

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Sixth Session
(Fourteenth Lok Sabha)



(Vol. XIV contains Nos. 1 to 10)

General & Debate Unit
Parliamentary Secretariat
New Delhi

10
5 Jun 2007

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

Price : Rs. 80.00

EDITORIAL BOARD

P.D.T. Achary
Secretary-General
Lok Sabha

P.K. Grover
Joint Secretary

Kiran Sahni
Principal Chief Editor

Harnam Dass Takker
Chief Editor

Parmesh Kumar Sharma
Senior Editor

Ajit Singh Yadav
Assistant Editor/Editor

.

[ORIGINAL ENGLISH PROCEEDINGS INCLUDED IN ENGLISH VERSION AND ORIGINAL HINDI PROCEEDINGS INCLUDED IN HINDI VERSION WILL BE TREATED AS AUTHORITATIVE AND NOT THE TRANSLATION THEREOF.]

CONTENTS

[Fourteenth Series, Vol. XIV, Sixth Session, 2005/1927 (Saka)]

No. 4, Monday, November 28, 2005/Agrahayana 7, 1927 (Saka)

SUBJECT	COLUMNS
REFERENCES BY THE SPEAKER	
(i) Loss of several lives caused by incessant rains in Tamil Nadu	1
(ii) Congratulating Dr. Vijayapat Singhania for setting world record in hot-air balloon	1
ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS	
*Starred Question Nos. 62, 63, 65, 66 and 68	2—41
WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS	
Starred Question Nos. 64, 67 and 69—81	41—80
Unstarred Question Nos. 626—855	81—454
PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE	465
STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT	
Ninth Report	466
STANDING COMMITTEE ON HOME AFFAIRS	
One Hundred and Seventeenth Report	466
STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS	
(i) Killing of official of the Border Roads Organisation in Afghanistan	
Shri Pranab Mukherjee	466—468
Shri L.K. Advani	469
Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan	469—471
(ii) Relief and rehabilitation in the aftermath of Jammu and Kashmir earthquake	
Shri Shriprakash Jaiswal	472—478
(iii) Heavy rainfall and floods in various states and relief operations undertaken by the Governments	
Shri Shriprakash Jaiswal	478—484
(iv) Serial bomb blasts in Delhi on 29.10.2005	
Shri Shriprakash Jaiswal	485—487

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

SUBJECT	COLUMNS
(v) Terrorist violence in Jammu and Kashmir	
Shri Shriprakash Jaiswal	487—489
(vi) Naxalite attack that took place in Jehanabad, Bihar on 13.11.2005	
Shri Shriprakash Jaiswal	489—492
(vii) Naxalite attack that took place at the Home Guard Training Centre, Giridih, Jharkhand on 11.11.2005	
Shri Shriprakash Jaiswal	492—493
BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE	493—495
MOTION RE: EIGHTEENTH REPORT OF THE BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE	496
MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT	
Alleged involvement of some Indian entities and individuals as non-contractual beneficiaries of the UN Oil-for-Food Programme in Iraq	453—464, 497—620
Shri L.K. Advani	497—506, 621—625
Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmuni	507—521
Shri Rupchand Pal	521—528
Shri George Fernandes	528—546
Shri Mohan Singh	546—549
Shri Braja Kishore Tripathy	549—555
Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav	555—564
Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal	564—571
Shrimati Maneka Gandhi	571—575
Shri A. Krishnaswamy	575—577
Sardar Rattan Singh Ajnala	577—579
Shri Madusudan Mistry	579—582
Shri Lalmani Prasad	583
Shri Anant Gangaram Geete	584—586
Shri C.K. Chandrappan	586—589
Shri Harin Pathak	589—594
Dr. M. Jagannath	594—595
Prof. M. Ramadass	596—598
Shri Uday Singh	598—601
Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar	601—603

SUBJECT	COLUMNS
Mohd. Salim	603—606
Shri Manvendra Singh	606—608
Shri Subrata Bose	608—609
Shri Asaduddin Owaisi	609—610
Shri P. Chidambaram	610—620
MATTERS UNDER RULE 377	626—636
(i) Need to extend guarantee to the Government of Andhra Pradesh to raise debt finance and commercial loans.	
Shri Rayapati Sambasiva Rao	626—627
(ii) Need to expedite opening of a Central School at Parlakhamundi in Gajapati district, Orissa.	
Shri Chandra Sekhar Sahu	627
(iii) Need to clear Kasau Dam Project on river Yamuna for promoting irrigation in Delhi, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh	
Shri Sajjan Kumar	627—628
(iv) Need to set up Khadi and Cottage Industries in Banaskantha Parliamentary Constituency, Gujarat.	
Shri Harisinh Chavda	628
(v) Need to extend the benefits of Seventh National Wage Agreement to the coal workers of Tata Steel	
Shri Chandra Sekhar Dubey	628—629
(vi) Need to provide stoppage of all the trains at Karmali railway station, Goa	
Shri Shripad Yesso Naik	629
(vii) Need to provide financial assistance to the Government of Uttar Pradesh for providing compensation to the farmers whose crops have been affected due to flow of water from Karai dam at Jhansi-Jalaun border.	
Shri Bhanu Pratap Singh Verma	629—630
(viii) Need to provide voting rights to the people from Pakistan, who settled in Jammu (J&K) after partition in 1947.	
Shri Avinash Rai Khanna	630
(ix) Need to realign four-laning of National Highway No. 76 passing through village Eiswal and Nayaguda in Rajasthan	
Shri Mahavir Bhagora	630—631
(x) Need to continue the system of exemption of saving instruments from taxation at all three stages of contribution, accumulation and withdrawal	
Shri Swadesh Chakraborty	631
(xi) Need to convert Bareilly-Lakhimpur-Sitapur-Lucknow metre-gauge rail line into broad gauge	
Shri Ravi Prakash Verma	631—632

SUBJECT	COLUMNS
(xii) Need to provide Central assistance for early completion of Darbhasan Hydro Project in Banka Parliamentary Constituency, Bihar Shri Giridhari Yadav	632
(xiii) Need to set up a gas based power project at Unnao, Uttar Pradesh with a view to solve acute power shortage in the region. Shri Brajesh Pathak	632—633
(xiv) Need to attach a Pantry Car, besides second and third A.C. bogies in Devgiri Express running between Mumbai and Secunderabad Shri Tukaram Ganpatrao Renge Patil	633
(xv) Need to extend postal services in Phulbani Parliamentary Constituency, Orissa Shri Sugrib Singh	633—634
(xvi) Need to acquire surplus land of NTC by Railways at Coimbatore for expansion of Coimbatore Railway Junction Shri K. Subbarayan	634
(xvii) Need to allocate more funds for early completion of Ahmadnagar-Beed-Parli railway line in Maharashtra Shri Jaysingrao Gaikwad Patil	634—635
(xviii) Need to review the rates of petroleum products in view of the declining prices of crude oil in international market Shri Rajiv Ranjan Singh 'Lalan'	635—636
(xix) Need to exempt railway freight tariff levied on pulses transported from Northern States to Tamil Nadu Shri Ravichandran Sippiparai	636
ANNEXURE-I	
Member-wise Index to Starred Questions	637
Member-wise Index to Unstarred Questions	638—642
ANNEXURE-II	
Ministry-wise Index to Starred Questions	643—644
Ministry-wise Index to Unstarred Questions	643—644

OFFICERS OF LOK SABHA

THE SPEAKER

Shri Somnath Chatterjee

THE DEPUTY-SPEAKER

Shri Charnjit Singh Atwal

PANEL OF CHAIRMEN

Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal

Shri Giridhar Gamang

Shrimati Sumitra Mahajan

Shri Ajay Maken

Dr. Laxminarayan Pandey

Shri Balasaheb Vikhe Patil

Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan

Shri Arjun Sethi

Lt. Col. (Retd.) Manabendra Shah

Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav

SECRETARY-GENERAL

Shri P.D.T. Achary

LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Monday, November 28, 2005/Agrahayana 7, 1927 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

REFERENCE BY THE SPEAKER

(I) **Loss of several lives caused by incessant rains in Tamil Nadu**

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: As the hon. Members are aware, incessant rains for the past few days have caused great natural calamity in Tamil Nadu reportedly resulting in about 273 deaths. Besides, on 25th November, 2005 about 123 people are reported to have been killed in two incidents of buses carrying passengers being washed away in flash floods.

The House expresses its deep sense of sorrow over loss of lives in these calamities and joins the people of Tamil Nadu in their hour of grief.

11.01 hrs.

(II) **Congratulating Dr. Vijayapat Singhania for setting world record in hot-air balloon**

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, as all of us are aware, on 26th November, 2005, Dr. Vijayapat Singhania, a prominent industrialist of the country, set a world record when in his hot-air balloon, he soared upto the altitude of 69,852 feet over Ulhasnagar, 60 km north of Mumbai, Maharashtra. I am sure, this remarkable feat would enthuse the youth of the country to emulate the indomitable spirit of adventure showed by Dr. Singhania.

I am sure the House would join me in congratulating Dr. Singhania, who has brought laurels to the country by his inspiring and adventurous feat.

11.02 hrs.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Asaduddin Owaisi, Q. No. 62.

Shortage of Onion

[*Translation*]

*62. SHRI ASADUDDIN OW AISI:
SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total production of onion recorded this year in the country, State-wise;

(b) the quantity of onion exported during the last three years and thereafter till date, country-wise alongwith the foreign exchange earned therefrom;

(c) whether there has been an acute shortage of onion in the country in the months of September and October this year leading to steep hike in prices of onion;

(d) if so, the factors attributed thereto;

(e) the quantum of onion imported during the last two months country-wise and the amount spent thereon;

(f) the extent to which it has helped in bringing down the prices in the domestic market;

(g) the steps taken to boost production of onion, particularly in scarcity affected States; and

(h) the measures proposed to be taken to contain the prices of onion and also to provide relief to the affected farmers?

[*English*]

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

Statement

(a) to (h) Total estimated onion production during the year 2004-05 in the country, State-wise is given in Annexure-I. The quantity of onion exported country-wise during the last three years is given in Annexure-II.

Total estimated production of onion in the country during the crop year 2004-05 in Rabi, Kharif and Late Kharif is 59.42 lakh Metric Tones which is 4% more than the production in the previous year. The Kharif production however, has been less by 6.8% in the country as compared to previous year although the area under kharif is more by 3.9% than the previous year. This was due to erratic and excessive rainfall particularly in major onion growing States of Maharashtra and Gujarat, which adversely affected kharif onion significantly in those States. The kharif crop was also delayed in some States because of the erratic rainfall pattern. Arrival of onion in major wholesale markets in the country in September, 2005 was almost the same as in September, 2004 but about 10% less in October, 2005 than in October, 2004. Price hike in the month of September and October, 2005 was about Rs. 400 per quintal and Rs. 500 per quintal

respectively compared to the corresponding period of the previous year. In view of the spurt in prices, the Government decided to import onion. No import was however, made by the Government as the prices soon stabilized and the market arrivals improved.

Some private traders have imported during September and October, 2005, about 2000 MT fresh onions from Pakistan and Spain. The quantum of onion imported by the private traders and its value during the last two months, country-wise, is given in Annexure-III.

The Government of India is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme on National Horticulture Mission under which assistance is being provided for quality seed production, which in turn will boost the production and productivity of onion in the country. The National Horticultural Research and Development Foundation, which is involved in vegetable seed production, has reported a substantial jump of 600 quintals this year in onion seed production as compared to the previous year. For storage of onion, the National Horticulture Board is providing back ended capital investment subsidy @ 25% of the total project cost for installation of onion storage.

Annexure I**Estimates on Area and Production of Onion during Rabi, Kharif and Late Kharif during 2004-05**

A: Area in '000 ha.
P: Production in '000 MT

State	Rabi		Kharif		Late Kharif		Total	
	A	P	A	P	A	P	A	P
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Andhra Pradesh	19.00	170.00	1.90	16.75	—	—	20.90	186.75
Bihar	22.00	235.00	2.25	32.25	—	—	24.25	267.25
Gujarat	17.50	365.00	3.25	165.00	22.00	430.00	42.75	960.00
Haryana	7.25	126.00	6.00	135.00	—	—	13.25	261.00
Karnataka	31.50	245.00	3.00	14.00	—	—	34.50	259.00
Madhya Pradesh	21.00	245.00	5.00	66.00	—	—	26.00	311.00
Maharashtra	43.00	850.00	11.48	270.00	25.50	550.00	80.98	1570.00
Orissa	45.00	280.00	0.50	8.00	10.00	200.00	55.50	488.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Rajasthan	14.00	172.00	13.00	290.00	—	—	27.00	326.00
Tamil Nadu	12.00	150.00	7.25	72.50	—	—	19.25	222.50
Himachal Pradesh	52.50	550.00	1.25	13.00	—	—	53.75	563.00
Others	21.50	200.00	4.00	56.00	6.75	125.00	32.25	381.00
All India	306.25	3588.00	63.78	1049.50	65.25	1305.00	435.28	5942.50

2004-2005.

Area = 435.28 Thousands Ha.

Production = 5942.50 Thousands MT.

*Annexure II**Destination-wise Export of Onion from the Country during the year 2001-02 to 2004-05*

Destination	Qty. in MTs Value in Rs. Lakh									
	2001-02		2002-03		2003-04		2004-05		Upto 23.11.2005	
	Qty	Value	Qty	Value	Qty	Value	Qty	Value	Qty	Value
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Dubai	81711	6539.55	108039	7540.98	1042.50	10068.56	100301	7861.64	437867	3940.80
Bahrain	14336	1179.59	21658	1542.52	23133	2511.67	19879	1691.06		
Doha/Qatar	1297	100.21	3210	244.51	1722	174.60	7157	637.35		
Sharjah	1397	111.44	9099	666.91	13110	1188.63	13483	1035.33		
Kuwait	1332	109.07	1450	105.35	3407	408.72	5076	409.56		
Abudhabi	8725	706.48	4063	310.18	7408	733.01	8639	650.80		
Pakistan	1391	98.72	15583	1003.79	0	0	13829	981.10		
Re Union	3151	441.93	5530	623.29	6089	777.39	4887	699.74		
Dammam	7236	608.84	15943	1131.96	14592	1510.59	9388	736.85		
Singapore	16432	1510.19	20484	1612.20	24106	2252.08	20368	1729.39		
Malaysia	83551	7683.6	111402	8239.32	162401	18462.24	134077	13485.91		
Maldives	3347	369.30	3901	442.31	16546	1803.72	4625	563.00		
Sri Lanka	84236	6781.73	102688	7180.66	147013	13643.62	90372	7219.71		
Bangladesh	187104	13571.76	94132	5602.82	270104	24008.54	464538	40208.97		

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Nepal	1488	99.51	6750	334.73	26882	1985.80	26602	1603.30		
Seychelles	645	89.41	688	88.35	375	57.37	965	152.57		
Mauritius	7842	927.48	9587	1138.39	11163	1563.42	10820	1435.38		
Muscat	182	15.21	1773	131.66	2451	236.80	2179	188.29		
Iebiel Ali			0	0			1855	156.70		
Greece					1170	166.26	550	68.21		
Others	1521	196.51	9251	798.77	4759	628.18	1858	234.27		
Total	506924	41140.53	545211	38716.70	840661	82171.00	941448	81749.13		

*Annexure III**India's Import of onion during September and October, 2005 (Provisional)*

Item	Country	Quantity (in Kg.)		Value (in Rs.)	
		September	October	September	October
Onion fresh	Pakistan		2055600		21651890
Onion fresh	Spain		25600		1233637
Onion dried	Egypt		900		108628
Onion dried	Germany		1200		284238
Onion dried	Belgium	12800		438915	

Source: DGCIS.

SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, is it true that an early warning system on commodity shortage, established in the Farm Ministry, gave an acute short supply signal as far back as September, basing both the shortage in area coverage and problems with second planting? They also discussed the disbursal of onions getting affected due to heavy monsoons in Maharashtra, Gujarat and Karnataka. Is there not a need right now to institutionalise a system where the warning is given out on short supply or production of onion by the Farm Ministry, which is automatically and promptly acted upon by the Consumer Affairs Ministry and the Commerce Ministry?

[Translation]

DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is true that prices of onion increased during the month of October but there is no fall in production of onion in the country. The consumption of onion in the country is about 38 lakh tonnes and production of onion in the country was 59.2 lakh tonnes during the last year. Maharashtra and Gujarat produces about 40 per cent of onion production of the country. The farmers in these states faced problems due to unsignalled, erratic and excessive rains and production of onion in these states declined by 6.8 per cent. Certainly the prices of onion went up for ten days due to delay in market arrivals and prices of onion increased by four hundred to five hundred

rupees per quintal and the Government decided to import onion the very moment and in the wake of the aforesaid decision of the Government the prices of onion got stabilised and the Government kept in abeyance its decision regarding import of onion from China and Pakistan as need was not felt to import onion. NAFED make available 800 metric tonnes onion from Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan after which Delhi Government started making onion available at various outlets after which prices of onion got stabilized. Now there is no shortage of onion in the country.

[English]

SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: I would like to know from the hon. Minister what steps the Ministry is taking to increase onion productivity which has been stagnating at around ten tonnes per hectare since early 1980s while the demand has been steadily rising. In his answer, he talked about the increase but the higher production has come largely from more acreage. Will he also amend the law which currently forces the farmers to bring their produce to the designated agricultural marketing yards? Is the whole question of import not having an effect on the local farmers itself whereby prices have decreased? At the end of the day, it is the farmer who is suffering the most.

[Translation]

DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the National Horticulture Mission is making efforts, to increase production of onion. This mission provides assistance for production of quality seeds of onion. This year an increase of 600 quintal has been registered in production of onion seeds. The National Horticulture Research and Development Foundation also helps in it. Besides this organisation also helps in production of vegetable seeds. The National Horticulture Board is providing 25 per cent capital subsidy for storage of onion and NAFED had been working to regulate export. 'APEDA' has identified two states namely Madhya Pradesh and Karnataka as export zones so that production of onion may increase. Now there is no shortage of onion in the country. The Government is cautious about it.

[English]

SHRI ARUNA KUMAR VUNDAVALLI: Recently in our neighbouring State of Karnataka, we had seen a new thing on TV where all the onion growers had come on

to the road. They were on strike and they had thrown all the onions on the roads saying that there is no support price. The price that they had demanded was less than Rs. 2 per kilogram whereas in Andhra Pradesh on the same day the price was Rs. 8 per kilogram. Can we interfere and see that some kind of mechanism is brought so that some sort of minimum price is given to the farmers and the consumers get things at the minimum price? Can we do that?

[Translation]

DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the original question is related to increase the production of onion and the supplementary question asked by the hon. Member is not related to original question and despite this I would like to tell that there is no provision of announcing of MSP of onion by the Government. The hon. Member has said that onion production in the country is surplus. It is true. We have been exporting 8-9 percent of our onion production every year as it is more than our domestic requirement. If onion production will be more than our domestic requirement, export of it will be permitted.

[English]

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is the most important question relating to lakhs of people who are suffering in this year. The onion price in Andhra Pradesh and several other States has reached Rs. 15 per kilogram. Every year the farmers are also suffering due to lack of Minimum Support Price. This item is not included in the Minimum Support Price list. Will the Government include onion in the Minimum Support Price list to protect the onion growers?

MR. SPEAKER: It is under the consideration of the Government. It has already been answered.

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Sir, there is a demand for this from the farming community.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, have you noted down the demand?

DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH: Sir, yes.

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister has noted down the demand.

[Translation]

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, with your permission. I would like to tell the hon. Minister that

the National Horticulture Mission through which onion seed is distributed is responsible for quality of seed as well as rate thereof. The seed being planted at present is quite costly and the farmers are unable to buy it. What the Government is doing to ensure quality thereof and to make it available at reasonable price.

DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in my reply I have already stated that it is a centrally sponsored scheme and the Government provide assistance in ensuring production of quality seed. We have been successful in it also. This year production of quality seed has increased by 600 quintal.

[English]

Inter-Linking of Rivers

*63. SHRI RAJNARAYAN BUDHOLIA:
SHRI SITA RAM YADAV:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made in the inter-linking of rivers in the country;

(b) whether the Government proposes to merge the Ken-Betwa river flowing in Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh and some other rivers flowing in Southern parts of the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Union Government has signed or proposes to sign any agreement with State Governments to carry out the work of inter-linking of rivers;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) the expenditure to be incurred and the time involved in linking of rivers;

(g) whether the Government proposes to bear cent per cent cost involved in the project;

(h) whether there is any threat of flood on account of linking of rivers in some districts/States; and

(i) if so, the preventive measures proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) to (i) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) The Ministry of Water Resources (MOWR) (erstwhile Ministry of Irrigation) and Central Water Commission (CWC) formulated a National Perspective Plan (NPP) for Water Resources Development in 1980 envisaging inter basin transfer of water from surplus basins to deficit basins/areas which comprises of two components, namely, Himalayan Rivers Development Component and Peninsular Rivers Development Component. National Water Development Agency (NWDA) was set up under the MOWR in 1982 for carrying out various technical studies to establish the feasibility of the proposals of NPP and to give concrete shape to it. Based on various studies conducted, NWDA has identified 30 links for preparing Feasibility Reports (FRs). NWDA has completed feasibility reports for 14 links under Peninsular Rivers Development Component and two links under Himalayan Rivers Development Component.

(b) and (c) Under the Peninsular Component of National Perspective Plan, interlinking of Ken-Betwa and 15 other links are planned. Name of the links is at *Annexure*.

(d) and (e) The Government has identified five priority links namely Ken-Betwa, Parbati-Kalisindh-Chambal, Godavari (Polavaram)—Krishna (Vijayawada), Damanganga—Pinjal and Par-Tapi-Narmada links under the Peninsular Component of National Perspective Plan for building consensus among the concerned States and taking up the preparation of Detailed Project Reports (DPR) of such links. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in respect of taking up of preparations of DPR for Ken-Betwa link by the Central Government was signed on 25th August, 2005 between the Central Government and the State Governments of Uttar Pradesh & Madhya Pradesh.

(f) As per the preliminary estimate, the Interlinking of Rivers (ILR) programme is estimated to cost about Rs. 5,60,000 crores at 2002 price level. However, the realistic cost can be estimated only after completion of DPRs of all the constituent link projects. The time for implementation of ILR programme depends upon the consensus & cooperation of the States.

(g) No such decision has been taken by the Government.

(h) and (i) No threat of flood is anticipated due to linking of rivers. On the contrary, the ILR programme envisages creation and integration of various storages, which help moderation of flood to some extent as incidental benefit.

Annexure

List of Water Transfer Links Identified for Preparation of Feasibility Report Under Peninsular Rivers Development Component by NWDA

1. Mahanadi (Manibhadra)-Godavari (Dowlaiswaram) link
2. Godavari (Polavaram)-Krishna (Vijayawada) link
3. Godavari (Inchampalli Low Dam)-Krishna (Nagarjunasagar Tail Pond) link
4. Godavari (Inchampalli)-Krishna (Nagarjunasagar) link
5. Krishna (Nagarjunasagar)-Pennar (Somasila) link
6. Krishna (Srisailam)-Pennar link
7. Krishna (Almatti)-Pennar link
8. Pennar (Somasila)-Cauvery (Grand Anicut) link
9. Cauvery (Kattalai)-Vaigai (Gundar) link
10. Parbati-Kalisindh-Chambal link
11. Damanganga-Pinjal link
12. Par-Tapi-Narmada link
13. Ken-Betwa link
14. Pamba-Achankovil-Vaippar link
15. Netravati-Hemavati Link
16. Bedti-Varda link.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJNARAYAN BUDHOLIA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to how much of drinking water, electricity will be provided and total land likely to be irrigated in Hamirpur,

Mahoba, Banda, Chitrakut, Jhansi, Lalitpur and Jalaun in Bundelkhand region of Uttar Pradesh after interlinking of Ken-Betwa rivers. What steps the Government is going to take to remove the apprehension of people of the region regarding the problem of flood and drought.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: Sir, after the UPA Government came to power at the Centre, this Agreement was signed in the presence of our hon. Prime Minister. The details of the DPR are not available right now. I will send them to the concerned Member as soon as the details of the DPR are made available.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJNARAYAN BUDHOLIA: Hon. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to know from the hon. Minister the time by which the project relating to construction of 73 meter high dam for interlinking Ken-Betwa river at Daudhan village in Chattarpur district of Madhya Pradesh for which agreement was signed on 25th August, 2005 will be completed along with the cost likely to be incurred thereon and the expenditure incurred thereon so far.

[English]

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: Sir, Ken-Betwa is the same programme. But the Government has decided to fund this programme. Once the DPR is available, then only we would know the actual requirement of funds for this programme, but there will be no dearth of funds. It is because our Government accords importance to this programme because it would help us to bring more land under irrigation.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJNARAYAN BUDHOLIA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, my question has not been answered.

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister has said that information will be provided to you as soon as other details are received in this regard.

SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the scheme for interlinking of the rivers was first conceptualised by the Irrigation Minister Dr. K.L. Rao when Pt. Jawahar Lal Nehru was the Prime Minister. A scheme was also prepared at that time because the fate and the future of the country had a great connection with this scheme but that scheme gathered dust in the files only.

When NDA Government was formed, Hon. Atal Bihari Vajpayee ji revived the scheme once again and initiated action on it. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please ask the question.

SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is very important because all the benefits of globalisation and liberalisation are being taken by the bourgeois class today. The poor man of India, who is called proletariat class in your language, is still deprived and distressed. There is no other scheme left now, except this scheme, if we are to arrange for his happiness and prosperity. In this situation, the hon. Minister has replied that there is scarcity of resources and that arrangement will be made when resources will be available.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I request that full amount of one five year plan should be allocated for this purpose. This will lead to surplus water in the country. Besides, power will be generated and foodgrain will be produced. Now, I want to tell you about Rajasthan that. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You please ask the question.

SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL: Rajasthan occupies 10% area and 1.5% water of the country. Therefore, all the schemes of Rajasthan—whether it is Parvati Kali Sindh or Banas—the Government should take them on priority for linking them. My question is as to when these projects are likely to be completed by the Government?

MR. SPEAKER: Your question is more of a suggestion.

[English]

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: Sir, It is a fact that this programme was initiated during the time of late lamented Prime Minister of India, Jawaharlal Nehru. The late K.L. Rao was the Agriculture Minister then who started this concept of linking of rivers. But unfortunately the scheme that was prepared then entailed huge costs because under the scheme, water had to be lifted by power. So, the expenditure was not commensurate with proposed plan.

Again, during the regime of late Indira Gandhi, she started the National Perspective of Water Resources. Under her leadership work under that programme was

going on. Subsequently, other Prime Ministers also, including late Rajiv Gandhi, carried forward the work under this programme with utmost priority. Work under this programme did not stop. Examination of various areas were going on. Then, the Supreme Court in response to a PIL gave a direction to the then NDA Government, of which Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee was the Prime Minister, that they should take this project seriously and that inter-linking of rivers should be done, and the then NDA Government did it. That work is going on.

Now, when the UPA Government came to power, we have, in our CMP, accorded priority to this subject of inter-linking of rivers. We have divided the country into two regions—the Peninsular region and the Himalayan region. In both the regions we have identified areas including areas in the State of Rajasthan. A preliminary report on the Peninsular region has already been drawn. In the Himalayan region, a discussion with countries like Nepal and Bhutan is required for certain areas in the State of Assam and West Bengal. So, this has been kept in abeyance. The Ministry of External Affairs is having a continuous dialogue with those countries and a decision would be arrived at. The Government has provided for a sum of rupees five lakh and sixty thousand crore for this particular project. If there is any demand for an increased allocation for this project in future, the Government would consider that. We accord top priority to this programme.

MR. SPEAKER: I wish you best of luck. This is a very comprehensive reply. Would anyone like to put any further question?

SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR: Sir, I would like to ask the hon. Minister about the project, the Government have identified the Pampa—Achankoil—Vypar project in Kerala for inter-linking will bring disaster to the area. All the political parties and several organisations have said that not only it would lead to environmental hazards but it would also destroy the entire Kuttanad area, the Rice Bowl of Kerala.

Now, on the basis of this protest, which has come in one voice from Kerala, will the Government drop the proposed inter-linking of the Pampa-Achankoil-Vypar river and save the area?

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: The Government has formed a Committee comprising of experts, scientists, environmentalists and social workers. They are looking after all these complaints. If there is any such complaints,

the Government is alive to the fact that there would be some such complaints here and there, then I will check the matter. If the team has already visited the place, then it is all right, but if the expert team has not yet visited the place, then we will send the team there and also communicate the report of the expert Committee to the concerned Minister and the Member.

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN: Sir, there is a strong protest in some places with regard to river linkage. They say that many of the rivers in South India mainly depend upon monsoon, that is, rain water for their water source. At the same time, most of the rivers in North India mainly depend on snowfall for their water source.

I want to know whether the Government has realised this and gone for a scientific study regarding this contradictory nature of rivers in North and South India. If river linkage would come into existence, would there be any adverse effect on the environment? Has the Government made any such study in this regard?

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: Sir, I am in-charge of the Ministry only for the last ten days. So, I am not familiar with the nitty-gritty of the subject. I will look into it and will inform the hon. Member.

MR. SPEAKER: Yes. But I admire your preparation.

SHRIMATI K. RANI: Sir, as we know, the Task Force on Interlinking of Rivers has done its job and it is already wound up.

Now, one of the proposals of the National Water Development Authority is to link Kattalai, Vaigai and Gundar Rivers in the State of Tamil Nadu. This proposed link envisages tapping of huge quantity of water from Cauvery through long gravity canal for irrigation and other purposes like supply of water to industries *en route*. I will be happy if the hon. Minister gives the data about this proposed linkage.

I would also like to know how he is going to finance this proposed link. Is it going to be shared by the State Government also or will the Central Government fund this project entirely or leave it to the Authority to find funds?

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: Sir, Cauvery River dispute is *sub judice* at the moment and for that reason, we are going a bit slow in that area. Fortunately, this

year, there has been heavy rain and there is no tension between the two States. We will take it up at the appropriate time. This is a programme which is getting priority in the Ministry.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Prabhunath Singh. Leaders should be alert.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have gone through the answer of the Hon. Minister. There are some states where floods are an annual feature. If the rivers are inter-linked, the areas being affected by the floods could be saved besides the areas which reel under drought, water could be made available there.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Ganga, Saryu and Bagmati rivers originate from Nepal. The Brahmaputra river affects Assam. All these rivers cause floods in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Assam and in some parts of West Bengal every year. But the answer given by the Hon. Minister even does not touch upon this aspect. He has said that the talks are going on with Nepal on this issue. Whenever these issues are raised, they get suppressed on the pretext of holding talks with Nepal.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to know from the Government, through you, as to whether the help of the state governments is also required on this issue and whether talks would be soon held with Nepal after consultation with the concerned state governments and the Ministry of External Affairs? Whether any time limit has been fixed in this regard so that such areas could be saved from the recurring floods and drought?

[English]

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: Sir, I appreciate the sentiments of the hon. Member. Two days after the 30th, the Prime Minister is going to address all the Irrigation Ministers of the country. So, we want to know the specific problems of each State. It is not only that. The Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission will also be present at the meeting. I will also be there. The idea is to know *vis-a-vis* the Himalayan projects which are 14 in number. Six or seven of them are in dispute. So, there is an effort made in this regard. The Prime Minister, at several times, has discussed about this in the international forum.

So, after knowing the views of the States, we will take it up at the appropriate time. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI K.S. RAO: Sir, this is a very important subject. Kindly permit Half-an-hour discussion on this subject.

MR. SPEAKER: Very good. That is why I invite you to give notice to discuss this subject under Half-an-hour discussion.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI LAL MUNI CHOUBEY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I also want to ask a supplementary.

MR. SPEAKER: You can ask your question during Half-an-hour.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Q. No. 64. Shri Mohan Rawale—not present.

Q. No. 65—Shrimati Nivedita Mane.

Dang Committee on Iron Ore

*65. SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Dang Committee has been set up by the Government with regard to iron ore;

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

(c) whether the committee has submitted its report to the Government; and

(d) if so, the details of the recommendations alongwith the steps proposed/taken to implement the same?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Steel constituted an "Expert Group", on 20th April, 2005, for formulating guidelines for preferential grant of mining leases, for iron ore, manganese ore and chrome ore by State Governments. The "Expert Group" was chaired by Shri R.K. Dang, former Secretary, Government of India, Ministry of Mines. The composition of the "Expert Group" and its terms of reference are given in the enclosed Statement-I

(c) The "Expert Group" has submitted its report to the Ministry of Steel on 26th August, 2005.

(d) The "Expert Group" has, in its report, recommended a "Scheme of Preferences" for grant of mining leases, by State Governments, with regard to iron ore and chrome ore. Details of the recommendations of the "Expert Group" are given in the enclosed Statement-II. The recommendations of the "Expert Group" are under examination of the Government.

