation of Water in Agriculture and Industrial Sectors was one of the themes of the Convention.

(b) The recommendations of the Convention are given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) The recommendations have been sent to various State Governments for necessary follow up actions.

Statement

Recommendations of the Tenth National Water Convention—2003 held at Bhubaneswar during November 5-7, 2003

1. Appropriate River Basin Organisations should be established for Integrated Water Resources Development and Management (IWRDM). The issues involved therein should be addressed at three levels *viz.*, National, Basin and Watershed.
2. Augmentation and conservation of Water through large and small storage reservoirs, rainwater harvesting, ground water recharge, integrated watershed development, recycling and reuse of waste water, conjunctive use of surface and groundwater, reclamation of waterlogged and saline areas are major strategies to be adopted in an integrated manner at the river basin level.
3. Demand side management in the agricultural, industrial and domestic sectors by way of judicious water conservation coupled with supply side management can mainly meet the future water demands. Regular water auditing should be carried out by all the users and water conservation measures should be evolved and adopted.
4. All feasible sources of water *viz.* locally conserved rainwater, ground water, surface water resources including lakes and ponds should be judiciously used in conjunction with each other and with the involvement of all the stakeholders.
5. Integrated water resources management calls for the adoption of modern techniques. Be it the integrated operation of a system of reservoirs or putting in place decision support systems for river basins or the simple planning and implementation of ground water recharge systems at the rural level, studies have been shown that modern techniques could be effectively used.
6. Irrigation sector is the major consumer of the water at present. Competing demands from other

sectors like urban water supply and industries will increase in the future. Efficiency improvement and adoption of suitable cropping pattern including water application methods will go a long way in conserving available water resources for extension of irrigation or making it available for other priority uses.

7. Areas facing water shortage at present are likely to come under much more serious water stress. Interbasin transfer of water within the State as well as inter-State will become essential and viable for meeting the conflicting demands of water in the water short areas along with associated other benefits.
8. Women play an important role in use of water and creation of awareness amongst them on water conservation needs is to be emphasized.
9. Coastal issues must be properly linked with the integrated development and management of water resources.
10. Age old village tanks and systems that have lost their storage capacities and utility should be revived. All the encroachments in waster spread areas of tanks need to be checked and social forestry activity be developed in the periphery or shorelines of tanks so as to avoid further encorachments.
11. Industries and Municipal bodies should ensure tertiary treatment of effluents so as to maintain the quality of water bodies at desired level.
12. Participatory Irrigation Management will go a long way in increasing the efficiency of the irrigation systems significantly. Some states have already enacted laws for establishment of Farmers' Associations for managing part of the irrigation systems with active support of the Governments. The performance of the Farmers' Association should be studied and adopted by other States.
13. Paradigm shift in approach, policy changes, enactment and implementation of suitable legal instruments are required.
14. Suitable pricing of water for recovery of O&M charges will have to be effected for sustainability.
15. IWRDM being complex issue, capacity building in the field is essential. Organizations concerned need to provide appropriate training facilities.

[Translation]

Foodgrain Supply

5404. SHRI BAPU HARI CHAURE: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the suggestions of the concerned State Governments are taken into consideration while providing foodgrains for the 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) The allocation under Public Distribution System (PDS) is not demand based. The Central Government allocates foodgrains @ 35 kg. per family per month on the basis of families identified and ration cards issued by the States/Union Territories (UTs), or on the basis of the State-wise poverty estimates of the Planning Commission for the year 1993-94 and the population projection of Registrar General of India as on 01.03.2000, whichever is less. Since the inception of PDS, rice and wheat is allocated to all the States/UTs as per their food habits. However, if any suggestions are received from any State/UT for revision of rice and wheat ratio in the allocation of foodgrains, it is agreed to by the Central Government within the overall allocation of the foodgrains to the concerned State/UT.

Hike in Prices of Pesticides

5405. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware about the hike in prices of pesticides due to implementation of recent amendment in Patent Act in place of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) related to trade;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the impact on the farmers due to hike in prices of pesticides;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to provide pesticides at affordable rates to the farmers?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) to (d) Majority of the pesticides already in the Indian market are off-patent and their availability would not get affected. There is no control of the Government on production and pricing of pesticides.

[English]

Guidelines for Allocation of Water

5406. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Karnataka has urged the Union Government to formulate guidelines for allocating water of inter-State rivers to the riparian States;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (c) No, Sir. However, Secretary, Department of Water Resources, Government of Karnataka is a member of the Working Group constituted by the Ministry of Water Resources under the Chairmanship of Chairman, Central Water Commission to examine the draft National Policy Guidelines for Sharing/Distribution of Waters of Inter-State Rivers amongst States in view of the decision taken by National Water Board.

[Translation]

Availability of Water Resources

5407. DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the total availability of water resources in the country alongwith quantum of water utilized for drinking and irrigation purposes and unutilized water that flows into sea; and

(b) the extent to which there has been any increase in irrigated area of Madhya Pradesh during each of the last ten years and the total expenditure incurred therein?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN

YADAV): (a) The average annual water availability in the country is assessed at 1869 Billion Cubic Metre (BCM). Out of which, the utilizable water resources are 1122 BCM (690 BCM of surface water and 432 BCM of replenishable ground water). 629 BCM of water is being utilized for diverse purposes including 524 BCM for irrigation and 30 BCM for domestic purposes. Rest of the water could be considered to be flowing down to sea.

(b) As per the details provided by the Government of Madhya Pradesh, the potential created and expenditure incurred in the last 10 years are as under:

Year	Potential Created (Lakh Ha.)	Expenditure (Rs. in Crore)
1995-96	0.32	248.32
1996-97	0.22	246.46
1997-98	0.14	329.80
1998-99	0.18	299.01
1999-00	0.11	367.27
2000-01	0.31	483.82
2001-02	0.49	488.11
2002-03	0.20	658.36
2003-04	0.60	740.21
2004-05	0.77	991.51
Total	3.34	4852.87

Fertilizer Plants

5408. SHRIMATI KALPNA RAMESH NARHIRE: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the details and locations of the fertilizer plants recognized by the Government at present, State-wise;

(b) whether chemical fertilizers are being produced in said plants as well as which have not been recognized by the Government;

(c) if so, whether the Government proposes to recognise them; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

fertilizers plants recognised by the Government at present is given in the enclosed Statement.

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) State-wise details and location of major

(b) No, Sir.

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

Statement

State-wise details and location of major fertilizer plants recognised by the Government

Sl.No.	Name of Plant with location	Name of States
1	2	3
1.	Brahmapura Valley Fertilizers Corporation Ltd. (BVFCL): Namrup III	Assam
2.	National Fertilizers Limited (NFL): Nagal-II	Punjab
3.	NFL: Bhatinda	"
4.	Madras Fertilizers Limited (MFL): Chennai	Tamil Nadu
5.	Southern Petrochemicals Industries Corporation (SPIC): Tuticorin	"
6.	Coromandal Fertilizers Ltd. (CFL): Ennore	"
7.	Tuticorin Alkali Chemicals & Fertilizers Ltd. (TAC): Tuticorin	"
8.	Fertilizers and Chemicals Travancore Ltd. (FACT): Udyogamandal	Kerala
9.	FACT : Cochin-II	"
10.	Zuri Industries Ltd. (ZIL): Goa	Goa
11.	Rashtriya Chemicals & Fertilizers Ltd. (RCF) : Trombay	Maharashtra
12.	RCF : Trombay-IV	"
13.	RCF - Trombay-V*	"
14.	RCF - Thal	"
15.	Deepak Fertilizers & Petrochemicals Corporation Ltd. (DFPCL) : Taloja	"
16.	Mangalore Chemicals & Fertilizers Ltd. (MCF) : Mangalore	Karnataka
17.	NFL : Vijapur	Madhya Pradesh
18.	NFL : Vijay Expn.	"
19.	Chambal Fertilizers and Chemicals Ltd. (CFCL) : Gadepan-I	Rajasthan
20.	CFCL : Gadepan-II	"
21.	Shriram Fertilizers & Chemicals (SFC) : Kota	"

1	2	3
22.	Indian Farmers Fertilizers Cooperative Limited (IFFCO): Kandla	Gujarat
23.	IFFCO: Kalol	"
24.	Krishak Bharati Cooperative Limited (KRIBHCO): Hazira	"
25.	Gujarat State Fertilizers & Chemicals Ltd. (GSFC): Vadodara	"
26.	GSFC: Sikka-I	"
27.	GSFC: Sikka-II	"
28.	Gujarat Narmada Valley Fertilizers Co. Ltd. (GNFC): Bharuch	"
29.	Hindalco Ind. Ltd.: Dahej	"
30.	Coromandal Fertilizers Ltd. (CFL): Vizag	Andhra Pradesh
31.	Godavari Fertilisers and Chemicals Ltd. (GFCL): Kakinada	"
32.	Nagarjuna Fertilizers and Chemicals Ltd. (NFCL): Kakinada-I	"
33.	NFCL: Kakinada-II	"
34.	IFFCO: Phulpur-I	Uttar Pradesh
35.	IFFCO: Phulpur-II	"
36.	IFFCO: Aonla-I	"
37.	IFFCO: Aonla-II	"
38.	Duncans Industries Ltd. (DIL): Kanpur*	"
39.	Indo Gulf Fertilizers Ltd. (IGFL): Jagdishpur	"
40.	Tata Chemicals Ltd. (TCL): Babrala	"
41.	OCF: Shahjahanpur	"
42.	NFL: Panipat	Haryana
43.	Oswal Chemicals & Fertilizers Ltd. (OCF): Paradeep	Orissa
44.	Paradeep Phosphates Ltd. (PPL): Paradeep	"
45.	Tata Chemicals Ltd. (TCL): Haldia	West Bengal

*Production temporarily suspended.

*[English]***Indo-Nepal Joint Venture In Agriculture**

5409. SHRI M.K. SUBBA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Nepal has recently sought participation in joint venture in Agriculture and Tea sectors;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) 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 KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

*[Translation]***Licence to Shopkeepers**

5410. SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the shopkeepers have to acquire licence to sell seeds;

(b) if so, whether the Government proposes to abolish the process of getting licence to sell seeds; and

(c) 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 (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) Yes, Sir. Under Clause 3 of the Seeds (Control) Order, 1983, no person shall carry on the business of selling, exporting or importing seeds at any place except under and in accordance with the terms and conditions of licence granted to him under this Order.

(b) and (c) Provision of the Seed (Control) Order, 1983 have been appropriately subsumed in the comprehensive Seeds Bill, 2004 which has already been introduced in the Rajya Sabha and now has been referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Agriculture. Under this Seeds Bill, 2004, every person who desires to

carry on the business of selling, keeping for sale, offering to sell, bartering, import or export or otherwise supply any seed by himself, or by any other person on his behalf, shall obtain a registration certificate as a dealer in seeds from the State Government.

*[English]***Flood Control In Orissa**

5411. SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government and the Government of Orissa had undertaken any scientific studies to ascertain the reasons of floods in Mahanadi and other rivers; and

(b) if so, the findings thereof and the steps proposed to check the floods in the rivers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) Flood management being within the purview of States, the schemes for flood control are planned, funded and executed by the State Governments. The assistance rendered by Central Government is technical, catalytical and promotional in nature.

As per the information furnished by Government of Orissa, no scientific studies have been carried out by them. However, since 1954 the Central and State Governments have appointed a number of Committees to study and advise the policy matter for speedy implementation of flood control protection programme and also to examine the flood problem in general as well as in specific areas including Mahanadi river for evolving suitable remedial measures. The Rashtriya Barh Ayog (R.B.A.) which was constituted by Government of India in July 1976, to evolve a comprehensive approach to the problem of flood in the country had studied the problem of floods in the river in the country including Mahanadi river and made suggestions specific to Mahandi river.

Rangachari Committee appointed by the Government of India to review the implementation of recommendation of RBA has also examined the option of a second single large dam on Mahanadi in downstream of Hirakud *vis-a-vis* series of small dams on its tributaries for controlling the floods in Mahanadi and recommended that a second large dam on Mahanadi is essential with adequate storage and flood control as prime objective. In addition to that

it had also suggested that the existing embankments in the delta region must be strengthened as needed.

Levy of Tax in Flood Prone Areas

5412. SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to levy at the rate of one to two percent on new infrastructure such as roads, buildings and power plants in the flood prone States for creating a revolving fund for emergent flood management schemes;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the funds earmarked for flood control during the year 2005-06?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) Task Force on flood management and erosion control which was set up by the Government of India under the Chairmanship of Chairman, Central Water Commission has recommended that a revolving fund of Rs. 50.00 crore be made available with the Ministry of Water Resources to take up urgent flood control schemes, especially at the end of the flood season and to mobilize resources for this, a "flood cess" of say 1 to 2 per cent can be levied on all new infrastructure works like roads, buildings, power plants etc. in the flood prone states.

(c) Although flood management and erosion control comes under the purview of State Government, the Central Government also provides assistance to the State Governments to take up critical anti-erosion/flood management schemes. The funds earmarked for Flood Control Sector for the Ministry of Water Resources during the year 2005-06 are Rs. 339.63 crore.

Increase of Female Child Labour

5413. SHRI MADHU GOUD YASKHI: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the latest annual survey conducted by the National Sample Survey Organisation found that the number of female child labourers is growing both in rural and urban areas in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons behind the increase in female child labourers; and

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

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRA SHEKHAR RAO): (a) There is no perceptible increase in the number of female child labour in the rural and the urban areas of the country.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Crises in Supply of DAP and Urea

5414. SHRI NIHAL CHAND: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is crisis supplies of D.A.P. and Urea in the country as reported in the 'Dainik Jagran', dated April 17, 2005;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action being taken by the Government to tackle the problem?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) to (c) No, Sir. Di-Ammonium Phosphate (DAP) manufacturers are procuring phosphoric acid either from their joint Ventures abroad or from the international suppliers of phosphoric acid at the price and terms & conditions negotiated by them. The Phosphoric Acid Consumer Group (PACG) formed by the Phosphatic fertilizer manufacturers negotiates the quantity & price of phosphoric acid with the international suppliers on year-to-year basis. PACG has already started negotiations for procuring phosphoric acid during the year 2005-06.

[English]

Beach Tourism

5415. SHRI K.C. PALANISAMY: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has given any financial assistance for the development of beach tourism to Tamil Nadu State; and

(b) if so, the assistance given during the last three years and the details of beaches identified and developed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. During the last three years funds to the tune of Rs. 4061.25 lakh were sanctioned for development of tourism in the State of Tamil Nadu which included the following projects for development of beach tourism in that State:

Sl.No.	Name of the Project	Amount (Rs. in Lakhs)
(a)	Development of 5-Rathas Mahabalipuram	299.93
(b)	Development of Park near Shore Temple at Mahabalipuram	328.58
(c)	Development of Mutton Beach Thekurichi beach	150.00
(d)	Destination development of Mahabalipuram-Phase II	432.00
Total		1210.51

Selling of Generic Medicines

5416. SHRI KISHAN SINGH SANGWAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that unscrupulous drug manufacturers are selling generic medicines at the rates of branded medicines;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the companies involved therein during the last three years; and

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

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) to (c) 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 and intervenes whenever instances of unreasonable increase in prices affecting public interest adversely are noticed.

Production of Organic Cotton

5417. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the organic cotton is in demand and offers a good opportunity for Indian cotton farmers;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) the scheme prepared by the Union Government to encourage organic cotton production; and

(d) the per acre incentive given to farmers 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) and (b) Yes, Sir. In the year 2003-04, India exported 26 Metric Tonnes of certified Organic Cotton to Europe.

(c) and (d) The Government has taken up a new Scheme "National Project on Organic Farming" for production, promotion, certification and market development of Organic Farming including Cotton. Under the Scheme, assistance is available for the following components:-

- (i) Putting in place a system of certification of Organic Produce.
- (ii) Capacity building through service providers;
- (iii) Financial support for commercial production units for production of organic inputs like fruits & vegetable waste compost, bio-fertilizer production; and hatcheries for vermiculture.
- (iv) Training, field demonstration, promotion & market development.

Misutilization of EST Guidelines

5418. SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Environmentally Sound Technologies (EST) used by firms engaged in the recycling/re-refining of used/waste oil was as per rule 21(1) of HW Rules;

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

(c) whether the Government has received any objections from certain Public representatives and industries on draft EST guidelines on Central Pollution Control Board's (CPCB) website; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto alongwith the details of action taken against the units which have misused registration in the past?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (d) As per Rule 21(1) of the Hazardous Waste (Management & Handling) Rules, 1989 as amended in 2003, re-refiners and recyclers are required to use only environmentally sound technologies while recycling and re-refining of waste oil or used oil respectively. In case of used oil, re-refiners using acid clay process or modified acid clay process are required to adopt other Environmentally Sound Technologies (ESTs) as given under Rule 21(1)(a) to 21(1)(d) of the Hazardous Wastes (Management & Handling) Amendment Rules, 2003.

The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) is reported to have received representations on the draft guidelines formulated by it for recycling of waste oil and re-refining of used oil. These covered following submissions:

- (i) Use of continuous process technology for re-refining of used oil;
- (ii) Batch process based re-refining be not permitted; and
- (iii) The technology for waste oil recycling and re-refining of used oil be as specified in the Rules.

The Expert Committee constituted by the CPCB on consideration of representations has maintained that:

- (i) Re-refining of used oil is not fractional distillation;
- (ii) Used oil is already a lubricating oil fraction and is only required to be re-refined; and

- (iii) The technologies mentioned under Rule 21(1)(a), 21(1)(b), 21(1)(c) and 21(1)(d) are for used oil re-refining.

Steps have been initiated by the Supreme Court Monitoring Committee (SCMC) to formulate the Environmentally Sound Technology (EST) Guidelines for used and waste oils by constituting a Sub-Committee of the SCMC. Action as per Hazardous Wastes (Management & Handling) Rules is taken against units in case of misuse of registration.

[Translation]

Export of Non-Basmati Rice

5419. SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN:
SHRI HARISHCHANDRA CHAVAN:
SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA:

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

(a) whether a large quantity of Non-Basmati Rice is being exported from the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the quantity exported during the last three years;

(c) the foreign exchange earned therefrom during the said period; and

(d) the target set out for export of Non-Basmati Rice during the current year?

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) As per figures of Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence & Statistics (DGCIS), Kolkata, quantity and value of non-basmati rice exported during the last three years are as under:

Year	Quantity (in MTs)	Value (Rs. in lakhs)
2002-03	40,76,347	3,63,408
2003-04	26,01,471	2,14,216
2004-05 (Provisional)	22,48,387	2,38,270

(d) No target has been set out for export of non-basmati rice.

*[English]***Pricing of Groundnut**

5420. SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been any decline in the price of groundnut since 2001 in wholesale market;

(b) if so, the details of retail prices of groundnut recorded during the said period alongwith the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by the Union Government to prevent the interests of groundnut growers 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) to (c) The annual average of month-end Wholesale prices of Groundnut (with shell) from the year 2001 to 2005 are given below:

Table 1
Annual Average Wholesale Prices

(Rs. per quintal)

Year	Groundnut (with shell)	
	Rajkot (Gujarat)	Hathras (Uttar Pradesh)
2001	1218	1740
2002	1472	1725
2003	1875	1765
2004	1836	1725
2005*	1780	1665

*Average of January to March, 2005

Retail price statistics are not compiled for groundnut. Since retail prices are relevant to groundnut oil, the trends in annual average month-end retail prices for groundnut oil in Ahmedabad and Lucknow are given below:

Table 2
Annual Average Wholesale Prices

(Rs. per kg)

Year	Groundnut Oil	
	Ahmedabad (Gujarat)	Lucknow (Uttar Pradesh)
2001	40.83	60.00
2002	47.44	67.50
2003	58.00	76.42
2004	55.04	79.25
2005*	54.13	80.00

*Average of January to April 2005.

The prices of commodities depend on supply and demand and the variations in supply *vis-a-vis* demand affects 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 and oilseeds, including groundnut. 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.

Skill Development Project for Women affected by Tsunami Disaster

5421. SHRI D. VITTAL RAO: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the International Labour Organisation has established a skill development project for women affected by Tsunami disaster; and

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the modalities worked out in this regard?

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

(b) ILO is working with the Employers' and Workers' Organisations to provide modest income-generating activities including skill training for the vulnerable groups in the Tsunami affected areas of Southern India. One such activity was taken up with a rural workers' trade

union "Indian National Rural Labour Federation (INRLF)" in Kalpakkam near Chennai. 100 women have been trained in making of incense stick (agarbati). Another batch of 75 women is likely to take training from the first week of May 2005. Internal resources of ILO were also reprogrammed to support small-scale quick impact initiatives.

[Translation]

Institutions/Workers under EPF

5422. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR MODI: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of institutions and workers covered under the Employees Provident Fund particularly in Bihar, State-wise;

(b) the number of workers whose claims are lying pending particularly in Bihar, State-wise; and

(c) by when their claims are likely to be settled?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRA SHEKHAR RAO): (a) The details are given in the enclosed Statement-I.

(b) The details are given in the enclosed Statement-II.

(c) The claims complete in all respect are required to be settled within 30 days from the date of receipt. However, certain claims get delayed on account of non-submission of returns/non-remittance of dues by the establishment.

Statement I

Establishment & workers covered under the EPF as on 28.02.2005

Region	No. of Establishments			No. of Members		
	Exempted	Unexempted	Total	Exempted	Unexempted	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Andhra Pradesh	103	36,902	37005	245,668	2,858,937	3,104,605
Bihar	52	3,392	3444	59,990	167,363	227,353
Chandigarh	6	3,964	3970	57,000	250,921	307,921
Delhi	225	26,996	27221	357,157	1,843,182	2,200,339
Goa	10	1,652	1662	7,865	273,377	281,242
Gujarat	87	35,195	35282	214,664	3,504,510	3,719,174
Himachal Pradesh	21	3,162	3183	5,146	201,347	206,493
Haryana	31	17,047	17078	61,997	1,474,905	1,536,902
Jharkhand	68	5,798	5866	236,004	533,335	769,339
Karnataka	118	26,759	26877	349,0433	3,222,725	3,571,768
Kerala	76	131,75	13251	26,688	1,181,467	1,208,155
Maharashtra	446	60,519	60965	695,167	7,130,261	7,825,428
Madhya Pradesh	47	11,332	11379	43,091	1,401,764	1,444,855
North East Region	18	4,387	4405	30,634	174,897	205,531
Orissa	58	7,064	7122	84,140	650,602	734,742

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Punjab	24	21,136	21160	31,381	2,556,228	2,587,609
Rajasthan	41	10,844	10885	100,577	1,271,986	1,372,563
Tamil Nadu	155	48,795	48950	255,919	4,860,495	5,116,414
Uttaranchal	30	2,555	2585	71,364	117,052	188,416
Uttar Pradesh	167	28,135	28302	177,674	1,370,414	1,548,088
West Bengal	646	29,820	30466	789,427	1,945,227	2,734,654
Total	2429	3,98,629	401058	3,900,596	36,990,995	40,891,591

Statement II*Claims Pending as on 28.02.2005*

Region	No. of Claims
1	2
Andhra Pradesh	18,417
Bihar	757
Chandigarh	7,728
Delhi	29,620
Goa	1,647
Gujarat	34,276
Himachal Pradesh	401
Haryana	11,775
Jharkhand	2,219
Karnataka	50,255
Kerala	7,175
Maharashtra	84,600
Madhya Pradesh	6,209
North East Region	1,326
Orissa	2,425
Punjab	7,863

1	2
Rajasthan	9
Tamil Nadu	31,247
Uttaranchal	729
Uttar Pradesh	4,296
West Bengal	43,893
Total	3,46,867

Adivasi Cultural Tourism

5423. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has formulated any scheme to promote Adivasi Cultural Tourism in various States including Uttar Pradesh; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, Ministry of Tourism supports specific projects received from the State Governments for development, promotion and marketing of tribal areas and cultural tourism under the General Schemes of the Ministry.

[English]

Drinking Water Quality

5424. SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to institutionalise water quality monitoring and surveillance system;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government is providing any Central assistance for setting up stationary as well as mobile water testing laboratories in all district headquarters;

(c) if so, the details of such laboratories set up in Orissa/Maharashtra/Uttar Pradesh alongwith funds provided by the Union Government to the State Governments during the last three years for the purpose; and

(d) the guidelines issued by the Union Government to the State Governments for routine analysis of water samples for their physico-chemical and microbial quality?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir. It is proposed to institutionalize rural water quality monitoring and surveillance by involving grass root level workers of Gram Panhayat/Village Water & Sanitation Committee, District water quality testing laboratories and the State Level laboratory for testing quality of all drinking water sources in the country. Department of Health at all levels will be involved actively for water quality surveillance and joint sanitary survey activities.

(b) As per existing norms, Central Government provides assistance upto Rs. 4 lakh for establishing new district level water quality testing laboratory. No mobile laboratories are being sanctioned now.

(c) In Orissa, during the last 3 years, 17 out of 18 district water quality-testing laboratories have been set up with the assistance provided by Government of India. An amount of Rs. 36 lakh had been released, as second installment during March, 2005.

In Maharashtra, during the last 3 years, no district water quality-testing laboratories have been sanctioned by the Central Government.

(d) Operational Manual and Executive Guidelines for Implementation of Water Quality Testing laboratories have been issued in May, 1990 and are available on the web-site at www.ddws.nic.in.

Relief Card for Tsunami Victims

5425. SHRI LONAPPAN NAMBADAN:
SHRI P.C. THOMAS:

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

(a) whether the Supreme Court Commissioner on 'Right to Food' has made a recommendation regarding issue of "Special Relief Card" to Tsunami Victims to ensure adequate supply of foodgrains;

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

(c) the other recommendations made by the Commissioner in this regard; and

(d) the action taken by the Government 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) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Supreme Court Commissioner on 'Right to Food' has desired that all State Governments should ensure that "Special Relief Card" to all Tsunami survivors are issued within a month. He has stated that these cards should provide entitlements equivalent to Antyodaya ration cards for a period of one year from the date of issue regardless of their eligibility in normal times.

Before a decision is taken by the Central Government to include the Tsunami survivors under the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), it was decided to estimate the number of such affected households before taking requisite action to implement the Supreme Court Commissioner's recommendation. The requisite information required for processing the case has not yet been received from all the affected States.

(c) and (d) No other recommendations have been made by the Supreme Court Commissioner in this regard.

[Translation]

Construction of Dam on Ujh River

5426. SHRI CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has conducted any survey for construction of dams for power generation in Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Director of Planning and Design wing of PWD in consultation with CBI&P-GOI has submitted any project report to Union Government for construction of Dam on Ujh river; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government for construction of Dam?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) Government of Jammu & Kashmir has informed that it envisages construction of dams for power generation wherever such dams are technically feasible and are allowed to be constructed within the purview of Indus Waters Treaty and as of now, following projects are envisaged for construction with dam type storages:

Sawalakot project	190 m high RCC Dam
Ujh Stage-I	120 m high Rockfill Dam
Shitkari Kulan	76 m high Rockfill Dam

(c) and (d) Central Board of Irrigation & Power (CBI&P) have informed they have no information. However, Water & Power Consultancy Services (India) Ltd. have informed of having prepared Pre-feasibility Report for 280 MW Ujh H.E. Project, based on topo-sheet study, at the instance of Central Electricity Authority. Based on the information received from Government of J&K, the scheme for construction of Ujh Dam was prepared by Planning & Design Wing of J&K PWD in 1966 and the Detailed Project Report was submitted by the Design Directorate of J&K to Central Water Commission in 1966. According to the State Government, the above scheme could not be taken up due to effect of high silt content in the river on storage facility and with advanced technology now available to combat such problem, steps have been taken to engage reputed consultant/agency for preparation of survey plans and updation of detailed project report. It has also since been informed by the Government of J&K that a preliminary report in respect of Ujh Storage Project has been submitted to Central Water Commission for consent to formulate a detailed project report.

National Electronic Commodity Spot Exchange for Produce of Farmers

5427. SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal regarding setting up of a National Electronic Commodity Spot Exchange for the produce of farmers 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) The Multi Commodity Exchange of India (MCX), Financial Technologies (India) Ltd., and National Cooperative Marketing Federation of India (NAFED) have entered into a joint venture for the establishment of National Spot Exchange for Agriculture Produce (NSEAP), which will permit participants all over the country to trade with each other electronically and settle their trades under the support and regulations of NSEAP. This joint venture was launched on the 10th February, 2005 and the exchange is expected to commence live trading during the second half of the 2005-06.

Filling up of Reserved Quota

5428. SHRI LALMANI PRASAD: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of employees belonging to SCs, STs and OBCs in various categories working in the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers;

(b) the number of SCs, STs and OBCs personnels in 'A', 'B', 'C' and 'D' groups separately in various departments;

(c) whether reservation quota of SCs/STs and OBCs has been filled;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) by when it is likely to be filled up;

(f) whether any action has been taken/proposed to be taken against the officials responsible for not filling the quota; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) The total number of employees belonging

to SC, ST and OBC in various categories working in the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers is as under:-

	SC	ST	OBC
Group 'A'	9	3	—
Group 'B'	21	4	3
Group 'C'	27	2	2
Group 'D'	46	1	4
Total	103	10	9

(b) The number of SC, ST and OBC working in Group 'A', 'B', 'C' and 'D' in the Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals and the Department of Fertilizers under the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers is as under:

	Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals			Department of Fertilizers		
	SC	ST	OBC	SC	ST	OBC
Group 'A'	5	1	—	4	2	—
Group 'B'	8	—	3	13	4	—
Group 'C'	8	—	—	19	2	2
Group 'D'	23	1	—	23	—	4
Total	44	2	3	59	8	6

(c) to (g) The reservation quota of SC, ST and OBC is determined on the basis of the staff strength and the reservation roster maintained by the Ministry/Department. Filling up of the reservation quota, however, depends on the availability of vacancies in a particular grade. Due to the restrictions imposed by the Government on filling up of vacancies by direct recruitment, it has not been possible for the Ministry to clear the backlog in the reserved quota. The Ministry is, however, committed to fill up the backlog strictly in accordance with the provisions of the reservation roster as and when vacancies are available.

Subsidy for Construction of Godowns

5429. SHRI KRISHNA MURARI MOGHE: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had announced a scheme to provide subsidy for the construction of Godowns during 2003-2004;

(b) if so, the subsidy provided under the said scheme, till date;

(c) the result produced so far;

(d) whether the Government proposes to implement the said scheme during the ensuing years; 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 (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir. Scheme for the construction/renovation of rural godowns was introduced for implementation in the year 2001-2002. Subsidy for the construction/renovation of rural godowns under the scheme was provided during 2003-2004 also.

(b) The subsidy provided under the scheme right from its inception till 31.3.2005 is as under:—

2001-02	Rs. 20.00 crores
2002-03	Rs. 64.86 crores
2003-04	Rs. 79.82 crores
2004-05	Rs. 100.00 crores
Total	Rs. 264.68 crores

(c) 127 lakh tonnes storage capacity has been sanctioned by NABARD and NCDC under the scheme upto 31.12.2004.

(d) and (e) Yes Sir. The Scheme has been approved for implementation upto March, 2007. It is envisaged to achieve a target of creation of new storage capacity of 36.00 lakh tonnes and renovation of 4.00 lakh tonnes of cooperative storage projects with Central outlay of Rs. 130.00 crores in the ensuing years.

[English]

Conservation of Peacocks

5430. SHRI MANJUNATH KUNNUR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to declare Bankapur Fort area in Karnataka as Peacock Conservation Reserve;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government of Japan is willing to extend financial assistance for the conservation of peacocks; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) Yes Sir, as reported by the State Government of Karnataka.

(b) About 139 acres of area within the historic Bankapur Fort surrounded by a moat.

(c) There is no such proposal.

(d) Does not arise.

[*Translation*]

Revival of Urea Plant

5431. SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR KUSHAWAHA:
MOHD. SHAHID:
PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:
SHRI MOHD. TAHIR:

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

(a) the details of location of urea plants functioning in the country at present;

(b) the present stock of urea in the country;

(c) the details of urea plants closed at present;

(d) the estimated loss in production of urea in tonnes due to closure of said plants;

(e) whether the Government proposes to revive the closed urea plants as appeared in the 'Rashtriya Sahara' dated March 23, 2005;

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

(g) by when the production is likely to be started in the new plants;

(h) the likely increase in tonnes in the stock of urea as a result thereof; and

(i) the percentage of subsidy likely to be provided by the Government to the new plants?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) The details and location of urea plants functioning in the country at present is given in the enclosed statement.

(b) Stock of urea as on 15.04.2005 was about 14.11 lakh MT.

(c) The following 11 urea plants of the companies are presently closed due to various reasons:

Sl.No.	Name of the Company/ Unit	Annual Installed Capacity (In lakh MT)	Date of closure
1.	FCI: Gorakhpur	2.85	10.06.1990
2.	FCI: Ramagundam	4.95	1.04.1999
3.	FCI: Talcher	4.95	1.04.1999
4.	FCI: Sindri	3.30	16.03.2002
5.	HFC: Namrup-II	3.30	1.04.1994
6.	HFC: Durgapur	3.30	1.07.1997
7.	HFC: Barauni	3.30	1.01.1999
8.	RCF: Trombay-I	0.98	1.05.1995
9.	NLC: Neyveli	1.53	31.3.2002
10.	DIL: Kanpur	7.22	1.04.2002
11.	FACT: Cochin-I	3.30	15.05.2001
Total		38.98	15.05.2001

(d) The estimated loss in production of urea due to closure of the above plants is about 38.98 lakh MT annually.

(e) and (f) Units are to be revived based on their financial viability.

(g) Production is likely to be started in DIL-Kanpur plant from June 2005.

(h) There is likely to be an increase of 7.22 lakh MT per annum of urea after DIL-Kanpur starts operations.

(i) The amount of subsidy payable to new urea plants, as and when they are commissioned, will depend on their production cost and the rate of concession, which

will be determined based on the principle of Long Run Average Cost (LRAC).

Statement

Details and location of Urea Plants functioning in the country

Sl.No.	Plant with location	Installed Capacity ('000' MT)	States
1	2	3	4
1.	Brahmaputra Valley Fertilizers Corporation Ltd. (BVFCL): Namrup III	315.00	Assam
2.	National Fertilizers Limited (NFL): Nagal-II	478.5	Punjab
3.	NFL: Bhatinda	511.5	"
4.	Madras Fertilizers Limited (MFL): Chennai	486.8	Tamil Nadu
5.	Southern Petrochemicals Industries Corporation (SPIC): Tuticorin	620.0	"
6.	Zuri Industries Ltd. (ZIL): Goa	399.3	Goa
7.	Rashtriya Chemicals & Fertilizers Ltd. (RCF): Thal	1706.8	Maharashtra
8.	Mangalore Chemicals & Fertilizers Ltd. (MCF): Mangalore	380.0	Karnataka
9.	NFL: Vijapur	864.6	Madhya Pradesh
10.	NFL: Vijay Expn.	864.6	"
11.	Chambal Fertilizers and Chemicals Ltd. (CFCL): Gadepan-I	864.6	Rajasthan
12.	Shriram Fertilizers & Chemicals (SFC): Kota	379.0	"
13.	CFCL: Gadepan-II	864.6	"
14.	Indian Farmers Fertilizers Cooperative Limited (IFFCO): Kandla	544.5	Gujarat
15.	Krishak Baharati Cooperative Limited (KRIBHCO): Hazira	1729.2	"
16.	Gujarat State Fertilizers & Chemicals Ltd. (GSFC): Vadodara	370.6	"
17.	Gujarat Narmada Valley Fertilizers Co. Ltd. (GNFC): Bharuch	636.0	"
18.	Nagarjuna Fertilisers and Chemicals Ltd. (NFCL): Kakinada-I	597.3	Andhra Pradesh
19.	NFCL: Kakinada-II	597.3	"
20.	IFFCO: Phulpur-I	551.1	Uttar Pradesh
21.	IFFCO: Phulpur-II	864.6	"
22.	IFFCO: Aonla-I	864.6	"

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Jharkhand	22637	6.00	6.00	6.00	6.00	6.00	30.00
Karnataka	36991	11.00	11.00	11.00	11.00	11.00	55.00
Kerala	15560	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	25.00
Madhya Pradesh	77265	23.00	23.00	23.00	23.00	23.00	115.00
Maharashtra	47465	14.00	14.00	14.00	14.00	14.00	70.00
Manipur	16926	6.00	6.00	6.00	6.00	6.00	30.00
Meghalaya	15584	6.00	6.00	6.00	6.00	6.00	30.00
Mizoram	17494	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	25.00
Nagaland	13345	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	25.00
Orissa	48838	15.00	15.00	15.00	15.00	15.00	75.00
Punjab	2432	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	2.00
Rajasthan	16367	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	25.00
Sikkim	3193	1.60	1.60	1.60	1.60	1.60	8.00
Tamil Nadu	21482	6.00	6.00	6.00	6.00	6.00	30.00
Tripura	7065	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00
Uttar Pradesh	13746	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	20.00
Uttaranchal	23938	7.00	7.00	7.00	7.00	7.00	35.00
West Bengal	10693	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	15.00
Total States	668200	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	1000.00

Export of Iron Ore by NMDC

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

5433. SHRI PRADEEP GANDHI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of iron ore exported by National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC) during each of the last three years and current year;

(b) by when the iron ore export contract of NMDC is likely to expire;

(c) whether NMDC will accord priority to cater to the need of iron ore in Chhattisgarh over export thereof; and

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) The quantity of iron ore exported by National Mineral Development Corporation Ltd. (NMDC) during last three years is as following:

	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05*
Quantity of Iron ore Exported (Qty. in million tonne)	8.2	7.1	7.5

* Provisional

Current year 2005-06 has just begun.

(b) The long-term export contracts of NMDC are expiring on 31.03.06.

(c) and (d) NMDC as a policy accords priority to domestic industry over export. Accordingly the Chhattisgarh based plants will also get priority. During 2003-04, a quantity of 1.4 lakhs tonnes was offered to sponge iron units located in Chhattisgarh but eventually the lifting was only 0.65 lakh tonnes. For the year 2004-05, a quantity of 5.6 lakh tonnes was offered to the industries in the State, out of which total lifting was only about 1.4 lakh tonnes.

Pending Proposal of Himachal Pradesh

5434. SHRIMATI PRATIBHA SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some proposals of Himachal Pradesh Government aimed at bringing about diversification in agriculture system collecting rain water and giving clearance for outside financial assistance for the purpose of raising the standard of life of women in the State are pending for approval;

(b) if so, whether the Government of Himachal Pradesh has also requested for giving approval to clear the dues under Centrally sponsored scheme namely market intervention scheme to protect the crops against pests and epidemics and also for settlement of accounts from 1991-92 to 1997-98 and for clearing the dues from 1998-1999 to 2002-2003;

(c) if so, the date on which the request was received;

(d) the reasons for which the same is kept pending; and

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

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) Government of Himachal Pradesh has submitted two proposals namely, Diversified Agriculture for Enhanced Farm income and Natural Resource Management for Sustainable Livelihoods to raise the standard of living of women in the State for external financial assistance. These proposals have been cleared from the technical angle.

(b) to (e) The Market Intervention Scheme for Procurement of 78,495 Metric Tones 'C' grade apples at the Market Intervention Price of Rs. 325/- per quintal during 1998-99 was implemented in Himachal Pradesh. The Central Government share of loss amounting to Rs. 10.90 crore has already been released.

The proposal of Government of Himachal Pradesh for procurement of apple under Market Intervention Scheme in Himachal Pradesh for the years 2001-02 and 2002-03 could not be considered by this Department, as there was no justification. Hence, the question of clearing the dues of any loss under this scheme does not arise.

[English]

Safety of Animals in Zoological Parks

5435. SHRI UDAY SINGH:
SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY:

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

(a) whether the Government is aware that animals are not safe inside the Zoological Parks in the country particularly in Delhi as reported in the *Hindustan Times* dated April 04, 2005;

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

(c) whether Section 38J of the Wildlife Protection Act is grossly violated by the visitors who come to Zoological Parks;

(d) if so, the reasons behind failure of Zoological Park authorities to check such violations; and

(e) the concrete steps taken to ensure proper safety to animals in Zoological Parks particularly in Delhi Zoo?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) The zoos in the country are being modernised to ensure well being of the animals as well as their safety. However, as majority of the zoos are displaying animals in open enclosures there may be some freak incidences of vandalism by visitors.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) It is mandatory under the Recognition of Zoo Rules, 1992 to provide adequate security for ensuring the safety of animals in zoos. Financial assistance is also provided to zoos in the country for strengthening the security fencing around the zoo, providing stand off barriers around animal enclosures, providing warning sign boards as well as for installing communication equipments like CCTV and walky-talky sets.

Demand and Supply of Potato

5436. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of demand and supply position of potato during each of the last two years and till-date;

(b) whether the Union Government has estimated the domestic demand of potato during 2004-05;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken to meet the demand?

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 domestic demand of potato per annum is estimated to about 23-24 million tonnes, The production for last two years are as under:-

Year	Production in Million tonnes
2003-04	23.55
2004-05	24.15

(d) The Government is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme on "Macro-Management in Agriculture—Supplementation/Complementation of States' Effort through Work Plan" including a program on production of potato.

Medical Facilities to Beedi Workers

5437. SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO:
SHRI GIRIDHARI YADAV:
SHRI DEVIDAS PINGLE:

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

(a) the details of the medical facilities available for Beedi Workers in the country;

(b) whether several Beedi workers have lost their lives owing to lack of modern medical facilities in the hospitals for Beedi workers in the country particularly in Maharashtra;

(c) if so, the number of Beedi workers who have lost their lives during the last year and the current year, State-wise;

(d) the hospitals which are facing problem of shortage of medicines and staff and the steps taken or likely to be taken by the Government for the modernization of hospitals for Beedi workers during the last one year;

(e) whether any concrete scheme has been formulated to provide better medical facilities to Beedi workers; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRA SHEKHAR RAO): (a) There are four hospitals at Karma (Jharkhand), Mysore (Karnataka), Gurusahaiganj (Uttar Pradesh) and Dhultyan (West Bengal) and 206 Static-cum-Mobile dispensaries in the country exclusively for treatment of beedi workers and their dependents. Construction of another three hospitals at Biharsharif (Bihar), Mukkudal (Tamil Nadu) and Sagar (Madhya Pradesh) for beedi workers is in the final stage.

(b) and (c) As per information available no such case has been reported.

(d) There is no shortage of medicines. However, there is some shortage of doctors in some of the dispensaries & hospitals. In such cases doctors are being engaged on contract basis.

(e) and (f) A scheme to provide Grant-in-aid to State Govts./Reputed NGOs/ESIC/Group Housing Societies/Central or State Govt. recognized private hospitals/dispensaries intending to construct or expand its existing infrastructure to provide better medical facilities to beedi workers and their dependents up to Rs. 2.00 crore or 75% of actual cost of construction including cost of medical equipments, whichever is less, has been formulated. The scheme also provides grant upto Rs. 4.00 lakh or 75% of actual cost of Ambulance/Mobile Van, whichever is less and Rs. 10.00 lakh per annum or

75% of actual cost of medicines, whichever is less for maintenance of a minimum of 15 bedded hospital. Besides, awareness generation and health camps are organized in areas which are not covered by the existing hospitals & dispensaries. The hospitals and dispensaries provide basic health care. There are also schemes for reimbursement of cost of treatment to beedi workers for major illnesses like cancer, heart diseases & kidney transplantation. Further, there is a provision of reservation of beds in T.B. Hospitals, financial assistance for domiciliary treatment for T.B. Patients.

[*Translation*]

Construction of Green House

5438. DR. COL. (RETD.) DHANI RAM SHANDIL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has provided assistance to the farmers for the construction of Green House to supplement the efforts of States through the action plan under the Centrally sponsored scheme of Wider Management in Agriculture;

(b) if so, the people to whom and the dates on which the funds under the scheme were provided in the districts of Shimla, Solan and Nahan-Sirmour of Himachal Pradesh together with the amount of funds so provided; and

(c) 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. Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India has been implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme on "Macro Management of Agriculture-Supplementation/Complementation of States' efforts through work plan", under which assistance @ Rs. 200/- per square metre upto a maximum of 25% of total cost for a maximum area of 500 square metre was provided for construction of green house.

(b) and (c) The names of the people of whom and the dates on which the funds were provided for construction of green houses under the scheme in the districts of Shimla, Solan and Nahan (Sirmour) of Himachal Pradesh is not readily available. However, the details of funds released for construction of green houses

under the scheme on Macro-Management of Agriculture in Shimla, Solan and Nahan (Sirmour) districts of Himachal Pradesh since 2000-01 to 2003-04 are as given below:

(Rs. in lakhs)			
Year	Shimla	Solan	Sirmour
2000-01	0.09	0.38	—
2001-02	0.49	0.21	0.27
2002-03	1.21	—	0.56
2003-04	—	—	1.20

Recognizing the potential for development of horticulture in Himachal Pradesh, since 2003-04 Ministry of Agriculture has been implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme namely "Technology Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture in North Eastern States, Sikkim, Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttaranchal" in mission mode approach to address all the issues related to development of horticulture in the state including green house cultivation of horticulture crops. During the year 2003-04 and 2004-05, an amount of Rs. 6.50 crores and Rs. 13.00 crores respectively, have been released to the State Government for implementation of the above programmes, of which Rs. 1.16 crores has been allocated for establishment of green houses.

[*English*]

Vocational Rehabilitation Centres for Handicapped

5439. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH:
SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA:

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

(a) whether there are only 17 Vocational Rehabilitation Centres (VRCs) in operation for 18.53 million handicapped people in the country;

(b) if so, whether there is any proposal to set up more VRCs in the country particularly in rural areas;

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

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the hostel facilities are not available in most of these VRCs;

(f) if so, the steps taken to provide hostel facilities in these VRCs; and

(g) the number of handicapped men/women were rehabilitated during the last three years, State-wise and year-wise?

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

(b) to (d) There is a proposal to set up seven VRC's in the States of Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Pondicherry,

Goa, Nagaland, Meghalaya & Jammu & Kashmir during the 10th Five Year Plan. Three Centres have already been sanctioned.

(e) and (f) At present, hostel facilities are available in five VRC's and a decision has been taken to provide hostel facilities whenever government building for VRC's are constructed.

(g) State-wise and gender-wise details of the handicapped persons rehabilitated by the VRC's during 2002, 2003 and 2004 are given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

Number of handicapped Men/Women Rehabilitated

State	Location of VRC	2002		2003		2004	
		Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women
Tripura	Agartala	126	44	125	36	139	46
Gujarat	Ahmedabad	587	137	638	131	795	205
Karnataka	Bangalore	434	98	477	102	467	123
Orissa	Bhubaneshwar	230	101	539	96	471	266
Tamil Nadu	Chennai	406	170	547	145	759	246
Delhi	Delhi	319	76	342	60	287	68
Assam	Guwahati	60	28	313	139	673	219
Andhra Pradesh	Hyderabad	1213	355	1288	361	1079	324
Madhya Pradesh	Jabalpur	395	110	413	95	357	71
Rajasthan	Jaipur	337	6	354	16	324	2
Uttar Pradesh	Kanpur	492	98	497	81	547	87
West Bengal	Kolkata	347	59	428	69	496	92
Punjab	Ludhiana	173	73	174	72	246	59
Maharashtra	Mumbai	714	142	839	111	771	126
Bihar	Patna	400	52	399	43	391	30
Kerala	Tiruvananthapuram	452	131	366	240	409	163
Gujarat	*Vadodara	—	128	—	158	—	152
	Total	6685	1818	7739	1955	8211	2279

*VRC for Women only

Krishna Water Dispute Tribunal

5440. SHRI M. SHIVANNA:
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether New Krishna Water Dispute Tribunal has not become functional;

(b) if so, whether the Government of Maharashtra has diverted the water from Upper Krishna Sub-basin to Upper Bheema Sub-basin as a result thereof;

(c) whether this has affected the inflows to Alamatti reservoir; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (d) The State Government of Karnataka in its letter of Complaint dated 25th September, 2002 to the Central Government under Section 3 of the Inter-State River Water Disputes (ISRWD) Act, 1956 mentions that the Government of Maharashtra has taken executive actions is creating in the Krishna basin a total live storage capacity of 560 Thousand Million Cubic Feet (TMC) having a potential to use the surplus waters way beyond its share and refusing to share the surplus water. The details of total live storage capacity of 560 TMC basin-wise as well as the effect of such creation on the inflows on Almatti dam have not been elaborated in the said complaint. However, Andhra Pradesh has reported that the State of Maharashtra is illegally constructing projects such as Balkewadi, Kudali, Jihe-Kathapur Lift, Urmodi, Tarali, Chikotra, Morna, Tembhu Lift Irrigation Scheme for a utilisation of about 51 TMC even without the approval of Central Water Commission/Ministry of Water Resources in the upper Krishna sub basin. The Central Government constituted the Krishna Water Dispute Tribunal (KWDT) on April 2, 2004 and referred to it the letters of complaint of the State of Karnataka as well as those of the States of Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra to the Tribunal on the same date for adjudication of the disputes raised in the complaints. The Tribunal in its meeting held on 13th April, 2005 has issued notices to the basin States under Rule 4 of the Inter State Water Disputes (ISWD) Rules 1959 for nominating their representatives on or before May 19, 2005 to present their cases in the proceedings before Tribunal.

Beautification of Chaitya Bhoomi

5441. SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:
SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:
SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD:
SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL:

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

(a) whether the Government has received a revised proposal from Maharashtra for beautification of Chaitya Bhoomi;

(b) if so, whether the Government has approved the same; and

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

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

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

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) The matter is under examination.

*[Translation]***Construction of New Godowns**

5443. SHRI SURAJ SINGH:
SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN:

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

(a) whether new godowns have not been constructed by Food Corporation of India (FCI) during the last three years;

(b) if so, the current position of godowns of FCI alongwith the plans of expansion, State-wise; and

(c) the details of new godowns proposed to be constructed during the current and next financial 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) During the last three years, the FCI has

constructed the new godowns as per details given in the enclosed statement-I.

(b) and (c) As on 1.3.2005, the FCI has a total storage capacity of 261.21 lakh MTs (owned/hired and covered/CAP) with a percentage utilization of 50%.

Keeping in view the current utilization of storage capacity, it has been decided that the FCI will take up

construction of new godowns only in the North-Eastern States including Sikkim and Jammu & Kashmir from 2005-06 onwards. However, ongoing godowns construction projects will be completed during the year.

The details of the godowns to be completed during the current financial year (2005-06) are given in the enclosed statement-II. As regards 2006-07, proposal for construction of new godowns will be finalized before the commencement of the next financial year.

Statement I

Storage capacity constructed during the last 3 years (year-wise & State-wise) are as under

Sl.No.	Centre/State	Capacity Constructed (in tonnes)		
		2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
1	2	3	4	5
North Zone				
1.	Malout/Punjab	5,000	—	—
2.	Kargil/Jammu and Kashmir	2,500	—	—
3.	Leh/Jammu and Kashmir	2,500	—	—
4.	Chamba/Himachal Pradesh	1,670	—	—
5.	Kishtwar/Jammu and Kashmir	2,500	—	—
6.	Hanumangarh/Rajasthan	15,000	—	—
7.	Baran/Rajasthan	5,000	—	—
8.	Sirsa/Haryana	—	16,670	10,000
9.	N.G. Tanda/Punjab	—	23,340	—
10.	Raibareilly/Uttar Pradesh	—	20,000	—
11.	Vyasnagar/Uttar Pradesh	—	—	13,340
South Zone				
1.	Nalgonda/Andhra Pradesh	10,000	—	—
2.	Miryalguda/Andhra Pradesh	10,000	—	—
3.	Nellore Phase-II/Andhra Pradesh	10,000	—	—
4.	Kazipet/Andhra Pradesh	10,000	—	—
5.	Dichpally/Andhra Pradesh	5,000	5,000	—
6.	Hanuman Jn./Andhra Pradesh	—	10,000	—

1	2	3	4	5
7.	Nellore Ph. III/Andhra Pradesh	—	—	15,000
8.	Sevur/Tamil Nadu	5,000	—	—
9.	Salem/Tamil Nadu	—	3,340	3,340
10.	Mysore/Karnataka	2,800	—	—
11.	Maddur/Karnataka	5,000	—	—
12.	Shimoga/Karnataka	—	15,000	—
13.	Koppla/Karnataka	—	—	10,000
14.	Tumkur/Karnataka	—	—	5,000
West Zone				
1.	Manmad/Maharashtra	—	6,680	11,920
2.	Godhra/Gujarat	—	15,000	10,000
3.	Tilda/Chhattisgarh	—	—	13,340
East Zone				
1.	Angul/Orissa	—	5,000	—
2.	Dhankanal/Orissa	—	2,500	—
3.	Keonjhar/Orissa	—	2,500	—
4.	Phulbani/Orissa	—	2,500	—
5.	Nowrangpur/Orissa	—	2,500	—
North East Zone (including Sikkim)				
1.	Rangpoo/Sikkim	2,500	—	—
2.	Agartala/Tripura	—	2,500	—
3.	Jiribam/Manipur	—	—	2,500
4.	Dimapur/Nagaland	—	—	2,500
Total		94,470	1,32,530	96,940

Statement II

Details of the godowns to be completed during the current financial year (2005-06) are as under

Name of the Centre/State	Capacity (in tonnes)
Leh/Jammu & Kashmir	10,000
Badgaon/Jammu & Kashmir	2,500

Kupwara/Jammu & Kashmir	5,000
Salem/Tamil Nadu	3,340
Tumkur/Karnataka	10,000
Keylong/Himachal Pradesh	2,500
Lunglei/Mizoram	2,900
Laungtaleai/Mizoram	3,340
Total	39,580

*[English]***Gross State Domestic Product**

5444. DR. M. JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the estimates of Gross State Domestic Product from agriculture during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the details of average per capita income in respect of a marginal farmer, medium farmer and farmers with large land holding, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government has made any assessment of the adequacy of income for meeting the basic needs of cultivators;

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

(e) the steps being taken by the Government to improve the conditions of farmers 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 state-wise estimates of Gross Domestic Product from Agriculture both at constant (1993-94) and current prices are given in the enclosed Statement-I.

(b) The information on average per capita income in respect of marginal, medium and farmers with large holdings is not available. Since people engaged in agriculture constitute the majority of rural population, the details of average per capita expenditure by broad categories of consumer expenditure on 'food', non-food and 'total' in the rural sector, state-wise, are given in the enclosed Statement-II.

(c) to (e) Most of the Indian farmers are resource poor. About 62% of the farmers operate marginal holdings of less than 1 hectare, while about 19% operate holdings of 1-2 hectares. Government has, therefore, been implementing a number of schemes covering price support aimed at ensuring remunerative prices for major agricultural commodities, compensation for crop loss,

subsidised inputs, etc. Experience shows that the factors contributing to the poor economic lot of India farmers include poor marketing infrastructure, low levels of investment in irrigation and inadequate flow of credit to agriculture. The Union Budget for 2005-06 has, therefore, provided higher allocation for irrigation, proposed further step up in credit flow to agriculture, and introduced new schemes for promoting horticulture and marketing.

(i) **Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP):** It was launched in 1996-97 to encourage the states for completion of on-going irrigation projects through Central Loan Assistance. This has been reviewed recently and the focus has been on completion of last mile projects. In 2005-06 an outlay of Rs. 4800 crore has been provided to improve the pace of implementation compared with Rs. 2,800 crore in 2004-05.

(ii) **Micro Irrigation:** Rs. 400 crore has been allocated for promoting micro irrigation through drip and sprinkler irrigation in the year 2005-06 to enhance water use efficiency.

(iii) **Agriculture Credit:** The banking sector comprising cooperative banks, regional rural banks and commercial banks disbursed Rs. 108,500 crore in 2004-05, which is to be raised by 30% in 2005-06.

(iv) **National Horticulture Mission:** A sum of Rs. 630 crores have been provided for promoting research, production, post harvest management, processing and marketing in an integrated manner.

(v) **Development/Strengthening of Agricultural Marketing Infrastructure, Grading and Standardization:** A sum of Rs. 72 crore has been allocated to attract large investment from private and cooperative sectors to set up agricultural markets, marketing and support services such as grading, standardization etc.

(vi) **Agricultural Research:** A sum of Rs. 1150 crore has been provided for agricultural research and education in 2005-06 compared with Rs. 1000 crore in 2004-05.

Statement I(a)*State-wise Estimates of Gross State Domestic Product from Agriculture*

At Current Prices		(Rs. Lakhs)			
Sl.No.	State/UT	2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003	2003-2004
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	3673378	3687600	3424900	4019100
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	54064	51430	56320	NA
3.	Assam	999071	1042251	1072476	1177287
4.	Bihar	1677219	1609342	1802066	1740392
5.	Chhattisgarh	409452	632798	445042	NA
6.	Goa	40848	42105	49990	NA
7.	Gujarat	1474600	1819900	1749000	3024400
8.	Haryana	1672480	1685401	1735179	1937926
9.	Himachal Pradesh	281311	325506	320579	NA
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	371815	394839	NA	NA
11.	Jharkhand	404846	419330	434333	NA
12.	Karnataka	2737277	2302705	2317363	NA
13.	Kerala	1116493	1074685	1088911	1087478
14.	Madhya Pradesh	1814128	2358272	1957512	2936932
15.	Maharashtra	3291547	3610661	3604180	3477480
16.	Manipur	78606	82895	87418	92188
17.	Meghalaya	85138	85396	92687	NA
18.	Mizoram	44914	43945	NA	NA
19.	Nagaland	94717	116678	NA	NA
20.	Orissa	1006284	1164360	1088328	1512544
21.	Punjab	2663862	2768228	2682438	2988437
22.	Rajasthan	1938208	2344737	1773394	2685316
23.	Sikkim	23597	24520	24806	25094
24.	Tamil Nadu	2042674	2056270	1657724	1750167

1	2	3	4	5	6
25.	Tripura	115298	127271	NA	NA
26.	Uttar Pradesh	5783139	5995668	6049979	NA
27.	Uttaranchal	413853	388532	NA	NA
28.	West Bengal	3496531	3800947	3738505	NA
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	19711	24768	26702	NA
30.	Chandigarh	4933	5371	5932	6651
31.	Delhi	77886	80060	82263	NA
32.	Pondicherry	15195	14318	14106	13954

Source: Directorate of Economics & Statistics of respective State Governments.

Note: As per information received from States upto 28th February, 2005.

Statement I(b)

State-wise Estimates of Gross State Domestic Product from Agriculture

At Constant (1993-94) Prices

		(Rs. Lakhs)			
Sl.No.	State/UT	2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003	2003-2004
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2216075	2189500	1887100	2132800
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	31476	27688	30344	NA
3.	Assam	524397	549553	576829	570908
4.	Bihar	1397987	1165334	1453507	1182511
5.	Chhattisgarh	242553	369553	250204	NA
6.	Goa	27382	30106	33362	NA
7.	Gujarat	992600	1304900	1109200	1963100
8.	Haryana	1064861	1067378	1065780	1160772
9.	Himachal Pradesh	132073	140079	137902	NA
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	236513	249279	NA	NA
11.	Jharkhand	445399	467669	491051	NA
12.	Karnataka	1940690	1634604	1584250	NA
13.	Kerala	576701	562236	569124	547472

1	2	3	4	5	6
14.	Madhya Pradesh	1205921	1489563	1170917	1705538
15.	Maharashtra	2239488	2377667	2335165	2162100
16.	Manipur	45318	46777	48283	49837
17.	Meghalaya	54306	54298	55567	NA
18.	Mizoram	NA	NA	NA	NA
19.	Nagaland	67919	79819	NA	NA
20.	Orissa	544278	652914	508824	679281
21.	Punjab	1635349	1651942	1589542	1701729
22.	Rajasthan	1236318	1549699	1093874	1588039
23.	Sikkim	12881	13156	NA	NA
24.	Tamil Nadu	1457810	1457329	1103252	1128193
25.	Tripura	63802	65447	NA	NA
26.	Uttar Pradesh	3593034	3680959	3385953	NA
27.	Uttaranchal	233854	225582	NA	NA
28.	West Bengal	1933240	2084825	2036296	NA
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	13432	14282	14613	NA
30.	Chandigarh	3002	3067	3187	3348
31.	Delhi	52108	51145	50441	NA
32.	Pondicherry	9780	8477	7931	13954

Source: Directorate of Economics & Statistics of respective State Governments.

Note: As per information received from States upto 28th February, 2005.

Statement II

Average expenditure (Rs.) per person per 30 days by broad groups of consumption for rural areas of selected States/UTs

(Rural)

Sl.No.	State/U.Ts.	Food	Non-Food	All Items
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	307.47	267.45	574.92
2.	Assam	340.95	190.72	531.67

1	2	3	4	5
3.	Bihar	260.57	163.00	423.57
4.	Gujarat	325.19	265.01	590.20
5.	Haryana	371.37	331.26	702.63
6.	Jammu and Kashmir	423.11	363.44	786.55
7.	Jharkhand	245.34	145.39	390.73
8.	Karnataka	274.25	238.57	512.82
9.	Kerala	442.59	437.98	880.57
10.	Madhya Pradesh	234.25	202.03	436.28
11.	Maharashtra	281.16	263.41	544.57
12.	Orissa	229.27	161.21	390.48
13.	Punjab	372.59	415.59	788.18
14.	Rajasthan	321.46	252.86	574.32
15.	Tamil Nadu	299.11	243.02	542.13
16.	Uttar Pradesh	263.31	223.05	486.36
17.	West Bengal	300.12	192.67	492.79
18.	North-Eastern States	352.44	401.59	754.03
19.	Group of UTs	400.95	401.59	802.54
20.	All India	292.27	239.21	531.48

Source: National Sample Survey Organisation (58th Round of N.S.S.): 2002-03

Maritime Projects

5445. DR. K.S. MANOJ: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Maritime Tourism Projects existing in the country;

(b) whether the Government proposes to set up new maritime tourism projects;

(c) if so, whether the Government has approved the Alappuzha maritime tourism project in Kerala; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Tourism has taken several steps to promote India as a Cruise Destination abroad, which are as follows:

- (i) Ministry of Tourism through its office at Dubai participated in the Seatrade Middle East, Maritime Exhibition at Dubai from 6-8 December, 2004. A delegation comprising Port officials also participated in the Exhibition. New collaterals and publicity materials on cruise tourism produced by the Ministry of Tourism were exhibited. Chairman Mumbai Port Trust made a detailed presentation on the developments taking place in India pertaining to Cruise Tourism.

- (ii) A workshop was organized in collaboration with Mumabi Port Trust on 12.02.2005. Chairperson, Mumbai Port Trust made a presentation on Cruise Tourism, Emerging Trends—India and the World. Joint Secretary Shipping made a presentation on the Development of Cruise Shipping Policy.
- (iii) Ministry of Tourism through its office at New York participated in the Seatrade Cruise Conference at Miami from 14-17 March, 2005. A delegation comprising of Port officials also participated in the Exhibition.
- (iv) Ministry of Tourism has written to leading Cruise Operators worldwide regarding the new initiatives of Government of India for development and promotion of cruise tourism.
- (v) M/s Ocean Cruises India Pvt. Ltd. have been issued a NOC by the Ministry of Tourism for operating cruise services from Goa to Lakshadweep *via* Cochin.

(c) and (d) No such proposal has been received from the State Government of Kerala.

Basic Post-Mortem Requisites for Zoo Veterinarians

5446. SHRI G.V. HARSHA KUMAR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Zoo Authority (CZA) has prepared any new guidelines for basic post-mortem requisites for zoo veterinarians across the country as reported in the 'Hindu' dated 28 January, 2005; and

(b) 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 Central Zoo Authority has brought out a publication on Basic Postmortem Requisites for Zoo Veterinarians. The publication has been prepared by a team of Veterinarians from the Madras Veterinary College, Chennai.

The publication has been circulated to all the zoos in the country so that appropriate methodology can be adopted by the zoos while carrying out postmortem examination of wild animals.

Salinity in Agriculture Land

5447. SHRI JUAL ORAM:
SHRI ANANTA NAYAK:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of increasing damage to the agriculture land due to rise in salinity in the Coastal States;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the coastal pockets in Orissa affected thereby;

(d) the action plan drawn up by the Ministry to save the coastal cultivable land from further degradation due to salinity, State-wise; and

(e) the total funds earmarked and allocated under the said plan 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) and (b) Yes, Sir. The State-wise coastal saline area is estimated to be as under:

States	Extent of Coastal Saline Soils (lakh hectares)
West Bengal	6.20
Gujarat	8.20
Orissa	4.0
Andhra Pradesh	2.76
Tamil Nadu	1.0
Karnataka	1.95
Maharashtra	0.63
Kerala	0.26
Goa	0.18
Pondicherry	0.01
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0.15
Total	27.34

(c) The saline area of the State is commonly found in 445 km. long narrow strip, close to the coastal districts of Balasore, Cuttack, Puri and Ganjam.

(d) and (e) The Government has taken steps for the development of technology for prevention and control of salinity. The information generated by the Central Soil Salinity Research Institute, Karnal has been disseminated to the technical personnel from State Departments of Agriculture, Irrigation and Forestry. The Department of Agriculture & Cooperation, Government of India has no specific scheme for the reclamation of saline soil in the country. However, under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Macro Management of Agriculture, the State Governments have been given flexibility to propose any new programme upto 10% of the total allocation for the State in the year.

[Translation]

CBI Inquiry on Status of Tigers

5448. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI:
SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA:
SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY:
SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN:
SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE:
SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN:
SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI:
SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI:
SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR:

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

(a) the present number of tigers in each wildlife sanctuary/tiger reserve of the country;

(b) the expenditure incurred per tiger during each of the last three years;

(c) whether the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has conducted any inquiry on the present status of tigers in different wildlife sanctuaries/tiger reserves;

(d) if so, the details thereof along with the present status of tigers as per inquiry report;

(e) whether the CBI has also found that poachers are freely roaming in the sanctuaries and no proper safety of forest areas exists; and

(f) if so, the concrete plans to be formulated by the Government to save the forests areas and to book the poachers along with conserving tigers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) The state wise/tiger reserve-wise population of tigers as reported by States during the last All India Tiger estimation conducted in 2001-02 are given in enclosed Statement-I and II. The Sanctuary/National Park-wise tiger estimation data are not collated at the Government of India level.

(b) Funding support under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Project Tiger is provided to States having tiger reserves as per the Annual Plan of Operations received from them, based on reserve specific management plans, within the overall ambit of Project Tiger Guidelines, and not on the number of tigers in reserve. State-wise release of funds under the Project Tiger Scheme, during the last three years are given in the enclosed Statement-III.

(c) The Central Bureau of Investigation has conducted a Preliminary Assessment regarding disappearance of tigers only in the Sariska Tiger Reserve of Rajasthan and not in different wildlife Sanctuaries/Tiger Reserves.

(d) to (f) The Central Bureau of Investigation in their preliminary assessment report, has indicated that there is no evidence of the presence of tiger in Sariska and the entire population seems to have become extinct primarily because of poaching. They have also informed that since July, 2002, at least 2-3 organized networks of poachers were involved in poaching of tigers & leopards in the tiger reserve.

The State has been advised by the Ministry of Environment and Forests, to ensure protection for tiger conservation through systemic improvement, while reiterating the earlier directives. The Wildlife Institute of India has been directed to undertake a detailed ecological study in the Sariska Tiger Reserve area for ascertaining the status of wild animals, assessment of resource dependency on the tiger reserve, apart from creating a database including capacity building of staff.

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) in their preliminary assessment report, has suggested certain short-term & long-term recommendations, which are given in the enclosed Statement-IV.