Statement I

A. Composition of Expert Group Constituted for Formulating National Guidelines on Iron Ore Manganese Ore and Chrome Ore Mining

1. Shri R.K. Dang, Ex-Secretary, Ministry of Mines, Government of India—Chairman
2. Director General, Indian Bureau of Mines—Member
3. Managing Director, Tata Iron & Steel Co.—Member
4. Chairman, Steel Authority of India Ltd.—Member
5. Executive Director, Sponge Iron Manufacturers Association—Member
6. CMD, National Mineral Development Corporation Limited—Member
7. Director General, NEERI—Member
8. Secretary-General, Federation of Indian Mineral Industries—Member
9. Principal Secretary (Mines), Government of Karnataka—Member
10. Principal Secretary (Mines), Government of Orissa—Member
11. Joint Secretary, Ministry of Mines—Member...did not participate.
12. President, Indian Steel Alliance—Member
13. Shri Ajoy Kumar, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Steel—Member Convener

B. Terms of Reference of the Expert Group

"To formulate guidelines pertaining to Iron ore, Manganese Ore and Chrome Ore regarding giving

preferential mining rights to certain persons by the State Governments under Section 11(5) of MMDR Act, 1957.”

Statement II

Details of Recommendations of the Expert Group

The recommendations of the Expert Group are limited to leases for iron ore and chrome ore and basically consists of a “the schemes of preferences” to be applied while deciding on applications for iron ore and chrome ore leases under Section 11(5) of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulations) Act, 1957. The features of the scheme of preferences are as under.

Scheme of Preferences: Iron Ore:

- In the scheme of preferences for iron ore “Preference A” is for allotment of mining leases, on captive basis for steel plants. Within this preference group, steel plants/projects have been given varying priorities. Conditions are prescribed for each category. The order of priority is as follows:
 - Priority 1: existing integrated public sector steel plants both for existing capacities and projected expansion up to 2019-20 to meet 30 years requirements.
 - Priority 2: existing fully integrated steel plants owned by widely held Indian public limited company with capacity of 2 million tonnes per annum (tpa) and above both for existing capacity and brown field expansion up to 2019-20.
 - Priority 3: Greenfield plants of 2 million tpa plus capacities promoted by Indian widely held public limited company coming up in iron rich scheduled areas and brown field and green field plants (promoted by widely held Indian public limited company) of 4 million tpa capacities planned for commissioning up to 2011-12.
 - Priority 4: Green field plants with minimum 10 million tpa capacities promoted by international steel companies through FDI in widely held Indian public limited company.
 - Priority 5: Consortium of iron and steel producers with a combined capacity of minimum 2 million tpa.

- Preference B is with regard to mining companies and, within this group, first priority is for public sector mining companies; the second for professionally managed companies with proven track record of reclamation and beneficiation for allotment of leases which contain 90% ores of below 55% Fe content and the third priority to go to widely held Indian public limited companies with proven mining track record but with a commitment to supply ores to domestic plants.
- Some important notes and provisos attached to the scheme are:
 - Steel plants must use 60% of iron ore fines through agglomeration and concurrently mine all ores above 55% Fe.
 - All cases for grant of leases for expansion/brown field and green field projects should be given only in principle approval in the first place and actual grant of leases should be tied up with implementation of end use project.
 - Preferences should not be tied to location of plant or related to boundaries of any particular state.
 - Except where leases are given for Foreign Direct Investment project, where swaps may be allowed, none of the captive allottees should undertake exports or domestic sales of ore. However, domestic sale of agglomerates and beneficiated ores can be permitted.
 - Memorandums of Understanding already entered into by State Governments to be reviewed, amended or revoked as necessary to bring them in conformity with the scheme of preferences.
 - Preferential scheme, after consulting the Attorney General, may be *suo-motto* brought before the Supreme Court so as to avoid future litigation.

Scheme of Preferences: Chrome-Ore:

Scheme of Preferences:

- First priority: Existing charge chrome and ferro-chrome plants to meet 30 year’s requirements.
- Second priority: Brownfield expansion/green field projects (to be commissioned within 2 years) to meet 20 years needs.

- No export, by the captive allottees, of natural ore to be permitted.

The Expert Group has also recommended that the Orissa Government should throw open reserves for which OMC has no prospecting/mining plan within the next 5 years.

SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, steel industry plays an important role in development of the country but steel prices have shot up steeply in recent years. In view of this, it has become necessary to accord priority to public sector companies while leasing out iron ore mines. I want to know from the hon. Minister as to by when recommendations of Dang Committee are likely to be accepted by the Government.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Sir, it is not true that steel prices have shot up, rather these have come down. This much is true that steel prices had gone up at the time of Lok Sabha elections. Since I took over the charge of this Ministry, steel prices have not increased rather these have come down by 26% resulting in loss to steel industry. But in order to safeguard the interests of consumers, we are not letting the steel prices go up.

So far as the report of Dang Committee is concerned, we have no shortage of iron ore. We have 23 billion tonnes iron ore reserve. So we are inviting all, be they domestic or foreign companies, to set up steel factories in the country. So far as the report of the Committee is concerned, another high power committee headed by Anwarul Hooda was constituted. We will place the recommendations of the Dang Committee before this committee and this committee will give its report in a month's time that is by December. So far as the issue of according priority to the PSUs is concerned, the Dang Committee has also made recommendation to this effect.

SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE: Sir, the hon. Minister says that steel prices have not gone up but I think the same are still going up. The prices should be brought down because if the prices are stabilised now, the industries like that belonging to Mittal which have gone outside the country, could re-establish the same in the country itself. I want to know from the hon. Minister as to whether following the recommendations of the Dang Committee, the Government has sought suggestions from the State Governments. If so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government in this regard.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, so far as the issue of steel prices coming down is concerned, we publicise the facts through newspapers. The industry as well as the entire country is making a demand to stop further decrease in steel prices. Following the recommendations of the Dang Committee, we have written to the State Governments to send their suggestions by the end of this month. As soon as we receive the suggestions the same will be placed before the Hooda Committee.

SHRI JUAL ORAM: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to know from the hon. Minister as to why the Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Mines, who was also on the Dang Committee was, absent. Why the Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Mines absented himself from the meeting in which a report was being prepared on that Ministry?

The Dang Committee has recommended that priority should be given to domestic companies and public sector undertakings and not to private sector and foreign companies. I want to ask the Minister as to why is he not accepting the same before implementing it? Part (c) of my question is that the rate of iron ore was Rs. 1000 some six months back which is now Rs. 2000 I say this thing firmly. The hon. Minister, the Minister of Steel is saying in the House that steel prices have not risen. On what basis you can give such reply? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: What will the Minister say? Are we not speaking the truth?

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, again I challenge. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: O.K. This is not an issue of challenge.

[English]

You say that you reiterate your statement.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Sir, the other point he made is as to why the Joint Secretary was absent—this is very low level issue. I will get it looked into as to whether he was absent or not. The third point he made is that ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI JUAL ORAM: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is there in Minister's reply. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: I will look into it. He has drawn my attention that the Joint Secretary was absent—I will write to him after looking into its details. In part (c) of his question, he has referred to increase in iron ore prices. When iron ore prices were different, some people got it for Rs. 900. This work was specially done by NMDC.

We requested all persons representing private sector to sit together and fix a rate and bring transparency in it. Shri Ganeshan Committee also stated the same thing. On the basis of it we arrived at a formula. This formula was of Rs. 925. As a result of this Rs. 925 NMDC will earn extra profit of Rs. 1125 this year as against its annual profit of Rs. 1000 crore. It means its profits will increase upto 2100 crore from rupees one thousand crore. It has been carried out to ensure transparency so that nobody is at liberty to charge one rate from someone and another rate from someone else. He just enquired why the Joint Secretary of the Ministry of Mines was absent, as ultimately the Ministry of Mines has to consider it and for that purpose its Joint Secretary will have to be present necessitating presence of Secretary also.

SHRI JUAL ORAM: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I seek your protection. What is the reason for the absence of Joint Secretary of the Ministry regarding which a Committee is to be constituted?

MR. SPEAKER: He will see it.

[English]

He will look into it.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, there is no National Mineral Policy today in our country. As a result of this, the States, which are having iron ore, are refusing to allow the iron ore to be used in other State for manufacturing steel.

The Indian Iron and Steel Company (IISCO) is the premier steel manufacturing Company in our country. It had lease with Chiria Mines which has abundant reserves. The Government of India has decided to modernize IISCO. The IISCO has now been merged with the Steel Authority of India. In spite of being a public sector undertaking and the premier steel manufacturing unit of

our country, the Government of Jharkhand is refusing to renew the lease which IISCO had for the last 30-35 years. The Steel Authority of India has to go to court to get protection.

Sir, I would like to know from the Minister whether the Government of India will take it up with the State Government of Jharkhand so that the lease, which IISCO had for the last 35 years, is renewed and there is no difficulty for IISCO in getting iron ore from Chiria mines. I would like to know whether there would be a National Mineral Policy so that all the State Governments will follow that.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, regarding this I would like to say that the present policy regarding the lease of iron ore and mines is first come, first serve. But the state government enjoys a prerogative too in this regard. It can change this policy in special circumstances. Various difficulties crop up due to this. The main objective behind the constitution of the Dang Committee was that it was to issue guidelines in this regard. At present three main state governments have signed more than 102 MOUs and under it they require 102 million tonne per annum. We have 23 billion tonnes of reserves. But it is also correct that each state government wants to accord special priority to the units to be set up within its territory. But steel has national importance and you know that our production is 38 million tonnes per annum and our target is to increase our production upto 110 million tonne by the year 2020. The House discussed 'POSCO' recently. One hon. Member was referring Laxmi Mittal during his speech. There is no shortage of iron ore in our country. Our reserves are sufficient to cater to our needs for two hundred years but the problem is that whoever sets up plants they want ores of their choice. Some say that will like to take ores from Chiriya mines or from Bhilai or from Raughat mines. The state governments say that if they set up plants in their states they would provide them certain facilities even if they come later. This Committee has been constituted to look into all these things and we are examining the report submitted by this committee. Prime Minister has also set up a high level Hooda Committee and it also belongs to Ministry of Mines. The matter will go upto that committee after that. If still need be there a National Mineral policy will be prepared. The Government will consider the national policy prepared by us.

So far as 'ESCO' is concerned, just after taking the charge of this Ministry, I met Chief Minister Saheb, you and other friends were also with me. I took the charge in the month of May, and at that time everybody was saying that it would be sold or transferred to private sector but I did not make even one minute's delay.

I spoke with the Chief Minister and told him that it would be merged with SAIL. Now, the merger has taken place and the formalities are being completed. All the mines held by ISCO have become part of SAIL. There is neither any need to worry about meeting the requirement of steel nor is there any lack of funds for the purpose.

PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am very surprised to hear the statement given by Shri Paswanji that since the time of formulation of the present government and his tenure as Minister, the price of steel has come down. I think that the Minister is living in a fool's paradise! People are not finding themselves able to construct a single room as the price of iron-bars has doubled. Estimates for all the works being undertaken in the States have had to be revised. Despite these facts, the Minister is saying that the prices of steel has come down. Kindly tell us the rates at which iron-bars used to be sold an year ago and its present rate since you took over as the Minister of the department.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I will give the reply to his query. However, the price of H.R. Foil was Rs. 36,650 per tonne in April 2005 and it came down from Rs. 36000 to Rs. 26750 on 1.11.2005. I am citing the figures for Mumbai.

PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV: Sir, nowhere it is available at the lower rates. The rates are higher. He is talking about the companies. Many companies are earning millions of rupees in profit.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: He has understood your point.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: I would like to inform you that the steel industry in our country is not under anyone's control. Steel prices in our country are completely decontrolled. These prices are fixed on the basis of the rates prevalent in international markets. You are aware that upto 2004 the steel industry in the country

was going through a crisis when it had seemed that all the steel industries might be closed down. The steel sector saw some improvement after 2004 as a result of fall in the rates of steel in the international market. The rise and fall in steel prices is not in our hands because 33 percent of our total steel production comes from the Public Sector whereas nearly two-thirds of production comes from the private sector. The information I am giving is completely authentic. If he wish I can place it on the Table of the House. If he finds the information to be incorrect he may bring privilege motion or any other motion against me in the House for giving wrong information. I have all the records available regarding the rates prevalent in January and the comparative rates at present. Earlier, the cost of pig iron was Rs. 19000 which has come down to Rs. 18000 at present. Similarly, the cost of TOR iron-bars has come down from Rs. 28000 to Rs. 27000.

MR. SPEAKER: Alright, there is no need to read out the whole list.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Sir, I can cite the whole list. I do not know if the hon. Member has any experience of constructing a house but it is not right to make such baseless charges against a Minister.

[English]

SHRI B. MAHTAB: Thank you, Sir. Though the question is posed to the Ministry of Steel, yet it deals with mining lease. The Government is aware that there are very many mine leaseholders and operators who only export iron ore and chrome ore without any value addition. The Dang Committee has suggested that none of the captive allottees should undertake exports or domestic sale of ore. I would like to know whether the same policy is going to be implemented in the case of mine-leaseholders and captive allottees. If so, when is this going to be implemented in practice?

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Sir, as per our present policy regarding both iron-ore and steel we take into account the domestic consumption before according permission for making exports. At present, 140 million tonnes of iron-ore is being produced annually in the country and out of this only 58 million tonnes is needed for domestic use. The rest of the iron-ore is exported. As for bringing about a reduction in exports, we are also

concerned that we should have reserves to guard against future shortage.

As regards chrome-ore, we hold a reserve of 114 million tonnes and 99 percent of the said reserves are lying in Orissa. Three million tonnes of chrome-ore is produced annually and the domestic consumption there of is two million tonnes. The rest one million tonne is exported. On being questioned in this regard and on being told to stop the export the department gave the information that the exported material was of a very low standard. Even so, in my opinion this export should also be stopped. Globally there is a reserve of 8 billion tonnes of chrome-ore but our reserves are likely to be exhausted in the near future. Hence, I am looking into the matter and if the need is felt I will order a ban on the export of chrome-ore.

Sir, regarding the point just raised by Shri Basu Deb Acharia about Chiriyia mines and IISCO, I would like to tell that there are 10 mines in Chiriyia and the state government has rejected the proposal for renewal of three mines out of that and SAIL has obtained a stay order from the Jharkhand High Court in this regard. Currently, this case is pending with the Indian Bureau of Mines.

[*English*]

SHRIMATI MINATI SEN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon. Member Shri Basu Deb Acharia has already raised a question for which I would like to know the answer.

Secondly, I would like to know from the hon. Minister, through you, whether constitutionally, any State Government can establish absolute rights of minerals. If no, what action is being taken by the Union Government to ensure supply of iron ore to the State of West Bengal?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister is trying his best to resolve the matter. This should be done. We have a federal system. Do not mind.

[*Translation*]

Prevention of Migratory Bird-Flu

+
*66. SHRIMATI ARCHANA NAYAK:
SHRI MUNSHI RAM:

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

(a) the measures being taken by the Government to prevent the migratory birds coming to India in the wake of the fear of bird-flu;

(b) the category of species found carrying bird-flu alongwith the places where they generally land;

(c) whether the Government has set up a Siberian Foundation with the assistance of Russia for the purpose;

(d) if so, the details of countries included in the said Foundation and the details in this regard;

(e) the programme chalked out so far by the Government to prevent bird-flu;

(f) whether the Union Government has issued instructions to all the States to remain alert to deal with such type of diseases; and

(g) if so, the strategy chalked out for the purpose?

[*English*]

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

Statement

(a) It is not humanly possible to influence the route taken by migratory birds during their seasonal movement. It is a natural and predetermined phenomenon, transcending all political and geographical boundaries. Therefore all States have been advised to step up surveillance of areas frequented by migratory birds.

(b) As per information available, the high risk migratory birds include Barheaded Geese, Great Cormorant, Brownheaded Gull, Great Blackheaded Gull and Ruddy Shelduck. The major wintering grounds for these birds in India include the Brahmpautra Valley, Pong Dam (H.P.), Bharatpur (Rajasthan), Kashmir Valley Lakes, Chilka (Orissa), wetlands in Tamil Nadu, high altitude lakes in Ladakh, Gangetic plain, etc.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Ministry of Environment and Forests is seized of the issue and has initiated dialogue with other concerned Ministries and avian experts about the potential risks and readiness in India on the issue. Details are given in Annexure.

(f) Yes, Sir.

(g) All Chief Secretaries and Chief Wildlife Wardens have been directed to collaborate with the State Veterinary Departments in collection of serum samples of migratory birds and to keep surveillance not only in the Protected Areas, but in all wetlands that provide staging grounds to the migrating birds especially so in areas where there is a possibility of interaction of migratory birds and poultry birds and report to Ministry.

Annexure

Action Points on Monitoring of Avian Influenza

- Establishment of monitoring unit at Ministry of Environment and Forests.
- Serological/virus sampling of high-risk migratory bird species.
- Monitoring of migratory birds (particularly waterbirds) at important wetland sites.
- Capacity building of State Forest Departments and volunteers for monitoring of waterbirds at important wetland sites.
- Collaboration with Department of Animal Husbandry in collection of dead birds and safe transport for virus testing.
- Ban on trade of wild birds, etc. from other countries as imposed by Ministry of Agriculture to be continued.

SHRIMATI ARCHANA NAYAK: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know whether the Government has detected bird-flu in any part of our country. If so, what are the measures being taken by the Government to eliminate such birds?

SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA: Sir, no case of bird flu is reported from India both in humans as well as birds.

As far as the steps being taken by the Government are concerned, there are several steps being taken by the Government of India. The Cabinet Secretary is reviewing the preparedness in periodic inter-ministerial meetings. The Health Ministry is the nodal ministry and a Task Force has been set up under the Health Secretary. The Ministry of Health is keeping a watch on the

neighbouring countries and 20,000 doses of Tamiflu have been received from the World Health Organisation. The World Health Organisation has been requested to provide information material. The Health Ministry would keep the National Disaster Management Authority informed and a ban on import of domestic wild birds, live poultry, live pigs etc. has been imposed vide Notification dated 6th August for six months. Then, training is being imparted to field formations.

MR. SPEAKER: Second supplementary—Shrimati Archana Nayak.

SHRIMATI ARCHANA NAYAK: I have no supplementary.

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, a lot of scientists working all over the world have now come to the conclusion that bird flu is one of the larger hoaxes perpetrated by medicine companies. First of all, bird flu does not spread to humans. Secondly, it has not mutated as yet. Has the Government of India gone into this?

Secondly, where there have been bird flu cases, it usually originates in poultries that keep their birds extremely badly, in overcrowded conditions. For preventing bird flu, has any attempt been made to have any kind of regulation on poultry farms? We have an inspection system which has never been put in place. What coordination does the Environment Ministry intend to do with the Agriculture Ministry in order to check poultries, not wild birds?

SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA: Sir, I have stated in my reply that the Cabinet Secretary is reviewing the entire situation. The Government is seized of the situation and a ban has been imposed on the import of domestic wild birds and poultry for six months.

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: Sir, he did not understand my question.

MR. SPEAKER: You have asked a question on a very technical matter.

SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA: Sir, I have answered the technical question. ... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister will look into it.

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: What I have asked is this. Has the Minister put up any Task Force to realise that this is a hoax?...* has actually perpetrated it.

MR. SPEAKER: No, that name should not be recorded.

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: All right. What is the Government doing about poultry? That is all I have asked.

MR. SPEAKER: All steps are being taken by the Cabinet Secretary.

SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA: We are seized of the matter and all steps are being taken.

MR. SPEAKER: You should take it vigorously.

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: Hon. Mr. Speaker, Sir, Shrimati Maneka Gandhi has raised a question related to the migratory birds arriving in our country in winter, particularly the Siberian birds and I too want to ask a question in that regard. Our villages are inhabited on the bank of the rivers and most of the people are engaged in poultry and duck farming. Their birds go to the river. Whether the Union Government or State Governments have opened any centre at the rural level to keep an eye over it?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hopefully, there is no bird flu here.

SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA: Sir, instructions have been passed on to all the States by the Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Environment and Forests. Around 1800 samples have been tested by the High Security Animal Disease Laboratory, Bhopal so far and they have all been found to be negative.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Sir, there is a bird sanctuary in my State of Kerala.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is about bird flu.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Sir, it was reported in the Press that Chinese Government has given information with regard to bird flu to all international agencies. I would like to know whether such an information was received by the Government of India and whether any preventive steps have been taken. I would also like to know what precautions have been given to the State Governments to be alert in preventing such a flu. If steps are not taken the bird sanctuary will be adversely affected.

MR. SPEAKER: Has there been any information from China and what action has been taken for his bird sanctuary?

SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA: Sir, the Health Ministry is the nodal Ministry in this matter. We have received a report on 17th November. About 11 countries have reported poultry and bird flu. Reports are also there of about 130 human cases where 67 deaths have taken place in Cambodia, Indonesia, Thailand, Vietnam, etc. But there are no reports from India.

MR. SPEAKER: Fortunately, let us not even think of bird flu in this country. We have enough discussions. Thank you.

SHRI VIJAYENDRA PAL SINGH: Sir, it is a fact that the bird flu detected so is only in poultry. But one of the means that it can come into a country is through migratory birds also and the migratory birds do not need visa or passport to come into a country.

MR. SPEAKER: Nor you can check them.

SHRI VIJAYENDRA PAL SINGH: Sir, it is also a fact that the countries which are affected with bird flu are having migratory birds coming from Siberia, Russia, Mongolia and China. No study really has been done. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: What is your question?

SHRI VIJAYENDRA PAL SINGH: Sir, my question is that it can affect not just the birds, the strain of the bird flu H5N1 had affected, especially, the humans also.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Malhotra does not agree, therefore the question has no relevance.

SHRI VIJAYENDRA PAL SINGH: Sir, my view is different. My point is that we must get the preventive vaccine.

MR. SPEAKER: Let us not think of a very sinister situation. All birds are very safe.

SHRI VIJAYENDRA PAL SINGH: All our neighbouring countries have taken it very seriously. Pakistan has been affected. All our eastern countries have been affected and it is a very serious thing. The irony of the whole thing is that the Ministry of Forests and Environment and the Ministry of Health do not have any coordination. They do not know, who is going to look after it.

MR. SPEAKER: That is not a question.

SHRI VIJAYENDRA PAL SINGH: It is a very serious thing. It has been detected in our neighbouring countries. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Singh, no repetition please. You know that I do not allow repetitions.

SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA: Sir, we have a perfect coordination between various Ministries. The Health Secretary is the Chairman of the Task Force and he is coordinating with all the Ministries.

We are in touch with the international organizations. We are seized of the matter.

MR. SPEAKER: Now, Q. No. 67.

Shri K.S. Rao—Not present.

Shri Ajit Jogi—Absent. I hope, he is recovering.

Now, Q. 68—Shrimati C.S. Sujatha.

Suicide by Farmers

*68. SHRIMATI C.S. SUJATHA:
SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of farmers across the country have committed suicide during the last three years;

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

(c) the steps taken by the Government to check such incidents in future and rehabilitate the debt ridden farmers;

(d) whether a conclave of Chief Ministers was held recently in Chandigarh to evolve a strategy to prevent such cases of suicides; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and decision taken 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) to (e) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) The incidents of suicide by farmers have been reported from Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Punjab, Gujarat and Orissa. The State-wise and year-wise details of suicide by farmers as reported by the State Governments are as under:

Name of the State	Year	No. of cases of suicide by farmers	Remarks
1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh	2002-03	280	—
	2003-04	258	
	2004-05	972	
Karnataka	2002-03	2340*	} *These figures are based on the records of the State Crime Record Bureau.
	2003-04	708	
	2004-05	271	

1	2	3	4
Maharashtra	2002	131	—
	2003	180	
	2004	524	
Kerala	2002	44	—
	2003	40	
	2004	96	
Punjab	2002-03	Nil	
	2003-04	2	
	2004-05	Nil	
Orissa	2002-03	1	} This case is on account of non-payment of remunerative prices.
	2003-04	Nil	
	2004-05	Nil	
Gujarat	2002	6	} These cases are on account of indebtedness and financial problems. The data is based on the State Police Records.
	2003	4	
	2004	5	

(c) In order to provide relief to the affected families of the deceased farmers, the Governments of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra have been granting ex-gratia amount of Rs. 1 lakh. In addition to ex-gratia, the Government of Andhra Pradesh is also granting an amount of Rs. 50,000 towards debt liquidation of the deceased farmer. The Government of Kerala has extended financial assistance of Rs. 50,000 to each of the affected families. Other welfare measures for relief and rehabilitation have been taken by State Governments.

Considering the fact that indebtedness has been a major cause of distress to farmers, in order to enhance credit flow to agriculture, the Government of India announced a credit package on 18th June, 2004, which envisaged doubling of agriculture credit package on 18th June, 2004, which envisaged doubling of agriculture credit over three years. It has, *inter-alia*, also envisaged that (i) Debt restructuring in respect of farmers in distress and farmers in arrears providing for rescheduling of outstanding loans over a period of five years (ii) Special One Time Settlement Scheme for settling the old and

chronic loan accounts of small and marginal farmers, and (iii) Banks allowed financing for redeeming the loans taken by farmers from private money lenders.

Targets set for disbursement of agricultural credit in 2004-05 have been exceeded. The Government of India is further addressing the varied credit needs of farmers through Kisan Credit Cards. In mitigating risks of farmers the National Agricultural Insurance Scheme is being operated whose coverage is proposed to be made more comprehensive. A Constitutional amendment is being brought for strengthening the functioning of cooperatives. The above intervention along with a slew of measures for augmenting agricultural production and marketing will over time reduce the distress of farmers.

(d) The Government did not call or hold any conclave of Chief Ministers in Chandigarh recently.

(e) Does not arise.

SHRIMATI C.S. SUJATHA: Will the Government consider writing off the amount of loans availed by the indebted farmers in the affected areas?

[Translation]

DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the question on farmers committing suicides has also been raised earlier in the House. Before passing of the first budget under the leadership of the hon. Manmohan Singh ji, the leaders of farmers' organisations of various states had been called to hold consultations on this issue. The biggest problem facing the Government at the time was how to deal with this issue? The Government took many important decisions after the formation of the UPA Government amongst which the biggest decision was to double the rural credit flow in three years for indebtedness which was the biggest reason for loan burden. The main reasons behind suicides by farmers were crop failure, loan burden, drought and social and economic insecurity. I am happy to tell that the credit package suggested by the Government on 18th June, 2004 and whose first year target was rupees 1,15,000 crore. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Silence in the House please.

[Translation]

DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH: Not only did we achieve that target successfully but also achieved more than the prescribed target and a decision was taken to provide relief on loans. ...*(Interruptions)* in the form of one time settlement ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRIMATI C.S. SUJATHA: Will the Government consider writing off the loans? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You keep that as your second supplementary.

[Translation]

You raise your point, do you have to say furthermore?

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: This has been fully discussed in the House.

[Translation]

DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH: We have launched the Kisan Credit Card Scheme under which ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You should send it to him in writing.

DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH: There is shortage of time, therefore, I want to tell that after the important decisions taken by the UPA Government, particularly in the southern states. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Silence please. If you do not want Question Hour, I will stop it.

[Translation]

DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH: In Maharashtra, only 178 suicides have been committed during the last six months of this year whereas 1767 cases of suicides took place last year. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, even one death is unfortunate. You say that all steps have been taken.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: What about Andhra Pradesh? ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH: In Andhra Pradesh, only 40 suicides cases have taken place during the last six months of this year whereas there were 972 cases of suicides last year.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: That is also unfortunate.

[Translation]

DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH: In Karnataka, only 52 cases of suicides have taken place during the last six months of this year, whereas there were 271 cases last year. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN: What about Kerala?
...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seats. This is not the way. Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH: Only 86 cases have come to the notice within the last six months in his state whereas 524 cases of suicide had taken place last year.

12.00 hrs.

[English]

SHRIMATI C.S. SUJATHA: Sir, I want to know the assessed agricultural loss due to various reasons in the State of Kerala and the demand for relief made by the State of the Centre and also the relief package provided to the State by the Centre.

MR. SPEAKER: She wants to know about Kerala.

[Translation]

DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Kerala Government too has done many important works. I will make available its detailed information to the hon. Member.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Dalpat Singh Paraste—Absent.

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Sir, please allow me to put one question about Andhra Pradesh.

MR. SPEAKER: Also, you send the information to the hon., Member about Andhra Pradesh.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Offer for Removing Pollutants from Water Bodies

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

(a) whether the United Kingdom (UK) has offered to share its expertise in removing pollutants from water bodies;

(b) whether UK has also expressed their willingness to extend further help in cleaning of the Ganga; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) In the Joint Statement signed between India and UK on 11th October, 2005, the two countries have agreed on Technology Co-operation for the abatement of pollution including water, air and soil pollution, which *inter-alia* includes water bodies.

(b) No Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Agricultural Workers

*67. SHRI K.S. RAO:
SHRI AJIT JOGI:

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

(a) whether the Government has conducted any study to assess the extent of poverty and hunger being suffered by millions of agricultural wage workers in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the wages paid to these agricultural workers, State-wise;

(d) whether the prevalent practice of low wages in the sector is affecting agricultural production;

(e) if so, the remedial measures taken in this regard;

(f) whether the agricultural workers from the largest percentage of people living below poverty line;

(g) if so, whether the Government proposes to enact a comprehensive legislation to protect the interests of wage labour working in the agricultural sector; and

(h) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRA SEKHAR RAO): (a), (b) and (f) The Government has made assessment of incidence of poverty for the population as a whole. According to the NSSO survey (1999-2000), about 26% of the population is living Below Poverty Line. Rural economy being agriculture based, a large number of agricultural labourers live below the poverty line. However, no estimate of poverty among agricultural workers separately is available.

(c) to (e) Under the provisions of the minimum Wages Act, 1948, both Central and State Governments are the appropriate Governments to fix and revise minimum wages in the scheduled employments under their respective jurisdictions. According to the Act, the appropriate Governments review/revise the minimum wages in the

scheduled employments under their respective jurisdictions at an interval not exceeding five years. In certain cases minimum wages include variable dearness allowance (VDA), which is reviewed/revise periodically twice a year effective April and October. A statement indicating the rates of minimum wages for agricultural workers by different Governments both in State and Central spheres is enclosed. The wages of agricultural workers do not directly affect the agriculture production as such as other factors like climatic conditions, farming practices, etc. play a crucial role in agricultural production.

(g) and (h) A proposal of enactment of a comprehensive legislation of the agricultural workers had been under consideration of the Government. However, due to lack of consensus amongst the state governments, the proposal could not be processed further.

Statement

Daily Rates of Minimum Wages for Agricultural Workers Fixed by Different States/Union Territory Administrations Under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948

Sl.No.	State/Union Territory Administration	Minimum Wages for Unskilled Agricultural Workers in rupees	With effect from
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh*	64.00 to 84.00 (as per zone)	5.11.2004
2.	Arunachal Pradesh*	55.00 (Area-I) 57.00 (Area-II)	18.08.2005
3.	Assam	69.00	1.4.2005
4.	Bihar	66.00	1.2.2004
5.	Chhattisgarh	52.87	1.4.2002
6.	Goa*	94.00	27.6.2003
7.	Gujarat	50.00	1.4.2002
8.	Haryana	84.29 with meal 88.29 without meal	1.7.2004
9.	Himachal Pradesh*	65.00	27.10.2003
10.	Jammu & Kashmir*	66.00	06.06.2005
11.	Jharkhand	\$	
12.	Karnataka	56.48	1.4.2003

1	2	3	4
13.	Kerala*	72.00 for light work 125.00 for hard work	31.12.2004
14.	Madhya Pradesh	56.96	1.10.2004
15.	Maharashtra	Zone-I 51.00 Zone-II 49.00 Zone-III 47.00 Zone-IV 45.00	1.07.2004
16.	Manipur	72.40	1.7.2005
17.	Meghalaya	70.00	1.4.2005
18.	Mizoram*	91.00	1.1.2005
19.	Nagaland*	66.00	12.05.2004
20.	Orissa	52.50	1.1.2004
21.	Punjab	87.59	1.9.2004
22.	Rajasthan*	73.00	20.7.2004
23.	Sikkim	The Minimum Wages Act, 1948 has been extended w.e.f. 1.10.2004.	
24.	Tamil Nadu*	64.00	17.07.2004
25.	Tripura*	50.00	20.8.2002
26.	Uttar Pradesh	58.00	1.1.2004
27.	Uttaranchal	73.00	1.08.2004
28.	West Bengal	62 with meal 65 without meal	31.12.2004
29.	Andaman & Nicobar*	100.00 (Andaman) 107.00 (Nicobar)	25.11.2004
30.	Chandigarh	1114.00	1.4.2005
31.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	89.00	1.4.2005
32.	Daman & Diu	\$	
33.	Delhi	122.00	31.08.2005
34.	Lakshadweep	\$	

1	2	3	4
35.	Pondicherry*		
	Pondicherry	45.00 to 54.00 for	21.6.2002
	Mahe Region	5 Hours	
		120.00 for light work	25.1.2005
	Yanam Region	(proposed for 8 Hours)	
	Karaikal	160.00 for hard work	25.1.2005
		-do-	
		55.00 to 75.00 for 6 Hours	8.7.2003
		45.00 to 54.00 for 5 Hours	21.6.2002
	Central Sphere	102.78 to 114.78	20.10.2005

* No provision of Variable Dearness Allowance for agricultural workers in the State.

\$ Not available.

The Minimum Wages also include the variable dearness allowance, wherever provided.