Statement I

Population of Tigers in the country as reported by the States

Sl.No.	Name of the State	2001-02**
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	192
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	61***
3.	Assam	354
4.	Bihar	76
5.	Chhattisgarh	227
6.	Delhi	Nil
7.	Goa	5
8.	Gujarat	Nil
9.	Haryana	Nil
10.	Himachal Pradesh	Nil
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	Nil
12.	Jharkhand	Nil
13.	Karnataka	Nil
14.	Kerala	71
15.	Madhya Pradesh	710
16.	Maharashtra	238
17.	Manipur	Nil
18.	Meghalaya	47
19.	Mizoram	28
20.	Nagaland	23^
21.	Orissa	173
22.	Punjab	Nil
23.	Rajasthan	58
24.	Sikkim	NR
25.	Tamil Nadu	60

1	2	3
26.	Tripura	NR
27.	Uttaranchal	251
28.	Uttar Pradesh	284
29.	West Bengal	349
Total		3642

N.R. Not reported by State.

* Tiger census was not carried out.

** Under completion/vetting

*** Only for Namdapha Tiger Reserve.

**** Figures included in undivided State.

^ Entire state not covered.

Statement II

Population of Tigers in the Tiger Reserves as reported by the States

Sl.No.	Name of the Reserve	2001-02
1	2	3
1.	Bandipur (Karnataka)	82
2.	Bandhavgarh (Madhya Pradesh)	56
3.	Bhadra (Karnataka)	35
4.	Bori-Satpura-Pachmari (Madhya Pradesh)	35
5.	Buxa (West Bengal)	31
6.	Corbett (Uttar Pradesh)	137
7.	Dampha (Mizoram)	4
8.	Dudhwa (Uttar Pradesh)	76*
9.	Indravati (Madhya Pradesh)	29
10.	Kanha (Madhya Pradesh)	127
11.	Kalakad (Tamil Nadu)	27
12.	Manas (Assam)	65*
13.	Melghat (Maharashtra)	73
14.	Nagarjunasagar (Andhra Pradesh)	73
15.	Namdapha (Arunachal Pradesh)	61

1	2	3
16.	Nameri (Assam)	26
17.	Pakhui (Arunachal Pradesh)	—
18.	Palamau (Bihar)	32
19.	Panna (Madhya Pradesh)	31
20.	Periyar (Kerala)	36
21.	Pench (Madhya Pradesh)	40
22.	Pench (Maharashtra)	14
23.	Ranthambore (Rajasthan)	35
24.	Sariska (Rajasthan)	22
25.	Similipal (Orissa)	99
26.	Sunderbans (West Bengal)	245
27.	Tadoba (Maharashtra)	38
28.	Valmiki (Bihar)	53
Total		1576

*Under compilation/vetting
N.R.—Not reported by the State

Statement III

*Release of Central Assistance under project Tiger
During 2002-03 to 2004-05*

STATE-WISE RELEASE

(Rs. in Lakhs)

Sl.No.	Name of Tiger Reserve Range State	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	21.10	22.89	15.00
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	35.875	68.75	35.00
3.	Assam	65.70	75.00	—
4.	Bihar	25.00	50.00	85.00
5.	Chhattisgarh	32.48	80.25	27.75

1	2	3	4	5
6.	Karnataka	289.56	269.32	486.292
7.	Kerala	63.75	120.68	105.75
8.	Jharkhand	18.00	35.9915	72.5005
9.	Madhya Pradesh	786.44	1103.414	582.43
10.	Maharashtra	621.79	228.45	322.013
11.	Mizoram	98.32	67.56	119.69
12.	Orissa	32.88	151.91	116.4395
13.	Rajasthan	294.92	158.330	75.00
14.	Tamil Nadu	125.00	35.00	80.00
15.	Uttaranchal	168.00	200.91	200.12
16.	Uttar Pradesh	32.75	173.585	175.215
17.	West Bengal	168.33	225.17	325.49
Total		2879.895	3067.2105	2824.89

Statement IV

Recommendations from the Central Bureau of Investigation

Short-term

- (i) With the consent of the State Governments of Rajasthan and Delhi, the CBI should urgently take over investigation of Sariska Tiger Reserve Crime No. 11/91 dated 15.03.2005, 45/91 dated 11.03.2005, 11/92 dated 15.03.2005, 11/93 dated 15.03.2005 and Kamla Market PS, New Delhi FIR No. 82/2005 dated 31.01.2005. Any other case arising out of incidents of poaching shall also be registered and investigated by CBI for which a general consent may be given by the State Governments.
- (ii) Extensive search of all the villages within the Tiger Reserve area should be conducted for recovery of steel traps, guns and other equipments, used for killing wild animals.
- (iii) An alert may be issued to all the Tiger Reserves about the *modus operandi* of the poachers and for recovery of such steel traps, wherever possible.

- (iv) Searches may be conducted in all possible places where steel traps are being manufactured and supplied to the poachers.
- (v) The local Police should be sensitized and their active participation ensured in anti-poaching enforcement operations, in association with Forest Department staff.
- (vi) Provisions of Section 34 of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 which requires every gun licence holder residing within 10 kms. area of the Sanctuary, to apply to the Chief Wildlife Warden, for registration should be strictly enforced.
- (vii) The incumbency profile of the staff of Sariska Tiger Reserve should be analysed and transfer of those who have stayed long enough or are suspected to have developed vested interests, should be ordered.
- (viii) The forest guards should be supplied proper uniform, lathis and other necessary equipments.
- (ix) Anti-poaching Squads should be constituted in each range, consisting of at least $\frac{1}{4}$ regular armed Policemen.

ong-Term

- (x) An administrative overhaul of the Sariska Tiger Reserve by recruiting younger field staff and training the staff in enforcement activities.
 - (xi) More than 50% staff of the Tiger Reserve are work charge employees who were originally recruited as casual labourers for plantation of trees. There is need to increase the number of regular employees of the Tiger Reserve by recruiting more number of Forest Guards to cover inaccessible areas and to maintain effective watch against continuous human intervention.
 - (xii) The inflow of tourists and vehicular traffic needs to be controlled and regulated. As already directed vide letter dated 09.04.2003 of Director, Project Tiger, in place of open jeeps and smaller vehicles, medium sized buses with closed bodies and sliding windows should be used for the pilgrims.
 - (xiii) Immediate action should be taken to get a favourable judicial order pertaining to use of bypass already constructed, to avoid increased vehicular traffic on State Highway No. 13.
- (xiv) A time-bound programme for relocation of villages within the National Park area should be taken up while return of relocated villagers to original settlement areas should be prevented.
 - (xv) There is no possibility of Tigers relocating to Sariska because of absence of a fringe population and link with any tiger habitat. Hence, after implementation of the short-term measures suggested above, there should be a programme for reintroduction of tigers which should be executed under the aegis of a scientific body.
 - (xvi) The SIT observed that there is no scientific monitoring programme, because of which the park authorities failed to track the dwindling population. Hence, it is recommended that scientific monitoring protocol should be implemented in respect of habitat, prey and predator. The park management should be periodic assessment of all the recorded data atleast on a bimonthly basis.

Violation of Maternity Benefit Act, 1961

5449. SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD:
SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA:
SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA:

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

(a) the number of poor women workers in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government is aware that there are numerous complaints of violation of Maternity Benefit Act, 1961 in the country particularly in the unorganised sector;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRA SHEKHAR RAO): (a) As per Census of India, 2001, out of the total 127220248 female workers, 72857170 are main female workers and 54363078 are marginal female workers. The state-wise details are given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) to (d) The women workers employed in the unorganized sector and covered under the Maternity Benefit Act are mostly in State Sphere and as such State Governments deal with such grievances at their level.

Statement*Total Female Workers (Main and Marginal) State-wise/U.Ts. as per Census of India, 2001*

Sl.No.	State/U.Ts.	Total Workers	Main Workers	Marginal Workers
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Jammu and Kashmir	1073874	381710	692164
2.	Himachal Pradesh	1305803	630521	675282
3.	Punjab	2167261	1409704	757557
4.	Chandigarh	56001	51939	4064
5.	Uttaranchal	1137859	683105	454754
6.	Haryana	2661940	1308320	1353620
7.	Delhi	585133	523171	61962
8.	Rajasthan	9070853	4595570	4475283
9.	Uttar Pradesh	13002266	4999389	8002877
10.	Bihar	7491603	3541857	3949746
11.	Sikkim	97327	66363	30964
12.	Arunachal Pradesh	189290	147623	41667
13.	Nagaland	358828	279166	79662
14.	Manipur	417997	229137	188860
15.	Mizoram	204151	137022	157977
16.	Tripura	328215	170238	67129
17.	Meghalaya	401655	271317	130338
18.	Assam	2667631	1265065	1402566
19.	West Bengal	7093646	3528612	3565034
20.	Jharkhand	3449174	1312715	2136459
21.	Orissa	4474482	1584529	2889953
22.	Chhattisgarh	4148012	2311660	1836352
23.	Madhya Pradesh	9599151	5046293	4552858
24.	Gujarat	6778235	3544508	3233727
25.	Daman and Diu	12222	8648	3574
26.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	38287	25028	13259

1	2	3	4	5
27.	Maharashtra	14321256	10331758	3989498
28.	Andhra Pradesh	13231667	9585381	3646286
29.	Karnataka	8299436	5467914	2831522
30.	Goa	147637	98312	49325
31.	Lakshadweep	2150	1422	728
32.	Kerala	2518242	1776280	741962
33.	Tamil Nadu	9777885	7454473	2323412
34.	Pondicherry	83985	72162	11823
35.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	27092	16258	10834

Production of Mustard

5450. YOGI ADITYA NATH:
SHRI RAJNARAYAN BUDHOLIA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the production of mustard during the last three years in the country, year-wise;

(b) whether the production of mustard in the country is not as per demand;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government to increase the production of mustard 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 production of rapeseed/mustard during 2001-02, 2002-03 and 2003-04 are shown in the table below:

(Production in Lakh tonnes)

Crops	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04
Rapeseed/mustard	50.83	38.80	61.98

(b) The demand of rapeseed/mustard separately has not been assessed. However, the demand for oilseeds as a whole is higher than the production. The gap between demand of edible oils and domestic production is bridged by import.

(c) and (d) In order to increase production and productivity of oilseeds including mustard the Government of India is implementing a Centrally Sponsored "Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize" (ISOPOM) in 14 major oilseeds growing States. Under the Scheme, assistance is provided for purchase of breeder seed, production of foundation seed, production and distribution of certified seed, distribution of seed mini kits, distribution of plant protection chemicals, plant protection equipments, weedicides, supply 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 on a large scale. In order to disseminate information on improved production technologies amongst the farmers, block demonstrations and Integrated Pest Management (IPM) demonstrations are organized through State Department of Agriculture and Front Line Demonstrations through Indian Council of Agriculture Research (ICAR).

Besides, flexibility has also been given to the States for introducing innovative measures or any special component to the extent of 10% of financial allocation and involvement of private sector by the State Governments. In the implementation of the programme

i.e. seed production, supply of inputs, extension support, block and frontline demonstrations with a financial cap of 15%.

With a view to encouraging production of oilseeds, including rapeseed/mustard seed, the Government has been announcing relatively higher Minimum Support Prices for oilseeds *vis-a-vis* other crops, particularly cereals.

[English]

Subsidies on Fertilizers

5451. SHRI BAPU HARI CHAURE: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to rationalise fertilizer subsidies; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) and (b) With the objective of rationalizing subsidy on fertilizers, a group based New Pricing Scheme for urea units was introduced w.e.f. 1.4.2003 replacing the erstwhile unit specific Retention Price Scheme. NPS aims at greater transparency, uniformity and efficiency in disbursement of subsidy to urea units and inducing them to take cost reduction measures on their own and be competitive.

Assistance for Oil Seeds Production

5452. SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any assistance is being provided by the Government for increasing oil seeds production in the country, particularly in Andhra Pradesh during last three years, State-wise;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the achievements made thereon during, said period, State-wise;

(c) whether all the districts of the States are covered by the scheme;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) 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)

and (b) Government of India was implementing Oilseeds Production Programme to increase production and productivity of oilseeds in the country. Oilseeds Production Programme has since been merged into a Centrally Sponsored "Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize" (ISOPOM) which is in implementation in 14 major oilseeds growing States including Andhra Pradesh since 2004-05. 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 organized through State Department of Agriculture and Front Line Demonstrations through ICAR. The financial assistance provided to various States for oilseeds development programmes during 2001-02 to 2003-04 is given in the enclosed Statement-I.

State-wise production of oilseeds in the country during 2001-02 to 2003-04 is given in the enclosed Statement-II.

(c) to (e) The Oilseeds Production Programmes are implemented by the States in the districts having potential for oilseeds production.

Statement I

Financial Assistance provided to the States for Oilseeds Development during 2001-02, 2002-03 and 2003-04

(Rs. in lakhs)

State/U.T.	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04
1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh	928.75	760.00	1218.00
Bihar	—	—	28.00
Chhattisgarh	157.00	70.00	46.00
Goa	5.00	3.00	3.00
Gujarat	850.00	615.00	732.00

1	2	3	4
Haryana	183.00	130.00	178.00
Himachal Pradesh	—	15.05	10.00
Jammu and Kashmir	—	5.00	12.00
Jharkhand	30.00	5.00	9.00
Karnataka	535.00	456.95	522.00
Kerala	35.00	25.00	9.00
Madhya Pradesh	1207.00	675.00	1060.00
Maharashtra	825.00	575.00	642.00
Orissa	131.25	25.00	205.00
Punjab	—	—	30.00
Rajasthan	910.00	815.00	869.00
Tamil Nadu	470.00	420.00	347.00
Uttar Pradesh	100.00	100.00	297.00
Uttaranchal	50.00	25.00	18.00
West Bengal	190.00	95.00	130.00
Arunachal Pradesh	—	15.00	21.00
Assam	150.00	110.00	104.00
Manipur	56.00	72.00	72.00
Meghalaya	—	24.00	24.00
Mizoram	190.00	79.00	79.00
Nagaland	136.00	90.00	90.00
Tripura	115.00	60.00	60.00
Sikkim	69.00	50.00	50.00
Total	7323.00	5315.00	6866.00

Statement II

*State-wise Production of Oilseed crops from
2001-02 to 2003-04*

State	Production (lakh tonnes)		
	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04
1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh	16.14	12.56	16.15
Arunachal Pradesh	0.28	0.28	0.27
Assam	1.56	1.49	1.58

1	2	3	4
Bihar	1.20	1.04	1.25
Chhattisgarh	1.12	1.01	1.19
Goa	0.02	0.04	0.06
Gujarat	36.35	16.83	56.65
Haryana	8.07	7.12	9.90
Himachal Pradesh	0.10	0.08	0.09
Jammu and Kashmir	0.42	0.27	0.41
Jharkhand	0.28	0.08	0.08
Karnataka	10.20	10.74	10.39
Kerala	0.02	0.01	0.03
Madhya Pradesh	45.68	31.44	55.86
Maharashtra	22.26	23.56	29.53
Manipur	—	0.01	0.01
Meghalaya	0.06	0.06	0.06
Mizoram	0.05	0.05	0.05
Nagaland	0.53	0.74	0.50
Orissa	1.37	0.94	1.57
Punjab	0.83	0.91	1.02
Rajasthan	31.29	17.55	39.95
Sikkim	0.07	0.07	0.07
Tamil Nadu	13.13	7.60	10.00
Uttar Pradesh	10.34	8.81	9.28
Uttaranchal	0.18	0.23	0.34
West Bengal	4.95	4.76	6.51
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0.03	0.01	—
Delhi	0.03	0.02	0.02
Pondicherry	0.02	0.03	0.04
All India	206.62	148.38	252.90

Policy for Grant of Pension by EPFO

5453. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has fixed any policy/criteria for grant of family pension by the Employees Provident Fund (EPF) Organisation;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the date on which the policy came into force;

(c) whether the family pension provided by EPF Organisation to the retired employees as well as legal heirs of the deceased employees of rural banks is very low;

(d) if so, whether the Government proposes to enhance the amount of family pension provided by EPF Organisation by reviewing the existing policy; and

(e) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRA SHEKHAR RAO): (a) and (b) Pension to the family on the death of a member is granted in accordance with para 16 of the Employees' Pensions Scheme, 1995, which came into force on 16.11.1995.

(c) No, Sir. The amount of pension to the retired employees as well as family pension to the members of deceased employees of Rural Banks covered under the Employees' Provident Funds & Miscellaneous Provisions, Act, 1952 is granted in accordance with the provisions of the Employees' Pension Scheme, 1995.

(d) and (e) There is no proposal under consideration for enhancing the amount of family pension provided by Employees' Provident Fund Organization. In a defined contribution and defined benefit scheme like Employees' Pension scheme, 1995 any enhancement of benefit should be backed by actuarial valuation of the Scheme on its long term sustainability.

[Translation]

Cultivation of Medicinal Plants

5454. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any new medicinal plants have been grown and seeds developed during the last three years;

(b) if so, the names thereof; and

(c) the action plan of the Government to develop the cultivation of medicinal plants in the forthcoming 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) The Indian Council of Agricultural Research have identified a new medicinal plant namely Swertia Chirata for which production technology is in the process of development.

(c) This Ministry 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 have the flexibility to take up programme as per their felt needs and priority, which includes development of Medicinal and aromatic plants. Besides, the National Medicinal Plants Boards in the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare is providing assistance for production and supply of quality planting material, area expansion, value addition and contractual farming of medicinal plants.

[English]

Tourism Development in J&K

5455. SHRI MADAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has formulated any scheme to develop tourism in J&K;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has received any proposal from the State Government in this regard; and

(d) if so, the action taken by the Government thereon 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) Yes, Sir. It is the endeavor of both the Central and State Government to promote tourism in the State of

J&K. A special Reconstruction Plan for tourism in J&K has been formulated which includes:

- (i) Setting up of 50 tourist villages across the state.
- (ii) Financial support for 12 Tourism Development Authorities at Patnitop, Bhaderwah, Kishtwar, Poonch, Rajouri, Lakhanpur-Sarthal, Pahalgam, Gulmarg, Kokernag, Sonamarg, Leh & Kargil.
- (iii) Establishing a new tourist circuit covering Lakhanpur-Basoli-Bani-Bhaderwah-Kishtwar-Sinthan-Srinagar.
- (iv) Assistance to travel agents for marketing in the form of support for sales-cum-study tours and participation in fairs/exhibitions abroad, printing of brochures, organizing seminars/presentations abroad, participation trade fairs, etc., and joint advertising under existing central sector schemes.
- (v) Training to tourism industry personnel for building their capacities through the Institute of Hotel Management, Srinagar.
- (vi) Developing skills of youth for employment/self employment in tourism industry through one year courses imparted by Institute of Hotel Management, Srinagar.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The State Government has submitted proposals during the current financial year. The proposals are sanctioned on the basis of appraisal, *inter-se* priority and availability of funds.

Mini Forests

5456. SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Union Government is planning for Mini Forests in the country; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) This Ministry is not planning for Mini forests in the country.

- (b) Does not arise.

[*Translation*]

Import of Medicines

5457. SHRI MUNAWAR HASSAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the medicines imported during the last three years and the foreign exchange spent thereon;
- (b) whether the import of medicines has decreased during 2004-2005;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) to (d) As per the information available from Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, import of medicinal and pharmaceutical products for the last three years have been as under:

Year	Import of medicinal and pharmaceutical products (Rs. in Crores)
2002-03	2865.20
2003-04	2955.63 (Prov.)
2004-05	This information has not been published yet

As the import figures for 2004-05 have not been published yet, it is not possible to ascertain that whether imports have been decreased during 2004-05 or not. The country is self-sufficient in production in most of the drugs. The imports may not be related to the lack of production in the country, as imports made by manufacturers are for different reasons including availability of cheaper drugs in international market, imports linked to procurement from Principals abroad, etc.

[*English*]

Construction of Godowns and Cold Storages

5458. SHRI RUPCHAND MURMU:
SHRI TAPIR GAO:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is extending any further concessions to private parties for the construction of storage godowns and cold storages;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of cold storages with capacity set up in the country, particularly in West Bengal at present, State-wise;

(d) the assistance provided to States for increasing the existing capacity of cold storages during the last three years and current year, State-wise;

(e) whether the Government proposes to set up more cold storages in the country particularly in Arunachal Pradesh;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) 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) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government is implementing two schemes for construction of storage godowns and cold storages under which subsidy is provided @ 15% to 33.33% of the capital cost of the project to different categories of entrepreneurs and depending on the location of the

project. The maximum subsidy available for a cold storage project shall not exceed Rs. 50 lakh for general category and Rs. 60 lakh for Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe (SC/ST) and North East region. In the case of rural godowns, the maximum subsidy available for a project shall not exceed Rs. 50 lakh for SC/ST entrepreneurs and their cooperatives; Rs. 37.50 lakh for farmers, agricultural graduates, State Warehousing Corporations; and Rs. 22.50 lakh for companies and corporations. Both the Schemes are being implemented by National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development and National Cooperative Development Corporation.

(c) and (d) The State-wise number of cold storages/projects sanctioned, total capacity created is given in the enclosed Statement-I. The assistance/subsidy sanctioned under the scheme in the country including the State of West Bengal during the last three years from 2002-03 to 2004-05 are given in enclosed Statement-II. Funds are allocated for cold storage projects that can be taken up anywhere in the country. There is no statewide allocation of funds. An amount of Rs. 26.00 crore has been provided for implementation of the scheme during 2005-06.

(e) to (g) As the scheme is demand/entrepreneur driven, the Government does not construct/set up cold storages directly. If any proposal is received from the State of Arunachal Pradesh, it will be considered for sanction of subsidy on merits under the approved operational guidelines of the scheme. Under the scheme, Government has provided an assistance of Rs. 53.33 lakh for construction of one cold storage with a capacity of 4000 capacity in Arunachal Pradesh.

Statement I

Sector-wise Distribution of Cold Storages as on 31.12.2004

Sl.No.	State/UT	Private Sector		Cooperative Sector		Public Sector		Total No.	Total Capacity in MTs
		No.	Capacity	No.	Capacity	No.	Capacity		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands (UT)	01	170	00	00	01	40	02	210
2.	Andhra Pradesh*	213	556147	13	9270	08	1190	234	566607
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	01	5000	00	00	00	00	01	5000
4.	Assam	18	68796	02	6000	054	1120	24	75916
5.	Bihar	220	833382	18	77200	00	00	238	910582

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
6.	Chandigarh (UT)	05	11216	01	1000	00	00	06	12216
7.	Chhattisgarh	66	360974	01	29	01	41	68	361044
8.	Delhi	74	103180	02	5201	16	17680	92	126061
9.	Gujarat*	324	845581	19	21543	08	7739	351	874863
10.	Goa	24	5875	00	00	00	00	24	5875
11.	Haryana	227	365291	04	3403	06	11399	237	380093
12.	Himachal Pradesh	08	11413	02	767	07	6195	17	18375
13.	Jammu & Kashmir	15	40689	03	2134	01	46	19	42869
14.	Jharkhand	17	53210	08	27415	00	00	25	80625
15.	Kerala*	135	27450	06	1080	09	1540	150	30070
16.	Karnataka*	79	122566	18	6689	17	9594	114	138849
17.	Lakshadweep (UT)*	00	00	00	00	01	36	01	36
18.	Maharashtra	343	420270	53	19839	29	7851	425	447960
19.	Madhya Pradesh	143	631430	19	98848	05	2434	167	732712
20.	Manipur	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00
21.	Meghalaya	01	1200	00	00	02	2000	03	3200
22.	Mizoram	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00
23.	Nagaland	01	5000	01	1150	00	00	02	6150
24.	Orissa	80	223135	24	51040	00	00	104	274175
25.	Pondicherry (UT)*	02	115	01	50	02	35	05	200
26.	Punjab	364	1192593	18	39092	00	00	382	1231685
27.	Rajasthan	83	268776	09	3832	01	14	93	272622
28.	Sikkim	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00
29.	Tamil Nadu*	96	149448	13	7462	04	4162	113	161072
30.	Tripura	02	7750	01	5000	05	5700	08	18450
31.	U.P. & Uttaranchal	1320	7933688	87	281480	03	8000	1410	8258813
32.	West Bengal	317	4105177	69	297800	00	00	386	4402977
Total		4179	18349522	392	967324	180	86816	4701	19429307

*as on 31.12.2003

Statement II

Status of Cold Storage projects sanctioned under the 'Capital Investment Subsidy scheme for construction/expansion/modernisation of cold storage and storages for horticulture produce' during 2002-03 to 2004-05 (NABARD/NCDC/NHB/NAFED)

(Rupees in lakh)

Sl.No.	Name of the State	No. of projects	Capacity (MT)	Eligible Subsidy
1.	Punjab	34	82004.98	674.91
2.	Haryana	15	34480.41	284.11
3.	Tamil Nadu	12	40058.40	371.06
4.	Himachal Pradesh	1	600.00	3.49
5.	Uttar Pradesh	319	1750546.63	9361.84
6.	Maharashtra	124	147274.12	1222.08
7.	Rajasthan	16	47342.00	402.26
8.	Karnataka	9	32752.00	320.41
9.	Gujarat	158	175377.90	1027.08
10.	Orissa	9	47690.00	431.23
11.	Madhya Pradesh	25	84470.14	497.88
12.	Chhattisgarh	9	51190.00	363.57
13.	West Bengal	22	88182.00	799.30
14.	Andhra Pradesh	11	44707.00	240.55
15.	Assam	4	16360.00	194.45
16.	Bihar	46	178376.82	1243.15
17.	Jharkhand	14	57947.00	453.70
18.	Tripura	1	5000.00	60.00
19.	Delhi	2	1530.00	6.33
20.	Nagaland	1	5000.00	60.00
21.	Goa	1	3633.00	36.33
22.	Arunachal Pradesh	1	4000.00	53.33
	Total	834	2898521.00	18107.03

[*Translation*]

Relaxation of Forestry Laws to Industries

5459. SHRI V.K. THUMMAR:
SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA:

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

(a) whether the Government has provided any relaxation in the forest related laws to certain Industries;

(b) if so, the details of those Industries which have been provided such relaxation in the country including Gujarat during the last three years and current year, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government has carried out any review in this regard after providing such relaxations;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) No such relaxation in forest related laws has been given by the Ministry of Environment and Forests to any industry.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

[*English*]

Review of Agricultural Policy

5460. SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO:
SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to review and revise the agricultural policy, to remove the heavy bias in the policy in favour of foodgrains, which has worked in favour of prosperous farmers;

(b) if so, the steps taken in this direction so far;

(c) the broad features of the new or contemplated policy; and

(d) the details of steps taken to implementation this policy?

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 existing National Agriculture Policy seeks to promote technically sound, economically viable, environmentally non-degrading, and socially, acceptable use of country's natural resources-land, water and genetic endowment to promote sustainable development of agriculture. The Policy further seeks to raise the productivity and production of crops to meet the increasing demand for food generated by unabated demographic pressures and raw materials for expanding agro-based industries. However, it calls for adoption of regionally differentiated strategy taking into account the agronomic, climatic and environmental conditions to realize the full growth potential of every region. It further lays major emphasis on the development of rainfed and irrigated horticulture, floriculture, roots and tubers, plantation crops, aromatic and medicinal plants, bee-keeping and sericulture for augmenting food supply.

In line with the objectives of the Policy, of the Government has taken steps to promote diversification from traditional food crops to oilseeds, pulses etc. There is no bias in favour of prosperous farmers.

Non-Governmental Organisation in Agricultural Research

5461. SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some Non-Governmental Organisations are working in various States with regard to agricultural research and development; 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) Yes, Sir.

(b) Eighty two Non-Governmental Organisations (Andhra Pradesh-8, Assam-4, Gujarat-4, Haryana-2, J&K-1, Jharkhand-4, Karnataka-5, Kerala-9, Maharashtra-19, Manipur-2, Rajasthan-5, Tamil Nadu-9, Tripura-1, Uttar

Pradesh-6, West Bengal-3) are running the Krishi Vigyan Kendras awarded by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, for transfer of improved farm technology to the farmers. In addition, 7 NGOs are executing 16 short-term ad-hoc/All India Coordinated/Survey/Conservation research projects.

[Translation]

Augmentation of Water Resources

5462. SHRI SUBHASH SURESHCHANDRA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to implement a new plan for augmentation of water resources and irrigation in tribal and drought prone areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government is extending the Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP); and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (d) The Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme was launched in 1996-97 by the Government of India to provide Central Loan Assistance (CLA) to accelerate implementation of major and medium irrigation projects in advanced stage of completion. CLA under AIBP is also provided for the minor irrigation schemes of the special category States comprising the North Eastern & Sikkim, the hilly States of Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttaranchal as well as the drought prone Kalahandi, Bolangir & Koraput districts of Orissa with effect from 1999-2000. AIBP has been modified with effect 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. The Cabinet in its meeting held on 16th March, 2005 has approved, inter-alia, inclusion of Surface Minor Irrigation Schemes of General Category States benefiting tribal and drought prone areas under AIBP.

[English]

Mini Lift Irrigation Schemes

5463. SHRI A.V. BELLARMIN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government promotes mini lift irrigation schemes all over the country;

(b) if so, the total funds allocated for these schemes during the year 2005-06, State-wise;

(c) whether these schemes will be taken up directly by the center involving local irrigation councils in various regions; 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 minor irrigation schemes including mini lift irrigation are planned, funded and executed by the State Governments from their own budgetary resources. However, the Government of India is also supplementing their efforts. The State-wise outlay under State Sector approved for 2005-06 for the development of minor irrigation including mini lift irrigation is given in the enclosed statement.

To accelerate minor irrigation development in North-Eastern States, KBK district of Orissa, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir and Uttaranchal, central loan assistance, under the "Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme" (AIBP) of the Central Government in the Ministry of Water Resources, is provided for motivating farmers for utilizing water resources through minor irrigation scheme including lift irrigation.

Besides, the Central Government is also implementing a scheme of "On-Farm Water Management for Increasing Crop Production in Eastern India" in Uttar Pradesh (Eastern), Bihar, Jharkhand, Orissa, Chhattisgarh, West Bengal, Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur and Mizoram since 2002-03. The scheme is being implemented as a credit-linked back-ended subsidy basis by National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development through banks in coordination with the State Governments. Under the scheme, assistance is provided for shallow tube wells, low lift irrigation points, pumping sets and dug wells. An allocation of Rs. 25 crores has been provided for 2005-06 under this scheme.

Statement

Approved outlay for minor irrigation under State Sector during 2005-06

Sl.No.	Name of States/Union Territories	Outlay (Rs. in Crores)
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	*
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	*
3.	Assam	*
4.	Bihar	*
5.	Chhattisgarh	*
6.	Goa	*
7.	Gujarat	208.72
8.	Haryana	*
9.	Himachal Pradesh	*
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	*
11.	Jharkhand	70.00
12.	Karnataka	*
13.	Kerala	*
14.	Madhya Pradesh	255.31
15.	Maharashtra	249.45
16.	Manipur	*
17.	Meghalaya	*
18.	Mizoram	*
19.	Nagaland	*
20.	Orissa	46.29
21.	Punjab	*
22.	Rajasthan	*
23.	Sikkim	*
24.	Tamil Nadu	*
25.	Tripura	*

1	2	3
26.	Uttar Pradesh	*
27.	Uttaranchal	*
28.	West Bengal	48.08
29.	Chandigarh	4.35
30.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0.78
31.	Daman and Diu	0.14

*Yet to be finalised by the Planning Commission

Report on Lifting of Water

5464. SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received any Preliminary Investigation Report on lifting of water from Tunga Bhadra River near Rajanahalli in Harihar Taluk to fill up minor irrigation. Tanks in Davangere, Jagalur and Harapanahally to solve the water problems in these areas;

(b) if so, the estimated cost involved therein; and

(c) by when the funds would be released to the State Government and time fixed for its completion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) As per the information provided by the Government of Karnataka, they have not submitted any proposal to the Central Government for lifting of water from Tungabhadra River near Rajanahalli in Harihar Taluk to fill up minor irrigation Tanks in Davangere, Jagalur and Harapanahally.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Fencing of Tiger Reserves

5465. SHRI K.C. SINGH "BABA": Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that more than 50 per cent of wildlife in India is found outside the National Parks and Sanctuaries;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to protect the wildlife habitat outside the National Parks and Sanctuaries;

(c) whether certain Tiger Reserves under the Project Tiger Scheme including Jim Corbett Tiger Reserve are not isolated and Tiger from Reserved Areas move outside these areas; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to stop the movement of tigers outside the Reserved area including financial assistance provided to each State Government for fencing the Tiger Reserves during the last three years and current year?

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

(b) The Working Plans of regular forests other than Protected Areas have guidelines to ensure the safety and welfare of wild animals found in such areas.

(c) There is good forest connectivity between the Corbett Tiger Reserve and adjoining forest areas in the Terai region. However, habitat fragmentation around tiger reserves and protected areas is discernible in some regions which have wild animal movement.

(d) It is neither desirable nor feasible to restrict tiger movement outside Tiger Reserves or Protected Areas, since the same is essential for gene flow. However, eco-development as well as joint forest management involving local people is undertaken in the surrounds of protected area/tiger reserves and other forests to provide habitat supplement and protection to spill over population of wild animals by eliciting public support.

No exclusive funding support is provided to states for fencing the Tiger Reserves. However the central assistance released to states during last three years under Project Tiger are given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

Release of Central Assistance under Project Tiger during 2002-03 to 2004-05

State-wise release

Sl.No.	Name of Tiger Reserve Range State	(Rs. in Lakhs)		
		2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	21.10	22.89	15.00
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	35.875	68.75	35.00
3.	Assam	65.70	75.00	—

1	2	3	4	5
4.	Bihar	25.00	50.00	85.00
5.	Chhattisgarh	32.48	80.25	27.75
6.	Karnataka	289.56	269.32	486.292
7.	Kerala	63.75	102.68	105.75
8.	Jharkhand	18.00	35.9915	72.5005
9.	Madhya Pradesh	786.44	1103.414	582.43
10.	Maharashtra	621.79	228.45	323.013
11.	Mizoram	98.32	67.56	119.69
12.	Orissa	32.88	151.91	116.4395
13.	Rajasthan	294.92	158.330	75.00
14.	Tamil Nadu	125.00	35.00	80.00
15.	Uttaranchal	168.00	200.91	200.12
16.	Uttar Pradesh	32.75	173.585	175.215
17.	West Bengal	168.33	225.17	325.49
Total		2879.895	3067.2105	2824.69

RAMSAR Sites

5466. PROF. CHANDER KUMAR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of RAMSAR Sites (International Wetland Sites) in India at present, State-wise;

(b) whether any amount has been granted to improve the RAMSAR Sites; and

(c) if so, the amount granted for these sites, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) The number of Ramsar Sites (International Wetland Sites) in India at present is 19. This includes three from Punjab, three from Kerala, two from Jammu and Kashmir, two from Orissa, two from Rajasthan, one from Manipur, one from Himachal Pradesh, one from West Bengal, one from Tamil Nadu, one from Assam, one from Andhra Pradesh and one from Madhya Pradesh.

(b) and (c) An amount of Rs. 3351 lakhs has been released so far to various State Govts. for the conservation of these Ramsar sites as per following break-up:

Sl.No.	Name of State	Amount released so far (In Rs. Lakhs)
1.	Punjab	355.79
2.	Kerala	109.60
3.	Jammu and Kashmir	311.43
4.	Orissa	732.37
5.	Rajasthan	368.42
6.	Manipur	707.82
7.	Himachal Pradesh	170.95
8.	West Bengal	9.50
9.	Tamil Nadu	108.88
10.	Assam	229.58
11.	Andhra Pradesh	40.20
12.	Madhya Pradesh	206.31
Total		3351.00

Death of Tigers in Rail Accidents

5467. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether tiger has become an easy prey in the Dudhwa National Park through which the railway track passes;

(b) if so, the number of tigers killed therein including those involved in rail accidents during the last three years and current year; and

(c) the extent to which the tiger population in the said Park has dwindled since the launching of the project tiger indicating the steps taken to protect the tigers from poachers/other accidents and to promote the endangered species?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) Incidence of a tigress getting killed on 22.03.2005 due to rail accident in the Katarniaghat Wildlife Sanctuary of Uttar Pradesh, which forms part of the Dudhwa Tiger Reserve, has been reported.

(b) The number of tigers killed in the Dudhwa National Park including those dying due to rail accidents during the last three years are given in the enclosed Statement-I.

(c) The tiger population estimation figures of Dudhwa Tiger Reserve since its inclusion under Project Tiger are given in enclosed Statement-II and the steps taken for protecting tigers from poaching and accidents are given in the enclosed Statement-III.

Statement I

Details of Tigers killed in Dudhwa Tiger Reserve during last three years as reported by the State

Sl.No.	Year	Details of Cases
1.	2002-03	A decayed carcass of a tiger was found in the Dudhwa National Park. The post mortem report revealed it as a case of natural death.
2.	2003-04	Nil
3.	2004-05	1. The carcass of a tigress was found in the Katarniaghat Wildlife Sanctuary, one of the tree Protected areas of Dudhwa Tiger Reserve on 1st February, 2005. A case was registered and is under investigation. 2. A tigress was killed in a rail accident in the Katarniaghat Wildlife Sanctuary, one of the three protected areas of Dudhwa Tiger Reserve on 22nd March, 2005.

Statement II*Population of Tigers in the Dudhwa Tiger Reserve as reported by the State*

Sl.No.	Name of Reserve	1972	1979	1984	1989	1993	1995	1997	2001-02
1.	Dudhwa (Uttar Pradesh)	—	—	—	90	94	98	104	76*
	Total	—	—	—	90	94	98	104	76*

*Under compilation/vetting

Statement III*Steps taken at Dudhwa Tiger Reserve to protect Tiger from Poachers/Other Accidents*

1. Surveillance is ensured through patrolling, monitoring of pugmarks and wireless communication.
2. Legal protection has been provided to wild animals including tigers against hunting and commercial exploitation under the provisions of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

Basmati Rice

5468. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to encourage the farmers to grow the superior quality of Basmati Rice of international standard to make a break through in export and earn more foreign exchange for the country; and

(b) if so, the incentives proposed to be given to growers/farmers 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) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Central Government has been encouraging production of superior quality of Basmati Rice for export. For increasing the production and productivity of rice including Basmati Rice in the country, Central Government has been implementing Integrated Cereals Development Programme—Rice (ICDP-Rice) under Macro Management Mode of Agriculture. Further, three Agri-Export Zones (AEZ) for Basmati Rice, one each in Uttar Pradesh, Punjab and Uttaranchal States, have been notified.

The Agri-Export Zones (AEZ) concept is an end-to-end approach for over all development of produce grown in geographically contiguous area. Under Agri-Export Zone, the state government identify farmers and specific areas of agronomic practices in which they need training. Such trainings are imparted through experts in the respective area drawn from various agencies of Central Government, State Government, Research Institutes and Agriculture Universities.

In addition, farmers also easy credit for inputs under Agri-Export Zone. This helps them to use inputs of good quality and thus enhance the quality of the produce. Under Agri-Export Zone concept, focus is also on relevant research and development aimed at over all improvement of the produce. Farmers are also benefited through the marketing access at better prices.

Tourism Development in Maharashtra

5469. SHRI ANANT GUDHE:
SHRI DEVIDAS PINGLE:
SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Maharashtra has submitted any plan to the Union Government for development of tourism in the State to remove regional imbalance;

(b) if so, the salient features and estimated cost involved therein; and

(c) the central aid sought for the purpose and the response of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) to (c) No. Sir. Development of tourist places/spots is a

continuous process. Ministry of Tourism in collaboration with the State Governments/UT Administrations identifies places of tourist interest in the country including the State of Maharashtra. Based on project proposals received from the State, Ministry of Tourism offers financial assistance for development of their infrastructure based on prioritization and availability of funds. During 2004-05, projects worth Rs. 16.00 crore were sanctioned for development of tourism in Maharashtra.

[*Translation*]

Protection of River Banks

5470. SHRI DEVIDAS PINGLE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether certain States including Maharashtra have sent any proposal seeking central assistance for protection of river banks;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has provided or proposes to provide the assistance sought by the concerned States;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, by when it is likely to be released?

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

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

[*English*]

Assistance to SURCEPH

5471. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Suriya's Rehabilitation Centre for Physically Handicapped (SURCEPH) in Kodaikanal, Tamil Nadu has requested for any assistance from the Government;

(b) if so, whether the Government has provided or proposes to provide any assistance to the same; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) No proposal has been received from Suriya's Rehabilitation Centre for Physically Handicapped (SURCEPH) in Kodaikanal, Tamil Nadu for grant in aid under the schemes for the disabled of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Assistance to Increase Production of Milk and Milk Products

5472. SHRI B. MAHTAB: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the assistance provided to increase the production of milk and milk products to each States during the last three years and the current year;

(b) whether the Government has received any request from the Government of Orissa for providing assistance to modernize dairy system in the State;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) 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 KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) Though this is a State subject, the Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries is assisting the State Governments by implementing following schemes for increasing milk production:

(a) National Project on Cattle and Buffalo Breeding.

(b) Intensive Dairy Development Project (revised form of Integrated Dairy Development Programme)

(c) Assistance to Cooperatives

(d) Assistance to States for Control of Animal Diseases etc.

(e) Assistance to States for Feed and Fodder Development.

The details of assistance provided to each state during the last three years to increase the production of milk and

milk products in respect of above schemes are given in enclosed Statement-I, II, III, IV and V respectively. Besides, a new scheme, namely, Dairy/Poultry Venture Capital Fund has been introduced towards the end of the last financial year, 2004-05 but no funds were released. No assistance has been provided to any state during the current financial year, so far, under the above schemes.

(b) to (d) A proposal for dairy development at an estimated cost of Rs. 33.99 crore was received from

Government of Orissa in January, 2005 for implementation in 13 districts of Orissa under the Centrally Sponsored Plan Scheme "Integrated Dairy Development Project in Non Operation Flood, Hilly and Backward Areas. The proposal could not be considered during last financial year as the scheme was under revision and the revised scheme was approved only in March, 2005. Subsequently, the State Government has been requested to recast the proposal in accordance with the guidelines of the revised scheme.

Statement I

State-wise funds released under NPCBB during last three years

(Rs. in lakh)				
Sl.No.	State/UT	2002-2003	2003-04	2004-05
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	934.5700	718.1800	858.3600
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	—	—	151.3000
3.	Assam	—	—	129.5000
4.	Bihar	—	—	—
5.	Chhattisgarh	—	98.0000	100.0000
6.	Gujarat	—	40.0000	279.7000
7.	Goa	—	58.7100	97.2900
8.	Haryana	—	—	454.0000
9.	Himachal Pradesh	220.0000	100.0000	270.2000
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	—	—	135.9100
11.	Jharkhand	—	—	—
12.	Karnataka	—	465.0000	394.2900
13.	Kerala	230.0000	220.0000	801.9490
14.	Madhya Pradesh	300.0000	360.0000	661.5400
15.	Maharashtra	—	860.0000	—
16.	Manipur	—	17.3600	—
17.	Meghalaya	—	65.6400	—
18.	Mizoram	17.9700	40.0000	71.0000

1	2	3	4	5
19.	Nagaland	96.0000	182.0000	159.6700
20.	Orissa	551.6000	—	485.0000
21.	Punjab	120.8300	—	111.2700
22.	Rajasthan	—	—	—
23.	Sikkim	—	—	—
24.	Tamil Nadu	570.0000	—	204.8200
25.	Tripura	—	95.0000	96.6700
26.	Uttar Pradesh	1063.0000	—	841.1510
27.	Uttaranchal	—	275.0000	84.8000
28.	West Bengal	—	—	353.1000
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	—	—	—
30.	Chandigarh	—	—	—
31.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	—	—	27.7600
32.	Delhi	—	—	—
33.	Lakshadweep	—	—	—
34.	Pondicherry	—	—	18.1500
35.	Daman and Diu	—	—	—
	Others	—	—	7.5160
	Total	4103.9700	3594.8900	6794.9460

Statement II*Funds Released during last 3 years under IDDP Scheme*

(Rs. Lakh)

Sl.No.	State	Year of the sanction	Approved Outlays	Amount Released 2002-03	Amount Released 2003-04	Amount Released 2004-05
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands (Actual Utilisation by U.T.)	1995-96	239.41	25.00 25.00	22.00	—
2.	Andhra-I	1995-96	447.32			
	Andhra-II	2000-01	934.28		150.00	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
3.	Arunachal	1993-94	458.50		14.20	
4.	Assam-I	1994-95	1260.75			110.17
	Assam-II	2004-05	588.35			185.87
5.	Bihar-I	1994-95	158.61			
	Bihar-II	1995-96	364.50		50.25	
	Bihar-III (Kaimur)	1997-98	67.25			
	Bihar-IV (Madhubani)	1997-98	66.30			
	Bihar-V (Nalanda)	2000-01	447.73	56.79	49.75	
	Bihar-VI	2001-02	279.78			
6.	Jharkhand	1995-96	364.50	160.00	99.91	
7.	Gujarat	1993-94	679.95			
8.	Haryana	1995-96	203.75			
9.	Himachal Pradesh-I	1997-98	805.95	100.00	50.75	
	Himachal Pradesh-II	2004-05	899.12			160.17
10.	Jammu and Kashmir-Jammu	1995-96	635.12	25.00		148.42
	Jammu and Kashmir-Kashmir	1995-96	608.17	15.00		32.37
11.	Kerala	2004-05	288.15			57.63
12.	Madhya Pradesh I & II	1993-94	494.06	98.79		
	Madhya Pradesh IV (Madhya Pradesh I, II & IV)	1995-96	599.85			
13.	Chhattisgarh-I	1993-94	287.00	29.52		
	Chhattisgarh-II	2001-02	700.63			
	Chhattisgarh-III	2001-02	849.16			
14.	Maharashtra-I	1995-96	1985.24			
	Maharashtra-II	1997-98	1941.55	200.00		
15.	Manipur	1993-94	224.10			
16.	Meghalaya-I	1994-95	141.29			
	Meghalaya-II	2000-01	472.52		50.00	150.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
17.	Mizoram-I	1993-94	367.99			
	Mizoram-II	1995-96	349.19			
	Mizoram-III	2001-02	199.41	72.41		43.54
	Mizoram-IV	2004-05	254.98			85.28
18.	Nagaland-I	1993-94	668.22			
	Nagaland-II	1998-99	347.49			
	Nagaland-III	2004-05	597.30			72.59
19.	Orissa-I	1993-94	631.00			
	Orissa-II	1994-95	443.21			
	Orissa-III	1998-99	621.84	200.00		128.01
	Orissa-IV	2000-01	784.53	88.21		167.00
20.	Rajasthan	2004-05	590.50			118.10
21.	Sikkim-I & II	1993-94	678.47			
	Sikkim-III	2000-01	368.16	90.82		51.73
	Sikkim-IV	2003-04	1007.43		324.80	
22.	Tamil Nadu-I	1995-96	336.63			
	Tamil Nadu-II	2004-05	312.15			55.45
23.	Tripura-I	1993-94	304.90			
	Tripura-II	1994-95	319.51			
24.	Uttar Pradesh-I, II & III	1993-94	1242.89			
	Uttar Pradesh-IV	2000-01	758.44		123.09	150.00
	Uttar Pradesh-V	2001-02	1231.32		160.00	168.77
	Uttar Pradesh-VI	2003-04	290.54		42.00	46.05
25.	Uttaranchal-I	2002-03	1911.18	476.59	483.00	479.47
	Uttaranchal-II	2004-05	532.75			106.55
26.	West Bengal-I	1994-95	498.88			
	West Bengal-II	1998-99	140.83			
	West Bengal-III	2004-05	126.04			42.01
Total			33408.68	1638.13	1619.75	2559.18

Statement III

Funds released during last three years under the scheme "Assistance to Cooperatives"

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl.No.	Name of State	Funds released		
		2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
1.	Madhya Pradesh	348.41	—	191.59
2.	Chhattisgarh	20.00	—	10.00
3.	Karnataka	90.00	—	—
4.	Uttar Pradesh	351.04	46.00	443.41
5.	Kerala	31.00	—	—
6.	Maharashtra	159.45	25.00	30.00
7.	West Bengal	75.00	—	50.00
8.	Assam	210.00	—	—
9.	Nagaland	5.24	—	—
10.	Tamil Nadu	375.00	200.00	75.00
11.	Punjab	—	—	181.50

No funds have been released under the scheme "Assistance to Cooperatives" during the current financial year *i.e.* 2005-06.

Statement IV

State-wise funds released during 2002-2003, 2003-2004 and 2004-2005 under Assistance to States for Control of Animal Diseases (ASCAD)

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl.No.	Name of State/UT	Funds released	Funds released	Funds released
		2002-03#	during 2003-04	during 2004-05
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	8.84	184.00	216.12
2.	Bihar	6.72	253.188	0.00
3.	Chhattisgarh	6.00	46.33	174.50

1	2	3	4	5
4.	Goa	19.83	8.00	24.33
5.	Gujarat	44.77	246.715	439.36
6.	Haryana	36.96	211.247	327.86
7.	Himachal Pradesh	24.50	67.16	75.60
8.	Jammu and Kashmir	0.00	74.55	203.20
9.	Jharkhand	5.96	141.58	6.37
10.	Karnataka	160.90	74.00	451.30
11.	Kerala	362.00	80.00	0.00
12.	Madhya Pradesh	0.00	6.00	234.15
13.	Maharashtra	50.78	91.20	665.65
14.	Oriasa	11.00	210.25	330.06
15.	Punjab	64.91	32.00	156.05
16.	Rajasthan	53.23	87.57	204.42
17.	Tamil Nadu	154.83	63.60	300.42
18.	Uttar Pradesh	403.26	414.15	263.33
19.	Uttaranchal	10.51	11.06	124.71
20.	West Bengal	99.00	105.40	464.97
21.	Arunachal Pradesh	4.40	45.00	50.40
22.	Assam	0.00	247.24	0.00
23.	Manipur	24.20	64.65	104.06
24.	Meghalaya	11.47	42.10	23.34
25.	Mizoram	75.00	101.05	168.87
26.	Nagaland	0.00	176.24	315.00
27.	Sikkim	2.00	32.09	0.00
28.	Tripura	124.33	154.23	43.33
29.	NCT Delhi	15.00	35.20	48.30
30.	Pondicherry	8.00	4.00	11.70
31.	A & N Islands	17.80	7.20	4.67
32.	Chandigarh	2.00	6.00	4.10

1	2	3	4	5
33.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	—	0.20	0.33
34.	Daman and Diu	—	0.20	0.33
35.	Lakshadweep	6.20	3.60	13.24
Total		1814.80	3327.00	5450.08

#During 2002-03 funds were released under the centrally sponsored scheme Systematic Control of Livestock Diseases of National Importance, Foot and Mouth Disease Control Programme and Animal Disease Surveillance.

Statement V

State-wise and Year-wise funds released during last three years 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05 under centrally sponsored scheme "Assistance to States for Feed and Fodder Development

States	(Rs. in lakh)		
	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
Karnataka	38.55	25.00	9.50
Mizoram	30.00	39.525	112.50
Maharashtra	—	8.44	46.525
Kerala	—	—	90.00
Nagaland	20.00	27.575	112.50
Uttar Pradesh	—	—	337.658
Punjab	20.00	—	—
Himachal Pradesh	1.00	2.00	5.00
Tripura	—	57.46	50.00
Sikkim	—	—	57.65
Jammu and Kashmir	55.50	—	—
Arunachal Pradesh	—	—	99.00
Rajasthan	—	40.00	26.32
Chhattisgarh	100.00	—	—
Uttaranchal	76.75	—	—
Chandigarh	—	—	25.00
Jharkhand	—	—	150.00
Assam	—	—	68.35
Total	341.80	200.00	1190.003

Closed Units of NAFED

5473. DR. K. DHANARAJU: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that NAFED have since closed its Food Processing Units in Delhi and some other parts of the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the private sector Food Processing Units are doing better and Government Units are running into losses;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps the Government proposes to take to make the closed units of NAFED functional?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) to (e) The NAFED Processed Foods Units was set-up by NAFED at Delhi in the year 1977 for manufacturing/trading of processed food items. Due to continuous and heavy losses since its inception, the Board of Directors of NAFED in the meeting held on 15.09.98 took a decision to discontinue the production activities of NAFED Processed Foods and reduce the work-force by giving attractive Voluntary Retirement Scheme. NAFED has already disposed of the Plant & Machinery of NAFED Processed Foods Unit and started warehousing activities in the premises. NAFED is an Apex Autonomous Cooperative Organisation registered under the Multi-State Cooperative Societies Act and its Board is competent to take a view on issues like closing down of loss making Unit/Units undertaking diversified activities, etc. No record is centrally maintained about profit/losses of private sector food processing units.

Establishment of Steel Plant in Orissa by South Koreans

5474. SHRI SURVARAM SUDHAKAR REDDY:
SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration to set up a steel plant in Orissa by a South Korean Steel giant with large Foreign Direct Investment; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the present stage of the negotiations in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) and (b) As per information made available by Government of Orissa, Pohang Steel Company of South Korea has evinced interest for setting up of a port based 12 million tonnes per annum integrated steel plant in Orissa with an investment of about Rs. 40,000 crores. The first module of 3 million tonnes per annum is expected to be completed in 2009. Thereafter, 3 million tonnes per annum will be added every two years so as to reach the full capacity of 12 million tonnes per annum. No final decision has so far been taken by the Government of Orissa on the proposal of Pohang Steel Company of South Korea.

Decline in Price of Vanilla in Kerala

5475. SHRI CHENGARA SURENDRAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has noticed the decline in price of Vanilla in Kerala;

(b) if so, whether the Government proposes to take any steps to help the Vanilla growers in the State; 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 district-wise price trend of vanilla (green fruit) in Kerala from the year 2001-02 to 2004-05 are given in the table below:

District	(Rs./Kg.)			
	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
Kottayam	800	1100	3650	600*
Idukki	660	1612	2900	250
Palakkad	720	1100	3500	275
Kozhikode	600	1200	3600	250
Wayanad	1000	1300	3000	275
Kannur	650	900	3000	260

*After November 2004 price of vanilla decreased to Rs. 250 per kg.

(b) and (c) The Government implements the Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) in respect of horticulture commodities which are not covered under the Minimum Support Price (MSP) scheme. In order to protect the growers of horticulture commodities from distress sales in the event of bumper crops. 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. The Spices Board under the Ministry of Commerce is also encouraging farmers for curing vanilla beans to store the commodity and to market the same at a remunerative price level.

Production of Milk

5476. SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantity of milk produced in the country every day by the Milk Federation and other sources;

(b) the total quantity of milk requirement of the country at present, State-wise;

(c) the details of the States producing excess milk and the steps taken by such States to dispose of excess milk; and

(d) the total quantity of milk being perished in the country by such excess production, 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 total estimated quantity of milk produced in the country is 241 thousand tonne per day during the year 2003-04.

(b) No authentic data on requirement of total quantity of milk in the country, State-wise is available.

(c)(i) States producing surplus milk either supply their surplus milk to the States which are deficient in milk production or convert the surplus milk into the milk products.

(ii) As per the milk procurement and sale (liquid milk) figures available for the co-operative sector, States like Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Rajasthan etc. are sending significant quantities of milk and milk products outside the State.

(d) Government of India has not received any report of milk being perished in the country by excess production.

Gender Dimensions in Biodiversity Management

5477. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state the details of the measures taken or proposed to be taken to integrate the gender dimensions in biodiversity management:

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): The Rule 22 of the Biological Diversity Rules, 2004, notified under the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 has made provision that while constituting a Biodiversity Management Committee by the local body, not less than 1/3rd members should be women. The curricula for training at various levels forestry personnel contain in/outs on gender dimensions in Biodiversity Management.

[Translation]

Sea Pollution

5478. SHRI SITA RAM SINGH:
SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN:
SHRI RAJNARAYAN BUDHOLIA:

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

- (a) whether a large number of fishes die every year due to excessive pollution in the sea water;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has formulated any scheme or taken firm steps to check sea pollution; 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) The information is being collected and shall be tabled on the floor of the House.

[English]

Construction of Houses for Fishermen

5479. SHRI D.V. SADANAND GOWDA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had continued the scheme of construction of houses to houseless fishermen under the Centrally sponsored scheme for the development of model fishermen village during 2004-05;

(b) if so, the reasons for delay in releasing the balance Central share; and

(c) by when the balance share is likely to be released to the States particularly in Kerala?

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 Government continued the Centrally Sponsored National Scheme of Welfare of Fishermen encompassing "Development of Model Fishermen Villages" as component to extend financial assistance for construction of houses and provide other basic amenities such as drinking water to fishermen during 2004-05.

(b) and (c) The unit cost of Rs. 40000 for construction of fisherman house is shared by the Central and State Government on 50:50 basis. The central assistance sanctioned for this purpose is released in instalments on receipt of utilization certificate and physical progress from the State Governments including Kerala. In 2002-03, state of Kerala was sanctioned 1500 houses involving total cost of Rs. 600 lakh including central share of Rs. 300 lakh of which Rs. 200 lakh was released towards first instalment. Subsequently, Rs. 50 lakh was released towards second installment of central share in 2003-04. Since the state government furnished progress report on 29.3.2005, the balance amount was not released due to paucity of funds in 2004-05. However, the balance central share of Rs. 50 lakh is likely to be released in 2005-06.

[Translation]

Special Agriculture Crops Schemes

5480. SHRI CHANDRABHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government proposes to extend special agriculture crops scheme by including poultry and milk products in addition to flowers, fruits, vegetables and small forest produces in it as a part of measures to promote agro-export;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government also proposes to simplify export procedures under special trade rules; and

(d) the suggestions/measures proposed to be taken for simplification of new packages for export oriented units and advance licensing 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) In the Annual Supplement to the Foreign Trade Policy released on 8th April 2005 and updated with effect from 1.4.2005, export of 'dairy, poultry and their value added products' have also been included for benefits under the 'Vishesh Krishi Upaj Yojana (Special Agriculture Produce Scheme)'.

(c) The simplification of procedures is an ongoing process. In the Annual Supplement to the Foreign Trade Policy released on 8.4.2005, one single common application form for claiming benefits under various schemes in the Foreign Trade Policy was announced in the form of 'AAYAAT NIRYAAT FORM'. Apart from this, Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) initiatives are updated on a regular basis.

(d) There is no proposal at present under consideration of the Government for a new package under the export oriented unit and advance licensing schemes.

[English]

Seizure of Wildlife Products by Custom Authorities

5481. DR. PRASANNA KUMAR PATASANI:
SHRI ANANTA NAYAK:

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

(a) the number and value of tiger skins, leopard skins, elephant tusks, star tortoises, snakes etc. seized by the Customs and Central Excise Department during the years 2003, 2004 and 2005 separately;

(b) the details of steps being taken by the Government to sensitize the officers of this department in wildlife and wildlife products;

(c) the details of training exposures being given to these officers in wildlife and wildlife products;

(d) the list of the centres where such training was imparted during the year 2004;

(e) whether there is any such proposal before the Government at present; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (f) The information is being collected and shall be tabled on the floor of the House.

Pay Scale Revision of Teachers In Agricultural University

5482. SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has been considering to implement the decision of the Cabinet regarding revision of left over pay scales of teachers of Merit Promotion Scheme (MPS) in State Agricultural Universities (SAUs) under Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR);

(b) if so, the details thereof and reasons for delay in implementation of the decision in SAUs;

(c) whether promotional avenues of MPS teachers have not been stopped for ever by non-implementation of the Cabinet decision;

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to open their promotional avenues alongwith the details thereof; and

(e) the time by when the left over pay scales of teachers of MPS are likely to be revised?

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. The Cabinet has not taken any decision for revision of left over pay scales of teachers of Merit Promotion Scheme in respect of State Agricultural Universities.

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

Disaster Management Policy

5483. PROF. M. RAMADASS: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of features of the new Disaster Management Policy of the Government with respect to droughts in the country; and

(b) the important recommendations of the Twelfth Finance Commission relating to drought relief?

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 Twelfth Finance Commission has, as such, not laid down any new policy for the Disaster management. It has recommended continuance of the existing policy which envisages Disaster management through the Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) and the National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF). For droughts, relief assistance is admissible for Input Subsidy, Employment Generation, Supplementary Nutrition, Gratuitous Relief, Drinking Water, Health and Fodder.

Landless Labourers

5484. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has sought the solution of the problems of landless labourers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any committee has been appointed to go into the problems of the landless labourers in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government to introduce an insurance scheme for them; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRA SHEKHAR RAO): (a) and (b) The Government has initiated several measures to solve the problems of the landless labourers. Various labour laws like the Minimum Wages Act, 1948; the Workmen Compensation Act, 1923; the Equal Remuneration Act, 1976; the Inter-State Migrant Workmen (RE&CS) Act, 1979 and applicable to these labourers also. Further, the

Janshree Bima Yojana provide life insurance protection to the rural and urban poor persons including landless labourers who are below and marginally above the poverty line. Recently, the Government has launched Universal Health Insurance Scheme, which is applicable to these labourers also. In addition to this, the Government is also implementing various welfare and employment oriented schemes and programmes through various Ministries/Departments. Some of such schemes are Swarnjayanti Gram Swarojgar Yojana, National Social Assistance Programme, Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yojana, Swarnjayanti Shahari Rojgar Yojana, Sampurna Grameen Rojgar Yojana etc. The Government has also introduced the National Rural Employment Guarantee Bill during last session of the Parliament. The objective of the Bill is to guarantee at least 100 days of employment in a year, to atleast one person in every rural household on asset creating public works programmes.

(c) and (d) The Ministry of Labour & Employment has not appointed any committee to go into the problems of the landless labourers in the country.

(e) and (f) No, Sir. However, many State Governments like Gujarat, Kerala are implementing insurance schemes for the agricultural workers in their respective States.

Export of Rice

5485. SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the export of rice has declined during the current financial year compared to the previous years;

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

(c) the steps taken to encourage the export of rice?

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) As per the figures of Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics (DGCIS), the export of rice from the country has declined during 2004-05 as compared to the previous years, as shown below:

(figures in MTs)

Year	Export
2004-05	31,58,194
2003-04	33,72,235
2002-03	47,86,639

Fresh allocations of rice from the Central Pool for export purposes have been stopped, since August, 2003, due to which there is decline in the export of rice.

(c) The sale of rice and wheat for exports from the Central Pool was started with the primary objective of liquidating huge built up of stocks in the year 2000. As the objective has been met there is no further need to encourage export of rice from the Central Pool.

National Food Processing Policy, 2005

5486. SHRI ANNASHEB M.K. PATIL:
SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO:
SHRI T.K. HAMZA:

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

(a) whether the Government has prepared the final draft of National Food Processing Policy, 2005;

(b) if so, the main features of the said policy;

(c) whether there is any proposal to set up area-wise specific crop Food Processing Industrial Centres to train farmers to prepare processed food item from their surplus harvesting; 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) Ministry of Food Processing Industries has initiated action for formulating a National Food Processing Policy and for this purpose Draft Policy has been prepared which envisages, among other things, creation of enabling environment, infrastructure development, linkages with farming system etc. The proposed Draft Policy does not envisage setting up of food processing units by the Ministry. The Draft Policy further, stipulates possible measures for reduction in wastage, increase in level of processing, enhancement in value addition, generation of employment etc.

(c) and (d) A scheme for setting up of food processing training centre has already been implemented for development of rural entrepreneurship and transfer of technology by utilizing locally grown raw material and providing 'hand on' experience at such production cum training centres. The scheme is project specific and not area/state specific. An amount of Rs. 2.00 lakh for fixed capital cost and Rs. 1.00 lakh as revolving seed capital is provided for setting up of a single product line centre and an amount of Rs. 7.50 lakh for fixed capital cost and Rs. 2.00 lakh as revolving seed capital for multi product line centres. NGOs, cooperatives individual firms, government & semi government agencies can be assisted in the setting up of such centres.

National Policy on Petrochemicals

5487. SHRI B. VINOD KUMAR:
SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN:
SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV:
SHRI AHDALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:
SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU:
SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA:
SHRI HARISHCHANDRA CHAVAN:

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

(a) whether the Government has finalized a National Policy on Petrochemicals;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the main features of the said policy; and

(c) if not, by when it is likely to be finalized?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) to (c) A National Policy on Petrochemicals is being finalized by this Department. The Policy measures being proposed in the National Policy are to be first discussed with other Departments/Ministries, before the adoption of the Policy by the Cabinet. While all efforts are being made to expedite its finalization, no time frame could be set at this stage.

Report of Committee on Prices of Medicines

5488. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA:
SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 3263 dated December 21, 2004 and state:

(a) whether the Government has received any report of the committee constituted to examine the span of price control;

(b) if so, the details thereof; 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) A Committee under the Chairmanship of Joint Secretary (PI) was constituted to examine the span of price control (including trade margin) in the light of National Common Minimum Programme and the observations of the Supreme Court in SLP No. (C) 3668/2003 and to suggest measures for fulfilling the objective of National Common Minimum Programme to ensure the availability of life saving drugs at reasonable prices. This Committee has submitted its interim report to the Government. The Committee has recommended, inter-alia, intensive monitoring on the prices of all those drugs out of the selected basket (National List of Essential Medicines, 2003) which are not under price control, ceilings on trade margins of drugs, a system of price negotiations for the new patented drugs, special schemes for people below poverty line, introduction of Rajasthan Model of Life Line Fluid Stores (hospital pharmacy stores run by Medicare Societies) for bulk purchase of drugs directly from manufacturer and selling them at reduced prices, compounding of offences under the Essential Commodities Act, establishment of DPCO cells in all States on the model of Karnataka, price negotiations at the time of launching of a new patented drug, efforts to increase public awareness, wide publicity to policies and decisions of the Government and NPPA etc. Follow up action has been initiated on the recommendations of the Committee made in its interim report.

Flexible Law for New Industries

5489. SHRI AJIT JOGI: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has formulated any new scheme for making flexible law for new Industries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps proposed to be taken for security of Task Force in various industries;

(d) whether the representatives of major industries were consulted in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRA SHEKHAR RAO): (a) At present, there is no proposal to formulate a separate labour law for new industries.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

Unemployment Allowance to Disabled Persons

5490. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any unemployment allowance being granted for the disabled persons in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of disabled persons being given unemployment allowance during the last three years, State-wise; and

(d) if not, the steps taken for the welfare of disabled unemployment persons in the country?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRA SHEKHAR RAO): (a) to (c) Section 68 of the Persons with Disabilities Act, 1995 stipulates that "The appropriate Governments shall, within the limits of their economic capacity and development shall by notification frame a scheme for payment of an unemployment allowance to persons with disabilities registered with the special employment exchange for more than two years and who could not be placed in any gainful occupation." Since the subject matter of payment of unemployment allowance comes under the purview of the State Government, this provision needs to be implemented by the States/UTs. Some State Governments are providing unemployment allowance to persons with disabilities. Rates of which vary from Rs. 50/- to Rs. 500/-. Different States have adopted different eligibility criteria for providing the unemployment allowance. Statement indicating rates of unemployment allowance to the disabled persons is enclosed.

(d) Does not arise.