National Agricultural Insurance Scheme

*69. SHRI P.C. THOMAS:
SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the features of the National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS) and other similar existing schemes;

(b) the States where NAIS has been introduced;

(c) whether the Government has assessed the performance of NAIS;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof;

(e) whether the Union Government has received the report of joint group constituted to study the improvement required in the existing Crop Insurance Scheme and to include more crops in NAIS for which proposals were received from various States;

(f) if so, the recommendations made by the group; and

(g) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) The National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS) sponsored

by the Government of India is the major Crop Insurance Scheme being implemented in the country. In addition to the NAIS some of the private insurance companies are implementing weather based insurance scheme on limited scale. The main features of these schemes are given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) National Agricultural Insurance Scheme is being implemented by 23 States and 2 Union Territories (UTs). These States and UTs are—Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Goa, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Jharkhand Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Meghalaya, Orissa, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh, Uttaranchal, West Bengal, Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Pondicherry.

(c) and (d) The Government had set up a Joint Group to study the improvements required in the existing Crop Insurance Schemes. The Joint Group has submitted its report.

(e) and (f) The Group has made a number of recommendations. These include *inter-alia* reducing the unit area of insurance to Gram Panchayat for major crops, improving the basis of calculation of threshold yield, higher indemnity level of 80% and 90%, coverage of pre-swing/planting risks and post-harvest losses, coverage of perennial horticultural crops.

(g) The Government is examining the recommendations of the Joint Group.

Statement**Main Features of Crop Insurance Schemes****National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS)**

- Scheme is available to all farmers—loanee and non-loanee both—irrespective of their size of holding.
- compulsory for loanee farmers and optional for non-loanee farmers.
- The scheme is voluntary for the States/UTs.
- Sum-insured may extend to the value of threshold yield of the area insured.
- Coverage of all food crops (cereals, millets & pulses), oilseeds and annual commercial/horticultural crops in respect of which past yield data is available for adequate number of years.
- Among the annual commercial/horticultural crops, eleven crops namely cotton, sugarcane, potato, chillies, ginger, onion, turmeric, jute, tapioca, annual banana and pineapple are presently covered.
- Basically all-risk insurance scheme covering all yield losses due to natural, non-preventable risks.
- Premium rates are 3.5% for bajra and oilseeds, and 2.5% for other Kharif crops; 1.5% for wheat, and 2% for other rabi crops. In case the rates worked out on the basis of actuarial data are less than the prescribed premium rate, the lower rate will be applicable.
- In case of annual commercial/horticultural crops, actuarial rates are charged.
- Small and marginal farmers are provided subsidy of 50% of the premium charged from them. The subsidy will be phased out over a period of 5 years on sunset basis.
- To implement NAIS at lower unit of insurance i.e. Gram Panchayat within three years.

*[Translation]***Pending Consumer Cases**

- *70. SHRI SHISHUPAL N. PATLE:
SAHRI ASHOK KUMAR RAWAT:

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

(a) whether the Union Government has recently reviewed the cases pending with the Consumer Courts;

(b) if so, the details regarding the total number of complaints pending with the National Consumer and the various State Consumer Fora;

(c) whether any action plan has been formulated for speedy disposal of these complaints;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor;

(f) whether financial assistance has been provided or is proposed to be provided to the States for setting up of new Consumer Fora and strengthening of the existing ones;

(g) if so, the details of the amount allocated, State-wise;

(h) whether the Consumer Fora have since been set up by such States; and

(i) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (e) Union Government in coordination with National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission (NCDRC) and Secretaries in-charge of Consumer Affairs in State/Union Territories reviews the functioning of the consumer for a on a periodical basis.

Statement-I detailing the number of cases field/disposed off/pending in NCDRC and State Consumer Disputes Redressal Commissions (SCDRC), as reported by NCDRC, is enclosed.

The following measures have been taken by the Union Government for speedy disposal of cases:

(i) In order to promote e-governance, transparency, efficiency and systematizing of working of consumer fora and also to provide time bound delivery of justice to consumers, a project for computerization and computer networking of consumer fora throughout the country has been launched in March, 2005.

(ii) The Consumer Protection Act, 1986 has been amended to facilitate quicker disposal of cases.

(iii) The State Governments have been requested from time to time not to allow the consumer fora to remain non-functional as also to provide adequate facilities and ensure that amended provisions of the Consumer Protection Act are put to proper use for the benefit of consumers.

(f) to (i) As per the provisions of the Consumer Protection Act, 1986, the State Governments are responsible for establishment of District Fora and State

Commissions. However, in order to supplement the efforts of the State Governments/UT Administrations, the Union Government released one time grants in 1995-1999 and 2004-2005 amounting to Rs. 61.80 crores and Rs. 10.20 crores respectively. The financial assistance was meant to be utilised for consumer fora already established by the State/UT Governments.

Statement-II giving details of the grants to the States, for strengthening of infrastructure of consumer fora, released during 1995-99 and 2004-05 is enclosed.

Statement I

Cases filed/disposed of/pending in the National Commission and State Commissions

Sl. No.	Name of State	Cases filed since inception	Cases disposed of since inception	Cases Pending	% of Disposal	As on
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	National Commission	40110	32236	7874	80.37	31.10.2005
1.	Andhra Pradesh	17264	14905	2359	86.34	30.9.2005
2.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	57	55	2	96.49	30.6.2004
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	33	22	11	66.67	30.6.2005
4.	Assam	1846	990	856	53.63	31.12.2004
5.	Bihar	10688	6700	3988	62.69	30.6.2005
6.	Chandigarh	5090	4998	92	98.19	31.10.2005
7.	Chhattisgarh	2547	2041	506	80.13	30.6.2005
8.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli/ Daman and Diu	11	11	0	100.00	31.12.2004
9.	Delhi	23860	20282	3578	85.00	31.10.2005
10.	Goa	1661	1497	164	90.13	31.10.2005
11.	Gujarat	21821	18266	3555	83.71	30.6.2005
12.	Haryana	27832	15846	11986	56.93	31.10.2005
13.	Himachal Pradesh	4426	3768	658	85.13	30.9.2005
14.	Jammu and Kashmir	4512	3981	531	88.23	31.12.2003
15.	Jharkhand	2067	1752	315	84.76	30.6.2005
16.	Karnataka	17251	15426	1852	89.42	31.8.2005

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
17.	Kerala	19808	15574	4032	79.43	31.8.2005
18.	Lakshadweep	12	12	0	100.00	31.10.2005
19.	Madhya Pradesh	20280	18077	2203	89.14	30.6.2005
20.	Maharashtra	31378	17878	13502	56.97	31.7.2005
21.	Manipur	47	20	27	42.55	30.6.2003
22.	Meghalaya	145	125	20	86.21	30.6.2005
23.	Mizoram	92	31	61	33.70	39.9.2005
24.	Nagaland	71	59	12	83.10	30.6.2005
25.	Orissa	14030	7304	6728	52.06	30.9.2005
26.	Pondicherry	109	80	29	73.39	31.10.2005
27.	Punjab	15759	11341	4418	7197	30.9.2005
28.	Rajasthan	31371	21030	10341	67.04	30.9.2005
29.	Sikkim	27	26	1	96.30	30.6.2005
30.	Tamil Nadu	17820	15927	1693	90.39	31.10.2005
31.	Tripura	866	772	94	89.15	30.9.2005
32.	Uttar Pradesh	43670	12433	31237	28.47	31.8.2005
33.	Uttaranchal	2464	2097	367	85.11	30.6.2005
34.	West Bengal	9126	7897	1229	86.53	30.9.2005
Total		387749	273457	114292	70.52	

Statement II*One-Time-Grants released to the States/UTs*

(Amount in Lakhs of Rupees)

Name of the State/UT	Amount released during 1995-1996	Amount released during 2004-2005
1	2	3
Andhra Pradesh	270.00	105
Arunachal Pradesh	170.00	Nil
Assam	280.00	Nil

1	2	3
Bihar	320.00	45
Jharkhand	120.00	75
Goa	70.00	Nil
Gujarat	250.00	Nil
Haryana	210.00	45
Himachal Pradesh	170.00	Nil
Jammu and Kashmir	70.00	Nil
Karnataka	250.00	Nil

1	2	3
Kerala	190.00	Nil
Madhya Pradesh	500.00	105
Chhattisgarh	—	75
Maharashtra	360.00	45
Manipur	130.00	Nil
Meghalaya	120.00	Nil
Mizoram	80.00	75
Nagaland	120.00	15
Orissa	180.00	270
Punjab	180.00	270
Rajasthan	350.00	45
Sikkim	90.00	Nil
Tamil Nadu	270.00	Nil
Tripura	80.00	Nil
Uttar Pradesh	680.00	Nil
Uttaranchal	—	75
West Bengal	220.00	45
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	70.00	Nil
Chandigarh Admn.	60.00	Nil
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	60.00	Nil

1	2	3
Daman and Diu	70.00	Nil
Delhi	70.00	Nil
Lakshweep	60.00	Nil
Pondicherry	60.00	Nil
Total	6180.00	1020.00

[English]

Production of Rice and Wheat

*71. SHRI SURESH KURUP: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the States showing surplus production of rice and wheat during the last three years;

(b) the areas showing decline in the production of foodgrains during the said period in the country; and

(c) the action envisaged by the Government to check shortage of foodgrains 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 (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) Based on the state-wise estimates of production and consumption, the following states were surplus producers of wheat and rice during 2002-03 to 2004-05:

Item	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
Wheat	1. Haryana	1. Haryana	1. Haryana
	2. Punjab	2. Punjab	2. Punjab
	3. Uttar Pradesh	3. Uttar Pradesh	3. Uttar Pradesh
		4. Madhya Pradesh	4. Madhya Pradesh
Rice	1. Haryana	1. Haryana	1. Haryana
	2. Punjab	2. Punjab	2. Punjab
	3. Uttar Pradesh	3. Uttar Pradesh	3. Uttar Pradesh
	4. West Bengal	4. West Bengal	4. West Bengal
		5. Orissa	5. Orissa
		6. Chhattisgarh	6. Chhattisgarh

(b) At the all India level, the production of foodgrains shows a long term upward trend. However, there have been fluctuations in foodgrains production. This is true of major foodgrains producing States also. The details of the production during the last three years are given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) There is no shortage of foodgrains in the country.

Statement

Production of Foodgrains (Million Tonnes)

State	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05*
Uttar Pradesh	38.14	44.25	41.46
Punjab	23.49	24.73	25.84
Rajasthan	7.54	17.99	11.93
West Bengal	15.52	15.98	16.25
Madhya Pradesh	10.75	15.87	14.10
Andhra Pradesh	10.65	13.70	13.12
Haryana	12.33	13.22	13.22
Bihar	11.08	11.22	9.96
Maharashtra	10.83	10.93	10.80
Orissa	3.57	7.23	6.90
Tamil Nadu	3.78	3.80	5.30
All India	174.77	213.46	204.61

*4th Advance Estimates.

[*Translation*]

Unemployment

*72. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has conducted survey to assess the number of educated unemployed youth in the country;

(b) if so, the details and the present ratio of educated youth and the total unemployed youth in the country;

(c) whether the Government is taking/proposes to take certain special measures to provide employment to these youths and reduce unemployment; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRA SEKHAR RAO): (a) to (d) Estimates of employment and unemployment are obtained through quinquennial labour force surveys conducted by National Sample Survey Organisation. Last such survey for which results are available was conducted during 1999-2000. As per this survey, number of unemployed persons on usual status basis was estimated at around 90 lakh. 60% of the unemployed i.e. around 54 lakh were educated (secondary & above). Creation of around 5 crore employment opportunities during the 10th Plan Period was targeted. Out of these, around 3 crore were to be generated in the normal growth process and remaining 2 crore through special employment generation programmes. Besides, National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005 which aims at enhancing the livelihood security in rural areas by providing at least 100 days of guaranteed wage employment in every financial year to each Rural households has been passed.

[*English*]

Afforestation Programme

*73. SHRI M. APPADURAI:
SHRIMATI RUPATAI D. PATIL:

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

(a) the steps being taken currently by the Government for increasing the forest cover in the country;

(b) the funds allocated to each State under the National Afforestation Programme (NAP) during the last three years and thereafter;

(c) whether any Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) has been involved in such a programme;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the additional area brought under the cover through this programme;

(f) the revenue earned from forest resources during the last three years, State-wise and year-wise;

(g) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to top further destruction of forest resources by forest mafia and others indicating the number of such cases reported during the above period; and

(h) the efforts being made to bring 33% area of the country under forest cover?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) The Ministry of Environment and Forests has launched a major afforestation initiative called the National Afforestation Programme (NAP), during the Tenth Five Year Plan for regeneration of degraded forests and adjoining lands through people's participation. The people-centric approach is manifest in the two-tier decentralized institutional set-up of Forest Development Agencies (FDAs) at the forest division level and Joint Forest Management Committees (JFMCs) at the village level for the implementation of NAP.

(b) State-wise funds released during the last three years and so far during the current financial year under NAP is given in that enclosed Statement-I.

(c) and (d) Non-Government Organizations (NGOs) are also involved in the awareness regeneration and for concomitant evaluation of FDA projects under NAP in the States. Details of such NGOs are maintained at the FDA level.

(e) 650 FDA projects have been approved under NAP as on 22.11.2005 to treat a total project area of 8.89 lakh hectares upto the Tenth Five Year Plan.

(f) State-wise revenue earned from forest resources for 2001-02, 2002-03 and 2003-04 is given in enclosed Statement-II.

(g) The Ministry of Environment and Forests has launched an Integrated Forest Protection Scheme, primarily for strengthening the infrastructure for protection of forests to control illicit fellings, fires, encroachment, etc. In three years from 2001-02 to 2003-04, 6,46,052 cases of illicit felling have been reported in different States.

(h) The following steps have been taken to increase the forest cover in the country:

- (i) For creating awareness and sensitisation about the subject, consultations with State Governments, Union Territories Administration, other Ministries of Government of India, research institutes and non-government organizations have been held. State Forest Ministers' Conference held on 5-6 August 2004 also deliberated on the issue in great detail.
- (ii) State Government and Union Territories Administrations have been requested to formulate and implement a comprehensive Media Plan to create mass awareness about tree planting.
- (iii) Guidelines for rationalization of felling and transit regulations for tree species grown on non-forest private lands have been issued to the State Governments and Union Territories Administrations to encourage private tree plantation.
- (iv) State Government and Union Territories Administrations have been requested to constitute Chief Secretary-level Committee of all land owning and other concerned Departments, and also involve them in tree planting activities.
- (v) Multi-Stakeholder Partnership (MSP), involving State Forest Department, the local village community and the private industry (Sponsor), has been mooted for forestation of degraded lands.
- (vi) A new component has been added in the National Afforestation Programme to extend joint forest management (JFM) to all 1.73 lakh forest-fringe villages in the country.
- (vii) Planning Commission has given in-principle approval for National Bombao Mission whereunder bamboo plantation will be encouraged on forest and non-forest lands.

Statement I

State-wise Funds Released under National Afforestation Programme in the last three years (2002-2005) and thereafter (2005-06, as on 22.11.2005)

Sl.No.	Name of State/UT	Amount Released (Rs. in crores)
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	36.55
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	10.29
3.	Assam	17.00
4.	Bihar	6.44
5.	Chhattisgarh	42.17
6.	Goa	0.64
7.	Gujarat	23.49
8.	Haryana	28.02
9.	Himachal Pradesh	23.27
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	18.46
11.	Jharkhand	24.51

1	2	3
12.	Karnataka	68.77
13.	Kerala	8.63
14.	Madhya Pradesh	48.72
15.	Maharashtra	38.7
16.	Manipur	19.21
17.	Meghalaya	7.63
18.	Mizoram	45.97
19.	Nagaland	28.31
20.	Orissa	34.33
21.	Punjab	4.92
22.	Rajasthan	17.33
23.	Sikkim	17.99
24.	Tamil Nadu	50.08
25.	Tripura	16.05
26.	Uttar Pradesh	70.62
27.	Uttaranchal	21.31
28.	West Bengal	18.4
Total		747.81

Statement II

Total Revenue Earned by each State from Forests during the Last Three Years (2001-02 to 2003-04)

Sl.No.	State/UT	Amount (Rupees in crores)			
		2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	Total
1	2	3	4	5	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	63.81	83.17	99.43	246.41
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	25.24	15.61	9.63	50.48
3.	Assam	12.08	18.54	19.17	49.79
4.	Bihar	6.69	5.69	5.92	18.3
5.	Chhattisgarh	107.97	110.17	136.76	354.9

1	2	3	4	5	5
6.	Delhi	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
7.	Goa	1.18	0.72	1.81	3.71
8.	Gujarat	30.49	20.19	33.26	83.94
9.	Haryana	24.21	29.12	26.09	79.42
10.	Himachal Pradesh	27.56	30.60	60.79	118.95
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	39.14	36.23	44.46	119.83
12.	Jharkhand	14.92	22.04	22.41	59.37
13.	Karnataka	100.09	100.88	188.68	389.65
14.	Kerala	113.70	149.57	187.18	450.45
15.	Madhya Pradesh	350.84	554.09	535.71	1440.65
16.	Maharashtra	133.82	102.01	132.55	368.38
17.	Manipur	0.73	0.78	0.95	2.46
18.	Meghalaya	6.67	7.61	10.75	25.03
19.	Mizoram	1.63	3.80	3.16	8.59
20.	Nagaland	2.91	3.89	4.01	10.81
21.	Orissa	87.24	96.91	49.81	233.96
22.	Punjab	15.07	15.69	7.94	38.7
23.	Rajasthan	44.29	41.00	38.82	124.11
24.	Sikkim	6.45	7.20	7.23	20.88
25.	Tamil Nadu	97.04	157.44	90.21	344.69
26.	Tripura	4.53	4.36	4.16	13.05
27.	Uttar Pradesh	67.81	87.10	66.00	220.91
28.	Uttaranchal	91.50	149.86	127.23	368.59
29.	West Bengal	26.40	56.22	44.63	127.25
30.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	14.83	7.85	6.80	29.48
31.	Chandigarh	0.6	0.4	0.9	1.9
32.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0.29	0.074	0.097	0.461
33.	Daman and Diu	0.0045	0.171	0.266	0.4415
34.	Lakshadweep	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
35.	Pondicherry	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

World Bank Report on Water Sector

*74. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:
SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "India faces a turbulent water future: World Bank" appearing in 'The Hindu' dated October 02, 2005;

(b) if so, whether the Government has studied the World Bank draft report in this regard;

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

(d) whether the World Bank proposes to increase its loans to India for the water sector, including water resource management and irrigation;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government for proper utilization of loan to bring improvement in the water sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) to (c) Yes Sir. The Government is aware of the draft Report titled "India's Water Economy: Bracing for a Turbulent Future" prepared by Mr. John Briscoe of the World Bank. The report is based on study conducted by the World Bank on its own. The report in general discusses various aspects of water resources development and management in India and broadly covers the issues related to:

- i. adjusting to the needs of a changing India;
- ii. adjusting to scarcity and greater variability;
- iii. dealing with growing conflicts;
- iv. maintaining and renewing existing infrastructure;
- v. building infrastructure in under-served areas and for under-served public purposes;
- vi. making the transition from development to management and development;

vii. revitalizing the machinery of government to deal with the turbulent water future; and

viii. charting a prioritised, sequenced, pragmatic path for making improvements.

Most of issues are duly addressed in the National Water Policy and appropriate actions are taken in light of the present policies of the Union and State Governments.

(d) and (e) The Country Director, World Bank has indicated about enhancement of fund allocation by World Bank for water resources projects from present level of US \$ 200 million per year to about US \$ 800 million per year.

(f) Implementing agencies i.e., the State Governments are impressed upon for timely completion of the externally funded projects as per the approved plan and the progress is regularly monitored to ensure proper utilization of the loan assistance.

District Consumer Information Centres

*75. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA:
SHRI MANI CHARENAMEI:

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

(a) the objectives behind formation the District Consumer Information Centre's (DCIC) alongwith their *modus operandi*;

(b) whether information about the location and specific functional status of the centres run by the Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) has been given wide publicity;

(c) if not, the mechanism evolved for ensuring actual benefit to consumers from such centres;

(d) the details of such centres in each of the districts in the North-Eastern Region indicating the assistance granted and disbursed to them till date NGO-wise;

(e) whether the Government has assessed the performance of the NGOs availing such assistance; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) As per the scheme, District Consumer Information Centres are to function as information, resources and guidance Centres and are to be run by Zilla Parishads/Voluntary Consumer Organizations/Educational Institution of repute.

(b) and (c) The CDIC is expected to place display

boards at prominent places to make the people aware of its existence.

(d) A statement is enclosed.

(e) and (f) An evaluation Study of the DCIC scheme has been conducted in 2004-05 by the Social and Research Institute, a unit of the Indian Market Research Bureau.

Statement

Sl.No.	District	Name of Organization	Amount Sanctioned	Released
1	2	3	4	5
Manipur				
1.	Chandel	Resource Centre for Social Welfare and Community Development, Japhor Bazar, Post Box-18 Distt. Chandel, Manipur	5,00,000/-	4,25,000/-
2.	Chandel	Manipur Boarder Area Development Society, P.O. Chakpikarong, Zaphu Bazar, Chandel Distt., Manipur	5,00,000/-	5,00,000/-
3.	Thoubal	Rural Voluntary Services, Wangval Nayai Leikai, Distt: Thoubal-795138, Manipur	5,00,000/-	4,25,000/-
4.	Imphal West	Manipur Women Coordinating Council, opp Manipur University, Chanchipur, Imphal-795 003	5,00,000/-	2,50,000/-
5.	Imphal West	Greenland Development Organisation, Sagol Band, Terasapal, Leirak, Tyrs Road, Imphal, Manipur-795001	5,00,000/-	2,50,000/-
6.	Bishnupur	Backward Development Services, Wangjing Bazaar, Distt: Thoubal-795148 (Manipur)	5,00,000/-	4,25,000/-
7.	Senapati	SC/ST, Backward Children Women Organisation, Thoubal, Khunou, Post & Distt. Thoubal, Manipur	5,00,000/-	4,25,000/-
8.	Chura-Chandpur	Dedicated Peoples Organization Keishampat, Leimajam, Keikai, Imphal-750001, Manipur	5,00,000/-	2,50,000/-

1	2	3	4	5
9.	Imphal East	Manipur Rural Service Association, Old Checkon, Ananda Singh Hr. Sec. Academy Gate, Imphal East Distt. Manipur-785001	5,00,000/-	2,50,000/-
NAGALAND				
1.	Dimapur	Nagaland Tribal Rural Development Association, Dimapur, Nagaland	5,00,000/-	2,50,000/-
ASSAM				
1.	Nagaon	Gram Vikas Parishad, At Rengaloo Post Jumaimar, Nagaon Distt., Assam	5,00,000/-	2,50,000/-
MIZORAM				
1.	Aizawl	Mizorum Consumers' Union, Aizwal, Treasure Square, Aizwal-796001 Mizoram	5,00,000/-	5,00,000/-
SIKKIM				
1.	North Distt. Sikkim	Govt. of Sikkim, Food & Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs, Gangtok, Sikkim-737101	5,00,000/-	2,50,000/-
2.	South Distt. Sikkim	Govt. of Sikkim, Food & Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs, Gangtok, Sikkim-737101	5,00,000/-	2,50,000/-
3.	Gangtok (East)	Govt. of Sikkim, Food & Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs, Gangtok, Sikkim-737101	5,00,000/-	4,25,000/-

[*Translation*]

Assistance from Sugar Development Fund

*76. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of proposals received for availing financial assistance from the Sugar Development Fund for expansion and modernisation of the sugar mills during the last three years and thereafter till date State-wise and year-wise;

(b) the number of the sugar mills provided assistance from the fund during the said period;

(c) whether these sugar mills have fully utilised the said assistance;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken to ensure proper utilisation of the financial assistance by the sugar mills?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) Details are given in the enclosed Statement-I.

(b) Statement-II is enclosed.

(c) and (d) There is normally a time gap between disbursement of the loan and full utilization of the same

in the project. Therefore, there will be a few cases where the disbursed loan has not been fully utilized at a particular time. By the time the project is completed and commissioned, the financial assistance provided from the Sugar Development Fund (SDF) gets fully utilized.

(e) There is already a system in place to monitor utilization of the financial assistance provided to the sugar mills from the SDF. Industrial Finance Corporation of India

(IFCI) and National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) have been appointed as the Monitoring Agencies on behalf of the Government to oversee and monitor proper utilization of the loan and implementation of the project. Second instalment, and the balance loan, if any, is disbursed only on submission of utilization certificate of the earlier instalment and progress report of a Chartered Accountant which needs to be duly recommended by IFCI/NCDC.

Statement

Year-wise, State-wise number of proposals received from sugar mills for availing financial assistance from SDF for expansion and modernization during the years 2002-03, 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-2006 (up to 31.10.2005).

State	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
Uttar Pradesh	2	1	1	3
Karnataka	1	—	—	1
Madhya Pradesh	—	1	—	—
Uttaranchal	—	1	—	—
Andhra Pradesh	—	—	1	—
Maharashtra	—	—	1	—
Tamil Nadu	—	—	—	1
Total	3	3	3	5

Statement II

Number of sugar mills provided assistance from the Sugar Development Fund during 2002-03, 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06 (upto 31.10.2005).

Years	Number of Sugar Mills
2002-03	15
2003-04	7
2004-05	8
2005-06 (upto 31.10.2005)	3
Total	33

[English]

Import of Cotton

*77. SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether cotton is being imported every year in large quantities due to low yields and inferior quality of the cotton grown in the country;

(b) if so, whether the quantum of import has increased over the years;

(c) if so, whether efforts have been made for cutting the costs of cotton by increasing its yield and enhancing the quality to bring it to the international standards; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (d) There has been no clear trend in the imports of cotton into the country over the last few years as is evident from the data given below:

year	Quantity (thousand tonnes)	Value (Rs. in crores)
2000-01	212.36	1184.73
2001-02	387.04	2053.62
2002-03	233.85	1237.61
2003-04	252.98	1570.01
2004-05 (P)	183.06	1099.60

Source-DGCIS
P-Provisional

The imports of cotton reached a high at 387.04 thousand tonnes in the year 2001-02. Subsequently, there was a decline to 233.85 thousand tonnes in 2002-03, and 183.06 thousand tonnes during 2004-05.

Since February 2000, Government is implementing a Technology Mission on Cotton in order to increase production, productivity and improve the quality of cotton in the country.

The mission integrates various aspects of cotton development i.e. research, extension, crop protection technologies, developmental programmes for increasing production and productivity, development of marketing infrastructure and upgradation and modernization of ginning and pressing factories.

Under the mission, assistance is provided for critical inputs, pest management, dissemination of crop production and protection technologies, popularisation of micro-irrigation, training of farmers, construction of marketing facilities, setting up of quality testing laboratories and upgradation and modernization of ginning and pressing factories to enhance production, productivity and quality of cotton.

Production of Edible Oil

*78. SHRI DHANUSKODI R. ATHITHAN:
PROF. M. RAMADASS:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details regarding production and import of edible oil in the country during the last three years, year-wise and State-wise;

(b) whether the production of edible oil in the country has been declining during the last few years;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the production is likely to decline further during the current year; and

(e) if so, the steps the Government proposes to take to increase the production and check shortage of edible oil in the country?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) The details regarding production and import of edible oils in the country during the last three years are as under:

(in lakh tonnes)

Oil Year (November to October)	Net availability/production of edible oils from all domestic sources	Import of edible oil
2002-2003	46.64	43.65
2003-2004	71.64	52.95
2004-2005	76.98 (Estimates)	45.42 (Estimates)

State-wise data regarding production and import of edible oils is not maintained.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Question does not arise.

(d) and (e) Steps taken by the Government to increase the production of edible oil in the country include enhanced incentives to the farmers through fixation of Minimum Support Price (MSP) of major oilseeds, implementation of centrally sponsored Integrated Scheme for Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm & Maize (ISOPOM) in certain States, financial assistance for oil palm development, assistance provided for purpose of breeder seed, integrated pest management etc. Import of edible oils, except coconut oil, has also been allowed under Open General Licence (OGL).

Shortage of Phosphoric Acid

*79. SHRI S. MALLIKARJUNIAH: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether production of fertilizers in the country is insufficient to meet the indigenous demand resulting in large scale import of the same;

(b) if so, whether raw materials like phosphoric acid is not sufficiently available for production of fertilizer as a result of which the farmers are not able to meet their requirement; and

(c) if so, the action taken/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) The country has achieved near self-sufficiency in terms of establishment of production capacity in respect of nitrogenous and phosphatic fertilizers. Urea is presently the only fertilizer under statutory price and partial movement control. All other fertilizers have been decontrolled.

As far as urea is concerned the highest ever production was achieved in the last year, which is estimated to be further exceeded in the current year. However, due to sharp increase in demand, imports are also being made to ensure that the demand is adequately met.

The production, in so far as phosphatic fertilizers are concerned, is dependent upon availability of imported raw material and intermediates in adequate quantities and at competitive prices. Although the imports of phosphatic raw material and intermediates are de-canalised and freely allowed, during the current season there have been difficulties in the adequate availability of phosphoric acid which is an essential intermediates for phosphatic fertilizers. This has resulted in lower production of DAP and consequent higher imports. However, it is being ensured that adequate quantities of fertilizers are available and for this purpose, apart from direct import by fertilizer manufacturers the Government is also maintaining a buffer stock of imported DAP to off-set any shortfall in production and availability.

The requirement of potassic fertilizers is met entirely through imports and adequate quantities of the same are available.

The Government of India is closely monitoring the demand and supply position of all major fertilizers in close coordination with the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation and State Governments.

Working Condition of Employees In BPO Sector

*80. SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government's attention has been drawn to a survey report published by Shri V.V. Giri National Labour Institute on the working conditions of employees in the Business Processes Outsourcing (BPO) sector in the country;

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

(c) whether the Government has any proposal to monitor the working conditions of the employees in BPO sector and ensure implementation of various labour laws in the sector; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) to (d) V.V. Giri National Labour Institute, an autonomous society under the Ministry of Labour and Employment is mandated to carry out research and training on labour related issues. Its faculty enjoys considerable academic freedom in selecting the theme and the subject matter of research projects. As per this practice, a micro-level study relating to labour in Business Process Outsourcing was conducted by one of the Associate Fellows of the Institute. The study was conducted during 2003. The report of the study was based on the findings of a field survey conducted among 277 customer care agents from 6 call centers in Noida (UP). That way the study was based entirely on the responses of call center agents in a limited geographical cluster.

The study evaluates the perceptions of work experience of the call centre agents to throw light on the potentialities and possible problem areas of human relations in order to strengthen the sustainability of the industry in the longer term. It does not represent the view of all the actors in the industry and does not purport to represent the entire BPO sector in the country.

Moreover, the views expressed in the report are of the concerned researcher and not of the Institute or of the Ministry of Labour and Employment.

BPOs are covered under the existing labour laws. The State Governments are the "appropriate Government" under the various labour laws and legally vested with powers to deal with violation of labour laws in BPO Sector.

Soil Erosion

*81. SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI:
SHRI RAVICHANDRAN SIPPAPARAI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the erosion of the soil is taking place at an alarming rate;

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

(c) whether the high rate of soil erosion is adversely affecting the farm productivity;

(d) if so, whether any study/research has been conducted by the Government in this regard;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to check erosion of soil?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (f) Yes, Sir. The soil formation and erosion is a natural process occurring simultaneously to maintain the equilibrium in eco-system. Due to over exploitation, unscientific use of natural resources and other reasons, the land denudation is more than natural formation. As per available estimate, the average rate of soil erosion in the country is 16.4 tonnes per hectare per year and over 5.3 billion tonnes of soil is lost every year through water erosion, resulting in a loss of around 8 million tonnes of plant nutrients annually. As per recent study conducted by National Bureau of Soil Survey and Land Use Planning (NBSS&LUP), out of total geographical area of 328.60 million ha., about 146.82 million ha. area (45%) is suffering from various kinds of land degradation as per break up given below:

Sl.No.	Type of Land Degradation	Extent of Area in million ha.
1.	Water erosion	93.68
2.	Wind erosion	9.48
3.	Water logging	14.30
4.	Salinity/alkalinity	5.95
5.	Soil acidity	16.03
6.	Complex problem	7.38
Total Degraded area		146.82

In some typical cases studies conducted by the Central Soil and Water Conservation Research and Training Institute, Dehradun it has been noticed that there is reduction in the yields of crops and income to the farmers due to loss of top soils. With a view to sustain farm productivity, Government of India has formulated comprehensive schemes/programmes on watershed development for control of soil erosion and land degradation in the country. The various Watershed Development Programmes being implemented are (i) National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas (NWDPPA), (ii) Soil Conservation for Enhancing Productivity of Degraded Lands in the Catchments of River Valley Project & Flood Prone River (RVP & FPR), (iii) Watershed Development Project in Shifting Cultivation Areas (WDPSCA), (iv) Reclamation of Alkali Soil (RAS), (v) Externally Aided Projects (EAPs) for development of degraded lands, (vi) Drought Prone Area Programme (DPAP), (vii) Desert Development Programme (DDP), (viii) Integrated Wasteland Development Programme (IWDP) and (ix) National Afforestation & Eco-Development Project (NAEP). Under these programmes, since inception upto March, 2005, an area of 28.533 million ha. has been developed with expenditure of Rs. 14577.32 crore as per scheme-wise detail given in the enclosed Statement.

The Working Group on Watershed Development, Rainfed Farming and Natural Resources Management for Tenth Five Year Plan, constituted by Planning Commission has suggested a perspective plan for development of 88.5 million ha. in 20 years through Watershed Development Programmes. Accordingly, an area of 21.4 million ha. has been proposed for treatment under various Watershed Development Programmes with an estimated cost of Rs. 6422.95 crore during X Five Year Plan.

Statement*Degraded Lands Developed under various Watershed Development Programmes, since inception upto March, 2005**(Area in Lakh ha. and Expenditure in Rs. Crore)*

Sl.No.	Ministry/Scheme and year of start	Area treated and Expenditure since inception upto IX Plan		Area treated and Expenditure in first 3 years of X Plan (2002-05)		Total area treated and Expenditure since inception upto March, 2005	
		Area	Expdr.	Area	Expdr.	Area	Expdr.
(A) Ministry of Agriculture, Department of Agriculture & Cooperation							
1.	NWDPRA (1990-91)	69.79	1877.74	9.55	519.82	79.34	2397.56
2.	RVP & FPR (1962 & 81)	54.88	1516.26	5.99	377.91	60.87	1894.17
3.	WDPSCA (1974-75)	2.58	166.27	0.60	60.16	3.18	226.43
4.	RAS (1985-86)	5.81	76.39	0.78	20.25	6.59	96.64
5.	EAPs	15.00	2071.01	8.63	2685.25	23.63	4756.26
Sub Total		148.06	5707.67	25.55	3663.39	173.61	9371.06
(B) Ministry of Rural Development							
1.	DPAP (1973-74)	13.79	897.67	12.50	844.39	26.29	1742.06
2.	DDP (1977-78)	6.70	686.02	8.00	614.99	14.70	1301.01
3.	IWDP (1988-89)	37.36	461.26	24.60	848.94	61.96	1310.20
Sub Total		57.85	2044.45	45.10	2308.92	102.95	4353.37
(C) Ministry of Environment & Forests							
1.	NAEP (1989-90)	4.76	383.82	4.01	469.07	8.77	852.89
Total (A+B+C)		210.67	8135.94	74.66	6441.38	285.33	14577.32

Details of abbreviations:

NWDPRA	—	National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas
RVP & FPR	—	River Valley Project & Flood Prone River
WDPSCA	—	Watershed Development Project for Shifting Cultivation Areas
RAS	—	Reclamation of Alkali Soil
EAP	—	Externally Aided Projects
DPAP	—	Drought Prone Area Programme
IWDP	—	Integrated Wasteland Development Project
NAEP	—	National Afforestation and Eco-Development Projects.

Schedule-M and Drug Industry

626. SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Schedule-M all along controls the drug producing system;

(b) if so, whether 250 drug-producers of West Bengal are going to lose their eligibility for submitting Government tender in the ensuing November period due to the Central laws on this system;

(c) if so, whether this miserable situation cropped up due to change in Schedule-M Laws which required for the drug producers sufficient lands separately for various divisions;

(d) if so, whether the Government proposes to discuss with the State for the sustenance of the small and medium drug industries to amend the system; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) Yes Sir, Schedule-M to the Drugs & Cosmetics Rules prescribes the requirements of Good Manufacturing Practices which are to be followed by all drug manufacturing units in the country. These provisions are enforced by the State Drug Control Authorities.

(b) Drugs Control Administration, West Bengal has informed that it is not a fact that 250 drug producers of West Bengal are going to lose their eligibility for submitting Government tender in the ensuing November period.

(c) to (e) In view of (b) above, do not arise.

Research in Pharmaceutical Industry

627. SHRI M. SREENIVASULU REDDY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether medical researchers have to follow stringent animal experimentation regulation regime for conducting research in pharmaceutical industry in India;

(b) if so, whether the government has any proposal for relaxation of norms for granting clearances for animal experimentation to facilitate pharmaceutical research; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) The experimentation on animals is regulated by Breeding of and Experiments of Animals (Control and Supervision) Rules, 1998 as amended in 2001, made under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960. Every establishment carrying out animal experimentation has, therefore, to follow the norms as specified in these Rules. These norms are in no way stringent but are quite appropriate and have helped research institutes improve their animal houses facility.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Grant of Retention Price and Subsidy to Producers of Nitrogenous Fertilizers

628. SHRI KAMLA PRASAD RAWAT: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the criteria laid down for the retention price and subsidy per tonne granted to the producers of different varieties of nitrogenous fertilizers as on date, unit-wise;

(b) the procedure followed while granting per tonne amount, as a part of the retention price towards various heads; and

(c) the details of capital related costs granted to each of the units per tonne on production as part of the retention price?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) to (c) At present, only urea amongst the nitrogenous fertilizers is under statutory price and partial distribution and movement control and is eligible for subsidy/concession. The retention price under Retention Price Scheme stands abolished w.e.f. 1.4.2003. A group based New Pricing Scheme (NPS) for urea units has been introduced w.e.f. 1.4.2003 and a concession rate derived on the basis of averaging of retention prices as on 31.3.2003 of urea units belonging to particular groups is being paid per tonne of urea to the urea manufacturing units. The concession rate payable is a composite figure and as such there is no break up towards various heads. The concession rate payable is adjusted on account of

escalation/de-escalation in the price of feedstock, fuel, purchased power and water. The difference between the concession rate and the statutorily notified maximum retail

price of urea is paid as subsidy to urea manufacturing units. The latest rates of concession unit-wise are given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

Latest Provisional Concession Rates

Sl.No.	Name of the unit	Concession Rate (Rs./MT)	Sales Tax (Rs./MT)	Total (Rs./MT)
1	2	3	4	5
Feed-Stock: Gas (Pre-1992)				
1.	BVFC-Namrup-III	5048	225	5273
2.	IFFCO-Aonla-I	5265	149	5414
3.	INDOGULF-Jagdishpur	6768	179	6947
4.	KRIBHCO-Hazira	4963	292	5255
5.	NFL-Vijaipur-I	5504	175	5679
Feed-Stock: Gas (Post-1992)				
6.	NFCL-Kakinada-I	6395	323	6718
7.	CFCL-Gadepan-I	7843	165	8008
8.	TCL-Babraia	7947	182	1829
9.	OCFL-Shahjahanpur	7711	172	7883
10.	NFCL-Kakinada-II	9674	370	10044
11.	IFFCO-Aonla-II	5814	142	5956
12.	NFL-Vijaipur-II	7915	206	8121
Feedstock: Naphtha (Pre-1992)				
13.	IFFCO-Phulpur-I	14422	346	14768
14.	MCFL-Mangalore	15284	586	15870
15.	MFL-Madras	17499	465	17964
16.	SFC-Kota	14264	384	14648
17.	SPIC-Tuticorin	15778	325	16103
18.	ZIL-Goa	15679	1772	17451

1	2	3	4	5
Feedstock: Naphtha (post-1992)				
19.	IFFCO Phulpur-II	14652	336	14988
20.	CFCL Gadepan-II	14717	427	15144
Feed-Stock: FO/LSHS				
21.	GNFC-Bharuch	8204	608	8812
22.	NFL-Nangal	12848	281	13129
23.	NFL-Bhatinda	11966	283	12249
24.	NFL-Panipat	11981	300	12281
Feedstock: Mixed				
25.	GSFC-Vadodara	7186	459	7645
26.	IFFCO-Kalol	7865	675	8540
27.	RCF-Thal	9579	280	9859

Floods in Bhima and Krishna Rivers

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

(a) whether the Government of Karnataka has represented to the Union Government about the indiscriminate release of water by Maharashtra from its reservoirs without notice, causing floods in the villages on the banks of the Krishna and the Bhima rivers;

(b) if so, the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard;

(c) whether the Union Government has taken up the matter with the Government of Maharashtra; and

(d) if so, the outcome of the talks held and to what extent the Government has prevailed on the Government of Maharashtra not to release water from its reservoirs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Ministry of Water Resources arranged an inter-State meeting of Karnataka and Maharashtra on 22nd August, 2005 to discuss the flood situation in Krishna. It was decided in the meeting that both the State Government would exchange relevant data and studies carried out, Central Water Commission would convene a meeting of technical officers of both the States to review the studies and would chalk out a work plan to complete the studies in the shortest possible time.

Plans for Growth of IISCO

630. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Steel Authority of India (SAIL) has finalized plans for further growth of Indian Iron and Steel Company;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether SAIL is to invest fund in upgrading various facilities in IISCO as well as its collieries and mines; and

(d) if so, the details of action taken/proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) to (d) For the growth, development and modernization of Indian Iron and Steel Company (IISCO), a Corporate Plan for IISCO envisaging an investment of Rs. 8,017 crore has been approved. The plan envisages growth in crude steel production from a level of 0.35 Million Tonne (MT) in 2004-05 to a level of 2.0 MT in 2011-12. The plan also envisages development of Chiria Mines and appropriate investments in other mines & collieries.

IISCO has already initiated action for implementation of the Corporate Plan.

CBI Report on Sariska

631. SHRI RANEN BARMAN:
SHRI JOACHIM BAXLA:

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

(a) whether there are no tigers left in Sariska as reported to have been told by Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI);

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

(c) the action the Government has taken or proposes to take against those who are found responsible for this;

(d) whether any action plan has been made to revive Sariska as it is famous for tigers all over the world; and

(e) 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 Special Investigation Team of 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.

(c) The CBI has been directed to investigate the disappearance of tigers from Sariska through a Special

Investigation Team (SIT). The gamut of investigation covers the possible role of criminals (poachers) and the possible connivance of Forest Department staff.

(d) and (e) The State Government has been asked to formulate a detailed action plan for Sariska Tiger Reserve in consultation with the Wildlife Institute of India for recovery initiatives.

[Translation]

Forest Development in Orissa

632. SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Orissa has submitted any project for the development of forests in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government has accorded approval to the said project;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (e) No specific proposal for the development of forest in the State has been received. However, some projects have been received under various schemes of forests & wildlife sector. The details are as follows:

- Annual Work Programme for 2005-06 under Integrated Forests Protection Scheme for an amount of Rs. 248.50 lakh is under process.
- Annual Plan of operation under development of National Park and Sanctuaries for 17 Protected areas during the current financial year 2005-06. All the proposals have been processed. An amount of Rs. 182.80 lakhs has been released as 1st Installment to the State Government. Total approved amount for the year 2004-05 is Rs. 397.217 lakhs.
- Under externally aided projects, following 2 project proposals have been received on which

further clarification has been sought from the State Government.

- (i) Promotion of Ecotourism and Sustainable use of Natural Resources in Chandaka Wildlife Sanctuary, Orissa, India for obtaining grants under Indo German Bilateral Development Cooperation.
- (ii) Proposal for strengthening Land Administration in Orissa for grant from the Department for International Development (DFID), U.K.
 - State Forest Department of Orissa has submitted 40 proposals till date during the current plan period under National Afforestation Programme, to be implemented through Forest Department Agencies. Out of 40 proposals received, 34 proposals have been sanctioned and 6 are under consideration.
 - Project on Bamboo development received from the State has been forwarded for consideration to National Bamboo Mission Programme of Ministry of Agriculture.

Organic Manure

633. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the efforts being made to increase the use of organic manure;
- (b) whether the Government proposes to give subsidy on organic manure;
- (c) if so, the time by which it is likely to be implemented; and
- (d) 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) The following efforts are being made to increase the use of organic manures:

- (i) The Government is promoting Integrated Nutrient Management which includes soil test based judicious use of chemical fertilizers in conjunction with organic manure and bio-fertilizers.

- (ii) Financial assistance for setting up of mechanized compost plants for conversion of bio-degradable city waste into compost is being provided under the scheme "Balanced & Integrated use of Fertilizers", now subsumed under the Macro-Management of Agriculture Scheme.

- (iii) The Government provided financial assistance for setting up of bio-fertilizer units under "National Project on Development and Use of Bio-fertilizers" during IX Plan, where Rs. 20.00 lakhs per unit were provided.

(b) to (d) The Government has taken up a new scheme "National Project on Organic Farming" from October, 2004, under this scheme subsidy for setting up of organic input production units @ 25% of the project cost up to a maximum of Rs. 40.00 lakh for fruit and vegetable waste compost units, Rs. 20.00 provided as credit linked back ended subsidy through National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) and National Co-operative Development Corporation (NCDC).

Rehabilitation of Forest Based SCs/STs

634. SHRI CHANDRA MANI TRIPATHI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the proposals of rehabilitation of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes on forest land in Madhya Pradesh are pending with the Union Government;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the details of the action taken by the Government thereon; and
- (d) the time by which rehabilitation work is likely to be completed?

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

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

[English]

Food Processing Industries

635. SHRI HITEN BARMAN: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Food Processing Industries in the country including in West Bengal, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government has sanctioned any new projects in the year 2004-05;

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

(d) the number of projects applications received/sanctioned/rejected and pending during the last three years and thereafter, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) to (d) Government does not set up

FPI projects on its own. However, Government has implemented a scheme to provide financial assistance for technology upgradation/modernization/expansion/establishment of food processing industries. Under the scheme financial assistance @ 25% of the project cost general areas and @ 33.33% in difficult areas subject to a maximum of Rs. 50 lakh and Rs. 75 lakh respectively is provided for modernization/establishment of food processing industries. A statement showing number of project applications received, sanctioned etc. so far is enclosed. As food processing industries are both in the organized and unorganized sectors, information about total number food processing industries in the country Statewise is not centrally maintained in the Ministry.

Statement

Details of Project Proposals Received, Approved, Pending etc. under the Scheme for Technology Upgradation/Establishment of FPIs

State	Total Received	Approved	Pending	Closed	Rejected
1	2	3	4	5	6
Andhra Pradesh	391	52	111	181	47
Andaman Nicobar	1	0	0	0	1
Arunachal Pradesh	5	1	0	4	0
Assam	64	20	21	18	5
Bihar	17	4	5	4	4
Chhattisgarh	15	1	7	4	3
Delhi	16	1	4	6	5
Goa	11	5	2	2	2
Gujarat	103	27	35	30	11
Haryana	81	15	25	29	12
Himachal Pradesh	35	15	9	7	4
Jammu and Kashmir	55	14	17	21	3
Jharkhand	7	2	3	1	1
Karnataka	184	39	64	64	17
Kerala	92	20	30	28	14
LM & A Islands	2	0	0	0	2

1	2	3	4	5	6
Madhya Pradesh	72	17	25	19	11
Maharashtra	411	89	161	123	38
Manipur	80	24	4	35	17
Meghalaya	17	4	5	5	3
Mizoram	11	2	0	4	5
Nagaland	64	2	3	9	50
Not Mentioned	6	0	6	0	0
Orissa	62	10	11	27	14
Pondicherry	8	3	2	2	1
Punjab	183	51	29	86	17
Rajasthan	104	9	48	27	20
Sikkim	1	0	0	1	0
Tamilnadu	187	44	54	65	24
Tripura	17	4	1	8	4
Uttar Pradesh	189	62	51	54	22
Uttaranchal	28	8	13	6	1
West Bengal	131	34	46	39	12
Total	2650	579	792	909	370

Condition of Birds/Animals in Zoo

636. SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a huge number of animals and birds in most of the Zoos are kept in small enclosures causing great discomfort to them;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the remedial steps in this regard;

(c) whether any training is being given to the personnel of Zoos for the proper upkeep of the animals and birds; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to protect

the animals and birds and to make their surroundings environment friendly?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) No, Sir. The animals and birds in the Zoos recognized by the Central Zoo Authority (CZA) are kept in accordance with the guidelines laid down for the purpose.

(b) Does not arise

(c) The CZA organizes regular training programmes for zoo personnel. 10 days duration course is conducted every alternate year for 300 Directors and Supervisors. 20 days duration training programme is organized for zoo keepers in their regional language at selected Indian Zoos.

In addition, zoo officers are also nominated for training abroad in zoo management.

(d) The CZA has prescribed standard and guidelines for proper upkeep of animals and birds in the zoos. The zoos are evaluated periodically for compliance of these standard and guidelines. Strict action is taken against the zoos which fail to comply leading even to derecognition.

Financial assistance to needy zoos are also provided by the CZA for upgradation of the animals housing and health care facilities and improving the overall environment of the zoos.

Report by IWMI on Ground Water

637. SHRI RAGHUVeer SINGH KOSHAL:
SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has studied the report of International Water Management Institute (IWMT) on depletion of ground water;

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

(c) the steps the Government proposes to take to improve ground water level based on the recommendations of the IWMI?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) and (b) 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:-**
The 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.

(c) "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 sports 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 Board 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 2000 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 to Ground Water" in 27 States/UTs in the country.

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

- (i) Ministry of Rural Development (Department of Land Resources) is 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.

Committee on Agricultural Development and Policy

638. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:
SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:
SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:
SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD:
SHRI RAM SINGH KASWAN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a coordination committee has been constituted to focus on agricultural development and policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has identified the key areas that require fresh policy initiative; 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 (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. An Agriculture Coordination Committee has been recently constituted under the Chairmanship of the Prime Minister, to evolve a systematic approach to policy formulation on issues pertaining to agriculture and to promote inter-sectoral and inter-departmental coordination in planning and implementation. the composition of the Committee is as follows:

1. Prime Minister — Chairman
2. Minister for Agriculture and Food & Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs
3. Minister of Chemicals and Fertilizers
4. Minister of Finance
5. Minister of Commerce & Industry
6. Minister for Water Resources
7. Minister of Rural Development
8. Minister of State for Food Processing
9. Minister of State for Science & Technology
10. Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission
11. Chairman, Economic Advisory Council

12. Chairman, National Commission on Farmers

13. Member (Agriculture), Planning Commission

14. Principal Secretary to PM — Convenor

Secretaries of the Ministries/Departments concerned would be permanent invitees. The Chairman could invite any Minister/officer depending upon the context.

(c) and (d) The Committee is engaged in the task of identification of key areas requiring fresh policy initiatives, particularly those of an inter-sectoral nature.

International Project on Agriculture

639. SHRI NARAYAN CHANDRA BORKATAKY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the International projects on Agriculture presently underway in the country particularly Assam as on date, State-wise;

(b) whether the elected public representatives are involved in the said projects;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) the details of Kisan Vigyan Kendras functioning in Assam, district-wise;

(e) whether the Government has considered to involvement of Non-Governmental Organisations in the establishment of such centres; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

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

Tourism Projects in Assam

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

(a) whether a number of tourism projects pertaining to Barak Valley districts in Assam have been under consideration;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which the projects are likely to be given approval; and

(d) the Central aid sought and given to the State Government?

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

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

(d) Ministry of Tourism, Government of India has sanctioned Rs. 20.77 crore as Central Financial Assistance to the Government of Assam under various development schemes during the current financial year 2005-06 upto October 2005.

Aid to Andhra Pradesh for Irrigation Projects

641. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has requested the Union Government for aid to take up Pranahita-Chevella, Itchampalli and Dummugudem, Nagarjunsagar tail pond link projects as national projects;

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

(c) the extent to which it is likely to be helpful for the State to meet its irrigation demand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh in his letter dated 21.8.2005 addressed to Hon'ble Prime Minister has requested that three projects namely (i) Pranahita-Chevella Project, (ii) Inchampalli, and (iii) Dummugudem to Nagarjuna Sagar Tail Race Pond Link Project may be considered by Government of India as National Projects and that the State Government may be assisted by providing Rs. 25,000 crore as a special package to development backward areas of the State.

(b) and (c) At present the Government of India has not adopted the concept of "National Project".

[*Translation*]

Incomplete Irrigation Projects

642. SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL:
SHRI V.K. THUMMAR:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of works pertaining to irrigation are lying incomplete in Gujarat due to non-availability of requisite financial assistance;

(b) if so, the details of pending irrigation projects alongwith escalation cost thereof;

(c) whether any special financial assistance is being provided to the Gujarat for completion of these projects on priority basis; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) and (b) Irrigation being a State subject the irrigation projects are planned formulated, executed and funded by the State Governments out of their own resources and as per their priorities. Central Government is providing Central Loan Assistance (CLA) under the Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) for such approved major/Medium irrigation projects since 1996-97 which are in an advanced stage of completion and beyond the resources capability of the State Governments. There are 3 major and 18 medium incomplete irrigation projects in the State of Gujarat in the Tenth Five Year Plan which have spilled over from previous Plans. The details of these projects are given in the enclosed Statement-I.

(c) and (d) CLA/Grant of Rs. 4314.922 crore has been provided to the Government of Gujarat for the ongoing irrigation projects under AIBP from 1996-97 to October, 2005 as per the details given in the enclosed statement-II.

*Statement I**Ongoing Irrigation projects of Gujarat of Tenth Five Year Plan*

(Rs. crore/pot. Th. ha.)

Sl.No.	Name of Project	Latest Estimated Cost	Expdr. Upto IX Plan	Likely Exp. Upto 3/2004	Ultimate Potential	Potential Created Upto IX Plan	Likely Pot. Created Upto Mar. 2004
Major Projects							
1.	Sardar Sarovar (IS)	30823.00	12863.76	16659.28	1792.00	130.75	251.11
2.	Zankhari	90.00	5.07	5.07	17.54	0.00	0.00
3.	Sidumber	205.35	0.26	0.36	17.41	0.00	0.00
Total		31118.35	12669.09	1664.71	1826.95	130.75	251.11
Medium Projects							
1.	Mukteshwar	46	40.97	44.1	4.79	3.3	5.69
2.	Und-II	64	59.07	62.32	5.31	0.8	1.95
3.	Goma	47.59	12.66	12.87	4.89	0	0
4.	Kollyari	26	15.6	19.38	1.91	0.15	0.15
5.	Ozat II	86.2	68.73	74.19	9.4	3	3.2
6.	Vartu II	57.15	52.45	56.06	6.17	4.5	5.3
7.	Limbdi Bhogavo II	41.41	34.58	36.81	4.51	0.5	0.5
8.	Aji IV	111.77	81.34	91.25	3.75	0.93	0.93
9.	Bakrol	23.86	4.97	4.97	4.5	0	0
10.	Bhadar II	119.3	67.62	78.69	8.57	0.5	0.5
11.	Demi III	36	31.13	38.37	2.6	0.15	0.15
12.	Gunda (Utavali)	37	29.03	31.13	1.94	0	0
13.	Men	8.72	0.59	0.59	6.48	0	0
14.	Singar	20	3.17	5.55	2.2	0	0
15.	Varansi	19.6	9.6	12.75	1.81	0	0
16.	Kuntali	43.99	5.09	5.18	3.16	0	0
17.	Brahmani II	41.5	4.53	5.74	2.06	0	0
18.	Chinchai LIS	13.35	7.65	11	7	0	0
Total		843.44	528.78	590.95	81.05	13.83	18.37

IS—Inter-State

Statement II

Central Loan Assistance (CLA) Grant released under AIBP to Government of Gujarat during 1996-1997 to 2005-2006

		(Rs. Crore)
Sl.No.	Name of Project	Total CLA/Grant
1.	Sardar Sarovar	3865.250
2.	Jhuj (C)	4.740
3.	Sipu (C)	6.455
4.	Mukteshwar	10.863
5.	Hamav-II (C)	0.065
6.	Umaria (C)	0.135
7.	Damanganga (C)	9.470
8.	Karjan (C)	7.600
9.	Sukhi (C)	5.650
10.	Deo (C)	0.500
11.	Watrak Kadana RB Canal (C)	3.110
12.	Aji-IV	11.108
13.	Ozat-II	12.110
14.	Brahamini-II	4.000
15.	Bhadar-II	0.866
	Sub-Total 1	3941.922
CLA Released under Fast Track Programme (FTP)		
	Sardar Sarovar Project (VI) (FTP-I)	188.000
	Sardar Sarovar Project (VI) (FTP-II)	185.000
	Sub-Total 2	373.000
	Total	4314.922

C—Completed

[English]

Fruit and Vegetable Cultivation Affected due to Heavy Rains

643. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether heavy rains have affected different fruit and vegetable cultivation in the country particularly in Maharashtra, Himachal Pradesh, Gujarat and Goa this year;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith production figures of different main varieties of fruit and vegetable during the last three years and expected during 2005, State-wise;

(c) the details of exports of different fruits and vegetables are likely to increase or decrease this year; compared to that during the last three years; and

(d) the assistance provided to the affected farmers, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Heavy rains have affected different fruit and vegetable cultivation in the States of Maharashtra, Gujarat and Goa this year. No loss of crops is reported from the State of Himachal Pradesh.

In Maharashtra 5,698 hectare under fruits and 25,288 hectare under vegetables is affected. In Gujarat an area of 4453 hectare and 18466 hectare under fruit and vegetable crops respectively is affected by rainfall.

In Goa, an area of 97.22 hectare under fruit crops is affected by heavy rainfall. However, no loss of vegetable crops is reported from the State.

The details of production during last three years are given in the enclosed Statement-I.

(c) The exports of fruits and vegetables have suffered a decline of 11 per cent in the year 2004-05 in comparison to 2003-04. The detail of exports of different fruits and vegetables is given in the enclosed Statement-II.

(d) The Government of Maharashtra has provided Rs. 307.50 crores for horticultural and agronomical crops. Government of Gujarat has provided an assistance of Rs. 400.00 lakh from the State fund and Rs. 89.00 lakh under the National Calamity Relief Fund. The Government of Goa has provided financial assistance of Rs. 5000 per hectare to the farmers in the effected area.

Statement I**Fruit and Vegetable Production in Gujarat***

Crops	Production in MTs		
	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04
Fruits			
Mango	2400	2400	2400
Chikoo	1136	1136	1136
Citrus	18733	18733	18733
Ber	8070	8070	8070
Banana	9720	9720	9720
Guava	9785	9785	9785
Pomegranate	4632	4632	4632
Date Palm	100	100	100
Papaya	20520	20520	20520
Custard apple	196	196	196
Aonla	2030	2030	2030
Vegetables			
Potato	45700	45700	45700
Onion	3900	3900	3900
Brinjal	33150	33150	33150
Cabbage	13050	13050	13050
Okra	11040	11040	11040
Tomato	28070	28070	28070
Cauliflower	11250	11250	11250
Beans	7600	7600	7600

Source: State Horticulture Department

*Data for 2004-05 and projection for 2005-06 not received from State Horticulture Department.

Fruit and Vegetable Production in Maharashtra*

Production in M.T.

Crops	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04
Fruits			
Banana	3607590	4468635	4534628
Chikoo	20537	23181	2443
Guava	203004	207296	212305
Grape	988722	1163051	1233863
Mango	615910	429841	434320
Pomegranate	509480	532977	568241
Lime	122094	129756	132662
Orange	881478	700478	718358
Mosambi	554115	563692	587023
Vegetables			
Brinjal	499424	498269	473720
Beans	137772	148528	139237
Cabbage	336375	343731	348894
Cauliflower	296000	302089	283969
Okra	161454	169199	160506
Onion	1427088	1434525	1422252
Peas	23680	25268	22378
Potato	161450	172978	163251
Tomato	843555	892034	884016

Source: State Horticulture Department

*Projection for 2005-06 not received from State Horticulture Department.

Horticultural Production in Himachal Pradesh

Crops	Production in MT			
	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06 (Projected)
Apple	348263	448742	527601	538193
Other temperate fruits	63026	52733	60202	47656
Nuts	3256	1835	3726	2675
Citrus fruits	16027	46424	28554	28931
Other subtropical fruits	29051	39890	71926	58672
Total	459623	589624	692009	676127

Source: State Horticulture Department.

Area and Production of Fruit and Vegetables in Goa

Crops	Production in M.T.			
	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06 (Projected)
Mango	17532	17800	18700	19200
Banana	15743	16900	19755	16000
Pineapple	4500	4500	4520	5000
Other fruits	35000	35100	38600	40000
Vegetables	70467	72322	74725	84000

Source: State Horticulture Department.

*Statement II**Export of Horticultural Produce from India*

Products	Qty. Metric Tonnes Value Rs. crore							
	2001-02		2002-03		2003-04		2004-05	
	Qty	Value	Qty	Value	Qty	Value	Qty	Value
Onions	441850	332.43	588712	361.80	859939	715.87	833210	621.09
Fresh Vegetables	170090	249.88	183020	287.64	188321	252.28	181957	224.39
Walnuts	7412	117.98	7631	121.23	6418	101.43	56.74	92.83
Mangoes	44429	80.99	38003	84.19	60551	110.52	52382	86.95
Grapes	14606	60.21	25681	110.15	26748	105.89	35936	110.67
Other Fruits	110521	146.12	90608	121.74	149294	171.272	131541	164.00
Total	788908	987.61	933655	108875	1291307	1457.26	1240700	1299.93

Source: APEDA

Production of Fisheries in Orissa

644. SHRI JUAL ORAM: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the potential to promote fisheries in Orissa;

(b) if so, the steps taken to promote fisheries in the State during the Tenth Five Year Plan; and

(c) the amount spent on various schemes and achievement made under the schemes in increasing fish production in the plan period?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) During the Tenth Five Year Plan, macro schemes on "Development of Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture" and "Development of Marine Fisheries, Infrastructure and Post Harvest Operations" encompassing various activities are in place for the development of fisheries sector in the country including state of Orissa. Under these schemes, the central assistance is extended on receipt of proposals from the state governments on needs basis. The Central assistance of Rs. 435.21 lakh and Rs. 522.18 lakh has been extended to the state of Orissa during the first three years (2002-05) of the Tenth Plan for development of inland and marine fisheries respectively. The overall fish production in the State is around 3.10 lakh tones in 2004-05 compared to 2.82 lakh tones in 2001-02, terminal year of the 9th Plan.

Pension under EPS, 1995

645. SHRI SWADESH CHAKRABORTTY: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the pension under Employees Pension Scheme (EPS), 1995 is mandatory for all the employees of CPSUs after the judgement passed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court on November 11, 2003;

(b) if so, the number of employees in Howrah works of BSCL who are yet to get pension under EPS, 1995;

(c) whether the Employees Provident Funds (EPF) office at Howrah is compelling the employees of

M/s Hindustan Motors to withdraw EPF in violation of EPF and Miscellaneous Provisions (MP) Act 1952;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the widows of deceased employees are also not getting pension under the EPS, 1995;

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

(g) the action taken/proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRA SHEKHAR RAO): (a) Yes, Sir. The Employees' Pension Scheme, 1995 is applicable to all the employees of establishments including CPSUs to which the Employees' Provident Fund and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952 applies and who were the members of the Employees' Family Pension Scheme, 1971 as on 15.11.1995 or who joined the establishment and became members of the Fund on or after 16.11.1995.

(b) Due to stay granted by the Court, M/s. Howrah Works of BSCL, (WB/216) did not comply under the EPS, 1995 till the matter reached finality following the judgement of the Supreme Court on 11.11.2003. Pension claims are settled in accordance with the scheme provisions on receipt thereof. So far, 72 cases of pension have already been settled.

(c) to (g) No employee of M/s. Hindustan Motors Ltd. is being denied benefit under EPS, 1995 by Sub-Regional Office, Howrah as on date. So far, a total of 201 pension cases have been settled in respect of M/s. Hindustan Motoros, which include 47 widow pension cases. However, the employees who have left their services prior to the Supreme Court Order dated 11.11.2003 and withdrawn their EPF accumulations are entitled to pensionary benefits only after remittance of contributions under EPS, 1995 with effect from 16.11.1995 along with appropriate interest.

[Translation]

Land under Irrigation

646. SHRI MAHAVIR BHAGORA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the area of cultivable land in hectares in the Scheduled Tribe areas like Kotda, Jhadol, Gogunda, Kherwada, Salumber, Sarada, Aaspur, Dhariyavad, Saggada and Pratapgarh of Southern Rajasthan; and

(b) the schemes of the Government for enhancing irrigation facilities in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) and (b) The information for answering the question is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

[*English*]

Rural Backyard Poultry Development

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to start a new scheme *viz.* Rural Backyard Poultry Development;

(b) if so, salient features of the scheme;

(c) the time by which the scheme is likely to be implemented; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to strengthen the contribution of the unorganized sector by promoting backyard poultry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) to (c) A component "Rural Backyard Poultry Development" forms part of a macro scheme "National Project for improvement of Poultry and Small Animals" presently under consideration with the Government. The scheme is proposed to be implemented during the current five year plan.

(d) The Central Poultry Development organisations and the State Poultry Farms support development of backward poultry by providing low-input technology stocks etc.

Expansion of Steel Plants

648. SHRI PARSURAM MAJHI: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has a proposal for the expansion of some steel plants in the country during the remaining part of Tenth plan and the Forthcoming Eleventh Plan;

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

(c) the funds earmarked therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) to (c) Since the steel sector has been delicensed and deregulated, individual steel plants in the private sector are free to take investment decisions for expansion etc. In the public sector, Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL), a Navratna PSU under the administrative control of Ministry of Steel is competent to take its own investment decisions. It has prepared a Corporate Plan (including IISCO) with a perspective upto 2012, which envisages an expenditure of Rs. 35,000 crores. By this, SAIL plans to achieve a growth in production to about 22.5 million tonnes of Hot Metal with commensurate enhancement in production of Crude and Saleable steel. The financing of investment would primarily come from SAIL's internal resources.

Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (RINL), another public sector steel plant has drawn up an expansion proposal to increase the liquid steel capacity from 3 million tonnes to 6.3 million tonnes with an investment of Rs. 8,692 crores by 2008-09, which would be financed from internal resources of RINL. Recently the Government has accorded its approval for this proposal.

Awareness Programme on Water Conservation

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

(a) whether the Central Ground Water Board organize the Mass Awareness Programme to create awareness on various aspects of Ground Water Investigation, exploration, development and management; and

(b) if so, the details of such programmes organized in the States during the last three years, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) Yes,

Sir. The Central Ground Water Board (CGWB), a subordinate office of the Ministry of Water Resources, organizes Mass Awareness Programmes throughout the country to create awareness on various aspects relating to ground water such as prevailing ground water situation in an area and management, needs including

conservation, rain water harvesting and artificial recharge to ground water.