Statement***Unemployment Allowance in States/UTs***

Sl.No.	State/UT	Unemployment Allowance Rate	Rate/pm of Pension per person (Rs.)
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Rs. 75/-per month	75
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	Nil	
3.	Assam	Nil	
4.	Bihar	Nil	
5.	Chhattisgarh	Nil	150
6.	Delhi	Not existing	300
7.	Goa	Not existing	500
8.	Gujarat	Nil	200 & 100
9.	Haryana	Scheme is in force in the State	200
10.	Himachal Pradesh	Nil	150
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	Nil	300
12.	Jharkhand	Nil	
13.	Karnataka	Nil	125
14.	Kerala	No separate scheme for disabled	150
15.	Madhya Pradesh	Nil	
16.	Maharashtra	No separate scheme for disabled	250
17.	Manipur	Nil	
18.	Meghalaya	Rs. 50/- per month	100
19.	Mizoram	Rs. 100/- p.m	
20.	Nagaland	Nil	100
21.	Orissa	Nil	100
22.	Punjab	From Rs. 150/- to Rs. 400/-	200
23.	Rajasthan	Nil	200

1	2	3	4
24.	Sikkim	Rs. 500/- per month (As per Order No. 11/SJE dt. 19.11.04)	200
25.	Tamil Nadu	Rs. 200 to 300 per month	200
26.	Tripura	Yes, Rs. 500/-	125
27.	Uttar Pradesh	Nil	125
28.	Uttaranchal	Nil	125
29.	West Bengal	Yes, provided	500

Union Territories

Sl.No.	Name of UT	Rate of Unemployment Allowance	Rate of Pension per person per month (Rs.)
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	Rs. 100/- p.m.	200
2.	Chandigarh	Rs. 150/- to Rs. 400 p.m.	60
3.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	Nil	60
4.	Lakshadweep	Nil	100
5.	Daman and Diu	Scheme for unemployment allowance has been formulated	400 & 500
6.	Pondicherry	Rs. 400/- p.m. & Rs. 500/- p.m.	

Irregularities in Purchases Made by SAIL

5491. SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether some irregularities were reported relating to spot purchases made by Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) between April and August, 2004 in the US markets;

(b) if so, whether any inquiry has been conducted in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action taken against the officials found guilty if any?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The inquiry is in progress.

[*Translation*]

Smuggling of Cows

5492. SHRI RAGHUVIYER SINGH KOSHAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that cases regarding seizure of herds of non-milching cows, calves and bullocks have been reported from various parts of the country while taking them across the border by smuggling for the purpose of slaughtering;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the number of cases of seizure and bovine seizures detected during the last three years and as on April 30, 2005, State-wise;

(c) whether the instructions of the Government given to the Revenue and information Directorate, Regional Offices of Custom Department and State Governments for the prevention of smuggling of bovines are presently in force; 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) Cattle seized from illegal transportation by overloading including those being sent to illegal slaughter houses are sent to animal welfare organizations for maintenance under the scheme called "Rehabilitation of Rescued Cattle".

(b) The details of rescued animals are given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) and (d) The Ministry of Home Affairs have instructed all bordering States, Border Security Force, Narcotic Control Bureau and the Central Board of Excise & Customs (Department of Revenue) to be more vigilant to check all types of smuggling on Indo-Bangladesh border.

Statement

Details of Rescued Cattle

Name of the State	No. of Cattle			
	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
1	2	3	4	5
Andhra Pradesh	124	608	421	Nil
Karnataka	290	645	Nil	Nil
Bihar	Nil	43	90	Nil

1	2	3	4	5
Uttar Pradesh	2988	1420	1898	Nil
Tamil Nadu	43	1147	523	Nil
Maharashtra	110	148	148	Nil
Haryana	243	858	619	Nil
Rajasthan	546	741	1145	Nil
New Delhi	190	1478	Nil	Nil
Orissa	Nil	74	Nil	Nil
Punjab	—	1481	—	—
Madhya Pradesh	276	2365	3389	—
Total	4810	11008	8233	—

Wastage of Rivers Water

5493. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the water of Kali Sindh and Parvati rivers flowing on the borders of Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh goes waste without any use;

(b) if so, whether the Government has formulated any plan to connect these rivers and to carry excess water of these rivers to Rana Pratap Sagar Dam constructed on the Chambal River in Rajasthan for irrigation; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the amount likely to be spent and by when this plan is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) As per the water balance studies of National Water Development Agency (NDWA), Parbati and Kalisindh sub-basins are categorized as basins having surplus water to after accounting for respective in basin projected requirements.

(b) and (c) Parbati-Kalisindh-Chambal link canal envisages diversion of surplus waters of Parbati and Kalisindh sub-basins to Gandhisagar dam/Ranapratapsagar dam across Chambal for irrigation in new areas enroute and existing command of Chambal system downstream of Kota barrage. The tentative estimated cost of the link

project at 2002-03 price level is about Rs. 3,000 crores. The implementation of the link is dependent upon the consensus reached between Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan.

[*English*]

Water Management Programme

5494. SHRI NARAYAN CHANDRA BORKATAKY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has formulated any Water Management Programme in Assam; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[*Translation*]

Setting up of Bio Agent Laboratories

5495. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any proposal from the Government of Maharashtra for setting up bio agent laboratories; and

(b) if so, the time by when the proposed bio agent laboratories 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 (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) The Government of Maharashtra had submitted proposals to set up 8 bio-agent laboratories under the Technology Mission on Cotton. All these proposals were approved by the Government of India and funds released accordingly to the Government of Maharashtra. These bio agent laboratories have become operational. In addition, proposals from various Agriculture Universities were also received through the Government of Maharashtra for setting up/augmentation of bio-agent laboratories for which funds have been sanctioned by Government of India as per details given below:

Sl.No.	State Agriculture University	Amount Sanctioned (Rs. in lakh)
1.	Marathwada Agricultural University, Parbhani	18.36
2.	Dr. Punjabrao Deshmukh Krishi Vidyapeeth, Akola.	20.00
3.	Mahatma Phule Krishi Vidyapeeth, Jalgaon.	20.00
4.	Mahatma Phule Krishi Vidyapeeth, Rahuri	24.92
5.	Mahatma Phule Krishi Vidyapeeth, Dhule	24.92

Government of India has also sanctioned an amount Rs. 45.00 lakh for construction of a new bio-control laboratory.

[*English*]

Methods for Computing Minimum Support Prices

5496. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to upgrade the methods for computing the Minimum Support Prices (MSP) to farm commodities;

(b) if so, whether the present system to compute MSP has not been found favourable to farmers; and

(c) if so, the extent to which the upgradation of methodology for computing MSP to farm commodities is likely to help farmers to get good prices of their product?

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, at present, has no proposal to upgrade the methods for computing the Minimum Support Prices (MSP) of the farm commodities. However, an Expert Committee, under the Chairmanship of Prof. Y.K. Alagh, has been set up to examine the methodological and related recommendations of the National Seminar on Methodological Issues in the Fixation of Minimum Support Prices held in New Delhi.

[*Translation*]

Functioning of National Animal Welfare Board

5497. SHRI KULDEEP BISHNOI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Animal Welfare Board provides financial assistance to veterinary hospitals for treatment of animals and certain Non-Governmental Organisations under anti-rabies programme;

(b) if so, the details of the financial assistance provided thereof during the last three years, State-wise; and

(c) the concrete steps taken by Government to bring improvement in the functioning of the said board?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) No financial assistance is provided by Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI) to the Government Veterinary Hospitals for treatment of animals. The anti-rabies programme is part of the scheme for Birth Control and Immunization of Stray Dogs under which financial assistance is provided by the AWBI to the Non-Governmental Organizations and Municipal Corporations; and

(b) The State-wise details of financial assistance provided for Birth Control and Immunization of Stray Dogs by AWBI during the last three years is as under:

(Amount in Rupees)

Name of the State	2002-2003	2003-2004	2004-2005
Andhra Pradesh	*	*	17,08,000.00
Delhi	*	*	28,97,500.00
Goa	*	*	12,40,780.00
Gujarat	*	*	1,70,000.00
Maharashtra	*	*	20,28,000.00
Orissa	*	*	2,22,500.00
Rajasthan	*	*	4,29,445.00
Tamil Nadu	*	*	38,85,000.00
Uttar Pradesh	*	*	34,000.00
West Bengal	*	*	11,60,750.00
Total	*	*	1,37,75,975.00

*The scheme was transferred to AWBI during 2004-2005.

(c) Steps taken by the Government from time to time to improve the functioning of the Animal Welfare Board of India inter-alia include:

- Transfer of implementation of animal welfare schemes to AWBI.
- Enhancement of their budget provision.
- Directions to AWBI to follow economic norms in spending the funds.
- Approval by the Government of proposals for release of grant-in-aid to the Non-Governmental Organizations which are also the Members of the Board.
- Enlargement of the panel of inspecting agencies.
- Association of Animal Husbandry Departments of the States with AWBI to monitor utilization of funds.
- Formation of Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCAs) and State Animal Welfare Boards (SABs) to assist AWBI in implementation of Acts and Rules relating to Animal Welfare.
- Close tie-up by AWBI with Gaushalas and Pinjarapoles to ensure treatment of animals.

Vision Documents-2005

5498. SHRI BALESHWAR YADAV: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has formulated 'Vision Document-2005' for promoting Food Processing Industries (FPI) and creating job opportunities;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof; and

(c) by when the document is likely to be finalized?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) to (c) The Vision Document-2005, which has been recently released by the Government, envisages trebling the size of the processed food sector so as to enhance farmer income, generate employment opportunities and contribute to overall national growth by increasing the level of processing of perishables from 6%

to 20%, value addition from 20% to 35% and share in global food trade from 1% to 3%.

Special Permission for Clearance of Irrigation Projects

5499. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether special permission for deforestation has been granted for rehabilitation the Tsunami victims of Andaman and Nicobar;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any proposal for grant of such special permission of pending irrigation projects in the districts having more than 33 per cent forest cover; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) The Hon'ble Supreme Court of India vide order dated 05.01.2005 in WP (C) No. 202 of 1995, as an interim measure, relaxed its earlier order dated 07.05.2002 to a limited extent for rehabilitation of the victims of earthquake and Tsunami waves in Andaman and Nicobar Islands and permitted felling of trees and extraction of timber and non-timber forest produce from the forest are without approved working plan for a period of six months for meeting the immediate requirement for reconstruction/repair of houses, setting up of relief camps, repair of jetties, bridges, public buildings and other related works subject to certain conditions. In compliance of the above order of the Hon'ble Court, only silviculturally available trees have been marked for felling for the purpose.

(c) No Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Quality Test of Foodgrains

5500. SHRI BAPU HARI CHAURE: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Food Corporation of India tests the quality of foodgrains before their procurement;

(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) Yes, Sir.

(b) The food Corporation of India procures food grains strictly as per the prescribed specifications of the Government of India. For this purpose, qualified and well trained Technical Assistants are posted in Mandis to exercise quality related checks during procurement of food grains. Besides, Senior Officers viz. AM (QC)/DM/DM (QC)/District/Regional/Zonal Officers and joint teams comprising officers from FCI and the Ministry also visit the Mandis to inspect/oversee the various procurement operations and ascertain the quality of food grains procured.

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

Poppy Cultivation

5501. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Karnataka has sought permission from the Union Government to allow poppy cultivation on dry lands in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government has already given license to State like Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh to cultivate poppy; and

(d) if so, 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 (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Study by NASA on Pollution Level

5502. SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the steps being taken by the Government to check environmentally polluted States of the country preferably in rural areas and main cities of the country;

(b) whether a National Aeronautical and Space Administration (NASA) research team and other teams examining air pollution levels over the Indian subcontinent have found an immense pollution pool over large number of States of the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether a large source contributing to the State's pollution pool is the inefficient burning of variety of bio-fuels during cooking and other domestic use; and

(e) if so the steps being taken by the Central Pollution Control Board and State Pollution Control Boards in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) For abatement of pollution from various industrial activities, measures have been initiated which inter-alia include the following:

- (i) Notification of general and source specific standards and their enforcement;
- (ii) Regular monitoring for compliance of prescribed environmental norms;
- (iii) Promotion of better technologies and cleaner fuels;
- (iv) Issuance of notices/direction to defaulting units for installation of pollution control devices; and
- (v) Implementation on the Charter on Corporate Responsibility for Environmental Protection for 17 categories of polluting industries.

(b) and (c) Based on the analysis of satellite data captured by National Aeronautic and Space Administration (NASA), United States of America (USA), researchers have reported about winter-time pool of air polluting particles over Indo-gangetic plain, where meteorology and topography favour trapping of pollution during winter.

(d) the studies indicate that a large source of pollution is inefficient burning of bio-fuels (largely fuel wood, dung-cake and crop waste) used during cooking and other domestic use, the use of coal for utilities and industries, and the use of diesel oil for transportation.

(e) The Central Pollution Control Board and State Pollution Control board have initiated steps including action plans to control air pollution from various sources like vehicles, industries, domestic fuel burning etc.

Non-Governmental organisation Involved in Tiger Census

5503. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the frequency of conducting census of tigers and leopards in Tiger Reserves of the country; and

(b) the details of wildlife organisations from Non-Governmental sector who assisted and associated with the forest authorities for conducting census of tigers during 2004, State-wise and Tiger Reserve-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) States conduct estimation of tigers, leopards and other wild animals in their tiger reserves annually or biannually. However, the all India tiger census is done once in four years, and the last such estimation was conducted during 2001-02.

(b) Several States involve Non-governmental organisations in census of tigers, and such details are not collated at the Government of India level.

Improvement in Nutrition Quality of Tomato

5504. SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the countries that have generated tomato Genome sequencing;

(b) whether the Government proposes to undertake further research thereon to improve nutrition quality of tomato;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the manner in which the values of such research works shall be made available to small 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 country has generated tomato genome sequencing.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) A network project on Tomato Structural and Functional Genomics has been approved by the Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science and Technology, Govt. of India to improve nutrition quality of tomato. India is also a member of International Consortium on Tomato Genome Sequencing and Functional Genomics.

(d) As soon as the transgenics tomato varieties with improved nutritional quality are developed and released, these will be made available to the farming community.

[Translation]

Eco Tourism

5505. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal for the development of Eco-tourism in Uttar Pradesh has been sent to the Union Government for approval; and

(b) if so, by when the proposal is likely to be given approval?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Central Financial Assistance is provided to the State Governments/UT Administrations for tourism projects received completed in all respect, based on the merits of the proposals, subject to availability of funds and their inter-se priority.

[English]

Meet on Management in Bulk Drugs and Pharmaceutical Industries

5506. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether an interaction meet on "Identification of waste streams, its characterization and management in bulk drugs and pharmaceuticals industries" was held in Vadodara on January 05, 2005;

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

(c) whether summary of the findings by National Productivity Council were not realistic and user friendly; and

(d) if so, the corrective action taken on the objections raised by industry representatives in the meeting?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), Delhi entrusted National Productivity Council (NPC) a project on "Identification of Hazardous Waste Streams in Bulk Drugs & Pharmaceutical Industries, their Characterization and Waste Minimization Options". NPC carried out detailed process studies in selected industrial units (covering different type of bulk drugs) identified in consultation with CPCB. In order to discuss the findings of the study with industry and obtain their views/suggestions, CPCB, Delhi organized an interaction meet with industrial units & their associations at CPCB's zonal office at Vadodara on 5th January 2005.

(b) In this meet NPC & CPCB presented the findings of the study.

(c) The Industry representatives while appreciating the study provided some suggestions.

(d) The findings of the study were by and large accepted by the industry representatives. The suggestion made by them were duly considered and incorporated in the final report, which has been submitted to CPCB, Delhi in February 2005.

Teesta Barrage Project

5507. SHRI PRABODH PANDA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Teesta Barrage Project of West Bengal has not been completed so far;

(b) if so, the original and present estimated cost of the project; 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) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The original estimated cost of the project (Sub-Stage I, Stage I of Phase I) was Rs. 69.72 crore

and the latest estimated cost (at 2002 price level) of the project is Rs. 2068 crore. According to the State Government, the target date of completion of different prioritised components of this project, which are in the advanced stage of execution, has been set up as 31st December 2008.

[Translation]

Subsidy on Agricultural Exporters

5508. PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:
SHRIMATI ANURADHA CHOUDHARY:
MODH. SHAHID:
SHRI MOHD. TAHIR:
SHRI MUNSHI RAM:
SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR KUSHAWAHA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to reduce the subsidy being given to agricultural exporters;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) the likely adverse effect on exporter's business;
- (d) whether the Government is contemplating to take alternative measures also in this regard;
- (e) the names of the agricultural produces on which the Government is providing subsidy alongwith the percentage of subsidy thereon;
- (f) the amount estimated to be saved by the Government each year by discontinuing the said subsidy;
- (g) whether the Government is contemplating any scheme for centralized procurement of agricultural produce from the States; 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) to (f) Government does not give export subsidy on agriculture products. Reimbursement of expenses incurred on marketing including handling, upgrading, international transport and freight and internal transport and freight

charges on agriculture product exports is allowed from time to time. The quantum of such payments on wheat and rice exported from the Central Pool Stocks was:

2001-02	2002-03	2003-04
1368 crores	5743 crores	3621 crores

Transport assistance is provided by Agricultural and Processed Food Produce Export Development Authority (APEDA) on export of identified floriculture, horticulture, dairy and poultry products. It amounted to Rs. 4.65 crores in 2002-03, Rs. 10.77 crores in 2003-04 and Rs. 11.84 crores in 2004-05.

(g) and (h) There is no proposal for a new scheme for centralized procurement of agricultural produce from States. Procurement of agriculture produce in the country is carried out under the existing Minimum Support Price (MSP) and Market Intervention Scheme (MIS)

Reserved Posts

5509. SHRI LALMANI PRASAD: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) the total number of employees belonging to SCs, STs and OBCs working in various departments of the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution;
- (b) the number of SCs, STs and OBCs personnels in 'A', 'B', 'C' and 'D' groups separately in various departments;
- (c) whether the reservation quota of SCs/STs and OBCs has been filled;
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (e) by when it is likely to be filled up;
- (f) whether any action has been taken/proposed to be taken against the officials responsible for not filling the quota; and
- (g) 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 (g) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Conservation of Magadi Lake in Karnataka

5510. SHRI MANJUNATH KUNNUR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal of the Government of Karnataka regarding Conservation and Consolidation of Magadi Lake in Gadag District is pending with the Union Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for delay in clearance of the same;

(c) whether any assistance from Japan has been sought for this project; 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 Ministry of Environment and Forests has received a proposal for conservation of Magadi wetland in Gadag District from State Government of Karnataka. The proposal was not found to be entirely consistent with the guidelines of the scheme. The State Government has now submitted the recast proposal which is under examination.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Religious Tourism

5511. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY:
SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:
SHRI SUBHASH SURESHCHANDRA
DESHMUKH:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to boost religious tourism in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has identified places/sites to boost religious tourism during the Tenth Plan; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) to (d) Identification, development and promotion of tourist sites/destinations is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments. The Ministry of Tourism during the 10th Plan period has been assisting the State Governments for the development of infrastructure under its scheme of Product/Infrastructure development of tourist circuits and destinations, based on the receipt of the project proposals, merit of the project, inter-se-priority and availability of funds. The scope of the scheme also includes places/sites relating to religious tourism.

[*Translation*]

Training to Farmers by National Dairy Research Institute

5512. SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR KUSHAWAHA:
PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Dairy Research Institute, Kamal has imparted training to the farmers;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the number of farmers benefited therefrom during the last two years, State-wise;

(c) the annual expenditure incurred thereon;

(d) whether the said centre provides financial assistance to the trained farmers for taking up employment; 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) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Number of farmers imparted training across the states in related to sponsorship and funding by state organizations/farmers. State-wise beneficiaries from January 2003 till date is given below:

Name of State	No. of farmers
Bihar	185
Delhi	12
Haryana	2506
Himachal Pradesh	771
Madhya Pradesh	5
Maharashtra	15
Punjab	73
Rajasthan	3
Uttar Pradesh	26
Uttaranchal	104
Chandigarh	1
Jammu & Kashmir	1
Total	3702

Annual expenditure incurred:

Expenditure of Rs. 85,486/- on boarding & loading in respect of Haryana (Karnal Distt.) was borne by National Dairy Research Institute, where the KVK Karnal is located as per mandate of KVK scheme of ICAR.

For farmers other than Karnal district, expenditure was born by the sponsoring organizations/farmers themselves except in the case of Maharashtra where as a special case, a training programme was organized for 15 lady workers from village saving groups from 29.3.2005 to 7.4.2005 and an expenditure of Rs. 10,550/- was incurred by ICAR.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Question does not arise.

Turn Over of NMDC

5513. SHRI PRADEEP GANDHI: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the total turn-over of National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC) from mining of iron ore during each of the last three years and current year alongwith the share of Chhattisgarh in it;

(b) the details of the corporate tax and dividend paid by the NDMC to the Government during the said period; and

(c) the amount of royalty paid by NMDC to the Government of Chhattisgarh during the same period

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) Iron ore turnover of NMDC during previous 3 years are as under:

(Rs. in crore)		
Year	Iron Ore Turn-over	Iron Ore Turn-over from Chhattisgarh
2002-03	1177.28	900.81
2003-04	1411.39	1062.53
2004-05 (Provl.)	2108.17	1578.03

Current year 2005-06 has just begun.

(b) The details of corporate tax and dividend paid are as under:

(Rs. in Crore)			
Year	Corporate Tax Total	Dividend (Excl. Dividend Tax)	Share of Government
2002-03	107.98	39.65	39.00
2003-04	183.39	46.25	45.50
2004-05 (Provl.)	419.80	50.88*	50.06*

*Interim dividend paid and final dividend yet to be decided.

(c) Royalty paid by NMDC to the Government of Chhattisgarh is as follows:

(Rs. in Crore)	
Year	Royalty
2002-03	25.04
2003-04	25.94
2004-05	31.20

[English]

Contribution of Agriculture Sector in GDP

5514. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:
SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:
SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the contribution of agriculture sector in Gross Domestic Product (GDP);

(b) the percentage of population supported by agriculture sector;

(c) whether there is a colossal loss of agriculture output due to lack of sufficient food processing capabilities, inadequate storage and transport facilities in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government so far 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) According to the advance estimates released by Central Statistical Organization, the contribution of agriculture including the allied sectors of forestry & logging and fishing to Gross Domestic Product (GDP) at 1993-94 prices was 20.5% in the year 2004-05 as against 21.7% in the year 2003-04. Details are given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) Nearly two thirds of the country's population are supported by the agriculture sector. According to the Population Census, 2001, the number of agricultural workers comprising cultivators and agricultural labourers constituted 58% of the total workforce in the country.

(c) to (e) It is estimated that about 20 million tonnes of foodgrains are lost annually involving an estimated cost of Rs. 15000 crore due to lack of post harvest technology and non-existence of integrated transport, storage and marketing facilities. Similarly, it is estimated that 25 to 30% losses occur in case of fruits and vegetables, depending upon the produce, the season and the distance covered in transporting goods from origin (production/collection centers) to destination. With a view to minimizing wastage, maximizing value addition and enhancing shelf life of food products, several Plan schemes have been implemented by the Ministry of Food Processing Industries. Under these schemes financial assistance is provided for the establishment and modernization of food processing units, creation of infrastructure, support for research and development including human resource development to enhance food processing capabilities. Moreover, agro-processing units are being set up in the producing areas to reduce wastage, especially, of horticultural produce.

The rate of assistance for establishment/modernization of food processing units is 25% of the cost of plant and machinery and technical civil works subject to maximum of Rs. 50 lakhs in general areas and 33.33% of the project cost subject to a maximum of Rs. 75 lakhs in difficult areas, like North Eastern Region.

The Department of Agriculture and Cooperation is implementing the scheme of "Gramin Bhandaran Yojana" to reduce the wastage and produce deterioration. Under the scheme scientific storage capacity in the country is enhanced through construction/renovation of rural godowns. In order to encourage promoters taking up

construction of rural godowns under the scheme, credit linked back ended subsidy is provided @ 15% or 25% or 33.33% of the project cost to different categories of promoters.

Statement

Contribution of Agriculture Including Allied Sectors in Total Gross Domestic Product at Constant Price (1993-94)

(In percent)		
Year	Agriculture including allied sectors	Agriculture (crop husbandry & livestock)
1993-94	30.97	28.39
1994-95	30.32	27.82
1995-96	28.00	25.62
1996-97	28.46	26.16
1997-98	26.50	24.26
1998-99	26.42	24.34
1999-2000	24.99	22.92
2000-01	23.92	21.88
2001-02	24.03	22.01
2002-03	21.50	19.48
2003-04	21.71	19.81
2004-05	20.53	Not available.

Note: Source CSO.

Unemployment Benefit Scheme

5515. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO:
SHRI JUAL ORAM:

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

(a) the details of the States where unemployment benefit scheme named as Rajiv Gandhi Shramik Kalyan Yojana has been initiated first; and

(b) the details of the States to be covered during 2005-06?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRA SHEKHAR RAO): (a) and (b) Unemployment benefit scheme named as Rajiv Gandhi Shramik Kalyan Yojana under the Employees State Insurance Act, 1948 has been introduced in all the States and Union Territories where the ESI Scheme has been implemented, with effect from 1.4.2005.

North East Valley Authority

5516. SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATIL:
SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has set up a Committee of Experts to examine the feasibility of setting up a North East Valley Authority;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of study conducted by the said committee on the problem of flooding in Brahmaputra Valley and in Gangetic plains;

(d) whether the Government proposes to support water harvesting schemes for the benefit of farmers; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (c) The Government of India had set up a Task Force on Flood Management and Erosion Control under the Chairmanship of Chairman, Central Water Commission which has submitted its report. This Task Force has recommended setting up of North East Water Resources Authority. Other main recommendations of the Task Force are increase in Plan funds for Flood Management, provide assistance for maintenance of embankments, provision of revolving fund of Rs. 50.00 crore for taking up emergent works and institutional arrangements and outlining immediate, short term and long term measures for flood management.

(d) and (e) A scheme for "Artificial Recharge to Ground Water and Rain Water Harvesting" for implementation during the remaining two years of the 10th Five Year Plan at an estimated cost of Rs. 175.00 crores is under consideration.

Allocation for Agriculture

5517. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY:
SHRI SUBRATA BOSE:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the allocation for the agriculture sector has declined over the last few years;

(b) if so, the main reasons therefor;

(c) whether it would have adverse impact on agriculture production;

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

(e) the details of allocation for the agriculture sector during the last three years and for 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) No, Sir. In fact, since 2003-04 the Plan allocation made to the Department of Agriculture & Cooperation has been progressively increasing.

(b) to (d) do not arise.

(e) The Plan allocations made during the period in question are as under:

	(Rs. Crores)			
	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
Budget Estimate	2167.00	2167.00	2850.00	4179.32
Revised Estimate	1667.00	2120.00	2945.00	—

[Translation]

Plantation of Trees and Bushes Along Sea Coasts

5518. SHRI BHUPENDRASINH SOLANKI:
SHRI MAHESH KANODIA:

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

(a) whether the forests and bushes are helpful in the calamities like Tsunami;

(b) if so, whether the Government is contemplating to plant trees and bushes along the sea coasts to combat such situations in future;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

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

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

(b) Ministry of Environment and Forests is not implementing any afforestation scheme to specifically combat situations like Tsunami.

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

Decline in Water Level in Gujarat

5519. SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA:
SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the ground water level has been depleting in North Gujarat due to deep digging of oil and gas wells by the Oil and Natural Gas company (ONGC);

(b) if so, whether the Government has conducted any survey in this regard; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Depleting ground water levels in North Gujarat cannot be attributed to deep digging of oil and gas wells since these wells are very deep (more than 1000 meters below ground level), fully cased with seamless steel pipes and fully cemented from top to bottom to avoid any influence on ground water regime.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[English]

Plan to Promote Micro-Irrigation

5520. SHRI T.K. HAMZA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has formulated any plan to promote micro-irrigation; 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, Ministry of Agriculture has formulated a centrally sponsored scheme on Micro-irrigation for implementation during the remaining period of X Plan costing Rs. 7600 crores, out of which Central share may be about Rs. 3000 crores (40%). The scheme envisages to create an additional irrigation potential of 2.0 million ha. (1.5 mha from drip irrigation and 0.50 mha under sprinkler irrigation). However, proposed scheme is yet to be finally approved by Ministry of Finance.

Milk Production in Karnataka

5521. SHRI M. SHIVANNA:
SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of milk produced in Karnataka per day;

(b) whether the production of milk have increased rapidly in the State;

(c) if so, whether the Karnataka Milk Federation (KMF) had signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) in November, 2004 to dispose of surplus milk;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the estimated cost of the said project;

(e) whether the NDDB has agreed to pay 30 per cent of the project cost; 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 estimated milk production per day in Karnataka for the latest available year 2003-04 was 10,560 tonnes.

(b) Milk production has been increasing upto the year 2001-02 whereas during 2002-03 and 2003-04, the production have decreased over previous years. The production estimates during last four years from 2000-01 to 2003-04 were 4599, 4797, 4539 and 3857 thousand tonnes per annum respectively.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Salient features of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between NDDDB and KMF are given in the enclosed Statement.

Proposals already sanctioned are:

(i) To set up 30 MT capacity powder plant near Channarayapatna at a cost of Rs. 780 crores under the control of Karnataka Milk Federation (KMF).

(ii) Mother Dairy Plant expansion at the cost of Rs. 20 Crores under KMF.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

Statement

The salient features of the MOU are as follows:

1. NDDDB will:

(a) Provide financial and technical support to the milk unions and the Federation of Karnataka in preparing and implementing a five year Perspective plan and to augment and expand Karnataka's dairy development infrastructure.

(b) Assist in setting up two state of the art dairy plants to manufacture milk products conforming international standards one near Channarayapatna in Hassan district which will be owned and manage by KMF and the other near Bangalore. NDDDB or its wholly owned subsidiary, Mother Dairy Fruit & Vegetables will own and manage the plant.

(c) Finance and assist in implementation of a Foot & Mouth Disease control project in the areas of Bangalore and Kolar milk unions.

(d) Carry out techno-economic studies along with KMF/unions based on which project reports would be prepared before the projects are implemented.

2. Government of Karnataka will:

(a) Ensure that the required power, water and other infrastructure for operationalising the above projects are made available. Granting tax concessions for a period of five years from the

time of commissioning the two product plants mentioned above.

(b) bring about amendments in the Animal Disease Act to implement the FMD control project and also render assistance through the Department of Animal Husbandry to implement the project.

(c) Provide all such support and facilities to the SAFAL Auction market in accordance with the earlier commitments.

To undertake the initiative mentioned above, NDDDB will release funds up to Rs. 250 crores in accordance with its policies.

[Translation]

Milk Production

5522. SHRI SURAJ SINGH:
SHRI RAMCHANDRA PASWAN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the actual milk production in the country is less than its demand;

(b) if so, the details of production, consumption and shortage in its supply so far, State-wise;

(c) whether there is shortage of milk in Metro Cities;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether milk power is being sold to the consumers of the metro Cities;

(f) if so, the quantity of milk powder used for the purpose so far;

(g) whether any test has been conducted to test the quality of milk and its illegal business (adulterated milk/artificial milk); and

(h) if so, the details of action taken in this regard 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) The milk production in the country has increased from 17 million tons in 1950-51 to 88.1 million tons in 2003-04. The estimated milk production in the country and state-wise details for 2003-04 are given in the enclosed Statement. The per capita availability of milk in the country has increased from 124 gm/day (1950-51) to 231 gm/day (2003-04). Government of India has not received any report on the shortage of milk from any state during the year 2004-05.

(c) No report has been received in this regard.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) and (f) Milk powder in various forms like skim milk powder, whole milk powder, dairy whitener etc. is regularly sold and purchased by consumers in the country for different end uses. No data on sale of milk powder in the metro cities is available.

(g) and (h) Adulteration in any food item including milk is checked under the provisions of Prevention of Food Adulteration (PFA) Act, which is administered by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. The Food (Health) Authorities of the States/U.Ts. are responsible for implementation of the PFA Act, 1954 & Rules framed thereunder in their respective States/U.Ts., who collect samples of milk under the PFA Act, 1954. As per the information provided by the States/U.Ts. so far, the number of samples of milk examined and found adulterated during the last three years are as under:

Year	No. of Milk samples examined	No. of samples of milk found adulterated/misbranded
2000	5331	1597
2001	6372	2111
2002	6199	2066

Action is taken under the provisions of the PFA Act, 1954 & Rules against the offenders where the samples do not found to conform to the prescribed standards.

Statement

Estimates of Milk Production 2003-04

Sl.No.	States/UTs	2003-04
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	6959
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	46
3.	Assam	727
4.	Bihar	3180
5.	Goa	48
6.	Gujarat	6421
7.	Haryana	5221
8.	Himachal Pradesh	786
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	1414
10.	Karnataka	3857
11.	Kerala	2111
12.	Madhya Pradesh	5388
13.	Maharashtra	6379
14.	Manipur	71
15.	Meghalaya	69
16.	Mizoram	15
17.	Nagaland	63
18.	Orissa	997

1	2	3
19.	Punjab	8391
20.	Rajasthan	8054
21.	Sikkim	48
22.	Tamil Nadu	4752
23.	Tripura	84
24.	Uttar Pradesh	15943
25.	West Bengal	3686
26.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	25
27.	Chandigarh	44
28.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	8
29.	Daman and Diu	1
30.	Delhi	299
31.	Lakshadweep	1
32.	Pondicherry	40
33.	Chhattisgarh	812
34.	Uttaranchal	1188
35.	Jharkhand	954
	All India	88082

[English]

Prices of DAP

5523. DR. M. JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the prices of DAP has been fixed in view of the forthcoming cultivation of Kharif crops;

(b) if so the details thereof;

(c) whether the requirement of DAP for Kharif crops is estimated;

(d) if so the details thereof;

(e) whether DAP sellers have expressed their inability to meet the supply of his fertilisers;

(f) if so, the reasons therefore; and

(g) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) and (b) Government announce the indicative Maximum Retail Price (MRP) of DAP under the Concession Scheme. The present MRP of DAP in Rs. 9350 per MT, which is effective from 12.03.2003.

(c) and (d) Yes Sir, the requirement of DAP has been estimated at 33.44 lakh MT for Kharif 2005.

(e) to (g) No Sir, however, DAP is a decontrolled fertiliser and its availability depends upon the market forces of demand & supply.

Exploitation of Sanctuaries

5524. SHRI G.V. HARSHA KUMAR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that certain agriculturists are extensively exploiting the sanctuary of blackbucks in Abohar in Chandigarh as reported in 'The Hindu' dated 3 January, 2005;

(b) if so, the action taken by the Government against culprits in this regard; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to protect the sanctuary from exploitation in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) As intimated by the State Government there is no such report regarding certain agriculturists extensively exploiting the sanctuary of blackbucks in Abohar.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The following steps are being taken by the State Government to protect the sanctuary from exploitation-

- (i) Strict vigil by staff round the clock.
- (ii) Strict preventive patrolling during vulnerable hours.
- (iii) protection of wild animals by the community.

Decline in Production of Fish in Gujarat

5525. SHRI JASHBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is sharp decline in the production of fish in Gujarat during the last two years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether there is a vast scope to increase fish production specially in Saurashtra and Kutch regions in the State; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken by the Union 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) to (d) the information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Periodical Research in Agriculture

5526. SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH:
SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:
SHRI ANIRUDH PRASAD ALIAS SADHU
YADAV:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any periodic research in agriculture has been conducted to increase agricultural production in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any survey has been undertaken to monitor the impact of these researches on the agriculture production; and

(d) if so, the outcome 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 KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) Research in agriculture and allied fields is being conducted in all the ongoing Plan Schemes of Department of Agricultural Research & Education/Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) to increase agricultural production in the country. All research projects are discussed, periodically, in the meetings of Staff Research Council, Research Advisory Committee and Institute Management Committee, for achievements and shortcomings of the projects, prioritisation, improvement, national and global context of research in the identified thrust areas.

(c) and (d) The ICAR undertakes the quinquennial review of its Institutes/All India Coordinated Research Projects (AICRPs) as an external time tested mechanism for monitoring and evaluation of research programmes. through periodic research a number of high yielding varieties and hybrids in cereals, pulses, oilseeds etc. have been evolved. The data indicate that the productivity of foodgrains alone has improved from 522 kg/hectare during 1950-51 to 1734 kg/hectare in 2001-02. A single variety of wheat PBW 343 has occupied around 70 lakh hectares in North West and North Eastern Plain Zones of the country. Similarly hybrid rice having yield advantage of more than one tonne over the existing varieties is presently occupying about 5.5 lakh hectares in the country. The milk production was raised from 38.8 million tonnes during 1983-84 to 84.8 million tonnes in 2001-02. The corresponding figures for eggs during the same period were 12.8 billion numbers (1983-84) and 39.1 billion numbers (2001-02). Fish production witnessed a spectacular growth from 7.52 lakh tonnes (1950-51) to 59.56 lakh tonnes (2001-02).

Flood Prone Areas

5527. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has identified the flood prone areas in the country;

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

(c) the number of irrigation projects affected in various States due to floods during the last two years;

(d) the extent of damage caused to these projects; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to revive such projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) Rashtriya Barh Ayog (National Commission on Floods) has assessed the total area liable to flood in the country as 40 m.ha. As per reports submitted by the States to the Working Group on Flood Control Programme for the 10th Five Year Plan the area prone to floods worked out to 45.65 m.ha. The State-wise break up of area prone to flood is given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) to (e) The report on the irrigation projects affected due to flood is not available.

Statement

State-wise break up of area liable to floods

Sl.No.	State	Area prone to floods as assessed by RBA (m.ha.)	Floods Prone Area as reported by States to the 10th Plan Working Group (m.ha.)
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1.39	3.48
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	—	0.12
3.	Assam	3.15	3.82
4.	Bihar	4.26	6.88
5.	Gujarat	1.39	2.05
6.	Haryana	2.35	2.35
7.	Himachal Pradesh	0.23	0.48
8.	Jammu and Kashmir	0.08	0.51
9.	Karnataka	0.02	0.90
10.	Kerala	0.87	1.47
11.	Madhya Pradesh	0.26	0.34
12.	Maharashtra	0.23	0.33

1	2	3	4
13.	Manipur	0.08	0.08
14.	Meghalaya	0.02	0.10
15.	Mizoram	—	0.05
16.	Nagaland	—	0.01
17.	Orissa	1.40	3.34
18.	Punjab	3.70	4.05
19.	Rajasthan	3.26	3.26
20.	Sikkim	—	0.02
21.	Tamil Nadu	0.45	0.45
22.	Tripura	0.33	0.33
23.	Uttar Pradesh	7.34	7.34
24.	West Bengal	2.65	3.77
25.	Delhi	0.05	0.07
26.	Pondicherry	0.01	0.05
Total		33.52	45.65
Say		34.00*	45.65

*From the above table, the total Flood Prone Area in the country is as below:

(a) Flood Prone Area in States	34.0 m.ha.
(b) Area protected in States till then	10.0 m.ha.
Area flooded due to failure of protection works which might have been included in reported flooded area (assumed)	(-) 4.00 m.ha.
Total flood prone area in the country	40.00 million ha.

[*Translation*]

Theft of Milk Products in DMS

5528. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of incidents of theft of milk products have been detected in Delhi Milk Scheme (DMS);

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the total number of cases detected so far;

(c) the number of persons/employees arrested so far alongwith the action taken against them; and

(d) the measures taken/proposed to be taken to prevent such incidents in future?

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. No incident of theft of milk products has been detected in Delhi Milk Scheme (DMS).

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

(d) System of strict security exists to prevent any incident of theft etc. from Dairy.

Decline of Production of Soyabean/Mustard

5529. SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN:
SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the production of soyabean and mustared has declined in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any scheme is proposed to be formulated to boost the production of soyabean and mustard in the country;

(d) if so, the details of the scheme; and

(e) the measures being taken by the Government to implement 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) The production of soyabean and rapeseed & mustard for the last three years is shown in the table below. It shows that the production of these two crops declined in the year 2002-03 which was badly affected by drought. Favourable rainfall boosted the production of both soyabean and mustard substantially in 2003-04.

(Production in Lakh tonnes)

Crops	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04
Soyabean	59.63	46.55	78.63
Rapeseed & mustard	50.83	38.80	61.98

(c) to (e) In order to increase production and productivity of oilseeds including soyabean and mustard the Government of India is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme viz. "Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize" (ISOPOM) in 14 major oilseeds growing States. 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 on a large scale. In order to disseminate information on improved production technologies amongst the farmers, block demonstrations and Integrated Pest Management (IPM) demonstrations are organized through State Department of Agriculture and Front Line Demonstrations through Indian Council of Agriculture Research (ICAR).

Besides, flexibility has also been given to the States for introducing innovative measures on any special component to the extent of 10% of financial allocation and involvement of private sector by the State Governments. in the implementation of the programme i.e. seed production, supply of inputs, extension support, block and frontline demonstrations with a financial cap of 15%.

[English]

Augmentation of Agricultural Production

5530. SHRI MADAN LAL SHARMA:
SHRI ANANT GUDHE:
SHRI CHENGARA SURENDRAN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government provides assistance to the farmers to acquire agricultural inputs in order to augment production;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of other measures being taken by the Government for augmenting agricultural production in the country;

(d) whether the Union Government has issued any direction to the Food Corporation of India to collect the

rice from the co-operative societies which procured paddy from farmers in Kerala; and

(e) if so, the details thereof alongwith the status of implementation of the said directives?

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) All the schemes being implemented by the Department of Agriculture & Cooperative are meant to augment agricultural production and productivity including those providing assistance to farmers for acquiring agricultural inputs. The major schemes/interventions in this regard are:

- Macro Management of Agriculture.
- On Farm Water Management for Increasing Crop Production in Eastern India.
- Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oilpalm and Maize (ISOPOM).
- National Project on Promotion of Organic Farming.
- Transport Subsidy on Movement of Seeds to North Eastern States, Sikkim, Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttaranchal and Hilly Areas of West Bengal.
- Promotion and Strengthening of Agricultural Mechanization through Training, Testing and Demonstration.
- Strengthening and Modernization of Pest Management in India.
- Technology Mission on Cotton.
- Schemes for Construction of Cold Storages and Rural Godowns.
- Technology Mission on Integrated Development of Horticulture in North Eastern Region including Sikkim, Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttaranchal.

(d) and (e) The Food Corporation of India (FCI) have been directed to open the required number of procurement centers in Kerala for purchase of paddy from farmers as part of the Minimum Support Price operations during the

khari marketing season 2004-05. Follow up meetings among the Government of India, FCI and State Government are taking place.

Setting up of Pharmacy Research Institute in Gujarat

5531. SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received any proposal from the Government of Gujarat for setting up of Pharmacy Research Institute in the State;

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

(c) by when it is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) to (c) Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals had received a proposal in 2002 from the Government of Gujarat to set up an institute in the lines of National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPER) so as to help the manufacturers of Western part of the country including Gujarat and Maharashtra to update their skills in the fields of pharmaceutical, technology, research, drugs synthesis etc. and also to provide knowledge, guidance and help them to prepare to play a major role as Indian healthcare providers.

The proposal was not approved as it was felt that NIPER when it becomes fully functional would be in a position to meet the needs of the Pharmaceutical Industry in the country with particular reference to Research and Development and new drugs etc.

[Translation]

Food Parks

5532. SHRI HARISHCHANDRA CHAVAN:
SHRIMATI KIRAN MAHESHWARI:
KUNWAR MANVENDRA SINGH:

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up international level mega food parks in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the objectives behind setting up of parks;

Vacant Posts

(d) the amount likely to be spent by the Government on these parks; and

5533. SHRI MUNAWAR HASSAN: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(e) the time by when these parks are likely to be set up?

(a) the details of vacant posts in department and subordinate offices under the Ministry of Steel as on March 31, 2005, category-wise;

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) to (e) The Ministry of Food Processing Industries, under its plan schemes, provides financial assistance to implementing agencies for creation of common infrastructural facilities like cold storage, food testing and analysis laboratory, effluent treatment plant, common processing facilities, power, water supply etc. in Food Parks. The Ministry does not set up Food Parks on its own. The Ministry has initiated action for formulating a scheme for Mega Food parks aimed at making available quality infrastructure to potential food processing industries?

(b) since when these are lying vacant;

(c) the reasons therefor; and

(d) by when all the vacant posts are likely to be filled up?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) to (d) The requisite information in respect of the Ministry of Steel is given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

Name of post	Number of vacancies	Since when lying vacant	Reasons for vacancies remaining unfilled	When the vacancies are likely to be filled
1	2	3	4	5
<i>Group 'A'</i>				
Economic Adviser	1	8.9.2004	The post is to be filled on the basis of a nomination to be made by the Department of Economic Affairs (DEA).	The DEA have informed that the vacancy is likely to be filled at an early date.
Joint Industrial Adviser	1	2.6.2004	Proposal pending with UPSC.	The process of filling up of the post is in progress.
Director	1	24.2.2005 (AN)	Nomination awaited from the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT).	The DoPT have been requested for a suitable nomination.
Under Secretary	1	1.10.2004	An officer has been nominated by the DoPT on 25.11.2004. He is yet to join.	The vacancy will be filled as soon as the nominated officer joins.
<i>Group 'B'</i>				
Section Officer	17	21.10.2002 (1) 21.7.2003 (1) 1.8.2003 (1)	Nominations awaited from the DoPT except in one case.	All these vacancies have been communicated to the DoPT. The vacancies will be filled as

1	2	3	4	5
		25.3.2004 (12) 30.9.2004 (1) 18.2.2004 (1)		soon as suitable nominations are available. In one case, an officer has been nominated who is likely to join shortly.
Private Secretary	2	31.7.1996 (1) 31.5.2001 (1)	Nominations awaited from the DoPT,	All these vacancies have been communicated to the DoPT. The vacancies will be filled as soon as suitable nominations are available.
Assistant	16	5.11.2002 (1) 10.3.2004 (1) 25.3.2004 (10) 20.1.2005 (2) 25.2.2005 (2)	-do-	-do-
<i>Group 'C'</i>				
Junior Hindi Translator	1	2.2.2005	Nomination awaited from the Department of Official Language (DOL).	The vacancy has been communicated to the DOL. The vacancy will be filled as soon as a suitable nomination is available.
Upper Division Clerk	1	24.3.2004	-do-	The vacancy has been communicated to the DoPT. The vacancy will be filled as soon as a suitable nomination is available.
Steno grade 'D'	3	19.1.2001 (1) 6.10.2003 (1) 30.7.2004 (1)	-do-	All these vacancies have been communicated to the DoPT. The vacancies will be filled as soon as suitable nominations are available.
Lower Division clerk	1	3.6.2002	-do-	The vacancy has been communicated to the DoPT. The vacancy will be filled as soon as a suitable nomination is available.
Total	45	—	—	—

The organization of the Development Commissioner for Iron and Steel (an attached office of the Ministry of Steel) has been wound up in May, 2003. There is no other Central Government office under the Ministry of Steel.

Increase in Livestock Population

5534. MOHD. SHAHID: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to formulate any policy for increase in livestock population in order to raise Gross Domestic Product (GDP);

(b) the percentage of contribution of this sector in GDP during 2003-04;

(c) whether its percentage recorded a rise during 2004-05;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) the total amount earned through exports during each of the last two years;

(f) whether export of meat and meat products declined during 2004-05 as compared to 2003-04; 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 (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The percentage of contribution of livestock sector in GDP during 2003-04 is 5.2%.

(c) and (d) Estimate of GDP from livestock sector for the year 2004-05 is currently not available.

(e) The total value of export of animal products for the years 2003-04 and 2004-05 (till January, 2005) was Rs. 2024.81 crore and Rs. 1974.25 crore respectively.

(f) and (g) The export of meat and meat products during 2003-04 was Rs. 1683.78 crore and during 2004-05 (till January 2005) Rs. 1460.79 crore. However, the export for 2004-05 (till January 2005) is more than the export of Rs. 1333.42 crore of corresponding.

Opening of Tourism Offices in Foreign Countries

5535. SHRI V.K. THUMMAR:
SHRI M. ANJAN KUMAR YADAV:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the details of tourism offices operating in foreign countries, at present;

(b) the achievements made by these offices during the last three years;

(c) whether their performance has been satisfactory;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government proposes to open more such offices in foreign countries; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the names of countries where these offices are proposed to be opened?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) There are 13 India Tourism Offices operating overseas at present. These are located at New York, Los Angeles, Toronto, London, Frankfurt, Paris, Amsterdam, Milan, Dubai, Johannesburg, Tokyo, Sydney and Singapore.

(b) to (d) These offices are effectively performing the required functions of promoting and marketing India as a tourist destination in the overseas markets through a range of promotional activities, which have resulted in greater visibility of the Indian tourism products in overseas markets and an increase in foreign tourist arrivals and foreign exchange earnings in the country.

(e) and (f) A proposal for opening only Representative offices in China, South Korea and Thailand is in process.

[English]

Production of Onion and Potato

5536. SHRI JUAL ORAM:
SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the target set for the production of Onion and Potato during 2004-05;

(b) whether the production of Onion and Potato have been increased during the said period;

(c) if so, the steps taken to ensure the payment of remunerative prices to the Onion and Potato growers;

(d) whether any steps are being taken to stop the distress sale; 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) The target set for production of onion and potato during 2004-05 and achievement obtained are as under:

(In Million Tonnes)

Crop	Target	Achievement
Onion	6.00	5.94
Potato	25.00	24.15

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) to (e) Government is implementing a "Market Intervention Scheme" for procurement of crop to ensure the payment of remunerative prices to onion and potato growers. This scheme is being implemented on the request of State Government to protect farmers from making distress sale in the event of bumper crop during peak arrival period when price tend to fall below economic levels.

Coastal Tourism

5537. SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has formulated any schemes for the development of coastal tourism in the country;

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

(c) whether the Union Government has received any proposal from the State Governments including Kerala in this regard; and

(d) if so, the steps taken to clear such proposals?

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 Product/ Infrastructure Development of tourist Circuits and Destinations, based on the receipt of project proposals, merit of the proposal, inter-se-priority and availability of

funds. The scope of the scheme also include development of Coastal tourism.

(c) and (d) Government of Kerala had put forth a proposal for Integrated Development of Tourist circuits in the Malabar region which was sanctioned for an amount of Rs. 795.56 lakhs with release of Rs. 636.48 lakhs. This circuit covers development of coastal areas also.

Construction on Vansadhara River by Andhra Pradesh

5538. SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government is aware that the Government of Andhra Pradesh is making certain constructions on the inter-State Vansadhara river in violation of the agreement signed with Orissa in 1962;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has sent any team to the site for inspection; and

(d) if so, the details of the report submitted by the team alongwith action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) As per the information received from the Government of Andhra Pradesh, they have not taken up any construction across Vamsadhara River in violation of the agreement signed with Orissa in 1962.

(c) and (d) A Central team from Central Water Commission was deputed in April, 2005 to Hyderabad and Bhubaneshwar to hold discussion with State Government officials on the status of Vamsadhara Project. The team after discussion with the State Government officials submitted the report. The report of the team indicates that the officials of both the States agreed to sort out all related issues in the meeting of the Technical Committee comprising senior officers from both the states, constituted in the Ministerial Level meeting held on 24th February, 2005.

Implementation of NCDC Programme

5539. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the programmes of National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) are being implemented by the Maharashtra Cooperation Development Council in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the NCDC has reviewed the implementation of its programme in the State;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the details of the financial assistance provided to the State; and

(f) its utilization by the State in various projects?

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) and (d) NCDC reviews the implementation of its programmes in various States from time to time. During the year 2004-05, NCDC has sanctioned financial assistance of Rs. 1507.26 crores and released Rs. 1060.01 crores to various States/Union Territories under its various cooperative sector development schemes.

(e) and (f) During the year 2004-05, NCDC sanctioned financial assistance of Rs. 165.77 crores and released Rs. 112.13 crores to the Maharashtra State, which the State Government of Maharashtra had fully utilized for various projects.

[Translation]

Programme to Increase Production of Crops in Bihar

5540. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR MODI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is implementing any programme to increase the production of Magahi betel, lotus seed, banana and litchis and also to promote their research and development;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken by the Government for exporting these products; and

(d) the details of other products for promotion for which assistance is provided by the Union Government to Bihar?

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. Government is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme on "Macro-Management in Agriculture—Supplementation/Complementation of States' Effort through Work Plan" including a programme for area expansion of crops. Magahi betel, lotus seed, banana and litchie are also included in this scheme. To promote research, the National Research Centre for Litchi, Magahi Betel and Banana have been established in the States of Bihar and Tamil Nadu under the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR). For lotus seed there is no research centre.

(c) Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) under the Ministry of Commerce is providing financial assistance for the export of horticulture commodities. Besides, Agri-export Zone for Litchi and vegetables has been established particularly for the export of those commodities.

(d) Government assistance is also provided for promotion of production of other crops like Guava, Mango, Pineapple, Medicinal & Aromatic plants, floriculture and spices under the scheme "Macro-Management in Agriculture."

[English]

Breeding of Endangered Wildlife

5541. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Zoo Authority had drawn up a plan for breeding of several rare and endangered species including tigers;

(b) if so, the details of the plan and when it was conceived;

(c) the reasons for not implementing the plan; and

(d) the steps taken to implement the plan without any further delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) No Sir. However the Central Zoo Authority has recently constituted a five-member committee of experts to identify endangered species that need to be propagated through conservation breeding and suggest other modalities.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Once the candidate species are identified including the participating zoos and species coordinators, the Central Zoo Authority shall provide all the required assistance including financial assistance for initiating the conservation breeding programme of the endangered species.

Development of Fisheries

5542. SHRI ABDUL RAISHID SHAHEEN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any survey has been conducted on the implementation of pilot project for the development of cold water fisheries and aquaculture in hilly areas and utilization of inland Saline/alkaline soil for Aquaculture with central assistance in Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, Jammu and Kashmir, Sikkim, Uttaranchal, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh with the participation of the concerned Indian Council of Agricultural Research Institute;

(b) if so, the details and results thereof, State-wise; 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 (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) A pilot scheme on Development of Fisheries and Aquaculture in hilly regions was implemented in the States of Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Uttaranchal and Sikkim during 2001-02 for which 100 per cent grant was given by the Government of India to undertake survey of water bodies, construction/re-modeling of farms as well as for providing the other required inputs.

A similar Scheme for productive utilization of inland saline/alkaline for aquaculture was also implemented during 2001-02 in the States of Haryana and Uttar Pradesh with 100 per cent assistance from Government of India.

(b) Based on the initial findings of the pilot schemes, provisions have been made during the 10th Plan under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Development of Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture for undertaking the components on cold water fisheries and aquaculture as well as productive utilization of inland saline/alkaline waters for aquaculture. States can avail assistance under this Scheme for the above purposes and the expenditure on developmental activities will be shared on 75:25 basis between the Government of India and the States.

(c) Question does not arise.

Vulnerability Line along Coastline

5543. SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering to draw a vulnerability line along the coastline;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this will be on the lines of the systems prevailing in developed countries; and

(d) if so, by when the vulnerability line is likely to be finalised and to come into force?

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

(b) The report of Prof. M.S. Swaminathan Committee recommends demarcation of vulnerability line taking into account elevation, geology, geomorphology, sea level trends, shoreline displacement, tidal ranges and wave heights.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The methodology for demarcation of vulnerability line for Indian conditions require detailed in-depth examination of the parameters listed above and discussions with various Coastal State Governments before demarcating the same on the ground.

[Translation]

Production of Grapes in a Nasik

5544. SHRI DEVIDAS PINGLE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that Nasik in Maharashtra is a grape producing district;

(b) if so, whether the Government has provided any technical and financial assistance for enhancing the production, storage, setting up of processing units and transportation from other parts in the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government has any scheme to send a group of experts for assessing the potentiality of grape production and export; 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) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Government is implementing a Centrally sponsored Scheme on Macro Management in Agriculture-Supplementation/Complementation of State efforts through Work Plan. Under this scheme, the State Governments, have flexibility to take up programmes as per their felt needs and priority. Development of fruit including grapes is one of the component of this scheme under which assistance is given for production of fruits. Under this scheme, an amount of Rs. 2265.00 lakh has been provided to the State Government of Maharashtra for the development of Horticulture during 2004-05.

Besides, National Horticulture Board has provided an amount of Rs. 95.75 lakh to the Nasik district under their scheme on Development of Commercial Horticulture and Capital Investment Subsidy, under which there is provision for construction/expansion/modernization of cold storages for horticulture produce.

(d) and (e) The Government has no specific scheme to send a group of experts to assess the potentiality of grape production and export. However, the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development

Authority (APEDA) under the Ministry of Commerce provides financial assistance to its registered exporters for undertaking study tours, sponsored or organized by APEDA, abroad. In such tours, the assistance is restricted to 50 per cent of the cost of travel and distribution of study material on the activities which have correlation to exports.

[English]

Mobilization of Funds for Cleaning of Rivers and Lakes

5545. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has proposed to clean all major rivers and lakes in the country including the river Noyyal in Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the total cost involved therein, State-wise/River/Lake-wise;

(c) the progress made so far in improving the quality of water in each river and lake of the country;

(d) whether the Ministry of Environment and Forests has taken up the matter with the Planning Commission to mobilize the required expenditure;

(e) if so, the details and outcome thereof; and

(f) the steps taken to achieve the target of cleaning the rivers and lakes within stipulated time?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) A Centrally Sponsored Scheme of National River Conservation Plan (NRCP) is under implementation in 157 towns along polluted stretches of 31 rivers spread over 18 States. The State-wise/town-wise/river-wise details of approved costs of works under the NRCP is given in the enclosed Statement-I. As regards the river Noyyal in Tamil Nadu, the same is not covered under NRCP. In addition to NRCP, another Centrally Sponsored Scheme, namely the National Lake Conservation Plan (NLCP) is also under implementation. Under the NLCP, projects for 36 Lakes have been approved so far at a cost of Rs. 165 crore. The details of the projects alongwith their approved costs is given in the enclosed Statement-II.

(c) The water quality of river Ganga has shown improvement over the pre-Ganga Action Plan quality of 1986, wherever the works under the Action Plan have been completed. Despite phenomenal increase in urban population along the rivers, the water quality of rivers Ganga and Yamuna have shown reduction in organic pollution (Bio-chemical Oxygen Demand—BOD) in relative terms though in some stretches, the BOD exceeds the standard (3 mg/l). The data indicates that the BOD at Kanpur on Ganga reduced from 8.6 mg/l to 5.7 mg/l during the period from 1986 to 2004 though population in Kanpur upstream has increased by about 50% over the period.

(d) and (e) The approved outlay for NRCP in the X Plan is Rs. 1417 crore which is not sufficient to complete the ongoing works. For cleaning major rivers and lakes

in the country, a huge amount of funds is required. The matter in this regard has been taken up with the Planning Commission which has agreed to review the outlay under NRCP/NLCP at the time of Mid-Term review of the X Plan.

(f) The various pollution abatement works undertaken to achieve the target of cleaning the rivers and lakes are interception and diversion of sewage, setting up of sewage treatment plants, low cost sanitation, river front development, setting up of crematoria etc. and *in-situ* measures of lake cleaning such as desilting, dewatering, bio-remediation and catchment area treatment etc. As the requirement of funds to achieve the target of cleaning of the rivers and lakes is huge, the achievement of the same would depend on the availability of funds.

Statement I

State-wise, Town-wise and River-wise details of Approved Cost in 157 Towns under National River Conservation Plan

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl.No.	State/River	No. of Town	Town	Approved Cost
1	2	3	4	5
I. Andhra Pradesh				
1.	Godavari	1.	Bhadrachalam	294.36
		2.	Mancharial	456.72
		3.	Rajamundry	2391.12
		4.	Ramagundam	1961.13
2.	Musi	5.	Hyderabad	34408.00
Sub Total:				39511.33
II. Bihar				
3.	Ganga	6.	Arrah	255.20
		7.	Barahya	41.26
		8.	Barh	68.69
		9.	Bhagalpur	516.77
		10.	Buxar	76.14

1	2	3	4	5
		11.	Chhapra	187.62
		12.	Fatwah	66.56
		13.	Hazipur	292.63
		14.	Kahelgaon	206.92
		15.	Mokamah	176.68
		16.	Munger	116.38
		17.	Patna	1163.57
		18.	Suitanganj	93.81
		Sub Total:		3242.23
III.	Delhi			
4.	Yamuna	19.	Delhi	18656.42
			YAP-II	38717.00
		Sub Total:		57373.42
IV.	Goa			
5.	Mandovi	20.	Panaji	1409.52
		Sub Total:		1409.52
V.	Gujarat			
6.	Sabarmati	21.	Ahmedabad	9383.39
		Sub Total:		9383.39
VI.	Haryana			
	Yamuna	22.	Chhchhrauli	102.54
		23.	Faridabad	7804.26
		24.	Gharaunda	173.37
		25.	Gohana	335.60
		26.	Gurgaon	2681.75
		27.	Indri	128.15
		28.	Karnal	2729.62
		29.	Palwal	1056.18
		30.	Panipat	4392.59

1	2	3	4	5
		31.	Radaur	181.09
		32.	Sonepat	2403.51
		33.	Yamunanagar-	2867.23
			YAP-II	6250.00
	Sub Total:			31105.89
VII. Jharkhand				
7.	Subamarekha	34.	Ghatshila	196.86
		35.	Jamshedpur	1705.42
		36.	Ranchi	1161.81
8.	Damodar	37.	Bokaro-Kangali	115.46
		38.	Chicunda	172.12
		39.	Dugdha	123.80
		40.	Jharia	193.35
		41.	Ramgarh	295.38
		42.	Sahebganj	47.50
		43.	Sindri	0.85
		44.	Sudamdih	99.83
		45.	Telmumochu	21.27
	Sub Total:			4133.65
VIII. Karnataka				
9.	Bhadra	46.	Bhadravati	459.49
10.	Cauvery	47.	K.R. Nagar	80.36
		48.	Sri Rangapatna	183.97
11.	Pennar	49.	Bangalore	4627.00
12.	Tunga	50.	Shimoga	708.93
13.	Tungabhadra	51.	Davanagere	644.47
		52.	Harihara	249.60
		53.	Kollegal	70.65
		54.	Nanjangud	175.23
	Sub Total:			7199.70

1	2	3	4	5
IX. Kerala				
14.	Pamba	55	Pamba	1845.00
Sub Total:				1845.00
X. Madhya Pradesh				
15.	Betwa	56.	Bhopal	234.77
		57.	Mandideep	165.24
		58.	Vidisha	463.87
16.	Chambal	59.	Nagda	372.10
17.	Khan	60.	Indore	4219.08
18.	Kshipra	61.	Ujjain	2492.13
19.	Narmada	62.	Jabalpur	1380.77
20.	Tapti	63.	Burhanpur	525.79
21.	Wainganga	64.	Chapra	58.71
		65.	Keolari	77.57
		66.	Seoni	129.23
Sub Total:				10119.26
XI. Maharashtra				
	Godavari	67.	Nanded	1449.79
		68.	Nashik	6889.19
		69.	Trimbakeshwar	1164.00
22.	Krishna	70.	Karad	1330.64
		71.	Sangli	1483.73
Sub Total:				12317.35
XII. Orissa				
23.	Brahamini	72.	Chandbali	97.36
		73.	Dharamshala	220.32
		74.	Talcher	676.62

1	2	3	4	5
24.	Mahanadi Coastal Area	75.	Cuttack	1404.00
		76.	Puri	4829.00
	Sub Total:			7227.30
XIII. Punjab				
25.	Satluj	77.	Jalandhar	5454.86
		78.	Ludhiana	15715.54
		79.	Phagwara	715.98
		80.	Phillaur	74.98
		81.	Kapurthala	1256.26
		82.	Sultanpur Lodhi	240.74
	Sub Total:			23458.36
XIV. Rajasthan				
	Chambal	83.	Keshoraipatta	76.39
		84.	Kota	1244.61
	Sub Total:			1321.00
XV. Tamil Nadu				
26, 27	Adyar, Cooum	85.	Chennai	49152.00
	Cauvery	86.	Bhawani	349.73
		87.	Erode	1488.60
		88.	Kumarapalayam	593.85
		89.	Palli Palayam	540.76
		90.	Trichy	654.81
		91.	Karur	3850.00
		92.	Kumbakonam	5060.00
		93.	Myladuthurai	4620.00
		94.	Tiruchirappalli	13200.00
28.	Tamrabarani	95.	Tirunelveli	6600.00
29.	Vaigai	96.	Madurai	16500.00
30.	Vennar	97.	Thanjavur	7700.00
	Sub Total:			110309.75

1	2	3	4	5
XVI. Uttar Pradesh				
	Ganga	98.	Allahabad	3272.36
		99.	Anupshaher	549.07
		100.	Bijnor	718.20
		101.	Chunar	468.30
		102.	Farrukabad	51.02
		103.	Garmukteshwar	153.90
		104.	Ghazipur	771.78
		105.	Kanpur	8573.88
		106.	Mirzapur	369.60
		107.	Mugal Sarai	409.02
		108.	Saidpur	61.62
		109.	Varanasi	4505.97
31.	Gomti	110.	Jaunpur	566.38
		111.	Lucknow	31100.96
		112.	Sultanpur	470.03
	Yamuna	113.	Agra	7463.23
		114.	Etawah	943.09
		115.	Ghaziabad	9172.24
		116.	Mathura	2798.87
		117.	Muzaffar Nagar	1282.90
		118.	Noida	2814.79
		119.	Saharanpur	2551.54
		120.	Vrinadavan	961.58
			YAP-II	12413.00
Sub Total:				92443.33
XVII. Uttaranchal				
	Ganga	121.	Badrinath	67.54
		122.	Deo Prayag	381.19
		123.	Gopeshwar	97.42

1	2	3	4	5
		124.	Haridwar & Rishikesh	648.00
		125.	Joshimath	43.82
		126.	Karna Parag	29.23
		127.	Ranipur	746.09
		128.	Rudra Prayag	209.38
		129.	Srinagar	707.85
		130.	Uttar Kashi	918.08
	Sub Total:			3848.60
XVIII. West Bengal				
	Damodar	131.	Andal	141.34
		132.	Asansol	761.42
		133.	Durgapur	161.51
		134.	Rishra	1191.24
	Ganga	135.	Badreshwar & Champadani	3378.84
		136.	Baidyabati	1291.11
		137.	Bansberia	2680.59
		138.	Barrackpore	2395.18
		139.	Budge-Budge	985.37
		140.	Chakdah	235.06
		141.	Circular Canal	901.82
		142.	Dhulian	371.05
		143.	Diamond Harbour	342.53
		144.	Garulia	1035.82
		145.	Jangipur	335.09
		146.	Jijganj Azimganj	556.54
		147.	Katwa	357.61
		148.	Kharda (Extended)	986.17
		149.	Konnagar	1486.50
		150.	Maheshtala	1275.72

1	2	3	4	5
		151.	Murshidabad	488.65
		152.	Naihati	2322.05
		153.	North Barrackpore	1922.23
		154.	Raniganj	154.91
		155.	Tolly's Nallah	3545.36
		156.	Uttarpara Kotrung	1069.93
		157.	Goyespur, Hallishar & Kanchanpara	2591.60
	Sub Total:			32965.24
	Total: (18 State):			449214.32
	CETP, Calcutta (West Bengal)			6500.00
	Estt. & R&D			13072.52
	Overall Total:			468786.84

Statement II*State-wise details of Approved Cost under National Lake Conservation Plan*

(Rs. in crore)				
Sl.No.	State	No. of Lake	Name of Lake	Approved Cost
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1	Banjara	2.75
	Sub Total:	1		2.75
2.	Maharashtra	1	Powai	6.62
		9	Lakes in Thane district	2.53
		1	Mahalaxmi, Vadagaon	1.85
	Sub Total:	11		11.00
3.	Tamil Nadu	1	Ooty	1.95
		1	Kodaikanal	6.33
	Sub Total:	2		8.28
4.	Karnataka	4	Vengaiahnkere	12.32

1	2	3	4	5
			Kamakshitpya	
			Nagvara & Jarganahalli	
		1	Bellandur	5.54
		1	Kotekere	5.64
		1	Bhishma	2.50
		1	Lal Bagh	1.66
		1	Channapatna, Hasan	4.97
		1	Sharanbhasveshwara	4.89
		1	Akkamahadevi, Haveri	2.64
	Sub Total:	11		40.16
5.	Uttaranchal	4	Lakes of Nainital district	16.85
		1	Nainital Lake	47.97
	Sub Total:	5		64.82
6.	Rajasthan	1	Mansagar	24.72
	Sub Total:	1		24.72
7.	West Bengal	1	Rabindra Sarovar	6.96
		1	Mirik	4.00
	Sub Total:	2		10.96
8.	Tripura	3	Agartala	2.02
	Sub Total:	3		2.02
	Grand Total:	36		164.71

Mustard as a Leading Oilseed Crop

5546. SHRI D. VITTAL RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has deliberated to promote the mustard as a leading oilseed crop;

(b) if so, whether the Government has convened any meeting in this regard;

(c) if so, the details of the discussions held; and

(d) the outcome thereon?

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) Government of India has convened meetings in order to formulate crop specific strategies to increase productivity of oilseed crops including mustard. Accordingly, State specific advisories containing details of high yielding varieties/hybrids and improved production technologies for increasing production and productivity of oilseed crops including mustard have been formulated in consultation with the ICAR Research Institutes and sent

to State Governments for preparing programmes to achieve higher productivity in the oilseed crops including mustard crop in the country.

Diversion of Rivers Water

5547. SHRI D.V. SADANAND GOWDA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has received any proposal from the Government of Karnataka for diversion of water from West flowing Mahadayi river to Malprabha river; and

(b) if so, by when the proposal is likely to be given approval?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) The Government of Karnataka in April, 2002 requested for clearance of proposal from inter-State angle for diversion of 7.56 TMC of water from Madei basin to Malprabha basin through implementation of Kalsa and Bandurinnalla schemes to meet the drinking water needs of Hubli/Dharwad cities. The Ministry of Water Resources gave an 'in principle' clearance to the proposal to meet the drinking water need of Hubli/Dharwad from water availability angle on 30th April, 2002. The Government of Goa in July, 2003 took strong exception to the grant of this clearance by the Ministry and requested for setting up of an Inter-State Water Disputes Tribunal under the Inter-State Water Disputes Act, 1956 for resolution of the dispute. In view of this, the 'in-principle' clearance granted by the Ministry was placed 'in abeyance' in September, 2002 with a view to resolve the matter by an agreement between the two States, failing which by an award of the Tribunal. The two States have so far not concluded any agreement on the sharing of Madei Water.

Shortage of Pasture Land

5548. SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the shortage of pasture land in the country taking into consideration the existing livestock population in the country;

(b) if so, the steps taken to bring additional areas in the country under pasture and grass land development;

(c) whether any achievement has been made in this regard during the last three years;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the funds allocated for the development of pasture land during the last three years and the current year?

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 implemented a Centrally Sponsored Scheme—"Assistance to States for Feed and Fodder Development" including the components of "Establishment of silvi pasture system for increasing biomass production" and "Development of grass land including grass reserves" during the 8th and 9th Plan period. Central grant of Rs. 938.20 lakhs was provided to different States during these Plan periods.

(c) to (e) No funds were provided to the State Governments during the last three years since the scheme was discontinued from 2002-03. A new Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Fodder Development comprising of Development of grassland including grass reserves as one of its components with 100% central grant has been approved for implementation from 2005-06. Rs. 700 lakhs have been earmarked for this component during the current financial year.

Scheme for Contaminated Water

5549. SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any scheme/proposal is under consideration of the Government to give the financial/technical assistance to recycle contaminated water for the use of farmers; 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) Government of India is not implementing specific scheme for providing financial assistance to the farmers to recycle contaminated water for the crop production. However, Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has developed technologies for use of contaminated water/sewage water in agriculture. The potential of using sewage water for irrigation was assessed on crop production in three cropping systems, viz. food grain production (rice-

wheat) alone or with agro-forestry (rice-wheat with popular, vegetable production (cauliflower-okra-spinach) and fodder production (berseem-sorghum) systems. The study has showed higher yields of paddy (14%), wheat (4%) and cauliflower (23%) under sewage water irrigation compared to tube well water irrigation.

[*Translation*]

Alternative Scheme for Distribution of Foodgrains

5550. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT:
SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU:
SHRI RAGHUVEER SINGH KOSHAL:

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to introduce any alternative scheme like food stamp or food credit card for distribution of foodgrains amongst the needy persons;

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

(c) whether such schemes have already been introduced by some States; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the results achieved therein?

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) No, Sir. However, a Pilot Project on Food Credit Cards under the Targeted Public Distribution System is going on in districts Kangra of Himachal Pradesh, Eranakulam of Kerala and Vidisha in Madhya Pradesh.

(c) and (d) The Government of Andhra Pradesh has informed that they have already introduced coupon system and are going for issue of bar coded coupons in Krishna district based on the recommendations of the Group of Ministers constituted by them. The bar coded coupons shall have the following details:

(i) District code (ii) Mandal code (iii) Fair Price Shop code (iv) Number of Members/Units in the card.

[*English*]

Project for Area of Pulses Cultivation in A.P.

5551. SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any project is being implemented for increasing area of cultivation of pulses in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the achievements made during 2004-05; and

(c) and amount allocated by the Union Government for the project for 2005-06 and the manner it is proposed to be spent?

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 is implementing a Centrally Sponsored "Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oilpalm and Maize" (ISOPOM) in 14 major pulses growing states including Andhra Pradesh, with a view to increase the production and productivity of pulses 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 pulses.

The area coverage and production of pulses in Andhra Pradesh during the year 2004-05 are 17.65 lakh hectare and 11.54 lakh tonnes respectively. An amount of Rs. 110.976 lakhs has been utilized on the implementation of pulses development programmes during 2004-05 by the state of Andhra Pradesh.

(c) Government of India has proposed an allocation of Rs. 2650 lakhs to Andhra Pradesh under ISOPOM for the year 2005-06. This amount will be utilized by the State for the implementation of oilseeds, pulses, oilpalm and maize development programmes under ISOPOM as per the annual action plan.

Granite Quarry Workers

5552. SHRI M. SREENIVASULU REDDY: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government to start ESI Hospital at Chimakurthy, Prakasam district of Andhra Pradesh keeping in view of large number of Granite quarry workers and Tobacco workers; 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.

Outstanding Amount against Defaulting Establishments

5553. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH:
SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA:

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

(a) whether out of the 39.7 crore strong work force in the country, only 4.01 crore workers have so far been covered under the Employees Provident Fund Scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken to provide social security cover to every single eligible person both in the organized and unorganised sector;

(c) whether a separate record is maintained in respect of establishments which are not depositing the provident fund contribution though they are deducting the amount from the wages of their employees;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) the quantum of amount outstanding from the defaulting establishments as on March 31, 2004 and on March 31, 2005; and

(f) the action taken against the defaulting establishments to recover the outstanding dues from them?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRA SHEKHAR RAO): (a) and (b) As on 28.02.2005, 4.09 crores workers were covered under the Employees' Provident Fund Scheme, 1952. The Employees' Provident Funds & Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952 provides for statutory registration of all establishments employing 20 or more employees, falling within the schedule activity for coverage. Besides, there is a provision for voluntary registration under the Act irrespective of the number of employees or the schedule of industry.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. Presently there exists no mechanism to detect and identify exclusively the establishments defaulting in remittance of employees' share. However, compliance of the establishments is monitored regularly through the Computerized Compliance Tracking System (CCTS) and default, including the default in remittance of employees' share is identified through this system.

(e) As on 31.03.2004, Rs. 1862.80 crore was outstanding from the defaulting establishments, while the outstanding amount as on 31.03.2005 was Rs. 2105.37 crore.

(f) Recovery of dues from defaulting establishments is made in accordance with the provisions of the Employees' Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952. This includes prosecution under Section 14 of the Act, filing complaints under Section 406/409 of IPC, attachment of properties/bank accounts and arrest of defaulters. The Employees' Provident Fund Organisation has launched a special drive for recovering outstanding dues by formulating special squads of recovery in each of the regions and stepping up its coercive action under the law.

[Translation]

Scheme to Promote Production of Pulses and Oilseeds

5554. SHRIMATI ANURADHA CHOUDHARY:
SHRI MOHD. TAHIR:
SHRI MUNSHI RAM:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is working on any scheme to bring the food subsidy to the minimum level;

(b) if so, whether the Government proposes to set up any policy-mechanism for the farmers to encourage them to grow crops like pulses and oil seeds;

(c) if so, the time by which the said scheme is likely to be implemented;

(d) whether the Government is considering any scheme to impose a ceiling on the increase in MSP of major foodgrains; and

(e) if so, the 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 (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) With a view to contain the subsidy, Government is encouraging decentralized procurement and distribution of foodgrains; reduction in rate of interest on borrowings by the Food Corporation of India (FCI); liquidation of excess stocks to reduce carrying cost etc.

(b) and (c) Government of India is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Integrated Scheme for Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize (ISOPOM) in 14 major oilseeds and pulses growing States with a view to increase the production and productivity of oilseeds and pulses in the country. Under the scheme assistance is provided to farmers for purchase of breeder seed, production of foundation seed, production and distribution of certified seed, distribution of seed minikits, plant protection chemicals and equipments, weedicides, gypsum/pyrite/liming/dolomite, sprinkler sets and water carrying pipes, supply or rhizobium culture/phosphate solubilising bacteria etc. to encourage farmers to grow oilseeds and pulses.

(d) and (e) The Government, at present, has no scheme to impose a ceiling on the increase in MSP of major foodgrains. However, with a view to providing necessary price signal to promote diversification into pulses and oilseeds for which India depends on imports to bridge domestic demand supply gap, the Government have been announcing relatively higher Minimum Support Prices for pulses and oilseeds vis-à-vis other crops, particularly cereals.

[English]

Production of Paddy

5555. SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the annual paddy production in the country during the last three years, particularly from Karnataka;

(b) whether the cultivable land for paddy production is shrinking year after year in the country, particularly in Karnataka;

(c) if so, whether the scarcity of rainfall and lesser amount of storage results in lower output of paddy production;

(d) if so, the other main reasons for the lower output of paddy production;

(e) the amount of loss incurred by the farmers in Karnataka during the last three years; and

(f) the steps taken by the Union Government to ensure adequate quantity of water for the farmers and also to boost paddy production in the country, especially in Karnataka?

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 area under paddy cultivation and production of paddy for Karnataka as well as all India for the years 2001-02, 2002-03 and 2003-04 are shown in the table below:

Year	Item	Area—in Million hectares	
		All India	Karnataka
2001-02	Area	44.90	1.42
	Production	140.01	4.85
2002-03	Area	41.18	1.15
	Production	107.73	3.59
2003-04	Area	42.50	1.15
	Production	132.42	3.77

The area and production of paddy in Karnataka show a declining trend over the last three years.

(c) and (d) The rainfall situation in Karnataka for the last three years is shown in the Statement, which shows that the rainfall during the monsoon period in Karnataka

was below normal consecutively for 2001-02, 2002-03 and 2003-04. The availability of water in the reservoirs was also inadequate during this period. While the availability of adequate water is the main factor which affects the production of paddy, the other factors are appropriate temperature, timely availability of fertilizers, market price of the produce etc. The paddy production in Karnataka suffered because of successive drought during the last three years. As a consequence, farmers have diverted rainfed paddy area to other remunerative crops like Maize and Soyabean which also contributed to reduction in paddy area and paddy production.

(e) and (f) The loss in production (decrease in production over the previous year) suffered by the farmers in Karnataka during the last three years is shown in the table below.

(Million tonnes)

Year	Food-grains	Oil-seeds	Sugar-cane	Cotton\$
2001-02	2.29	0.52	9.91	0.24
2002-03	2.03	0.00	0.53	0.28
2003-04	0.03	0.04	166.85	0.01

\$Million bales of 170 kgs. each.

In order to overcome the scarcity of irrigation water, System of Rice Intensification Method of paddy cultivation is being popularised and encouraged in the state. Farmers are also being advised to grow other remunerative crops like pulses, oilseeds, cotton etc.

Statement

Rainfall data of Karnataka for last three years

	Year	Monsoon	Post Monsoon	Winter	Pre-Monsoon
Rainfall in mm					
Actual	2001-02	771.6	179.0	15.3	117.4
Normal		847.1	186.9	5.4	132.5
Actual	2002-03	603.7	204.7	3.4	60.8
Normal		958.1	191.9	4.5	139.5
Actual	2003-04	732.9	174.4	2.5	246.7
Normal		897.3	188.1	4.9	136.7

Flood Control

5556. SHRI RUPCHAND MURMU:
SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH "LALAN":
SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether some rivers in the States are prone to flood every year;

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

(c) whether the Government has formulated any policy to make the country free from floods to avoid losses being caused by floods every year;

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

(e) whether the Government has estimated the quantum of excess flood water; and

(f) if so, the average quantum thereof and the areas where such water is likely to be utilized State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) Some of the major rivers which are prone to floods are as under:

Floods in the river Brahmaputra, Barak and their tributaries affect the North Eastern States (Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Manipur, Nagaland & Tripura), Sikkim and Northern parts of West Bengal. The States of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal and parts of Uttaranchal, Haryana, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand are affected by Floods in the river Ganga and its tributaries. Floods in river Mahanadi and its tributaries affect the states of Chhattisgarh & Orissa. Andhra Pradesh is prone to floods by river Krishna and Godavari.

(c) and (d) Although flood management is in the purview of the State Governments, Central Government has also been initiating action in order to evolve broad policy on flood management. Raashtriya Barh Ayog, set up by the Government of India in 1976 to look into flood problem and suggest remedial measures, submitted its report in 1980. The recommendations of the Rashtriya Barh Ayog which formed the framework for flood

management strategy in the country were forwarded to the various State Governments for implementation. Several other expert committees were also constituted by the Government from time to time to study the problem relating to flood and its management, the recommendations of which were also sent to the respective State Governments for implementation. Ganga Flood Control Commission for Ganga Basin States constituted in 1972 prepared Comprehensive Plans for Flood Management for all the 23 river systems of Ganga. Likewise, Brahmaputra Board which started functioning at Guwahati in 1982 prepared Master Plans for Flood Management for Brahmaputra, Barak and its major tributaries. These plans were forwarded to concerned State Governments for implementation.

The National Water Policy-2002, *inter alia* provides the need for a Master Plan for flood control and management for each flood prone basin, provision of adequate flood cushion in water storage projects, wherever feasible, to facilitate better flood management, increased emphasis on non-structural measures such as flood forecasting and warning, flood plain zoning and flood proofing for the minimization of losses and to reduce the recurring expenditure on flood relief, strict regulation of settlements and economic activity in the flood plain zones along with flood proofing and modernization of flood forecasting activities.

During 2004, the Government of India had constituted a Task Force for Flood Management/Erosion Control under the Chairmanship of Chairman, Central Water Commission with representatives of State Governments, various Central Ministries and experts as members to examine the problem of flood and erosion in Assam and neighbouring States, West Bengal, Bihar and Eastern Uttar Pradesh. The Task Force has *inter alia* recommended various short term and long term measures. The report of the Task Force has been circulated to various Ministries/State Governments.

(e) and (f) Information about average annual water overflows as flood is not available. However Central Water Commission operates 173 flood forecasting stations in the major river basins of the country. Danger level for each of these stations has been fixed. When the flow in the river crosses the danger level, it is likely to result in damages in the area.

Decline in Public Investment in Agriculture

5557. SHRI TUKARAM GANPAT RAO RENGE PATIL:
SHRI V.K. THUMMAR:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any decline in public investment in agriculture;

(b) if so, the action taken for more investment to revive growth in agriculture; and

(c) the achievement made 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) Public investment in agriculture, including forestry & logging and fishing measured in terms of the statistics of Gross Capital Formation (GCF) registered a steady decline in real terms (at 1993-94 prices) from Rs. 53.69 crore in 1994-95 to Rs. 4444 crore in 1998-99. During the subsequent years the trend in public investment was marked by increase and decline in alternate years. The details are given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) and (c) Experience shows that the factors contributing to low performance of Indian agriculture include poor marketing infrastructure, low level of investment in irrigation and inadequate flow of credit to agriculture. The Union Budget for 2005-06 has, therefore, provided higher allocation for irrigation, proposed further step up in credit flow to agriculture, and introduced new schemes for promoting horticulture and marketing. The following schemes assume significance in this context:

(i) **National Horticulture Mission:** A sum of Rs. 630 crores has been provided for the scheme, aimed at ensuring end-to-end approach having backward and forward linkages covering research, production, post harvest management, processing and marketing in an integrated manner.

(ii) **Development/Strengthening of Agricultural Marketing Infrastructure, Grading and Standardization:** A sum of Rs. 72 crore has been allocated for the scheme aimed at inducing large investment from private and cooperative sectors for setting up agricultural markets, marketing infrastructure and support services such as grading, standardization etc.

- (iii) **Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP):** It was launched in 1996-97 to encourage the states for completion of on-going irrigation projects through Central Loan Assistance. This has been reviewed recently and the focus has been on completion of last mile projects. The programme covered 181 major/medium irrigation projects or components of projects and 3,810 surface minor irrigation schemes upto 2003-04. An irrigation potential of 2.7 million hectares was created under the programme through major/medium irrigation projects by the end of March, 2004 whereas an irrigation potential of 80,000 hectares was created through surface minor irrigation schemes during the same period. In 2005-06 an outlay of Rs. 4800 crore has been provided to improve the pace of implementation, compared with Rs. 2800 crore in 2004-05.
- (iv) **Micro Irrigation:** Micro irrigation scheme is expected to promote water use efficiency in Indian agriculture. About 1.4 million hectares have been covered under micro irrigation so far and it is proposed to increase the coverage to 3 million hectares by the end of the 10th Plan. Accordingly, a sum of Rs. 400 crore has been allocated for the scheme, aimed at promoting micro irrigation technology comprising drip and sprinkler irrigation on a large scale in the year 2005-06. About 1.2 million hectares have been covered under micro-irrigation so far and it is proposed to increase the coverage to 3 million hectares by the end of the 10th Plan.
- (v) **Agriculture Credit:** The banking sector comprising cooperative banks, regional rural banks and commercial banks disbursed Rs. 108,500 crore in 2004-05, which is to be raised by 30% in 2005-06.

Statement

Trends in Investment (Gross Capital Formation) in Agriculture, including forestry & logging and fishing.

(Rs. in crores at 1993-94 prices)

Year	Public	% share in GDP	Private	% share in GDP	Total	% share in GDP
1993-94	4918	0.57	10331	1.20	15249	1.77
1994-95	5369	0.58	11416	1.24	16785	1.82
1995-96	5322	0.54	12367	1.24	17689	1.78
1996-97	5150	0.48	13176	1.23	18326	1.72
1997-98	4503	0.40	13791	1.24	18294	1.64
1998-99	4444	0.38	13126	1.11	17570	1.49
1999-00	4756	0.38	15268	1.21	20024	1.58
2000-01	4435	0.34	15374	1.17	19809	1.51
2001-02	5488	0.40	14872	1.07	20360	1.47
2002-03	4760	0.33	16740	1.16	21500	1.49
2003-04	5699	0.36	18487	1.18	24186	1.55

Japanese Assistance for TISCO

5558. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:
SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Japan has provided technical assistance under Green Aid Plan to model project for utilization of sensible heat from blast furnace Hot Stove Waste Gas at Tata Iron and Steel Company Limited (TISCO), Jamshedpur.

(b) if so, the terms and conditions of such assistance; and

(c) the assistance provided by Japan for the said project so far?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Green Aid Plan (GAP) is a sponsored programme of New Energy and Industrial Technology Development Organization (NEDO), an organization under Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI), Government of Japan. GAP does not include any funding component and is more in nature of technical cooperation. The projects in the sector of Energy Conservation & Environment Protection related to steel are generally considered.

Under the scheme of Model Project, NEDO provide the main equipment to the recipient organization and the recipient organizations are to bear the customs duty payable on import of the equipment, bear the cost of transport of the equipment to the site, install and operate the same. Government of India, Ministry of Steel is to widely disseminate the results of the Japanese technology received after commissioning of the equipment at the project site.

(c) The equipment received by TISCO from Japan have been successfully installed at Jamshedpur Works of TISCO and these are working efficiently. The Tata Iron & Steel Company Ltd., on the advise of Ministry of Steel have also held seminar to disseminate the results as agreed to in the Memorandum of Understanding by them with Ministry of Steel, Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance, Government of India and NEDO. All the major blast furnace operators in India, consultants, research laboratories etc. participated in the seminar and obtained the details of the technology.

[Translation]

Hunting of Migratory Birds in Uttar Pradesh

5559. SHRI ATIQ AHAMAD: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the arrival of migratory birds at the Brijghat (Garh Mukteswar) in Uttar Pradesh and their hunting on large scale;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to check the hunting of these birds; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to develop the Brijghat into a bird sanctuary?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) Migratory birds do arrive at the Brijghat. No hunting of these birds has been reported by State Government.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) There is no such proposal to develop Brijghat into a bird sanctuary.

[English]

National Institute of Animal Welfare

5560. SHRI B. VINOD KUMAR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has set up 'National Institute of Animal Welfare';

(b) if so, the aims and objectives thereof;

(c) whether the institute also undertakes programmes for setting free rehabilitation of wild animals like Bear from the animal trainers etc; 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 Government has set up National Institute of Animal Welfare (NIAW) in Village Sikri, District Faridabad, Haryana with the objective of imparting education & training in animal welfare dealing with aspects like animal management, animal behaviour and ethics etc. The aim is to create an enabling environment for fulfilment of the statutory requirements as laid down in the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Amendment in EPF and M.P. Act

5561. SHRI MADHU GOUD YASKHI:
SHRI K.S. RAO:

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

(a) whether the Union Government has received some proposals from the State Governments for making amendments in Employees' Provident Fund and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Union Government on the request of the State Governments?

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.

Onion Intervention Scheme

5562. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal from Government of Maharashtra on 50:50 basis for sharing of loss by Union Government under the Onion Intervention Scheme 2000 is pending;

(b) if so, the details and present status thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to consider other crops under such scheme; 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) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The Government of India, on request of a State Government/UT Administration, implements Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) for the procurement of perishable horticultural and agricultural commodities which are not covered under the Price Support Scheme. The MIS is implemented in order to protect the interests of the growers of perishable horticultural and agricultural commodities from making distress sale in the event of bumper crop and when there is a glut during the peak arrival period when the prices tend to fall below the economic level. Losses, if any, incurred by the procuring agencies are shared on 50:50 basis between Central Government and the concerned State Government (75:25 in case of North-Eastern States).

[Translation]

Incentives for Water Harvesting

5563. SHRI AJIT JOGI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to give some incentives to encourage water harvesting; 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) "Water" being a State subject, it is primarily the responsibility of the concerned State Governments to give incentives to encourage water harvesting. However, the following steps have been taken by the Government in this direction:

- (i) A scheme at an estimated cost of Rs. 175 crores for Artificial Recharge to Ground Water and Rainwater Harvesting for implementation during the remaining part of the X Five Year Plan is under consideration.
- (ii) The Central Ground Water Board (CGWB), under the Ministry of Water Resources is conducting mass awareness programmes and training programmes through out the country and providing technical guidance on the design of rain water harvesting and artificial recharge structures free of cost to promote rain water harvesting.
- (iii) All the States/Union Territories have been requested for advising the local bodies in their respective States/Union Territories to allow rebate in property tax to persons who adopt roof top rain water harvesting in their premises. As per the information available, Government of Andhra Pradesh has allowed rebate in property tax to persons who adopt roof top rain water harvesting.
- (iv) With a view to encourage rain water harvesting by Resident Welfare Associations (RWAs)/Group Housing Societies, the Government of NCT of Delhi has formulated a scheme of financial assistance under which 50% of the total cost of the project subject to a maximum of Rs. 50,000/- is being given as a grant to such RWAs/Group Housing Societies, who adopt rain water harvesting.

Grants-in-Aid for Effluent Treatment Plants*[English]*

5564. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry of Environment and Forests provides Grants-in-Aid for encouraging common effluent treatment plants;

(b) if so, details of the Grants-in-Aid provided during the Tenth Five Year Plan, year-wise, State-wise and Plant-wise;

(c) whether Air Quality Monitoring Systems are also being run by the Ministry;

(d) if so, the names of places where these systems have been installed and the details of amount spent on these systems during the said period, State-wise and system-wise;

(e) whether any proposal for increasing Air Quality Monitoring Systems and other allied schemes is under consideration of the Government; and

(f) 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 Ministry of Environment and Forests provides Grants-in-Aid in terms of Central subsidy matching amount provided by the State Government for common effluent treatment plants (CETPs). During the Tenth Five Year Plan funds have been released for the CETPs in the State of Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Punjab and Andhra Pradesh to the tune of Rs. 2.47 crores, Rs. 5.47 crores and Rs. 3.95 crores during 2002-03, 2003-04 & 2004-05 respectively.

(c) and (d) The Central Pollution Control Board has established 313 ambient air quality monitoring stations in the country and three continuous air quality monitoring stations are in operation in Delhi. The amount spent on ambient air quality monitoring network during 2002-03, 2003-04 & 2004-05 was Rs. 2.35 crores, Rs. 2.13 crores & Rs. 1.76 crores respectively.

(e) and (f) There is a proposal for increasing the ambient air quality monitoring stations and also to set up 16 continuous ambient air quality monitoring stations on a cost sharing basis with the respective State Pollution Control Boards.

Setting up of Monitoring Panel

5565. SHRI NARAYAN CHANDRA BORKATAKY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has set up monitoring panel to oversee implementation of Crop Insurance scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government is aware of non-implementation of Crop Insurance Scheme in flood affected areas of Assam; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and 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 KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not apply.

(c) and (d) The State of Assam is implementing National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS) since inception of the scheme. The entire state including flood affected areas is covered under NAIS. During last ten crop seasons (i.e. Rabi 1999-2000 to Kharif 2004) 39079 farmers over an area of 30649 hectares have been covered in Assam and claims amounting to Rs. 51.67 lakh have become payable to the farmers in the State.

EPF of HUDA Employees

5566. SHRI KULDEEP BISHNOI: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Haryana Urban Development Authority (HUDA) is defaulter in depositing the amount of EPF of their employees with the Regional Provident Fund Commissioner, Karnal;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the extent of EPF of HUDA employees that has not been deposited with the Employees Provident Fund Organization so far;

(d) whether any deadlock for depositing the amount of EPF of their employees of HUDA has been announced by the Regional Provident Fund Commissioner, Karnal to the authority of HUDA; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government to ensure prompt payment of EPF savings to the retiring employees of HUDA?

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

(b) The establishment has been granted exclusion from the Employees' Provident Fund & Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952. However, due to non-submission of necessary details the transfer of funds has not taken place.

(c) An amount of Rs. 30.87 crores assessed as dues towards contribution and damages is to be paid by HUDA to the Employees' Provident Fund Organization.

(d) Notice for depositing the amount has already been issued by the Regional Provident Fund Commissioner, Karnal to the HUDA.

(e) Claims received from outgoing employees of HUDA as on 31.3.2005 are being settled by Regional Provident Fund Commissioner, Karnal. No claims are pending as on date.

[Translation]

Prakriti Aur Parivartan Programme

5567. SHRI BAPU HARI CHAURE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a programme named 'Prakriti Aur Parivartan' is being organized with the cooperation of Bharat Gyan Vigyan Samiti and Ministry of Environment and Forests;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof; and

(c) the names of the participants therein?

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

(b) The environment theatre festival, namely, 'Prakriti Aur Pariyavaran' was organized by the Ministry of

Environment and Forests in association with Bharat Gyan Vigyan Samiti, New Delhi, at Mavlankar Auditorium and Constitution Club Lawns, Rafi Marg, New Delhi from 18th to 22nd February 2005 to disseminate awareness on environment protection and conservation through medium of folk dances, street theatre and stage plays.

(c) A statement showing the details of participants is enclosed.

Statement

List of participants

Theatre Groups

1. Chorus Repertory, Imphal
2. Indian People's Theatre Association, Patna
3. Bhoomika Creative Dance Centre, New Delhi
4. Kalakshetra, Manipur
5. Naya Theatre, Bhopal
6. Kerala Shastra Sahitya Parishad, Kerala
7. Samudaya, Karnataka
8. Prayog, New Delhi

Folk Dance Groups

Folk dance groups from the following States have participated:

1. Rajasthan
2. Chhattisgarh
3. Gujarat
4. Madhya Pradesh
5. Jharkhand
6. Mizoram
7. Daman

Destruction of Foodgrains

5568. SHRI RAGHUVVEER SINGH KOSHAL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Food Corporation of India (FCI) and Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC) sell their damaged stocks to private firms who resell it in the open market;

(b) if so, the details of such firms during the last three years, godown-wise and year-wise;

(c) whether these firms are prohibited from selling these stocks for human consumption;

(d) if so, whether the Government put some identification marks to differentiate these from good quality foodgrains; 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 (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) to (c) No, Sir. Damaged foodgrains are sold by the FCI and CWC only to bonafide State owned Departments/Agencies who are users of damaged foodgrains and other bonafide registered parties who are not permitted to resell the said stocks in the open market or for human consumption.

(d) and (e) The damaged stocks are clearly segregated and placed in separate stacks in the storage godowns. Proper identification marks indicating the stocks as damaged and unfit for human consumption are also prominently displayed.

Verification of P.C.O. Machines

5569. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any proposal from the Government of Uttar Pradesh for verification of machines used for metering of telephone calls by PCOs;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

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) Government of Uttar Pradesh had made a proposal for verification of Telephone PCO meters under the provisions of the Standards of Weights and Measures Act 1976.

(c) PCC meters are not included in the Schedules to the Standards of Weights and Measures (General) Rules, 1987. As such, the provisions of the said Act do not extend to these instruments.

[English]

Impact of Poisonous Air on Human Health

5570. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that the air in many cities including metro cities and towns has not only become polluted but poisonous also;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether not only common men but neo-natal children have been found to be suffering from heart ailments as a result of the same; and

(d) if so, the effective steps the Government is taking to protect against the future impending calamity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) According to the Central Pollution Control Board, the ambient levels of suffur dioxide and oxides of nitrogen in major cities and towns are well within the prescribed environmental norms on annual average basis. However the ambient levels of Respirable Suspended Particulate Matter (RSPM) have exceeded the prescribed limit in some cities/towns.

(c) and (d) There is no conclusive data available to confirm heart ailments attributable to air pollution. The strategies adopted and measures taken to control air pollution include supply of improved auto-fuel, tightening of vehicular and industrial emission norms, mandatory environmental clearance for specified industries, promotion of cleaner technologies, strengthening net-work of air quality monitoring stations, assessment of air pollution load and source apportionment studies, preparation and implementation of action plans for major cities & critically polluted areas.

Sponge Iron Plants

5571. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Sponge Iron Plants (both Medium and Large) set up in Orissa so far;

(b) the amount of revenue paid by each such plant to the Government during each of the last three years and current year; and

(c) the production performance achieved by each of them during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) As per the available information, there are 22 units in the state of Orissa engaged in the production of sponge iron.

(b) The information relating to the revenue paid by the sponge iron units is not monitored in the Ministry of Steel.

(c) The production of sponge iron in the state of Orissa during the last three years and current year is as under:

Year	(Unit tonnes)			
	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05 (April-Dec'04) Prev.)
Production	537403	786448	836793	846128

(Source: Joint Plant Committee)

Food and Nutrition Watch

5572. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:
SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO:

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

(a) whether the Planning Commission has suggested the setting up of a Food and Nutrition watch to function as a think-tank on food and nutrition security issues and review of programmes for eradication of hunger;

(b) if so, the details thereof and by when it is likely to be set up;

(c) whether the Committee on nutrition security has recommended a number of measures for ensuring nutrition security;

(d) if so, whether these recommendations have been considered by the Union Government;

(e) if so, whether the State Governments have been urged to adopt these programmes; and

(f) if so, the reaction of the State Governments thereto?

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 Planning Commission has received the approval for setting up of Food and Nutrition Security Watch (FNSW). The composition of FNSW is being finalised. However, FNSW should bring under its umbrella major programmes on Food and Nutrition which work out to Rs. 40,000 plus crore covering PDS, Food for work, ICDS and Mid-Day Meals. At the end of the year, FNSW would bring out national reports on:

- Food and availability situation in the country.
- Food access situation (Impact of PDS/FFW).
- Impact of Mid-Day Meal Programme on nutrition security and retention in the schools.
- Impact of the ICDS Programme on nutrition security of children.
- Hot spots in the country that are especially food-insecure.
- Impact of Food for Work, NREGA on food security.

(c) Yes, Sir. The Inter Ministry Task Group on Food and Nutrition Security constituted under the Chairpersonship of Secretary (Planning Commission) in August 2004 has suggested a number of measures for ensuring nutritional security in its recent report.

(d) to (f) Information is being collected.

[Translation]

Reservation of SCs/STs Backward Classes

5573. SHRI LALMANI PRASAD: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of employees belonging to SCs, STs and OBCs in various categories working in the Ministry of Water Resources;

(b) the number of SCs, STs and OBCs personnels in 'A', 'B', 'C' and 'D' groups separately in various departments;

(c) whether reservation quota of SCs/STs and OBCs has been filled;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) by when it is likely to be filled up;

(f) whether any action has been taken/proposed to be taken/against the officials responsible for not filling the quota; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (g) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Amendment in Factories Act, 1948

5574. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO:
SHRI SITA RAM YADAV:
SHRI RABINDER KUMAR RANA:

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to bring amendments in the Factories Act, 1948 in order to make it labour friendly; and

(b) if so, by when the said amendment is likely to be implemented?

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

(b) It has been decided to introduce the Bill in the Parliament for the proposed amendment.

[Translation]

Black Marketing of Sugar

5575. SHRI BHUPENDRASINH SOLANKI:
SHRI ANNASAHAB M.K. PATIL:
SHRI MAHESH KANODIA:

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

(a) whether incidents of hoarding and black marketing of sugar have been reported in the country recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to take any steps to stop the black marketing and facilitate supply of sugar at fair price;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) 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) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) to (e) The Government closely and constantly monitors the price of sugar in the country and takes necessary fiscal/non-fiscal measures as warranted.

[English]

Bio-Diesel as Fuel

5576. SHRI T.K. HAMZA:
SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry of Agriculture has conducted any study about the new experiments of bio-diesel as the future fuel;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Ministry of Agriculture has any plan to promote Tree Borne Oil (TBO) seeds plantation, which is being used for the bio-diesel generation; 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) Yes, Sir. Central Government is experimenting with various mixes of bio-diesel, produced from oilseeds including *Jatropha curcus*, with Diesel in various types of vehicles. The Government is in continuous discussions with the automobile industry for sharing of results of these experiments.

(c) and (d) The Ministry of Agriculture through the National Oilseeds and Vegetable Oil Development (NOVOD) Board is implementing a Central Sector Scheme of "Integrated Development of Tree Borne Oilseeds", including *Jatropha curcus* and *Karanja*. The oil of *Jatropha curcus* and *Karanja* is found suitable for bio-diesel production. Under the Scheme, assistance is provided for nursery raising, commercial plantation, establishment of seed procurement and oil expelling centers, installation of pre-processing and processing equipment, development of elite planting material and plantation, transfer of technology etc. for development of tree borne oilseeds in the country.

Water Tariff Policy

5577. SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY:
SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to link nine ongoing major irrigation projects with water tariff policy as reported in 'Asian Age' dated April 4, 2005;

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

(c) whether there will be any increase in water tariff in various States as a result thereof;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps being taken by the Government to safeguard the interests of consumers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) The nine ongoing major irrigation projects

referred to in the news item are already receiving assistance under Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme. The Ministry of Water Resources has no specific proposal to link these projects with water tariff policy.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

Allocation for Oil Palm

5578. SHRI M. SHIVANNA:
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has to release budgetary allocation for Oil Palm development in Karnataka for the year 2004-05;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the Government proposes to release the funds?

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) An amount of Rs. 2155 lakhs as Central share has already been released to Karnataka during 2004-05 under the Centrally Sponsored Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize. Out of this total allocation, an amount of Rs. 431.16 lakhs, including unspent balance of previous year, has been provided for oil palm development programme by the State Government as per the requirement in the state.

(c) Question does not arise.

Production of Quality Fertilizers

5579. SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA:
SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY:

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

(a) whether the Government has set up any agency to maintain quality control in the physical mixtures of fertilizers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the names of Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) producing fertilizers in the country at present;

(d) the total quantity of physical mixtures made by them during each of the last three years;

(e) whether any guidelines are being issued to States on usages of fertilizer mixtures according to the availability of soil and Type of crops; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) and (b) The Fertilizer (Control) Order (FCO) 1985 provides for adequate safeguards on manufacturing and sale of fertilizers in the country. No person is allowed to sell/manufacture any fertilizer or mixture of fertilizer, which does not conform to the standards laid down under the FCO. There are 67 fertilizer quality Control testing laboratories in the country including 4 of the Government of India at Faridabad, Mumbai, Chennai & Kalyani to test the quality of fertilizers. No separate agency has been set up by the government of India for quality control of physical mixtures.

(c) and (d) The Fertilizers And Chemicals Travancore Limited (FACT) is the only fertilizer manufacturing Central Public Sector Undertaking that manufactures physical mixture of fertilizers. The total quantity of physical mixtures produced by M/s FACT during the last three years is as follows:

Year	Quantity (In MTs)
2002-03	18847
2003-04	14141
2004-05	11415

(e) and (f) The Government of India encourages the balanced use of nutrients based on the soil test recommendation and requirement of the crops. In order to check the mushrooming of the undesired grades of mixture fertilizers, the Government of India has issued guidelines to the State Governments for regulating the grades of mixtures. However, application of these guidelines has been deferred till July 22, 2005.

Decline in Visitors of Delhi Zoo

5580. SHRI G.V. HARSHA KUMAR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a steady drop in visitors of Delhi Zoo as reported in 'The Hindu' dated 11 January 2005;

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

(c) the steps being initiated by the Government to attract more visitors to Delhi Zoo?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) No, Sir. On the contrary the visitors data of last three years as below clearly reveal that there is increase in number of visitors-

Sl.No.	Year	No. of Visitors (in lacs)
1.	2002-03	12.73
2.	2003-04	13.35
3.	2004-05	13.44

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The National Zoological Park has already enhanced the public facilities viz. installation of sufficient number of resting benches, public convenience, drinking water (Water vending machine) facilities, improve the transportation facilities inside National Zoological Park by augmenting battery operated trolleys, etc. The visitors participation programmes such as Wildlife Week, Van Mahotsav, Seminars, Principal/Teachers Orientation Programme, Guided Tours, Zoo Club, etc. are also being organized to attract more visitors to the Zoo.

Water Harvesting in Saurashtra Region in Gujarat

5581. SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received any proposal from the Government of Gujarat for water harvesting in Saurashtra Region in Gujarat; and

(b) if so, by when a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard alongwith assistance proposed to be provided to the State Government during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) No such proposal has been received in Central Ground Water Board/Ministry of Water Resources.

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Anti-Erosion Works in Ganga Basin States

5582. SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN:
SHRI HEMMAL MURMU:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of amount allocated and released for anti-erosion work in the country especially in Ganga basin States;

(b) whether the Chairman of the Ganga Flood Control Commission and others have constituted a committee in consultation with the concerned State Governments to complete the anti-erosion schemes within stipulated time frame;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the amount released by the Government has been utilized by the State Governments; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a), (d) and (e) The details of amount allocated, released and utilized for anti erosion works in Ganga Basin States in respect of "Critical Anti Erosion Works in Ganga Basin States" to be implemented during 2004-2005 to 2006-2007 in Xth Plan are as below.

(Rs. in crore)

Sl.No.	State	Fund allocated during Xth Plan (2004-07)	Fund released during 2004-2005	Fund utilized
1.	Uttar Pradesh	28.45	12.58	14.39
2.	Uttaranchal	4.00	1.00	1.35
3.	Himachal Pradesh	2.32	1.00	Nil
4.	Bihar	40.00	19.42	12.22
5.	Jharkhand	2.30	Nil	Nil
6.	West Bengal	51.00	15.00	4.58

(b) and (c) Yes Sir. A Committee under Chairman, Ganga Flood Control Commission (GFCC) with members from States was constituted to identify schemes that could be included in above ongoing Centrally Sponsored Scheme during Xth Plan. The individual schemes are submitted to GFCC for appraisal following which it recommends release of Central fund. GFCC also monitors the implementation of the schemes.

Drainage System

5583. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE:
SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the heavy pressure on drainage system of States including Delhi;

(b) whether this pressure causes water logging and flooding in Delhi;

(c) if so, the areas of States including Delhi affected primarily by water logging during the last three years;

(d) the main reasons for heavy pressure on drainage system; and

(e) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to solve this problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Drainage congestion & consequent water logging may be either due to surface flooding or rise in water table, as a result of excess inflow as compared to outflow which may be either on account of excess rain or over irrigation. Various agencies/committees/commissions have studied the problem of drainage congestion/water logging and estimated/assessed the area liable to water logging in the country. The Irrigation Commission (1972) estimated the total area liable to water logging in the country as 4.84 m.ha. The National Commission on Agriculture (1976) estimated total water logged area as 6 million ha., out of which 3.4 million ha. is stated to be subject to flooding mostly in the State of West Bengal, Orissa, Andhra Pradesh, Punjab, U.P., Gujarat, Tamil Nadu and Kerala and rest of the area lies in irrigated areas mostly in the States of Haryana, Punjab, Rajasthan and U.P. The Ministry of Agriculture in 1984-85 reviewed the area suffering from drainage congestion

and water logging and revised the estimate as 8.53 million ha. As per latest figures reported by the States including Delhi, total area prone to water logging/drainage congestion is 9 m.ha.

(b) The total geographical area of Delhi is 1,483 sq. km. The topography of Delhi is mostly flat. There is a big depression namely Najafgarh Jeel situated in south west of Delhi adjoining Haryana. The area receives drainage water from adjoining States of Rajasthan & Haryana for which the main outlet is the Najafgarh Drain outfalling into the Yamuna river. Due to the rapid urbanization in Delhi and also drainage improvements being carried out in the adjoining States, the flow in the Najafgarh drain has been on the increase continuously. The drain is unable to discharge these flows rapidly, this, in turn has led to drainage congestion in the tributary drains and the adjoining areas. In the trains Yamuna colonies of Shahdra, there are certain low lying areas which are prone to drainage congestion during high stage in the Yamuna.

(c) State-wise area affected by floods during 2002-04 as received from respective State Revenue Authorities is given in the enclosed Statement. Information on area affected due to water logging is not available.

(d) Increase in population, urbanisation, reclamation of low lying areas/depressions, encroachment into flood plains, poor maintenance of drainage system are the main reasons of increasing pressure on drainage system.

(e) Flood Management being within the purview of States, the schemes for flood control are planned, funded and executed by the State Governments. The role of Central Government is technical, catalytical and promotional in nature.

In view of the seriousness of the problem, the government of India has approved in February, 2004, Centrally Sponsored Scheme, namely "Improvement of drainage in critical areas of the country" at an estimated cost of Rs. 54.57 crore for implementation during X Plan. Amount released to the States of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Orissa & Uttar Pradesh till 31st March, 2004 was Rs. 9.50 crore.

Brahmaputra Board identified 34 drainage congested areas, out of which 24 are located in Brahmaputra valley,

8 in Barak valley & 2 in the state of Tripura out of those following have been taken up for execution by Brahmaputra Board:

- (i) Harang drainage development scheme
- (ii) Barbhang drainage development scheme

Government of NCT of Delhi has forwarded a proposal on "Delhi Water Supply and Sewerage Reform Project" to Ministry of Urban Development seeking world Bank Assistance in November, 2004. The proposal envisages to undertake various refurbishment of existing waste water collection, treatment and disposal system in Delhi.

The Task Force constituted by Ministry of Water Resources for flood management/erosion control in August, 2004 also addressed this matter and has identified scheme for drainage improvement in Bihar, West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh for implementation in Xth and XIth Plan.

Statement

State-wise Area affected by floods during 2002-04

Sl.No.	Name of State	Area affected in m.ha. 2002	Area affected in m.ha. 2003	Area affected in m.ha. 2004
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	0.000	0.287	0.000
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	Neg	0.207	0.164
3.	Assam	1.187	0.932	2.851
4.	Bihar	1.969	1.820	4.986
5.	Chhattisgarh	Nil	0.074	—
6.	Gujarat	0.000	—	0
7.	Goa	Nil	—	Nil
8.	Haryana	0.000	Neg	0.000
9.	Himachal Pradesh	0.000	0.033	Neg
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	0.000	—	—
11.	Jharkhand	Nil	—	—
12.	Karnataka	Nil	0.009	—

1	2	3	4	5
13.	Kerala	0.036	—	—
14.	Manipur	0.000	—	—
15.	Madhya Pradesh	0.002	0.126	0.000
16.	Maharashtra	0.391	0.037	Neg
17.	Meghalaya	0.011	0.002	0.029
18.	Mizoram	0.000	0.000	0.000
19.	Nagaland	0.000	0.000	—
20.	Orissa	0.000	0.478	—
21.	Punjab	0.074	0.000	Neg
22.	Rajasthan	0.00	0.073	—
23.	Sikkim	0.000	Neg	—
24.	Tamilnadu	1.280	Nil	—
25.	Tripura	0.012	0.006	—
26.	Uttar Pradesh	0.111	2.355	—
27.	Uttaranchal	Nil	Nil	—
28.	West Bengal	2.017	0.015	0.001
29.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	Nil	—	—
30.	Chandigarh	0.000	0.000	—
31.	Daman and Diu	0.000	—	0.000
32.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0.000	0.049	0.000
33.	Delhi	Nil	0.000	—
34.	Lakshadweep	Nil	0.000	—
35.	Pondicherry	0.000	0.000	—
Total		7.090	6.503	8.031

Crops Damage due to Shortage of Water

5584. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a major part of standing crops could not be saved due to shortage of water in Uttar Pradesh and certain other States during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has taken any steps in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) 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) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Public Distribution System in Jammu and Kashmir

5585. SHRI MADAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has provided any assistance to Jammu and Kashmir for strengthening of Public Distribution System during each of the last three years;

(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) Under the Hill Transport Subsidy Scheme the Government of India reimburses the full transportation cost of foodgrains upto designated Principal Distribution Centres (PDCs) in predominantly hilly States to enable the State Governments to reach foodgrains in interior areas. Under the scheme the Government of Jammu & Kashmir has received Rs. 3.45 crore in 2001-02, Rs. 4.62 crore in 2002-03 and Rs. 3.13 crore in 2003-04.

Unemployment Rate

5586. SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that National Sample Survey conducted earlier revealed that productive absorption of surplus under employed labour force in the rural economy needs focus of our planning process as unemployment rate has been steadily high for the last several years; and

(b) if so, the measures taken in this regard to generate more employment?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRA SHEKHAR RAO): (a) Government is aware about the prevalence of under employment in the workforce of the country. A significant proportion of workers living below the poverty line are in need of better employment.

(b) Government is tackling the problem of unemployment in its various facets. Government is targeting creation of around 5 crore employment opportunities during the 10th Plan period with special emphasis on labour intensive sectors such as agriculture, irrigation, agro-forestry, small and medium enterprises, information communication technology, tourism and other services. Besides this, a National Rural Employment Guarantee Bill has been introduced in Parliament, which provides for 100 days of employment in a year for poor families in the rural areas. A food for work programme has already been launched in selected 150 backward districts of the country.

Anit-Erosion Works in Maritime States

5587. SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has discontinued the assistance for anti-erosion works in maritime States;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) for "Critical anti erosion works in coastal other than Ganga Basin States" costing Rs. 20.64 crore was sanctioned in 2003-04 and has been transferred to state sector since 2005-06 as a part of review of CSS in light of National Common Minimum Programme mandate.

(c) Does not arise.

[*Translation*]

Factories Producing Spurious Pesticides

5588. SHRI RAJNARAYAN BUDHOLIA:
SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN:

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

(a) whether some factories producing spurious pesticides have been detected recently in the country;

(b) if so the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) to (c) Detection of factories producing spurious pesticides is dealt with by the State Governments under the provisions of the Insecticides Act 1968. State Governments have not reported any such instance so far to the Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals.

Rashtriya Krishak Ayog

5589. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR MODI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether 'Rashtriya Krishak Ayog' have any initiative for preparing a report on the basic issues affecting lives and livelihood of farmers, such as, suicides by farmers, reasons of suicides and corrective measures, rain based agriculture system, situations of draughts and floods, women farmers and role of Panchyati Raj institutions, etc;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the other issues which have been focussed in the report;

(d) the action taken by the Government for implementation of the report; and

(e) the time by which the recommendations of the report are 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 (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (e) Yes, Sir. The Commission has submitted its first interim Report titled "Serving Farmers and Saving Farming" in December, 2004. It deals with integrated life saving support programme for farm families facing acute distress, productivity and livelihood enhancement in rainfed areas, a new deal for women in agriculture, strengthening and expanding the horticulture revolution, enhancing productivity, quality and global competitiveness of cotton, sustaining and expanding trade of farm commodities and its sanitary and phytosanitary dimensions, village as knowledge centre and food and nutrition security of livestock and livelihoods. The report also covers rehabilitation of fishermen and farm families from distress due to TSUNAMI, empowerment of community based organizations and Panchayati Raj institutions and administrative initiatives like creation of a Gram Panchayat Mahila Fund for women.

The recommendations made in the interim report are not entirely in keeping with the Terms of Reference of the Commission and the Government is in dialogue with the Commission on this matter. Several recommendations made by the Commission are already covered under the existing schemes of the Government and the schemes to be taken up on the annual plan for this year. In respect of Village Knowledge Centers, the Finance Minister has already announced in his Budget Speech that the initiative will be supported through NABARD.

The recommendations require examination by various Departments for which action has been initiated.

[English]

Promotion of Tourism

5590. SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) whether India is now the fifth top tourist destination;
- (b) if so, the attributed to achieve this task;
- (c) the steps proposed to be taken to further promotion of tourism industry;
- (d) whether his Ministry has any tie up with the Ministry of Culture in this regard; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Promotion of tourism to further augment the inflow of tourists is being undertaken on a regular basis, through an integrated marketing and promotional strategy and a synergized campaign in association with the travel trade and State Governments.

(d) and (e) The Ministry of Tourism works in close coordination with the Ministry of Culture for the promotion of cultural tourism.

Social Security Benefits to Employees of ESI Scheme

5591. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of employees covered under Employees State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) in the country, State-wise;
- (b) whether the Government proposed to extend social security benefits to all the employees covered under ESI scheme;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRA SHEKHAR RAO): (a) The information is given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) and (c) The ESI Scheme made under the Employees' State Insurance Act, 1948 covers employees drawing wages upto Rs. 7500/- per month working in power using factories employing 10 or more employees and non-power using factories, shops, hotels, restaurants, cinemas including pre-view theatres, road motor transport undertakings and newspaper establishments employing 20 or more employees. The benefits available under the Act in the contingencies of sickness, maternity, disablement and death due to employment injury are being provided to the covered employees. Medical benefits are being provided to the employees as well as their dependant family members.

(d) Does not arise, in view of (b) above.

Statement*Coverage under ESI Scheme*

(As on 31.03.2004)

Sl.No.	State/U.T.	No. of Employees Covered under ESI Scheme	No. of IPs
1.	Andhra Pradesh	525150	567550
2.	Assam and Meghalaya	31400	35050
3.	Bihar	31150	31300
4.	Chandigarh	27750	32700
5.	Chhattisgarh	23350	24300
6.	Delhi	499900	573450
7.	Goa	73550	81700
8.	Gujarat	440900	485300
9.	Haryana	387150	431550
10.	Himachal Pradesh	38250	44600
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	15300	18100
12.	Jharkhand	57850	76550
13.	Karnataka	654000	756150
14.	Kerala	311150	353700
15.	Madhya Pradesh	167850	187200
16.	Maharashtra	1038800	1139600
17.	Orissa	109600	124650
18.	Pondicherry	48550	54550
19.	Punjab	337900	371700
20.	Rajasthan	246300	275050
21.	Tamil Nadu	988850	1107000
22.	Uttaranchal	23700	24000
23.	Uttar Pradesh	435900	464950
24.	West Bengal	568000	652000
Total (All-India)		70,82,300	79,12,700

*[Translation]***Right to Strike**

5592. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether various Labour Unions of the country have sent proposals to the Government for safeguarding their right to strike;

(b) if so, whether the Government proposes to bring an amendment bill in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government has held or proposes to hold any discussion with the labour unions in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) No, Sir.

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

(d) and (e) The Industrial Disputes Act, 1947, under Section 22 and 23 has laid down certain restrictions on the right to strike both in public utility services and industrial workmen under the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947.

*[English]***Illegal Bt. Cotton Varieties**

5593. SHRI D. VITTAL RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the illegal varieties of Bt. Cotton are spreading at a fast rate;

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

(c) whether the regulatory agencies are not showing any response to control the situation of penalize the offenders;

(d) if so, the reason therefor; and

(e) the steps taken/to be taken by the Government to stop the spreading of illegal varieties of Bt. Cotton?

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) No Sir. However, there have been certain reports of production and supply of illegal Bt. Cotton seeds in some States, particularly in Gujarat and Tamilnadu. The Genetic Engineering Approval Committee in the Ministry of Environment & Forests and Department of Agriculture & Cooperation have advised all the Bt. Cotton growing States from time to time to take punitive action against producers, suppliers and venders of spurious Bt. Cotton seeds under the provisions of Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and Seed Legislations. Besides, the Central Institute for Cotton Research, Nagpur has been notified as referral lab. For detecting the presence/absence of Bt. Gene. As per information made available by the Department of Seed Certification, Tamilnadu, a laboratory has been established in the Directorate of Seed Certification, Coimbatore to test Cotton seed to analyse whether it contains illegal Bt. Gene. It has been intimated by the Government of Punjab, where Bt. Cotton varieties have been approved for cultivation during Kharif 2005, that they have issued strict instructions to all field functionaries to check and stop sale of any spurious seeds. They have also undertaken massive campaigns for educating farmers on the issue. The Government of Gujarat has intimated that they are taking all precautionary steps through its quality control mechanism to check any illegal sale of spurious Bt. Cotton seeds which includes directives to all District Collectors and a massive awareness programme for the farming community. Upto June, 2004, 61751 kgs. suspected Bt. Cotton seed were detained and action taken.

[Translation]

Iron Ore Reserves

5594. SHRI PRADEEP GANDHI:
SHRIMATI KARUNA SHUKLA:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the details of iron ore reserves available in the country particularly Chhattisgarh, State-wise;

(b) the quantum of iron ore reserves for which the mines have been sanctioned/allotted to and reserved for the public sector undertakings of the Union Government;

(c) whether the Union Government has received any requests for reserving iron ore reserves for the State Public Sector Undertaking CMDC; and

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

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) As per enclosed Statement-I.

(b) As per enclosed Statement-II.

(c) and (d) Ministry of Mines had received 2 (two) proposals for reservation of iron ore in the State of Chhattisgarh from the Chhattisgarh Mineral Development Corporation (CMDC) in the districts of Dantewada and Kanker. No final decision in the matter has been taken for want of certain information, from the State Government of Chhattisgarh.

Statement I

*State-wise total iron ore reserves in the country at present
In Situ Reserves of Iron Ore
As on 01.04.2000*

HEMATITE

(In thousand tonnes)

States	Proved	Probable	Possible	Total
Andhra Pradesh	10050.03	15159.76	64092.99	89302.12
Bihar	—	—	55.00	55.00
Chhattisgarh	993159.75	537553.61	747506.00	2278221.36

Goa	461013.90	149372.41	119460.79	729847.10
Jharkhand	2560232.67	334830.30	386019.29	3281082.26
Karnataka	795721.78	208747.25	311194.30	1315663.33
Madhya Pradesh	47098.40	23520.99	81636.92	152256.31
Maharashtra	106942.42	76939.35	89282.49	273164.26
Orissa	1824172.68	762910.37	1590270.65	4177353.70
Rajasthan	2070.94	1268.11	5577.22	20330.27
All India	6800462.57	2121716.15	3395096.99	12317275.71

MAGNETITE

(in thousand tonnes)

Andhra Pradesh	43034	1266666	—	1309700
Assam	4240	—	—	4240
Goa	67358	5416	115218	187992
Jharkhand	1343	3846	2358	7547
Karnataka	1653457	503872	1686610	3843939
Kerala	—	26882	12304	39186
Maharashtra	530	108	—	638
Rajasthan	15	60	464	539
Tamilnadu	—	—	1433	1433
All India	1769977	1806850	1818987	5395214

(Source: Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM))

*Statement II***SAIL**

Name of the Mine	Location	Approx Mineable Reserves (Million Tonnes)
Kiriburu	Jharkhand	44*
Meghataburu	Jharkhand	26*
Bolani	Orissa	154*
Barsua	Orissa	42*
Kalta	Orissa	70*

Rajhara	Chhattisgarh	21*
Dalli	Chhattisgarh	46**
Jharandalli	Chhattisgarh	13**
Mahamaya including Dulki	Chhattisgarh	12**
Dupadgiri Section	Karnataka	2.66*

IISCO, Bumpur (Subsidiary of SAIL)

Gua	Jharkhand	158*
Chiria	-do-	1121*

*As on 1.03.2005

**As on 1.01.2005

Total: 1709.66 million tonnes

NMDC

Name of the Mine	Location	Approx Mineable Reserves (Million Tonnes)*
Bailadila	Chhattisgarh	530
Donimalai Kumaraswamy	Karnataka	170
Total		700

*As on 1.4.2004.

KIOCL

Name of the Mine	Location	Approx Mineable Reserves (Million Tonnes)
Kudremukh*	Karnataka	340
Total		340

*This mine is also setting for closure after order of Hon'ble Supreme Court on 30.10.2002.

Thus the total quantity of iron ore reserves for which the mines have been sanctioned/allotted to and reserves for the Public Sector Undertakings is 2749.66 million tonnes.

[English]

Establishment of AEZ for Karnataka

5595. SHRI MANJUNATH KUNNUR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Karnataka has sent any proposal for establishment of Agri-Export Zone (AEZ) for Aromatic, Medicinal, Dye Plants, Grapes, Mango, Lime, Pomegranate and Potato;

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

(c) whether any fund has been sanctioned by the Government in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) 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) The details of the proposals are given in the enclosed Statement. The proposals are under consideration.

(c) to (e) Funds are sanctioned only after approval by the Steering Committee.

Statement

AEZ	Date of Receipt	Districts	Project Investments (Value in Rs. Lakhs)				Projects Exports (Qty. In MTs)
			Centre	State	Pvt.	Total	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Aromatic Medicinal and Dye Plants	12.03.03	Bangalore (Rural and Urban), Mysore, Chamrajnagar, Tumkur, Shimoga, Chikmagalore, Coorg, Dhakshina Kannada, Uttara Kannada, Bellary, Raichur, Kopal, Bidar, Belgaum, Dharwad	525.00	570.00	1158.00	2253.00	79575.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Mango	24.02.04	Bangalore (Urban and Rural) Kolar, Tumkur, Belgaum, Bijapur, Harwad, Haveri and Utara Kannada	1026.00	619.00	2455.00	4100.00	20000.00
Grapes	12.03.03	Bijarpur, Belgaum	690.00	690.00	827.00	2207.00	9523.64
Pomegrate and Lime	08.09.03	Bangalore (Urban and rural), Kolar, Tumkur, Chitradurga, Davanagere, Shimoga, Mysore, Chamarajanagar, Mandya, Kodagu, D. Kannada, Udupi, Hassan Chickamagalur, Belgaum, Bijarpur, Bagalkot, Dharwar, Gadag, Haveri, Uttarakannada, Gulbarga, Raichur, Koppal, Bellary, Bidar	231.25	231.25	462.50	925.00	3500.00

Recommendations of DPLRC

5596. SHRI MUNAWAR HASSAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether one case of DPEA has been dropped on recommendation of Drug Price Liability Review Committee (DPLRC);

(b) if so, the name of the company, drugs and the overcharged amount; and

(c) the reasons for recommending the said decision?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) A demand notice amounting to Rs. 41.75 lakhs was sent to M/s. Standard Pharmaceutical Remedies in respect of bulk drug Gentamycin Sulphate suo-motu on the basis of the information available with the Government. When the case was referred to the Drug Prices Liabilities Review Committee (DPLRC), the Committee noted that M/s. Standard Pharmaceutical Remedies were not engaged in the manufacture of

formulations based on Gentamycin Sulphate and recommended for dropping of the demand.

Production of Fertilizers

5597. SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the targets set for the production of fertilizer during the Tenth Five Year Plan and the achievements made thereon during 2004-2005;

(b) whether the Government has any proposal to set up new fertilizers plants and for the expansion of existing plants during the said period; and

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

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) As per the Tenth Plan working group assuming 100% capacity utilization in existing plants, the estimated production of nitrogen and phosphate in the Tenth Five Year Plan, in nutrient terms is estimated as follows:

Year	(lakh MT)	
	Nitrogen (N)	Phosphate (P)
2002-2003	120.58	52.31
2003-2004	121.74	52.31
2004-2005	121.74	52.31
2005-2006	121.74	52.31
2006-2007	129.28	52.31

Achievement made during 2004-05 was 113.30 lakh MT of nitrogen and 39.93 lakh MT of phosphate.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. There was no proposal to set up new fertilizers plants and for expansion of existing plants by the Union Government during the said period.

Rehabilitation of People Displaced Due to Establishment of Steel Plants

5598. SHRI JUAL ORAM: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has laid down any conditions for the public as well as private sector steel plants to provide job and compensation to the land ousters;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of people displaced during the last three years and current year or being displaced with the establishment of both public as well as private sector steel plants in various States including Orissa; and

(d) the details of the steps taken both by public as well as private sector steel plants to provide employment and compensation to the family members of lands ousters for their suitable rehabilitation?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) and (b) Providing of compensation etc. to the land ousters whose lands have been acquired for setting up of steel plants both in public and private sectors is the responsibility of the concerned State Government and the Plant authorities in accordance with the conditions/agreements finalised by the State Governments at the time of land acquisition. As a part of the rehabilitation packages/agreements, finalised by the State Governments

and subject to laid down conditions, there is generally a provision for preference in jobs to the land ousters.

(c) During the last 3 years, NMDC, a PSU under Ministry of Steel, has acquired land for its proposed Iron & Steel Plant at Bastar, in Chhattisgarh state. Since this private land did not have any dwelling unit, no person was displaced due to this acquisition. In so far as private sector steel plants are concerned, the information is not maintained by the Government.

(d) Based upon the agreement reached between the State Governments and plant authorities, various compensatory measures are provided to the displaced families like development of various civic facilities and amenities like Multi Purpose Halls, school buildings, free dispensaries, help centres, afforestation and horticulture activities thereby enabling the displaced families to earn their livelihood. Apart from this, in many cases free house sites are given to the displaced families. The concerned state Governments as well as the Plants have also provided basic amenities like water supply, streetlights, sanitation, education and recreational facilities in these rehabilitation colonies.

Conservation of Wetlands

5599. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY:
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:

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

(a) whether the Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology & Natural History (SACON) has warned about alarming pace of disappearance of wetlands;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the National Wetland Committee of the Ministry of Environment and Forests has taken any steps to initiate conservation planning of the wetlands on a national level; 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 Report entitled "Inland Water Lands of India-Conservation Priorities" by Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology & Natural History (SACON) presents information about wetlands of the size of 2 hectare and

above in 72 districts located in 10 States. Wetlands in 33 districts in the studied category are reported to have undergone spatial reduction. However, there is no corroborative evidence of these findings.

(c) and (d) The National Committee on Wetlands has identified 66 wetlands in the country. Out of which, 39 have been identified only last year. Under this programme, hundred per cent assistance is being given to concerned State Governments. for undertaking conservation activities like survey & demarcation, catchment area treatment, fisheries development, removal of weed, biodiversity conservation, pollution abatement, eco-tourism, purchase of fire fighting equipment, education & awareness, etc.

EPF Facilities to Workers of Small Companies

5600. SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to reduce the requirement of minimum number of workers for coverage under Employees Provident Fund (EPF) Act, 1952 from 20 workers to 10 workers so as to provide EPF facility to workers of small companies/establishments;

(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) to (c) A proposal for carrying out amendments to the Employees' Provident Funds & Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952 including reduction of minimum employees from 20 to 10 was considered by the Central Board of Trustees (Employees' Provident Fund) in its 157th meeting held on 09.07.2002. The decision of the Government in this regard would be taken at an appropriate time, after taking into consideration the relevant parameters.

Legislation of Shahtoosh Trade

5601. DR. M. JAGANNATH:
SHRI J. JANARDHANA REDDY:

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to lift ban on Shahtoosh trade and make it legal;

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

(c) whether any Expert Committee was set up to go into the whole matter;

(d) if so, the recommendations made by it;

(e) whether legalizing Shahtoosh trade will make the endangered species of Tibetan Antelope extinct in the near future;

(f) if so, the manner in which the Government proposes to protect Antelope whose number is dwindling very fast; and

(g) the earning the Government is expected to earn after the removal of the ban on shahtoosh trade?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Ministry of Textiles have constituted an expert committee to go into the matter. It is yet to submit its report.

(e) Legalising shahtoosh trade will have an adverse impact on survival of Tibetan Antelope.

(f) and (g) Does not arise.

Production of Fish

5602. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:
SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE:
SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the target fixed for production of fish in various States including Maharashtra during each of the last three years and the current financial year, State-wise;

(b) the action taken/proposed to be taken for increasing the production of fish;

(c) whether the Government proposes to set up separate Board for the said purpose;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) by when it is likely to be set up and made functional?

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 state-wise target for the production of fish are not fixed by the Department. However, estimate of fish production is projected at All India level. The projected Fish Production for the year 2002-03, 2003-04, 2004-05 and for the current financial year (2005-06) are 60.50 lakh tones, 62.50 lakh tones, 65.10 lakh tones and 69.80 lakh tones respectively. Against these projections, the actual production in the year 2002-03 and 2003-04 are 62.00 lakh tones and 63.99 lakh tones respectively.

(b) Various Centrally Sponsored Schemes are implemented by the Department during Tenth Plan to enhance fish production.

(c) to (e) The feasibility of establishing a National Fisheries Development Board is in the early stage of processing.

Situation of Godowns

5603. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of godowns of Food Corporation of India (FCI) are situated far away from the railway stations;

(b) if so, whether FCI has to incur huge expenditure for transportation of foodgrains to the said godowns;

(c) if so, the loss being suffered by FCI annually;

(d) the steps being taken by the Government to avoid such losses through unnecessary transportation; and

(e) the number of FCI godowns proposed to be set up in Maharashtra 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 (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Transportation of stocks from Railhead to storage depots is inevitable and included in operational costs.

(d) The FCI is making all out efforts to minimize the expenditure on this account by rationalizing the quantity of transportation. Besides, Handling & Transport Contracts to & from Railheads are awarded at competitive rates through tenders.

(e) As on 1-2-2005, in Maharashtra 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 foodgrains stocks.

[Translation]

Corruption in FCI

5604. SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether large scale corruption is prevalent in various offices and depots of Food Corporation of India;

(b) if so, the number of cases of corruption reported in FCI during the last three years; and

(c) the details of action taken against the officers against whom cases of corruption were registered during the said period?

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) No, Sir. However, some complaints have been received. The number of cases of corruption reported in the Food Corporation of India (FCI) during the years 2002, 2003 and 2004 are given in the enclosed statement-I.