(b) The State-wise details of Mass awareness Programmes organized by the CGWB during the last three years are given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

State-wise Details of Mass Awareness Programmes Organized by the CGWB during the Last Three Years

Sl.No.	State/UTs	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2	3	3
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1	—	1
3.	Assam	1	1	1
4.	Bihar	1	1	3
5.	Chandigarh	—	—	2
6.	Chhattisgarh	2	3	3
7.	Delhi	2	3	3
8.	Gujarat	1	3	3
9.	Haryana	1	2	1
10.	Himachal Pradesh	1	3	2
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	1	—	3
12.	Jharkhand	1	2	—
13.	Karnataka	2	3	3
14.	Kerala	2	3	3
15.	Madhya Pradesh	2	3	3
16.	Maharashtra	2	3	3
17.	Meghalaya	—	1	1
18.	Orissa	2	3	3
19.	Pondicherry	—	1	—
20.	Punjab	1	1	—
21.	Rajasthan	2	3	2

1	2	3	4	5
22.	Tamil Nadu	2	2	3
23.	Tripura	—	1	—
24.	Uttar Pradesh	1	2	1
25.	Uttaranchal	1	2	2
26.	West Bengal	2	3	3
Grand Total		33	52	52

Adulteration in Fertilizers

650. SHRI SUBRATA BOSE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received complaints regarding adulteration in fertilizers, insecticides and chemicals due to which production is declining every year;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to prevent this malpractice?

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 cases of large scale adulteration of fertilizers, insecticides & chemicals have been reported to the Ministry. By and large good quality of fertilizers & insecticides are being sold in the country. Any decline in crop yield cannot be attributed to the non-availability of good quality fertilizers and insecticides, natural factors like untimely rains, fastwinds, floods/droughts, etc. play their role in reducing crop yield.

Fertiliser (Control) Order, 1985 ensures that fertilizer which meet the standards of quality laid down in the Order, are sold to the farmers. Similarly, the quality and sale of pesticides and insecticides are regulated under the provisions of Insecticides Act, 1968. The State/UTs Governments are the enforcement agencies and are adequately empowered to take appropriate action under the provisions of the Fertilizer (Control) Order, 1985/ Essential Commodities Act, 1955/Insecticides Act, 1966. To ensure that the farmers get the standard quality of inputs, States have been advised to regularly check the quality of fertilizers & insecticides. The samples of

fertilizers and insecticides are drawn by the notified inspectors for analysis and report. Training programmes for insecticides and Fertilizer Analysts and Inspector to upgrade their knowledge and functional skills in the analysis and enforcement of various provisions of Insecticides Act and Fertilizer (Control) Order, are organized, which are followed by periodical review during Zonal Conferences.

Approval under Forests Act, 1980

651. SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of proposals received from the Government of Gujarat and granted approval under Forests Act, 1980 during the last two years;

(b) the reasons for delay in granting approval to pending proposals; and

(c) the time by which all proposals received during the last two years would be approved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) 110 proposals received from Government of Gujarat have been granted in-principle approval timely under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 during the last two years.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) 13 proposals are under process. Such proposals are examined according to the procedure prescribed under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, Forest (Conservation) Rules, 2003, and the guidelines issued from time to time thereunder. The whole examination and the decision on the proposals is a continuous process, for which Central

Government has prescribed a time limit of 60 days for itself for processing and taking decision on the complete proposal, under the rules.

Import of Wheat

652. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the details regarding the total production, consumption and import of wheat in the country during the last three years, year-wise; and

(b) the rates at which the said wheat was imported 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) Total production, consumption as reflected by way of domestic offtake under different schemes and import of wheat in the country during the last three years are as under:—

Year	Production (in lakh tonnes)	Consumption (Domestic consumption) (in Lakh tonnes)	Import (In Metric tonnes)	Average rate of imported wheat (In Rs. per Metric tonnes)
2002-03	657.60	194.64	Nil	—
2003-04	721.10	170.74	457	5440
2004-05	720.00	173.94	222	5045

There was no import of wheat on Government account during the above period.

Acidic Effects on Mithi River

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

(a) whether river Mithi in Mumbai has been-declared acidic by the National Environment Research Institute (NERI);

(b) if so, the steps the Government proposes to take to clean the river;

(c) whether any proposal in this regard has been received from the Government of Maharashtra; and

(d) if so, the details and the current status thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) As per the information made available by the National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (NEERI), the Institute has not declared the Mithi River as acidic.

(b) The State Government of Maharashtra has constituted a Mithi River Development Authority under the chairmanship of the Chief Minister, Maharashtra. The Maharashtra Pollution Control Board (MPCB) has drawn an Action Plan for control of pollution in the Mithi river basin.

(c) and (d) The Maharashtra Pollution Control Board has conducted survey of industrial units along Mithi river and necessary legal actions have been initiated against the defaulting units.

Basmati Rice

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

(a) the names of States which are producing export quality Basmati rice alongwith the details of the total production of such Basmati rice in the country during the last three years, year-wise and every year, State-wise;

(b) whether any scheme has been formulated by Union Government to provide incentives to the States producing such Basmati rice;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the extent to which the production of Basmati rice is on increase in comparison to previous two years?

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) Basmati rice is grown in the Indo—Gangetic plains. This region encompasses the States of Punjab, Haryana, Uttaranchal, Western Uttar Pradesh (U.P.) and Jammu (J&K). The State-wise production of Basmati Rice in these States is given below:

(Production ('000 tonnes)

State	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05*
Haryana	728.00	1248.00	1002.00
Jammu & Kashmir	60.98	87.78	88.00
Punjab	240.00	384.00	382.50
Uttar Pradesh	462.00	645.21	640.00
Uttaranchal	12.88	3.49	5.61
All India	1503.86	2368.48	2118.11

*Provisional

(b) and (c) Central Government has been implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Integrated Cereals Development Programme in rice based cropping system areas (ICDP-Rice) to increase rice production in the country including Basmati rice. The scheme has been subsumed under Macro Management Mode of Agriculture with effect from October 2000.

(d) The production of Basmati rice during 2004-05 (21.18 lakh tonnes) increased by about 41 per cent over the year 2002-03 (15.04 lakh tonnes). However, the production of Basmati during 2004-05 was lower than 2003-04.

[*Translation*]

Varsha Bima Yojana

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

(a) the main features of the "Varsha Bima Yojana" being run by the Union Government;

(b) whether only the farmers of such areas can be benefited from this scheme which have the facilities to collect the rain related statistics;

(c) if so, the States where the farmers have been deprived of the benefits of this scheme because of the non-availability of rain related statistics;

(d) whether the Government proposes to take any steps so that all the farmers of those selected States may be benefited of the said scheme; 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) Main features of the Varsha Bima Yojana launched by the Agriculture Insurance Company of India Ltd. (AIC) are given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. AIC has implemented Varsha Bima Yojana in 2005 in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Tamil Nadu, Uttaranchal and Uttar Pradesh.

(d) and (e) In order to extend the coverage of Varsha Bima, concerned Ministry/Department has been requested to extend the net work of rain gauge stations of India Meteorological Department (IMD).

Statement

Main Features of Varsha Bima Yojana

- Varsha Bima is a mechanism for providing effective risk management aid to the farmers likely to be impacted by adverse rainfall incidence.
- Varsha Bima Guarantees a pay out of claims on a graded scale, upon the adverse incidence of rainfall.
- Claims arise when the actual rainfall incidence during the period of insurance falls short of the normal incidence.
- The India Meteorological Department (IMD) provides normal rainfall data and actual rainfall data.

- Varsha Bima provides various options of insurance coverage as per requirement of farmers.
- Varsha Bima is implemented by AIC for major crops.

[English]

Bank Guarantee by NAFED

656. SHRI VIRCHANDRA PASWAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 908, dated November 25, 2002 and state:

(a) the reasons for not holding responsible and accountable the members of the business committee in the National Agriculture Marketing Federation of India (NAFED) for taking decision causing loss to NAFED and is that the standard practice obtaining in other autonomous bodies;

(b) whether any action has been taken against "other responsible officer" in NAFED found negligent in the discharge of their duties;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether NAFED recovered the money from Delhi Federation; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the outcome of the case filed before the Central Registrar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) As per information furnished by NAFED, the Business Committee of NAFED is a policy making body which lays down the general policy about the overall business of NAFED and prescribes such terms and limits as it deems fit from time to time. It also reviews the progress made in the business. As such, no personal liability could be fixed on the members of the Committee.

(b) and (c) NAFED has taken action against the erring officers and dismissed the service of the then branch manager and assistant accounts officer of NAFED Delhi Branch.

(d) and (e) NAFED has filed a suit against Delhi Federation for recovery of Rs. 6.37 crore (Principle 5.96 crore and interest 0.41 crore) before the Central Registrar of Cooperative Societies.

Encroachment on Ridge Areas

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

(a) the details of ridge area under encroachments in various parts of Delhi;

(b) whether the Government has decided to remove all illegal encroachments there from; and

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the list of encroachers prepared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

VRS in FCI

658. SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the officers/employees of Food Corporation of India (FCI) in Western Uttar Pradesh who opted for voluntary retirement last year have been paid their full amount of retirement benefits including Central Provident Fund (CPF);

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the details of the officers/employees of Saharanpur district who opted for voluntary retirement alongwith the details of balance amount payable to them as on date; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government to make the balance payment immediately?

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) The payment of retirement benefits to the

officers/employees of FCI in Western Uttar Pradesh, who voluntarily retired under VRS-2004, have been made except in a few cases, where 10% of their Central Provident Fund (CPF) amount is yet to be released.

(b) The Central Provident Fund (CPF) Accounts of employees were earlier maintained centrally at Headquarters level. In order to release the CPF amount to the retired employees without any delay, the CPF

accounts have been decentralized in May, 2005. The accounts of employees are now maintained by the respective zones. In the cases of employees where records of final balance transfer, could not be transferred to the Zone concerned, the 10% amount of CPF has been withheld.

(c) The details are given as under:

Total No. of employees who took voluntary retirement under VRS-2004	No. of employees who have been paid 100% retirement benefits	No. of employees in whose case only 10% CPF amount is yet to be paid.
24	12	11+1 (In case of one employee the CPF payments are under process.

Further details are given in the enclosed Statement.

(d) Instructions have been issued to the FCI to expedite the balance payment to the retirees.

Statement

Details of Payment of Retirement Benefits of Officers/Employees of Saharanpur District who Voluntarily Retired under VRS-2004

Sl.No.	Name S/Shri	Designation	Payments released			
			VRS Compensation	Gratuity	Leave encashment	CPF
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Rati Ram	AG.II (M)	100% paid	100% paid	100% paid	100% paid
2.	Babu Lal	AG.I (A/cs)	100% paid	100% paid	100% paid	100% paid
3.	A.L. Vohra	AG.I (D)	100% paid	100% paid	100% paid	100% paid
4.	H.K. Jain	AG.III (D)	100% paid	100% paid	100% paid	100% paid
5.	Jagpal Singh	AG.II (D)	100% paid	100% paid	100% paid	100% paid
6.	Malkhan Singh	AG.II (D)	100% paid	100% paid	100% paid	100% paid
7.	R.P.S. Maurya	AG.III (D)	100% paid	100% paid	100% paid	100% paid

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8.	Sukhbir Singh	AG.III (D)	100% paid	100% paid	100% paid	100% paid
9.	Rajpal	AG.II (D)	100% paid	100% paid	100% paid	100% paid
10.	Jagpal Singh	AG.I (D)	100% paid	100% paid	100% paid	100% paid
11.	B.P. Gupta	Picker	100% paid	100% paid	100% paid	100% paid
12.	Karan Singh	Head Watchman	100% paid	100% paid	100% paid	100% paid
13.	Madan Lal	AG.II (D)	100% paid	100% paid	100% paid	10% yet to be paid
14.	Beer Sain Singh	AG.III (D)	100% paid	100% paid	100% paid	10% yet to be paid
15.	O.S. Tyagi	AG.I (D)	100% paid	100% paid	100% paid	10% yet to be paid
16.	Chhattar Singh	Dusting Operator	100% paid	100% paid	100% paid	10% yet to be paid
17.	Jai Narayan	Watchman	100% paid	100% paid	100% paid	10% yet to be paid
18.	Hardwari Lal	Dusting Operator	100% paid	100% paid	100% paid	10% yet to be paid
19.	Subhash Chand	Head Watchman	100% paid	100% paid	100% paid	10% yet to be paid
20.	Baburam	AM(QC)	100% paid	100% paid	100% paid	10% yet to be paid
21.	Jugesh Chand	AM(QC)	100% paid	100% paid	100% paid	10% yet to be paid
22.	Subhash Chand	AM(QC)	100% paid	100% paid	100% paid	10% yet to be paid
23.	Dharam Pal Singh	AM(QC)	100% paid	100% paid	100% paid	10% yet to be paid
24.	Shiv Charan	W/Man	100% paid	100% paid	100% paid	Payment under process

*[English]***Exploitation of Labour in Cashew Sector**

659. SHRI P. RAJENDRAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the exploitation of labour being practiced in the Cashew sector in Kerala by denying minimum wages to eligible workers;

(b) if so, the nature of action taken for effective implementation of the labour laws;

(c) whether the Government is also aware of the large scale evasion of ESI and EPF contributions by the private management in the cashew industry in Kerala; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the EPF and ESI authorities for the enforcement realization of arrears from these managements?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRA SHEKHAR RAO): (a) Government of Kerala, which is the appropriate Government for fixing and implementing minimum wages for workers engaged in Cashew Sector in Kerala, has informed that the workers in the majority of the Cashew Sector are getting minimum wages prescribed by the State Government. Wherever the workers are not getting minimum wages, such instances are brought to the notice of employers and remedial steps taken.

(b) Special squads have been constituted by the State Government for effective implementation of minimum wages and other labour legislations in the cashew industry. In case of non-payment of minimum wages, the Inspectors file claim petitions against the delinquent employers before the authority under the Act and prosecution cases are filed in case of non-rectification of detects in appropriate time.

(c) and (d) Information has been received alleging evasion of ESI and EPF contributions in respect of a few private cashew establishments in the State. EPF Organisation and ESI Corporation have Inspection Machinery/Special Drive Squad to conduct inspection of all covered/coverable factories periodically and to register workers under the respective Acts and to realize contribution. In case of violations, legal action has been

initiated. Apart from this, EPF and ESI Inspectors have been included in the 'Special Enforcement Squads' constituted by the State Government for the effective implementation of labour laws.

*[Translation]***Water Resource Projects**

660. MOHD. MUKEEM: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up water resources projects in the country state including Eastern Uttar Praesh;

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

(c) the amount of assistance provided to the State Governments for completion of the projects during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) Irrigation being a State subject the irrigation projects are planned formulated, executed and funded by the State Governments out of their own resources and as per their priorities. The Central Government has not proposed any water resource projects on its own in the States.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

*[English]***Discrepancies in Prices of Medicines**

661. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has formulated any policy at the national level on the pricing and availability of drugs to do away with discrepancies in prices of medicines in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and whether it is noticed that the disparities in prices is benefiting the middlemen and affecting the poor patients; and

(c) if so, the steps taken/being taken to check the exploitation of patients by the druggists?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) to (c) The present pricing policy of the Government is being implemented by the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) under the provisions of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995 and the guidelines evolved by it from time to time.

Subsequently, a Task Force under the Chairmanship of Dr. Pronab Sen, Principal Adviser, Planning Commission was constituted to explore options other than price control to make available life saving drugs at reasonable prices. The Task Force has submitted its report to the Government on the 20th September, 2005.

The Government in consultation with various stakeholders is examining the recommendations of the Task Force. Based on this a new Pharmaceutical Policy is likely to be announced shortly.

The drug policy, as amended from time to time is directed towards ensuring abundant availability of quality drugs at reasonable prices.

Population of Black Bucks

662. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the population of black bucks in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether the black buck population has been diminishing;

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

(d) the steps taken by the Government for their protection?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) As per the information available, the population of black bucks in the States having important habitat for the species is given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) No Sir, there are no reports on diminishing of black buck population in the country.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Black buck is listed in Schedule-I of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, thereby affording highest degree of protection to the species. Regular patrolling is being done by the States in the protected areas and other areas where black bucks are found to ensure adequate protection. Awareness is being generated among the local communities for conservation of this species.

Statement

*Population in major Black Buck bearing States**

Sl.No.	Name of State	Population
1.	Rajasthan	22,036
2.	Andhra Pradesh	10,000
3.	Gujarat	25,025
4.	Haryana	3,400
5.	Karnataka	12,000
6.	Maharashtra	9,742
7.	Uttar Pradesh	2,700

*Based on reports received from States.

[Translation]

Permission to POSCO

663. SHRI RASHEED MASOOD: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the South Korean 'Pohang Steel Company (POSCO)' has sought permission from the Union Government to carry out the extraction activities in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the places for which the proposal to install this plant has been received;

(d) whether the said permission has since been granted; and

(e) if not, the time likely to be taken therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS

PASWAN): (a) The Union Government is yet to receive any proposal for grant of Prospecting Licence or Mining Lease of iron ore to Pohang Steel Company.

(b) to (e) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

Vocational Training Centres

664. SHRI KRISHNA MURARI MOGHE: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether at present 10 vocational training centres are being run in Madhya Pradesh with the assistance of the Union Government;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government has not provided any grant to the State for running these centres during the last five years whereas the Union Government is to bear 100 percent expenditure for running these centres;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the State Government had sent a proposal to the tune of Rs. 141.36 lakh for sanction by the Union Government which is pending with the Union Government;

(e) if so, the time by which the said proposal is likely to be sanctioned;

(f) whether the Union Government proposes to sanction Rs. 276.36 lakh to the State Government after including the amount for the current fiscal year also as sought by the State Government; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRA SHEKHAR RAO): (a) Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs)/Industrial Training Centres (ITCs) are set up and administratively and financially run by the State Governments/Private Organizations. Ministry of Labour & Employment does not provide any financial assistance to run them.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

(d) Ministry of Labour & Employment has not received any such proposal.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) and (g) Ministry of Labour & Employment has no such proposal. However, Planning Commission has

approved an outlay of Rs. 1710 lakh for Craftsmen Training in the Annual Plan 2005-06 for Madhya Pradesh.

Water Conservation Schemes

665. SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO:
SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA:
SHRI AJIT JOGI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the schemes related to water conservation being implemented by the Union Government in view of failure of monsoon in the country;

(b) the salient features of such scheme;

(c) whether the Government has taken any steps to replace these old water conservation schemes with a more effective scheme in order to achieve the desired results;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the names of the States in which the said scheme has since been launched; and

(f) the funds allocation made for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) to (f) Government of India is implementing various watershed development schemes for soil & water conservation and prevention of land degradation in the country. Since inception upto March 2005, an area of 28.533 million ha. has been developed with expenditure of Rs. 14577.32 crore under these schemes. For these schemes, an amount of Rs. 6422.95 crore has been allocated for development of 21.40 million ha. area during Tenth Five Year Plan and Rs. 1497.00 crore is allocated to treat 3.36 million ha. area for 2005-06. The details of achievement and fund allocation for the existing schemes are given in the enclosed statement.

These on-going schemes seek to apply techniques of soil & water conservation, prevention of land degradation, ground water recharge, etc. These have improved the capacity of treated area to withstand ill effect of insufficient rain. While no new scheme is contemplated, the guidelines of the existing schemes have been drastically modified to provide still greater thrust on water conservation.

Statement

Target & Outlay for X Five Year Plan, Achievements since inception upto March, 2005 and Tentative Fund Allocation for 2005-06 for various Schemes of Watershed Development Programmes

(Phy. in Lakh ha. & Fin. in Rs. Crore)

Sl.No.	Name of the Programme	Tentative target and Outlay X Plan		Achievement since inception upto March, 2005		Target and outlay 2005-06	
		Phy.	Fin.	Phy.	Fin.	Phy.	Fin.
1.	NWDPRA	20.00	1000.00	79.34	2397.56	5.00	220.00
2.	RVP & FPR	12.0	800.00	60.87	1894.17	2.00	124.00
3.	WDPSCA	1.0	100.00	3.18	226.43	0.30	30.00
4.	RAS	1.0	100.00	6.59	96.64	0.20	7.00
5.	EAPs*	0.00	0.00	23.63	4756.36	0.00	0.00
6.	DPAP	68.0	1500.00	26.29	1742.06	12.00	353.00
7.	DDP	44.0	1100.00	14.70	1301.01	6.00	268.00
8.	IWDP	68.0	1800.00	61.96	1310.20	8.00	485.00
9.	NAEPS	0.32	22.95	8.77	852.89	0.10	10.00
Total		214.32	6422.95	285.33	14577.32	33.60	1497.00

Note: In case of EAPs outlay and target are not decided.

NWDPRA	—	National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas
RVP & FPR	—	River Valley Projects & Flood Prone Rivers
WDPSCA	—	Watershed Development Project for Shifting Cultivation Areas
RAS	—	Reclamation of Alkali Soil
EAPs	—	Externally Aided Projects
DPAP	—	Drought Prone Area Programme
DDP	—	Desert Development Programme
IWDP	—	Integrated Wasteland Development Project
NAEPS	—	National Afforestation & Eco-development Project Scheme.

*[English]***Task Force to Map Flood Prone Areas**

666. SHRI JOACHIM BAXLA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Task Force was set up to map zone flood-prone areas spread over 45 million hectares;

(b) if so, whether the Government has implemented the recommendations of the Task Force in this regard;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) the details of the recommendations of the Task Force in respect of flood-prone areas of West Bengal;

(e) whether the Central Water Commission (CWC)

has been provided with the latest equipments in this regard; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) to (f) The Central Water Commission through Survey of India took up preparation of maps of identified flood prone areas in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal, Punjab, Haryana, Delhi, Assam, and Jammu & Kashmir and an area of 54,740 sq. km. was surveyed. Subsequently a Working Group was constituted by the Ministry of Water Resources during June 1999 to go into various aspects relating to maps prepared by the Survey of India in the field of water resources. Based on the report of the Working Group a scheme has been formulated by CWC for digitization and updating of these maps. The CWC gets the works related to flood prone area mapping through specialized agencies.

Environmental Clearance to Irrigation/ Thermal Projects

667. SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of irrigation and thermal power projects and expansion plan for Visakhapatnam Steel Plant in Andhra Pradesh have been held up due to non-clearance by the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time since when each of these projects is pending and the cost escalation of these projects; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) Only one irrigation and two thermal power projects from Andhra Pradesh are pending for environmental clearance under the Environmental Impact Assessment Notification 1994. The expansion project of M/s Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd. at Visakhapatnam for increasing hot metal production from 4.0 to 6.5 million tonne per annum has already been accorded environmental clearance in August, 2005.

(b) The details of the above pending projects are as follows:—

IRRIGATION

(i) J. Chokka Rao Godavari Lift Irrigation Scheme in Warangal District.

THERMAL POWER PROJECTS

(i) 500 MW Bhoopalapally Power Station near Neredupally, District Warangal by M/s Andhra Pradesh Power Generation Corporation Ltd.

(ii) Expansion of Coal Based Captive Power Plant from 50 MW to 114 MW at Paloncha, District Khammam by M/s Nav Bharat Ferro Alloys Ltd.

(c) and (d) While the irrigation project was received in the Ministry in November, 2005, the Thermal Power project proposals were received in May, 2005. The appraisal of the projects for grant of environmental clearance will be completed within the prescribed statutory period of 120 days from the receipt of all the requisite clarifications from the applicants. Therefore the question of cost escalation due to environmental clearance process does not arise.

[Translation]

Employment Exchanges

668. SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD:
SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO:

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

(a) the role of employment exchanges set up in various parts of the country;

(b) the year-wise expenditure incurred on the operation of such exchanges including payments of salaries to the employees and officers employed with the employment exchanges during the last three years;

(c) whether educated unemployed do not get themselves registered with these employment exchanges because they are not helpful in anyway in getting them employment; and

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

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRA SHEKHAR RAO): (a) The Employment Exchanges register the job-seekers and make submission of candidates against notified vacancies; collect labour market information for the purpose of creation of data base in assessment of demand and supply of labour and preparing career literature; and provide career counselling and vocational guidance to the job-seekers so as to help them in shaping their careers.

(b) The Employment Exchanges function under the direct administrative and financial control of the respective State/UT Governments and as such the information is not maintained in details. However, during the year 2001-02 on an average the expenditure per Employment Exchange was of the order of Rupees 14.3 lakh.

(c) No, Sir. Over 70 percent of total job-seekers registered with the Employment Exchanges are educated (10th Standard and above).

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

National Policy on Wine

669. SHRI RAMESH CHANDAPPA JIGAJINAGI: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any National Policy on production, manufacturing and consumption of wine;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to de-link wine from the alcoholic drinks and promote wine as a health-drink in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the steps being taken by the Government to promote wine sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) to (e) Alcoholic beverages including wine falls within the jurisdiction of States under the Constitution. As such, there is no National Policy on wine. However, keeping in view the aspects of value addition to grapes, potential of higher income to farmers,

opportunities for employment generation, possibilities of weaning people away from hard liquor and countering large imports of wine by increased domestic production, Government of India offers financial assistance for development of the wine sector in the country. Moreover, the Joint Working Group consisting of relevant Central Ministries & State Governments, set up by the Government of India, has recommended in its draft report delinking wine & beer from hard liquor for excise policy and taxation purposes.

Sea Link with Mainland

**670. SHRIMATI KALPNA RAMESH NARHIRE:
SHRI TUKARAM GANGADHAR GADAKH:**

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

(a) whether with a view to reducing congestion on the island city of Mumbai, Government of Maharashtra had proposed a Sea link connecting Mumbai to the mainland and recommended a Sewri-Nhava Sea link;

(b) if so, the salient features of the Mumbai Trans Harbour Link project and the time when the proposal was originally mooted;

(c) the stages of approval and clearance gone through so far and the stage at which the matter stands at present;

(d) the cost escalation so far incurred by the project and the revised cost thereof as on date;

(e) the steps taken so far towards implementation of the project and the time by which it is likely to be completed;

(f) whether it is to be implemented under the BOT system; and

(g) if so, the terms thereof alongwith the interested parties therein?

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

(b) The Mumbai Trans Harbour Sea Link Project will be 22 km long, six lane road bridge (in phase-I) connecting Sewri in Mumbai to Nhava on mainland. The application for environmental clearance as per prescribed procedure was received in May, 2001.

(c) The Central Government has accorded environmental clearance to the project on 11th March 2005 under the Coastal Regulation Zone Notification, 1991.

(d) As reported by Maharashtra State Road Development Corporation (MSRDC) Limited, a State Government of Maharashtra Undertaking, the estimated cost escalation is 6% per annum and cost at 2004 prices is Rs. 2,700 crores (base cost).

(e) and (f) MSRDC has informed that the pre-qualification bids have been invited from the prospective entrepreneur to implement this project on BOT basis and the estimated period for completion of the project is around five years from the date of award of work.

(g) MSRDC has stated that the minimum concession period offer received from the bidders would determine the terms. The interested parties who have applied for pre-qualification are (1) China Harbour Engineering Co, (2) Dywidag-SPCL-Afcons J/V, (3) IIMC Consortium, SKANSKA, (4) Infrastructure Leasing and Financial Services Limited, SKIL Infrastructure, (5) Larsen & Toubro Limited, and (6) Reliance Energy, Hyundai Engineering Construction Company.

[*Translation*]

Availability of Water Resources

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

(a) the total water resources available in the country, its present share in various usages like electricity, irrigation drinking water and other uses and the quantum of water that remains unutilized; and

(b) the break-up of the demands made by the States from the Union Government for water resources/harvesting and the extent of their fulfilment by the Government during 2004-2005 and 2004-2006 so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (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. The share of usage of water is assessed as 83% for irrigation, 5% for domestic purposes, 5% for industries and 7% for other purposes. Rest of the water could be considered to be flowing down to sea.

(b) Water being a State subject, the schemes for water resources are generally implemented through their own resources and Plan allocations. Statement-I and II showing Plan allocations of different States/Union Territories for irrigation for the year 2004-05 and 2005-06 are enclosed.

Statement I

Revised Approved Outlay 2004-2005

(Rs. in crore)

Sl. No.	Name of States/ U.Ts.	Major & Medium	Minor Irrigation	CAD	Flood Control	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Andhra Pradesh	3385.58	531.86	9.32	75.76	4002.52
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.40	32.80	2.00	3.75	38.95
3.	Assam	21.74	30.61	36.26	35.13	123.74
4.	Bihar	201.53	248.55	14.00	105.00	569.08
5.	Chhattisgarh	422.59	254.00	24.74	0.40	701.73

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
6.	Goa	30.44	24.49	2.93	4.96	62.82
7.	Guajrat	1127.45	293.55	5.39	2.86	1429.05
8.	Haryana	200.00	0.00	53.25	45.00	298.26
9.	Himachal Pradesh	18.54	57.37	2.12	12.74	90.77
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	77.53	77.73	10.05	28.83	194.14
11.	Jharkhand	322.50	75.00	1.00	1.50	400.00
12.	Karnataka	3079.58	185.35	12.03	5.50	3282.46
13.	Kerala	57.85	8.81	8.25	6.45	81.36
14.	Madhya Pradesh	1270.24	232.69	5.17	8.10	1516.20
15.	Maharashtra	2850.00	148.38	72.21	0.00	3070.59
16.	Manipur	38.00	6.50	4.61	10.20	59.31
17.	Meghalaya	0.37	7.20	0.22	1.45	9.24
18.	Mizoram	0.01	14.20	0.15	0.00	14.36
19.	Nagaland	0.03	12.46	0.33	7.54	20.36
20.	Orissa	352.15	54.98	4.00	4.75	415.88
21.	Punjab	109.33	22.97	25.80	27.31	185.41
22.	Rajasthan	695.12	78.59	47.06	10.04	830.81
23.	Sikkim	0.00	4.00	0.05	4.00	8.05
24.	Tamil Nadu	223.96	76.28	13.95	0.00	314.19
25.	Tripura	5.92	20.44	0.00	6.66	33.02
26.	Uttar Pradesh	800.00	89.99	28.33	130.00	1048.32
27.	Uttaranchal	26.86	67.33	1.50	6.50	102.19
28.	West Bengal	101.76	34.11	7.56	113.14	256.57
Total States		15419.48	2690.24	392.28	657.37	19159.37
Union Territories						
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0.00	1.86	0.00	3.00	4.86
30.	Chandigarh	0.00	1.54	0.00	0.00	1.54
31.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0.01	0.67	0.20	0.00	0.88
32.	Daman and Diu	0.05	0.15	0.05	0.22	0.47
33.	Delhi	0.00	0.07	0.00	19.03	19.10

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
34.	Lakshadweep	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.50	3.50
35.	Pondichery	0.00	22.84	0.00	12.51	35.35
	Total U.Ts.	0.06	27.13	0.25	38.26	65.70
	Total States & UTs.	15419.54	2717.37	392.53	695.63	19225.07
	Central Sector	63.51	62.98	143.57	147.94	418.00
	Grand Total	15483.05	2780.35	536.10	843.57	19643.07

Source: States AP 2004-05 Documents Blank implies details not received from States.

Statement II

Approved Outlay 2005-2006

(Rs. in crore)

Sl. No.	Name of States/U.Ts.	Major & Medium	Minor Irrigation	CAD	Flood Control	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Andhra Pradesh	6933.45	610.43	8.92	100	7652.80
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1.00	59.90	2.36	8.23	71.49
3.	Assam	39.21	23.94	2.95	28.00	94.10
4.	Bihar	—	—	—	—	893.18
5.	Chhattisgarh	560.69	333.59	23.01	0.25	917.54
6.	Goa	59.12	44.99	4.20	11.96	120.27
7.	Guajrat	1601.05	208.72	3.19	1.10	1814.06
8.	Haryana	290.00	0.00	55.00	48.00	393.00
9.	Himachal Pradesh	14.54	79.48	3.12	14.40	111.54
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	77.19	67.54	10.73	32.65	188.11
11.	Jharkhand	374.75	70.00	2.50	2.75	450.00
12.	Karnataka	3509.91	384.70	40.00	7.80	3942.41
13.	Kerala	95.21	11.109	7.05	5.74	119.10
14.	Madhya Pradesh	1378.31	255.31	6.51	1.45	1641.58
15.	Maharashtra	1985.75	249.45	6.87	1.29	2243.36

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
16.	Manipur	116.78	16.55	5.07	8.50	146.90
17.	Meghalaya	1.42	9.00	0.26	3.42	14.10
18.	Mizoram	0.01	17.40	0.15	0.00	17.56
19.	Nagaland	0.05	12.35	1.00	0.05	13.45
20.	Orissa	280.45	46.29	4.00	1.01	331.75
21.	Punjab	112.32	62.45	14.00	33.00	221.77
22.	Rajasthan	812.80	150.56	71.56	10.15	1045.07
23.	Sikkim	0.00	4.00	0.05	3.00	7.05
24.	Tamil Nadu	278.91	130.14	15.95	—	425.00
25.	Tripura	12.40	29.07	0.65	6.10	48.22
26.	Uttar Pradesh	1453.23	127.13	40.00	331.00	1951.36
27.	Uttaranchal	26.65	29.02	1.77	20.14	77.58
28.	West Bengal	107.13	48.08	7.51	84.13	246.85
Total States		20122.33	3081.19	338.38	764.12	24306.02
Union Territories						
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Island	0.00	3.63	0.00	6.25	9.88
30.	Chandigarh	0.00	4.35	0.00	0.00	4.35
31.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0.00	0.78	0.20	0.00	0.98
32.	Daman and Diu	0.09	0.14	0.00	0.36	0.59
33.	Delhi	0.00	0.04	0.00	17.12	17.16
34.	Lakshadweep	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.80	3.80
35.	Pondichery	0.00	23.36	0.00	15.68	39.04
Total U.Ts.		0.09	32.30	0.20	43.21	75.80
Total States & UTs.		20122.42	3113.49	338.58	807.33	24381.82
Central Sector		86.33	72.64	200.00	262.03	621.00
Grand Total		20208.75	3186.13	538.58	1069.36	25002.82

Cruise Tourism

672. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the trend of journey by big ships (cruise)

furnished with five star facilities has increased in the World which has enormous possibilities at Western ghats and Eastern ghat's in the country;

(b) if so, whether the Government is considering to formulate a cruise tourism policy in this regard; and

(c) if so, the time by which the policy is framed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) A High Power Steering Group under the Chairmanship of Minister of Shipping with Minister of State for Tourism as Co-Chairperson has been set up to formulate Cruise Shipping Policy for the country. The recommendations of this Steering Group include formation of Working Groups to look into issues like—Immigration, Customs Clearances, Quarantine Restrictions, Identification of Ports, Infrastructural Facilities, Connectivity, Taxation Issues, Tourism Related Issue and Cabotage issue to develop cruise shipping policy for India. The Consultative Committee of Ministry of Shipping has already deliberated the draft policy paper on Cruise Shipping.