(c) The details of action taken against the officers against whom cases of corruption were registered during the year 2002, 2003 and 2004 are given in the enclosed Statement-II.

Statement I*Number of Cases of Corruption Reported in the FCI during the years 2002, 2003 & 2004.*

Sl.No.	Nature of irregularity	2002	2003	2004
1.	Acceptance of illegal gratification/disproportionate assets	6	9	8
2.	Misappropriation of foodgrains	98	153	95
3.	Defalcation of accounts/misappropriation	23	13	18
4.	Misappropriation of dead stocks/construction of godowns	23	13	15
5.	Purchase of sub standard stocks	651	729	480
6.	Award of Handling and Transport contracts	14	6	12
7.	Transit/Storage Losses	760	713	488
8.	Administrative lapses/miscellaneous	191	206	103
Total		1766	1842	1219

Statement II*The details of Action Taken against the Officers/Officials against whom cases of Corruption were Registered during the year 2002, 2003 & 2004.*

Sl.No.	Nature of Penalty Imposed	2002	2003	2004
i.	Dismissal/removal/compulsorily retired	55	56	37
ii.	Reduction in rank	87	66	39
iii.	Reduction in time scale of pay	435	420	361
iv.	Withholding of increment	262	146	168
v.	Recovery from pay of the loss caused to FCI	1149	964	1346
vi.	Withholding of promotion	12	12	6
vii.	Censure	425	427	489
Total		2425	2091	2446
viii.	Warning issued/exoneration/cases closed	428	375	412
Grand Total		2853	2466	2858

*[English]***Setting up of Guest Houses/Hotels in Gujarat**

5605. SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government proposes to set up guest houses/hotels in Jamnagar, Rajkot, Bhavnagar, Ahmedabad, Surat in Gujarat by public sector, Joint sector or private sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the same is likely to be done?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Krishi Vigyan Kendras

5606. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH:
SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) sanctioned till date and how many of them are functional as on date, State-wise;

(b) whether there are serious complaints of financial irregularities and malfunctioning against these KVKs; and

(c) the measures taken to strengthen monitoring system and to bring transparency in the functioning of KVKs?

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 sanctioned 451 Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVK) till March, 2005, out of which 445 are functional. The state-wise details are given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) Some reports of irregularities and mal-functioning in KVKs have been received.

(c) The KVKs are monitored through eight Zonal Coordinating Units. The release of funds to KVKs by the Zonal Coordinators has been linked to performance review, receipt of Utilization Certificate and its verification.

Statement

List of functional KVK State-wise

Sl.No.	States/Union Territories	Total
1	2	3
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	01
2.	Andhra Pradesh	22

1	2	3
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	04
4.	Assam	14
5.	Bihar	25
6.	Chhattisgarh	09
7.	Delhi	01
8.	Goa	02
9.	Gujarat	17
10.	Haryana	18
11.	Himachal Pradesh	12
12.	Jammu and Kashmir	08
13.	Jharkhand	17
14.	Karnataka	23
15.	Kerala	14
16.	Lakshadweep	01
17.	Madhya Pradesh	34
18.	Maharashtra	32
19.	Manipur	03
20.	Meghalaya	05
21.	Mizoram	03
22.	Nagaland	03
23.	Orissa	21
24.	Pondicherry	02
25.	Punjab	15
26.	Rajasthan	32
27.	Sikkim	02
28.	Tamil Nadu	26
29.	Tripura	02
30.	Uttar Pradesh	53
31.	Uttaranchal	12
32.	West Bengal	12
Total		445

[*Translation*]

**Development and Strengthening of
Agriculture Marketing**

5607. SHRIMATI ANURADHA CHOUDHARY:
SHRI MOHD. TAHIR:
SHRI MUNSHI RAM:
SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR KUSHAWAHA:
SHRI RANEN BARMAN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Committee was set up by the Government to suggest measures for the development and strengthening of agriculture marketing system;

(b) if so, the recommendations made by said Committee;

(c) whether the said Committee has also pointed out the drawbacks in the policies formulated by the Government in this regard;

(d) whether the Government proposes to encourage the private sector participation in order to expand marketing base; 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) Yes, Sir.

(b) Major recommendations of the Committee are as follows:

- (i) Government need to examine existing legal framework governing the institution of regulated markets and remove all such restrictive provision which inhibit growth of a competitive marketing structure in the country.
- (ii) Government need to promote direct marketing of agricultural produce by the farmers to maximize their share in the price.
- (iii) More commodities should be added to the list of commodities allowed for forward and futures trading to reduce price risk and to facilitate

integration of domestic market with international markets.

(iv) Government should promote development of national warehousing receipt system for agricultural commodities to induce increased flow of funds to agriculture sector and to increase price risk management.

(v) Credit policy of the Government should support pledge financing by treating it as priority sector lending to agriculture with the facility of concessional re-finance.

(vi) Government need to promote marketing extension, training and research and use of information technology in agricultural sector to advise the farmers on (a) product planning, (b) market information (c) securing markets, (d) alternate/direct marketing, (e) improved marketing services including grading and packaging, and advantage of group marketing.

(c) The Committee has suggested various legislative reforms as well as the reorientation of the policies and programmes for development and strengthening of agricultural marketing in the country.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) The State Government have been advised to amend the State law dealing with agricultural marketing, viz. Agricultural Produce Marketing (Regulation) Act (APMC Act) in order to allow development of competitive markets in the private and cooperative sectors and to encourage direct marketing and contract farming programmes. With a view to attract private sector to take up market infrastructure projects, the State Governments have been requested to extend support in allocation of suitable land to set up agricultural produce markets, and in deregulation of areas where new markets will be set up from the purview of the APMC Act.

[*English*]

Environment Protection by Corporate Houses

5608. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL:
SHRI RAJESH VERMA:

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

(a) whether the Government has any plan to direct the corporate houses/big industrial houses to take care of or make them more responsible towards the environmental protection of the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) The Government has taken initiatives for making Corporate houses more responsible towards environment protection. After a series of interactive meetings with major industrial sectors, a Charter on Corporate Responsibility for Environment Protection was introduced in March, 2003. The Charter is a road map for progressive improvement in environmental management system for seventeen categories of highly polluting industries and a commitment for partnership of concerned Stakeholders.

[Translation]

Rise in Prices of Plastic Raw Material

5609. SHRI ATIQ AHAMAD: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that hundreds of plastic producing units in the country are on the verge of closure due to arbitrary increase in prices of raw materials by the petroleum companies;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the measures taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) to (c) Plastic raw materials viz. Polymers, are freely traded materials and their imports in the country are permitted under the Open General Licence (OGL). As such, the domestic price of Polymers generally follow international price trends and are not regulated by the Government. The price of crude in the international market has increased considerably which has affected the prices of raw material for plastic producing units in the country. No specific instance of closure of any plastic producing unit solely on account of price rise has come to the notice of the Government. In order to check the rising prices of Polymers, the Government has proposed to

reduce the customs duty on Polymers from 15% to 10% in the Finance Bill 2005-06.

[English]

New National Fertilizer Policy

5610. SHRI B. VINOD KUMAR: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has finalized a new national Fertilizer Policy for promoting balanced use of all fertilizers including bio-fertilizers etc;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, by when it is likely to be formulated?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) to (c) Government is promoting Integrated Nutrient Management which includes soil test based balanced and judicious use of chemical fertilizers in conjunction with organic fertilizer like arm yard manure, green manure, compost and bio-fertilizers.

[Translation]

Agriculture Cost affected by Product Patent Regime

5611. PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR: SHRI MUNSHI RAM:

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

(a) whether the Government has implemented Product Patent Regime from January 1, 2005;

(b) if so, whether the cost of agriculture has been affected by the new regime;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the steps being taken to control the prices of agriculture seeds and chemicals;

(e) whether the pesticides used in agriculture have been excluded from said regime; and

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

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

[*English*]

Delicensing of Drugs

5612. SHRI RUPCHAND MURMU: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to delicense more drugs, and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) and (b) As per Pharmaceutical policy 2002, industrial licensing for all bulk drugs cleared by Drug Controller General (India), all their intermediates and formulations has been abolished, subject to stipulations laid down from time to time in the Industrial Policy, except in the cases of the following:

- (i) bulk drugs produced by the use of recombinant DNA technology,
- (ii) bulk drugs requiring in-vivo use of nucleic acids as the active principles, and
- (iii) specific cell/tissue targeted formulations.

Assistance for Consumer Awareness

5613. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government extends financial support to Government and Non-Government Organizations (NGOs) for consumer awareness;

(b) if so, the details of amount provided to various organizations in the country including Karnataka during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise;

(c) whether the performance of the said organizations has been assessed during the last three years and the current year, 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 TASLIMUDDIN): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) A statement is enclosed.

(c) Yes Sir.

(d) The organizations receiving grants from the Consumer Welfare Fund are required to follow the Consumer Welfare Fund Rules, 1992 and the guidelines for sanction of grant from the Consumer Welfare Fund. The grant from the Consumer Welfare Fund is sanctioned on the basis of the recommendation of the concerned State Government/District Magistrate/District Collector. A monitoring Committee under the Chairmanship of DM/DC of the concerned district reviews the performance of District Consumer Information Centres set up with assistance of Consumer Welfare Fund. Organizations are required to utilize the grant on the various items for which it has been sanctioned, within 12 months of its release. After the completion of the project, the organizations are required to furnish the utilization certificate in GFR-19A and other documents as per the terms and conditions of the sanction order.

Statement

Sl.No.	State/UT	Total Grant released in 2002-03 (in Rs.)	Total Grant released in 2003-04 (in Rs.)	Total Grant released in 2004-05 (in Rs.)	Total Grant released in 2005-06 Current Year
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	—	23,47,000	1,15,53,500	Nil
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	—	—	—	Nil
3.	Assam	—	3,42,000	4,21,000	Nil

1	2	3	4	5	6
4.	Bihar	—	5,93,588	2,16,000	Nil
5.	Chhattisgarh	—	—	26,44,000	Nil
6.	Delhi	2,50,000	53,65,691	91,19,235	Nil
7.	Goa	—	50,000	—	Nil
8.	Gujarat	2,50,000	6,75,000	59,05,000	Nil
9.	Haryana	—	67,500	—	Nil
10.	Himachal Pradesh	—	—	—	Nil
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	—	—	99,000	Nil
12.	Jharkhand	—	2,50,000	—	Nil
13.	Karnataka	3,66,000	17,96,000	74,55,300	Nil
14.	Kerala	2,50,000	3,15,000	—	Nil
15.	Madhya Pradesh	—	17,40,300	25,20,500	Nil
16.	Maharashtra	4,80,000	7,06,000	62,93,000	Nil
17.	Manipur	15,75,000	18,18,500	19,63,000	Nil
18.	Meghalaya	—	—	—	Nil
19.	Mizoram	—	—	1,26,000	Nil
20.	Nagaland	—	5,29,200	7,31,500	Nil
21.	Orissa	1,85,000	8,35,000	1,22,83,050	Nil
22.	Punjab	—	—	10,00,000	Nil
23.	Rajasthan	2,48,100	4,40,000	81,73,500	Nil
24.	Sikkim	—	6,75,000	—	Nil
25.	Tamil Nadu	2,89,000	12,17,000	68,61,400	Nil
26.	Tripura	—	—	7,70,000	Nil
27.	Uttar Pradesh	75,000	69,46,400	36,67,500	Nil
28.	Uttaranchal	3,85,000	8,42,800	13,55,200	Nil
29.	West Bengal	1,44,000	16,25,500	86,39,200	Nil
30.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	—	—	—	Nil
31.	Chandigarh	—	—	88,000	Nil
32.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	—	—	—	Nil

1	2	3	4	5	6
33.	Daman and Diu	—	—	—	Nil
34.	Lakshadweep	—	—	—	Nil
35.	Pondicherry	2,50,000	2,94,000	1,35,000	Nil

India as International Tourism Hub

5614. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to make India as International Tourism Hub;

(b) if so, the steps taken in this regard; and

(c) the investment required to create world class facilities for tourists?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) A twin pronged strategy adopted by the Ministry of Tourism for upgrading tourism infrastructure in the country alongwith the strategic marketing initiatives, is aimed at making India an International Tourism Hub.

(c) The investment in tourism sector is made by various segments comprising private, public, state and central agencies.

[*Translation*]

Registration of Companies for Recycling and Re-refining

5615. SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received a number of complaints regarding malpractices in registration of companies for recycling and re-refining by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) during the last five years and current year, till-date;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether CPCB has given license to Vishuddha Rasayan Private Limited in Raigarh of Maharashtra

recently by keeping aside the objections raised by the concerned State authorities;

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

(e) whether the Government has ordered for a probe into the whole episode; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Environment & Forests has received representations regarding grant of registrations for recycling and re-refining of waste oil and used oil by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) under Hazardous Wastes (Management & Handling) Rules, 1989 as amended in 2003.

(c) and (d) As regards the application of M/s Vishuddha Rasayana Private Limited, District Raigarh, Maharashtra, the same is reported to have been processed by the Central Pollution Control Board for registration only after the grant of consolidated consent and authorisation by the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board (MPCB) to the unit.

(e) and (f) Do not arise.

[*English*]

Closure of Special Schools

5616. SHRI NARAYAN CHANDRA BORKATAKY: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has closed special schools for child labourers in Assam;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to reopen these schools?

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

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Technology Mission for Dairy Development

5617. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAIISI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the States where technology mission for dairy development have been launched during the Tenth Five Year Plan;

(b) the details of the schemes launched and the funds allocated for each project, State-wise;

(c) whether all the projects sanctioned during the Ninth Five Year Plan have been completed;

(d) if so, whether the government has reviewed the success of the schemes;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the detailed strategy chalked out by the Government for the successful completion of the mission during the Tenth Five Year 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) The Technology Mission on Dairy Development was launched prior to Ninth Five Year Plan. Under the Tenth Five Year Plan, no such project has been taken up.

(b) to (f) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Production cost of Chemicals and Fertilizers

5618. SHRI BAPU HARI CHAURE: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the production cost of the chemicals and fertilizers in the country is higher than that of International level;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has made any efforts to find out the production cost of chemicals and fertilizers in the developed countries;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to reduce the production cost?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) to (e) Chemicals industry has been delicensed except three hazardous chemicals. There is no control of the Government on production and pricing of chemicals. Therefore, cost of production of chemicals is not monitored by the Government.

As far as the production cost of fertilizers in the country is concerned, it is dependent on the type of feedstock used and its cost. Costlier the feedstock, more is the cost of production of indigenous fertilizer. At present, the cost of production of indigenous urea is less than the cost of imported urea. The present weighted average cost of production of indigenous urea is Rs. 9494 per metric tonne, the cost (C & F) of imported urea is Rs. 11073 per metric tonne. There is no separate monitoring of cost of production of fertilizers in other countries.

The country is totally dependent on imports for manufacturing its indigenous di-ammonium phosphate (DAP). Almost entire quantity of ammonia and phosphoric acid is imported by DAP manufacturers. Similarly, the units, which use rock phosphate and manufacture their own phosphoric acid, are also dependent upon imported rock phosphate and imported sulphur for their entire requirement. Thus, the cost of indigenous DAP is primarily dependent upon the prices of raw material/intermediates prevailing in the international market.

The New Pricing Scheme (NPS) for urea units, introduced w.e.f. 1.4.2003, lays emphasis on efficiency. Pre-set energy norms for urea units have been made effective from Stage-II i.e., w.e.f. 1.4.2004.

Felling of Timber Trees and Fire Woods

5619. SHRI RAGHUVVEER SINGH KOSHAL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the main reason for deforestation is the continuous felling of timber trees and firewoods;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to make available other alternatives on reasonable and affordable prices in place of timber and firewoods;

(c) whether the Government proposes to launch schemes to encourage the plastic made goods;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the forest conservation schemes financed by foreign countries have been implemented by the government; and

(f) if so, the details of such projects, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) No, Sir. There are number of reasons for deforestation such as diversion of forest land for developmental activities, encroachment, shifting cultivation including illicit felling of timber trees etc. Removal of headloads of firewood by local villagers has a negative impact on health of forests.

(b) To reduce the biotic pressure on forests (for fuelwood and timber) Government is taking up a number of measures. Some of these are:

- (i) Government is encouraging planting of tree species such as Eucalyptus, Poplar, Silver Oak etc., outside forests.

(ii) Indian Plywood Industries Research and Training Institute, an autonomous organisation of Ministry of Environment and Forests, is engaged in developing technologies for substitute of timber like bamboo mat based panel products and bamboo laminates.

(iii) The National Mission on Bamboo Applications is also exploring ways for development of bamboo sector.

(iv) The Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy sources is supporting various programmes such as biogas, (covering community/institutional/night-soil-based biogas plants), improved chulhas, solar cooker and solar water heating systems to meet the energy requirements of cooking, heating and lighting particularly in the rural areas of the country.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. There is no such proposal in the Ministry.

(e) and (f) Yes, Sir. There are 8 Externally Aided Forestry Projects being implemented by Forest Departments of 7 States at an estimated cost of Rs. 3000 crores. The details are given in the enclosed statement.

In addition, two projects namely Eastern Karnataka Afforestation Project Phase-II and Tamil Nadu Afforestation Project Phase II at an outlay of Rs. 779 crores and Rs. 564 crores respectively have been sanctioned by Japan Bank for International Co-operation for implementation from 2005-06.

Statement

Felling of Timber and Fire Woods

(Rs. in crores)

Sl.No.	Project	Name of State	Aid Agency	Project Period	Cost
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Integrated Natural Resource Management and Poverty Reduction Project in Haryana	Haryana	JBIC	2004-05 to 2009-10	286
2.	Rajasthan Forestry and Biodiversity Project	Rajasthan	JBIC	2003-04 to 2008-09	442

1	2	3	4	5	6
3.	Andhra Pradesh Community Forestry Project	Andhra Pradesh	World Bank	2002-03 to 2006-07	653
4.	Himachal Pradesh Forest Sector Reforms Project	Himachal Pradesh	Department for International Development-UK	2002-03 to 2006-07	55
5.	Punjab Afforestation Project-II	Punjab	JBIC	2002-03 to 2006-07	264
6.	Indo-German Changar Eco-Development Project	Himachal Pradesh	Government of Germany	1999-2000 to 2004-05	30
7.	Eastern Karnataka Afforestation Project	Karnataka	JBIC	1997-98 to 2004-05	722.489
8.	Tamil Nadu Afforestation Project	Tamil Nadu	JBIC	1997-98 to 2004-05	547.72

World Bank Aided Water Supply Projects

5620. SHRI BALESHWAR YADAV: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of World Bank sponsored water supply projects being run in state including Uttar Pradesh alongwith present status thereof; and

(b) the number of projects targeted to be completed by the end of Tenth Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) The details of on-going World Bank assisted projects for irrigation and water supply are as under:

Sl.No.	Name of Project	Assistance Amount Million US \$	Date of Commencement/ Completion
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh Economic Restructuring Project (Irrigation component)	170.00	February, 1999 30.09.2005
2.	Kerala Rural Water Supply and Environmental Sanitation Project	65.50	January, 2001 31.12.2006
3.	Second Karnataka Rural Water supply and Environmental Sanitation Project	151.60	February, 2002 31.12.2007
4.	UP Water Sector Restructuring Project	149.20	March, 2002 31.10.2007
5.	Rajasthan Water Sector Restructuring Project	140.00	March, 2002 31.3.2008
6.	Karnataka Community Based Tank Management Project	98.90	June, 2002 31.1.2009

1	2	3	4
7.	Second Maharashtra Rural Water Supply and Environmental Sanitation Project	181.00	October, 2003 30.09.2009
8.	Karnataka Urban Water Sector Improvement Project	39.50	April, 2004 31.3.2007
9.	Madhya Pradesh Water Sector Restructuring Project	394.02	November, 2004 30.09.2010

(b) Three projects namely Andhra Pradesh Economic Restructuring Project (Irrigation Component), Kerala Rural Water Supply Environmental Sanitation Project and Karnataka Urban Water Sector Improvement Project are targeted to be completed by the end of Tenth Plan.

Scheme for Employment

5621. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the names and other details of the new schemes launched by the Government for poverty alleviation and employment generation during the current financial year;

(b) whether the nomenclature of some of the scheme have been changed;

(c) if so, the details of such scheme alongwith the budgetary allocation; and

(d) the extent of increase in budgetary allocation for such schemes during the current and the previous year?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRA SHEKHAR RAO): (a) During the current financial year i.e. 2005-06, no new scheme has been launched so far for poverty alleviation and employment generation.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Does not arise.

12.00 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE): On behalf of Shri Ram Vilas Paswan, I beg to lay on the Table:

(1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:

(a) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Madras Fertilizers Limited, Chennai, for the year 2003-2004.

(ii) Annual Report of the Madras Fertilizers Limited, Chennai, for the year 2003-2004, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2001/05]

(b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Fertilizers and Chemicals Travancore Limited, Kochi, for the year 2003-2004.

(ii) Annual Report of the Fertilizers and Chemicals Travancore Limited, Kochi, for the year 2003-2004, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

(2) Two statements (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2002/05]

(3) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions):

(i) Memorandum of Understanding between the National Fertilizers Limited and the Department of Fertilizers, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers, for the year 2005-2006.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2003/05]

- (ii) Memorandum of Understanding between the Brahmaputra Valley Fertilizer Corporation Limited and the Department of Fertilizers, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers, for the year 2005-2006.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2004/05]

- (iii) Memorandum of Understanding between the Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers and the Department of Fertilizers, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers, for the year 2005-2006.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2005/05]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE): On behalf of Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Public Enterprises Survey (Volumes I to III) for the year 2003-2004 (Hindi and English versions).

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2006/05]

[*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 KANTILAL BHURIA): Sir I beg to lay on the Table:

- (1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:
 - (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Gujarat State Seeds Corporation Limited, Gandhinagar, for the year 2003-2004.
 - (ii) Annual Report of the Gujarat State Seeds Corporation Limited, Gandhinagar, 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. LT 2007/05]

- (3) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (6) of section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955:

- (i) The Fertilizer (Control) (Amendment) Order, 2005 published in Notification No. S.O. 342(E) in Gazette of India dated the 18th March, 2005.
- (ii) S.O. 343 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 18th March, 2005 notifying the specifications in certain provisional fertilizers by M/s Coromandal Fertilizer Limited for a period of three years.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2008/05]

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): I beg to lay on the Table:

- (1)
 - (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Animal Welfare Board of India, Chennai, 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 Animal Welfare Board of India, Chennai, 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. LT 2009/05]

- (3) A copy of the Notification No. S.O. 281 (E) Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 2nd March, 2005 delegating powers to Chairman, State Pollution Control Boards, to issue directions to any industry or any local or other authorities for the violation of the standards and rules relating to biomedical waste, hazardous chemicals, industrial solid wastes and municipal solid wastes including plastic waste notified therein, subject to certain conditions, issued under section 23 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2010/05]

[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 KANTILAL BHURIA): I, on behalf of Dr. Akhilesh Prasad Singh, beg to lay on the table:

- (1) A copy of the Sugar Development Fund (Amendment) Rules, 2005 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 149(E) in Gazette of India dated the 3rd March, 2005 under sub-section (3) of section (9) of the Sugar Development Fund Act, 1982.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 2011/05]

- (2) A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the Central Warehousing Corporation and the Department of Food and Public Distribution, Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, for the year 2005-2006.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 2012/05]

12.02 hrs.

**MESSAGE FROM RAJYA SABHA
AND
BILL AS PASSED BY 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 rule 111 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to enclose a copy of the Navy (Amendment) Bill, 2005, which has been passed by the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 28th April, 2005."
- (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 (No. 2) Bill, 2005, which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 27th April,

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."

2. Sir, I lay on the Table, the Navy (Amendment) Bill, 2005, as passed by Rajya Sabha on the 28th April, 2005.

12.03 hrs.

STATEMENTS BY THE MINISTERS

- (i) **Status of implementation of recommendations in the First Report of Standing Committee on Agriculture***

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now, item 9 of the List of Business. Shri Sharad Pawar, you may lay the statement on the Table of the House. Okay, you can read the first page of your statement, and lay the rest of the statement on the Table of the House.

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 Agriculture (2004-2005) in pursuance of the Direction 73A of hon. Speaker, Lok Sabha issued vide Lok Sabha Bulletin-Part-II, dated September 01, 2004.

The Standing Committee on Agriculture examined the Demands for Grants of the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation (DAC) for the year 2004-2005 and presented to Lok Sabha on 17.08.2004. The report contains 16 recommendations. These recommendations of the Committee have been examined carefully in the Ministry of Agriculture, Department of Agriculture and Cooperation. Most of the recommendations have been accepted by the Government and action has already been taken/initiated thereon. A statement indicating the action taken/status of all the recommendations contained in the Report of the Standing Committee on Agriculture is annexed.[§]

The action taken replies have been sent to the Committee on 5th January, 2005.

*Also placed in Library, See No. LT 2013/2005.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. I feel that the remaining hon. Ministers, who have not submitted their statements, would have to do better. Otherwise, I will have to think about the consequences. I also appreciate the efforts of the hon. Ministers, who have filed their statements and showed their proper concern.

(ii) Status of implementation of recommendations
in the 65th Report of Standing Committee
on Commerce*

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGO VAN): Sir, in pursuance of Directions 73A of the hon. Speaker, Lok Sabha issued *vide* Lok Sabha Bulletin-Part II dated September 01, 2004, I am making this statement on the status of the implementation of recommendations contained in the 65th Report of the Standing Committee on Demands for Grants (2004-2005) in respect of the Department of Commerce.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Elangovan, you can lay the statement on the Table of the House.

SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGO VAN: Sir, it is only a two-page statement.

MR. SPEAKER: Do you want to read it? Okay, I welcome it.

SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGO VAN: (i) The Standing Committee examined the Demands for Grants for the year 2004-2005 of the Department of Commerce in its meeting held on 12th August, 2004. The report was laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha on 18th August, 2004. The report contained 31 recommendations.

- (ii) These recommendations of the Committee mainly relate to the timely approval of schemes of Export Credit Guarantee Corporation (ECGC), Rubber Plantation Development Scheme, Export Promotion of Spices and Tea Plantation Fund, utilisation of funds, review of schemes/specific programmes, clearing of pending cases of refund on account of duty drawback on deemed exports, formation of Cashew Board, monitoring of the functioning of Agri Export Zones, setting up of more EOUs in the North East Region, holding of inter-Ministerial Consultations and consultation with the State Governments, political

parties and apex industry associations to evolve strategy in the next Ministerial Conference of the WTO in Hong Kong, China in December, 2005, etc.

- (iii) Out of 31 recommendations, Government has accepted 30 recommendations. In one case, that is, recommendation made *vide* para 13.3 for formation of Cashew Board, the Government has not accepted the recommendation of the Committee on the grounds that it will not be cost effective. Moreover, in the era of globalisation and liberalisation, the trend is towards greater autonomy of operations to facilitate trade growth which should be at best left to the industry and the private entrepreneurs.
- (iv) Out of 30 recommendations accepted by the Government, action has already been completed in respect of 25 recommendations. In respect of 5 cases, action is at an advanced stage of completion. These are as follows:
- (a) Para No. 5.2—Launch of Brand Ambassador Network;
 - (b) Para No. 65—Amendment in the Foreign Trade (Development and Regulations) Act, 1992;
 - (c) Para No. 7.4—Food Grain Export Policy;
 - (d) Para No. 11.7—Incentive to local bodies for promoting rubberisation of road; and
 - (e) Para No. 17.3—To revamp the DGCI&S.
- (v) I am also laying a detailed Action Taken Report on each recommendation for the information of hon. Members.

MR. SPEAKER: I compliment you for the statement.

12.07 hrs.

**CALLING ATTENTION TO THE MATTER
OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE**

**Need to promote sports and to create more
infrastructure for development of sports complexes**

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Kishan Singh Sangwan—absent;
Shrimati Jyotirmoyee Sikdar.

*Also placed in Library, See No. LT 2014/2005.

SHRIMATI JYOTIRMOYEE SIKDAR (Krishnagar): Sir, I call the attention of the Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports to the following matter of urgent public importance and request that he may make a statement thereon:

"The need to promote sports and to create more infrastructure for development of sports complexes in the country."

MR. SPEAKER: I have particularly selected this subject.

*THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI SUNIL DUTT): Sir, thank you very much for giving me this great honour to speak in this august House.

Moreover, I give my compliments to Shrimati Jyotirmoyee Sikdar because she herself is a sportsperson, and she has won two Gold Medals and one Silver.

I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Members to the need for promoting sports and creating more infrastructure for development of sports complexes in the country. The primary responsibility of sports promotion lies with the National Sports Federations (NSFs). The Government of India, however, supplements for promotion of sports in the country through a multi-pronged approach of broad-basing, achievement of excellence and scouting/supporting talent. Some of the important strategies are given below:

- (i) Finalisation and implementation of Long Term Development Plans (LTDPs) for various sports disciplines in consultation with the concerned National Sports Federation, former international sportspersons and sports scientists/experts;
- (ii) Provision of equipment and scientific support;
- (iii) Intensive coaching of the players by Indian and foreign coaches in coaching camps;
- (iv) Intensive training abroad to the teams as well as Indian coaches;
- (v) Financial assistance to concerned federations for participation of sportspersons in international tournaments;
- (vi) The outstanding boys and girls are provided scholarships so that they can have nutritious

diet, sports equipment support and be able to pursue sports as a career. Scholarships are also given to women for undertaking research in sports related subject;

- (vii) Assistance to sportspersons for purchase of equipment, scientific support and training and participation within the country and abroad is provided under the 'Scheme relating to Talent Search and Training' and the 'National Sports Development Fund';
- (viii) Assistance is also provided for promotion of sports and games in schools as well as for rural sports;
- (ix) Awards such as Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna; Arjuna; Dronacharya and Dhyan Chand are given to both national and international level achievers. Under the scheme of 'Special Awards to winners in international sports events and their coaches', winning medals in prestigious recognised international events entitle sportspersons and their coaches to cash awards; and
- (x) The Ministry also provides pension to meritorious sportspersons. There is also a National Welfare Fund for Sportsperson to assist outstanding sportspersons of yesteryears, living in not very good circumstances.

The Government of India also augments the efforts of the State Governments in promotion of sports by scouting talent and training at sub-junior, junior and senior levels, through the schemes of the Sports Authority of India. At present, the following schemes of SAI are being implemented to scout and train promising players:

1. *National Sports Talent Contest (NSTC)*: The main concept of the scheme is to play and study in the same school with scientific scouting of talent. Children in the age group of 8-14 years are admitted under the scheme. Twenty-five Navodaya Vidyalayas have been approved for inclusion under this scheme during 2005-06.
2. *Army Boys Sports Company (ABSC)*: This scheme was introduced in association with the Army to utilise the disciplined atmosphere and infrastructure of the Army. Children are identified in the age group of 8-14 years and admitted in the scheme. The eligible trainees are absorbed in the Army. In addition to eight existing ABSCs,

*Speech also Placed in Library. See No. LT 2015/2005.

[Shri Sunil Dutt]

ten more have been sanctioned for implementation during the year 2005-06.

3. *SAI Training Centre (STC)*: These centres were established to groom the junior level sportspersons from the age group of 14-21 years with the assistance of State Governments. State Governments provide infrastructure and SAI provides scientific training.
4. *Special Area Games (SAG)*: This scheme also aims at scouting and nurturing of natural talent for modern competitive sports from inaccessible tribal, rural and coastal areas. Children are admitted in the age group of 14-21 years. Two new centres are proposed to be set up during 2005-06.
5. *Centre of Excellence (COX)*: Under this scheme, training is imparted to sportspersons who have shown performance at senior national level competitions. Trainees in the age group of 17-25 years are admitted.

In addition to above efforts, active involvement of the corporate sector in sports development is being sought over the years. As a result of these efforts, M/s NALCO, a public sector company, provided Rs. 1 crore to SAI for preparation of Indian sportspersons for the Olympic Games at Athens. CII also adopted the disciplines of wrestling and boxing for one year preceding the Athens Olympics.

The Ministry also operates the National Sports Development Fund (NSDF) to mobilize resources from various sources. The Government gives a matching contribution and uses the Fund so created for promotion of sports and for assisting sportspersons. Contribution to the Fund entitles the contributor to avail 100 per cent tax rebate. The Ministry has made efforts to mobilise contribution to NSDF by approaching Public Sector Banks, PSUs as well as Industrial Associations. Contributions to the tune of Rs. 2 crore have been received in the Fund since its inception. A number of sportspersons have been assisted under NSDF. I am happy to inform you that the winner of the first individual Silver medal for independent India at the Olympics, Lt. Col. Rajyavardhan Rathore is the single largest beneficiary under the Fund with over Rs. 1 crore sanctioned assistance for training purposes.

It may also be mentioned that during the last three years an amount of almost Rs. 104 crore has been

released by the Ministry to the recognised National Sports Federations for various sports activities. Out of this, around Rs. 42 crore were released during 2004-05. About 200 sportspersons were assisted for training during 2004-05. The quantum of assistance to various federations is governed by their categorisation into 'priority', 'general', and 'others'.

The scheme under which assistance is governed, prescribes the maximum assistance payable to federations in each of the categories. The discipline of cricket falls in the 'others' category. Accordingly, the Women's Cricket Association of India receives assistance from the Government for holding national tournaments. However, no financial assistance is being provided by the Ministry to the board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) for promotion and development of men's cricket.

Similarly, 'Sports' being the State subject, the responsibility of creation of sports infrastructure lies with the State Governments. Till 31.3.2005, efforts of the State Governments in creation of sports infrastructure were being supplemented by the Government of India by rendering Central assistance in accordance with the approved pattern under the following Centrally Sponsored Sports Infrastructure Schemes subject to receipt of viable proposal from the State Government/Municipalities/Non-Government Organizations/Universities & Colleges/Schools, i.e. Grants for creation of sports infrastructure; grants to rural schools for purchase of sports equipment and development of playground; grants for promotion of sports in Universities and Colleges; and grants for installation of Synthetic Playing Surfaces.

A policy decision has been taken to transfer these schemes to the State sector w.e.f. 1.4.2005 and accordingly, the State Governments shall henceforth entirely fund the construction of sports facilities including sports complexes in their States.

The Ministry's scheme of State Sports Academy provides for setting up an academy jointly by the Central Government/UT Administration and a sponsor as a cooperative venture. Corporate sector/individual sponsoring the academy for spotting and nurturing talent in sports are expected to manage the Academy. Sports infrastructure for sports persons is also available at SAI's five regional centres, sub-centres and training centres like STC, SAG, etc.

This is my submission to you, Sir.

[*Translation*]

SHRIMATI JYOTIRMOYEE SIKDAR: Hon. Speaker, Sir, I want to bring an important subject to your notice. I myself is a sportsperson and I have been closely associated with the world of sports. Therefore, I am well aware of the difficulties, problems as well as merits and demerits of sports world. I have also been a member of the HRD since the last one year. I have had the opportunities to converse with the sports persons. I would like to inform the hon. Minister that the problems that I had faced as a sportsperson exist even now.

I would like to ask the hon. Minister as to why sports has not been included in the educational curriculum even till now. As long as sports is not made an integral part of the curriculum our work will not be finished. I would like to request the Minister to formulate a new sports policy in consultation with other Ministers wherein sports is added to the curriculum and children are selected for sports at the school level itself.

Cricket and Table Tennis are accorded a lot of importance in our country but other games such as football, hockey and athletics are being neglected. As a result we find that whereas we got a gold medal in hockey in the earlier Olympics, today we find it far more difficult to reach even to the finals. We got gold medals in football in the Asian Games. Nowadays our football team is ousted in the first round of the Asian Games. Now we are forced to bring in football players for football from other countries. I want to assert that indigenous village games should be promoted. The hon. Minister has stated that SAI (Sports Authority of India) has an established process to promote promising sports persons. In my view this is an unfair practice because the recent selection of promising sports persons carried out by SAI in Kolkata was advertised only in the English Newspapers and no villager reads English newspapers. Such information should at least be provided to the schools so that sports persons in villages also get to know of SAI's efforts to recruit talented sportspersons.

All of us wonder as to why our sports persons are not able to win gold medals in Olympics? I would like to state before all the hon. Members that ever since our country achieved independence no government has taken the right steps for the development of sports. A Rural Women Festival was started in 1975 but there has been no progress in this matter. Even now only one thousand rupees at the block level, three thousand rupees at the

district level and ten thousand rupees at the state level are provided for sports. In these conditions, how can we expect that our sportspersons will win gold medals in the Olympics.

The Hon. Minister has stated that the National Sports Confederation will finalise long term development schemes and implement them in consultation with former international level sportspersons, sports scientists and sports experts. I would like to know from the hon. Minister about the games for which consultation and help is taken from such scientists and experts. I won two gold medals in 1998 but I have not been asked to give any advice so far. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Now you have got one opportunity to speak and the people have given you this opportunity.

SHRIMATI JYOTIRMOYEE SIKDAR: The hon. Minister has said himself that coaches are being sent abroad for training. Subsequently, the hon. Minister said that foreign coaches are being appointed to ensure better performance. Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know why we are sending our coaches abroad when we already have around 1440 to 1500 coaches and they are being paid a salary of Rs. 15000 to Rs. 20000 per month. I would like to suggest that an inordinate amount is being spent on the foreign coaches who are training our sportspersons. It would be better instead if our coaches are trained by such foreign coaches. This would yield better results and would also be less expensive.

The financial assistance provided to sportspersons for taking part in international competition is woefully inadequate. I wonder who gets the scholarships meant for sports research. The hon. Minister has stated that schools are provided assistance for sports and for the development of indigenous games. We search for talented players in villages but these villages don't even have access to the basic infrastructure. There are no good stadia even at the district level. We cannot claim that we have developed our infrastructure considering the condition of infrastructure in Kerala and other parts of the country like Bangalore and Patiala. If we really want to find promising sportspersons there we have to at least provide good playgrounds, drinking water and clean toilets. Our country is sadly lacking in such basic facilities.

The hon. Minister has said that Rajiv Gandhi Khela Ratna Award, Arjun, Dronacharya, and Dhyanchand awards are conferred upon the players performing

[Shrimati Jyotirmoyee Sikdar]

outstandingly at the national and international levels. Dronacharya award is given only to the coaches and not to the players. There is no transparency in selecting players for these awards. I won two gold medals and one silver medal in the 1998 Asian Games. My colleagues who stood third and got the medal for being at the third place, was conferred upon Padmashree award in 1990 and 2000 and I was ignored. Later on, I too was awarded the prize. Therefore, I demand that there should be transparency in selection of players for these awards.

The hon. Minister has also said that this Ministry grants pension to the outstanding players. I would like to draw your attention towards pension also. On papers a lot has been done for the players but actually they are not benefited to the desired extent, as is said Life time pension is granted to the players who secure medals in the Olympic and the Asian games. I would like to thank this government for enhancing this pension from Rs. 2000 per month to Rs. 3500 per months but it is not sufficient for sustenance of a player. Pension is granted to the medal winning player only when he/she attains the age of thirty years. I won the gold medals in the year 1998 and I wrote a letter for granting pension on completion of thirty years. But neither I received any communication in this regard nor pension was granted to me till 2004. When I was elected to the Lok Sabha and nominated as a member of Committee on Human Resource Development, then pension was released to me. ...*(Interruptions)*.

MR. SPEAKER: One has to become an MP to get pension.

SHRIMATI JYOTIRMOYEE SIKDAR: Now I would like to speak about searching as well as coaching of the rising players. I would like to request the hon. Minister of Youth Affairs and sports to pay attention towards this. There are about 1440 to 1500 assistant coaches who are getting salary approximately Rs. 15000 to Rs. 20000. It should also be seen that for how many players there is one coach and what is his performance every year. It has been seen that there has been one coach only for ten players for the fifteen to twenty years and out of them not even a single player is a sportsperson of international repute. You have told about the Senya Bal Khel Company. There is a one such company in Poona. I have been associated with sports. After becoming member I am receiving phone calls from various quarters. I have received a phone call from there also and I was told that Rs. 90 crore have been sanctioned for the said

company. That amount is not being utilised properly and money is not reaching to the sports persons. This should also be looked into.

Athens Olympic, Common Wealth Games and Asian Games are round the corner and the amount allocated for these games is too meagre. So far as winning gold medals in Olympic games is concerned, China got independence later than India but that country is giving a very tough fight to every country as for the matter of winning the honours and medals is concerned. And we are satisfied with Shri Rathore who won a medal for India. Allocation for sports should be increased. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: At least, we are discussing a very important subject after a very-very long time.

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH (Uluberia): That too for the first time.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Any question does not arise in this regard.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I have picked up an important subject.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI JYOTIRMOYEE SIKDAR: Too much importance is given to cricket. But we can do well by paying attention towards rural sports like Athletics, Hockey, Kabaddi and Football. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You please ask the question.

SHRIMATI JYOTIRMOYEE SIKDAR: The Indian sports persons are jobless. Only five percent sports persons get jobs in SAI in a year. A Rower had committed suicide in Kerala a few days ago. If pension is granted to sportspersons, why would they take such steps. Jobs should also be ensured for sportspersons. A certain percentage of jobs should be reserved for sports persons in every department. ...*(Interruptions)*

Other hon. Members also want to speak on this subject. Therefore, in the end I would like to say that the hon. Minister should pay attention towards sports. There is no dearth of talent in the country. You provide money but that money is not utilized properly.

You provide funds to the federations, you should ask for the details as to how they spend the said funds. A federation should not continue beyond two consecutive terms whereas there is a practice of continuance federations even for twenty years. There are two federations in Kabaddi. There should be control over the federations also.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you very much.

Hon. Members, I have to follow some rules.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: You sit down please.

Only two hon. Members gave their notices. Sometimes, the Chair allows up to four Members. But, you cannot just stand up and raise your hands—I will not allow this. Some system has to be followed.

Shri Shailendra Kumar; only two more Members will be allowed.

[Translation]

Shri Shailendra Kumar, you please only ask your question instead of delivering speech.

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Chail): Mr. Speaker, Sir, after the statement made by the Minister, Shrimati Jyotirmoyee Sikdar has narrated sorry state of affairs prevailing in regard to promotion of sports and development of sports complexes. There are a number of lacunae in promotion of sports as just pointed out by Shrimati Sikdar that we are very happy with the lone medal won by Shri Rathod in the Asian Games while we are winning no medals in cricket, hockey or athletics. Through you, sir, I would like to tell the hon. Minister that the sports have a direct effect on a person's life, it changes his entire life style. I would like the sports to be included in the school curriculum and secondly, it should be linked to education and employment. When you link sports to employment then our talented sportspersons will get encouraged. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: You ask your question please.

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: Right now, you have said many things about rural areas. You have constituted 'Yuvak Mangal Dals' also. But the honorarium paid to the block level sports persons is very meagre. I would like to tell the hon. Minister that there are talented sports persons in villages also. If construction of stadium at district level is not feasible mini-stadium at block level should be constructed for them so that they could excel.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: It is a suggestion for action.

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: So that those sports persons can play at district level or at state level. Yuvak Mangal Dals should be strengthened and honorarium be enhanced so that these sports persons are encouraged.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: You please ask your question. It is not to give suggestions only.

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: In addition to all this, betting should strictly be stopped in games.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: There is no betting in games.

[English]

Shri Nikhil Kumar, please put only question. This opportunity is for putting questions for clarifications only.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: No. Nothing more of your speech will be allowed. Shri Nikhil Kumar.

SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR (Aurangabad, Bihar): Thank you, Sir.

The hon. Minister has given a very detailed account of the steps that are being taken by the Government to promote sports in the country. Shrimati Jyotirmoyee Sikdar, in her impassioned speech, has made some very relevant points. What I am going to request the hon. Minister to kindly clarify is regarding our very poor performance in the international athletics meet and other sports meets. We used to be very good in some of the sports disciplines.

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, it has come down very fast, it is a matter of great concern and I am unhappy about that.

SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR: I am tempted to mention the instance of China, which was not a very good performer in the international level of sports and athletics. It decided then not to participate in any international meets until it had assured itself that it had come up to the international standards.

I have nothing against participating in international meets, but there must be some kind of determination in our Government and amongst us, the sports-persons, that they must achieve international levels in their performances. Is the Ministry—hon. Minister may kindly clarify this—thinking in terms of doing something in a determined way in the next 5-10-15 years and set some kind of a goal that during those years, we shall achieve these standards and only then, we shall participate in international meets and sports events? Thank you.

[Translation]

MD. SALIM (Calcutta-North East): My first question to the hon. Minister is that whether any successive minister has seen the report or his ministry and has considered the report submitted a decade back by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Human Resource Development to improve the performance of our country at the international levels. Much more should have been done in a decade. Is there any such provision? Now you have made it obligatory to consider the report of the standing committee and given Action-Taken Report thereon. Shri P. Upendra was the Chairman of the said Committee and I was also a Member of that Committee. We visited the entire country to prepare the report. I would like to ask the hon. Minister whether he would find out the said report and try to implement the suggestions given therein.

The other point is that they have talked about infrastructure in the Calling Attention Motion. I am not in favour of much physical infrastructure as I do not think whatever infrastructural facilities have been created in our country, are being utilised to their optimum. Cost of construction of a stadium comes to crores of rupees but if we take a look at its occupancy, it is not occupied even for more than 2,10,15 or 40 days in a year. Because

these days there are some private arrangements to take membership of the stadium by paying fees as a result optimum use of the stadium is not made. While in China, Brazil or in any other third world country, you will find that there are batches coming to the stadium round the clock using the same set of facilities. The trainees as well as other persons use these facilities. I think a law should be enacted to ensure optimum utilisation of the infrastructure available either with federations or the state governments or with the private bodies as it is the need of the hour.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: It cannot be an indefinite number.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): Sir, I belong to the state to which P.T. Usha. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I am sorry. Please sit down. I have already allowed four hon. Members in total.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: What for have I given notice then?

MR. SPEAKER: You might have given notice but mere giving notice does not entitle you to speak. It will not be recorded. Only hon. Minister's speech will go on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: We have the largest Arjuna Award winners in the State. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I am not obliged to. A number of hon. Members have given notices. Shri Radhakrishnan, you cannot claim as a matter of right. You did not think it necessary to file a Call Attention notice.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I have received nine notices. Will I call everybody? I have called four Members in total. Please do not disturb.

SHRI SUNIL DUTT: With your permission, I would like to reply to the hon. Member from Kerala. He has talked about P.T. Usha. I remember, when she started her own Academy over there, I was the first man who

*Not recorded.

the beginning. This is the respect that we have for these people. I was not the Minister at that time. At that time I was just an ordinary Member of Parliament. I felt that she has done a great service to the nation. Today, the Government of Kerala has given about 25 acres of land and she is doing very well. We will do our best to help her because she has brought name and honour to the nation.

MR. SPEAKER: We all join in appreciating her great service.

SHRI SUNIL DUTT: Shrimati Jyotirmoyee Sikdar, the award and medal winner.

[Translation]

She has asked several things and I would like the hon. Member should come to my office as I would like to discuss everything point wise. If you think that I should give replies of so many questions at this moment then, it would be a little difficult for me. I very cordially invite her on lunch in my office.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: A number of issues are involved. So, it will take from lunch to dinner.

[Translation]

SHRI SUNIL DUTT: She has asked the maximum number of questions.

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Minister will give the reply also but will give reply only to some of the questions.

SHRI SUNIL DUTT: She has won medals in the field of sports, if you also bring medals then I shall call you also.

Sir, through you, I would like to tell that I entirely agree with this contention of hon. Member that sports should be incorporated as a subject in the school syllabus. I do believe that sports contributes a good deal in shaping a person into a good human being too.

[English]

It is the process of churning a good human being, a good citizen

[Translation]

as the decisions taken in the sports field are not made by sword or on the gun point but on the basis of the

talent and stamina of a player. Whosoever loses in the game also shakes hand and so does the one who wins. It encourages friendship and brotherhood. For instance, the recent cricket match played between India and Pakistan, those who came to India to watch this match were received here in India quite warmly and all have praised us for giving them such a warm welcome. Sir, I have a problem.

[English]

It is not a concurrent subject

[Translation]

I am entrapped in between these two. On one side are the Federations and on the other are states. I strongly believe that in our country, sports persons should get the maximum possible facilities.

I agree with what hon. Member has stated here. Whatever recommendations we received are from Federations. Federation is an autonomous body. Federations take the decisions. A ministry's observer remains there. Federation conducts trials and make selections of the players and also decide as to who is to go abroad. They recommend to us. In this sense, role of my Ministry is that of a money lender. As a money lender lends the money so does my ministry. But the money lender charges the interests but we can not do that even. Therefore, sports needs to be made a concurrent subject and then only we can formulate policy.

[English]

We can give priority to the sportspersons.

[Translation]

Then, I can look into it in details. Right now, federations select sports persons and also decide as to who is to be sent abroad. We give them grants only. Sports Authority of India is such a department which has got its sports centres at different places. The SAI provides the best possible facilities to the sportspersons there. At last,

[English]

I would like to convey that the Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs is not a Ministry to which people give much importance. I am very happy that you have asked for this Calling Attention Motion because according to me we must give more importance to sports and youth affairs.

[Shri Sunil Dutt]

we must give more importance to sports and youth affairs. It is because if we churn out good youths, there could be better future for our country. Therefore, I feel more emphasis should be given to sports and youth affairs.

MR. SPEAKER: Why should there not be a National Youth Commission in this country?

SHRI SUNIL DUTT: Yes, Sir. I generally feel that we should have a programme for youth. I will come and sit with you one day. If this programme is implemented properly, it would be helpful. But you cannot implement that with Rs. 400 crore an year which this Ministry gets. Therefore, I would request that some more money should be given to this Ministry. If it is done, I can assure you that all the pensions will be increased and whatever problems which my sister has pointed out, can be solved.

[Translation]

One honourable Member raised the question. The same question arises out of that;

[English]

we have meetings with the Federations and discuss with them whatever demands they have. We try to fulfil them. The sports people come to us through the Federations. The Federations are between my Ministry and the sports people. Whatever is essential about the sports persons and whatever money has to be given to them, such demands come through the sports federations. We have some awards like Dronacharya Award, Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award, Dhyanchand Award, etc. We have committees which are chaired by top sports persons and top sports persons become their members. They decide who should get these awards. These are all independent bodies which take a decision.

Now if anybody wants to ask any other question, I am ready to reply.

MR. SPEAKER: We should have a fuller discussion one day.

SHRI SUNIL DUTT: Sir, that will be much better.

MR. SPEAKER: We can discuss it under Rule 193. I believe, we made a good beginning.

12.44 hrs.

COMMISSIONS FOR PROTECTION OF CHILD RIGHTS BILL* 2005

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now we shall take up Item No. 12. Shrimati Kanti Singh to introduce a Bill.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I, on the behalf of Shri Arjun Singh, beg to move that leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the constitution of a National Commission and state commissions for protection of child rights and children's court for providing speedy trial of offences against children or of violation of child rights and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the constitution of a National Commission and State Commissions for Protection of Child Rights and Children's Courts for providing speedy trial of offences against children or of violation of child rights and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto."

The motion was adopted.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH: I introduce the Bill.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The House would now take up Matters of Urgent Public Importance.

Shri Hannan Mollah.

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH (Uluberia): Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the House to a very

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serious problem. A very deadly bacterial disease—a type of bacterial Meningitis broke out in the Capital Territory of Delhi and its neighbouring districts.

It has been reported that this highly infectious, rare kind of meningitis with high mortality rate has already taken three lives in Delhi. Two deaths have been reported from the Bara Hindu Rao hospital. At least a dozen of patients suffering from this disease are undergoing treatment in that hospital. Patients suffering from this disease are also undergoing treatment in AIIMS and Ganga Ram hospital as well. One more case of death due to this disease has been reported from the Jaiprakash Narain hospital in Delhi.

The symptoms of this disease, as reported, are cough, cold, fever, rashes and low BP and it is contagious in nature. Though the number of affected persons are not very large in number, yet owing to the alarming situation and panic amongst the patients, this should not be allowed to take the shape of an epidemic.

Therefore, I would like to urge upon the Government to take steps to enquire about this disease and find out the reasons for this and how best this could be checked in order that it is not allowed to develop into an epidemic.

MR. SPEAKER: It is a matter, I am sure, the Government would take serious note of it.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Mr. Speaker, Sir Water is one of the bounties of nature to mankind. But Harnessing of water lies in the hands of man and not the nature. We get nearly 4 lakh million cubic metre water per year from different sources in the country. Nearly one lakh 869 million cubic metre water is obtained from rivers. Despite plenty of water resources, the per capita availability of water is very low. The reason for this shortage is that water harvesting arrangements are inadequate. According to World Health Organisation, 100 litre of water is needed per capita per day but as far as my knowledge goes the required amount of water is not available to 65 percent families as per their requirements. According to a survey, availability of water is very low even in a city like Delhi. As for water harvesting, provision of Rs. 100 crore only has been made in the current budget under which the work on repair and reconstruction of 700 reservoirs is to be carried out.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, three lakh reservoirs all over the country have become inoperative during the previous one

decade. Hence, along with water harvesting, there is also a need to develop a system whereby proper utilisation of funds provided by the Government of India for water harvesting is ensured. Delhi Jal Board was allocated Rs. 714 crore for the year 2004-2005 out of which only Rs. 454 crores were spent. However, the Chandrawal, Haiderpur and Wazirabad schemes of Delhi Jal Board are also incomplete. As per a CGA report, Yamuna river water is not fit for human consumption.

A provision of Rs. 872 crores was made for cleansing Yamuna water but inspite of that Yamuna water has become even more polluted than before. Delhi generates 719 million gallons of polluted water per day out of which only 335 million gallon water is treated as against a higher existing capacity for water treatment. On the one hand, allocated funds are not utilised and on the other hand water is going waste. Consumers of Delhi have to shell out Rs. 4.50 per kilo ltr. although water treatment cost is lowest in this city. Rs. 18 thousand crores are spent for treatment of one million gallon water in Delhi. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: No, I would not allow you to speak like this. You have to learn to be brief and to speak to the point.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Rs. 22 thousand in Mumbai and Rs. 35 thousand in Bangalore. ...(*Interruptions*)

Highest amount of money is allocated for water in Delhi. It is my request that proper arrangements should be made for harvesting of water. Secondly, it should be monitored whether the funds allocated for various water projects are being properly utilised or not. It is a very serious issue. This is the month of April. May and June are going to be terribly hot. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: You are misusing the opportunity. I am sorry.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: There will be much hue and cry and scrambling for water. The Government should give serious attention to this problem. ...(*Interruptions*)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing more will be recorded.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I cannot allow you to speak for seven to ten minutes. No, I am sorry. Please try to be brief. This time is meant just to mention the matter and this is not a debate. We have decided to allow at least 15 hon. Members to speak and each will get a maximum of about three minutes to speak. You cannot take ten minutes. Try to be brief and specific.

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Chail): Mr. Speaker, Sir, thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak. The clay utensils makers in the country, the prajapati community, is on the edge of starvation today. The use of clay 'Kulhars' was introduced after the Rail Budget presented by Mr. Lalu Prasad Yadav, but it is seen that plastic bottles and glasses are used for drinking water in trains, platforms and even in the Central Hall. The U.P. Government was concerned about this matter. It has also granted lease for clay mining. The U.P. Government has offered to grant offices to all those persons in order to help them gain a political identity but they have been demanding since long that they should be included in the Scheduled Castes category. The reasons for their present social, political, educational and economic backwardness is that they have not been given scheduled castes status. The Prajapati community makes clay utensils throughout the country. They even make the thatching for houses. Today they are facing starvation. I request Government to include them in the Scheduled Castes category so that their social, political, economic and educational advancement may come about.

12.54 hrs.

SUBMISSIONS BY MEMBERS

Re: Alleged violation of the guidelines governing use of VIP/VVIP flights of Air Force in December 2003

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan—not present. Shri Basu Deb Acharia may speak.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Sir, six weeks before, the Tehelka Commission submitted its Report.

*Not recorded.

The Chairman of the Commission alongwith his Members and the lawyers went on a trip to Pune, Ahmednagar, Shirdi and Mumbai in an Air Force aircraft. There are guidelines meant for the use of aircraft of the Indian Air Force by VIPs and VVIPs. Some lawyers of the Commission were also taken on the junket on a special chartered VIP aircraft of the Indian Air Force.

They travelled all these places. The reason that was given for this trip was they wanted to familiarise with the weapon system. One of the places they visited was Sydney. I do not know how they can familiarise with the weapon system by visiting a place like Sydney. They also accepted the hospitality of the Ministry of Defence. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: We are only on the violation of the guidelines, not on hospitality.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: When they were inquiring into the purchase of weapons. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not refer to that. You can ask whether there are any permitted guidelines for the use of Air Force aircraft.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, there are guidelines for the use of Air Force aircraft. I would like to know—the Defence Minister is present here—whether the guidelines have been violated. How was the Chairman of the Tehelka Commission was allowed to use the VVIP aircraft, which is used by the Prime Minister and the President? They were allowed to use that aircraft. I would like to know whether the Ministry of Defence or the Minister of Defence gave them permission to use the Air Force aircraft. I would also like to know whether it has.

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR DUBEY (Dhanbad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, drawing your attention I would like to say that Accounts departments and Cash and Pay department are functioning under the FA and CAO department of the Railway Ministry. The employees of the Accounts Department had demanded a revision of pay scales after terming the fifth pay commission's report as improper. considering their demands, the Railway Ministry even revised the pay scale of the employees of the Accounts department but this benefit was not given to the employees of the Cash and Pay department working in the same department. The attention of the Government was drawn many a times by these employees but no action has been taken so far leading to deep resentment among them.

Through you, I demand that the employees of the Accounts Department working under the FA and CAO department should also be given proper pay scale by the Railway Ministry so that there is no anomaly in the pay scales of the Accounts Department and the Cash and Pay Department fixed by the Fifth Pay Commission.

[English]

PROF. K.M. KADER MOHIDEEN (Vellore): Sir, in my constituency, Vellore, there is a company by the name Tamil Nadu Industrial Explosives Limited. It produces Nitro Glycerine for making use in the national highways, minings and agriculture sector. Some time back the production of NG-based explosives was banned by the Government of India. Similarly, Bharat Explosives Limited, Lalitpur, UP was also banned. Now, the ban on Bharat Explosives Limited, Lalitpur has been lifted. But the ban on Tamil Nadu Industrial Explosives Limited has not been lifted. Due to this, more than one thousand workers who are working in this company in Katpadi, Vellore are worried and afraid of their future. They say that these explosives, which are produced in this company are not being used by militants and terrorists.

13.00 hrs.

They also say that bullets, knives and even tubelights that we are manufacturing might be used by criminals. Because of that misuse, production of tubelights, knives and bullets is not stopped. Therefore, the Tamil Nadu Industrial Explosive Limited, which is a Government concern, should be allowed to manufacture these items and allowed to function. The ban should be lifted and thousands of workers who are working there should be free from fear. They should be given guarantee there. ...*(Interruptions)*

13.01 hrs.

RE: ALLEGED VIOLATION OF THE GUIDELINES GOVERNING USE OF VIP/VVIP FLIGHTS OF AIR FORCE IN DECEMBER 2003—*contd.*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): I have raised a very important issue. The Defence Minister is here. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: This practice will not continue. That depends on him.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: But the Minister is here. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I cannot force any hon. Minister to respond.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: As he is here, he can respond.

MR. SPEAKER: It is entirely for him to respond. I cannot ask him.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Just a minute!

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): I will surely ascertain the facts and I will inform the House.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan. You can say from there. I will permit you for a change. Your matter is on 'inauguration of flight'.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): Now, I request the hon. Speaker to give a direction to the Government that the Government of India's functions should not be conducted when the House is in Session. In our constituency, it so happened that a very big function was organised in Trivandrum. It is a part of my constituency. I could not be present here. It was reported in the Press that there was no quorum for the sitting also. When this is the situation, the Government of India should not conduct functions during the Session period. There is a Direction also to that effect. That is being violated by the Minister concerned. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I shall consider it.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Not only that, I may be permitted to point out that Air India organised a function at Trivandrum. I was not invited. A part of Trivandrum is in my constituency. The function was organized by Air India. The Chief Ministers and even MLAs were invited and they have gone on a tour to Dubai. I was not even cared for. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I would look into it.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: ...* Members of Parliament representing Lok Sabha from Kerala are from LDF. These people are making it a political motive. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: That portion may be taken out of record.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Okay. I have assured you that I shall look into it. This is a general policy matter.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: I once again request the Government that hereafter nothing like this grand function should be conducted during the Session.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Adhir Chowdhury. Your notice is very vague.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY (Berhampore, West Bengal): Sir, Khadi is a symbol of our national movement. It exemplifies the zeal of self-reliance. I would like to draw the attention of the House that on Friday last, in Lucknow, the capital of Uttar Pradesh, one show was displayed. That show was very much unethical.

Sir, Mahatma Gandhi is very much identified with Khadi. But, ostensibly, in order to promote Khadi, if sex symbols and half-naked female bodies are displayed, then, I think, it is a direct affront. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You can say 'inappropriate dresses' are used.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: It is a direct affront to the sentiments of our National Movement. Therefore, I would urge upon this Government to deter those officials of the board and they must be booked. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Well, this country is a free country.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: It is most outrageous to note that in UP where most of the national leaders have been produced, this kind of obscenity is being displayed in the name of promotion of Khadi.

MR. SPEAKER: Chaudhary Lal Singh—Not present.

Shri Anwar Hussain.

SHRI ANWAR HUSSAIN (Dhubri): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir, a very grave situation has arisen out of the closure of the Assam Mach Company at Dhubri by

WIMCO. From the date of its inception in 1926, it has been a profit-making industry. With this industry, about 1500 families are directly involved and about 5000 families are indirectly involved. By its closure, all these people have been made jobless.

The cause of closure has been shown as the Supreme Court's stricture for felling of trees. But this industry produces match sticks by paper also. So, the Government should take care of it. In the mean time, the Assam State Industrial Development Corporation has said that it is ready to take over the industry. So, I urge upon the Government to look into the matter and solve the grave situation as early as possible.

In the mean time, the WIMCO *Bachao* Committee has been agitating for years long. My humble urge is that the Government should give due importance to it.

MR. SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet again at 2 p.m.

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: First of all, we will take item No. 13 'Matters under Rule 377'. I think that they should be laid on the Table of the House. It will be treated as part of the Proceedings.

...*(Interruptions)*

[*Translation*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Malhotraji, you wanted to say something.

*Not recorded.

*Treated as laid on the Table.

[*English*]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): We are not participating in it.

- (I) **Need to construct a bridge over the railway crossing on National Highway No. 8 between Bulsar and Khergaon in Gujarat.**

[*Translation*]

SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATIL (Bulsar): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards the crossing between Khergaon and Bulsar city on the National Highway No. 8 in my parliamentary constituency Bulsar.

Sir, lakhs of people of Khergaon have to cross over to Bulsar from Khergaon everyday for coming to Bulsar from Khergaon. They have to cross the NH-8 which connects Ahmedabad and Mumbai. There is so much traffic on this route that, sometimes, it takes hours to cross it. The people of my parliamentary constituency Bulsar had raised the demand for the construction of a bridge on this crossing at the National Highway so many times at various levels but it has not been addressed to so far.

Sir, the Government has constructed a bridge on the Bagaldhara-Jargaon crossing on this highway where the traffic is comparatively low. The traffic on the Khergaon-Bulsar crossing becomes so chaotic in the absence of a bridge that accidents here have become a normal thing. The local people become victim in these accidents and not only fuel worth crores of rupees is wasted by the thousands of vehicles during this chaos but also the local people are forced to waste their invaluable time.

I, therefore, through you urge the Government that a bridge should be constructed at the crossing on NH-8 connecting the Bulsar city and Khergaon without any further delay.

- (II) **Need to widen Delhi-Faridabad Section of National Highway and to construct Badarpur-Faridabad-Noida flyovers.**

SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA (Faridabad): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to say that close to the national Capital city of Delhi, Faridabad is the biggest industrial town in Asia. Lakhs of workers and businessmen use to visit Faridabad. Besides this, a large number of

international tourists keep passing through Faridabad as it is situated along Agra highway due to which traffic has increased very much in Faridabad area falling along the Agra highway increasing the risk factor. Perspective investors are preferring Uttar Pradesh and other districts of Haryana over Faridabad due to the central government not doing proper development of the Faridabad section along Agra highway. This is resulting in unchecked increase in unemployment in Faridabad. The people of Faridabad have been putting their demand for widening of this part of the road for a long time. In addition to this, the then Surface Transport Minister Shri Rajesh Pilot had promised to construct a flyover connecting Faridabad to Greater NOIDA but no work has been done on this.

Therefore, I urge upon the Government to consider the aforesaid facts and issue instructions to widen Delhi-Faridabad section of Agra highway, construct Badarpur flyover and Faridabad-Greater NOIDA flyover.

- (III) **Need to extend National Highway No. 67 upto Palakkad in Kerala.**

[*English*]

SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN (Palani): Dharapuram town is an ancient city. The Pandavas lived in Viradapuram for one year (13th year Agnarvasam). The Viradapuram is now called as Dharapura. Ancient Fort and other monuments are located there. Large number of people visit Dharapuram very often. Pollachi is also another important city famous for coconut and coconut products. Karur is famous for textile and other handmade goods.

The National Highway authority of India had already announced Nagapattinam-Karur road as NH-67. Pollachi-Dindigul-Karur road is a State Highway. Pollachi is situated on border of Kerala State. Dharapuram-Karur road is passing through Vellakoil Assembly segment in my Palani Lok Sabha Constituency. Everyday thousands of lorries, vans and other vehicles ply from Karur connecting Kerala via Mulanur-Dharapuram-Pollachi.

Hence, it is appropriate that NH-67 has to be extended upto Palakkad in Kerala State. It will connect both the States.

I urge upon the Hon'ble Minister of Road Transport & Highways to take immediate necessary action and extend NH-67 upto Palakkad.

(iv) Need to provide a special economic package for all round development of Banaskantha Parliamentary Constituency, Gujarat.

[Translation]

SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA (Banaskantha): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, my parliamentary constituency Banaskantha is a backward district from every angle. There is no industry in this district and literacy rate is also very low in comparison to other districts. The major profession of the people is agriculture and dairying. But the land in this district is gradually becoming desert and basically is also increasing as a result of which the land is no longer as fertile as it used to be. There is acute shortage of drinking water. People have to go a long way to fetch drinking water. Roads are also in bad shape. Municipalities in all the talukas in this constituency are in loss due to which people are not getting even common facilities in small towns. Therefore, a special package by the Central Government is necessary for the development of this district on the pattern of other district.

Therefore, I would like to urge upon the Central Government to provide a special package for the development of my constituency Bansakantha as the funds provided under the development schemes are not adequate.

(v) Need to take suitable measure to meet impending danger of earthquakes in Kangra region of Himachal Pradesh.

[English]

PROF. CHANDER KUMAR (Kangra): I would like to draw the attention of the Government regarding Seismologist Rojer Bilham's warning that Kangra belt is prone to massive earthquakes. Recently a three day seminar was organised by the Geological Survey of India at CSK Agriculture University, Palampur (H.P.) to mark the centenary of the earthquake that rocked Kangra District in 1905. There the seismologist has warned that the Kangra region is vulnerable to massive earthquakes exceeding the magnitude of 8.6 on the richter scale. The seismologist had warned of another earthquake. It would not be wise to ignore the possibility of a great earth quake in the Himalayas which could have a much greater impact on people than the recent tsunami. so, the Central and the State Governments should prepare a blue print

of the strategy to tackle this problem. So that the people living in high zones could be educated about the impending dangers of earth quakes.

(vi) Need to formulate a policy for promoting export of mangoes from the country.

[Translation]

DR. RAJESH MISHRA (Varanasi): India contributes approximately 50 percent or more of the total production of mangoes in the world. Similarly, more than 1000 out of 1595 varieties of mangoes available in the world are found in India and there is a huge demand of Indian mangoes in the world especially in Britain, America, Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Canada. The country earns more than one arab dollars by exporting mangoes to these countries. Despite this, I am sorry to observe that only 0.2 percent of the total mango production is exported from the country. Export of mangoes reduced to 35 thousand MT in 1999-2000 from 43 thousand MT in 1997-98. In subsequent years also, the export of mangoes has not been good.

Therefore, I urge upon the Minister of Agriculture to formulate an effective policy through National Horticulture Board to preserve Mangoes for longer periods and increase export of mangoes from the country.

(vii) Need to lay a new railway line linking Anandnagar rail junction-Maharajganj and Ghughli Railway Station in Uttar Pradesh

SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY (Maharajganj, U.P.): The district headquarters of Maharajganj district under my parliamentary constituency is not connected with railway route as a result of which people are facing a lot of difficulties there. The Railway Ministry had conducted a survey for construction of new rail line from Anand Nagar junction to Dhundhli Railway Station via Maharajganj. The construction of this rail-line will not only connect the district headquarters with railway route but will also provide a new route to the trains coming from Bihar and going to places like Lucknow, Kanpur, Delhi etc.

I request the Government that the district headquarters of Maharajganj should be connected with the railway route in public interest and permission should be granted for laying a new rail line from Anand Nagar junction railway station to Dhundhli railway station *via* Maharajganj.

(viii) Need to re-appoint 327 Kendriya Vidyalaya principals*[English]*

SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY (Bellary): I would like to mention that the Human Resource Development Ministry has ordered cancellation of appointment of 327 KV Principals of which 140 Principals were taken on deputation and later-regularised. The Ministry also directed 187 Principals on deputation basis to repatriate to their parent cadre.

The then Union Government had recruited principals on deputation basis through open advertisements by amending recruitment rules to allow PG teachers and some vice-principals taken as Principals on deputation. Postgraduate teachers had also been selected as principals.

Nearly 45% of KVs and education of the 4-1/2 lakh students across the country is affected because of this single hasty decision.

I urge upon the Union Government to re-appoint these 327 KV principals immediately so that the education of these students is not affected.

(ix) Need to disburse the donated land amongst landless people received under 'Bhoodan movement'*[Translation]*

SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD (Yavatmal): Sir, Bhoodan Yagya Mandal was started by Saint Vinoba Bhave ji and in that Yagya farmers all over the country made declaration of donating lakhs of acres of land. This donated land was to be distributed among the landless people but even after the lapse of so many years thousand of acres of land, which has not been distributed among the landless, is still lying with the donors.

I, therefore, request the Government to kindly issue necessary directions in this regard.

(x) Need to obtain environmental clearance for construction of a road between Khejramati and Bahadurpur under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana in Sagar Parliamentary Constituency, Madhya Pradesh*[Translation]*

SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR (Sagar): A 7.25 Km. long road from Khejramaafi to Bahadurpur road was sanctioned

under package No. 3313 under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana in Rahatgarh Development Block in my parliamentary constituency area Sagar (M.P.) The situation becomes for more serious in these rainy days as it becomes difficult to cross this 7 Km. distance even on foot. Many patients die on the way even before reaching hospital as this area lies between hills and forests. The forest department has not yet given clearance for the construction of this road. It is learnt that the Government has stopped construction of this road and has sanctioned three other roads in its place which has lead to a feeling of despair and anguish amongst the villages situated on this road.

I, therefore, urge upon the Government to extend all possible help to get the clearance from the forest department regarding construction of the Khejramaafi to Bahadurpur road and also to complete the construction of the road at the earliest.

(xi) Need to address the problems being faced by local people in paying toll tax on newly constructed road between Nelamangala and Tumkur in Karnataka*[English]*

SHRI S. MALLIKARJUNIAH (Tumkur): I would like to invite the kind attention of this Hon'ble House that Nelamangala to Tumkur Road Project in my Parliamentary constituency Tumkur has been implemented during the last week of March, 2005 and the concessionaire who was engaged started collecting tolls from the passengers. The project was entrusted to the concessionary on the basis that they have to bear the investments for construction of the road and to bear the investments for construction of the road to recover his money by collecting tolls for a specific period. There was a Gazette Notification in this regard.

It is important to note that the project does not contain any provision for concessional passes for the comfort of the local personal and commercial traffic. As such there were widespread agitations from 5th April, 2005. But on seeing the alarming situation, the Government of India has come out with a promise to the public that a positive steps will be taken by 18th April, 2005. But, nothing has been done till this time.

I therefore urge upon the Government to chalk out a positive attitude in respect of the collection of toll tax in order to have amicable solution to the problems of the local public without any further delay.

(xii) Need to lay a new railway line between Jhargram and Purulia in West Bengal

SHRI RUPCHAND MURMU (Jhargram): There has been a long standing demand for constructing a new railway line between Jhargram and Purulia in South Eastern Railway. Jhargram and Purulia are the backward areas of West Bengal. Most of the inhabitants of this areas belong to SCs/STs and BPL category. People of Jhargram have to go to Purulia via Kharagpur and Adra, which is double, in distance than Jhargram and Purulia. Thousands of people will be benefited if the Government fulfils this demand. Hundreds of youths will also get jobs. The backward area will also be developed. So, I urge upon the Minister for Railways to fulfil this long standing demand for a new railway line between Jhargram and Purulia.

(xiii) Need to ensure that people affected due to incidents of fire or floods in rural areas are compensated suitably by providing them financial assistance and houses under Indira Awas Yojana.

[Translation]

SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD (Salempur): Many incidents of fire take place in the country and rural areas are more affected by it. If a poor man's house is destroyed in a fire in village, then it takes a long time to rebuild it. No compensation is paid if Kitchen is not destroyed in the fire. Similarly, if standing crops and harvested crops are destroyed in fire, no compensation is paid. This is also not justified. A person should get compensation if his house is destroyed in fire and the kitchen remains intact. Similarly, if the standing crop or harvested crops is destroyed by floods or fire the farmers should be paid compensation. Secondly, I urge upon the Government to provide a house under India Awas Yojana to any villager whose house is destroyed in a flood or fire.

I urge upon the Central Government through this House to change the rules pertaining to providing compensation and the facility of providing houses under Indira Awas Yojana should be extended to the people losing their houses in floods or fire.

(xiv) Need to provide more funds on priority basis for construction of roads under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana in Patna Parliamentary Constituency, Bihar.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna): Almost a year is going to elapse since preparation of priority list under

the PMRY in my Parliamentary Constituency, DPR has also been prepared to start work in several areas under this scheme but not a single road has been selected in the first phase in Patna though (1) Fulwari Mission Path to Gharamchak (2) Didarganj Check Post to Fatehpur Gaurichak Path (3) Begampur Daulatpur Path (4) Khemanichak to Manoharpur Katchhuara Path (5) Purana Danapur to Manaspur Aakilpur (6) Mathiapur to Asopur Lakhani Bigaha (7) Duihin Bazar to Shaharampur (8) Nangawa to Karal (9) Vikram Sadisopur Path have been given priority. The public is quiet agitated due to non commencement of work there. The construction of these roads, will facilitate the movement of the masses and will add to the employment opportunities.

I, therefore, through you would like to invite the attention of the hon'ble Minister of Rural Development and request him to provide more funds for Patna under the PMRY according to priority and get the DPR prepared so as to commence the work as monsoon is to arrive soon. Therefore work should be commenced there before the rains so as to provide the relief to the rural people there.

(xv) Need to depute a Central team to Fatehpur district, Uttar Pradesh with a view to assessing the damage caused to the crops due to heavy hailstorm

[Translation]

SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD NISHAD (Fatehpur): Sir, while inviting the attention of the Union Government especially that of Union Agriculture Minister to my Parliamentary Constituency, I would like to state that heavy hail storm has hit in Fatehpur and several other districts of Uttar Pradesh destroying Rabi, Dalhan and oil seed crops there completely. Local farmers have been pushed on to the verge of starvation as a result thereof.

Therefore, I demand from the Government of India and hon'ble Agriculture Minister that a Central team be immediately dispatched to Fatehpur and other affected districts of Uttar Pradesh so as to prepare an estimate of the losses and provide compensation/relief to the affected farmers.

(xvi) Need to resume Ajanta and Elora Express trains services on Manmad-Kachiguda railway section besides providing a new rail service between Manmad and Tirupati.

[Translation]

SHRI TUKARAM GANPAT RAO RENGE PATIL (Prabhani): Sir, a broad guage rail line has been laid

from Kachiguda to Manmad. During the period meter gauge rails line on this section, Ajanta and Allora Express trains used to ply there. Since the gauge conversion on this section the people living in cities along this section have been left with no proper means of transport. Therefore, like in past, a train should be introduced again on this section. One more proposal to introduce a train from Manmad to Tirupati has been pending with the Railway Board for years together. People from several areas of Maharashtra who use to travel and from Tirupati will stand benefited therefrom.

Through this august House I request the Union Government that Ajanta Express and Allora Express trains be restored on this section from Manmad to Kachiguda and the proposal to introduce one more train from Manmad to Tirupati in Manded railway division be cleared.

(xvii) Need for setting up of second Kendriya Vidyalaya at Cuttack in Orissa

[English]

SHRI B. MAHTAB (Cuttack): Kendriya Vidyalayas are intended for the benefit of children not only of Central Government employees but also to provide quality and affordable school education in the Country to pursue excellence and set the pace in the field of school education. Therefore, there is an urgent need to review the existing guidelines with a view to have more Kendriya Vidyalayas where the State Government is willing to give land free of cost as also rent free building for running the school till the Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan constructs its own building. Cuttack is in great need of a second Kendriya Vidyalaya and the only one is bursting in its seams.

The demand of students to study in Kendriya Vidyalaya has grown year after year and Cuttack, which has more number of Central Government employees also qualifies to have another Kendriya Vidyalaya too. After construction of the new building of the present Kendriya Vidyalaya, the school has shifted to its new place and the old structure at Cantonment Road to Cuttack is lying vacant. The Government of Orissa has expressed its willingness to provide the space if the Sangathan would start a second Kendriya Vidyalaya at Cuttack.

I would request the Government to consider setting up of the second Kendriya Vidyalaya at Cuttack keeping its necessity and urgency in view.

(xviii) Need to take steps to check atrocities on Dalits and set up a separate Ministry for the welfare of Backward Caste people

DR. M. JAGANNATH (Nagar Kurnool): Although untouchability stands abolished under the Constitution of India, but even after 58 years of independence it is still virulent, assuming dangerous proportions. Atrocities against Dalits as well as unsociability are on the increase across the country. I quote some latest harrowing instance stating how the Dalits are being treated in this free country even after 58 years of independence. Crimes against a Dalit youth in Bedkalan village in Pali district of Rajasthan and a Dalit woman in Munger district in Bihar are some of the reported incidents.

Sir, the BCs who form 54 per cent of the country population have no separate body for their welfare.

I urge upon the Government to set up BC department and form a Ministry specially for BC welfare.

(xix) Need to declare Gomah Railway Station as Netaji Railway Station

SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO (Purulia): Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose, the patriot of the patriots left India on the 18th January, 1941 to fight against British imperialism. He boarded Punjab Mail from Platform No. 2 of the Gomah Railway Station. The heritage ticket room from where he purchased ticket is still in existence. But the room remains abandoned now.

In 1986 Venkat Subaiya, the then Governor of Bihar unveiled a portrait of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose and declared that the name of Gomah Railway Station would be Netaji Nagar Railway Station.

In view of the historical importance and declaration by the then Governor of Bihar, I urge upon the Central Government to declare Gomah Railway station as Netaji Railway Station.

(xx) Need to relay AIR Programmes from the F.M. Tower, Aizawal to enable people living in the remote areas of Mizoram to listen to the programmes

SHRI VANLAL ZAWMA (Mizoram): Through you, I bring to the notice of the Government that the people living in the far-flung and remote areas of Mizoram, are

[Shri Vanlal Zawma]

unable to listen the A.I.R. Programmes broadcast by A.I.R., Aizawal Station.

In this connection, I met the Hon'ble Minister concerned on 24th September, 2004 and suggested that the solution lies in issuing instructions that the A.I.R. Programmes of Aizawal be carried over or relayed by the F.M. Tower of Aizawal. I reminded the Government of the issue several time but no action seems to have been taken in the matter.

I urge upon the Union Government to consider the request to local people living in far flung and remote areas of Mizoram to relay AIR programmes from the F.M. Tower at Aizawal.

the time to be taken in passage of Finance Bill in this budget session or after this session it comes to about one year since this government resumed power. During this one year what this government has given to the people in the name of achievements. If we take a glance over the circumstances around ourselves, they are quite disappointing. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please do not disturb.

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: During this one year only toxification has been carried out in the name of detoxification. All the departments have been brought under total control. Attempts have been made to appoint committed governors, committed officers and committed judiciary and the period of one year was devoted to this work. This is not the right occasion to put forward all the promises made by the UPA government in its manifesto or in common-minimum-programme because here we are holding discussion on the Finance Bill, but the most serious and difficult issue is of corruption. I would like to make a little mention of the pace at which corruption is growing in the country, and the way it is creating horrible circumstances in the country. Grave threat is posed to the internal and external security. Here labourers and government employees have been betrayed. Talks were held about reigning the soaring prices in the country. The Government should also see to the rising prices. The Government assured to provide employment to every person and bring an employment guarantee scheme accordingly. But there is not trace of that scheme. That scheme has been already diluted. The allocation for the scheme has constantly reduced. Today, there is no trace of the related Bill. I am very much sure that one crore people have been rendered jobless during the last one year, thanks to the policies adopted by the Government. The present government said that fresh employment opportunities would be generated but people are yet to be provided any employment. This is the second budget of this government. During last year in July, the Government promised to provide employment opportunities in the next budget.

Now, I would like to come to the sections of Finance Bill because at present we are debating the Finance Bill. First of all hon'ble Minister of Finance Shri Chidambaram ji put forward an innovative scheme for unearthing black money and said that tax will be levied on withdrawal of

14.03 hrs.

FINANCE BILL, 2005—*Contd.*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, we will take up Item No. 14—Finance Bill for discussion. Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra.

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, while participating in the debate on Finance Bill for the year 2005-06, we find ourselves in a great fix. We were boycotting the House for the last few days but with a heavy heart for varied reasons as has been conveyed already.

In this Finance Bill total revenue receipt is to the tune of Rs. 3,51,200 crore and total income from taxation i.e. tax revenue is Rs. 2,73,466 crore. The NDA after deeply deliberating this issue concluded that we must participate in the debate on Finance Bill, on which the fate of country's economic status depends in the coming year. Though the circumstances continued to render us to resort to such measures, it seems that this government does not feel the necessity of an opposition in the House.

Under the circumstances which were created during the last few days we had to boycott the House with heavy heart. The government is about to complete one year since it resumed power. After about 15 days this government will complete one year. If we take into account

rupees ten thousand. Now after amending the Bill the limit of rupees ten thousand has been increased to rupees twenty five thousand. Should any individual from his salary, any government employee, any poor man, labourer, a person belonging to middle class, any widow pay tax on withdrawal of the money deposited by themselves in the Bank? Does it not imply that the Government itself want people to keep cash at home instead of depositing it in the Bank? You want big capitalists to keep their money as black money at their homes instead of keeping it in the Bank. Can this Bill be proved helpful in unearthing black money? Will the circulation of the black money be checked by increasing the limit from rupees ten thousand to twenty five thousand? This is the worst method to encourage black money.

This is the most atrocious scheme to encourage black money. I noticed that members of the Congress Party and also Communist Party were heaping praise on hon'ble Minister of Finance that he has introduced an excellent Bill. He has done a great job by introducing this Bill. They all are welcoming it. I would like to know whether it will check the circulation of black money? Does corruption not related with it? Not a single Prime Minister or a party appointed any person as a minister accused of corruption, having black money and amassing disproportionate assets during the last 50 years. There is no such precedence. The Ministers of Congress Party resigned and ministers of other parties had also resigned. The first general election was held in 1952 and the constitution came into force in 1950.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, in the last 55 years no such person who has been charged with corruption, possession of black money, owning of disproportionate assets is made a minister after such charges against him but this Government has appointed such persons as Ministers and they have been given important portfolios too. When the Ministers, themselves are incriminated, then how can we expect an end to corruption? If Ganga is polluted at its source, the Gangotri, then how can we expect the Ganga to be clean further on. You should have intervened and made an effort to send out a message in this reserved.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I was surprised when the Prime Minister tried to justify it. He said it was within his rights. Who says it is not his prerogative. It is true that he can appoint anyone of his choice as a Minister. No where in the Constitution is it mentioned that he cannot appoint such a person as a Minister, but neither

does the Constitution say that a person in prison be made Minister or a terrorist be made Minister. When charges have been framed against a person he should not be made a Minister. If this does not hold true, then what is there to stop you from appointing those who are involved in carrying our terrorist activities in Kashmir or some big terrorist or even Dawood Ibrahim as a Minister. There's nothing to stop you. Then why don't you appoint them Ministers? There is no provision in the Constitution regarding this. As I have illustrated above, there is no precedent during the last 55 years when any such person, who was involved in corruption and against whom charges had been framed, had been appointed as a minister. It seems very ironical when it has been stated by the Minister that he has allowed a major concession by raising the limit from Rs. 10,000 to Rs. 25,000 for cash withdrawal from banks with intention to unearth black money, particularly when there is rampant corruption on the part of this Government.

Sir, as I just mentioned about Term Deposit that if a widow makes a fixed deposit for two or three years and withdraws the amount at the end of the said period then in case that amount is more than Rs. 25,000. It will be taxed you say that it is a very small amount. Levying tax, keeping account will increase work this is not my point but the point is that this taxation is wrong and is being levied in a wrong manner. The very concept of such taxation is erroneous. If you want to expose black money then there is only one way. I don't do that. A complete stop should be put to all 'benaami' transactions in the country. The way to stop such transactions is that every person should be identified and a National Register of Citizens should be maintained in which everyone has a registration number without which no transactions could be carried out. If you implement this procedure all 'benaami' transactions would stop. Why don't you implement this suggestion?

Sir, the issue of registering each person and giving him with a number for purpose of carrying out transactions has been a topic of discussion since last many days, but it was not allowed to become forwards. It was dropped because people are immigrating from Bangladesh. If the said proposal is implemented then immigration from Bangladesh would stop. Cessation of immigration from Bangladesh will make them worry about their Vote Bank. That is the reason I say that by not registering each and every citizen you are playing with the country. If National Citizen's Registration is done in the country and each citizen is given a number that is to be compulsorily quoted

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for carrying out any transaction only then you can put a complete stop on generation of black money in the country and you say that you have made a great concision by raising the limit for taxation on withdrawals from Rs. 10,000 to Rs. 25,000. I am talking about Term Deposit.

Sir, my second point is that suppose we take the case of a heart operation. When a patient goes to a hospital a demand for Rs. 1.5 lakh is cash is to be made in cash and payment by cheque is not accepted. In such a case the patient will first go to withdraw cash, and this pay tax on his white money whereas there would be no taxation for payment in black money and then you deem it a great favors that the taxation amount on withdrawals has been increased from Rs. 10,000 to Rs. 25,000.

Sir, my second point is about the senior citizens. The other day when I raised this point Shri Chidambaramji told that it forms part of his/our constituency and that he will address them at the right time. Now as a per the amendment he has moved after deliberations he has raised the limit from Rs. 1,00,000 to Rs. 1,85,000 saying that the senior citizens will not get tax exemption on income upto Rs. 1,85,000. Sir, through you, I would like to ask from Shri Chidambaramji as also tell him that last year Shri Jaswant Singhji had given a rebate of Rs. 20,000 to senior citizens. In his speech at that time he had said that senior citizens are people above sixty five years of age facing circumstances under which they should be entitled to get more rebate than common people. Therefore, he announced tax rebate of Rs. 20,000 to them. On his turn what have he given to them? Leave it apart that the rebate up to Rs. 1,00,000 is now available to every Indian citizen aged between 20 to 24 years. Tax slab is ten percent on income upto Rs. One lakh fifty thousand. The saving of rupees five thousand on rupees one lakh fifty thousand is the tax on that amount. I am unable to understand the rationale of enhancing the limit upto rupees one lakh eighty five thousand. In this way he has raised it by rupees thirty five thousand more. This income on account of tax saving comes to rupees seven thousand. That plus five thousand come to rupees twelve thousand in all. That means he has reduced the amount on account tax saving to senior citizens from 20 thousand to 12 thousand. I want to ask from the people sitting behind him as they consider themselves champions of the cause of senior citizens and plead that the senior citizens should stand benefited. But instead what has been done to them is that the rebate of Rs. 20,000 applicable to them till now including this year has been

reduced to Rs. 12,000 for the next year. The Minister should have raised the limit of Rs. One lakh and eighty five thousand, instead of doing that he has added to the total as I have already said that exemption upto rupees one lakh is available to every citizen. Exemption upto rupees one lakh is available to even wealthy persons like Premji who is the richest person of the country. What has he given to the senior citizens separately? Earlier he was enjoying a rebate of rupees five thousand which has now been enhanced to rupees twelve thousand. Why has he not retained it at rupees twenty thousand? In fact he has cut the rebate which the senior citizens were enjoying till now and brought it down to sixty percent. I think it is a gross injustice meted out to them. He should also think over it.

Sir, atleast the NDA government had not done like that, it did not put the senior citizens to such injustice and excess. Therefore, I would like to tell that the exemption of rupees twenty thousand be retained, why does he talks about rupees one lakh eighty five thousand? He should have come out with the statement that the senior citizens will continue to get the rebate as they were getting earlier. You have curtailed that rebate drastically and thus meted out gross injustice to them.

Sir, my second point is regarding women. Shrimati Soniaji and her Congress party talk much about the women. They have launched women empowerment programme and various other such programmes. It is a different matter that the same Congress party has met with utter failure in bringing forward the women reservation Bill in the Parliament. They have not convened even a single meeting on this issue in a year. ...*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): It is being called now.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Whenever the said bill will be brought at that time also they will say that we are going to convene the meeting but one year has elapsed and they have not called even a single meeting. Everybody knows that delimitation is being made in each State. If the process of delimitation is being done or has already been done then how seats will increase and how reservation will be given? Shri Shivraj Patilji has said that seats can be reserved for women only after increasing the total number of seats by thirty percent. Why delimitation is being done. Delimitation is taking place in Bengal and every state of the country and as such

how the number of seats will increase? I want to say that an exemption of rupees five thousand in tax was available for the women. There was an exemption to all on the income upto rupees one lakh and for women an exemption in tax upto rupees five thousand was available. The tax slab on the income from rupees one lakh to one lakh fifty thousand is ten percent. He has given an exemption of five thousand in tax on income upto Rs. One lakh fifty thousand. First he made it rupees one lakh twenty five thousand which was further increased to rupees one lakh thirty five thousand which means an exemption of rupees three thousand five hundred for women. Shri Chidambaramji, if my arithmetic is correct, an exemption of rupees three thousand on rupees thirty five thousand five hundred means a rebate at the rate of ten percent. It means he has slashed it from rupees five thousand to rupees three thousand five hundred. He has reduced the exemption to women from rupees five thousand to rupees three thousand five hundred.

Sir, though a lot is being done for women and Shrimati Soniaji has been holding meetings with women all over the country then why this injustice is being done to them? Why he has slashed the exemption available to them from rupees five thousand to rupees three thousand five hundred? He could have increased it upto rupees seven thousand five hundred and have taken credit of increasing exemption limit for women upto rupees one lakh seventy five thousand but instead he has brought it down to rupees one lakh thirty five thousand. Why did he go in these figures, he should have adhered to the past concession. He has given a rebate of Rs. twenty thousand to senior citizens. I have requested in writing that it should be increased from Rs. 20,000 to Rs. 25,000 and the rebate for women should also be increased from Rs. 5,000 to Rs. 7,500. Then it would be understood that he has taken care of his constituency and has nursed it. Oppress them, do injustice to them, exploit them and still claim that you are doing a lot of things for them. It has happened in case of senior citizens and women. One more thing is there for not only the Government employees but also for all the employees. To keep all those employees separate from businessmen and very rich industrialists, Shri Jaswant Singh Jee had said here in his budget speech last year that salaried class employees can not evade tax as their tax is deposited directly and therefore, the standard deduction for them was increased and this standard deduction must be increased. Last year, this standard deduction was Rs. Thirty Thousand. Now, he has discontinued it. They used to get a rebate of Rs. Twelve thousand on the

interest. He will again argue that he has increased the general exemption limit from Rs. Fifty thousand to Rs. one lakh. I would like to say it again that that limit is for everyone. The exemption limit of Rs. one lakh is applicable to each of the industrialists also. What has been done for the government employees, general employees or those working in shops? They were getting a standard deduction of Rs. thirty thousand and an exemption of Rs. twelve thousand on the interest, but he has completely dispersed with the exemption of Rs. forty two thousand. It is an injustice to the government employees as well as private employees. It is an injustice to very one including employees working at smaller shops or those working as clerks at some other place. He should have kept it in his mind that there was a basis, a reason for extending that rebate to them which is now available to all the people. The reason was that the amount of income tax in respect of them is directly deposited in banks and they can not evade tax. That is why this rebate was there for them. Now, this rebate has been dispensed with and I think that it is a very erroneous. Therefore, it should be restored.

He has made very lengthy amendments in the Fringe Benefit Tax Proposal. But, he is imposing tax on employees in the name of Fringe Benefit Tax by withdrawing the petty benefits such as group function or advertisement which used to be given collectively to the common man. It is true that the tax will be applicable on the employers, but then why will they provide the facilities to their employees. Therefore, we oppose the imposition of Fringe Benefit Tax. It should not be imposed.

He made a heavy increase in the service tax. Owing to this increase in the service tax, constructing a house became a costly affair. Now, if someone builds more than ten houses, then he would have to pay a service tax of 7.5 percent resulting in cost escalation in construction of houses. Again, rate of interest is bound to rise, it can not remain unchanged. When the interest rate will increase, then constructing smaller houses will become very difficult. Therefore, there is a need today to reconsider about the general petty things which have been brought under the net of service tax.

In addition to that, a number of things are being said as to how and wherefrom this money is likely to be recovered which is involved in Non-performing assets. I would like to repeat it that a lot of amount in respect of Non-performing assets of banks was recovered by the previous government during the years 2000 and 2004

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which was also stated in a paper circulated by the present Government. In reply to a question regarding work done by the N.D.A. Government for recovering non-performing assets, the present Government stated that it has been brought down to a great extent even below Rs. 56 thousand crore, but even then the present government has said that we can not give them credit for it. It is a long standing demand to publish the names of the defaulters. Value of the non-performing assets is more than Rs. 60 thousand crore. The Government may amend the act. After amending the act, please recover the amount of Rs. 60 thousand crore from those who are still sitting on it. Interest rate on E.P.F. was increased to 9.5 percent recently which resulted in a loss of Rs. 800 crore. From where this amount of Rs. 800 crore will be brought? Many reputed people are sitting over Rs. 60 thousand crore. Please make any amendment or devise ways to recover that amount of Rs. 60 thousand crore.

The amount outstanding against the people as income tax arrears is also the same and arrear of corporate tax custom duty and excise duty taken together is also the same. The total of this sum amounts to Rs. two lakh. The amount outstanding against them is more than the total revenue in a year. They are very reputed persons and any action is not being taken against them. We want that money be recovered from them. If amendments to acts are necessary to check such money laundering and ways of default, then this house has always been ready for that. But once again, the question arises about the identity of those persons. It should be looked into.

I want to make one point with all seriousness that they brought in one ordinance before the commencement of this session and that ordinance was related to recover about Rs. 800 crore from the I.T.C. An ordinance is being brought into recover crores of rupees. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, these words preceded the ordinance.

[English]

Whereas Parliament is not in session and the President is satisfied that circumstances exist which render it necessary for him to take immediate action.

[Translation]

Immediate action is needed. Parliament is not in session. It is very long time to wait for 15 days. Therefore, this ordinance is being brought in. His Excellency, the President has signed at the end of the ordinance. When this ordinance was brought in, it was laid on the table of

the House, but what transpired in the House behind the curtain, I do not know that. And then the ordinance was allowed to lapse. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, is this the way to involve President in the picture and then convince him to issue an ordinance and state therein on behalf of the President that the Parliament is not in session and if such and such ordinance is not promulgated, the heaven would fall. "...". And there should be no consideration over that ordinance. The Bill has been brought in here and then the Bill should not be passed. Is it not a way of blackmailing? Is it not a way of building, blackmailing and corruption that you bring in an ordinance and get it signed by the President and enforce it on the country and after that let that ordinance get lapsed "...". People have the right to say so and how can people be stopped from saying so? If the corruption takes place this way, if the ordinance will also be brought in this way. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): He is making a serious allegation.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: I did not say.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Has he given notice? Sir, is he making an allegation with your permission? Can he make an allegation like that? He is alleging that there is a bribe or a kickback. Now, can he make that allegation? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will see whether there is any allegation or not.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: I only said that people say that type of things. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: How can people say? ...*(Interruptions)* Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra, you can criticise the Ordinance or the lapsing of the Ordinance. But how can you make an allegation of a bribe or a kickback?

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: I did not say so.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: You said so.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: I said I do not know about it.

... Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: You please take back that allegation. ...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: But if people say, then nobody can stop them from saying it because this is the position. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Anything else will not be recorded.

...*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: He has said what he wanted to say ...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Hon. Chidambaram Ji should clarify in his speech as to why this was allowed to lapse? If you brought an ordinance, why did you allow it to lapse? Why it was not got passed. Only these people adopt this method, who indulge in bullying and blackmailing. This should not happen.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to say one thing about the VAT. VAT has been implemented in the country. So many days have passed since the VAT was implemented but still changes are being made therein daily. Everyday meeting is being held on this issue. Sometime one state does not implement the VAT and other time other state does not implements it. Why all these things were not taken into account earlier? Why the talks were not held with the traders? Why all the states were not asked to implement the VAT simultaneously? You have divided the country in the parts on this issue. One is VAT states and the other is non VAT states. Has this happened even? You say that the VAT has been implemented in 112 countries. Has it happened in any coming where the VAT is implemented in half of the country and not implemented in the other half. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Anything else will not be recorded.

...*(Interruptions)**

*Not recorded.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: For 5 years, you supported VAT or not. ...*(Interruptions)* Did your Finance Minister support VAT or not? ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: We have been talking about this thing for five years. That is why we did not implement the VAT. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SANDEEP DIKSHIT (East Delhi): You used to say in phone to implement it. It was your Government and your Finance Minister who used to say to implement it. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Not to be recorded.

...*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: It was goosed from here to implement the VAT but it was not implemented for five years because it was not going to be implemented in the entire country at a time. It is a state subject, not a Centre subject. This was done to facilitate the states. Therefore, we said that when all the states would be ready to do so, only then we would implement it. This second reason was to abolish the Central sales and third thing was to find a way out after talks with the traders. It was not implemented from 1995 to 2004 so that talks are held with all concerned and all the states are prepared to implement it simultaneously and the loopholes therein are plugged. But you did not do so and it was implemented in a hurry. In the Defence canteens, so far as I know, sales tax is not levied on the items sold through it since these canteens came into existence. The family members of the soldiers who fight the war, were exempted from paying the sales tax on the item sold through the Defence canteens. Now, the canteens have been brought within the ambit of VAT, thereby every item has become costlier by 10-15 percent. After all, they are defence personnel. This thing was put up before the committee but the committee has stated that they do not accept it. Why there are not accepting it? Our soldiers fight war in the hills, they fight war in the Kargil, then why the matter of getting the canteen facility by their families is brought within the ambit of VAT. This is a sort of betrayal to crores of jawans. ...*(Interruptions)*

*Not recorded.

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI (Garhwal): Profit from it goes for welfare. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

He has yielded to be. ...*(Interruptions)* I just want to point out to the hon. Members that it is not a commercial organisation. ...*(Interruptions)* It is not a commercial transaction. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

It is not a commercial activity to make profit out of it. The profit earned from it goes for welfare activities, the government should understand it. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (Chandigarh): Malhotra Ji, you are giving a certificate of incompetency. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Bansal Ji, please don't do this.

...*(Interruptions)*

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI: Why it is pinching you, in your state also there is a good number of servicemen. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You are a senior politician.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Khanduri Ji, please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: This thing should be kept in mind while enforcing VAT. Your first order could be that the facilities available for defence so far should be withdrawn directly. Defence is under the Centre and defence canteens etc. comes under you. This is a state subject but you can guide the states. It was really surprising and painful for me that when this thing was put up, the empowerment committee headed by CPM, Minister of Bengal outrightly rejected it. I think it is a grave situation and it should be set right at the earliest.

It should not be that the jawans fight on borders and their family members have to resort to agitations in Delhi and all over the country. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You cannot, show the newspaper here. Shri Malhotra, you please continue.

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: I want to mention one thing more. We could not raise issue during the course of discussion on Finance Bill or earlier discussion. The issue is that a lot is being said about Kashmir, but I am not going into details of all that. But I would say something about funds and other things in defence. What is happening in Bangladesh, what the B.S.F. people are doing on border with Bangladesh? B.S.F. personnel's are being killed. Atrocities are being committed against minorities there, that is a separate issue and issue of northeast is separate one and the Maoist problem is yet another issue. Set aside all these things, but we will have to think about Kashmiri Pandits or Kashmiri migrants. Ours is the first country all over the world where its own citizens are migrants. There is the question of their income tax. Every year this matter is brought to your notice. Every year this point is raised that Kashmiri migrants. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: This is not to be recorded. Please record only the speech of Prof. Malhotra.

...*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: The Kashmiri migrants have to apply every year for income tax exemption. As it is linked to the Finance Bill, I want to say that you should have done something for the Kashmiri Migrant Pandits or other people who have come from there. They should be exempted from income tax till normalcy restored in the state and they go back to their native place. You announced so many packages for Kashmir and railways and Shri Manmohan Singh Ji and Shrimati Sonia Ji visited the state, inaugurated so many schemes but did not do anything for Kashmiri Pandits. I say this with all seriousness that five lakh of our own people are tossing about from pillar to post, no package

*Not recorded.

has been given to them. No provision for jobs and their returning to their native place has been made. In income tax also. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: This is not to be recorded.

...(*Interruptions*)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Members please sit down.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: This is not to be recorded.

...(*Interruptions*)*

[*Translation*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please take your seat. Whatever you are speaking is not going on records.

...(*Interruptions*)

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, they visited their homes but they did not have homes. ...(*Interruptions*) Whom they visited in the valley? Not a single person is living in the valley. Nothing can be more unfortunate than this that people have to live in their own country as refugees. ...(*Interruptions*) They are not getting an opportunity to go to Srinagar ...(*Interruptions*). I know ...(*Interruptions*) Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, please ask them to keep quiet. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

...(*Interruptions*)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please sit down.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Whatever you are speaking in not going on records. Please take your seat.

...(*Interruptions*)

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, opposition was for the last three days. They spoke whatever deemed proper to them. Not a single Member from opposition was there. Ruling-party members continued to deliver totally baseless, unscrupulous speeches in arbitrary and mischievous manner. The entire country witnessed it. But we are being restrained here from speaking on this point. I would like to ask members present here as to whether they ...(*Interruptions*) I am telling you. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

Please stop them from disturbing me. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please sit down.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing else will go on record except the speech of Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra.

...(*Interruptions*)*

[*Translation*]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I raised a simple issue. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please do not disturb.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I would like to convey to all the hon'ble Members present here that after Shri Malhotra Ji, the members of other Parties will also get the chance to speak and then they can place their point. Please do not disturb the Hon'ble Member.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, he has said that properties in Srinagar are being returned to those who are coming from Mujaffarabad, Pakistan they are being settled down there. But Kashmiri Pandits can not go and settle down there. The ways and means are being provided to make it convenient to return the property to the people coming from Pakistan. Buses are being run to facilitate their entry into India without requiring passports by them while the

*Not recorded.

*Not recorded.

[Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra]

Government is not ready to give rebate or exemption in income tax to the Kashmiri Pandits. Here there is no provision for any package for them and the state has made no provision to provide them employment.* If one lakh fifty thousand employment opportunities are generated there, not a single job is given to Kashmiri Pandits. Here do you discriminate in such manner?

Sir, I would like to say that today Finance Bill brought by the Government has done gross injustice to all the sections. I would like to request the Hon'ble Minister of Finance to roll back anti-senior citizens, anti-women and specially anti-employee provisions, and VAT etc., otherwise we vehemently oppose this Bill and term it as anti-people.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shrimati Renuka Chowdhary, please do not disturb. Nothing else will go on record except the speech of Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra.

...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Sir, today I am very happy to see Shri Malhotra Ji participating in this debate. After a long time ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please do not disturb.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Sir, after a long gap a debate has taken place in the House in an orderly manner. Nevertheless, I am also regretful. Regretful in the manner that Shri Malhotra Ji has refused to budge from his old style as misleading people, distorting facts, and changing his opinion for his own convenience. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing else will go on record except the speech of Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal.

...(Interruptions)*

*Not recorded.

[Translation]

Now a member of your party is speaking, at least do not disturb him.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: I thought that during the debate on Finance Bill all would appreciate those policies of the government because today the entire world is saying that India has started treading a new path. But they have their own opinion because earlier they did not allow debate on motion of thanks to the President twice. Today they have selected this issue for the assessment of the working of the Government. Nevertheless I am happy that at least discussion took place here. I am sorry for he has mentioned that such persons are Minister in the government of Prime Minister who should not have been there. I think that the memory of Shri Malhotra is quiet sharp.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please do not disturb.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: But perhaps Malhotra Ji might have forgotten with the passage of the time. I would like to read out some lines from what the then Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee said in this House on 7 Dec. 1999:

[English]

"Neither the Constitution nor the law disqualifies a Minister from holding office merely because a chargesheet is filed by the Police or formal charges are framed by the court. The question as to who should be in the Council of Ministers is one of Prime Ministerial discretion."

Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee said:

"The question as to who should be in the Council of Ministers is one of Prime Ministerial discretion and sense of political propriety. Many circumstances are relevant to the final decision of the Prime Minister on these issues."

...(Interruptions)

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU (Srikakulam): What were the charges then? ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): In what context did he say it? Was it with regard to a political movement or with regard to corruption? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing is to be recorded except the speech of Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal.

...*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Swain, whatever you are saying is not being recorded.

[English]

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Sir, I do not know whether you have permitted him or not. I am not yielding. If you have permitted him, I can sit down. Otherwise I am not yielding. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

I know that they would not hear the name. When I refer to his memory then it appears that they did not want to listen to anything. The name I referred to is that of a great leader of India. I just said that the then Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee has stated. ...*(Interruptions)* I am not saying anything on my own. I was merely reading out word by word what the then Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee had stated in Lok Sabha on the December, 1999. I have not stated anything of my own. This is what I have read out, was stated by Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI: In what context was it said?

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing is to be recorded except the speech of Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal.

...*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: If tolerance is less then it would be quite difficult. I would request you that

*Not recorded.

I should be allowed to express my views because I still want to say certain things ...*(Interruptions)* I have been reading out the statement of the then Prime Minister and if anything is incorrect in that then you have got the record and you can see for yourself. But if there is anything incorrect in what I have stated here then I may be held responsible. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Swain, please be seated.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: I would like to tell one thing. I agree that it is not directly related to the Finance Bill. But this fact has been mentioned here, I, therefore, think that it is related to it. It was stated here as to what happened to Employment Guarantee Scheme. Hon'ble Finance Minister has stated in this year's budget that work has been stated in 150 districts under the 'food for work scheme. If you wish, I can give you the figures also. It is democracy in our country. There are parliamentary standing committees for various departments. Members are nominated to them from all political parties on the basis of their strengths. Likewise, Chairmen of those committees are also nominated. Among these committees, there is one Committee on Rural Development. When the Government had introduced the Employment Guarantee Bill in the Parliament then this Bill was referred to this Committee for its consideration in 2004. But what is the reason that these Committee are being boycotted by your members. ...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Meetings of these committees were boycotted for a single day only. It is highly objectionable. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Chairman of that Committee also happens to be the member of your party. We would like that the said Bill should come here from there and should be discussed. When this Bill was introduced here then you had stated that it should first be referred to the Standing Committee. We also want that it should be referred to the Standing Committee for discussion and thereafter it should be discussed here also. I would not like to make a mention here as to what is going on there. But when you stand and ask as to what is happening about the Employment Guarantee Bill then I am bound to tell you. You must be aware as to what happened to the Bill. He would like you to request the Chairman to refer it back to the House.

We should here discuss it and pass it. But for that period, we did not stop the work. Food for Work

[Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal]

programme was launched in 150 districts for the interregnum. I would read out for you as to what is the programme therein. This year a sum of Rs. 4 thousand 20 crores is to be spent on that in the year 2006 a sum of Rs. 5400 crores has been set aside. Out of it, some amount has been earmarked for 50 lakh metric tonne foodgrains and an allocation of Rs. 11000 crores will be made for future. You have forgotten that while speaking at that time, the hon. Finance Minister had stated that he will provide the funds when the scheme will be introduced in whole of the country, it is our promise, what you do is just bring forward the Bill here. I want to say that we have to work together atleast on something. When we talk about something, then arguments also come up and efforts are also made to humble each other down on one thing or the other. That does happen but atleast put across your point of view so as to enable us to come up with a reply. I am happy that atleast they mentioned it and thereby I got the opportunity to say this. I had to speak twice on motion of thanks to the President's Address. The party had given me the opportunity to initiate but what happened here both the times? Although there was commotion here. After that they mentioned about Benami transactions. I feel happy that they talked about Benami transactions. They ruled for 6 years and what did the people say during those 6 years? Their Government had taken to a particular course of action different from what they are suggesting today i.e. the idea of national identity cards which has not been rejected by our government. We also favour the idea and there is provision regarding that and it is also contained in the report of the Ministry of Home Affairs. But in that context, I was a little surprised to know that was told by hon. Avani Ji and I had welcomed it. But, I want to say that it should not meet the fate of the electoral cards. But, even he did not say that he wanted to introduce the national identity cards so that Benami transactions could be put an end to. It has a different goal and the Congress is committed to that goal. We want to introduce it in order to put an end to Benami transactions. There is a provision for ban in that. If you had listened the hon. Finance Minister's speech and tried to understand his views, then although I can have some different opinion on that but he had said that the cash withdrawal tax is not for the purpose of taxation but to check such practices. Many people doubted and expressed fear and even people like us felt why tax should be imposed on withdrawing ten thousand rupees. In a democracy, the government should be sensitized to the need of the people and really respect what the people say. The hon. Minister has responded. But it was scoffed

at. It was said that it has been raised to just Rs. 25,000 but they could not see what it implies? Hon. Malhotra Ji would have thought that he would not go to the House and therefore he did not read it. It has also been stated therein that saving account has been exempted which will benefit the people but who will not be benefitted? You and I, the members here and perhaps Malhotra Saheb too cannot understand the manner in which the Benami dealers conduct Benami dealers. We may be unable to understand how the money on account of Benami deals can be put in bank accounts. But Malhotra Ji, the people supporting you know how the Benami transactions are conducted. Perhaps it is because of this that in order to protect them you want to forbid us from doing it. Today, this Government wants to check the Benami transactions. You also mentioned about NPAs that a large amount of Banks is outstanding against the people. We too are very much concerned. That is why I am saying again and again that you should do something. You were given a chance for 6 years. I have no right to ask but the question arises as to why it was not done, who were the people then, what were the reasons? I do not want to make allegations but it seems you have put the blame. But, just two days ago, hon. Finance Minister had replied that there is a responsibility. There was a time when the NPAs used to be around 7 percent which have come down to 3 percent today and they have resolved to bring it down to 2 percent.

I do not want to go into the details of what NPA is. He had said that while in government there is a responsibility, that there should be transparency. But, if the Government will start saying that certain company operates like this, then tomorrow it may cause harm even to its employees. You have the example of steel before you. Ups and downs are a part of business and it happened in steel industry. Prices fell down and losses were incurred. If people could not be paid for two quarters, then you will declare the company as NPA and say that this company has gone to the red. What will be its result? People will start running away from it. The result will be that that company will be wound up. The employees you talk of, they will be on the roads. Do you want this? If you think that something is wrong in it, then you should talk about it. If you say that these cases are getting delayed then you should talk about them. The Government is committed that there will be no delay in it. Any possible action will be taken against the people who are not returning the money intentionally, it is the Government's resolve. The Government is firm on it and will stick to it. We understand our responsibility.
...*(Interruptions)*

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will be recorded except the speech made by Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal.

...(Interruptions)*

[*Translation*]

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Sir, as I have said in the beginning that I am sorry to note as to why this habit is not being abandoned? Whether one thing is not clear enough i.e. the provisions of personal income tax have benefited everyone? Can anybody rise and say that the amount of tax they have been paying for the last six years, today they will have to pay more tax on the same income? Can anybody say this? Six years back you (then in treasury branches) gave a slogan and promised that exemption limit of income for purposes of income tax will be raised to rupees one lakh but you did not fulfil it. Our Government in its very first year in office said that the person having income upto rupees one lakh will not have to pay income tax while you opposed it.

[*English*]

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: They could not do it.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: The hon. Finance Minister had said that he would revisit the issue. Nearly, 1.4 crore people were benefited therefrom. They have benefited from it, after improving the efficiency of the tax administration.

[*Translation*]

With a sense of responsibility we brought in the required reforms. Tax rate has been increased and efficiency of administration has been ensured. Thereafter what we have done? Tax slab is before you. According to that rebate in tax has been given to all having income upto rupees one lakh. Thereafter there was always a scope for fraud. I can't say definitely because it is a matter of time but we have increased the exemption limit to rupees one lakh which will stand irrespective of the investments one makes anywhere he wants to.

The provision made for senior citizens is all right. It was made rupees one lakh fifty thousand for them which we discussed here. A meeting of our party was convened and we met the hon. Finance Minister and he considered the matter and raised it to rupees one lakh eighty five

thousand. I am weak in calculation so I will not mention it. Though considering the community to which I belong I ought to have known calculation but I could not calculate it but I can say it with utmost conviction that Shri Malhotraji should calculate the tax for them on the income of rupees two lakh as that time and on the same income at present. It will make clear as to how much income tax they were paying at that time and how much they will have to pay now? You should tell us that you have done this or this has been done for all. It is their old habit to hold out promises and hopes to all. You have been making promises that you are going to give or do this or that for the people. The net result is that you did nothing for anyone. You gave a slogan of India shining and now it has become evident as to for whom it was shining.

14.59 hrs.

[SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV *in the Chair*]

If there is anything to shine, that is the future of every human being and this is the resolution of Congress and the UPA. All the allies of UPA are united and committed to fulfil the responsibility the people of the country assigned to it.

A point has been made about the women. Threshold limit of Rs. 1,25,000 was fixed for them which was enhanced to Rs. 1,35,000 later on. You are taking into account the break up thereof into amounts of Rs. 1500. I am telling you the same thing. We also wanted to do the same but responsibilities are also there. On the other hand you tend to give an account of what we might have failed to do in respect of certain sections. Is it that the money is to come from heaven or from some unknown source so that we could have started giving it to them, but stopped all of a sudden. We have to plan, impose tax somewhere and effect savings on certain other counts and fulfil responsibilities elsewhere too.

15.00 hrs.

Where the money is going to come from? Is it that lot of money will come from heaven so that you may start disbursing it. Money is not going to fall from heaven or will that happen? Anybody in power has responsibilities too, and there is a need to understand those responsibilities. They should understand as to what they should do. I would like to repeat one thing be they women or senior citizens or employees of public sector or private sector they will have to pay less tax as compared to tax paid by them during previous years.

*Not recorded.

[Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal]

The Finance Minister has fulfilled the resolution of the hon. Prime Minister about the Employees Provident Fund and increased the interest rate thereon to 9.5%. We have not said that there is a loss in it, we only talked about the financial implications thereof. Sir, I am unable to understand as to how the word loss has been used. There is a difference of rupees one hundred crore in it. That difference is to be made up, where that money is going to come from? It was during the last year whereas new year has started now. It was your responsibility then. Congress has fulfilled your responsibility now. At that time you got stuck up and did not know what to do. You could not devise a way out because there was no management system. You could not understand as to how to manage it. This Government has completed the work left over by you then. The responsibility of the announcements made at that time is now on our shoulders. We will fulfill that responsibility and the Government will find out ways for it.

Sir, I do not know as to wherefrom the issue of delimitation has been broached. If at all delimitation is any how concerned with the reservation for women, then the delimitation will be undertaken the way it is being carried out. You enacted the laws and we supported the legislative proposals. This delimitation is being carried out under that very laws. If we sit together, then I would like to remind you as to how many times you have convened the meeting of the party during the last six years and how many times you have attempted to mobilise a consensus to which you used to refer to in the past. How many times did you do so?

Sir, one thing I will have to say beyond this Bill that six inward and outward visits have been made in which our Prime Minister went abroad or came from abroad, his opinion has always been sought. VAT was mentioned but as to who introduced the VAT? Then you got scared, if troubles confront you, then there is no way out but to face them and in such a situation you can choose your way. When you got perplexed, then we managed the situation. It is not related with the rate. This is only incidental that it is related with VAT. You give some time for this. You should tell the people whom you are trying to mislead that with the passage of time all will be benefited. You should understand the national responsibility. You have completed 25 years and have also celebrated that. 25 years is a matured age and people of this age are supposed to do better things.
...(Interruptions)

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Sir, you have completed 125 years.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: After completion of 25 years, maturity should descend and one's work should reflect that maturity. You should tell those people that all will be benefited and rate has nothing to do with it.

You referred to defence, you tried to instigate them. I do not want to make a mention of it. What did you do about that? You also mentioned Kargil. What happened during Kargil, entire country knows it. It is before the entire country as what kind of things have been happening in the name of Kargil. I, therefore, would not like to refer to it. What did you do for it, you just gave lollipop by giving the right to vote. You can exercise your right, from wherever you are. You thought that all will vote for you. But votes were not cast even for General Khanduri.
...(Interruptions)

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI: You are feeling uncomfortable by the proxy vote. ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: General Khanduri, please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: He kept inaugurating the roads. General Khanduri kept inaugurating those roads which were not even acquired. He did not understand. ... (Interruptions)

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI: You were not present there. You have no knowledge of it. Do not give such statement which may trap you too. What BJP has done for the military, you have not done in fifty years.
...(Interruptions)

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: I would have been happy, had you accepted it. Had he said anything, I would have thanked him, but he did not say anything. You have not done anything except to flare up their sentiments. But what have you done or them, you appointed such people as welfare officers of the military personnel. ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record, except the speech of Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal.

...(Interruptions)*

*Not recorded.

[*Translation*]

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Please listen to me. ...(*Interruptions*) Fifty thousand rupees were to be given to the martyrs of Kargil.

... And then it was stated that it is irrelevant but all this is before you. For whom you are saying this? You announced that next of kins of Kargil martyrs would be allotted petrol pumps. We were happy to know it and we extended our support to it. But what did you do for these people?

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI: Do you know the impact of the comments which you have passed against the army?

[*English*]

You made statements, which demoralised the Army at that time.

[*Translation*]

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: When the UPA Government took over. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude. The hon. Minister has yet to give a reply. Kindly cooperative with the Chair.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: I am concluding in two-three minutes. The people of the entire country can go through the CMP of this Government. Everybody knows about the programmes enumerated therein. I was referring to a bill and there are several bills which are pending with the Standing Committee. I would request all the NDA Chairmen to submit these reports in the House quickly.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the members of the NDA talk about soldiers. Since the UPA Government took over, our Defence Minister Shri Pranab Mukherjee has set up a separate department at the advice of our leader Smt. Sonia Gandhi and the Prime Minister and that department looks after the welfare of soldiers. Do they have any objection to that department?

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI: Don't build castle in the air for soldiers.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: If you have any objection, then you can do, and result of that would be good.

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI: This will prove costly to you.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Just they were talking about the Kargil. They took action against the people in uniform but they have not taken any action against those sitting with them.

[*English*]

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI: Sir, he is being dictated to by Shri Munshi. Mr. Chidambaram, it is a pity that a senior Member cannot speak of his own.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: I will say so before I conclude. Before I conclude, I would like to say that the Government of the day, the UPA Government, understands its responsibilities, and the onerous task ahead of it the historic task ahead of it. We are determined to fulfil that historic responsibility which the people of the country have cast upon us. We know of our responsibilities and duties.

[*Translation*]

As regards the VAT, I have already said that they have tried to mislead the public. They have given to them such assurances and made tall promises to them but in reality they did not work for them. But I can say that we have done our job with a sense of responsibility. As for the tax structure, I feel that it should be simplified. People used to face a lot of difficulties in that, now it has been simplified. It has been mentioned in the debate, an ordinary bill would be brought in future to make it easier for the people to understand against the income tax. It would be very simple. Our only target is to expand the tax base. I think that they should have no objection to that. I would like to request the Finance Minister to create such an atmosphere where whatever tax a man pays, he may pay it happily and he faces no difficulty in that and after paying the tax he may say it with pride that 'I am a taxpayer of the country' A special provision should be there for that. It should not be that the things look like the Inspector Raj and if any person from the Tax Department goes to a trader for tax-collection, he is considered as a dishonest person. A trader always contributes for his country, he contributes in the progress of the country. He should think that it is his duty and the target as well, which he would like to meet. I would also like to say that the law which has been enacted should be complied with properly. That law needs to be further

..... Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

[Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal]

strengthened. But, what the people sitting on the other side did—a mirage to the people. They only said they would do this or that thing but here we are facing the reality, we are facing difficulties as to how to mobilise the resources. In fact, we can solve problem through negotiations. The democratic temper must govern our thinking. That should be the spirit. Democracy does not mean making a hue and cry, it rather means negotiations. And our party believes in that and it will continue to believe in that.

With these words, I thank you.

[English]

SHRI B. MAHTAB (Cuttack): Sir, there can be no doubt that India is emerging as a big economic power, though, however, there are reports of farmers distress. The country's service sector is growing at a faster pace and a section of economists feel that if India were to increase its share of the services by around 20 percentage points, at the expense of a corresponding reduction in the share of the agricultural sector, we may land delightfully close to the American economy.

It is in this connection that projections of growth and the possibility of attaining it at around seven per cent during the Tenth Plan period attain significance. This is being debated and discussed by economists, planners and political leaders. Expecting India to sustain 8.2 per cent GDP growth in the next three years, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) in its country specific strategy and programme (SSP) update has acknowledged that the country is one of the fastest growing economies. It has suggested that core strategy should be to accord the highest priority to the infrastructure supported by social development and good governance.

Attention is automatically derived on agriculture and rural development which would have an immediate impact on poverty reduction. But the mounting evidence on the inconsistency between the official estimates raises serious questions on the credibility of the official poverty line. It is needless to mention that all our budgetary projections and provisions for achieving a commendable economic growth are based on this poverty eradication, which is faulty. The 'absolute' view of poverty, views the poverty line, as the expenditure required to purchase a 'substance' by the individual. However, the inflation and the changing consumer preferences, the 'official poverty line' in India, that was anchored on the minimum energy requirements three decades ago has ceased to be an accurate or

even a reasonable indicator of the cost of acquiring the minimum energy requirement.

When the poverty line is not accurate and is doubtful, how do you propose to achieve growth in a substantial way and achieve progress? Because of your plan and proposal, provisions for rural development in agricultural sector for social development is based on this base line, that is, poverty line. When that is faulty, how do you expect the growth will be achieved? I do not know whether the hon. Finance Minister has ever travelled in a fast passenger train in India and has ever travelled in the second-class compartment of an Express Train. I have travelled and so also many Members. I am simply stunned not because of the nature of crowd but because of the poverty that has grown within the last 15 years.

We are a decade and a half into reforms and the tearing down of socialism, we hear, is addressing India's problem of poverty in the most efficient way possible. Proponents of the process may quote figures but can you convince us that poverty is on the wane?

While travelling in a second class compartment in a train, why do many of us not see the decrease in poverty? Why do we not see a perceptible drop in the number of poor people in our cities and rural areas? Reforms have been in place for fifteen years. That is a third of our socialist period from 1947 till 1991. If hordes of people have escaped poverty through 15 years, we should see fewer poor people around us. But that is not the case. We cannot build Bharat in this fashion which has a faulty foundation.

Now, I come to the second point, that is, education. There is an education cess for the last one year or so which is supposed to finance the institution, both at the primary or elementary level and at the higher education level. In India today, the literacy rate is 65 per cent. It is not satisfactory. Official figures show that for 100 children who join school in class-I, only 47 reach class-VIII. Recently, the UNESCO Report on "Education for All" has highlighted India's dismal performance in achieving the stated objective by 2015.

My third point is on energy. Production of energy is not confined to State sector or public sector today. Now different private companies are putting up captive plants and are also selling power to National Grid of different States. Earlier, as energy produced within a State, since the Second Plan, was consumed within that State, no duty was levied on sale of energy to other States. There

is a constitutional provision debarring imposing duty on sale of energy. But now NTPC and many private players are producing energy in one place or State but are selling energy to another State. In the producing State, there is depletion of resources. Water resource is utilised and pollution in atmosphere is also there. By allowing export of energy, State gets nothing from the production of large quantity of energy. My suggestion to you is that—because the Energy Ministry has very little to do about it and a constitutional amendment is necessary—the Finance Ministry can take it up to help States which are producing energy in a bigger way. My point for consideration here is, when energy is being produced in one State and is being used in another State, a duty may be levied and that can go to the State Exchequer or adequate funds may flow from the Centre compensating the State. A mechanism or a method can be created where the Centre can look into this aspect of the State.

I have two more points to make. However, on energy issue. I hope, Orissa would benefit to a great extent, so also West Bengal, so also Jharkhand and other energy producing States. Recently, in the Mid-Term Appraisal of the Tenth Five Year Plan, it makes a case for reducing the incidence of indirect taxes which increases price of goods in the country and it has also suggested doing away with tax exemption. The financing of the Tenth Plan, as has been suggested in that, will depend on the Centre's ability to increase tax revenue will require a speedy removal of exemptions.

At the same time, it has also been mentioned that the direct-tax collection is likely to be short by Rs. 2,000 crore.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

SHRI B. MAHTAB: And, according to the data available, despite the estimate for 2004-05, a higher residual collection is expected by the end of the year, that is first week of April. That data, of course, must be with the Finance Ministry. The direct tax is likely to fall by around Rs. 2,000 crore. The Government, which had initially set a target of Rs. 1.39365 lakh crore collection from direct tax in 2004-05, is not going to reach that. Maximum, it will be around Rs. 1.33 lakh crore. This will definitely affect the present development activities going on in this country.

I now come to my State of Orissa. Orissa has been demanding, for quite a long time, to get special attention from the Centre. A special package was also being asked

by our State Government. We had also requested that because Orissa is at a take-off stage—many industries are coming up, specially in steel and the steel sector where coal is being utilised, iron ore is being utilised, and bigger industries are coming up and investing in a big way—there is a need that the Orissa Government gets adequate support from the Centre. Building up these new industries, which will in a way export their finished products, will not help the Orissa exchequer in a big way financially, revenue-wise. Centre should support and unless the Centre comes in to support it with a special package to develop its infrastructure, Orissa cannot develop.

With these words, I conclude my speech.

SHRI VIJAYENDRA PAL SINGH (Bhilwara): Sir, I stand to participate and oppose the Finance Bill, 2005.

Sir, we are all aware that in Parliament, Budget is discussed in three parts. The first part is the general discussion after the presentation of the Budget, wherein general issues like GDP, growth rate and employment etc. are taken up at length. The second part is the discussion on various Ministries or rather their Demands for Grants, which are also taken up in detail. Then we have the Appropriation Bill, with which part of the Demands ends. Finally, we come to the stage of passing the Finance Bill.

The final stage of the passing of the Budget is supposed to be limited to the taxation proposals contained in the Finance Bill to complete the Budget exercise. I do know, and I must say it, that every Finance Minister says that he wants to simplify the taxation and the IT Act. This Budget was, at one time, hailed as an ideal Budget simplifying the Income Tax Act.

When the realisation dawned on the people, they felt that instead of simplifying the whole thing, he has complicated it more. The person on the street feels that it is more complicated and more forms are to be filled in, which one may not be able to tackle by himself. But the Finance Minister thought that a person—without going to a Chartered Accountant or to an Income Tax lawyer—would be able to do his own assessment and put up the forms himself. But that is not the right thing that he has done.

Let us get into the details now. The most controversial aspect of taxation that has come about is the fringe benefit tax. Now it came out as a fringe benefit. I had

[Shri Vijayendra Pal Singh]

also come from the corporate world. One would like to work for a good company and I remember I used to work for a very good company. There were no multi-nationals in those days. But it used to be a company which was the first ten in the corporate world in the country about 30 years ago.

But in the fringe benefits, you feel that it is not what you get in hand or the money that comes to you, but it is how the company looks after you. Now, the fringe benefit is also taxed. I feel that the liability of the corporate world has gone up. So, they will be giving you less; they will be squeezing on that and the persons who would be working with loyalty to that company will feel that they are not getting the due amount. Who will be the person who is going to really lose?

First is the company itself because there is double taxation. They pay the taxes on that also. The Finance Minister has reduced the taxation of the corporate world from 35 per cent to 30 per cent. But at the same time, the fringe benefits will really give them a liability. That means, there is double taxation—there is 30 per cent tax plus there is taxation on the fringe benefits that is being availed by the employer. Then the one who is going to really lose is the shareholder. They get the bonus; they get other advantages. What will happen is that the company will give less to the shareholders. If the shareholders get less, that means, India is not progressing; companies are not doing very well. So, some sort of balancing must be done on that as well.

Let me talk about the tax on withdrawal of more than Rs. 10,000 per day from the banks. Now, we got the news from the newspapers that that limit is going to go up from Rs. 10,000 to Rs. 1 lakh. But I do not see that it is there in the amendments.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: It is there in the amendments.

SHRI VIJAYENDRA PAL SINGH: Yes. It is Rs. 25,000 only; I have read it.

You invest in the banks; and you put your money in the banks normally. All that the Finance Minister thinks is that he will be able to curb black-money by imposing 0.1 per cent tax on the money that one withdraws from the white money that he has accumulated and put into the bank.

Mr. Finance Minister, no other country in the world has anything like this. I do not know where from you

have got this idea that this would curb the black money. When you were the Finance Minister, quite a few years ago, you had thought of some ideas to curb the black money. You had got some sort of schemes which would bring out the black money. This evil of black-money economy in the country could be curbed but not by adopting this sort of taxation on the money drawn from the bank. Today, what is Rs. 20,000? What can you buy from Rs. 20,000—25,000? If you are going not abroad but even to Chennai or such other place and want to do some shopping, you will need much more money just to look after yourself for three-five days. Why should you always trouble people who do not want to use the cards available nowadays? Why do you expect them not to carry cash and must always use cards? There are people who want to use money the way they want to. After all, it is their money which they have earned and put into the bank.

Lastly, I would also like to comment that the aggregate deduction of Rs. 1 lakh from gross total income is a welcome step. The taxation system, which makes withdrawal under new EET has created a lot of confusion. Further, it has been mentioned about the existing saving devices and balances therein. What is going to happen to PPF or NSCs, you have not clarified as yet. Please clarify it because it was a commitment of the Government to the people who have opted for PPF or NSCs. I do not know what is going to happen to them. Please do reply to that as well.

In the end I repeat that in the Finance Bill there were a lot of things that could have been done especially, the deficit of Rs. 95,312 crore, which is a fiscal deficit of 1.144 crore, cannot bring us to the stage of FRBM Act of zero budgeting.

SHRI K.S. RAO (Eluru): Sir, I rise to support some of the good proposals made by the hon. Finance Minister in the Finance Bill. I would like to concentrate only on a few points because of the reason that I have been given less time. I would like to share with the House some of my experiences in the field when we go to the villages and meet the people. Everybody has congratulated the hon. Finance Minister for bringing a reduction in the rate of interest on direct tax. Basically, I just want to impress upon the hon. Minister the reason why Indian economy is getting crippled. It is basically because of the high rate of interest.

I have observed how the economy is growing in the Western and the Muslim countries. In Muslim countries,

there is no interest rate at all. The little interest that they are charging is by way of some private sharing with the entrepreneurs or the borrowers but they are not charging any interest. With the interest rates in the market are very high, a rich man who has got money is earning without putting any effort. He does not need to strain himself. If you have money you can sit in your house and still get very good assured income every year. That means we are encouraging laziness among the people. We are not encouraging risk taking investment and we are not making them to go to productive fields.

Interest rates are crippling not only the manufacturers but even the agriculturists. We have seen why many agriculturists in the recent past have committed suicides in various parts of the country. It is because of the interest burden. He borrows from the private lenders as money is not available in the public institutions with the hope that he will do some earning with the little land that he has got. He is approaching the private lenders whose rate of interest is around 24 per cent or 36 per cent or 48 per cent. Whatever be his effort, if the nature does not help him, in the end he goes into a debt which he cannot clear for years to come. Even if good crops come consecutively for three years, still he cannot clear his debt. So, that is the reason why he is resorting to suicide. If two consecutive crop failures are there for any reason, he cannot survive. So, the interest rates must be reduced substantially both for agriculturists as well as manufacturing industry.

There is, of course, some reasoning to say that money that is saved and put into the Provident Fund by the employees with fixed income should not lose its value over a period of time because of inflation. I agree to this. There must be a balance between interest rates and the inflation and also whatever proposals are being made by the Finance Minister must motivate a person to save some money and to invest in a productive area. It should encourage him just to give money on interest to some private individual or to the Government. I will request you to think about it. If a man saves Rs. 1 lakh and puts it in a financial institution with an impression that he would get 10 per cent or 11 per cent rate of interest, he is taking a decision to invest that money through the financial institution in a manufacturing unit and in the hands of one individual. But if the same facility were to be given to the man who has saved money to invest in an industry or a local business which is known to him then his wisdom can be put to use by choosing the right area where he has to invest.

So, instead of leaving it a banker or a head of financial institution to misuse that money which is running

in lakhs and crores of rupees in public institutions, it would be better if the choice is given to the man who has saved the money. I am happy to tell the hon. Finance Minister that the reduced rate of interest has motivated the economy. Today, we could see in so many parts of the country a lot of people purchasing houses, consumer goods, motor cycles, cars, etc. because they are getting money at lesser rate of interest and it is available in plenty. This has activated the entire economy including the manufacturing industry. If the money is not available to them, they cannot do all these things.

Lesser rates of interest would help boost economy and as well help in bringing down the rate of inflation. With increased rates of interest, the prices would increase and so would the rate of inflation. As a result of this, not only would the poor man suffer but even those people who are saving would also suffer. So, my request to the hon. Finance Minister would be to concentrate on making a study on the rate of interest and try and bring down further the rates of interest, particularly on those aspects that afflict the rural sector, the agriculturists and the small manufacturers. Funds could also be made available for the major manufacturers by the Government at lower rates of interest. When the rates of interest at the international level are in the range of 1.5 to 2 per cent, why should our rates of interest be in the range of 9 to 14 per cent? I do not find any reason as to why they cannot be reduced.