[English]

Closure of CGWB Offices

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

(a) whether any office of Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) in any part of the country has been closed during the last one year or thereafter;

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

(c) whether the Government has evolved any mechanism to prevent the unlimited ground water wastage; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, keeping in view the reduced workload at Central Ground Water Board's (CGWB) State Unit office (SUO) at Bareilly (Uttar Pradesh) due to opening of new Regional Office at Dehradun (Uttaranchal), the SUO, Bareilly has been relocated at Ranchi (Jharkhand) for ground water surveys and exploration in the newly created State of Jharkhand. Now the work of SUO, Bareilly is being taken care by the Regional Office, Lucknow and Divisional Office located at Bareilly itself.

(c) and (d) "Water" being a State subject, it is primarily the responsibility of the concerned State Governments to evolve mechanism to prevent the unlimited ground water wastage. However, the Union Government has taken following steps to check further over-exploitation of ground water resources in the country:—

- 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.
- 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.
- CGWA is regulating withdrawal of ground water by industries/projects. List of critical areas has been circulated to the State Pollution Control Boards and the Ministry of Environment and Forests which refer the new industries/projects to CGWA for obtaining permission.

Bonded Children Labour

674. SHRI SUNIL KUMAR MAHATO:
SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA:
SHRIMATI KALPNA RAMESH NARHIRE:

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

(a) the number of bonded children/labour freed from their incarceration during the last three years and thereafter State-wise;

(b) whether the freed children were again trapped into bondage shortly thereafter;

(c) if so, the number of such cases and the reasons therefor, and

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

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRA SEKHAR RAO): (a) A statement is enclosed.

(b) and (c) No case of freed/released bonded labour

including child bonded labour relapsed into bondage after their release has been reported by any State Government.

(d) As per the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976 Vigilance Committees at District and Sub-Divisional levels under the Chairmanship of District Magistrates/Sub-Divisional Magistrates respectively have been constituted to identify the incidence of bonded labour.

Statement

The Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976 does not make any distinction between child bondage and adult bondage. The number of bonded labourers including child bonded labourers identified, and freed/released during the last three years and thereafter, State-wise are as under

Name of the States	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06 upto 25.11.05
Andhra Pradesh	—	1699	—	—
Bihar	125	314	281	141
Haryana	21	—	—	—
Karnataka	1854	—	64	—
Madhya Pradesh	—	—	265	38
Maharashtra	5	—	—	6
Orissa	—	39	19	—
Punjab	69	—	—	—
Rajasthan	—	10	—	—
Uttar Pradesh	—	398	41	114
Chhattisgarh	124	—	—	—
Jharkhand	—	—	196	—
Uttaranchal	—	5	—	—
West Bengal	—	—	—	5

[Translation]

Visit of Foreign Tourists

675. SHRI MOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state: .

(a) the number of foreign tourists who visited India during 2004-05 and the number of tourists expected to visit during 2006 alongwith shortfall registered in the

number of tourists during the years in comparison to that of the last three years;

(b) the estimated amount of foreign exchange earned from the tourists during the said period;

(c) whether the existing boarding facilities offered by the hotels in the country are sufficient for foreign tourists;

(d) if not, the steps being taken by the Government for the expansion of hotel industry;

(e) whether the Government proposes to launch an intensive propagation drive abroad for attracting foreign tourists in the country;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the number of Indian tourists who visited foreign countries during the said period alongwith estimated amount spent by them on such foreign tourists?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) Number of foreign tourists who visited India during 2004-05 alongwith corresponding figures for the last 3 years and also percent change is given below:—

Year	Foreign Tourist Arrivals (in Million)	Percentage Change over previous year
2004-05	3.54	(+) 22.9
2003-04	2.88	(+) 17.3
2002-03	2.45	(+) 1.0
2001-02	2.43	(-) 10.0

Going by the growth of about 14% in foreign tourist arrivals, observed during January-October, 2005, as also high growth during 2004-05 and 2003-04, it is expected that the trend would continue in the year 2006.

(b) Estimated amount of foreign exchange earned from the foreign tourists, as per the information provided by the Reserve Bank of India, during the said period is given below:—

Year	Foreign Exchange Earnings (In US\$ Million)
2004-05	5029
2003-04	4122
2002-03	3312
2001-02	3137

(c) and (d) There is a general feeling in the tourism industry that there is a shortage of hotel accommodation

in the country, particularly, during the peak tourist season and in big cities. In order to augment the hotel room capacity in the country, matter has been taken up with the state Governments as also with the Ministry of Urban Development. Ministries of Railways and Civil Aviation have also been requested to set up hotels at the surplus railway and airport lands at various places in the country.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) A major global media campaign in the Print, Electronic and Outdoor media has been launched in the major tourist generating markets such as Europe, South East Asia, South Asia, Middle East, Africa, USA, etc. The duration of the campaign is for four and half months w.e.f. mid November 2005. In addition, an Online Campaign in the World Wide Web w.e.f. October 2005 has also been launched to attract more foreign tourists in the country.

(g) Number of Indian tourists who visited foreign countries during the last 4 years, and; the estimated foreign exchange payments made, as per the information forwarded by Reserve Bank of India, is as follows:—

Year	Indians going abroad (in Million)	Foreign Exchange Payments (In US\$ Million)
2004-05	6.3	5526
2003-04	5.6	3511
2002-03	5.1	3341
2001-02	4.6	3014

Pollution in Ganga River

676. DR. RAJESH MISHRA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the current status of the Ganga sanitation project;

(b) whether the Union Government and the State Governments as well are contemplating to work together to check the growing pollution in Ganga river; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN

MEENA): (a) to (c) The first attempt of the Government to check the growing pollution in Ganga river was the launching of Ganga Action Plan (GAP) Phase-I in 1985. This was undertaken in 25 towns spread over the States of Uttaranchal, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and West Bengal and completed in the year 2000. Under this phase, 261 projects have been sanctioned, out of which 259 projects were completed and a sewage treatment capacity of 865 mld. was created to check the pollution in Ganga river.

The Ganga Action Plan was extended as GAP Phase-II in 1993 with works in 59 towns spread over the States of Uttaranchal, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and West Bengal. Under this Phase, 227 numbers of projects have been sanctioned, out of which 60 have been completed upto September 2005. The details of the projects sanctioned under the two phases of Ganga Action Plan are given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

Details of Projects Sanctioned under Ganga Action Plan

Schemes						(Quantity)
	Uttar Pradesh	Bihar	Jharkhand	Uttaranchal	West Bengal	Total
Ganga Action Plan Phase-I						
Interception & Diversion	40	17			31	88
Sewage Treatment Plant	13	7			15	35
Low Cost Sanitation	14	7			22	43
Crematoria	3	8			17	28
River Front Development	8	3			24	35
Other Schemes	28	3			1	32
Total	106	45	0	0	110	261
Ganga Action Plan Phase-II						
Interception & Diversion	20	0	0	11	45	76
Sewage Treatment Plant	7	0	0	5	23	35
Low Cost Sanitation	8	7	1	10	0	26
Crematoria	0	1	0	0	5	6
River Front Development	0	10	1	6	21	38
Other Schemes	4	0	0	4	38	46
Total	39	18	2	36	132	227

[English]

(c) if so, the reasons thereof?

Allocation in Water Sector

677. SHRIMATI P. SATHEEDEVI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of allocation in water sector in various Five Year Plans including the Tenth Plan;

(b) whether the outlay has been reduced drastically; and

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) The allocation for water sector in various Five Year Plan are given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Statement*Plan-wise Allocation in Water Sector*

(Rs. in Crore)

Plan	Major & Medium	Minor Irrigation	Irrigation Institutional Finance	Command Area Development	Flood Control	Total
First Plan (1951-56)	376.24	65.62	0.00	0.00	13.21	455.07
Second Plan (1956-61)	380.00	142.23	19.35	0.00	48.06	589.64
Third Plan (1961-66)	576.00	327.73	115.37	0.00	82.09	1101.19
Annual Plan (1966-69)	429.81	326.19	234.74	0.00	41.96	1032.70
Fourth Plan (1969-74)	1242.30	512.28	661.06	0.00	162.04	2577.68
Fifth Plan (1974-78)	2516.18	630.83	778.76	0.00	298.61	4224.38
Annual Plan (1978-80)	2078.58	501.50	480.40	362.96	329.96	3753.40
Sixth Plan (1980-85)	7368.83	1979.26	1437.56	743.05	786.85	12315.55
Seventh Plan (1985-90)	11107.29	3118.35	3060.95	1447.50	941.58	19675.67
Annual Plan (1990-92)	5459.15	1680.48	1349.59	619.45	460.64	9569.31
Eighth Plan (1992-97)	21071.87	6408.36	5331.00	2145.92	1691.68	36648.83
Ninth Plan (1997-2002)	48259.08	8615.07	2659.00	1519.17	2629.23	63681.55
Tenth Plan (2002-07)	71213.18	14406.66	0.00	4196.68	5927.00	95743.52

*[Translation]***Educated Unemployed Youth**

678. SHRIMATI NEETA PATERIYA:
VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA:
BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI:
SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR:

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

(a) the total number of educated unemployed boys/girls registered in different employment exchanges as on July 31, 2005, State-wise and category-wise;

(b) the number of boys/girls who got registered in the above employment exchanges during the said period, State-wise, category-wise and year-wise;

(c) the break-up of boys/girls who got employment through different employment exchanges during each of the last three years;

(d) since when the listed unemployed registrants in different employment exchanges have been waiting; and

(e) the details of fresh schemes being prepared by the Government to provide them with employment?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRA SEKHAR RAO): (a) and (b) State-

wise and category-wise details of the educated job seekers (10th standard & above), all of whom are not necessarily unemployed, registered with the employment exchanges as on 31.12.2003 (latest) and the registrations made during the year 2003 are given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) Category-wise placements effected by the employment exchanges in respect of educated jobseekers during 2001, 2002 and 2003 are given below:

Year	Placement (In Thousands)		
	Men	Women	Total
2001	72.6	22.1	94.7
2002	50.9	19.8	70.7
2003	62.5	22.0	84.5

(d) Registration of job seekers by the employment exchanges and their nomination against the notified vacancies is a continuous process. Job seekers are required to renew their registration every three years for getting employment assistance from the exchanges.

(e) Government is targeting creation of around 5 crore employment opportunities during the 10th Plan Period. Out of these, around 3 crore will be generated in the normal growth process and remaining 2 crore through special employment generation programmes.

Statement

Number of registrations made in respect of educated job seekers (10th standard and above) during 2003 and their number on live register of Employment Exchanges as on 31.12.03

(In thousands)

Sl.No.	State	Number on Live Register as on 31.12.03			Number on Register during Jan-Dec. 02		
		Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1949.6	626.7	2576.3	175.5	62.9	2
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	10.0	4.3	14.3	2.3	1.0	3
3.	Assam	817.1	209.4	1026.6	47.6	13.2	6
4.	Bihar	1342.0	124.4	1466.4	53.1	15.9	6

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	#	8
5.	Chhattisgarh	590.5	132.0	722.5	99.6	31.0		1
6.	Delhi	604.7	287.4	892.1	43.8	15.3		5
7.	Goa	52.3	31.8	84.1	5.7	5.7		1
8.	Gujarat	674.0	173.1	847.1	166.2	60.2		2
9.	Haryana	563.2	115.0	678.3	81.5	13.3		9
10.	Himachal Pradesh	493.1	220.0	713.1	74.4	39.2		1
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	51.3	6.9	58.2	10.5	7.2		1
12.	Jharkhand	784.7	132.3	916.9	253.5	49.2		3
13.	Karnataka	861.9	291.7	1153.7	85.2	48.1		1
14.	Kerala	1755.7	1561.8	3317.5	167.1	197.4		3
15.	Madhya Pradesh	1217.6	313.5	1531.1	246.1	75.7		3
16.	Maharashtra	2534.6	658.3	3192.9	504.7	166.8		6
17.	Manipur	184.5	97.2	281.7	3.7	3.0		6
18.	Meghalaya	10.6	10.6	21.1	1.8	2.3		4
19.	Mizoram	10.5	7.7	18.2	1.1	1.0		2
20.	Nagaland	16.6	9.9	26.5	5.9	4.0		9
21.	Orissa	496.9	114.0	610.9	107.6	34.6		1
22.	Punjab	202.7	87.5	290.2	47.8	19.9		6
23.	Rajasthan	545.3	66.2	611.5	158.2	24.5		1
24.	Sikkim#	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		0
25.	Tamil Nadu	1830.3	1443.1	3273.5	189.8	161.8		3
26.	Tripura	148.8	55.4	204.2	6.0	2.8		8
27.	Uttaranchal	218.8	51.0	269.8	44.7	9.5		5
28.	Uttar Pradesh	1342.6	155.4	1498.1	363.5	54.6		4
29.	West Bengal	2733.0	951.0	3684.0	188.4	60.1		2
30.	Andaman and Nicobar	10.3	6.3	16.6	2.4	1.2		3
31.	Chandigarh	64.5	29.1	93.6	3.8	2.0		5
32.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	1.2	0.6	1.8	0.4	0.2		0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
33.	Daman and Diu	3.0	1.4	4.5	2.1	1.3	3
34.	Lakshadweep	3.5	2.2	5.7	0.5	0.3	0
35.	Pondicherry	80.4	71.5	151.9	11.3	8.8	2
Grand Total		22205.9	8048.8	30254.8	3155.6	1193.8	4

* No employment exchange is functioning in this State. Figures may not tally due to rounding off.

[English]

Functioning of Krishi Vigyan Kendras

679. SHRIMATI ARCHANA NAYAK:
SHRI M.P. VEERENDRAKUMAR:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) are working satisfactorily in the country;

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

(c) if not, the steps taken/proposed to be taken to improve their functioning;

(d) whether there is a difference of opinion between KVKs and Agriculture Technology Management Agencies (ATMAs) regarding forwarding the action plan through ATMAs; and

(e) if so, the remedial steps taken to avoid the differences of opinion?

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) At present, there are 493 KVKs sanctioned by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research including 42 during the current financial year. During the last one year, the KVK have taken up 1205 technologies for on-farm trial, 0.40 lakh frontline demonstrations, 37,373 training programmes benefiting 8.25 lakh farmer and 0.86 lakh extension personnel, and 0.63 lakh extension activities benefiting 27.57 lakh farmers.

This is against 607 technologies for on-farm trial, 0.32 lakh frontline demonstrations, 30,517 training

programmes benefiting 7.50 lakh farmers and 0.69 lakh extension personnel, and 0.16 lakh extension activities benefiting 14.18 lakh farmers in the previous year.

The State-wise details of the number of KVKs are given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) The following steps have been taken to further improve the functioning of the KVKs:—

- Providing electronic connectivity to the KVKs with the State Agricultural Universities and ICAR Institutes for availability of technology information to the farmers.
- Creation of Soil and Water Testing facilities in the KVKs.

(d) and (e) The Annual Action Plan of the KVK are discussed and finalized in the Scientific Advisory Committee having representatives of research, extension, farmers, financial institutions, and other stakeholders. These Action Plans are then approved in the Zonal Workshops. It has been decided that the varieties for frontline demonstrations and place will be finalized in consultation with ATMAs. The KVKs would also give priority for conducting the training programmes as and when requested by ATMAs.

Statement

Distribution of KVKs in Different States/UTs

Sl.No.	States/UTs	Total
1	2	3
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	1
2.	Andhra Pradesh	22
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	4

1	2	3
4.	Assam	16
5.	Bihar	26
6.	Chhattisgarh	10
7.	Delhi	1
8.	Goa	21
9.	Gujarat	21
10.	Haryana	18
11.	Himachal Pradesh	12
12.	Jammu and Kashmir	12
13.	Jharkhand	17
14.	Karnataka	25
15.	Kerala	14
16.	Lakshadweep	1
17.	Madhya Pradesh	37
18.	Maharashtra	33
19.	Manipur	5
20.	Meghalaya	5
21.	Mizoram	8
22.	Nagaland	5
23.	Orissa	25
24.	Pondicherry	2
25.	Punjab	15
26.	Rajasthan	32
27.	Sikkim	4
28.	Tamil Nadu	28
29.	Tripura	4
30.	Uttar Pradesh	60
31.	Uttaranchal	12
32.	West Bengal	16
Total		483

Opposition by Kerala on Rivers Linking Project

680. SHRI CHENGARA SURENDRAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Agency on Rivers linking Project is going ahead with the Vaippar Link Project in Tamil Nadu inspite of the strong opposition of the Government of Kerala;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government would instruct the agency to examine the contentious issues raised against the project by the Government of Kerala;

(c) whether the Union Government has received a resolution against implementation of Vaippar Project; and

(d) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) and (b) National Water Development Agency (NWDA) has prepared a feasibility report of transferring surplus water of Pamba and Achankovil situated in Kerala to Vaippar river basin in Tamil Nadu. The Government of Kerala has some reservations on the studies done which have been clarified by NWDA. These issues have been further discussed in the meetings of Technical Advisory Committee, Governing Body and Society of NWDA held from time to time. After detailed deliberations in 19th Annual General Meeting of the NWDA Society held on 26.3.2003 which was also attended by Shri T.M. Jacob, Hon'ble Minister of Water Resources, Government of Kerala, President of the Society decided that NWDA and Government of Kerala jointly carry out a study for Pamba-Achankovil and Vembanad wet land system. Government of Kerala subsequently expressed its inability to abide by the decision.

(c) and (d) The Government of Kerala has forwarded a copy of the Resolution dated 6.8.2003 adopted unanimously by the Kerala Legislative Assembly urging the Central Government to give up the Pamba-Achankovil-Vaippar Link Project completely. The Ministry of Water Resources has taken note of the Resolution of the Kerala Legislative Assembly and has decided not to treat Pamba-Achankovil-Vaippar link as a priority link for consensus building purpose.

[*Translation*]

Revival of Sugar Mills

681. SHRI HARISHCHANDRA CHAVAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of operational and sick co-operative sugar mills in the country at present;

(b) whether the Union Government proposes to formulate or has formulated any scheme to revive sick co-operative sugar mills in the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the amount likely to be allocated by the Government for implementation of the said scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) As on 30.09.2005, there were 202 cooperative sugar mills under operation and 113 sugar mills remained sick/closed at present.

(b) to (d) In order to help sick cooperative sugar mills to rehabilitate/revive which have eroded their net worth, a Committee for rehabilitation of sick cooperative sugar mills has been constituted by the Central Government to consider such cases and recommend for their rehabilitation. On the basis of the recommendation of the Committee, loan under Sugar Development Fund can be granted for such a potentially viable sick undertaking for its rehabilitation/modernization of plant and machinery as also for sugarcane development.

The loan for modernization or rehabilitation to such mills can be granted upto 60% of the eligible project cost at a concessional rate of simple interest of 2% below the "Bank Rate", which effectively works out to 4% currently and shall be repaid in equal half-yearly instalments not exceeding eight in number after a moratorium of one year.

Annual Increase in Agricultural Produce

682. SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH "LALAN":

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a target of 4% annual increase in agricultural produce has been fixed for future;

(b) if so, the factual position and the target fixed crop-wise; and

(c) the additional water required for irrigation to achieve the target?

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) The Tenth Plan targets a growth rate of 3.97% per annum for agriculture sector.

(b) The targets for production of various foodgrain crops and commercial crops are fixed on year to year basis. For the year 2005-06, targets of production for various crops are shown below:

Target Production in 2005-06

(In million tonnes)

Foodgrains

Rice	Wheat	Coarse Cereals	Pulses	Foodgrains
87.80	75.53	36.62	15.15	215.00

Commercial Crops

Oilseeds	Sugarcane	Cotton	Jute & Mesta
26.58	237.50	16.50*	11.28**

*Million bales of 170 kgs. each

**Million bales of 180 kgs. each.

(c) Although, availability of water for irrigation is one of the most important factors influencing agricultural production, there are other factors like incidences of pests & diseases, availability of inputs, favourable weather and temperature conditions, etc. which exert great influence on agricultural production. Therefore, it is difficult to isolate and ascertain precisely the requirement of water for achieving the targets. However, in order to ensure adequate availability of water additional areas are being brought under irrigation. Micro irrigation systems are also encouraged to optimise the use of available water.

*[English]***Amendment to Consumer Protection Act, 1986**

683. SHRI UDAY SINGH:
SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY:

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

(a) whether the Consumer Protection Act, 1986 in its present form was found to be inadequate in protecting the rights of the Consumers;

(b) if so, whether the Government proposes to amend the said Act to prevent unscrupulous manufacturers from selling spurious goods to consumers; and

(c) if so, the details regarding the amendment likely to be affected in the Act?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) No Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

*[Translation]***Environmental Clearance to Construction Projects**

684. SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA:
SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH:

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

(a) whether the Government has given environmental clearance for the construction of shopping malls and other building projects in several parts of Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether construction is destroying the character of the ridge area; and

(d) if so, the action taken/proposed to be taken to stop such construction?

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) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

*[English]***Lift Irrigation Project**

685. SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Lift Irrigation Project of Upper Indravati Project in Kalahandi district has been cleared by the Government; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the project is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) The Lift canal system of Upper Indravati Irrigation Project (Orissa) has not been cleared by the Government.

(b) Does not arise.

Project for Kharif Oilseed Production

686. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Organisation for Oil Industry and Trade (COOIT) has initiated any project for the Kharif Oilseed Production;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government is considering to adopt the new technology for the better results in this field; and

(d) if so, the details of the layout plan in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) The Central Organisation for Oil Industry and Trade (COOIT) has submitted a project seeking financial assistance to undertake study of two

major kharif oilseed crops i.e. groundnut and sunflower in the States of Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka to identify the reasons for declining productivity and to suggest ways for improving it. Since there is no provision for financial assistance for conducting study of this kind under the Centrally Sponsored Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize (ISOPOM), the proposal of COOIT could not be accepted by this Ministry.

(c) and (d) Government of India is implementing a Centrally Sponsored "Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize" (ISOPOM) in 14 major oilseeds growing States with a view to increase the production and productivity of oilseeds and to make the country self-sufficient in oilseed production. 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 equipment, weedicides, 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 also organized through State Departments of Agriculture and Front Line Demonstrations through ICAR.

Subsidy for Jatropha Farmers

687. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to provide subsidy and easy finance for Jatropha farmers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the States and Union Territories which have encouraged farmers to commercialise the cultivation of Jatropha plants for producing the Jatropha oil for Railways and Transport Diesel vehicles; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and 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 (d) The National Oilseeds and Vegetable Oils Development (NOVOD) Board is the nodal agency for promoting Tree Borne Oilseeds including Jatropha. There is a programme for providing 30% back ended credit linked subsidy with 50% Institutional finance and 20% beneficiary share for rising nursery & commercial plantation, establishment of model seed procurement center and installation of pre-processing & processing facilities. Under the Central Sector Scheme "Integrated Development of Tree Borne Oilseeds" efforts are being made through back ended credit linked subsidy programme to popularize the cultivation of Jatropha plants for producing Jatropha Oil.

[Translation]

Delhi Milk Scheme

688. SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA:
SHRI ALOK KUMAR MEHTA:
DR. K. DHANARAJU:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received a number of complaints against Milk Distribution Officers of DMS;

(b) if so, the details and nature of such complaints;

(c) whether any enquiry has been made into the complaints; and

(d) if so, the action taken against the officers who found guilty?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Four complaints have been received against the Milk Distribution Officers of DMS. These complaints pertain to demanding illegal gratification and have been made by the concessionaires of the milk depots.

(c) Yes, Sir. A fact finding enquiry has been ordered.

(d) The action will be taken on the basis of the findings of the enquiry.

*[English]***Development of Townships on Rivers**

689. SHRI DEVIDAS PINGLE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether project reports for development of townships on different rivers in Maharashtra have submitted to the Union Government for approval under National River Action Plan during the Tenth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the details and cost of the different projects;

(c) time since when the project reports are pending;

(d) the reasons for delay and the stage at which they are pending;

(e) the time by which the same is likely to be cleared for implementation; and

(f) the cost escalation incurred thereby?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (d) No project report for development of townships on different rivers in Maharashtra has been received in this Ministry. However, the Government of Maharashtra has submitted river pollution abatement project reports for Kolhapur town along river Panchganga (costing Rs. 49.74 crore) in the year 2002, and in the year 2004 for Wai town along river Krishna (costing Rs. 53.83 crore), Pandharpur town along river Bhima (costing Rs. 26.61 crore), Prakasha town along river Tapi (costing Rs. 4.62 crore), Paithan town along river Godavari (costing Rs. 12.80 crore) and Nawapur town along river Rangawall (costing Rs. 4.55 crore) for consideration under the National River Conservation Plan during the Tenth Five Year Plan. These projects could not be considered for approval due to constraint of funds during the Tenth Five Year Plan. However, it was suggested that the State Government may undertake these projects out of the State Plan provisions by seeking necessary funds from the Planning Commission including exploring the possibility of initiating the projects with public-private partnership.

(e) and (f) Do not arise.

Storage of Water in Almatti Dam

690. SHRI M. SHIVANNA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has asked the Government of Karnataka to store only 509 metres of water in Almatti dam instead of 519.60 metres as an *ad hoc* relief measure;

(b) if so, whether the Government has received any response from the Government of Karnataka in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) to (c) Considering the request received from the State Government of Maharashtra, the continuing flood situation in Maharashtra, time required for completion of the studies and the trend of heavy monsoon on 25th August, 2005 the Union Minister of Water Resources suggested to the Chief Minister of Karnataka as a short-term measure that the water level at Almatti Dam be maintained at 509 metre upto 30th September, 2005. It was made clear to the Chief Minister of Karnataka that this should not be taken as a directive from the Union Water Resources Ministry but may be treated as a facilitating intervention between the two States, on humanitarian grounds, after a thorough understanding of the ground level reality and that too for a limited short-term period upto 30th September, 2005.

The Chief Minister of Karnataka in his reply dated 5.9.2005 has mentioned that the assumption that the submergence in Maharashtra territory, during recent flood, is also due to 'backwater pressure' from Almatti is erroneous. He has further mentioned that it would not be possible for them to agree to the suggestion made by the Union Water Resources Minister.

*[Translation]***Schemes under Forest Conservation Act, 1980**

691. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of schemes of Madhya Pradesh under Forest Conservation Act, 1980 which are under consideration of the Union Government as on date; and

(b) the time by which each of these schemes is likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) As per available information, 13 proposals from Madhya Pradesh are under various stages of examination in the Ministry for clearance under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. Five out of them are mining proposals, four for transmission lines, one for construction of roads and one for construction of sub well.

(b) The project proposals involving non-forestry use of forest lands, received from various States/Union Territories, are examined according to the procedure prescribed under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, Forest (Conservation) Rule, 2003, and the guidelines issued from time to time thereunder. The whole examination and the decision on the proposal is a continuous process, for which Central Government has prescribed a time limit of 60 days for itself for processing and taking decision on the complete proposal, under the Rules.

[English]

Contract Labourers

692. SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the fact that a large number of contract labourers in the country are denied the Protection envisaged in the labour laws;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there are instances of death of contract labourers in the country including in Kerala State due to lack of adequate food, shelter and medical attendance;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken against guilty contractors/ employers who are at fault?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRA SEKHAR RAO): (a) and (b) Some

complaints are received from time to time alleging non-grant of benefits to contract labour under the various labour laws. The same are investigated and dealt with in accordance with the provisions of the law, including launching of prosecutions, if considered necessary.

(c) to (e) As per information received, in Kerala, two migrant workers from state of Bihar engaged by M/s Punjlloyd Ltd., a construction company, in road construction work, died due to malaria. The specific construction work falls in the state sphere. Timely action was taken by the State Labour Department to provide proper medical care to other ailing workers and their lives were saved. Necessary action in accordance with the provisions of labour laws have been initiated and a show cause notice has been issued to the concerned contractors on 31.10.2005 for their lapses in providing the necessary facilities. Besides instructions have been issued by the State Labour Commissioner to the field offices to closely monitor compliance of labour laws and take strict follow up action. A compensation of Rs. 1.28 lakhs each to the deceased workers has also been deposited by M/s Punjlloyd with State Labour Commissioner for disbursement to the legal heirs of the deceased through the Government of Bihar.

[Translation]

Establishment of Pesticide Residue Testing Laboratory

693. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received a proposal from the Government of Rajasthan for financial assistance for establishment of Pesticide Residue Testing Laboratory, Durgapura, Jaipur for the year 2005-06; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The applicant organization was invited twice to present the case before the Techno Scrutiny Committee (TSC) of this Ministry. But it did not attend the meetings.

*[English]***Modernisation of Nagarjuna Sagar Project**

694. SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has sent any proposal to the Union Government for World Bank loan for modernisation of Nagarjuna Sagar Project;

(b) if so, the present status of the proposal; and

(c) the time by which it is likely to be cleared by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) to (c) Yes Sir. The Government of Andhra Pradesh has submitted a preliminary proposal for Modernization of Nagarjuna Sagar Project for World Bank assistance and the same has been recommended by the Ministry of Water Resources to the Department of Economic Affairs for posing the same to the World Bank.

*[Translation]***Stock of Wheat**

695. DR. CHINTA MOHAN:
SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH "LALAN":
SHRIMATI MINATI SEN:

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

(a) whether the stock of wheat in the country declined to 11 million tonnes around the beginning of September, 2005;

(b) if so, the quantum of foodgrains including wheat procured during the last three years and the current, year-wise;

(c) wheat the current stocks of foodgrains including wheat are adequate to meet the demand in country till the ensuing Rabi Season;

(d) if not, whether the shortage is likely to affect the food based programmes particularly Food for Work Scheme;

(e) if so, the steps being taken to meet the shortage of foodgrains in the country and check the rise in price;

(f) whether foodgrains are being exported to foreign countries despite shortage; and

(g) 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 (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) The stock of wheat in Central Pool as on 1.9.2005 was 116.22 lakh M.T.

(b) Quantum of foodgrains procured during the years 2002-03 to 2005-06 is as follows:—

(In lakh tonnes)

Year	Rice	Wheat	Total
2002-03	190.02	190.55	380.57
2003-04	207.81	158.01	365.82
2004-05	240.37	167.96	408.33
2005-06 (upto 23rd Nov. 2005)	145.62	147.87	293.49

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) In order to keep a check on prices of foodgrains and to regulate the stocks of foodgrains in the Central Pool, following steps have been taken:—

(i) The ratio of Rice & Wheat in the allocation of foodgrains to below Poverty Line (BPL) and Above Poverty Line (APL) families under Targetted Public Distribution System (TPDS) has been streamlined keeping in view the food habits of each States/U.T.

(ii) Ensuring adequate stocking of foodgrains in FCI depots in all regions of the country and releasing the same under the TPDS and other Welfare Schemes.

- (iii) Movement of foodgrains from surplus States to deficit States.
- (iv) Close monitoring of wholesale and retail prices of foodgrains.
- (v) Release of wheat under Open Market Sales Scheme (OMSS) to check rise in prices of wheat.
- (f) No, Sir.
- (g) Does not arise.

[English]

Merger of IISCO with SAIL

696. SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH:
SHRI DHANUSKODI R. ATHITHAN:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has approved the merger of Indian Iron and Steel Company (IISCO) with Steel Authority of India Ltd. (SAIL);

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the terms and conditions of merger;

(c) whether merger will help SAIL to strengthen its overall performance;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the capital SAIL proposes to invest in IISCO to make it profitable?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) and (b) The Government has approved the merger of Indian Iron and Steel Company (IISCO), a wholly owned subsidiary of Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) with SAIL. SAIL will take over all obligations, rights and liabilities of IISCO including its permanent employees without any interruption in their services.