Sir, with a lot of hope and expectation the poor people approach the Members of Parliament to get some funds out of the Prime Minister's Relief Fund. We, as Members of Parliament, also write with a lot of hope and expectation to get some relief for these unfortunate poor people. But we are unable to get any fund out of this even for one person in a month. We are not in a position to give them any positive reply. I would not say that the hon. Finance Minister should immediately pump in a lot of money into the Prime Minister's Relief Fund, but he could at least think of giving more relief to the persons, by way of tax exemption, who are contributing and donating to this Fund. The hon. Finance Minister might argue that there is already a cent per cent exemption on this score. But even if cent per cent exemption is there, the donor might think that he would lose out 60 to 65 per cent of his donation because he gets only 35 to 38 per cent only by way of exemption. So, I would like to request the hon. Finance Minister to think of increasing the extent of benefit for the persons who are donating to the Prime Minister's Relief Fund. It is because this money

[Shri K.S. Rao]

goes directly to the poor people through the Members of Parliament. I would like him to give a thought to this aspect.

Sir, my next point is about giving encouragement to the agriculturists for producing oilseeds. Today our country is importing a lot of oil. If we were to encourage our agriculturists by giving benefits like, say, increasing the Minimum Support Price of oilseeds and making it more than the international prices, then the benefit would go to our local agriculturists and not to foreign countries. I would like to request the hon. Finance Minister to prepare a scheme to encourage the agriculturists for having a diversified cropping pattern and engage themselves in producing oilseeds so that imports could be reduced, money could be saved and benefit would go to our agriculturists and not to foreign countries. Why should we continue to import oilseeds when our agriculturists themselves have the capacity, knowledge and entrepreneurship to produce oilseeds in this country itself? There are a lot of progressive agriculturists in different parts of our country who can produce oilseeds, serve the needs of our country and export edible oilseeds to other parts of our country. This would, in turn, help in diversification of crop as well. When our farmers get habituated to producing one type of crop in one particular area, this results in damaging the soil texture as well. Such a thing results in their income coming down, competition going up and also in bringing down of market prices. In this process our farmers lose very heavily.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude now.

SHRI K.S. RAO: Sir, I have been given 10 minutes time. I would conclude within one or two minutes.

Sir, I would like to mention here that giving subsidy to agriculturists is not a wastage of money. My opinion is that giving subsidy to local agriculturists and poor people will not go waste. In fact, it helps in saving foreign exchange.

I would also like to request the hon. Finance Minister to think about some schemes to encourage self-employment schemes. If the skills of people were to be increased, then income will automatically go up and also it would help in bringing down the production cost. Though we have, in this country, the advantage of having a large number of technical experts, yet we have got lesser number of skilled people who can produce more. I would like the hon. Finance Minister to see how best

encouragement could be given to the industries in order to make it mandatory for them to impart skill to more number of people than probably they would require in their industries.

I request him again on one point. I wrote a letter to the hon. Finance Minister to ask whether he can provide universal health insurance to the families who are below the poverty line. The Government will not be a loser. The companies of the corporate sector which are involved in the health insurance also will not be a loser by making it statutory for them alongwith the life insurance that they are doing. It is because for them, life insurance is a profitable item and health insurance is the last item. So, nobody wants to go to health insurance but to provide relief to people who are below the poverty line, let him think of making it mandatory and 30 per cent of the premium should be only on health insurance, and it should be for those corporates which are involved in the LIC. Let the hon. Minister think in this manner.

Sir, similarly, in regard to providing pension to the poor people above 60 years, those who are helpless and who have become destitutes in villages, their position is pathetic. Let him increase the provision of providing funds to the unorganised sector and the rural poor people who are suffering very badly.

Similarly, as regards educational loans that are given to the students, let the interests rates be reduced to four to five per cent. I congratulate him for providing assured loans to those poor students who are capable for going for higher education but the rate of interest should come down.

With these words, I support the Finance Bill and I wish him to become more radical.

[*Translation*]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajganj, Bihar): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the discussion on the Finance Bill is going on. I am also taking part in this discussion. I want to draw the attention of hon. Finance Minister towards three-four points only. The first point is regarding the method adopted by him for checking the black money by imposing tax on every withdrawal upto Rs. 10,000. It was raised upto Rs. 25000 on the request of the hon. Members during the discussion on it in the House. I fail to understand whether it is a method of flushing out black money or of increasing it because everyone knows how and where the money is kept by the people having it in abundance. The hon. Finance Minister must be knowing

it very well since he manages this Ministry. Therefore, he must be aware of it. The people keeping money in the banks are mainly workers, farmers or labourers living in the rural areas. You have made agriculture free from taxes. The income earned from the agricultural production is kept in the banks by the farmers. Earlier, the farmers did not keep so much money in the banks but situation has changed now. Crime and theft related activities are on the rise everywhere. People think that money will remain safe in a bank. Though it is the responsibility of the Government to provide security to every citizen but all the Governments, whether State Government or Central Government, have failed in it. The people deposit their money in the banks due to this failure. Even if they have little money, still they deposit it in a bank so that their money remain safe.

Now, when you will impose a tax on that money, then people will not keep their money in banks because when there is marriage of girls in villages or when the poor village people have to come to cities like Delhi for their treatment or operation, then they have to pay money in lump sum. Now, you will collect tax when some farmer will withdraw his hard earned money kept in the bank for the marriage of his daughter or his treatment. It implies that one should not deposit money in Government banks. When the money is not secure there, then people will move towards private banks. The intention of the Government is to promote the private banks and industrialists and to get money deposited in their banks.

In a way, the Government has designs to let the private banks make profit and force the people to deposit their money there. Although, people get bad deal from them also. Which banks have reached villages yet and have fled after looting the villagers. I ask you again to reconsider as to how to keep the people withdrawing money free from tax by keeping in view the situation of the farmers, workers and middle class farmers.

Secondly, tax will be levied on any withdrawal of Rs. 25,000 and above. Hon. Finance Minister, Sir, we know one thing that you have made a provision for expenditure limit of Rs. 15 lakh for Legislative Assembly elections and Rs. 25 lakh for Lok Sabha elections. Everyone knows that the elections are fought from election funds. Ours is a small party and we also contest elections but the bigger parties spent crores of rupees in elections. I do not think that any party keeps its money on a tree and contest elections by getting money by shaking the tree. Money has to be arranged from somewhere. That

money can come through funds only. You have given the right to spend upto Rs. 25 lakh on elections. And if someone gives a cheque for Rs. 25 lakh and if you will levy tax at that time then it will come to around Rs. 8 lakh. In that situation, there can be only two options—either to manipulate the accounts related to elections or to arrange money from other sources. Otherwise one will have to pay tax. We feel that all this is impractical and the hon. Finance Minister should think about it seriously. Otherwise, there is one more way that the Government should bear the election expenses and hold elections. Government should make some arrangement like make a platform for people from where people from all the parties can make speeches there. In my opinion this kind of new legislation to confuse and fool the people will not be justified from any angle.

Thirdly, I want to say that the discussion on corruption is going on in the House. We fail to understand the definition of corruption. ...(*Interruptions*) Today, you will have to explain the definition of corruption in a new way. The social and political workers used to be given the duty of safeguarding the treasury. But, in the recent past we see that the social and political workers are given heaps of money. Now, the elections are held at 4-5 levels. About the kind of procedure forced the electrons from Zila Parishad, Vidhan Sabha to Lok Sabha, I would like to tell you openly that funds which are given to Panchayats were earlier used to be spent at the block level and through office bearers and the representatives of the block used to monitor it.

Now they are authorized to issue cheques. I can say it firmly that if the cheques issued by them are scrutinised, 90-95 percent of the Mukhiyas will be behind the bars. The entire funds meant for the public works are misappropriated in connivance with the officers. The officer who used to spend the funds till the other day is blamed now. Monitoring of funds meant for spending on public works is now entrusted to officers. What is happening these days is that the people's representatives who used to monitor the spending of such funds now joint hands with the officers entrusted with job and become co-shares in the misuse/misappropriation of the funds.

Similarly, crores of rupees are provided to Zila Parishads for the development of the districts. Mr. Finance Minister, you please get the situation reviewed and see how the funds provided by the Government are spent and how much of that is actually utilised. M.P. and MLA funds have been creating around chaos. I would like to

[Shri Prabhunath Singh]

say in straight words that every M.P. is suspected of taking commission whatever may be the factual position. For example, you have started the practice of departmental work, now the party-workers of the politicians think that it is their right to execute the work as the public representative has already earmarked the funds. Since the funds are released under the signatures of the government officials and each one of them is entrusted the work of 2 or 3 blocks which is not possible for anybody to handle alone hence they are bound to award petty contracts. I can say for sure that commission upto 40-45% is paid in it. When those who used to monitor the scheme are made in-charge of the scheme what respect will they have towards us, how do you think they may be kept under control.

I, therefore, would like to request you to dispense with the MPLADS, this will certainly help improve the image of the Parliamentarians. Similarly, you ask the state governments to dispense with the Vidhayak Nidhi also. If you take such measures then only the people's representatives may enjoy monitoring status otherwise I would compare the situation with the one is Mahabharat wherein Shakuni advised Duryodhan to freely distribute the funds in public if he wished to capture the throne, it would make atleast some people come to support him. I feel that in order to muster support of particular sections and to please them, the government is spending the funds in this manner. There is no real work. The IAS, IPS and other officers whom we thought to be responsible persons the helmsmen of the country, are found involved in making loot of the public funds meant for the flood hit areas. A collector involved himself in a scam of rupees 18 crore by showing on records that he had sent material by trucks to a flood hit area where even boats could not sail through. An IAS officer committed such a huge scam even when this was a question of life and death for the people. What will be the mechanism to monitor the functioning of such officers? Mere believing in paper work will not do. Please get out of this paper work and save the country.

Sir, unemployment has also been an issue of debate there. One of our colleagues has observed that 'Food for Work' programme is providing employment and alleviating unemployment. I am afraid, how long shall we indulge in such impractical discussions in this August House. We have to take a look on how the Food for Work programme is implemented. Mr. Finance Minister, Sir, in my opinion, employment is a thing which can provide sufficient livelihood with regularity. Usually people in villages work

in the fields of the landlords to earn their livelihood. But the funds and foodgrains provided by the government under the Food for Work programme is only the thing of records. The expenses are shown in records only while in effect, the foodgrains are sold in open market.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please address the Chair.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Sir, I want to point out that unemployment and population in the country are increasing whereas employment opportunities are decreasing. Sir, when the mode of work was manual, many posts were created there. But with the development in the country, modern machines and latest technologies, requirement of manpower has sharply gone down. A person equipped with computer can supervise a whole factory. Due to this posts are decreasing these days whereas population is increasing. If employment is not generated in the country, it will result in, *inter alia*, an increase in crime. Unemployment is a major reason for the higher graph of crime these days. I, therefore, would like to urge upon the Finance Minister to generate more and more employment. For this, I would like to give a suggestion as it may help in reducing unemployment. Today, the qualified and educated persons like B.A., B.Sc., M.A., doctors and engineers are unemployed and they are looking for jobs however small the job may be, they come to us for recommendation for job even in any private company.

Now-a-days people ask to telephone for getting job even in Media, whether they get job or not. One has to make calls for them given his dependence on their votes. My request is that you should fix some money and time limit like Rs. 2 lakh for persons having matric qualification and pay back time limit of 2 years. Similarly, fix different amount and time limit in accordance with the different qualifications. Besides, explain this also that this money will be taken back in instalments after this time limit. I believe that the person will not only find employment for his living within that time limit from that money but will also become capable of returning your loan. I believe that you should do so in the interest of the country for checking the increasing unemployment and promote employment.

16.00 Hrs.

The criminal incidents will be checked. Hon. Finance Minister has decreased the custom duty and increased the excise duty. I would like to know at the time of his reply as to how much difference in the prices has resulted

from this. He has increased the prices by playing paper games in this way and thus the hon. Finance Minister is leading the country towards price-rise. I thank you very much for giving me time.

SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH (Allahabad): Sir, I consider hon. Finance Minister as an honest and able Minister. That is why at the time when this Government was formed, it was said that this budget will be presented as a clean budget. Sir, I would like to congratulate him further for one thing that whereas GDP had reached 4.4% earlier, he has made it 7% for which he deserves accolades. But, Sir, in my opinion some shortcomings are also visible in it and this is true that where there are some good points, there exist some weak points also. The biggest drawback in the budget is that the value added tax imposed by you now has been implemented in many states in the country and in many states it has not been implemented. But what is the situation today? VAT was implemented from first of April and today is second May. It has been more than a month but confusion still prevails all over the country. Today, the people are not aware as to on which things VAT has been imposed or not and at what percentage. I would like to give example of Delhi. Tax has been reduced on diesel after one month but no decision has yet been taken if it will be reduced on LPG or not. Confusion prevails over many things. There are many states where VAT has been imposed and other states where it has not been. People are buying and selling goods from U.P., Rajasthan, and other states but not from Delhi and other states where VAT has been imposed. I would urge the hon. Minister to end this confusion soon in a time bound manner. Many members have spoken till now and it is the opinion of the whole House that you have made the provision of withdrawing Rs. 25,000 from a bank. But, more than Rs. 25,000 is needed to be withdrawn if an air ticket has to be purchased for to and fro journey.

I have to go to Lucknow and come back for which two tickets will be purchased. I will have to pay tax on that. Even on medical bill's payment, I will have to pay the tax. It will not be proper if common man has to pay this tax. I do not know as to what is the logic behind it and atleast a person like myself cannot understand as to how the black money can be checked through it? In my opinion, it can not be checked in this way. People having black money know other tricks and various loopholes. You have already served as Finance Minister in other Government and you know fully well as to how the black money business is conducted. But, if I withdraw

Rs. 25,000—30,000 from a bank and have to pay tax, I can not understand it. I would urge you that when you give reply, then kindly explain to the Members of the House as how the black money can be checked through this and how the Government will benefit from it.

Similarly, the fiscal deficit is increasing which is a matter of concern. There are no two views that on one hand the GDP is growing while on the other hand fiscal deficit is also increasing. This has been increasing instead of decreasing. Earlier Government had said and you have also said that you will reduce it and it has been increasing till date instead of decreasing which is a matter of grave concern. How you will reduce it? I would like that you also speak in this regard while giving reply.

Sixty five percent people of the country living in villages are farmers and depend on farming. The provision made in the budget for them is very little. The farmers are not going to benefit from it. Farmers in America and other countries are given concessions directly in the form of subsidies but the concessions given by you go either to the industry or the middlemen. Since the time is short, I will conclude by saying one thing. You take loans from NABARD at 5% and give loans to farmers at 9.5%-10% on compound interest. Farmers have been committing suicides in large numbers in many states due to this. I want that it should not be more than 6 or 7%. You should consider this.

[English]

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU (Srikakulam): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to refer to a few issues for urgent attention of the Finance Minister and the Government of India for immediate action.

70 per cent of the people in our country live in villages. Our country is an agriculture-oriented country. If 70 per cent of the people are happy, the nation is very happy. What happened in our country regarding this farming sector? All the successive Governments talked about the farming community but they have not done much for them. I am giving one example about Andhra Pradesh. So many Members have spoken on this Budget and Finance Bill. 'This is a good Budget', 'this is a farmers' Budget', 'this is an economic growth-oriented Budget', like that everybody has quoted. In our country, in the last one year, thousands of farmers committed suicide.

[Shri Kinjarapu Yerrannaaidu]

The hon. Finance Minister has also said on the floor of the House that it is a shameful thing. So, what are the reasons? Why the farming community is committing suicide? Is there any assessment made so far in this regard? This Government as well as the State Government of Andhra Pradesh have been in office for almost one year now. For these twelve months, why have we not stopped committing of suicides by the farmers? ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI TEJASWINI SEERAMESH (Kanakapura): The highest number of suicides occurred during the NDA regime. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record, except the speech of Shri K. Yerrannaaidu.

...*(Interruptions)**

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Sir, I am not blaming anybody. ...*(Interruptions)* Every time, when I raise this issue, they blame the NDA and the TDP Governments. All right, they can blame us. But this time the people's mandate is to the UPA Government. I would like to ask them what have they done for the last one year. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record, except Shri K. Yerrannaaidu's submission.

...*(Interruptions)**

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: All right, the NDA and the TDP Governments were not able to control them, but what have this Government done to control them? This is my question. ...*(Interruptions)*

Mr. Chairman Sir, normally the growth of the domestic products comprises of mainly three components. One is service sector, second is industry and third is agriculture. If the agriculture sector performs well, the GDP will also grow. The UPA Government's manifesto mentions about the GDP growth at about seven to eight per cent. If the agriculture performs well, then we reach the growth at more than eight per cent. In the last year, the agricultural growth has only about 1.1 per cent, that is why we have reached 6.9 per cent only and not even reached seven per cent. This is the scenario prevailing in our country.

With regard to the minimum guarantee price or minimum support price, the Government asked the farmers to diverse their crops and asked them to produce paddy,

chilly, tobacco, etc. The Government fixes the minimum support price for each crop. When the farmers are not getting the minimum support price, what are the Government of India as well as the State Government doing in this regard? Has any special fund been created so far by any Government? If the farmers do not get the minimum support price and if they have to do distress sale of their produce, how will they survive in our country.

In Andhra Pradesh, chilly farmers are not getting the minimum support price. Our colleagues on that side know about this. Even tobacco farmers are not getting the minimum support price. The cotton farmers are not getting the minimum support price. They are burning thousands of tonnes of their chilly crop in the market. This is the scenario prevailing in Andhra Pradesh. What are the Government of India and the State Government doing in this regard? If we have a special fund created by the Government of India, immediately out of that fund, under the market intervention scheme, the Government should intervene in the market. If we have fixed the minimum support price, we have to purchase according to that. Otherwise, what is the meaning of the minimum support price? That is my question.

That is why, I urge upon the hon. Finance Minister that if we want to do favour to the farming community, if this Government is pro-farmer, then they have to create a corpus fund of Rs. 2,000 crore for purchasing commodities as and when the Government fixes the minimum support price. If the prices are good, the Government need not spend a single rupee. If there is a distress sale or if there is a calamity, then the Government of India should intervene to purchase the commodities at the minimum support price. That is my demand.

As far as credit to the farming community is concerned, everybody knows why the farmers are committing suicide in this country. In our country, the farmers are not getting proper credit. Around 70 per cent of the farmers are getting credit from private moneylenders at exorbitant rates. There are the guidelines of the Reserve Bank of India that the banks have to provide 18 per cent of the credit to the farming community. According to the report of the Standing Committee, it is seen that till March 2004, both public and private sector banks have attained only 15.41 per cent and 15.81 per cent respectively of the net bank credit as advance to the agriculture.

Out of that, what is the portion of the small and marginal farmers? The Minister has to answer it on the

floor of the House. As per the directions of the Government of India and the Reserve Bank of India, they have not achieved even 18 per cent net credit. This is the report of the Standing Committee. But the hon. Finance Minister has said that they are increasing it by 10 per cent within the next three years. Recently I was told in my constituency that even now the bankers are asking for guarantee. This is the ground reality. That is why, in the last Session, I asked the Finance Minister why he hesitated to appoint committees. There are Vigilance and Monitoring Committees to review the Rural Development Programmes. Why should he not appoint the Members of Parliament in their Parliamentary constituencies to review the schemes, as per the Government's directions, to know whether the bankers are implementing them or not. Why should you not give powers to the Members of Parliament like SLBC, and District Bank Review Committees. MPs will sit, they will call all the banks and see whether they are properly implementing it or not, whether 10 per cent of the net credit is going to the weaker sections or not and whether 18 per cent of the credit is going to the agriculture sector or not. They will be monitoring all these things. Tomorrow, they may tell the bankers these are the Government of India's directions, this is the Finance Minister's statement, these are the Reserve Bank of India's guidelines. That is why my request is that like Vigilance and Monitoring Committees in the Rural Development Ministry—recently the hon. Minister has appointed the Committees—the Finance Ministry should also think about those Committees for proper implementation of the Government's guidelines etc.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: I am just beginning, Sir. I will put important issues before the House.

The third issue is this. Recently the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, Shri Rajasekhara Reddy has given the directions in the SLBC meeting. Even the RBI has given the directions. I do not know what he had said. It went on record. So, the bankers should not promote whoever grows commercial crops like cotton, chillies, and tobacco. Why? It is because on the one side you are asking to diversify your cropping pattern. They know even in Nellore, Ongole and some other districts the black cotton soils are suitable for tobacco only. Then, the farmers will not grow anything other than tobacco. How can they diversify? If you ask the bankers not to provide credit to them. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Just one minute. That is the important thing.

Then, there is the Unemployment Guarantee Act. This is of foremost importance. I also appreciate the UPA Government. The Common Minimum Programme of the UPA Government promised an immediate enactment of a legal employment guarantee of at least a hundred days for rural households in all the parts of the country living below the poverty line. This is the assurance given by the UPA Government. What happened in the last 12 months? ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal, he is not yielding. Nothing will go on record except Shri Yerranna's speech.

...(*Interruptions*)*

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I do not think my good friend Shri Yerranna was present when Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal spoke. The Chairman of the Standing Committee which is dealing with the subject is hon. Shri Kalyan Singh. ...(*Interruptions*) Mr. Bansal said—that is the position of the Government—let the Standing Committee report to this House and we will pass the Bill. In fact, Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal said let them report in this Session. We will sit for another day, if you wish, and pass the Bill. But, let them report first.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Sir, why are you waiting for the report of Standing Committee alone? Why do you not implement it otherwise? Standing Committee's recommendations can always be there. Who stops you from implementing them? ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I will answer that. Just a moment. Parliamentary rules now require that every Bill shall be referred to a Standing Committee. This Bill is an important Bill. This Bill has been referred to the Standing Committee by the hon. Speaker. Should not the Standing Committee report that Bill to the House? Why do you not just turn around and ask your own Member why is he not reporting? ...(*Interruptions*)*

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Implementing it, giving employment to the people is altogether a different thing. Why have you not done it for the last one year? Why have you rendered one crore people jobless?

*Not recorded.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, if you want a guarantee, the guarantee must be given by law.

That is the Bill which is before the Standing Committee. The complaint is, we are not guaranteeing employment by a law. We said we want to guarantee employment by a law. Please report the Bill back to the House. We will sit for another day and pass the Bill. Why do you not stand up and say, yes you will report the Bill to the House? *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY (Puri): Why have you taken nine months to refer it to the Committee? *...(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude your speech.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: It was in December that the Bill was referred to the Standing Committee. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: It is an extraordinary argument that my learned friend is making. For six years, they had not even contemplated a Bill of this kind. We bring a Bill and refer it to the Standing Committee. My learned friend says that in December, it was referred. He says he is so anxious that the Bill should be passed, but he thinks that four months time is not enough to report back to the House.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Instead of bringing it immediately, you brought it after 10 months; and you gave it to the Standing Committee. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Except Mr. Yerrannaidu's speech, nothing will go on record.

*...(Interruptions)**

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the UPA's Chairperson is also here. So, I am not blaming everybody. This is the manifesto that you have given. This is the top priority of the UPA Government. You have introduced the Bill. You have piloted the Bill on the floor of the House just three months back. If you

had piloted this Bill in the middle of this Session, by this time it would have been passed. That is why I am referring to it.

Second one is, in the meantime also, you can do it. This is your manifesto. This is the prime and foremost object of the UPA Government. Why have you introduced the Food-for-Work Programme only in 150 districts? If you extend it to the whole of the country, the aims and objects of the Bill will be fulfilled. What did you do? You have introduced the Food-for-Work Programme in 150 districts. You take up Andhra Pradesh. The hon. Prime Minister had come and inaugurated the Scheme in eight districts. All right, you are probably giving employment.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Yerrannaidu, please conclude.

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Just allow me five minutes time.

I am appreciating that in Andhra Pradesh, in eight districts where, after piloting the Food-for-Work Programme, the unemployed people are getting employment for 100 days. In Andhra Pradesh, there are 23 districts.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Yerrannaidu, you have already taken 15 minutes time.

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: By introducing the Food-for-Work Programme in eight districts, the unemployed people are getting employment in eight districts. What about the remaining districts of Andhra Pradesh? There is poverty. There are people living below the poverty line. There are unemployed people. But we are not providing employment to them. So, your motto, your objective, everything is defeated. Therefore, my request to you is that by passing this Bill, you have to extend the Food-for-Work Programme throughout the country. Then all the people will get employment. You fulfil the object of this programme in another two or three months. That is my demand to you.

Suppose after four months you pass the Bill, then you mix up the National Employment Programme, Sampooma Rozgar Yojana and other programmes. Then you can extend it to the whole country. But in the meanwhile, what are you doing? Your manifesto, your assurance is not fulfilled. So, I am making this request to you.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Yerrannaidu, you please conclude.

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Regarding drinking water, there is a Rajiv Gandhi Technology Mission. We have special problem in our country. Some States have arsenic problem. Some States have brackish water, arsenic problem and everything. Previously, when the UF Government was in power, there was a special scheme under the Rajiv Gandhi Technology Mission. If any State asks for any project, 75 per cent of the money will be borne by the Government of India and 25 per cent of the money will be borne by the State Government. If any State has a special problem like arsenic or anything, that was abolished. That is how, the States have now funds to meet the challenges.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Who abolished for whom?
...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: I am demanding now. In the UF Government, you were a Minister; and I was also a Minister. We had introduced that scheme. Now I am asking this Government what happened to that. As a Finance Minister you are aware of that programme. But after that NDA Government was dismantled, then you should introduce the same scheme to benefit the States. There is nothing wrong in it. I am saying that the UF Government had introduced that scheme.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, I am glad that the hon. Member refers to what was done in the United Front Government, and what was undone subsequently. Now, what was that we have announced? I hope, you have paid attention to what was said. "All Drinking Water Schemes are now being brought under the Rajiv Gandhi National Drinking Water Mission." Those points have been addressed too. So far, in the last year, that is, 2004-05, 31,355 uncovered rural habitations have been provided drinking water. During 2005-06, the emphasis will be on covering more habitations. Then, emphasis will also be laid on tackling water quality, that is, arsenic and others. "In about 2.16 lakh habitations in Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Rajasthan, West Bengal and some other States, I propose to increase the outlay for the Mission."
...(*Interruptions*) Just for a moment. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: You are just saying other State. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: These are the worst affected States. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: What is the meaning of some other States? ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: You cannot have shouting match like this. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Tripathyji, you please sit down.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: "I propose to increase the outlay for the Mission from Rs. 3,300 crore in the current year to Rs. 4,750 crore in the next year," so that this will be addressed.

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Mr. Chairman, Sir, by increasing Rs. 1,000 crore, it is okay. The Budget revenue income is increasing, the Plan outlay is also increasing, and by that Ministry's grants Plan outlay is also increasing. So, what the Minister has said is okay. They are giving money for the special problem States like Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal, and other States. But under the Accelerated Rural Water Supply Schemes, you are providing money, and out of that you are asking the State Governments to attend the special quality problems. In the UF Government there was a special head for these problems. You can go through the Ministry's head. You are just mixing everything that you are allocating to the States, and the States will execute the programmes. Previously there was a Central programme exclusively for these arsenic and everything. If it is true, you can do better to the States who are affected by all these problems. So that is my demand, through you, Sir.

[*Translation*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Virchandra Paswan. You will get only five minutes. Please adhere to the time limit.

SHRI VIRCHANDRA PASWAN (Nawada): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to speak in support of the Finance Bill for the year 2005-06. As you have fixed the time limit, I would like to address some of the issues facing the country.

Our Minister of Finance is a veteran leader having good understanding. I would like to submit to him that our country can tread path of progress only if we work in consonance with the circumstances prevailing in this House, the economic challenge facing the country and by living upto the expectations of the people. Presentation of budget and introduction of the Finance Bill is an annual

[Shri Virchandra Paswan]

feature. People of this country look forward to the budget and the Finance Bill with great expectations but what they get generally is total disappointment.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, our country is a home to people from all castes, religions and sects. It is, therefore necessary to take care of the sentiments of all people, otherwise country cannot flourish.

Sir, ours is a democratic set up. We often have to go in for elections. Here citizenry is sovereign. It rules through their elected representatives and expects for a Finance Bill which reflects the thinking of their representatives. But from perusal of the Finance Bill, it seems that instead of reflecting the philosophy and ideology of their representatives it seems to be guided by a dogma.

16.31 hrs.

[SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNA *in the Chair*]

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to request that soaring deficit is a matter of great concern. We find ourselves unable in keeping a tab on it. Unemployment is another great challenge facing the country. Now people are under pressure because of rising prices. If we resort to increase in the prices of petrol and diesel it is bound to affect the people. It is the people only who bear the brunt. Whenever the Government increase the prices of diesel, it is the people only who suffer the most. I, therefore, would like to caution that a major part of public money is being wasted on it. We are not able to put a check on it because at present we are providing subsidy on a number of commodities which is usurped by the black marketeers and middlemen. Today we are providing subsidy on Kerosene. Everybody knows that despite its being a subsidised commodity, it is for sale at the rate of rupees 20 or 25 a litre in open market. Major portion of funds are spent on providing subsidy on it out of consolidated fund of the country. The deserving people who should get relief through this subsidy, are not getting any. If subsidy on 100 tankers of kerosene is provided, 95 out of them are diverted to the black market and hardly 5 reach the needy. This way, it is only the black marketeers and the middlemen who benefit most. It is, therefore, my demand that prices of diesel and petrol be stabilized and since subsidy on Kerosene does not reach the needy, proposal for withdrawal of the same be taken up and it should be kept on the list of decontrolled items.

Sir, the other point which I want to make is that the farmers in the country are still the distressed lot. This is a country of villages and farmers. The country can not make progress unless financial state of farmers is improved. Today, irrigation facilities are not available to the farmers. There is shortage of power for irrigation. The farmers, in absence of electricity resort to diesel engines for operating their pump sets, thereby coughing up rupees 40 to 45 an hour. Same amount of work, with easy availability of electricity, can be executed for rupees two or two and a half. Thus, we are only encouraging black marketeers and middlemen by providing subsidy on Kerosene. If the Government decide to discontinue this subsidy for a year or two and ensure supply of electricity to the entire farming community in the country, I think, it will bring prosperity to the farmers and agricultural labourers besides guaranteeing them opportunities, means to earn livelihood and above all, it will put a check on terrorism and divisive forces. The unemployment and starvation, which has led to sense of alienation and rebellion within the country could be arrested with it.

Sir, when the poor are deprived of their due, they latch on to arms. We have to deploy para-military forces at various points in the country on large scale and spend thousand of crores of rupees, in order to fight terrorism. If you want to save these thousands of crores of rupees, you will have to strengthen the financial condition of the farmers and agricultural infrastructure and resolve the problems like electricity in a time bound manner besides ensuring regular power supply to the farmers. Then the farmers in the country will have some relief. Then only the small scale rural industries will be promoted and the country will make progress. The increase effected in income tax is not feasible.

I want to say that the class III and class IV employees should be fully exempted from the income tax because their income is meagre, as a result of which they are already facing mental and financial problems. If you want to see the country's progress, the villagers should also get the same financial facility which the people of a town get. I, therefore, request the Government to merge all the 196 regional rural banks set up for the rural development and financial development of the country into a National Gramin Bank so that the farmers and labourers in villages get the same facility which the urban people get. Therefore, if you want the progress of the country, then think of villages, farmers and labourers also. Mr. Chairman, Sir, much is talked about food for

work programme, they guarantee 100 days work in a year but they forget that there are 365 days in a year. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Virchandra Paswan, you cannot speak now. You have already taken seven minutes.

...(*Interruptions*)*

SHRI PRAKASH PARANJPE (Thane): He is copying the way when you were speaking in the House. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI VIRCHANDRA PASWAN: You tell us where will he get food for the remaining 265 days. Do they want to keep him just alive by providing him food for 100 days only as the Englishmen did or do they want to preserve the right to lead a respectful life by giving him means of livelihood as has been envisaged in the constitution? ...(*Interruptions*)

I, therefore, request you if you really want to keep this country united and strengthen the country and restore the old glory of the country then we should try to bring about prosperity in the country by rising above the party affiliations in the interest of our countrymen, as it is they who have elected us to represent them here in this House. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Virchandra Paswan, you please conclude. You have created so much trouble.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI VIRCHANDRA PASWAN: Mr. Chairman, Sir, with these words I conclude my speech while supporting this bill.

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Anant Gangaram Geete to speak now. Only five minutes will be given to each speaker. That is the time allotted by the hon. Speaker.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: All the hon. Members of the NDA could speak as much as they want. This has been decided.

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE (Ratnagiri): Mr. Chairman, Sir, now we are discussing the Finance Bill in the House and the discussion which was held on the budget, the same discussion is repeated here on the Finance Bill also. This discussion is going on here again because the opposition is raising some particular issues because after the presentation of the budget, an atmosphere has been created in the country, where this budget is termed as a dream budget, pro-poor, pro-farmer and pro-labourers, rural budget and budget which would remove unemployment, bring about prosperity in the country, so on and so forth.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, two months have passed. ...(*Interruptions*) just listen to me. I have not said anything till now. I am repeating the same thing which you have said. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Anant Gangaram Geete, you are a very learned Member. If you address them, then you would not be able to complete the speech. You please address the Chair.

[*Translation*]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am addressing the chair only. The atmosphere which was created in the last ten months, has gradually started unfolding itself and the truth is coming to the fore. As Yerrannaidu was speaking, he made a reference of the suicides by the farmers in Andhra Pradesh.

Suicides have been committed in the last two months also, unemployment has increased and unfortunately the pace of the rural development as well has also come to standstill. The hon. Minister is a pastmaster in the jugglery

*Not recorded.

[Shri Anant Gangaram Geete]

of figures. He just entwines one in his jugglery of figures. But this time around he seems to have entwined himself also in it. When Malhotra ji was putting forth some issues here, one of the issues was related to the pensioners. On this issue, the Finance Minister in the speech said that the issue of pensioners does not relate to their domain, rather it relates to his domain. Actually, what pensioners are getting nowadays is nothing. All the pensioners in the country who are above 65 years of age are feeling distressed. The benefit which they were getting last year, today they are getting less than that. As Malhotraji said that last year they were getting a rebate of Rs. 20,000/- more than what a common man was getting. But the same has been reduced to Rs. 12,000/-. Thus the loss to them works out to Rs. 8,000/-. The women were getting a rebate of Rs. 5,000/- but this has also been reduced to Rs. 3500/- this resulting in a loss of Rs. 1500/-.

I am putting some points in the context of rural development because much has been discussed here about the Employment Guarantee Scheme, and on the bill on which the Hon. Minister has just given some explanation. An atmosphere has been created to make people understand that with the introduction of the Bill, crores of people in the country will get employment. We look forward to the introduction of the Bill and welcome it. We will take part in discussion on the Bill but before that I would like to know about the progress made with regard to the schemes already under implementation in the country especially with the objective to alleviate poverty. Almost all the rural development schemes are to provide employment. Today, when the hon. Finance Minister was speaking here on budget, he quoted several comparative data of the previous years vis-a-vis the current year to give an impression that he had provided more funds for the current year. I fully agree him that he has made more provisions in the budget. But I would like to know from the hon. Finance Minister the data regarding provisions made during the year 2003-04, actual disbursement during the said year and utilisation thereof and the same information for the year 2004-05 which has now ended. In effect, all the rural development schemes have come to a stand still today. For example, I would like to quote one example regarding drinking water. That Swajaldhara scheme was launched during the NDA regime which was very popular especially in rural areas. Under the said scheme, funds were allocated to the states and released accordingly. There was 100 percent utilisation of the funds under that scheme while there was shortage of funds. As the hon. Finance has

informed us here that all the drinking water schemes are to be brought under Rajiv Gandhi Mission, I do not have any objection to it. Till they are in power in the country how can any scheme be named after anybody else's name, but I have no reason to object to it. The conditions for the Swajaldhara scheme launched during the NDA regime were very simple. The said scheme was meant for such rural areas where there is severe scarcity of water. The cost of the scheme should not be above 25 lakh rupees in the areas where there is scarcity of water and 10 percent participation of the local people should be there in the scheme. These were the only three conditions for the scheme owing to which the scheme became popular all over the country. Immediately with the change of the Government, the name of the scheme was changed from Swajaldhara to Jalswaraj. I have no objection to the change in the name of the scheme. But, at the same time you have attached seven conditions like women empowerment, rural sanitation, economic condition of the village and SC/ST also. Today, the scheme has become so difficult that there are no proposals under it from the rural areas. You have increased funds under the scheme but the funds are not being released. You have stopped disbursement of the funds. The entire work under the scheme has been stopped. You should look into the scheme which I am discussing before this House. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Let the hon. Minister explain as to what objection he has to it. ...*(Interruptions)*

(English)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record except what Mr. Geete speaks.

...*(Interruptions)**

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please be seated. I will look into the matter.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record except what Shri Geete speaks.

...*(Interruptions)**

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, nothing will go on record except the speech of hon. Geete.

...*(Interruptions)**

*Not recorded.

[*Translation*]

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): You should suggest solution to the problem which you are raising here. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): When Shri Anant Gangaram Geete was the Minister, what were they doing? The same thing was happening. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: You can make noise. Nothing will go on record.

...(*Interruptions*)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: I fully know that Shri Geete is a very strong man. He can speak. Why do you support him?

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI PRAKASH PARANJPE: Because he is interruptions. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Sir, we support you. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want to give another example. The hon. Finance Minister, through his Ministry, has made such provision. ...(*Interruptions*) I am quoting an example, you may conduct enquiry into it. I am referring to MPLADS. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Geete, your time is over, but I believe that the House belongs to the Opposition. So, you must go ahead. The House is yours. Without your co-operation, there can be no House. When you are present in the House, you conclude as early as possible.

[*Translation*]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want to quote another example. When the proposals

under Swajaldhara scheme are not coming in, there is no question of providing funds from here. What is the use of making provision?

People want water to drink. There is a need to remove the obstacles in implementation of the Scheme and simplify it. We have to provide drinking water to the people. We should find the ways as to how we can do this.

Here, I want to quote an example of MPLADS. During the NDA regime, we used to disburse the funds in two instalments.—the first by the end of April and second by the end of July. The hon. Minister for Programme Implementation Shri Oscar Fernandes is not present here. He had called a meeting to know the views of the M.Ps regarding the MPLADS. In that meeting, I had brought to his notice that the whole year had elapsed but they had released only one instalment during the year. Second instalment was not released stating that the funds were meant for development not to keep in banks or earn interest thereon. When I brought to his notice the fact that the rural workers especially in coastal or hilly areas where there are rains for four months in a year, no developmental work is undertaken there during this period. One more technical point is there. Whenever a contract is awarded to a contractor, contract period is specified in that, it may be for six months, one year or two years. Suppose when a contractor is given a period of one year to complete the work, hundred percent payment is not made to him at the time of awarding contract. He is paid 25%, 50% or 75% of the total amount. The payment goes to the agency and not to the contractor. His period is for one year and naturally a work awarded for one year will not be completed in that period. Your record will reflect the balance amount with the collector. But, this does not mean that collector or Member has more money. We get a demand for Rs. 5 crore but we receive Rs. 2 crore only. Therefore, the practice of withholding money should be stopped. You have to give money in two instalments. It is instalments. It is non-lapsable fund. This fund is non-lapsable till the term of the House.

I would like to give one more example. You talked of Food for Work Programme. You have selected 150 districts all over the country for this purpose. Employment Guarantee Scheme has been announced. Shri Pawarji, the Agriculture Minister is sitting here. I am giving Maharashtra's example here to tell about the impacts of this announcement. As soon as the announcement was made that an Employment Guarantee Scheme will be started shortly by the Union Government, it was welcomed

*Not recorded.

[Shri Anant Gangaram Geete]

by the people all over the country including Maharashtra. But, as a result of it no work was awarded this year by the Maharashtra Government under the Employment Guarantee Scheme which was being run in the state for many years because Employment Guarantee Scheme of Union Government was being introduced. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Geete, please conclude your speech.

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: It is a fact. ...*(Interruptions)* You enquire into it. I am giving my district's example and you can ask for information from any district. No new work has been undertaken since the announcement of this scheme. I am speaking of my district and you can ask for information. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur): Work is going on in Maharashtra. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Ramdas Athawale, I would not allow you to speak because Shri Geete is still speaking.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record except Shri Geete's speech.

...*(Interruptions)**

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Athawale, please be seated.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: I would like to give an example of the figure game. ...*(Interruptions)* whether rich or poor, everyone needs match box.

I would like to thank hon. Finance Minister for making zero percent tax in this budget for the workers engaged in making handmade matches. It is a good thing. We congratulate him for this. There can be no two opinions

*Not recorded.

about it that it can lead to an increase in the employment in rural areas. Earlier, eight percent tax had to be paid on handmade matches, which has now been removed completely. Similarly, prior to independence there were industries in our country making matches through machine. Earlier, this industry had to pay 16% tax but now it has been reduced by 4% in this budget, *i.e.* now they have to pay only 12% tax. Earlier, the difference between the two was 8% but now zero percent tax on handmade matches and 12% on machine made matches makes this difference 12 percent. Due to this difference, the machine made match box costs 35 paise and handmade match box costs 25 paise. Who will buy a match box for 35 paise if it is available in the market for 25 paise? Today, the situation is that the companies like WIMCO are on the verge of closure. In these companies too many workers are employed.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Government should ponder over it. These are small things but having great impact. Now, the Government have imposed tax on building houses also. The Government have imposed a service tax of 12.5% which did not exist earlier, on any housing society constructing more than ten houses. Everyone wants a house.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Geete, you have taken 18 minutes, please conclude now.

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: There is SRA scheme in Mumbai under which houses are built for the people living in slums. Today, 12.5% service tax will be levied on a society constructing more than 10 houses. The Government has made the houses costly. Prior to that the taxes on steel and cement were also increased. All this is affecting housing sector. These houses are not just for the rich but for everyone. Any society having more than 10 houses will have to pay 12.5% service tax. Today, no society builds less than 100 houses, be it in rural areas or in urban areas. For forming any society or a group, a minimum of 11 members are required. Now, you have made the houses built by societies costly. Still, the houses will be made available at cheaper rates. I would like to ask what have you given to the common man, pensioners, women, rural areas and the farmers? All this is a mere talk. Therefore, the reality behind all that number game has emerged before the public slowly-slowly in these two months. The whole game will be exposed in the coming years. Then you will come to

know. ...(*Interruptions*) Hon. Finance Minister should continue. You should keep Shri Chidambaram as Finance Minister and you will definitely get its result.

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: I now give the floor to Kunwar Manvendra Singh.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Madam Sonia Gandhi, you are here. On behalf of the entire House, I appeal to you to increase the MPLADS Fund from Rs. 2 crore to Rs. 3 crore. Your party Members are also in favour of it. It is one of the best Schemes in India. Do not go by the misleading reports. Please increase it from Rs. 2 crore to Rs. 3 crore because the Committee also recommended that.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: It should be increased to Rs. 5 crore. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record except the noise. Hon. Members of the Opposition, I can understand your emotions, but you have lost your chance to speak. Kunwar Manvendra Singh, you can speak; it is your right. I am giving you five minutes time to speak.

[*Translation*]

KUNWAR MANVENDRA SINGH (Mathura): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I through you ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: There will be no extension of time for you and you have to complete your speech within five minutes. For the people on this side, extension was given because they were not present last time. You have to complete your speech within five minutes.

[*Translation*]

KUNWAR MANVENDRA SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I support the Finance Bill for 2005-2006; presented by the Hon. Finance Minister. First of all I would like to urge upon the hon. Finance Minister that the funds which are given to the MPs are not sufficient, I think that the entire House would be agreed to that.

17.00 hrs.

Though it seems to be a big amount but in view of large area of the Lok Sabha Constituency, this amount is insufficient. I, through you, would like to request the House to enhance the amount at least upto Rs. 5 crore. ...(*Interruptions*)

17.01 hrs.

[Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

SHRI ILYAS AZMI (Shahabad): The Schemes sanctioned for districts should also have the approval of the concerned Member of Parliament. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will be recorded except Kunwar Manvendra Singh's speech.

...(*Interruptions*)*

[*Translation*]

SHRI ANANT GUDHE (Amravati): It is the demand of both the opposition and ruling party. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE (Aurangabad, Maharashtra): The members of the Lok Sabha should be given Rs. 5 crore because in some states, the members of the legislative assemblies are getting Rs. 2 crore each. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing is going on record. Please sit down.

[*Translation*]

SHRI ILYAS AZMI: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have a point of order. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: What is that?

SHRI ILYAS AZMI: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Rs. 2 crore should be done away with the schemes of the rural development should have the approval of the concerned Member of Parliament instead of getting them sanctioned by the concerned CDO or DM and only then, these scheme be implemented.

*Not recorded.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please do not disturb the Member.

KUNWAR MANVENDRA SINGH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, now you are aware of the feeling of the Members of Parliament. I would like to request the Hon. Finance Minister to increase this fund upto Rs. 5 crore keeping in view the feelings of all the MPs in this regard. ...*(Interruptions)* Ours is pre-dominantly an agricultural country and more than 80 percent of population comprising farmers and labourers live in villages. I am thankful to hon. Finance Minister, hon. Prime Minister, the UPA Government and its chairperson Sonia Gandhi from the core of my heart for making sufficient provision in the year's budget for the farmers, labourers and the poor of this country so that developmental works meant for them could be carried out properly.

Since, there is paucity of time I would like to thank the Hon. Finance Minister, without going into details that he had promised in the last budget that there would be an increase of 30 percent in loan amount for the farmers.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Kunwar Manvendra Singh, please conclude your speech.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

KUNWAR MANVENDRA SINGH: Its good that you have enhanced allocation for this purpose from Rs. One lakh five thousand crore to Rs. One lakh eight thousand crore. But my request is that the condition of the farmer is very pitiable. The electricity and water tariffs have gone up, the prices of fertilisers have also increased. All these things have added to be farmers' problems. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Members, please do not disturb.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Members, please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Bansal, you are a very senior Member of this House. Are you going to discuss with him like this?

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Anything other than the speech of Kunwar Manvendra Singh is not to be recorded.

...*(Interruptions)**

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Athawale, please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

KUNWAR MANVENDRA SINGH: Such a situation has arisen today because the NDA Government did not address the problem owing to which farmers in many parts of the country committed suicide. I would request the Finance Minister that in this budget the fixation of the prices of the farmers' produce should be commensurate to the expenses incurred by them in farming in order to bring about a betterment in their financial conditions.

The problem of unemployment is becoming more and more serious. The educated youth of the country are unemployed. This is a countrywide problem and the youths of both sexes feel dejected. It is my submission that failing to get employment the youths are taking to crime and going astray. The situation is becoming more and more explosive. To check this situation it is necessary for the House to pay serious attention to this problem and that Employment Guarantee Programme to provide employment to the educated youth be brought forward before the House.

Sir, the villages lack electricity. I request the Finance Minister to make higher provision in the budget for this purpose. To augment the capacity of power generation check dams should be constructed on rivers to produce hydroelectricity which will be cheaper. Besides, the farmers will get more water for irrigation, network of canals will come up and farmers will be able to avail of more sources irrigation. With the increase in power generation and a higher yield of crops there will be prosperity in the country.

*Not recorded.

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Members, nothing is being recorded other than the speech of Kunwar Manvendra Singh.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Kunwar Manvendra Singh, you have already taken more than ten minutes. Now, you are demanding two more minutes.

...(Interruptions)

[*Translation*]

KUNWAR MANVENDRA SINGH: Sir, there is no provision in the budget for cleaning of the rivers. Sir, every year the rivers get flooded during the monsoons. Silt deposits in the rivers are growing. I request the hon. Finance Minister that dams should be constructed at various points the major rivers like Ganga, Yamuna, Sutlej, Brahmaputra to produce electricity and a network of canals be constructed so that the farmers get water for irrigation and electricity. This will help the farmers in the country to increase agriculture production. Lakhs of acres of land is lying unirrigated as of now.

Villages face the problems of lack of drinking water even now 56 years have elapsed since the country became independent but even now our mothers and sisters fetch water from a distance of one to three kilometres. I was elected to the Lok Sabha in 1984. I remember that at that time Sh. Rajiv Gandhi had introduced the Jal Nigam Yojana in Uttar Pradesh. Under the said Jal Nigam Yojana big water tanks were put up in identified areas and three or four villages were supplied with water through pipelines. The previous NDA Government did not provide funds for the said programme due to which it ceased to be vibrant and became inoperative. There are no funds available to pay the salaries of the employees of Jal Nigam Yojana.

On behalf of the rural folk who were prevented from benefiting under that programme, I request the Finance Minister to revert that scheme and allocate more funds thereunder so that it may be revived and the people are provided with drinking water. Surveys should be conducted by District Officers for the purpose of initiating such

schemes in other districts also so that the populace of those districts may also be provided with drinking water.

More or less the same situation prevails in the cities too. During the NDA regime no work was done in the cities either. The clean water guarantee scheme that was talked about was not implemented and no filtration plants were set up. River Yamuna flows through my constituency Mathura. When I was MP earlier from that constituency the Yamuna barrage (Gokul Barrage) scheme was started. At the time, Shri Narayan Dutt Tiwari was Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh. The said scheme was completed during his tenure and a dam was constructed on the River Yamuna. Dead bodies are found floating in this river. People also throw carcass in the river water. This has polluted the river water and it is stinking. Fish in the river are also dying. I have personally checked these facts. This same polluted water after chlorine treatment is supplied to the people of Mathura and Vrindavan as drinking water. Therefore, in such places filtration plants ought to be set up for treatment of water before the same is supplied as drinking water. In the absence of such arrangements the citizens fear the spread of an epidemic.

The roads are in a bad condition. The roads in cities and villages should be improved. Funds allocated under the Pradhan Mantri Sadak Yojana are insufficient. This amount should be increased. The concept of linking villages having a population of one thousand to the roads is not taking shape either. It is my request that district headquarters of each village be linked to arterial roads by means of allocation of higher funds under the Pradhan Mantri Sadak Yojana.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You may please conclude.

KUNWAR MANVENDRA SINGH: I hope that the Finance Minister will give consideration to my suggestions and will provide for adequate funds for the implementation of the above mentioned developmental works.

[*English*]

SHRIMATI V. RADHIKA SELVI (Tiruchendur): Sir, thank you for giving me this opportunity to participate in the discussion on the Finance Bill 2005-06. I also thank our beloved leader Dr. Kalaignar M. Karunanidhi and our Tamil Thalapathi and Jupiter M.K. Stalin.

The Budget presented by our hon. Finance Minister is a common man's Budget. In this Budget, various good

*Not recorded.

[Shrimati V. Radhika Selvi]

aspects are presented to the people. For middle class people, income-tax limit is increased to Rs. 1.00 lakh per annum whereas for women and senior citizens, it is Rs. 1.25 lakhs and Rs. 1.50 lakhs respectively. The middle class people are very benefited because the basic excise duty of 8 per cent on LPG is fully removed. The value of clearance of the small-scale industry was Rs. 3.00 crore per year for duty exemption. Now, in this year, it is raised to Rs. 4.00 crore. It is a welcome approach.

The Government is planning to build All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) in six different parts of our country. The State of Tamil Nadu is not in that list. I request our hon. Minister to allocate proper funds to have one such AIIMS in Tamil Nadu.

I want to congratulate our hon. Minister for giving importance to rural education through *Sarvasiksha Abhiyan*, which talks about rural penetration of education. The allocation for this has increased from Rs. 3,057 crore to Rs. 7,156 crore.

I also welcome our Finance Minister's strong support for the development of human resource, and family welfare, child welfare, irrigation, infrastructure, agriculture productivity and also development of horticulture etc.

In our country, plenty of people are poor, jobless and live below poverty line. To support these people, our hon. Minister has promised one hundred days of employment to one person in each family. To facilitate the farmers, subsidies are to be given for the purchase of fertilizers. There is a need to give more loans to agriculture. The rate of interest on this loan should be minimised.

I thank the Finance Minister for allocating funds for starting of Sethu Samudram Project, which is a dream project of every Tamil citizen and also it is our beloved leader, Dr. Kalaignar's one of the demands. I thank once again for giving importance to our beloved leader Dr. Kalaignar's demand for the implementation of Sethu Samudram Project.

In Nanguneri, a high-tech park was planned jointly by our beloved leader and also by our beloved departed Minister of Trade and Commerce. Thiru Murasoli Maran to curb mainly communal clashes between educated jobless youths. By having this high-tech park, about one lakh people will get job directly and about two lakh people indirectly. I have already mentioned about this Project in my earlier speech also. So, I would request the hon.

Minister to expedite this so that the people in Southern State get benefited. I humbly request your goodself to work out on this immediately.

In my Tiruchendur constituency, plenty of fishermen live. Their work is fishing only. During the Tsunami, they lost their lives and livelihood. The Central Government has given Tsunami funds to Tamil Nadu State Government in a cup, whereas they have distributed in a sieve. This is the reason why they could not get what was relevant to them. I would request your goodself that, at least now, you can supply diesel and kerosene at a subsidised rate for the fisherman's livelihood.

Hon. Finance Minister has already asked the banks to give education loans to the students. It is a bitter truth that the students in my Tiruchendur constituency are unable to get loans from the banks. This should be streamlined and your Excellency should force the banks to give loans to students for education without any security.

Our beloved leader, Dr. Kalaignar, requested the Central Government to improve Chennai Airport. Our hon. Prime Minister has given due respect for our beloved leader Dr. Kalaignar and given him consent for the same. I would request our hon. Finance Minister to allocate the required funds for the improvement of Chennai Airport.

With these words, I conclude my speech.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now Shri Uday Singhji. You please continue for five minutes only. I am humbly requesting you that you should speak only for five minutes.

SHRI UDAY SINGH (Punea): I will try to do it in four-and a-half minutes.

Sir, whether it is the Patents Bill or VAT or the Employment Guarantee Scheme, it has almost become an involuntary defence mechanism for my hon. friends on the other side to blame the NDA for having first got it up. Does it occur to all of us that all the contemporary and futuristic measures were therefore brought about by the NDA? As some people pointed out from the other side, we did not chicken out on enforcing them. We did not want to enforce them; we wanted them to be accepted.

Therefore, we did not want to bring about legislations or force it down the country's gullet. That is what we

have been trying to explain to the UPA Government that consensus is the best form of trying to bring about these changes and I hope that some time or the other they will take our advice.

Hon. Finance Minister could really have well pulled off this year's Budget and the Finance Bill—because he made honest attempt—had he not been in the company of people who refuse to listen, refuse to listen even to good advice. Therefore, even though I know that perhaps none of what I am going to say now is going to find a mention in his reply or otherwise, I am going to still go ahead and say what I have to.

The hon. Finance Minister's emphasis on increasing agro-credit and the amount of kudos that he received for that is actually hollow because the ground realities are different. In my own State of Bihar, for example, farmers are asked to pay exorbitant rates of interest. The forced insurance that they have to go in for attracts exorbitant premium rates. Therefore, these are really not accessible by farmers by and large. Neither the suicides will stop nor will the farmers gain anything out of the announcement of an increase in the agro-credit. I am very happy that the hon. Agriculture Minister is also present here.

I would like to suggest that the Finance Minister must think of allocating a much higher amount of money for industries which will process agro-produce. For example, one strategically located sugar mill in my constituency of Purnea in Bihar would change the lives of thousands and thousands of farmers without them having to go in for a rupee as credit from any of the banks, which they, in any case, are unable to get. Therefore it is time that the Finance Minister look at this more carefully as to what kind of a support do our farmers really need. Is it Rs. 100 or Rs. 200 as credit that they need or is it something else that they need? He will find that it is something else that they require; and I would request him to actually set up a team to go into the States like Bihar and find out what is happening. Just now he will find that the going is easy in Bihar because it is under the President's Rule.

Social sector's spending has been stepped up; but notwithstanding the hon. Prime Minister's repeated assurances that the quality of expenditure would be looked at, nothing really has been done. There is no mention of quality audit on the kind of expenses that are being made. Many a time, when we try to raise this issue in this House and I am a first time Member—we are told that

these are subjects which relate to the States. They may be subjects which relate to the States, but it is difficult to tell our people in the constituency that since we are Members of Parliament we cannot raise those issues and that they may have to go to the Members of the Legislative Assembly. That is hardly an answer that we can really give them. The realities on the ground are different.

Five minutes ago—just before I came to this House—I was, in the Central Hall, trying to get hold of the District Magistrate of my place because there is no grain to be found for the Food for Work Programme that is going on in my District. So, all this is hollow. Really something should be done here. It is the same case with Indira Awas Yojana, with Antyodaya and with the Annapooma.

The BPL families for whom supposedly on paper millions of tonnes of ration is given, get nothing out of it, not even an ounce. I would challenge anybody to come and prove to me in Bihar that in any of the districts of Bihar it is available. I can only vouch for Bihar—I cannot vouch for the rest of India—that not a grain of that BPL ration is made available to the needy and poor. Therefore, all this talk about being a Government of the 'aam aadmi' and doing everything for the poor people is absolutely hollow and senseless. It is time that the Finance Minister and the UPA Government take note of this.

There is also no mention of any review of the plan schemes. Many of the schemes are now irrelevant. They have lost meaning; they need to be either restructured or withdrawn. They are just getting carried forward from one Five Year Plan to the other. There is a need for the Finance Minister to look at this very carefully.

Your proposal to tax cash withdrawal is at best a very-very retrograde step.

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

17.25 hrs.

It was not really expected from a Finance Minister as yourself. You really have a reputation. It is there with you. This is a retrograde step. I do not, we stand corrected. A colleague of mine had earlier pointed out that this kind of a tax has not been tried anywhere else in the world. That is not really true. It has been tried out in Brazil. It has been tried out in Australia, where the Bank Account Debit Tax is known as a BAD Tax. In all these countries it is at various stages of being withdrawn.

[Shri Uday Singh]

It will be withdrawn here too, because it is something which is so retrograde that it really took us by surprise that Shri Chidambaram, as Finance Minister, would take a step like this.

VAT is soon acquiring the meaning of being a Very Arbitrary Tax. VAT is now standing for very-very arbitrary tax. In Bihar, for example. VAT has been levied at 4 per cent on jute. There is no VAT in neighbouring West Bengal. So, the people are almost dying.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE (Calcutta South): It is there.

SHRI UDAY SINGH: Madam is saying that it is there in West Bengal. I do not think there is any need to impose VAT on jute, potato, onion or such other produce. It is counter-productive. On the one hand, the Government is trying to give incentives to the farmers and on the other it is trying to put them under VAT regime. I would like you to have a look at this.

In the end I would like to say that there is a vague mention of a Special Purpose Vehicle in Finance Minister's speech. What is this SPV? Is it designed to create a new debt window? That will happen to the infrastructure development finance company? IDFC was precisely created for this financial infrastructure. So, there is no clarity on this. I do not know, perhaps you do not like clarity. I would say, clearer the things are the better it is.

One last thing that I would like to say is that I would like to support my senior colleague, Shri Prabhunath Singh, who said, and probably it is not the sentiment of the House here, that the MPLAD Fund be withdrawn. I wholeheartedly support it because we are really dwarfing the Members of Parliament. We are really dwarfing their stature by having this fund, whether it is Rs. 2 crore or Rs. 20 crore. The Stature of a Member of Parliament is much higher, much greater than any amount of money and I think there must be an exchange, a *quid pro quo* exchange offer. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: It does not seem to be a very popular suggestion.

SHRI UDAY SINGH: In exchange of taking away this Rs. 2 crore MPLAD Fund, let all schemes of the district have the concurrence of the Members of Parliament and the elected representatives. I will give you one figure. I was making a very rough calculation. In the last ten years, over Rs. 100,000 crore have been

spent as legislature's fund. In my constituency and in the neighbouring constituencies the best asset that you can find of this money are the plaques, which say that this was inaugurated by so and so MP or MLA. I think this is a completely colossal waste of money and must be withdrawn.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: We have already expressed our views while participating in the General Budget discussion. This is a discussion on the Finance Bill. I do not want to repeat what all has been said. However, I have some points in my mind, which I would like to bring to the notice of the Government.

We have a number of schemes in our country but instead of having a number of schemes if we can concentrate on a few important schemes like the schemes concerning roads, electricity, drinking water, health or education, the results will be better. We have taken up a number of schemes, like Indira Awas Yojana, Antyodaya Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Rozgar Yojana, Food for Work Programme and so many other schemes but in reality we observe in the villages there are starvation deaths. It is a very serious issue. In Andhra Pradesh, for example, a number of farmers had committed suicides. In my State also tribals are suffering a lot. Money meant for their development is not reaching them.

It may be Food-for-Work Scheme or Antyodaya Yojana or Mid-Day Meal Scheme or whatever scheme but food is not reaching the poor people. With the result, five to six people belonging to minority community died due to hunger in Jalangi District, Murshidabad. Then in Bandowan and Bagmundi, Purulia District also there were hunger deaths. There were no medicines, no Electoral, no food, no doctors, nothing was available. People are dying every day due to hunger. It has been reported even in Amlasol. I had written a letter to the hon. Minister, Shri Sharad Pawar. He had given me a reply saying that the State Govt. has informed that there is no starvation death. But Human Rights Commission said there is starvation death. I am not blaming any one but it is a fact. The National Commission for Human Rights had also said that hunger deaths took place in Amlasol. Even a day before yesterday, it was reported in the newspapers that food is not available in Sonarpur which is adjacent to Kolkata and the tribal people live there. I am not raising the political issue here because of paucity of time. If you see, same is the position in Andhra Pradesh and other parts of the country also.

The Government must make a programme and it must give a direction to the District Magistrates to find out in how many villages starvation deaths are taking place. For God's sake, please send a team to investigate the matter. It is not a political matter. We must do that from a human point of view. That is why, I would request you to do something and give some justice to the people so that they do not die of starvation every day. Even the school children including girls have committed suicide because they are not getting food. It is a very serious issue. Sometimes, we discuss so many things but we do not discuss such serious issues.

Secondly, I would like to say that the Finance Minister is a brilliant person. His knowledge is very good and he is a very good minister. His language is very good. Why could he not bring a uniform tax policy? Sometimes this question arises in my mind. I have raised this point so many times in this House also. It is not that I am raising it during your tenure. I had raised it earlier also. If you go through the parliamentary records, you would find that I had raised this issue earlier also. How many taxes an individual has to pay in a year? One individual has to pay income tax, sales tax, service tax, property tax, etc. If you go to any rural area or Panchayat area by a cycle or a vehicle, you have to pay Rs. 15 as tax. If you pass through a bridge, which is only a bamboo bridge like *sanko* and not a concrete bridge, you have to pay Rs. 15 as tax. Where will be people get money from? The rural people were telling that NDA gave the slogan - 'India Shining'. But we were rejected by the people. Now you have given the slogan that it is a 'Dream Budget'. It is not that you are smiling and laughing but the country is crying? You ask the State Government as to how many times people have to pay taxes. Where would people go? Now-a-days how much fee one has to pay in schools. You are taking education cess. You are taking safety cess. The States as well as the Centre have imposed cess on petrol also. How many times people have to pay cess? Sometimes, please think of the common people also. They are good people. They want to obey the rules and regulations. They want to pay the taxes. Now you have started VAT system. Was any discussion held for this purpose? Of course, in other countries also there is a VAT system but then they do not charge the sales tax.

They do not charge service tax; they do not charge any other taxes. But in our country we have all types of taxes and added to that now the people of this country would have to contend with VAT—the Value Added Tax.

In Western countries, there is a social security scheme. The people there are not required to pay sales tax and service taxes, they pay only Value Added Tax. The Finance Minister of West Bengal was the Chairman of that Committee that decided on VAT. Some States have agreed to implement VAT and some States have refused to implement VAT. Even some of the States that have agreed to implement VAT have said that it is difficult to implement. Even the Delhi Government has said that they could not afford to implement VAT at this time and that they would require consultation on this subject and then they would decide about its implementation. The Government must sit with various trade organisations and decide about its implementation. I am not pleading the cause of the big shop owners. I am pleading the cause of the small shopkeepers, like the one who owns a tea shop or a small shop. I am pleading the cause of the poor and the common man. There is already no employment and if by way of implementing VAT, these poor and common men lose their earnings, then we will lose our accountability, credibility and transparency. That is why, I would like to request the hon. Minister that this is not a question of any ego and we should consult each other and then we should decide it together so that there are no differences.

Sir, in regard to BPL families I would like to say that in many States, no list of BPL families has so far been prepared by the district authorities or the State Governments. I would like to request the Government to find out if the BPL list has been prepared in the States. If it has not been prepared, then directions should be sent out from the Centre saying that within a stipulated period the list must be prepared and that proper facilities meant for the BPL families should flow to them.

Sir, the other thing I would like to say here is that it is a fact that there is a financial problem. There is an economic crisis. But could the Government not take appropriate steps to recover the money lying locked in Non-Performing Assets for the last fifteen years? More than Rs. 1,50,000 crore is lying idle by way of NPA with blacklisted persons. They took money from the Indian Banks and then they did not bother to return it. They took the money and then forgot about returning it, closed the industries and again through a *benami* route they took loan from the same bank. The process has continued. The Government has now decided to allow 74 per cent FDI in banking, telecom and the civil aviation sectors. It would mean that the control would remain with the foreign investors in these sectors. This would

[Kumari Mamata Banerjee]

only result in the sufferings of the common man from the point of social security. That is why I would like to request the hon. Finance Minister to come out with a concrete and comprehensive policy to tackle black money.

Sir, finally I would like to submit that for whatever money the Central Government is sending to States, is there any proper accounting and audit to see if that money has been spent fruitfully? Which are the States that are submitting their accounts and audit for the money received and which are the States that are not submitting it? There must be some system to find this out. If the Central Government is allocating money to the States, then there must be some audit and accounting system to see if that money has been spent fruitfully or not. Simply out of political considerations money is being allocated but there is no system of audit and accounting to see as to what has been done with the money so allocated.

Therefore, I would like to tell the hon. Finance Minister that it may be a dream Budget for him and a cream Budget for the Leftist parties, but the Left parties would like to finish this Government, they are misguiding this Government and they are misleading this Government. So, Government should guard against such things.

MR. SPEAKER: Now, we have had a full discussion. I am thankful to my friends from the Opposition for their kind participation.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Sir, there are two more Members to speak from our Party. I would be grateful if you could kindly allow them.

MR. SPEAKER: Then we have to call four more Members. I will give them full opportunity next time. Thank you for your co-operation.

The hon. Finance Minister.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, I am grateful to all the hon. Members who have participated in this debate over the last about eight hours spread over three days. In particular, I thank the principal Opposition Party and its allies who have joined this debate today. I would have been very disappointed if we did not have a debate at all like last year or we did not have a debate without the Opposition Party.

Sir, this House has already passed the Budget and the Appropriation Bill. Therefore, while there will be other

occasions and opportunities to discuss some non-Finance Bill related issues which were raised here today and last week, I think I should use my time dealing with Finance Bill related issues. But let me assure the hon. Members that I have made very careful notes of the non-Finance Bill related issues and I will either respond to individual Members in writing or I shall take another opportunity to respond to these issues. But I would like to use this time to deal with Finance Bill related issues. When the Budget was discussed, I said that I will give the year and figures on some matters of highest importance which we discussed. For example, let us take agriculture. I have said this in the Budget speech. Other members of the Government have repeated it. I say this again. Agriculture enjoys the highest priority in the plans of this Government. When we assumed office in 2003-04, the disbursement of agricultural credit was about Rs. 80,000 crore. We set a target of Rs. 1,05,000 crore for 2004-05. In the Budget speech, I said that I am confident that we will achieve this target. I am happy to inform this House, Sir, that in the year ended 2004-05, against the target of Rs. 1,05,000 crore, agricultural credit, through the three arms, namely, commercial banks, RRBs and co-operative banks, was Rs. 1,15,241 crore. In a way, this makes my task very difficult in the current year because I have said that we will increase it by another 30 per cent. If it was a lakh and five thousand crore rupees, then I would have been happy with a lakh and forty thousand crore rupees this year. But now that we have achieved Rs. 1,15,000 crore, our task becomes even more difficult. But I assure this House that we will do our very best to increase it by another 30 per cent in the current year.