(c) and (d) Merger will enable IISCO to access SAIL's financial, technological and managerial capabilities, which will be instrumental in optimum utilization of IISCO's mines, collieries, large infrastructural facilities and good

work culture for growth and development of the merged entity.

(e) Under the Corporate Plan for IISCO, an investment of Rs. 8,017 crore will be made for its growth, development and modernization.

Shortage of Godowns

697. SHRI NAVJOT SINGH SIDHU: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Food Corporation of India (FCI) is facing acute shortage of godowns in various States;

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

(c) the steps being taken to provide adequate storage capacity to FCI?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Saving-cum-Relief Scheme for Fishermen

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

(a) whether the Union Government has implemented saving-cum-relief scheme for fishermen;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government has released its share for the scheme;

(c) if so, the details thereof during the last three years, State-wise;

(d) if not, the total dues pending during the said period and thereafter, State-wise; and

(e) the time by which central share is likely to be released particularly 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 TASLIMUDDIN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e) The Central assistance under saving-cum-relief component of the welfare scheme is extended to the States/Union Territories on receipt of proposals, utilization certificate and physical progress report pertaining to the funds provided earlier. Statement giving State-wise details of assistance extended under saving-cum-relief component of the National Scheme of Welfare of Fishermen during the last three years (2002-05) and current financial year till 23.11.05 is enclosed.

Statement

State-wise Central assistance sanctioned during the last 3 years (2002-05) and current financial year till 23.11.2005 for Saving-cum-Relief component of the Centrally Sponsored National Scheme of Welfare of Fishermen

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl.No.	States/UTs	2002-05	2005-06
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	7.50	20.36
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.00	0.00
3.	Assam	3.80	0.00
4.	Bihar	0.00	0.00
5.	Chhattisgarh	0.00	0.90
6.	Daman and Diu	0.00	0.00
7.	Gujarat	0.00	0.00
8.	Himachal Pradesh	11.83	4.42
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	0.00	0.00
10.	Jharkhand	0.00	4.50
11.	Karnataka	136.01	40.00
12.	Kerala	150.00	150.00
13.	Maharashtra	0.00	0.00
14.	Madhya Pradesh	11.25	5.85
15.	Manipur	0.00	0.00

1	2	3	4
16.	Nagaland	0.00	0.00
17.	Orissa	17.72	0.00
18.	Pondicherry	428.34	75.00
19.	Rajasthan	0.00	0.00
20.	Tamil Nadu	1622.35	84.04
21.	Tripura	0.00	0.00
22.	Uttar Pradesh	0.00	0.00
23.	Uttaranchal	0.00	0.00
24.	West Bengal	120.00	30.00
25.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	4.26	2.94
Total		2513.06	418.11

Establishment of FPI

699. SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN:
SHRI HEMMAL MURMU:

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

(a) whether the representatives of various countries recently appreciated the establishment of food processing industries in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total number of such industries with financial assistance and administrative support provided by the Government in each State of the country during the last three years and current year; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government to boost food processing industries in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Recently, French and Italian delegation visited India and had a meeting in the Ministry of Food Processing Industries. Both the delegations appreciated the potential and dynamism of Indian food processing industries. In the meetings, scope

for cooperation and partnership in the food processing sector beneficial to host and guest countries was discussed.

(c) and (d) Government has formulated and implemented several Plan Schemes to provide financial assistance for establishment and modernization of food processing units, creation of infrastructure, support for R&D, human resource development besides other promotional measures to encourage development of food processing industries. A statement showing number of FPI units assisted so far by the Government under the scheme of technology upgradation/establishment of food processing industries is annexed. Recently in 2004-05 for giving boost to growth of FPI sector the Government has allowed under Income Tax Act, a deduction of 100% of profit for five years and 25% of profits for the next five years in case of new agro processing industries set up to process, preserve and package fruits and vegetables. Excise duty of 16% on dairy machinery has been fully waived for promotion of dairy processing industries. Excise duty on meat, poultry and fish products has been reduced from 16% to 8%. Excise duty on food grade hexane used in edible oil industry has been reduced from 32% to 16%. A National Horticulture Mission has been launched w.e.f. 1st April 2005 with an objective to ensure an end-to-end approach for the horticulture sector. In the Budget of 2005-06 excise duty of Rs. 1.00 per kg on refined oil and Rs. 1.25 per kg on Vanaspati was abolished. Customs duty on refrigerated vans was reduced from 20% to 10%.

Statement

State/UT	FPI Units assisted by MFPI
1	2
Andhra Pradesh	52
Arunachal Pradesh	1
Assam	20
Bihar	4
Chhattisgarh	1
Delhi	1
Goa	5
Gujarat	27

1	2
Haryana	15
Himachal Pradesh	15
Jammu and Kashmir	14
Jharkhand	2
Karnataka	39
Kerala	20
Lakshadweep	—
Madhya Pradesh	17
Maharashtra	89
Manipur	24
Meghalaya	4
Mizoram	2
Nagaland	2
Orissa	10
Pondicherry	3
Punjab	51
Rajasthan	9
Tamil Nadu	44
Tripura	4
Uttar Pradesh	62
Uttaranchal	8
West Bengal	34
Total	579

Prices of Indian Drugs Products

700. DR. M. JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the prices of Indian Drug Products in the overseas market are significantly less than the one prevailing in the country;

(b) if so, the details of key bulk drugs exported and their comparative prices in the overseas as well as in the domestic markets;

(c) the foreign exchange earned therefrom during the last two years; and

(d) the steps being taken or proposed to be taken to secure better overseas market for the Indian drugs?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) and (b) The prices of Indian Drug Products in the overseas market are dictated by commercial considerations and also other factors like market strength of a company in a particular therapeutic group, competitors present etc. The prices of Scheduled drugs and formulations based thereon, as fixed by the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority under the provisions of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995 are applicable within the country. Exporters of such bulk drugs/formulations are not bound to follow these prices.

(c) Export of Drugs, Pharmaceuticals and the chemicals during the last two years is as under:

Values in US \$ Millions

2003-04	3310.73
2004-05	3712.57

(d) The Government of India takes a number of measures for export promotion of medicines under the Foreign Trade Policy, which, *inter-alia*, include, Assistance to States for developing Export Infrastructure and Allied Activities (ASIDE); Market Access Initiative (MAI); Market Development Assistance (MDA); Meeting Expenses for trade related matters; Reorganization of Towns of Export Excellence and assistance to exporters; Brand Promotion and Quality; Modernization and upgradation of Test Houses;

[*Translation*]

**Indo-Pakistan Cooperation in
Agro-Scientific Sector**

701. SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA:
SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Universities are considering for mutual cooperation in agro-science sector with Pakistan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any dialogue took place between them in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the time by which 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 (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana has initiated a proposal to sign a Memorandum of Understanding with the University of Agriculture, Faisalabad (Pakistan) for cooperation in Agriculture. The main emphasis under this Memorandum of Understanding will be on (i) Varietal Development (ii) Agronomic Practices (iii) Scientific Information (iv) Development of Joint Research Programme (v) Post Harvest Technologies (vi) Warehousing & related infrastructure. Chaudhary Charan Singh Haryana Agricultural University, Hissar has also initiated a proposal to sign a Memorandum of Understanding with the University of Agriculture, Faisalabad and Ayub Agricultural Research Institute, Faisalabad. The main activities envisaged under this Memorandum of Understanding are (i) Faculty and students exchange program (ii) Collaborative research projects (iii) short-term training programmes (iv) Exchange of teaching materials and other related literature (v) participation in Seminars and meetings (vi) Cultural Exchange Program.

[*English*]

Food Subsidy

702. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA:
SHRI ALOK KUMAR MEHTA:
SHRI GANESH PRASAD SINGH:

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

(a) the details of funds allocated for food subsidy during the current year and the amount out of this proposed to be spent on the purchase of foodgrains for Below Poverty Line families;

(b) whether losses due to leakage and diversion of foodgrains under the Targeted Public Distribution System has now gone upto 60 percent;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government proposes to scrap the current system of distribution of foodgrains due to huge diversion of foodgrains;

(e) if so, whether any alternative system has been worked out for the distribution of foodgrains to poor; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) An amount of Rs. 26,031 crore has been allocated as food subsidy for 2005-06.

In the budget estimates, an amount of Rs. 16,684 crore is taken as subsidy estimated to be incurred on issue of foodgrains to families below poverty line (BPL), including Antyodaya families during 2005-06.

(b) and (c) No report of such large scale diversion has been received from any of the State Governments/UTs. However, an evaluation study of Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) conducted by the Planning Commission covering eighteen major States has observed that out of the subsidized foodgrains issued under the TPDS there is leakage of about 19.71 percent at Fair Price Shops (FPS) level and about 16.67 per cent of the foodgrains is diverted through ghost cards. In addition, the TPDS suffers from diversion of subsidized grains to unintended beneficiaries (APL households) because of errors of inclusion. However, the report is based on old primary data of 2001-02. As several changes like introduction of Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY), change in the scale of issue, etc. have taken place since then, it is difficult to totally rely on this report.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) The Government of India has taken several measures to streamline the TPDS to check diversion and malpractices so that the benefits reach the targeted population.

[Translation]

Sindri Fertilizer Factory

703. SHRI TEK LAL MAHTO: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 3808 dated August 22, 2005 regarding revival of Sindri fertilizer factory and state:

(a) whether the Government has received the report from Projects and Development India Limited commissioned to prepare the revival report of Sindri fertilizer factory;

(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) Yes, Sir.

(b) Projects and Development India Ltd. in its report proposed two alternatives. One is to make the plant functional on quick restart basis involving a capital cost of Rs. 169.26 crore with cost of production of Rs. 13024 per MT of urea. Second option is for improving the performance and energy efficiency at a cost of Rs. 386.95 crore with cost of production at Rs. 11938/MT of urea. FCI Board did not accept this proposal and instead proposed a brown field gas based plant.

(c) The revival of the Unit will depend on the techno-economic viability of the proposal.

[English]

High Level of Dioxins in Eggs

704. SHRI SURESH ANGADI:
SHRI SUBODH MOHITE:
SHRI S. AJAYA KUMAR:
DR. K.S. MANOJ:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a study conducted by an Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) called "Toxics Links" have come out with a report which bring out that eggs produced in India contain dioxins as reported in the Hindu dated October 18, 2005;

- (b) if so, the facts and details thereof;
- (c) the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (d) its likely adverse effect on the health of the eggs consuming population;
- (e) whether there is any guideline for breeding and feeding of chickens in the country;
- (f) if so, the details thereof; and
- (g) if not, the measures proposed to be taken by the Government to keep World Health Organisation (WHO) criteria 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 TASLIMUDDIN): (a) to (d) Samples of free-range chicken eggs collected by the Non Governmental Organisation, "Toxics Link", from a source in close proximity to the medical waste incinerator of the Queen Mary's Hospital, Lucknow were reportedly found to contain dioxins, which may cause adverse health effects. The Government has taken note of these findings.

(e) and (f) The Government has published poultry feed standards for different age groups and different species. These are based on codex standards, industry experience and inputs from academic institutions. The central and State Government agencies also provide guidance on best practices for poultry breeding.

(g) No applicable.

Interest Rate of EPF

705. SHRI SURAVARAM SUDHAKAR REDDY:
SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA:
SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN:
SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA:

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

(a) whether the Government has since finalized the rate of interest of Employees Provident Fund (EPF) for the year 2005-06;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons for delay; and

(d) the time by which the decision is likely to be taken thereon and its impact on the financial position of the EPF Board?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRA SHEKHAR RAO): (a) to (d) The Central Board of Trustees, Employees' Provident Fund in its meeting held on 21.11.2005 had deliberated on the issue of rate of interest for the year 2005-06. However, as the discussions were inconclusive, the matter will be taken up during the ensuing meeting of Central Board of Trustees, Employees' Provident Fund.

Appointment of C.M.D. in ITDC

706. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether India Tourism Development Corporation (ITDC) is still heading without a full time Chief Managing Director (CMD);

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and since when the regular post is vacant in ITDC;

(c) whether a search committee headed by the Cabinet Secretary had recommended a few names for appointment as CMD; and

(d) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The post of CMD (Chairman-cum-Managing Director) fell vacant since 01.10.1997 and has been held as additional charge by other officers since then. The Government is in the process of filling up the post of CMD on regular basis.

(c) and (d) A Search Committee headed by Cabinet Secretary recommended a panel of candidates, which were not found suitable for the post.

Recognition to Domestic Tour Operators

707. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:
SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to give recognition to domestic tour operators in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the suggestions/requests received by the Government so far from such operators?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) With the objective to give stimulus to promotion and development of domestic tourism and to encourage high quality services, the Ministry of Tourism has launched a voluntary scheme to approve bonafide Domestic Tour Operators. Some salient conditions which must be fulfilled by the Domestic Tour Operators to receive government recognition are as follows:

1. The operator should have a minimum paid up capital of rupees five lakhs and a turn over of rupees twenty lakhs.
2. The operator should have been in operation for a minimum period of one year and have a minimum office space of 250 sq.ft.
3. The operator must employ a minimum of 4 appropriately qualified staff.
4. The operator should be an income tax assessee.
5. After recognition is granted, the operator must follow the terms and conditions laid down by the Government, from time to time.

(c) The guidelines for approval of Domestic tour Operators have been formulated in consultation with the Travel Trade Associations.

[Translation]

Income of Farmers

708. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether out of the final cost of agricultural product the farmer is only able to get 30 percent and the remaining 70 percent is appropriated by middlemen, grain agents and stockists;

(b) if so, whether the Government have been taken any steps to constitute a high level committee for

improving income in agriculture sector and related economic sector; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) A study conducted by this Ministry in 2004 has estimated that the share of farmers in final price of his produce varies from 56 to 89% in foodgrains and pulses, 40 to 85% in oilseeds and 32 to 68% in fruits, vegetables and flowers, depending on the marketing channel adopted by the farmer and the distance of market from his field.

(b) and (c) In order to bring reforms in the marketing sector, the Ministry of Agriculture on the recommendations of a Task Force, formulated a Model Law on agricultural markets (APMC Act) for guidance of the States. This would promote direct marketing of agricultural commodities and also provide an institutional framework to support contract farming, an arrangement under which companies enter into contracts for marketing of the agricultural produce and also provide technologies and capital support to farmers. These arrangements will provide an effective method of linking small farm sector to agro-processing industry and to sources for extension advice, seeds, credit and to assured and profitable markets.

So far, States of Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Sikkim and Nagaland have amended their APMC Act to provide for direct markets.

[English]

Shortage of Fertilizers In West Bengal

709. SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the fact that there is an acute shortage of urea and other chemical fertilizers in West Bengal;

(b) If so, the corrective measures taken by the Government to remove the shortages;

(c) whether the Government proposes to set up a fertilizer factory in the State;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) and (b) Availability of major fertilizers in the State of West Bengal during the month of October, 2005 is as under:

Name of Fertilizer	Requirement for Oct., 2005	Availability	(Qty. in 000' MT)	
			Sales	Closing Stock
Urea	65.00	85.05	51.97	33.08
DAP	35.00	50.37	39.83	10.54
MOP	30.00	57.13	28.44	28.69

(c) to (e) There is no proposal for setting up of urea plant in the State of West Bengal, at present.

[*Translation*]

Food Poisoning of Peacocks

710. SHRI HEMMAL MURMU: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item published in *Dainik Jagran* dated October 29, 2005 under the caption "Food Poisoning Se Das Mor Mare";

(b) if so, the action taken by the Government in this regard so far;

(c) the measures adopted by the Government for the protection of wild animals and birds so far; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to protect the people living near forest from violent wild animals in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As reported by Government of Haryana, six peafowls died due to insecticide poisoning in Hamidpur near Narnaul in Haryana on 27th October, 2005. The State Government officials have held meetings

with the villagers to spread awareness about ill effects of the use of heavy doses of insecticides. The Forest Department, Haryana has also requested Agricultural Department to take up research on safer insecticides and biopesticides.

(c) The measures adopted by the Government for the protection of wild animals and birds include:

1. Species of wild fauna and flora are listed in the six Schedules of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 affording different degrees of protection depending on their endangered/threatened status.
2. The Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 has been further amended in 2002 and made more stringent.
3. The Central Bureau of Investigation has been empowered under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 to apprehend and prosecute wildlife offend.
4. Central Government has adopted the integrated pest management approach to minimize indiscriminate and injudicious use of chemical pesticides to prevent inadvertent damage to peacocks and other foraging birds.
5. Awareness is being generated amongst the farmers to adopt organic farming methods and use bio-pesticides to save their crops from the ravages of pests and diseases.

(d) The steps taken by the Government to protect the people living near forest from violent wild animals include:

1. Restoration of habitat and animal corridors to minimize incidences of straying of wild animals into human habitation.
2. Chief Wildlife Wardens have been empowered under section 11 (1) of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 to permit hunting of animal or group of animals which have become dangerous to human life or to property including standing crops on any land.
3. Ex-gratia payment is given to persons affected by incidences of man-animal conflict.
4. Generating awareness among the forest fringe dwellers towards conservation and encouraging additional income options to minimize man-animal

Scientists in BIS

711. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of posts of scientists/technologists lying vacant in Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) as on date;

(b) whether the Government is contemplating to fill up these vacant posts; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the time by which they are likely to be filled up?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) 68 posts of Scientists/Technologists are lying vacant in Bureau of Indian Standards as on 31st October, 2005.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) BIS has issued an advertisement in major National Newspapers in October, 2005 inviting applications for filling up direct recruitment vacancies. Besides, applications have also been invited against vacancies to be filled internally through Limited Departmental Competitive Examination from Group B to Group A.

[English]

Baglihar Hydro-Electric Power Project

712. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY:
SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN:
SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a team of experts has visited the Baglihar Hydro-Electric Power project in Jammu and Kashmir recently;

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

(c) whether the said team has submitted its report to the World Bank;

(d) if so, the response of the World Bank thereon;

(e) the progress made on the project so far;

(f) the total amount likely to be spent on the project;

(g) whether there is any dispute on the project; and

(h) if so, the steps proposed by the Government to resolve the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) The Natural Expert accompanied by his Assistant, the Coordinator for the Expert Determination and technical delegations of India and Pakistan conducted a site inspection of the Baglihar H.E. Project on 2nd and 3rd October, 2005.

(b) to (d) The site inspection is part of the process by which the Neutral Expert will come to a determination whether the design of the Baglihar dam as prepared by India is in conformity with the provisions of the Indus Water Treaty. The Neutral Expert is to give a final determination on the questions referred to him and his findings may be expected only some time in the early part of next year. No interim report is required or expected to be submitted to the World Bank and consequently, the question of a response from the World Bank does not arise.

(e) As per the progress reported, dam blocks were completed up to almost 50% of the concrete, civil works of the underground powerhouse were almost completed, one turbine/generator of 150 MW was already erected and the installation of the two other units were under progress.

(f) As per current assessments, a sum of about Rs. 4,000 crores is likely to be spent on the project.

(g) and (h) Pakistan has raised a dispute that the design of the Baglihar H.E. Plant is not in conformity with the provisions of the Indus Water Treaty. In accordance with the provisions of the Treaty, the Governments of India and Pakistan had approved a name to be appointed as a Neutral Expert by the World Bank who will come to a conclusion in the matter after hearing both parties and examining all relevant documents. This process commenced in June, 2005 and is anticipated to conclude in May, 2006.

Compensation Packages for Paddy Cultivation

713. SHRI L. GANESAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government offers different compensation packages for paddy cultivation to the States;

(b) if so, the details of the criteria followed in this regard, State-wise; and

(c) the remedial measures taken or proposed to be taken to compensate to the farmers who have suffered due to crop losses by the devastating South West and North East Monsoon particularly the farmers of Punjab and Southern States?

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 the existing Scheme of financing Relief Expenditure, the State Governments are primarily responsible for undertaking relief and rehabilitation measures in the area affected by natural calamities, including floods. The Government of India supplements the efforts of the State Governments. The assistance for relief and rehabilitation in wake of natural calamities is given to the States under Calamity Relief Fund Scheme (CRF) and National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF). A CRF has been constituted for each State, which is contributed by Government of India and State Government in the ratio of 3:1. In case the calamity is of severe nature and funds available in the State's CRF account are not sufficient, additional assistance is provided to the States out of National Calamity Contingency Fund. The assistance for relief and rehabilitation including cropped areas is available to all the States including Punjab and Southern States.

Food Safety and Standard Authority

714. SHRI B. MAHTAB:
SHRI M. SREENIVASULU REDDY:

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up the Food Safety and Standard Authority to oversee the entire food manufacturing and processing sectors;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is being ensured to check food adulteration;

(d) if not, the steps taken by the Government to create standards and guidelines on food;

(e) whether food imported into the country is being monitored and approved by the above authority before entry; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The Government have introduced a Food Safety and Standards Bill, 2005 in Parliament which provides for establishment of Food Safety and Standards Authority of India. The main functions of Food Authority include prescribing standards and guidelines for articles of food, regulate/monitor manufacturing, processing, distribution and sale of food, so as to ensure safe and wholesome food for the people, accredit and issue guidelines for certification bodies and food laboratories, provide scientific advice and technical support to the Central and State Governments, contribute in development of international standards, etc.

(e) and (f) The Bill provides that the Government, while prohibiting, restricting or otherwise regulating import of an article of food under the Foreign Trade (Development and Regulation) Act, 1992 will follow the standards to be laid down by the Food Authority.

Production/Import of Fertilizers

715. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantity of fertilizers produced in the country during the last three years, unit-wise;

(b) the subsidy sanctioned and given to the manufacturing units during the said period, unit-wise;

(c) the total quantity of fertilizers imported during the said period;

(d) whether some private trading companies were also allowed to import fertilizers; and

(e) the details of quantity and subsidy distributed to these non-manufacturing fertilizer companies during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) The total quantity of fertilizers in terms of the nutrients *i.e.* Nitrogen (N) and Phosphate (P) produced in the country during the last three years, unit-wise is as per enclosed Statements-I & II.

(b) The subsidy given to the manufacturing units during the last three years, unit-wise, is as per enclosed Statement-III and IV.

(c) The total quantity of fertilizers imported during the last three years is as follows:

Year	Qty. in Lakh MTs.		
	DAP	MOP	Urea
2002-03	3.70	25.32	Nil
2003-04	7.34	25.79	Nil
2004-05	6.44	34.09	6.41

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. Some non-manufacturing private trading companies were also allowed to import fertilizers. The details of the quantity and subsidy distributed to them during the last three years are given in the enclosed Statement-V.

Statement I

Unit-wise production of Urea, DAP and Complexes (NPK) in Nutrient terms (as N&P) during the last three years

Nitrogen

Name of Company/Plant	Production ('000' MT)		
	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
1	2	3	4
Public Sector:			
NFL: Nangal-I	13.5	16.0	3.5
NFL: Nangal-II	220.1	220.1	227.2
NFL: Bhatinda	235.5	235.4	246.8
NFL: Panipat	225.4	235.3	244.4
NFL: Vijaipur	397.7	406.4	426.2
NFL: Vijaipur Expn.	398.8	400.3	432.2
BVFCL: Namrup-II	0.0	0.0	0.0
BVFCL: Namrup-III	85.7	110.7	94.8
FACT: Udyogamandal	69.4	68.1	62.3
FACT: Cochin-I*	4.4	0.0	0.0
FACT: Cochin-II	103.7	85.3	94.7
RCF: Trombay**	45.6	44.4	52.5

1	2	3	4
RCF: Trombay-IV	51.7	48.8	46.4
RCF: Trombay-V	9.6	8.1	0.0
RCF: Thal	707.2	796.5	823.4
MFL: Chennai	256.5	253.5	270.9
SAIL: Rourkela	0.4	0.0	0.0
By Product	28.9	19.9	29.2
Cooperative Sector			
IFFCO: Kandla	368.0	322.1	362.5
IFFCO: Kalol	247.5	220.6	255.1
IFFCO: Phulpur-I	253.6	248.7	260.0
IFFCO: Phulpur-II	397.8	391.5	397.8
IFFCO: Aonla-I	398.4	397.8	397.7
IFFCO: Aonla-II	398.0	397.8	398.0
KRIBHCO: Hazira	737.6	815.6	830.6
Private Sector			
GSFC: Vadodara	178.5	223.1	235.4
GSFC: Sikka-I	117.9	81.0	51.5
GSFC: Sikka-II	0.0	9.5	50.3
CFL: Vizag	111.9	133.8	164.9
SFC: Kota	181.1	167.4	174.3
DIL: Kanpur	0.0	0.0	0.0
ZIL: Goa	264.2	278.1	307.6
SPIC: Tuticorin	324.3	344.3	385.7
MCF: Mangalore	199.0	170.9	192.5
CFL: Ennore	30.8	34.0	44.9
GNFC: Bharuch	357.9	336.5	371.9
TAC: Tuticorin	19.7	20.5	18.8
TCL: Haldia	111.7	91.1	78.1
PNF: Nangal	0.0	0.0	0.0

1	2	3	4
GFCL: Kakinada	134.7	142.8	146.4
IGCL: Jagdishpur	397.7	396.6	453.2
Hindalco Inds. Ltd.: Dahej	54.2	40.9	51.5
DFPCL: Talaja	38.7	34.6	20.6
NFCL: Kakinada-I	258.4	275.3	302.2
NFCL: Kakinada-II	287.7	273.9	338.2
CFCL: Gadepan-I	397.9	417.6	442.2
CFCL: Gadepan-II	397.8	393.1	411.4
TCL: Babrala	397.8	397.7	445.4
OCF: Shahjahanpur	374.7	394.5	396.1
OCF: Paradeep	132.2	65.1	114.6
PPL: Paradeep	134.5	164.9	184.3

*Unit-wise production of Urea, DAP and Complexes (NPK) in Nutrient terms
(as N&P) during the last three years*

Phosphate

Name of Company/Plant	Production ('000' MT)		
	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
1	2	3	4
Public Sector:			
FACT: Udyogamandal	31.1	28.2	20.2
FACT: Cochin-II	103.7	85.3	94.7
RCF: Trombay	45.6	44.4	52.5
RCF: Trombay-IV	51.7	48.8	46.4
MFL: Chennai	73.4	77.6	52.5
HCL: Khetri	0.0	0.0	0.0
SSP Units	1.9	0.0	0.0
Cooperative Sector			
IFFCO: Kandla	949.5	832.6	938.3

1	2	3	4
Private Sector			
GSFC: Vadodara	35.4	65.0	62.0
GSFC: Sikka-I	301.2	206.9	13.16
GSFC: Sikka-II	0.0	24.2	128.7
CFL: Vizag	150.2	175.7	216.2
ZIL: Goa	141.8	166.1	178.0
SPIC: Tuticorin	143.0	146.2	176.9
MCF: Mangalore	46.7	40.2	84.4
CFL: Ennore	37.7	38.4	49.6
GNFC: Bharuch	35.2	24.3	36.0
TCL: Haldia	310.0	234.0	220.6
GFCL: Kakinada	285.2	362.2	373.9
Hindalco: Dahej	137.2	103.6	131.7
DFPCL: Talaja	38.7	34.6	20.6
OCF: Paradeep	337.7	151.6	282.7
PPL: Paradeep	292.9	344.0	407.3

Statement II

Unit-wise production of SSP in terms of Phosphate (as P2O5) during the last three years (In '000' MTs)

Sl.No.	Name of Unit with Location	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Aarti Industries Limited, Gujarat	0.0	5.8	6.7
2.	Agro Phos. India Limited, M.P.	0.0	0.0	0.5
3.	Andhra Sugars Ltd.	4.4	5.5	8.0
4.	Arawali Phosphate Limited, Udaipur, Rajasthan.	2.9	3.4	4.9
5.	Arihant Phosphates & Fertilizers Limited, Chittorgarh, Rajasthan	5.3	5.5	2.4
6.	Asha Phosphates Limited, Mandsaur, M.P.	0.3	0.2	0.0

1	2	3	4	5
7.	Asian Fertilizers Limied, Gorakhpur, U.P.	5.0	10.3	10.3
8.	Balaji Fertilizers, Maharashtra	0.0	1.3	2.9
9.	Basant Agro-tech India Limited, Akola, Maharashtra.	7.1	11.2	9.7
10.	BEC Limited, Bilaspur, Chhattisgarh.	16.1	16.2	16.1
11.	BEC Limited, Wardha, Maharashtra.	6.8	10.4	10.5
12.	Bharat Fertilizers Industries Ltd., Maharashtra	0.0	2.3	0.0
13.	Bohra Industries Limited, Udaipur, Rajasthan	14.0	11.2	8.6
14.	Chemtech Fertilizers Limited, Medak, Andhra Pradesh	1.8	2.4	3.3
15.	Coimbatore Pioneer Fertilizers Limited, Coimbatore, Tamilnadu	6.5	7.0	5.7
16.	Dharamsi Morarji Chem. Co. Ltd., Khemli, Rajasthan	6.8	6.6	3.8
17.	Dharamsi Moraji Chem. Co. Ltd., Kumhari, M.P.	7.7	0.0	0.0
18.	DMCC, Ambernath, Maharashtra	25.7	19.8	14.7
19.	E.I.D. Parry (India) Ltd., Chennai (Now merged into Coromandal Fert. Ltd.)	18.6	18.5	16.4
20.	Gayatri Spinners Ltd., Rajasthan	1.7	2.2	2.3
21.	Hind Lever Chems Ltd., Haldia, WB (Now Tata Chemicals Limited)	22.5	12.4	19.6
22.	Indian Phosphate Limited, Rajasthan	0.0	0.0	2.8
23.	Jairam Phosphate, Nagpur, Maharashtra	5.6	8.1	6.3
24.	Jaya Shree Chemicals & Ferts. Ltd. (Unit-I), Calcutta	7.1	6.1	5.3
25.	Jaya Shree Chemicals & Ferts. Ltd. (Unit-II), Calcutta	6.6	6.5	7.1
26.	Jubilant Organosys Ltd. Jyotiba Phule Nagar, UP	20.6	18.7	17.2
27.	Kashi Urbarak Ltd., Lucknow, UP	0.1	0.1	0.0
28.	Khaitan Chem. & Fert. Ltd, Indore, MP	22.7	29.2	25.5
29.	Khaitan Chemicals & Fertilizers, Jhansi Unit (Formerly known as Srinivas Fertilisers Ltd, UP	12.8	13.7	10.5

1	2	3	4	5
30.	Khiatan Chemicals & Fert. Ltd., Rajasthan	0.0	0.0	4.6
31.	Khaitan Fertilisers, Rampur, UP	2.5	0.0	0.10
32.	Krishna Industrial Corp. Co. Ltd., Chennai	3.4	3.8	3.4
33.	Liberty Phosphates Ltd; Gujarat	11.3	8.8	8.1
34.	Liberty Phosphates Ltd; Udaipur, Rajasthan	24.3	29.4	23.5
35.	Liberty Urvarak Limited, M.P.	0.0	3.6	9.5
36.	Madhya Bharat Agro Products Ltd., MP	0.5	0.0	1.0
37.	Madhya Bharat Phosphate Pvt. Ltd., M.P.	0.0	0.4	1.8
38.	Madhya Pradesh Orgochem Ltd., MP	0.2	0.1	0.0
39.	Mahadeo Fertilizers Ltd, Lucknow	1.3	0.9	0.0
40.	Mangalam Phosphates Ltd., Rajasthan	1.1	0.5	1.0
41.	Mukteswar Fert. Ltd., MP	0.5	0.5	0.2
42.	Narmada Agro Chemicals Pvt. Ltd; Junagadh, Gujarat	0.3	0.1	0.3
43.	Nrma Ltd, Ahmedabad, Gujarat	13.3	14.2	13.2
44.	Phosphate Company Ltd, Rishra, WB	13.0	12.6	12.2
45.	Pragati Fertilizers Ltd, Vizag, AP	1.6	3.0	3.0
46.	Prathyusha Chemicals & Fert, Visakhapatnam, AP	4.4	3.1	1.9
47.	Premsakhi Fertilizer Ltd., Rajasthan	3.6	4.1	3.5
48.	Priyaanka Fertilizers & Chemicals Ltd., Vizag, AP	1.5	1.8	1.6
49.	Rama Krishi Rasayan, Pune, Maharashtra	10.5	12.8	8.8
50.	Rama Phosphate Ltd., Indore, MP	16.0	16.0	15.8
51.	Rama Phosphates (Udaipur Unit), Rajasthan	8.9	11.2	9.6
52.	Sadhana Phosphates & Chems Pvt. Ltd. Rajasthan	0.9	2.2	0.6
53.	Shiva Fertilizers Limited, Nanded, Maharashtra	10.6	10.7	8.4
54.	Shree Bhavani Mishra Fertilizer Ltd., Maharashtra	2.0	1.7	1.6
55.	Shree Ganapati Fert. Ltd, Chittorgarh, Rajasthan	0.2	0.1	1.0

1	2	3	4	5
56.	Shurvi Colour Chem Ltd., Rajasthan	0.9	0.7	1.0
57.	Sona Phosphates Ltd., Gujarat	0.1	0.1	0.0
58.	Sri Krishna Fertilizer, Muzaffarpur, Bihar	0.3	0.2	0.0
59.	Subhodaya Chems Ltd., Rajamundry, AP	2.2	1.4	1.9
60.	Swastik Fertilizer and Chem., Ltd., Indore, MP.	3.6	3.7	2.5
61.	T.J. Agro Fertilizer, Gujarat	0.0	1.4	3.0
62.	TEDCO Granite Limited, Bhlwara, Rajasthan	0.0	5.3	8.6
63.	Teesta Agro Industries Ltd., Jalpaiguri, WB	15.6	14.4	15.4
64.	Tungabhadra Ferts & Chems Co. Ltd., Karnataka	2.0	3.5	5.6
65.	V.K. Phosphates, U.P.	0.0	0.0	0.3
Total Production (In '000' MTs)		385.2	406.9	393.8