We promised that we will add 50,00,000 new farmers and bring them into the credit system. The achievement for last year, 2004-05 was 78,84,000 farmers.

On educational loans, we said that we will substantially step in up over the previous year. In 2003-04, the total number of fresh educational loans was 1,07,929 amounting to Rs. 1983 crore. In the year which has ended, according to provisional figures, the number is 1,65,791 loans and the total amount disbursed is Rs. 3311 crore which is an increase of almost 75 per cent as compared to the previous year.

Sir, in the Finance Bill, we are dealing with both indirect and direct taxes. Last year, although there was no debate in this House, I had read and I had heard the hon. Members of Opposition criticising what we did last year.

In fact, I noted a tinge of envy in their criticism. As my dear friend, Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal pointed out, for six years they promised that they will raise the exemption limit to Rs. 1 lakh, but did not have the courage to do that. One of the first things we did last year was to raise the exemption limit to Rs. 1 lakh. Then I said, though the exemption limit was raised to Rs. 1 lakh, that will not apply to all tax brackets. I said that I would revisit this year, after we look into the Kelkar Committee Report.

My disappointment in the debate is, hon. Members of the Opposition, at least those who spoke today and last week, did not seem to have studied the Kelkar Report although it was a Committee appointed by that Government. This year we have completed substantially the direct taxes reform. We have gone by the recommendations of the Kelkar Committee Report. We have given Rs. 1 lakh exemption across the board. We have revisited the tax slabs. We have adjusted the tax rates and we have raised the exemptions.

Without taking too much time, let me quickly refer to the conclusions of the Kelkar Committee. This is what the Kelkar Committee Report says;

"The Task Force, therefore, recommends that Standard Deduction under Section 16(1) of the Income Tax Act should be eliminated."

On Section 88 (D) and 88 (C), which is about the tax rebate method of giving relief to senior citizens and women, this is what the Kelkar Committee recommends:

"That tax rebates schemes under Section 88 for savings will be eliminated. The rebate under Section 88 (B) for senior citizens will be eliminated. In view of the enhanced exemption, rebate under Section 88(C) for women tax payers below the age of 65 years will be eliminated."

On interest under Section 80 (L), the Committee said:

"The income-tax based deduction under Section 80 (L) for interest income and dividend will be eliminated."

[*Translation*]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Why are you talking about the recommendations of Kelkar Committee? Are you accepting those recommendations?

[*English*]

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Prof. Malhotra, you have not even referred to this. If you have referred to it and criticised, I would have appreciated that. But you did not even refer to it. Therefore, I infer that you did not apply your mind to this Report.

What we are saying is that this Committee went into the matter and made a series of recommendations. What have we done? We have to clean up the direct tax system. There are too many exemptions, too many rebates and too many methods of giving tax relief. So, we have done a complete clean up. What we are saying is this. It is very simple. We say that up to Rs. 1 lakh everybody is exempt from income-tax. Beyond Rs. 1 lakh, we give you a basket of avenues to save. We are not going to tell you where you will save and how you will save. The State is not here to tell citizens in what kind of instruments they should save nor is the State going to reflect its bias in favour of one instrument or against another instrument. We say that we give you a total exemption of Rs. 1 lakh and you save in whatever manner you like as long as it falls within one of those seventeen or eighteen savings programmes. This is a long overdue clean up of the direct tax system. We have done this major reform, a reform which is supported by analysis, evidence, sample studies; it was done after widest consultations with tax practitioners and economists; it was recommended by the High Powered Committee appointed by the NDA Government. We have accepted many of the recommendations. We have not accepted all the recommendations. We have applied our mind. We have accepted these recommendations and did a major tax reform.

I am, to say the least, disappointed that the principal Opposition should set its face against this reform. If it is criticism for the sake of criticism, I am willing to accept it. I will smile my way through this reply. But, if it is criticism without studying the Kelkar Report, without applying your mind to the reasons given there, I am afraid I can only express my disappointment and regret.

In the case of women, we have said that we will get rid of the tax rebate method. We will raise the exemption to Rs. 1,25,000. In the case of senior citizens, we said that we will get rid of the tax rebate method. We will raise the exemption to Rs. 1,50,000. It has been correctly pointed out that in a small number of cases—I will give you the numbers in a moment—at the margin, there is

[Shri P. Chidambaram]

indeed a negative effect. Therefore, I said that I am aware of this problem; I will address this problem. After all, in a Finance Bill, we do not impose a tax; we only propose a tax. The House will dispose of the proposal one way or the other. That is how a Finance Bill should be constructed and debated. I am proposing this tax. Yes, it has been pointed out to me that at the margin, there are some anomalies which have to be rectified. Therefore, I said then, and I say it now with pride, that senior citizens and women are the special constituency of the UPA Government and we will look after their interest—and we have. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon'ble Minister of Finance has a cut down the rebate from Rs. 20 thousand to Rs. 12 thousand.

[English]

We strongly protest this. Something you are doing a great disservice to the senior citizens.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, Prof. Malhotra, I am told, is a distinguished Professor of Social Science. So, he must please allow some credit to those in the Income Tax Department who have worked out this table.

Let us deal with the senior citizens. Now, you make it appear that every senior citizen in this country is affected. Let us remember that in the tax bracket of Rs. 1,50,000 to Rs. 2,00,000, the number of senior citizens who actually come within the tax net and pay tax is only 1,51,377. That is the number. The total number of tax paying tax assesses has remained constant over the last two years. Now, 40 per cent of all tax-payers are salaried tax-payers who were entitled to the Standard Deduction and 60 per cent are the non-salaried tax-payers who were not entitled to the standard Deduction. So, we apply the same proportion. Or, to make a little more allowance, to be generous, to err on the generous side, we may even apply a proportion of 50 per cent. We are talking about 75,000 people in this whole country of 103 crores, who may be affected, if there are no savings—mark those words. The error in your assumption is that they save nothing. That is completely wrong. The empirical evidence is entirely to the contrary. Why do you say that they save nothing? We have got the figures of savings by this category. The Kelkar Committee has extracted it in its table. The Kelkar Committee studied a sample of a

million tax-payers and it has come to the conclusion that senior citizens also save and their saving is approximately 10 per cent of their income. But, I am willing to accept for the sake of arguments that there could be senior citizens with no savings. Now, our calculation shows as proposed in the Finance Bill, a small number of people between the income bracket of Rs. 1,38,000 and Rs. 1,80,000, are marginally affected. By virtue of the amendment that I have introduced today, none of them will be affected. We have got over the problem.

Similarly, if you take a 10 per cent saving which is what the Kelkar Committee funds on empirical study, nobody was affected and nobody will be affected. Similarly, you come to the pensioner, senior citizens. We are talking about a very small category—pensioner, senior citizens.

After what we have done now, virtually everybody gets over the little negative impact that was there in the tax bracket. In the case of women, of course, there is no question. The calculations clearly show that a very small number within a very narrow bracket was affected negatively. The correction that we have done takes care of that. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: If you do not get affected, continue with the earlier system, why are you removing?

[English]

If there is no difference, why do you not keep the earlier one? ...*(Interruptions)* Keep the earlier one if there is no difference.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I am trying to explain this to Prof. Malhotra. I will tell you why. He asks: Why have you given up the tax rebate route? I am telling you that we have given up the tax rebate route because the tax rebate route is a distorting route; it is a distorting way to provide for savings and relief. We are now moving to a clean, transparent route where the citizen is free to save in whatever instrument. The tax rebate route indicates the State's bias in favour of one instrument as against another instrument. The Kelkar Committee recommended that we must get out of the tax rebate route and go straight to the tax savings route. So, we have consciously chosen the tax savings route. So, now, a woman will have Rs. 1,35,000 plus a lakh of rupees. So, up to Rs. 2,35,000, if a woman saves wisely—I am sure, she

will save more wisely than Prof. Malhotra—there is no difficulty at all. *...(Interruptions)* For a senior citizen, Rs. 1,85,000 is completely exempt. If he saves even 10 per cent of his income, nobody is affected, and the evidence shows that everybody saves.

Let me ask you rhetorically. This is purely a rhetorical question. I am not suggesting that. If the senior citizens do not save, shall we get rid of Section 88C for senior citizens? If the senior citizens do not save, why did we introduce the Senior Citizens Savings Scheme? Do you know the number of people who have opened accounts under the 9 per cent Senior Citizens Savings Scheme? Over three lakh accounts have been opened. So, the senior citizens save. We are talking about 75,000 people or 80,000 people. I think the number is more close to 60,000. We find on the other hand that there are three lakh senior citizen accounts opened only last year under the 9 per cent return. So, all these assumptions, I am afraid, are wrong; that the senior citizen does not save is wrong, that women do not save is wrong; that women and the senior citizens do not know what their interest is wrong; and the State must tell them how to save is wrong. All these assumptions are wrong. We have done a clean up. The direct tax's clean up. I am sure, will fetch us not only the goodwill of senior citizens and women but also this will also bring about greater transparency and ease in the administration of the direct tax system.

Last year, we had set up targets for tax collections. I was told that these were ambitious targets, unachievable targets. This year also, we have set ambitious targets. Last year, the indirect taxes increased by 16.09 per cent. The direct taxes increased by 26.3 per cent, the largest increase in recent times. It is not only that. There is a more important point. Everybody says, improve the tax GDP ratio. So far as the indirect tax is concerned, the tax to GDP ratio decreased from 6.5 per cent in 1996-97 to 5.38 per cent in 2003-04. Last year, there was a turn around. It has increased from 5.38 per cent to 5.48 per cent of GDP.

Similarly, on the direct tax side, in 2003-04, the direct tax to GDP was 3.8 per cent. In 2004-05, it has increased to 4.27 per cent. So, both the direct tax and the indirect tax, as a proportion of GDP has, I believe, turned the corner showing an increase. If we continue with the tax reform, simpler tax systems, cleaner tax brackets and tax provisions, and transparent tax administration, I am confident that we can raise both direct taxes and the indirect taxes revenues.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: You are telling about the percentage to GDP. Can you tell us what was your target, how much have you achieved? Will you tell that? Then only, we will say whether it was ambitious or not. You please tell us about that.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: All this was given out in a Press Release. My learned friend Shri Swain must be aware of that.

18.00 hrs.

Against the total tax collections, according to Revised Estimates, Budget Estimates had to be adjusted because the petroleum prices increased, petroleum companies paid less and banks paid less. This has been explained in the several debates in this House. Against a total target set of little over Rs. 3,00,000 crore, to be exact it was, Rs. 3,05,214 crore in the Revised Estimates, the shortfall is only Rs. 1,458 crore. The Revised Estimates have been substantially. *...(Interruptions)*

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI: Mr. Chidambaram, please give direct and indirect taxes separately.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Yes, I am giving. The indirect taxes achievement was 100.01 per cent of the Revised Estimates, and in direct taxes, the achievement is 98.91 per cent of the Revised Estimates. I am thankful to you for asking the question.

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, let the House be extended till this is over. I think all agree with it.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: On the indirect taxes' side, I have to announce some relief. On the direct taxes' side, I have brought about amendments.

Sir, on the direct taxes' side, the main relief we are giving are for women, we are raising it from Rs. 125000 to Rs. 135000. For senior citizens, we are raising it from Rs. 150000 to Rs. 185000.

Now, I will come to indirect taxes. On the indirect taxes' side, in the Budget, I had imposed a 4 per cent CVD on Information Technology Agreement bound items and their specific inputs. I have received a number of representations. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please, this is very important.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I have received a number of representations seeking exemption for parts and components of mobile handsets from CVD. You might have read in the papers, one major company has already decided to locate an hardware manufacturing facility in India. Another one, I think is on the way. In order to facilitate manufacture of mobile handsets, I propose to exempt their parts from the 4 per cent CVD. To encourage mechanized vessels and deep sea trawlers to adopt modern technology, for scientific exploitation of our marine resources in an eco-friendly manner and to boost marine sector exports, I propose to reduce customs duty on mono-filament long line system for tuna fishing from 15 per cent to a nominal 5 per cent and exempt them from countervailing duty by way of exemption from excise duty.

Soya is an important source of protein. I propose to reduce excise duty on isolated Soya protein from 16 per cent to 8 per cent. A Farm Insurance Scheme was introduced in 2003-04 by the Ministry of Agriculture with the objective of income stabilisation of farmers, growing paddy and wheat. I observed that the premium under a similar scheme, namely, the National Agriculture Insurance Scheme is already exempted from Service Tax. Hence, I propose to exempt the premium under the Farm Income Insurance Scheme also from Service Tax. In last year's Budget, to protect the domestic computer industry, I had imposed an additional customs duty of 7 per cent on computers imported into India, so as to counter balance the excise duty leviable in their inputs. I have been informed that due to interpretation problems, certain classes of computers, such as laptop computers, are not being charged with the 7 per cent additional customs duty. I propose to apply this additional customs duty of 7 per cent uniformly on all computers whether imported in the form of CPU, monitor, mouse and keyboard presented as a set or otherwise.

TyreCORD fabric industry has represented that they are not able to fully utilise the credit of duty paid on their inputs as their output, nylon tyreCORD fabrics, attract excise duty of 8 per cent whereas their raw material nylon attracts excise duty of 16 per cent. To remove the anomaly in excise duty structure, I propose to raise the optional excise duty from 8 per cent to 16 per cent on nylon tyreCORD fabrics above 840 denier. Optional exemption will, however, continue to be available.

Finally, I had increased the specific duty on molasses from Rs. 500 per tonne to Rs. 1,000 per tonne. Responding to representations from the sugar industry

and the persuasion of the Minister of Agriculture, I propose to reduce the duty on molasses proposed in the Budget from Rs. 1,000 per tonne to Rs. 750 per tonne.

I do not think any other hon. Member raised any specific issue about indirect taxes. So, I assume that everybody is generally happy about indirect taxes and there are no specific issues—which leaves out two issues—which are allegedly controversial. The first one is cash transaction tax and the other is fringe benefit tax. But before that I want to deal with ITC.

Sir, ITC is a case which started in the year 1987. It is widely accepted and it was accepted in the Supreme Court that because of a certain pricing system followed by ITC, the retailer was selling the cigarettes at a price higher than the MRP. That is an undisputed fact. Excise duty is collected on the MRP—maximum retail price. If someone sells at a price higher than the MRP, then he is denying to the revenue the legitimate excise duty.

This case eventually travelled up to the High Court. The High Court directed the Adjudicator to determine the demand. The Adjudicator determined the duty payable by ITC and the associated manufacturing companies. The matter went to appeal to the Tribunal. Finally, the matter reached the Supreme Court in January 1999. Pending these proceedings, ITC deposited Rs. 350 crore as against a total demand of about Rs. 800 crore.

On the 6th of November 2003, the Supreme Court observed—in fact, it was virtually a direction to the parties—to please resolve the issue through a compromise. The matter was considered by the Central Board of Excise and Customs, which recommended that in view of the legal advice they had received, the Government had a very strong case and therefore, there should be no compromise and they should argue the case.

The then Finance Minister apparently was not happy with this recommendation and said, he would like a discussion. The matter came up before the Supreme Court two weeks later. The Supreme Court once again observed that the parties must make an earnest attempt to resolve the dispute. The Counsel wrote to the Government saying 'this is what the Supreme Court had observed, therefore, I advise you to resolve the matter through a compromise'.

The judgement on the matter was reserved on 8th January 2004 and while reserving the judgement, the Supreme Court observed that 'we will now take a view on the matter'. Eight months later, the Supreme Court

delivered the judgement on the 10th of September 2004. Immediately, the Board filed a review petition 7th of October. It is at that stage that in order to protect the revenues of the Government, an Ordinance was promulgated.

We had with us Rs. 350 crore, and if an Ordinance had not been promulgated, we would have been obliged to refund Rs. 350 crore immediately. In fact, one of the Commissioners with whom a small deposit was lying, with great alacrity refunded a few crores immediately after the judgement. So, Ordinance was promulgated in order to ensure that there is no refund. It is at that stage ITC made a proposal that they are now willing to compromise the matter notwithstanding the fact that the judgement is in their favour. After carefully studying the matter—and I take responsibility for this—I advised the Prime Minister that more than once the Supreme Court had said this matter should be settled through a compromise. We have passed an Ordinance. The litigation will start all over again. This may go on for another 10 years or 20 years. We still do not know at the end of the day whether we will win or lose the case. We have lost the case; we have lost the review petition. When ITC made a proposal, the compromise was not acceptable to us. Then, ITC came forward a proposal, the compromise was not acceptable to us. Then, ITC came forward with a better proposal. Under the proposal—and these were strictly in accordance with the observations or suggestions. The Supreme Court repeatedly observed now that you have collected Rs. 350 crore, the balance, why do you not make a compromise on the matter? The Cabinet took a decision that we will accept a compromise proposal under which whatever has been collected by the Government will be retained by the Government, whatever has not been collected by the Government will not be claimed by the Government, and the few crores that we had refunded to ITC with alacrity will be recollected from ITC. In fact, that money has since been recovered. Sir, Rs. 350 crore deposit is now with the Government. What remains to be collected we have given up our claim and they have given up their claim under the judgement. This compromise, I believe, ought to have been done in the year 2003 when the Supreme Court repeatedly observed that this is a fit case in which both sides should compromise. It appears to me from the file, the Minister then was not happy with the Board's recommendation, but he did not take any decision and left the matter. We have not taken the decision. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. I will allow you.

...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: They bring an Ordinance and then let in go, let it lapse, and then make a compromise.

MR. SPEAKER: You have made your comment.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: This is something very-very. ...*(Interruptions)* Why did he not go for compromise earlier also? Before bringing the Ordinance he should have gone for compromise and taken the decision earlier.

MR. SPEAKER: You have legitimately raised the point, and he has answered.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: The Finance Minister has listened your point.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: In fact, two very respected leaders of the NDA have written to the Government that the Ordinance is an unjust Ordinance and should be withdrawn. Two very respected leaders of the Opposition have said the Ordinance should be withdrawn. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Had we acted on their advice and withdrawn the Ordinance, we would have lost Rs. 800 crore. We have collected Rs. 350 crore. ...*(Interruptions)* I am willing to share with the Leader of the Opposition the names of the two respected leaders of the Opposition. We said if we withdraw the Ordinance, the Government has to refund Rs. 350 crore. Therefore, when the compromise proposal came, having regard to, I am sure, the well-considered advice and letters of the two members of the Opposition, we decided that it is not good for the UPA Government to refund Rs. 350 crore, perhaps that is what the NDA would have done, but to find a way of retain Rs. 350 crore.

Therefore, we took this matter into account. We took your views into account and then said, we will retain Rs. 350 crore, accept the compromise, record the compromise as part of the adjudication proceeding and allow the Ordinance to lapse. ...*(Interruptions)*

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI: Could you please permit me one minute?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): It is clean bowled. Why are you talking of LBW? *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister has yielded.

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI: You see, one point which I think has not been covered by you in this whole issue is that repeatedly somebody has given advice to the Government against the Supreme Court's advice. Has anything been done about that issue? What has been done to those people who repeatedly kept on saying that they have got a very good case and delayed the whole thing by 8-10 months? Thereafter, we have come up to this position. *...(Interruptions)*

MD. SALIM (Calcutta-North West): What prevents the Minister from sharing the name with this House? *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You leave it to the Finance Minister.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You should have faith in your Finance Minister. He is a very able Minister. If you are suggesting how to conduct this debate, he can look after himself. He yielded to Maj. Gen. (Retd.) B.C. Khanduri. He has put a question. He will answer.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: I am also putting a small question. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: That is the liberty of the Opposition.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: The names should come because Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra had raised a very serious allegation. Sir, you were not there. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Lal Singh, what are you doing?

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: In your absence, Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra had levelled a very serious

allegation. Therefore, it is imperative that the names are known. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: There is no serious allegation. The hon. Minister has acknowledged the help received from some hon. leader.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You please sit down. Your seat is there.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Anil Basu, you are speaking from a seat which is not yours.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will be recorded.

*...(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing more will be recorded except the speech of Mr. Chidambaram, the Finance Minister.

Yes, Mr. Finance Minister, you please go on.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, I have great respect for Maj. Gen. (Retd.) Khanduri. He is the Chairman of our Standing Committee. I have to respond to him always, otherwise I may not be in his good books. Now, he asked what happened to the people who gave advice that the case is a good case. Now, that advice was not given to me. That advice was given to the NDA Government. That advice that we have a good case was rejected by the Board, but apparently—I am using these words carefully—not concurred in by the then Finance Minister. He wanted a discussion. Again, the advice was repeated. Again, the Board turned it down. Again, the Minister did not concur. But what is a matter of some grey area is that the Minister did not take any decision on that advice one way or the other. In the meanwhile, the judgement was reserved. When we came into office, the judgement had been reserved by six months. We only got a judgement after four months. Therefore, what we have done is, it is in the best interest of the revenue in order to settle a dispute which has been lingering for many, many years. *...(Interruptions)*

*Not recorded.

I am happy we did not act on the advice given to us by leading Members of the Opposition. We acted on our own judgement. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, Mr. Minister, you go on please.

MR. SALIM: We should know the names of the Members. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: I cannot compel him.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing is being heard. Nothing is being recorded.

...(*Interruptions*)*

MR. SPEAKER: Why are you raising it? You conserve your energies. Only the Finance Minister's speech will go on record.

...(*Interruptions*)*

MR. SPEAKER: You know that if you have to say anything, you have to go to your seat.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: You know that if you have to say anything, you have to go to your seat.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: You have said whatever you had to say.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Some Members had a different opinion ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: This is extremely unfortunate.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Finance Minister is replying to a very important debate. He has yielded to General Khanduri. He has replied to that, and I have allowed. It is for him to yield. But if all of you stand together, and

make submissions—most of you from wrong seats—it is not being recorded.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Salim.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Please Mr. Basu.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing is being recorded.

...(*Interruptions*)*

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: This is very unfortunate.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Dr. Chakraborty, you must sit down. When I am on my legs, nobody is entitled to stand.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: You are not respecting me.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, the Finance Minister. If you want to yield to some hon. Members, then that is a different thing.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Otherwise, the Finance Minister will continue whether he accepts your suggestions or not. But all of you do not have to rise.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: It is entirely for him.

...(*Interruptions*)

*Not recorded.

*Not recorded.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Topdar, you sit down. He has not yielded now.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: I am only trying to draw his attention. ...(Interruptions) Who were the Members? ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: He is not yielding.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I will have to use stronger words now.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: This is very very surprising.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhanjharpur): What is the objection in revealing the names? ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Will you insist on defying the Chair? I want to know this.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Now, you will be in trouble.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I will not permit this. Once I have said, I will never permit this.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: What about the two names? ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I will adjourn this House.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I will adjourn this House, and take action against the concerned Members.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I will do that.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: Tell the name of the leader. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I wish to turn to the banking cash transaction tax. ...(Interruptions) There is a misconception that money that is put in a bank. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: He has not yielded. No, I would not allow this. Unless he yields, I would not allow.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Yadav, there is a system of debate. I would not allow this.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will be recorded.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: It is being recorded.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: No, it will not be recorded.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Any hon. Member speaking without my permission will not be allowed. Unless the Finance Minister yields, I cannot give permission.

...(Interruptions)*

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I wish to turn to the banking transaction tax. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You should have something to wonder also.

The Finance Bill is being discussed, and you are not paying attention to it.

*Not recorded.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: There is a popular misconception that the money that is put in a bank is not a tainted money. That, if it goes into the bank, it somehow is an aboveboard account. I believe this is something naive. In fact, the banking system is one of the well-known instruments for laundering money. There is massive evidence in this country that deposits are made in cash; money is withdrawn in cash; it is put in one account in one city, withdrawn from another account in another city; and in this age of electronic transfer, the banking system is the most convenient method to launder the money. It is not as though a cash transaction tax was invented by me. There is a cash transaction tax on both deposits and withdrawals in many countries. It is after very careful and agonizing consideration, we said that we would be hurting people if we tax the deposits of cash, but we will have to maintain a tax threshold and hence tax all cash withdrawals over a certain threshold.

The threshold is a proposal. You have given me your views and I have responded to your concerns. I have exempted all savings accounts from these transactions, which means ordinary people go out of it. Average people have savings accounts; savings accounts are out of it. So, what are we talking about?

Secondly, how many people, I ask you, how many honest taxpayers in this country or how many honest citizens in this country withdraw Rs. 10,000 a day? All of you say, 'Rs. 10,000', but you do not add the crucial words and say, 'Rs. 10,000 in a single day'. Every day, you can withdraw Rs. 9,999, if you wish but how many people can afford to do that? The per capita income of this country, let us remember, is Rs. 30,000 a year. If the per capita income were Rs. 30,000 a year, is anyone seriously suggesting that a large number of people in this country, crores of people, are affected by this tax on Rs. 10,000 withdrawal in a single day? I think, it is an astounding argument. Nevertheless, I have responded to your criticism. I have raised the limit for individuals and HUFs to Rs. 25,000 a day and for businesses to Rs. 1 lakh a day. To say that crores are being affected, what are we talking about! The entire savings account segment is emptied. Everybody who has a savings account, which is what most salaried people have got and which is what average middle-class people have got, is not affected at all. Let them withdraw what they like. But I do not believe even they withdraw Rs. 25,000 every single day of their lives.

I have got massive evidence of the use of the banking systems for money laundering, which is why I

want to stop this. We must push this economy into a cheque economy; we must push this economy into a plastic card economy, both credit card and debit card; and we must push this economy into a bank transfer economy. Here is one city where, for a period, people who have no means at all, who are not income tax assesses, have deposited in one bank account in one branch of one bank amounts ranging from Rs. 1 crore to Rs. 98 crore in cash and their withdrawals run from Rs. 25 crore to Rs. 62 crore in cash.

MR. SPEAKER: How do they carry it?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: It is withdrawn.

There are accounts opened where crores of rupees of cash are deposited. It is transferred to another account of some person who is not an income tax assessee, who is not a PAN holder, and then it is withdrawn. Rs. 200 crore were deposited over a period of time, two months or one month. I would give you examples. Then, it is withdrawn later. Rs. 1 crore or half a crore of rupees are withdrawn. If I want to keep a trial, I have to impose a tax on all cash transactions—it is a very small tax—and once the tax trial comes, zero in on the withdrawals which are running into crores and lakhs of rupees.

I am not going to ask, "Why did you withdraw Rs. 25,000?" Am I a fool to do that? I would be wasting my time if I did that, but if I find withdrawals running into lakhs and crores of rupees, I am going to zero in on those accounts to find out who those people are.
...(Interruptions)

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: But how are you going to keep an audit trial?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I would tell you how I would do it.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: I would withdraw any money and spend it elsewhere.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Mr. Swain, please cooperative in passing this provision. I would come and report to you six months later what I have done.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: You would do it only six months later, not now.

MR. SPEAKER: No running commentaries please.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Here is a case of a set of people who have deposited in a short period Rs. 110

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crore in cash and withdrawn Rs. 32 crore in cash over a short period of about two months. None of them is an assessee. The Reserve Bank went into the matter.

The Reserve Bank of India reported that all the four banks' branches had opened the accounts based on the introduction/signature attestation by their officials working in the State of *blank* and allowed large and unexplainable cash transactions in the accounts of Shri *so and so* and his other connected accounts. The banks concerned did not enquire into the occupation, line of business or local address of Shri *so and so* and the other related account holders despite allowing transactions involving huge amounts. The declarations by the accounts holders to the effect that they were not income tax assesses were accepted without verification.

It goes on to say that it was reported by the officials of the *dash* bank that its head office had not issued any instructions or guidelines for monitoring of large cash transactions whereas the branches of *dash* bank and *dash* bank did not follow the head office instruction.

It goes on to say that most of the accounts were operated from October 1999 to April 2000. Remittances of large amounts were received into the accounts by means of telegraphic transfer/MT/DD from the Mumbai branches of the respective banks. The funds on the accounts were mostly withdrawn in large sums in cash. The account holder of one Shri *dash* had deposited cash in the accounts held in Mumbai. Deposits aggregating Rs. 76.55 crore were received at the Coimbatore, Trichur, Emakulam and Palghat branches of the same bank during the period October 1999 to April 2000 and the amounts were fully withdrawn in cash immediately. Only meagre balances are left in the accounts.

This particular case I am talking about the transaction between 30th of October, 1999 and 23rd of November, 2000, that is in one year and one month, the withdrawals were Rs. 207 crore and in another case between 20th of October, 1999 and 13th of August, 2002, the cash withdrawals were Rs. 217 crore. So. Please bear with me. Let me see how the system works. We are not going to ask people who withdraw Rs. 25,000 or Rs. 30,000. Why do you do it? But I must have a tax trial. Once I get the entire list from each bank branch, as they are bound to report, we will zero in only on the suspicious transaction. Please trust my judgement—after very careful examination, we have introduced it. Responding to your criticism, we have raised the limit to Rs. 25,000 and Rs. one lakh respectively. We have exempted all saving

banks accounts. I ask your support and I will request you to withdraw your amendment in this regard.

...(Interruptions)

The last one is fringe benefit tax. There were one or two comments about fringe benefit tax. Let me tell you as to what is being done. Fringe benefit tax is a presumptive tax. As I said in my Budget Speech, there are a large number of allowances and perquisites which are given, which go untaxed. Now, the fringe benefit is taxed in many countries. It was taxed in India until 1997 through what is called 'the disallowance route'. But the disallowance route vested a large amount of discretion in the Income-tax Officer. Therefore, in 1997, I amended that Section to close that discretion and said, "we will not bother to tax this amount". But what we find is that the effective tax rate of the corporate sector continues to be very low. The effective tax rate of corporate sector when the tax rate was 35 per cent is only about 20 per cent. Therefore, by the presumptive tax method what we are trying to do is to tax that part which is clearly a perquisite, clearly a benefit but which is going untaxed both in the hands of the employer and the employee.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI TUFANI SAROJ (Saidpur): The House is concerned so please also tell us about MPLAD.

[English]

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: After the Budget was presented, we called the three Apex organisations CII, ASSOCHAM and FICCI. We have brought in the Institute of Chartered Accountants. They have gone into international practices. They have examined everything. I have received a report from my officers who consulted them extensively over several days and we have now modified the proposals. We have exempted some of the benefits which we thought were fringe benefits, but which they thought were legitimate business expenditure. We have reduced the base in all but four cases to 20 per cent.

This is a presumptive tax. A presumptive tax is necessary because you have to avoid inventive accounting practices. People can shift the classification of expenditure from one head of account to another. So, if we have a presumptive tax and have an exhaustive list of accounting heads and have a uniform base, the scope for evasion is very-very limited. What we are doing is eliminating the entire discretion. What we are now asking him is to file

a tax audit certificate saying according to his auditor these are the expenditures under the various heads included in the new chapter. The whole chapter has been replaced in the amendment. If the tax auditor certifies these are the heads, the officer has no discretion. The income-tax officer has to accept that tax audit certificate unless it turns out to be a patently false certificate. We will accept that certificate of the auditor.

The Institute of Chartered Accountants will lay down its guidelines and the accounting standards. On this expenditure the base will be a 20 per cent rate and on that base a 30 per cent tax will be applied. What it adds to the corporate tax rate, assuming that every company gives every one of the benefits—I am now taking the extreme case—listed in this chapter to every employee, it will increase the effective tax rate of that company between 1 and 1.5 per cent. So, the effective rate will move up from about 20% or 21% today to about 21% or 22% when the scheduled rate still is 30%.

When the Minister from Finland visited us, she asked me what is the effective tax rate and I said it is 20 per cent. She said, this is a tax haven; I should ask my companies to move to India. It is because in their country the effective corporate tax rate is close to 40 per cent and that is because they have got other benefits like free education, free healthcare, quality healthcare, etc. Our effective tax rate today is 20 per cent. We must move the effective tax rate to the scheduled rate. This is one method of requiring corporates to pay a little more tax. Therefore, I ask the whole House to support the amendments which I have introduced now which is after wide consultations. This has a broad support. I am not saying every single Chamber of Commerce has accepted every single proposal that I am making today. But, broadly, they think that what we have done is reasonable and fair. I ask the whole House to please support the new fringe benefits tax so that we can collect a little more revenue to the Government.

I think I have answered most of the issues raised by the hon. Members. But there still remains VAT. VAT is not a Central Tax. VAT is a State tax. VAT is intended to replace the sales tax. I am not imposing VAT. We are not imposing VAT. It is not within the competence of Parliament to impose VAT. What we have done over the last six years is to facilitate the State Finance Ministers to meet and arrive at a consensus. Let me say this most humbly. VAT is the single most important tax reform attempted in free India. It is the most important reform at the State level. Twenty-one States have come on board.

All the Finance Ministers are party to the White Paper. Nobody demurred when the White Paper was published in the month of February. But, today some States have second thoughts on VAT. I am deeply sorry that some States should go back on what they promised in the last six-seven years. Seventy-nine meetings of these Finance Ministers have taken place. But I am confident they will come on board.

As far as VAT on CSD canteens is concerned, there is no uniform practice. Even before VAT, some States were levying sales tax on sales made in CSD canteens. Those States which were levying sales tax earlier have now imposed VAT. Many States did not have sales tax on CSD canteen sales. They are not levying VAT. Anyway, the Empowered Committee has met and the empowered Committee has generally discussed the matter. If I had my way, I would advise them whatever be the position regarding sales tax before the VAT regime came on CSD canteens,—I would advise the State Governments and I do so now—please exempt CSD canteens from VAT.

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI: Thank you very much. Please do that.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: This is my advice. But this is a matter where I can only use my persuasive skills. I will do so. But I want you also to use your persuasive skills with your Governments and tell all State Governments to please exempt CSD canteen sales from VAT. We will use our persuasive skills. Every Party should use its persuasive skills to persuade its Party Government in any State to exempt CSD canteen sales from VAT. I will be the happiest person and all the *Jawans* and all the soldiers will be thankful to all the State Governments.

But our view is very clear that we want them to exempt CSD canteens' sales from VAT. *...(Interruptions)*

Sir, I think, I have answered all issues relating to tax. There were some issues of service tax on gems and jewellery. *...(Interruptions)* I will finish first. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: After he finishes, you may ask clarification, if any.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, on education cess, again, let me give you the figures. For 2004-05, the estimated receipts from education cess were Rs. 5,010 crore

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and the estimated expenditure on Sarvashiksha Abhiyan and Mid-Day Meal Scheme and the special provision for North-East for Sarvashiksha Abhiyan and Mid-Day Meal Scheme, which is what is intended to be served by the education cess, was Rs. 8,035 crore. Therefore, we collected Rs. 5,010 crore, but we have spent Rs. 8,035 crore. Similarly, for the current year, the estimated receipt from education cess is Rs. 6,975 crore, but we will spend Rs. 11,220 crore. So, every pie of the education cess is being spent. In fact, more is being spent on the Sarvashiksha Abhiyan and the Mid-Day Meal Scheme.

The Prarambhik Shiksha Kosh has been announced by the Prime Minister. It is in the last stage. The Cabinet note is now ready. It will be formally announced after the Cabinet approves it, but let me tell you that the Prarambhik Shiksha Kosh will be a non-lapsable fund and no part of this education cess will be diverted to any other purpose. It will go only to Sarvashiksha Abhiyan or the Mid-Day Meal Scheme.

Sir, there were some questions about the income tax on Kashmir immigrants. Sir, this was first announced by the then Congress Government in the year 1992. The order was passed under section 119(2)A on 1.9.92 under which interest chargeable under section 234A and 234B of the Income Tax Act for delay in filing return or non-payment of advance tax etc. was waived. Another order was passed again by the then Congress Government on 20.12.1993 under section 119(2)A extending the benefit for two more assessment years. It is those orders which have been continued year after year after year. Nobody did anything original or additional. It was what was announced in 1992 or 1993. When this Government came, we have done nothing different. On 21.6.04, we have continued the same order, which was in force since 1992 and 1993. Therefore, Kashmir immigrants are not in any way affected. We have given them the waiver. Nobody is prosecuting them and nobody is harassing them. If there is any individual case, where any Income Tax Officer in his zeal has taken any action, please bring it to my notice. But our policy is clear. What was started by the then Congress Government in 1992-93 has been continued year after year and we have continued it also and we will continue it for the next assessment years also.

SHRI VIJAYENDRA PAL SINGH: What about the benefit of NSC and PPF? Will this benefit be available or not?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: We have done nothing to that. All of them remain.

I heard your speech. You were talking about EET. Please read the Budget Speech carefully. EET is not a tax system that we are introducing. We have only pointed

out the different systems in the world and we have said that we will appoint a committee to examine it and advise us. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VIJAYENDRA PAL SINGH: What about the benefit?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: What was available is available now also. We have not changed it.

Sir, I think, I have answered every issue relating to the Finance Bill. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: What is this?

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR (Barrackpore): Sir, I want to ask a clarification from the hon. Minister. About indirect tax, I would say that the tax structure of the petroleum and petroleum products has to be spelt out. Regarding direct tax, after a long exercise, the product is very small in regard to the fringe benefits.

MR. SPEAKER: What is your question?

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR: I want a clarification on petroleum tax structure.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, he has not replied to this issue.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, there is a misconception that the changes that we have made in the customs duty and excise duty are not revenue neutral. I can understand from where the misconception has sprung. It comes out of a Report of The Parliamentary Standing Committee on the Petroleum Ministry.

Please read the Budget Speech. We have imposed a new additional cess of 0.50 paise under paragraph 135 of the Budget Speech. Paragraphs 137, 138 and 139 deal with customs duty and excise duty on petroleum. Both these are separated by paragraph 136, which deals with a different subject. The Ministry of Petroleum and the Ministry of Finance sat down over several days at which the revenues will be neutral. It is only after we got the excise duty at which the revenues will be neutral. It is only after we got the concurrence of the Ministry of Petroleum that the changes in the customs duty and excise duty—that are being proposed—are revenue neutral that we have included it in the Budget. I have the concurrence of the Ministry of Petroleum on this issue. I had explained this issue to the Minister of Petroleum a few days ago, and he came out and told the Press that he is more than convinced that the changes in the customs duty, and excise duty are revenue neutral. I have the figures to the last rupee, and they are revenue neutral.

In paragraph 135, we have imposed an additional cess of 0.50 paise in order to fund the National Highway Development Programme (NHDP)-3. NHDP-3 goes beyond NHDP-1, which is the Golden Quadrilateral, and NHDP-2, which is the North-South-East-West corridors. We are now covering all the dense corridors of India, and connecting the State Capitals. It requires a large amount of money. The Ministry of Rural Transport and Highways wanted more money in order to fund it. Therefore, we have imposed an additional cess of 0.50 paise in order to fund it. It will yield approximately Rs. 3,000 crore, and it is this Rs. 3,000 crore, which I am afraid, the Standing Committee has said makes it revenue positive. Therefore, let me say that the customs duty and excise duty changes are completely revenue neutral. If the additional cess is approved by the Parliament, then you will have Rs. 3,000 crore, and if the Parliament does not approve it, then you will not have Rs. 3,000 crore. But I would like to humbly submit that the additional cess is necessary if we have to start the NHDP-3. Otherwise, most parts of India will not be covered. The Golden Quadrilateral and the North-South-East-West corridors do not cover most parts of India. We need NHDP-3, and we need this additional money. Therefore, this additional cess has been proposed here.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Is there going to be any impact on the price of petroleum products because of this measure?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, any increase in the retail price will, of course, affect the consumer. But please remember and the hon. Minister of Petroleum will answer on a suitable occasion. In 2003-2004, the average price of the Indian basket was \$ 28 a barrel. In 2004-2005, the average price increased to \$ 39 a barrel. In 2005-2006, that is, in the first 32 days, the average price was close to \$ 50 a barrel. Therefore, it is for the Government to take a decision whether any price increase should be done. This is not an issue that I can answer here in reply to the debate on the Finance Bill. It is for the Government to take a decision on this issue. But we will certainly keep the sentiments of the people in mind; sentiments of the hon. Member in mind before a decision is taken on this issue. I have no doubt in my mind that the Cabinet will consider all aspects of the matter, and a suitable decision will be taken.

I think, I have answered everything on the Finance Bill. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, regarding MPLAD, I want to say that. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, with great respect, I would like to submit that the MPLAD Scheme is not a matter, which falls within the scope of the Finance Bill. The MPLAD Scheme is a much larger question. It is a very large question, and we will be guided by what the Leaders of the House say, and above all what the hon. Speaker says on this issue. But it has to be discussed in the chamber of the hon. Speaker or in an appropriate Committee. It would be hardly fair for me to respond to the issue of MPLAD Scheme.

There is only one amendment of Prof. Malhotra, and I do not find Shri Suresh P. Prabhu here. I am confident that Prof. Malhotra will withdraw his amendment after listening to my explanation on cash withdrawal, banking transactions, and the tax exemptions, which we are giving.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is.

...(*Interruptions*)

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Sir, my amendments are there.

MR. SPEAKER: It will come at the appropriate time.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SUDHANGSHU SEAL (Calcutta-North West): Sir, the Chief Minister of Government of West Bengal sought some clarification regarding service tax on gems and jewellery. The Minister wanted to clarify, but he could not do it.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Regarding service tax on gems and jewellery, what has happened is that some Excise authorities have interpreted outsourcing of some cutting and polishing activities as if it is a 'service'. I have already instructed, and instructions are being issued, to say that it is not 'service', it is part of manufacture, and no service tax will be levied on that part which is outsourced. This answers hon. Speaker's letter also. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: I would not allow any clarification on MPLADS.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon. Minister of Finance has talked about the National Highways. Through you, I want to request that a rule has been framed according to which the Central Government will invest 40 per cent amount in the states and 60 percent amount will be invested by the private parties. No tender has so far been invited in Bihar. I would like to know from the hon. Minister of Finance as to whether he will arrange funds for the National Highways of Bihar by extending full support?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: All of us will support that; everybody will support that.

The question is:

"That the Bill to give effect to the financial proposals of the Central Government for the financial year 2005-2006, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. SPEAKER: The House will now take up clause by clause consideration of the Bill.

Clause 2

Income-Tax

Amendments made:

Page 3, after line 54, insert—

'Provided that in the case of every woman, resident in India and below the age of sixty-five years at any time during the previous year, referred to in item (//) of Paragraph A of Part III of the First Schedule, the provisions of this sub-section shall have effect as if for the words "one lakh rupees", the words "one lakh thirty-five thousand rupees" had been substituted:

Provided further that in the case of every individual, being a resident in India, who is of the age of sixty-five years or more at any time during the previous year, referred to in item (//) of Paragraph A of the Part III of the First Schedule, the provisions of this sub-section shall have effect as if for the words "one lakh rupees", the words "one lakh eighty five thousand rupees" had been substituted'. (15)

Page 3, line 55, for "Provided", substitute "Provided also". (16)

(Shri P. Chidambaram)

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Your matter will come. They are fully conscious of the procedure and they are very efficient people.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Can you give a copy of the amendment to him? The copies of the amendments were already circulated.

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Will difficulties not crop up after that?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You cannot move an amendment to an amendment.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: I have moved an amendment on this very clause. On this very clause, there is an amendment.

MR. SPEAKER: Your amendment will come.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: When will the amendment come? Will it come after voting?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Amendment Nos. 15 and 16 apply to clause 2. Your amendment applies to clause 6.

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: The amendment which is about 65 years of age for senior citizens and women.

[English]

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Kindly listen to me. Your amendment is to clause 6. Your amendment No. 1 is to

clause 6; your amendment No. 2 is to clause 30; and your amendment No. 3 is to clause 31. This is clause 2.

MR. SPEAKER: When we come to clause 6, your amendment will be taken up, and there is no doubt about it.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is.

"That clause 2, as amended, stand part of the Bill".

The motion was adopted.

Clause 2, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clauses 3 and 4 were added to the Bill.

Clause 5

Amendment of section 10 A

Amendment made:

Page 5, for lines 11 to 13, *substitute—*

"Provided that no deduction under this section shall be allowed to an assessee who does not furnish a return of his income on or before the due date specified under sub-section (1) of section 139." (17)

(Shri P. Chidambaram)

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 5, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 5, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 6

Amendment of Section 16

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, he has explained all things about the issue related to senior citizens.

[English]

I am not going to explain everything. I will only say.

[Translation]

that earlier rebate was Rs. 20 thousand for the senior citizens which he has cut to Rs. 12 thousand. I want to move it.

[English]

I am talking about the Standard Deduction.

MR. SPEAKER: No speeches now please.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: I beg to move:

Page 5, for lines 14 and 15,

Substitute,—

Amendment of Section 16

"6. In Section 16 of the Income-tax Act, for clause (i) the following clause shall be substituted with effect from the 1st day of April, 2006 namely:—

(1) in the case of an assessee whose income from salary, before allowing a deduction under this clause,—

(A) does not exceed five lakh rupees, a deduction of maximum of thirty-five thousand rupees;

(B) exceeds five lakh rupees, a deduction of a sum of twenty-five thousand rupees." (1)

MR. SPEAKER: I shall put Amendment No. 1 moved by Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra to the vote of the House.

The amendment was put and negatived.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Suresh Prabhu—Not present.

The question is:

"That clause 6 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 6 was added to the Bill.

Clauses 7 to 20 were added to the Bill.

Clause 21

Insertion of new Section 80 C

Amendment made:

Page 8, line 3, omit "out of his income chargeable to tax". (18)

(Shri P. Chidambaram)

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 21, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 21, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clauses 22 to 29 were added to the Bill.

Clause 30

Omission of Section 88B

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: The earlier Rs. 20 thousand rebate in tax for the senior citizens should continue because injustice is being meted out to them. This of my amendment.

[English]

I beg to move:

Page 12, for lines 48 and 49;

Substitute,—

Amendment of section 88B

"30. In section 88B of the Income-Tax Act, for the words 'twenty thousand rupees', the words 'twenty-five thousand rupees' shall be substituted with effect from the 1st day of April, 2006." (2)

MR. SPEAKER: I shall put amendment No. 2 moved by Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra to the vote of the House.

The amendment was put and negatived.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Suresh Prabhu—Not present.

The question is:

"That clause 30 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 30 was added to the Bill.

Clause 31

Omission of Section 88C

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Sir, this is about women. Women used to get rebate upto rupees five

thousand, which has been reduced to rupees three and half thousand. The rebate which women were getting earlier, should continue.

[English]

I beg to move:

Page, 13, for lines 1 and 2,

Substitute,—

Amendment of Section 88C

"31. In Section 88C of the Income-tax Act, for the words 'five thousand rupees', the words 'seven thousands five hundred rupees' shall be substituted with effect from the 1st day of April, 2006." (3)

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Everyone has contributed to a very good debate on the Finance Bill. Let us do it in a dignified manner. Please keep quite.

I shall put amendment No. 3 moved by Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra to the vote of the House.

The amendment was put and negatived.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 31 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 31 was added to the Bill.

Clauses 32 to 36 were added to the Bill.

MR. SPEAKER: Kumari Mamata Banerjee was right. One clause should have been there for consideration, She wanted only one type of tax. That would have helped me.

Clause 37

Insertion of new Chapter XII-H

Amendments made:

Page 13, omit lines 43 to 45, (19)

Page 14, line 1, for "(ii)", substitute "(i)". (20)

Page 14, line 2, for "(iii)", substitute "(ii)". (21)

Page 14, for line 3, substitute —

"(iii) an association of persons or a body of individuals, whether incorporated or not, but excluding any fund or trust or institution eligible for exemption under clause (23C) of section 10 or registered under section 12AA;" (22)

Page 14, line 4, for "(v)", substitute "(iv)". (23)

Page 14, line 5, for "(vi)", substitute "(v)". (24)

(Shri P. Chidambaram)

Amendment made:

Page 14, for lines 16 to 48, substitute-

'Fringe benefits.

115WB. (1) For the purposes of this Chapter, "fringe benefits" means any consideration for employment provided by was of—

- (a) any privilege, service facility or amenity, directly or indirectly, provided by an employer, whether by way of reimbursement or otherwise, to his employees (including former employee or employees);
- (b) any free or concessional ticket provided by the employer for private journeys of his employees or their family members; and
- (c) any contribution by the employer to an approved superannuation fund for employees.

(2) The fringe benefits shall be deemed to have been provided by the employers to his employees, if the employer has, in the course of his business or profession (including any activity whether or not such activity is carried on with the object of deriving income, profits or gains) incurred any expense on, or made any payment for, the following purposes, namely:—

(A) entertainment;

(B) provision of hospitality of every kind of the employer to any person, whether by way of provision of food or beverages or in any other manner whatsoever and whether or not such provision is made by reason of

any express or implied contract or custom or usage of trade but does not include-

- (i) an expenditure on, or payment for, food or beverages provided by the employer to his employees in office or factory;
- (ii) any expenditure on or payment through paid vouchers which are not transferable any usable only at eating joints or outlets;

(C) conference (other than fee for participation by the employees in any conference).

Explanation.—for the purposes of this clause. any expenditure on conveyance, tour and travel (including foreign travel), on hotel, or boarding and lodging in connection with any conference shall be deemed to be expenditure incurred for the purposes of conference:

(1) sales promotion including publicity:

Provided that any expenditure on advertisement:

- (i) being the expenditure (including rental) on advertisement of any form in any print (including journals catalogues for price lists) or electronic media or transport system;
- (ii) being the expenditure on the holding of, or the participation of any form in any print (including journals. catalogues or price lists) or electronic media or transport system;
- (iii) being the expenditure on sponsorship of any sports event or any other event organized by any Government agency or trade association or body;
- (iv) being the expenditure on the publication in any print or electronic media of any notice required to be published by or under any law or by an order of a court of tribunal.
- (v) being the expenditure of advertisement by way of signs, art work, painting, banners, awnings, direct mail, electric spectaculars, kiosks, hoardings, bill boards or by way of such other medium of advertisement; and
- (vi) being the expenditure by way of payment to any advertising agency for the purposes of clauses (i) to (v) above, shall not be considered as expenditure on sales promotion including publicity:

(E) employees welfare.

Explanation- For the purposes of this clause, any expenditure incurred or payment made to fulfil any statutory obligation or mitigate occupational hazards or provide first aid facilities in the hospital or dispensary run by the employer shall not be considered as expenditure for employees' welfare;

(F) conveyance, tour and travel (including foreign travel);

(G) use of hotel, boarding and lodging facilities;

(H) repair, running (including fuel), maintenance of motorcars and the amount of depreciation thereon;

(I) repair, running (including fuel) and maintenance of aircrafts and the amount of depreciation thereon;

(J) use of telephone (including mobile phone) other than expenditure on leased telephone lines;

(K) maintenance of any accommodation in the nature of guest house other than accommodation used for training purposes;

(L) festival celebrations;

(M) use of health club and similar facilities;

(N) use of any other club facilities;

(O) gifts; and

(P) scholarships.

Page 15 for lines 1 to 5, substitute—

"(3) For the purposes of sub-section (1), the privilege, service, facility or amenity does not include perquisites in respect of which tax is paid or payable by the employee."

Page 15, for lines 6 to 42, substitute-

'Value of fringe benefits.

115WC. (1) For the purpose of this Chapter, the value of fringe benefits shall be the aggregate of the following, namely:—

(a) cost at which the benefits referred to in clause (b) of sub-section (1) of section 115WB, is provided by the employer to the general public as reduced by the amount, if any, paid by, recovered from, his employee or employees

Provided that in a case where the expenses of the nature referred to in clause (b) of sub-section (1) of section 115WB are included in any other clause of sub-section (2) of the said section, the total expenses included under such other clause shall be reduced by the amount of expenditure referred to in the said clause (b) for computing the value of fringe benefits;

(b) actual amount of contribution referred to in clause (c) of sub-section (1) of section 115 WB;

(c) twenty per cent of the expenses referred to in clauses (A) to (K) of sub-section (2) of section 115 WB;

(d) fifty per cent of the expenses referred to in clauses (L) to (P) of sub-section (2) of section 115 WB.

(2) Notwithstanding anything contained in sub-section (1),—

(a) in the case of an employer engaged in the business of hotel, the value of fringe benefits for the purposes referred to in clause (B) of sub-section (2) of section 115WB shall be "five per cent." instead of "twenty per cent." referred to in clause (c) of sub-section (1);

(b) in the case of an employer engaged in the business of construction, the value of fringe benefits for the purposes referred to in clause (F) of sub-section (2) of section 115WB shall be "five per cent." instead of "twenty per cent." referred to in clause (c) of sub-section (1);

(c) in the case of an employer engaged in the business of manufacture or production of pharmaceuticals, the value of fringe benefits for the purposes referred to in clauses (F) and (G) of sub-section (2) of section 115WB shall be "five per cent." instead of "twenty per cent." referred to in clause (c) of sub-section (1);

(d) in the case of an employer engaged in the business of manufacture or production of computer software, the value of fringe benefits for the purposes referred to in clauses (F) and (G) of sub-section (2) of section 115WB shall be "five per cent." instead of "twenty per cent." referred to in clause (c) of sub-section (1);

(e) in the case of an employer engaged in the business of carriage of passengers or goods by

motor car, the value of fringe benefits for the purposes referred to in clause (H) of sub-section (2) of section 115WB shall be "five per cent." instead of "twenty per cent." referred to in clause (c) of sub-section (1);

- (f) in the case of an employer engaged in the business of carriage of passengers of goods by aircraft, the value of fringe benefits for the purposes referred to in clause (I) of sub-section (2) of section 115WB shall be taken as Nil.'

Page 18, line 8, for "115W-I", substitute "115W".

19.00 hrs.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 37, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 37, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clauses 38 and 39 were added to the Bill.

Clause 40

Amendment of Section 139

Amendment made:

Page 19, for lines 18 to 23, *substitute—*

(iii) in the first provision,—

- (A) for the words "at any time during the previous year", the words "during the previous year incurs an expenditure of fifty thousand rupees or more towards consumption of electricity or at any time during the previous year" shall be substituted;

(B) clause (iii) shall be omitted;'. (29)

(Shri P. Chidambaram)

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 40, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 40, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clauses 41 and 44 were added to the Bill.

Clause 45

Amendment of Section 153

Amendment made:

Page 20, for lines 34 and 35, *substitute—*

- (c) in sub-section (3) for the words, brackets and figures "sub-sections (1) and (2)", the words, brackets, figures and letters "sub-sections (1), (1A), (1B) and (2)" shall be substituted;

- (d) in the proviso to *Explanation 1*, for the words brackets, figures and letter "in sub-sections (1), (2) and (2A)", the words, brackets, figures and letters "in sub-sections (1), (1A), (1B), (2) and (2A)" shall be substituted.'

(30)

Shri P. Chidambaram

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 45, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 45, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clauses 46 and 47 were added to the Bill.

Clause 48

Amendment of Section 194A

Amendment made:

Page 21, line 22, for "fund or company", *substitute* "company or fund". (31)

(Shri P. Chidambaram)

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 48, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 80, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clauses 49 to 66 were added to the Bill.

Clause 67

Amendment of Section 28H

Amendment made:

Page 24, for lines 25, *substitute—*

(e) determination of origin of the goods in terms of the rules notified under the Customs Tariff Act, 1975 (51 of 1975) and matters relating thereto"; (32)

(Shri P. Chidambaram)

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 67, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 67, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clauses 68 was added to the Bill.

Clause 69

Amendment of Section 128A

Amendment made:

Page 24,—

for lines 34 and 35, substitute—

'in section 128A of the Customs Act in sub-section (5), for the words "and the Commissioner of Customs", the words, "the Chief Commissioner of Customs and the Commissioner of Customs" shall be substituted.' (33)

(Shri P. Chidambaram)

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 69, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

*The motion was adopted.**Clause 69, as amended, was added to the Bill.***Clause 70**

Amendment of Section 129A

Amendment made:

Page 24,—

for lines 38 to 39, substitute—

'(1B) (i) The Board may, by notification in the Official Gazette, constitute such Committee as may be necessary for the purposes of this Act.

(ii) Every Committee constituted under clause (i) shall consist of two Chief Commissioners of Customs or two Commissioners of Customs, as the case may be." (34)

Page 24,—

in line 42, omit "Chief". (35)

(Shri P. Chidambaram)

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 70, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

*The motion was adopted.**Clause 70, as amended, was added to the Bill.**Clauses 71 to 77 were added to the Bill.***Clause 78**

Amendment of Section 35A

Amendment made:

Page 27,—

for lines 32 to 33, substitute—

'78. In section 35A of the Central Excise Act, in sub-section (5) for the words "and the Commissioner of Central Excise", the words, "the Chief Commissioner of Central Excise and the Commissioner of Central Excise" shall be substituted.'. (36)

(Shri P. Chidambaram)

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 78, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

*The motion was adopted.**Clause 78, as amended, was added to the Bill.***Clause 79**

Amendment of Section 35B

Amendment made:

Page 27,—

for lines 36 to 38, substitute—

'(1B) (i) The Central Board of Excise and Customs constituted under the Central Boards of Revenue Act, 1963 may by notification in the Official Gazette, constitute such Committees as may be necessary for the purposes of this Act.

(ii) Every Committee constituted under clause (i) shall consist of two Chief Commissioners of Central Excise or two Commissioners of Central Excise, as the case may be."'; (37)

Page 27, line 41, omit "Chief" (38)

(Shri P. Chidambaram)

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 79, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

*The motion was adopted.**Clause 79, as amended, was added to the Bill.**Clauses 80 to 93 were added to the Bill.*

Clause 94

Definitions

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon. Minister of Finance has increased the limit of withdrawal from rupees ten thousand to Rs. 25 thousand and said that honest taxpayers will not be harassed and this is only to discourage the black money. After this assurance, I withdraw my amendment No. 4

[English]

I am not pressing my notice of amendment.

MR. SPEAKER: All right.

Amendment made:

Page 38, for lines 1 to 8, *substitute—*

- “(a) a transaction, being withdrawal of cash (by whatever mode) on any single day from an account (other than a savings bank account) maintained with any scheduled bank, exceeding,—
- (i) twenty-five thousand rupees, in case such withdrawal is from the account maintained by any individual or Hindu undivided family;
- (ii) one lakh rupees, in case such withdrawal is from the account maintained by a person other than any individual or Hindu undivided family; or
- (b) A transaction, being receipt of cash from any scheduled bank on any single day on encashment of one or more term deposits, whether on maturity or otherwise, from that bank, exceeding,—
- (i) twenty-five thousand rupees, in case such term deposit or deposits are in the name of any individual or Hindu undivided family;
- (ii) one lakh rupees, in case such term deposit are by any person other than any individual or Hindu undivided family;”. (39)

(Shri P. Chidambaram)

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

“That clause 94, as amended, stand part of the Bill.”

The motion was adopted.

Clause 94, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 95

Charge of banking cash transaction tax

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I also withdraw my amendment No. 5.

Amendment made:

Page 38, for lines 13 to 29, *substitute—*

“95. (1) On and from the commencement of this Chapter, there shall be charged a banking cash transaction tax, in respect of every taxable banking transaction entered into on or after the 1st day of June, 2005, at the rate of 0.1 per cent of the value of every such taxable banking transaction.

(2) The banking cash transaction tax referred to in sub-section (1) shall be payable,—

- (i) in respect of taxable banking transaction referred to in sub-clause (a) of clause (8) of section 94, by the individual or Hindu undivided family referred to in sub-clause (i) or a person referred to in sub-clause (ii) of said clause (a), from whose account the cash is withdrawn from any scheduled bank;
- (ii) in respect of taxable banking transaction referred to in sub-clause (b) of clause (8) of section 94, by the person who receives the cash on encashment of term deposit or deposits:

Provided that no banking cash transaction tax shall be payable if the amount of the term deposit or deposits is credited to any account with the bank.” (40)

(Shri P. Chidambaram)

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

“That clause 95, as amended, stand part of the Bill.”

The motion was adopted.

Clause 95, as amended, was added to the Bill.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Shri Malhotra ji, it is a very good step taken by you.

MR. SPEAKER: This is the real spirit of parliamentary democracy. We should follow the basic principles of democracy. We are all wedded to that. Therefore, we need not comment like this. This is expected from all sections of the House.

Clause 96

Value of taxable Banking transaction

Amendment made:

Page 38, for lines 30 to 36, *substitute—*

96. The value of taxable banking transaction shall be,—

- (i) in respect of taxable banking transaction referred to in sub-clause (a) of clause (8) of section 94, the amount of cash withdrawn;
- (ii) in respect of taxable banking transaction referred to in sub-clause (b) of clause (8) of section 94, the amount of cash received on encashment of term deposit or deposits." (41)

(Shri P. Chidambaram)

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 96, as amended, stand part of the Bill"

The motion was adopted.

Clause 96, as amended, was added, to the Bill.

Clause 97

Collection and recovery of banking cash transaction tax

Amendment made:

Page 38, line 38, *omit "or clause (iii)"* (42)

(Shri P. Chidambaram)

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 97, as amended, stand part of the Bill".

The motion was adopted.

Clause 97, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clauses 98 to 103 were added to the Bill.

Clause 104

Penalty for failure to Comply with notice

Amendment made:

Page 40, line 11, *omit "withdrawal".* (43)

(Shri P. Chidambaram)

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 104, as amended, stand part of the Bill".

The motion was adopted.

Clause 104, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clauses 105 to 124 were added to the Bill.

First Schedule

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: I beg to move:

Page, 49—

"Omit lines 40 to 49." (6)

Page 50,—

"Omit lines 1 to 8." (7)

MR. SPEAKER: I shall now put Amendment Nos. 6 and 7 moved by Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra to the vote of the House.

The amendments were put and negatived.

Amendments made:

Page 49, for lines 42 to 49, *substitute—*

"Rates of income-tax

- | | |
|--|--|
| (1) where the total income does not exceed Rs. 1,35,000 | Nil; |
| (2) where the total income exceeds Rs. 1,35,000 but does not exceed Rs. 1,50,000 | 10 per cent of the amount by which the total income exceeds Rs. 1,35,000. |
| (3) where the total income exceeds Rs. 1,50,000 but does not exceed Rs. 2,50,000 | Rs. 1,500 plus 20 per cent of the amount by which the total income exceeds Rs. 1,50,000 |
| (4) where the total income exceeds Rs. 2,50,000 | Rs. 21,500 plus 30 per cent of the amount by which the total income exceeds Rs. 2,50,000." |

Page 50, for lines 3 to 8, substitute—

"Rates of Income-tax

- | | |
|--|--|
| (1) where the total income does not exceed Rs. 1,85,000 | Nil; |
| (2) where the total income exceeds Rs. 1,85,000 but does not exceed Rs. 2,50,000 | 20 per cent of the amount by which the total income exceeds Rs. 1,85,000 |
| (3) where the total income exceeds Rs. 2,50,000 | Rs. 13,000 plus 30 per cent of the amount by which the total income exceeds Rs. 2,50,000." |

(Shri P. Chidambaram)

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the First Schedule, as amended, stand part of the Bill".

The motion was adopted.

The First Schedule, as amended, was added to the Bill.

The Second Schedule was added to the Bill.

Third Schedule

Amendment made:

Page 77, after line 15, insert-

'30A 3004 (i) Patent or proprietary medicaments, other than those medicaments which are exclusively Ayurvedic, Unani, Siddha, Homoeopathic or Bio-chemic;

(ii) Medicaments (other than patent or proprietary) other than those which are exclusively used in Ayurvedic, Unani, Siddha, Homoeopathic or Bio-chemic systems.

'Explanation—For the purpose of this heading. "Patent or proprietary medicaments" means any drug or medicinal preparation, in whatever form, for use in the internal or external treatment of, or for the prevention of ailments in human beings or animals,

which bears either on itself or on its container or both, a name which is not specified in a monograph, in a Pharmacopoeia, Formulary or other publications, namely:-

- (a) the Indian Pharmacopoeia;
- (b) the International Pharmacopoeia;
- (c) the National Formulary of India;
- (d) the British Pharmacopoeia;
- (e) the British Pharmaceutical Codex;
- (f) the British Veterinary Codex;
- (g) the United States Pharmacopoeia;
- (h) the National Formulary of the U.S.A.;
- (i) the Dental Formulary of the U.S.A.; and
- (j) the State Pharmacopoeia of the U.S.S.R.,

or which is a brand name, that is, a name or a registered trade mark under the Trade Marks Act, 1999 (47 of 1999), or any other mark such as a symbol, monogram, label, signature or invented words or any writing which is used in relation to that medicine for the purpose of indicating or so as to indicate a connection in the course of trade between the medicine and some person, having the right either as proprietor or otherwise to use the name or mark with or without any indication of the identity of that person.'

(Shri P. Chidambaram)

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Third Schedule, as amended, stand part of the Bill".

The motion was adopted.

The Third Schedule, as amended, was added to the Bill.

The Fourth Schedule, the Fifth Schedule, the Sixth Schedule and the Seventh Schedule were added to the Bill.

Eighth Schedule

Amendments made:

Page 85, after line 16, insert—

'(5A) in Chapter 51, in Note 3, for "5109", substitute "5109 or 5110, dyeing";

(5B) in Chapter 52, in Note 2, for "5205 and 5206", substitute "5205, 5206 and 5207";

(5C) in Chapter 52, in Note 4, for "5207 or 5208 or 5209", substitute "5208 or 5209 or 5210 or 5211 or 5212";

(5D) in Chapter 54,—

(a) in Note 2, for "5202 and 5403", substitute "5402, 5403 and 5406";

(b) in Note 3, after "5403", insert "or 5404";

(5E) in Chapter 55,—

(a) in Note 2, after "5510, insert "or 5511";

(b) in Note 4, after "5515", insert "or 5516"; (47)

Page 85, after line 18, insert—

'(6A) in Chapter 58, in tariff items 5805 00 10, 5805 00 20 and 5805 00 90, for the entry in column (4) occurring against each of them, the entry "Nil" shall be inserted;

(6B) in Chapter 70, in Note 6, for "7015", substitute "7013" (48)

Page 85, after line 25, insert—

'(8) in Chapter 90, against tariff item 9017 20 10, for the entry in column (4), the entry "16%" shall be substituted.". (49)

(Shri P. Chidambaram)

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Eighth Schedule, as amended, stand part of the Bill".

The motion was adopted.

The Eighth Schedule, as amended was added to the Bill.

Ninth Schedule

Amendment made:

Page 86, after line 13, insert—

'(d) after heading 8704, the following sub-heading, tariff item and entries shall be inserted, namely:—

8704 10 — Dumpers *designed for off-highway use:*
8704 00 10—other u 8%". (50)

(Shri P. Chidambaram)

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Ninth Schedule, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

The Ninth Schedule was added to the Bill.

Tenth Schedule

Amendment made:

Page 103, after line 57, insert—

"5802 20 00 — Terry towelling and similar m² 8%".
woven terry twelling fabrics
of man-made fibres

(51)

(Shri P. Chidambaram)

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Tenth Schedule, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

The Tenth Schedule, as amended, was added to the Bill.

The Eleventh Schedule was added to the Bill.

Twelfth Schedule

Amendments made:

Page 108, after line 52, insert—

"5406 10 0 — Synthetic Filament Yarn of polyester kg 1%". (52)

Page 110, after line 25, insert—

"8704 10 — Dumpers *designed for off-highway use:*

8704 10 90 — Other (not including motor u 1%".
vehicles, other than petrol
driven) (53)

(Shri P. Chidambaram)

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Twelfth Schedule, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

The Twelfth Schedule, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Long Title were added to the Bill.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I beg to move:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

The motion was adopted.

MR. SPEAKER: I am grateful to all the hon. Members on all sides of the House for their kind cooperation and for their very effective participation. We had a very good discussion on the Finance Bill, and a fairly good reply also. Thank you.

The House stands adjourned to meet tomorrow the 3rd May, 2005 at 11 a.m.

19.18 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Tuesday, May 3, 2005/Vaisakha 13, 1927 (Saka).

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