*Statement III**Subsidy paid in respect of Indigenous Urea*

Sl.No.	Name of Unit	Total Subsidy Paid (Rs. in Lakh)		
		2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
1	2	3	4	5
1.	BVFCL/HFC-Namrup	1256	1440	2864
2.	FACT-Cochin	96	-1046	-683
3.	FCI-Sindri	4270	4046	0
4.	GNFC-Bharuch	25576	22485	26546
5.	GSFC-Baroda	8614	7001	21768
6.	MFL-Madras	45218	40976	49674
7.	NFL-Bhatinda	48861	50201	43437
8.	NFL-Nangal	35253	54485	45251
9.	NFL-Panipat	39942	46588	40468

1	2	3	4	5
10.	NFL-Vijaipur	14315	16449	14645
11.	NFL-Vijaipur Exp.	27854	28414	32083
12.	NLC-Neyveli	6580	5061	-15
13.	RCF-Thal	40631	66942	67109
14.	RCF-Trombay-V	945	156	0
15.	IFFCO-Aonla	26888	14735	15817
16.	IFFCO-Aonla-Exp.	20515	14389	24556
17.	IFFCO-Kalol	27739	28694	31976
18.	IFFCO-Phulpur	50623	46095	52658
19.	IFFCO-Phulpur-Exp.	69098	57755	86560
20.	KRIBHCO-Hazira	19112	32221	19751
21.	CFCL-Kota	21835	19956	38649
22.	CFCL-Kota-Exp.	59369	61747	82119
23.	DUNCANS-Kanpur	7463	0	0
24.	INDOGULF-Jagdishpur	19748	10628	21597
25.	MCFL-Mangalore	18910	22621	38463
26.	NFCL-Kakinada	18096	12012	18425
27.	NFCL-Kakinada-Exp.	12591	20781	29805
28.	OCFL-Shahjahanpur	20046	20143	36176
29.	SFC-Kota	21941	29937	31048
30.	SPIC-Tuticorin	43103	52003	66813
31.	TATA-Babralla	21904	17588	38266
32.	ZACL-Goa	29221	38141	48461
	Other Payments (IC/CD etc.)	242	9456	0
	Less: Receipts	-28835	0	0
	Grand Total	779000	852100	1024315

Statement IV***Subsidy Paid in respect of Indigenous DAP, Complexes & SSP***

Name of Company	Amount of Subsidy Paid (In Rs. Lakh)		
	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
1	2	3	4
Andhra Sugar	131.72	267.59	279.06
Aravali	128.77	167.12	145.85
Arihant	263.11	208.33	128.48
Arihant Fert.	9.05	0.00	0.00
Asha Phosp.	9.92	0.35	17.42
Asian Fert.	181.51	386.43	377.61
Balaji	0.57	30.46	86.25
Basant	340.40	345.77	348.64
BEC (P)	298.55	328.35	451.77
BEC Fert.	628.23	716.55	583.11
Bharat Fert.	136.68	84.02	34.74
BMFP	113.82	74.24	59.38
Bohra	740.08	405.63	300.82
CFL	7847.77	15513.11	30151.92
Chemtech Fert.	79.36	105.01	127.95
Coibatore	251.32	305.54	276.19
Deepak	2071.27	1756.87	1407.46
DMCC	1478.73	1269.92	735.13
EID (Parry)	2148.67	2233.91	0.00
FACT	15422.20	12241.20	21165.71
Gayatri	62.50	78.18	83.43
GFCL	15669.39	18210.43	32896.61
GFCL (IFFCO)	0.00	868.50	0.00
GNVFC	2208.90	3827.85	4815.10

1	2	3	4
GSFC (S)	4843.52	3320.13	26346.99
GFSC (V)	17198.21	16118.71	0.00
Hindalco	0.00	5821.22	11473.44
HLL	15097.09	16603.68	0.00
IFFCO	56917.57	64742.91	97170.77
IFFCO (GFCL)	1698.43	3411.70	2398.56
IGCL	7018.86	1798.43	0.00
Jai Ram	211.86	311.35	253.99
Jai Shree (I)	345.40	332.57	228.81
Jai Shree (II)	252.69	363.02	273.53
Jai Shree (III)	44.59	2.68	0.00
Jubilant	690.68	689.93	33.36
Kashi Urvarak	7.36	2.72	1.40
Khaitan Chem (I)	1013.85	1169.67	1152.75
Khaitan Chem (II)	0.00	416.75	306.51
Khaitan Fert.	135.13	0.00	7.43
Kothari	27.81	3.45	0.00
Krishna Ind.	128.51	165.70	147.29
Liberty	1421.58	1461.12	1200.05
Mahadeo	161.33	31.24	18.57
Mangalam	72.11	26.95	34.28
Mardia	161.13	29.38	0.00
MB (Pvt.)	0.00	4.92	28.04
MBAPL	90.66	16.14	41.83
MCFL	3699.07	3013.48	7251.41
MEDIC	147.21	0.08	0.00
Mexican Phos.	0.00	44.87	0.00
MFL	8110.20	1167.84	13696.62

1	2	3	4
MPOL	10.96	3.18	3.59
Mukteswar	27.33	10.81	11.18
Munak	0.00	8.59	0.00
Narmada Agro	0.00	16.13	6.78
Natraj Org.	0.00	63.84	9.05
Nirma	807.32	615.09	615.39
OCFL	16632.10	8510.45	26444.59
Oriental	7.06	0.51	0.00
Phosphate Co.	535.38	562.00	526.30
PPL	12042.56	20404.70	31031.64
Pragati	71.91	126.65	122.33
Prathysha	267.09	153.29	27.85
Prem Sakhi	167.45	224.85	153.10
Priyanka	79.48	72.97	66.72
Pyrites Phosp.	8.14	0.00	0.00
Rajlaxmi	2.94	1.97	0.00
Rama Phos. (I)	277.57	622.84	643.30
Rama Phos. (U)	660.68	766.23	290.02
Rashi Fert.	28.83	2.82	0.00
RCF	7050.82	9276.23	11410.07
Revati Minerals	31.47	0.79	1.07
RKRL	437.58	578.37	0.00
Sadhna	78.47	100.14	33.58
Sarada Fert.	0.00	0.00	0.00
Shaw Wallace	0.00	0.00	0.00
Shiva	387.70	397.66	399.90
Shree Acids	43.71	0.00	0.00
Shree Ganpati	4.38	0.33	34.16

1	2	3	4
Shree GI Phos.	25.24	0.00	0.00
Shree JI Fert.	1.74	0.00	0.00
Shree Krishna	7.20	0.00	43.16
Shree Niwas Fert.	743.66	25.84	0.00
Sona Phos.	2.43	1.77	0.85
SPIC	8414.20	9152.58	15722.58
Subodaya	79.09	71.24	80.93
Survi	37.86	32.02	31.60
Swastik	149.33	142.30	120.05
TEDCO	55.32	157.99	337.94
Teesta	763.19	626.26	742.14
Tungbhadra	79.82	151.50	170.51
VAM	1.51	147.81	0.00
ZIL	10354.08	13969.86	24398.79
Jubilant (VAM)	0.00	0.00	813.13
Khaitan Chem. (III)	0.00	0.00	104.51
Liberty Urvarak	0.00	0.00	362.97
OCCL	0.00	0.00	0.00
Rama Krishi	0.00	0.00	448.20
TJ Agro	0.00	0.00	122.57
Tata Chem. (HLL)	0.00	0.00	23395.57
Agro Phosp	0.00	0.00	1.27
Total	232092.98	257995.65	395476.65
Subsidy amount on the sale prior to Oct-2000	16300.00	2346.00	1375.89
Subsidy on Special Freight	381.00	258.00	846.15
Gross Total	248773.98	260599.65	397698.69

Statement V

Quantity (In MTs) and Amount of concession (In Rs. Lakh) paid to non-manufacturing private trading companies on sales of imported DAP, MOP & Urea during the last three years

Name of Company	2002-03		2003-04		2004-05	
	Quantity	Amount	Quantity	Amount	Quantity	Amount
<i>Year-wise quantity & amount of concession paid on sales of imported DAP</i>						
IPL	140741.27	2377.40	231620.3	3707.72	50452.22	1974.38
Cargill	78800.25	1297.07	127646.7	2397.20	231224.55	8628.96
MMTC	386.62	6.55	371.55	7.48	0.00	0.00
<i>Year-wise quantity & amount of concession paid on sales of MOP</i>						
IPL	1044761.32	32087.32	1069358.72	27168.37	1536642.34	80609.18
PCTL	1871.88	59.43	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
MMTC	20844.90	644.93	13785.95	241.47	5839.55	316.01
<i>Year-wise quantity & amount of concession paid on sales of imported Urea</i>						
IPL	0	0	0	0	18500	1372

Issuance of Ration Cards in Chandigarh

716. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of households having ration cards in Union Territory of Chandigarh;

(b) the number of families out of the above identified as below poverty line;

(c) the total number of households below poverty line in Union Territory of Chandigarh;

(d) conditions insisted upon by the Union Territory Administration for issuing Antodaya Ana Yojana Card;

(e) whether the filing of an affidavit that the applicant did not ever have a ration card earlier is not considered adequate by the Administration for issuance of a new card;

(f) if so, the reasons therefor;

(g) whether this practice denies the benefit to a large number of otherwise eligible persons; and

(h) if so, 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) There are 2,28,152 households having ration cards in the Union Territory of Chandigarh.

(b) and (c) Out of the above, 2,28,152 households, 12024 Below Poverty Line cards were issued in Chandigarh. However, due to migration of the seasonal labour presently 6673 households are being provided ration under BPL.

(d) The following conditions are being adopted by the UT Administration for issuing of Antodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) Card;

(i) There is a condition of upper income limit of Rs. 250/- per capita per month.

(ii) The applicant should not be in possession of scooter/refrigerator or coloured television.

(e) Filing of an affidavit is not considered sufficient for issue of new ration card.

(f) In order to avoid duplicity in the issuance of ration cards, only surrender/deletion certificates is accepted and not the Affidavit.

(g) and (h) The possibility of eligible and genuine person being left out is negligible since by and large the desired deletion/surrender certificate is submitted by the applicant subsequently.

Arid Land Cultivation

717. SHRI MITRASEN YADAV: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has prepared any scheme for arid land cultivation in the arid and semi-arid areas of the country;

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

(c) the amount allocated by the Government during the financial year 2005-06, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH) (a) and (b) The Ministry of Agriculture has formulated a new scheme 'Enhancing Sustainability of Dryland Farming Systems' to address the problems of dryland farming in semi-arid and arid regions of the country particularly in the districts having low annual rainfall and less coverage under irrigation. Initially the scheme is proposed to be launched in 16 districts, 4 each in Rajasthan, Gujarat, Maharashtra and Karnataka.

(c) A provision of Rs. 20.00 crore (as Revised Estimate) has been kept for the financial year 2005-06. State-wise allocation of funds will be made after the scheme is finally approved for implementation.

Target for Employment Generation

718. SHRI M. ANJAN KUMAR YADAV:
SHRI GIRIDHARI YADAV:

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

(a) whether the Government had fixed any target for employment generation during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the extent to which these targets have been achieved during the above period; and

(d) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRA SHEKHAR RAO) (a) and (b) A target of creation of around 5 crore employment opportunities at the rate of around one crore employment opportunities per year, has been set for the 10th Plan period *i.e.* 2000-2007.

(c) and (d) Based on the information available from thin sample surveys of the National Sample Survey Organisation, it is estimated that on an average around 84 lakh employment opportunities per year were created during 2000-2002 (July-December).

Damage due to Insect Menace

719. SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA:
DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the schemes formulated by the Government to provide relief to the farmers suffering losses due to insect menace during the current financial year, State-wise; and

(b) the total loss to the farmers as a result 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) The 12th Finance Commission has included 'Pest Attack' as a natural calamity for which relief expenditure can be incurred from Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) & National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF).

(b) No claim for assistance under CRF or NCCF has so far been received for providing relief to farmers crops have been damaged due to pest attacks.

*[English]***Guidelines on Iron Ore Mining**

720. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has set up an expert group on iron-ore mining;

(b) if so, the guidelines prescribed therefor by that group;

(c) whether these guidelines have been strictly followed by the State Governments;

(d) if not, the details thereof and the reasons therefor, State-wise; and

(e) the reaction of the Government thereto?

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

(a) and (b) The Ministry of Steel constituted an "Expert Group", on 20th April 2005, for formulating guidelines for preferential grant of mining leases, for iron ore, manganese ore and chrome ore, by State Governments. The report of the "Expert Group" was submitted on 28th August 2005. The "Expert Group" has, in its report, recommended a "Scheme of Preferences" for grant of mining leases by State Governments with regard to iron ore and chrome ore. Details of the "Scheme of Preference" are given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) to (e) The recommendations of the "Expert Group" are under examination of the Government.

Statement***Details of Recommendations of the Expert Group***

The recommendations of the Expert Group are limited to leases for iron ore and chrome ore and basically consists of a "the schemes of preferences" to be applied while deciding on applications for iron ore and chrome ore leases under Section 11(5) of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulations) Act, 1957. The features of the scheme of preferences are as under.

Scheme of preferences: Iron ore

• In the scheme of preferences for iron ore "Preference A" is for allotment of mining leases, on captive basis for steel plants. Within this preference group, steel plants/projects have been given varying priorities. Conditions are prescribed for each category. The order of priority is as follows:

— Priority 1: existing integrated public sector steel plants both for existing capacities and projected expansion up to 2019-20 to meet 30 years requirements.

— Priority 2: existing fully integrated steel plants owned by widely held Indian public limited company with capacity of 2 million tonnes per annum (tpa) and above both for existing capacity and brown field expansion up to 2019-20.

— Priority 3: Greenfield plants of 2 million tpa plus capacities promoted by Indian widely held public limited company coming in iron rich scheduled areas and brown field and green field plants (promoted by widely held Indian public limited company) of 4 million tpa capacities planned for commission up to 2011-12.

— Priority 4: Green field plants with minimum 10 million tpa capacities promoted by international steel companies through FDI in widely held Indian public limited company.

— Priority 5: Consortium of iron and steel producers with a combined capacity of minimum 2 million tpa.

• Preference B is with regard to mining companies and, within this group, first priority is for public sector mining companies; the second for professionally managed companies with proven track record of reclamation and beneficiation for allotment of leases which contain 90% ores of below 55% Fe content and the third priority to go to widely held Indian public limited companies with proven mining track record but with a commitment to supply ores to domestic plants.

• Some important notes and provisos attached to the scheme are:

— Steel plants must use 60% of iron ore fines through agglomeration and concurrently mine all ores above 55% Fe.

- All cases for grant of leases for expansion/brown field and green field projects should be given only in principle approval in the first place and actual grant of leases should be tied up with implementation of end use project.
- Preferences should not be tied to location of plant or related to boundaries of any particular state.
- Except where leases are given for Foreign Direct Investment projects, where swaps may be allowed, none of the captive allottees should undertake exports or domestic sales of ore. However, domestic sale of agglomerates and beneficiated ores can be permitted.
- Memorandum of Understanding already entered into by State Governments to be reviewed, amended or revoked as necessary to bring them in conformity with the scheme of preferences.
- Preferential scheme, after consulting the Attorney General, may be suo-motto brought before the Supreme Court so as to avoid future litigation.

Scheme of preferences: Chrome-Ore

Scheme of Preferences:

- * First priority: Existing charge chrome and ferro-chrome plants to meet 30 year's requirements.
- * Second priority: Brownfield expansion/green field projects (to be commissioned within 2 years) to meet 20 years needs.
- * No export, by the captive allottees, of natural ore to be permitted.

The Expert Group has also recommended that Orissa Government should throw open reserves for which OMC has no prospecting/mining plan within the next 5 years.

Pollution by Cement Plants

721. SHRI V.K. THUMMAR:
SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA:

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

(a) whether Cement Plants polluting the environment of Gujarat are being set up in the residential areas of the nearby villages;

(b) if so, the details thereof including its effects on basic infrastructure like water bodies, roads etc.; and

(c) the rules and regulations which govern Cement Industries in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA) (a) and (b) The cement plants in Gujarat are operating with valid consent of the Gujarat State Pollution Control Board, which is regularly monitoring compliance with the consent conditions and environmental norms. There are no reports of any adverse impact on infrastructure and other facilities.

(c) The cement industries are required to comply with the emission standards notified under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

Production of Rice

722. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the target for production of rice during 2004-2005;

(b) whether the rice production fell short of the target during the period; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and steps taken by the Government to augment the rice production?

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 target of production of rice for the year 2004-05 was set at 93.50 million tonnes. Against this target, the production of rice, as per the 4th advance estimates of foodgrains production for 2004-05, was 85.31 million tonnes which included production of 71.67 million tonnes of kharif rice and 13.64 million tonnes of rabi rice. Thus, the production of rice of 2004-05 was 8.19 million tonnes less than the target production. The shortfall was mainly due to low production of rice in the kharif season of 2004-05. The decrease was because of erratic behaviour of south-west monsoon. The all India rainfall was only 87% of its Long Period Average (LPA).

For increasing the production of rice the Government of India (GOI) is implementing Integrated Cereals Development Programme (ICDP). The ICDP in Rice Based

Cropping Systems Areas (ICDP-Rice) was launched in 1994-95 for implementation of 75:25 sharing basis between GOI and the State Governments. Central Government has been implementing this Scheme with a view to promote rice cultivation in the country. The scheme was subsumed under Macro Management Mode of Agriculture with effect from October, 2000 along with 26 other scheme to provide more flexibility to States based on local needs. Now, the Scheme is being implemented on 90:10 sharing basis between GOI and the States. Under the scheme assistance is provided for propagation of improved production technology, hybrid rice production technology, integrated pest management through field demonstrations; training of farmers including women; transfer of technology through electronic media and published literature; farm implement; installation of sprinkler irrigation system; varietal replacement, production of certified seeds, etc., as per the Work Plan of the State Governments. Besides, Frontline Demonstrations are also organized by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) on farmer's fields on 100 percent GOI assistance.

Establishment of Sponge Iron Plants

723. SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the number of sponge iron plants proposed to be set up in the country both public and private sectors during the remaining period of 10th plan and the forthcoming 11th plan; and

(b) the extent to which it is likely to enhance the availability of steel in the country?

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

(a) In terms of industrial policy in vogue, no permission of the Government is required to set up sponge iron plants in the country except for certain locational restrictions. As per available information, details of new sponge iron capacity coming up during the remaining period of 10th plan and the forthcoming 11th plan are as under:

Year	No of units	Total Capacity (MT)
New (Greenfield) plants		
Remaining period of 10th Plan (2005-06 & 2006-07)	52	4.593
11th Plan - 1st year: 2007-08	6	1.254
Total	58	5.847
Existing units proposing expansion		
Remaining period of 10th Plan (2005-06 & 2006-07)	6	1.254
11th Plan - First two years: (2007-08 & 208-09)	5	1.857
Total	77	7.322

All the additional sponge iron capacity is coming up in the private sector.

(b) In steel making, usage of sponge iron only, produces a yield of 88 per cent (approximately). However, the extent to which the domestic availability of steel will increase will depend on the composition of the charge mix.

Destruction of Cotton and Soyabean Crops

724. SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the bad weather conditions and excessive rains have destroyed the cotton and soyabean crops in Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, whether the farmers in the cyclonic rains affected areas have suffered heavy losses and have been forced to commit suicide; and

(c) if so, the preventive measures taken by the Government to save lives and properties of the poor farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH) (a) Yes, Sir. Cotton and Soyabean crops have been damaged due to bad weather and excessive rains in Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka. However, there is no report of damage of cotton and soyabean crops in the State of Tamil Nadu.

(b) and (c) No suicide has been reported in this regard. The farmers are protected against natural calamities through National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS), the Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) and the National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF).

Farmers in Debt

725. SHRI KAMLA PRASAD RAWAT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of per capita income of the farmers, State-wise;

(b) whether any survey has been conducted to assess the number of farmer families in debt in the country;

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

(d) whether in Uttar Pradesh large number of farmers are in debt; and

(e) if so, the efforts made to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH) (a) Details are given in the enclosed Statement-I.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Details are given in the enclosed Statement-II.

(d) As per survey report No. 498 released by National Sample Survey Organization on Indebtedness of Farmer Households, 40.3% of farmer households in Uttar Pradesh are indebted.

(e) Details are given in the enclosed Statement-III.

Statement I

Average monthly per capita consumption expenditure (Rs.) (as a Proxy for income)

State/UT	MPCE* (Rs.) on		
	Food	Non-Food	Total
1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh	289.00	223.55	512.55
Arunachal Pradesh	307.42	275.23	582.65
Assam	311.72	167.70	479.42
Bihar	250.28	153.32	403.60
Chhattisgarh	219.11	159.78	378.89
Gujarat	313.29	249.58	562.87
Haryana	393.97	347.13	741.10
Himachal Pradesh	371.46	337.01	708.47
Jammu and Kashmir	396.86	314.96	711.82
Jharkhand	225.06	127.79	352.85

1	2	3	4
Karnataka	262.71	228.48	491.19
Kerala	418.88	481.71	900.59
Madhya Pradesh	217.17	189.13	406.30
Maharashtra	268.25	255.87	524.12
Manipur	314.98	277.29	592.27
Meghalaya	347.06	245.68	582.74
Mizoram	365.06	291.53	656.59
Nagaland	478.02	404.91	882.93
Orissa	202.81	138.94	341.75
Punjab	403.84	424.17	828.01
Rajasthan	308.63	248.82	557.45
Sikkim	329.60	218.42	548.02
Tamil Nadu	302.07	270.74	572.81
Tripura	316.64	245.25	561.89
Uttar Pradesh	257.30	217.59	474.89
Uttaranchal	301.81	264.78	566.59
West Bengal	311.32	196.42	507.74
Groups of UTs	349.84	308.66	658.50
All India	278.74	224.09	502.83

Source: NSS Report NO. 495: Consumption Expenditure of Farmer Households, 2003.

*Monthly Per Capita Consumption Expenditure

Statement II

Estimated number of rural households, and total and indebted farmer households in each State

1	Estimated Number of rural households (^{'00})	Estimated Number of farmer households (^{'00})	Estimated Number of indebted farmer households (^{'00})	Percentages of farmer households indebted
1	2	3	4	5
Andhra Pradesh	142512	60339	49493	82.0
Arunachal Pradesh	15412	1227	72	5.9

1	2	3	4	5
Assam	41525	25040	4536	18.1
Bihar	116853	70804	23383	33.0
Chhattisgarh	36316	27598	11092	40.2
Gujarat	63015	37845	19644	51.9
Haryana	31474	19445	10330	53.1
Himachal Pradesh	11928	9061	3030	33.4
Jammu and Kashmir	10418	9432	3003	31.8
Jharkhand	36930	28238	5893	20.9
Karnataka	69908	40413	24897	61.6
Kerala	49942	21948	14126	64.4
Madhya Pradesh	93898	63206	32110	50.8
Maharashtra	118177	65817	38098	54.8
Manipur	2685	2146	533	24.8
Meghalaya	3401	2543	103	4.10
Mizoram	942	780	184	23.6
Nagaland	973	805	294	36.5
Orissa	66199	42341	20250	47.8
Punjab	29847	18442	12069	65.4
Rajasthan	70172	53080	27828	52.4
Sikkim	812	531	174	38.8
Tamil Nadu	110182	38880	28954	74.5
Tripura	5977	2333	1148	49.2
Uttar Pradesh	221499	171575	69199	40.3
Uttaranchal	11959	8962	644	7.20
West Bengal	121667	89226	34696	50.1
Groups of UTs	2325	732	372	50.8
All India	1478988	893504	434242	48.6

Source: NSSO Report No. 498; Indebtedness of Farmer Households NSS 59th Round (May, 2005)

Statement III**Regarding "Farmers in Debt".**

1. To increase the share of institutional credit and to provide relief to the indebted farmers of the country including Uttar Pradesh, Government has advised the banks as under:

- i. To increase credit flow to agriculture sector at the rate of 30% per year.
- ii. Debt restructuring under the following heads in accordance with the guidelines issued by Reserve Bank of India (RBI)/National Bank for Agriculture & Rural Development (NABARD):
 - Farmers in distress—Rescheduling/restructuring of the outstanding loan of the farmer as on 31st March, 2004 in the districts declared as calamity-affected by the State Government. Rescheduled loan shall be repayable over a period of five years, at current interests rates, including an initial moratorium of two years.
 - Farmers in arrears—Loans in default of farmers who have become ineligible for fresh credit as their earlier debts have been categorized as sub-standard or doubtful shall be rescheduled as per the guidelines so that such farmers become eligible for fresh credit.

On restructuring as above, the farmers will become eligible for fresh loans.

- iii. Banks have been advised to grant a one-time settlement (OTS) including partial waiver of interest or loan to the small and marginal farmers who have been declared as defaulters and have become ineligible for fresh credit. Banks have also been advised to review cases where credit has been denied on the sole ground that a loan account was settled through compromise or write offs.
- iv. In some parts of the country, farmers face acute distress because of the heavy burden of debt from non-institutional lenders (e.g., moneylenders). Banks have been permitted to advance loans to such farmers to provide them relief from indebtedness.

- v. The banks have been advised to waive margin/security requirements for agricultural loans up to Rs. 50,000 and agri-business and agri-clinics up to Rs. 5 lakh.

Fixation of Minimum Support Price for Paddy and Sugarcane

726. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has recently announced minimum support price (MSP) for paddy and sugarcane;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government of Karnataka has urged the Government to review the Minimum Support Price fixed for paddy and sugarcane;
- (d) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto; and
- (e) the main reasons put forward by the Government of Karnataka to raise the MSP for paddy and sugarcane?

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 Government has announced the Minimum Support Price of paddy (common) at Rs. 570 per quintal and for paddy (Grade A) at Rs. 600 per quintal for 2005-06 season while the Statutory Minimum Price (SMP) of sugarcane for 2005-06 has been fixed at Rs. 79.50 per quintal.

(c) to (e) The Government of Karnataka has not urged for a review of the MSP fixed for paddy for 2005-06 season and has also not given any suggestion/comment regarding fixation of SMP for sugar season 2005-06.

Procurement of Foodgrains

727. SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM:
SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY:

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

- (a) the total quantity of foodgrains procured for the Central Pool during the year 2004-05;

(b) whether there has been a decline in production and procurement of foodgrains in the country over the last year;

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

(d) the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken to improve the production and procurement of foodgrains during the coming 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) Quantity of foodgrains procured for the Central Pool during the relevant marketing season in the year 2004-05 is as under:—

(In lakh tonnes)		
Commodity	Marketing Season	Quantity
Rice	KMS 2004-05	246.83
Wheat	RMS 2005-06	147.87
Coarsegrains	KMS 2004-05	8.26
	Total	402.96

(b) to (d) Statement-I and II showing the State-wise production and procurement of foodgrains in the Central Pool during the year 2003-04 and 2004-05 are enclosed.

Production of the foodgrains during the year 2004-05 as per 4th advance estimate is estimated to be 1950.88 lakh MTs against the production of 1984.78 lakh MTs of foodgrains during 2003-04. The decline in foodgrains production is only 1.7% which is negligible. However, there is no decrease in the procurement of foodgrains of crop year of 2004-05 against the last years' procurement.

(e) The scheme of rice, wheat and coarse cereals development are being implemented under Macro Management Mode of Agriculture in the country for increasing production and productivity of these crops.

As regards procurement, a meeting was held on 18.8.2005 with State Food Secretaries to discuss all arrangements for procurement operations during Kharif Marketing Season 2005-06 including opening of adequate procurement centers and deployment of manpower etc. to enhance procurement in States with marketable surplus. Similarly to discuss arrangements for procurement with State Food Secretaries in the coming Rabi Marketing Season 2006-07, a meeting has been scheduled.

Statement I

The Quantity of Foodgrains (Rice, Wheat and Coarsegrains) produced in the Central Pool during the year 2003-04 and 2004-05

Quantity in Lakh Tonnes

State/UTs	2003-04				2004-05 (4th Advance Estimate)			
	Rice	Wheat	Coarsegrains	Total	Rice	Wheat	Coarsegrains	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Andhra Pradesh	89.53	0.07	34.98	124.58	94.39	2.31	26.69	123.39
Arunachal Pradesh	1.55	0.06	0.76	2.37	—	—	—	0
Assam	38.81	0.73	0.18	39.72	35.91	1.10	0.2	37.21
Bihar	53.93	37.38	14.83	106.14	39.6	40.33	14.7	94.63
Chhattisgarh	54.1	1.07	2.29	57.46	43.84	0.86	1.92	46.61
Goa	1.71	—	0.01	1.72	—	19.82	—	19.82

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Gujarat	12.77	20.37	26.35	59.49	11.54	91.93	19.4	122.87
Haryana	27.93	91.34	11.52	130.79	30.23	—	8.72	38.95
Himachal Pradesh	1.21	4.98	7.72	13.91	1.22	6.84	8.19	16.25
Jammu and Kashmir	5.04	3.09	5.49	13.62	5.98	4.99	6.04	17.01
Jharkhand	23.1	1.18	3.42	27.7	16.77	1.50	2.97	21.24
Karnataka	25.16	1.11	34.54	60.81	29.65	7.45	57.68	94.78
Kerala	6.24	—	0.04	6.28	5.95	—	0.02	5.97
Madhya Pradesh	16.8	72.37	33.78	122.95	11.89	76.06	23.31	111.06
Maharashtra	28.39	8.92	51.71	89.02	20.97	27.41	60.16	108.54
Manipur	3.70	—	0.1	3.8	—	—	—	—
Meghalaya	2.01	0.02	0.28	2.31	—	—	—	—
Mizoram	1.13	—	0.2	1.33	—	—	—	—
Nagaland	2.07	0.13	0.71	2.91	—	—	—	—
Orissa	68.02	0.08	1.43	69.53	64.66	0.11	1.66	66.43
Punjab	96.56	144.89	5.45	246.9	104.37	148.67	5.03	258.07
Rajasthan	1.65	58.76	96.67	157.08	1.5	58.13	48.8	108.43
Sikkim	0.21	0.08	0.64	0.93	—	—	—	—
Tamil Nadu	32.24	—	10.35	42.59	53.02	2.03	11.39	66.44
Tripura	5.17	0.05	0.02	5.24	—	—	—	—
Uttar Pradesh	130.19	255.67	32.61	418.47	108.8	250.36	34.37	393.53
Uttaranchal	5.69	7.45	3.81	16.95	5.78	7.94	3.58	17.3
West Bengal	146.82	9.86	1.2	157.68	149.08	9.61	1.73	160.42
Andaman and Nicobar Island	0.31	—	0.01	0.32	—	—	—	—
Dadar and Nagar Haveli	0.22	0.01	0.03	0.26	—	—	—	—
Delhi	0.12	1.02	0.09	1.23	—	—	—	—
Daman and Diu	0.04	—	—	0.04	—	—	—	—
Pondicherry	0.64	—	0.01	0.65	—	—	—	—
Others	—	—	—	—	18.14	1.13	2.66	21.93
Grand Total	882.86	720.69	381.23	1984.78	853.08	758.58	339.22	1950.88

Neg. Below 500 tonnes.

Statement II

The Quantity of Foodgrains (Rice, Wheat and Coarsegrains procured in the Central Pool during the year 2003-04 and 2004-05

Quantity in Lakh Tonnes

State/UT Marketing Season	Rice KMS 2003-04	Wheat RMS 2004-05	Coarsegrains KMS 2003-04	Total	Rice KMS 2004-05	Wheat RSM 2005-06	Coarsegrains KMS 2004-05	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Andaman and Nicobar Island	Neg.	—	—	0	0.01	—	—	0.01
Andhra Pradesh	42.3	—	2.77	45.07	39.04	—	2.23	41.27
Assam	0.17	—	—	0.17	Neg.	—	—	0
Bihar	3.63	0.15	0.01	3.79	3.43	—	—	3.43
Chandigarh	—	Neg.	—	0	0.19	—	—	0.19
Chhattisgarh	23.74	Neg.	0.03	23.77	28.37	—	0.11	28.48
Delhi	—	0.02	—	0.02	—	—	—	0
Gujarat	—	—	0.01	0.01	—	—	—	0
Haryana	13.34	51.15	1.99	66.48	16.62	45.29	1.3	63.21
Himachal Pradesh	0.30	0.01	—	0.04	0.02	—	—	0.02
Jammu and Kashmir	—	—	—	0	0.01	—	—	0.01
Jharkhand	0.02	—	—	0.02	0.01	—	—	0.01
Karnataka	—	—	0.02	0.02	0.21	—	4.29	4.5
Kerala	—	—	—	0	0.33	—	—	0.33
Madhya Pradesh	1.12	3.49	—	4.61	0.42	4.84	0.02	5.28
Maharashtra	3.08	—	0.60	3.68	2.05	—	0.31	2.36
Nagaland	—	—	—	0	0.11	—	—	0.11
Orissa	13.73	—	—	13.73	15.9	—	—	15.9
Punjab	86.62	92.4	—	179.02	91.06	90.1	Neg.	181.16
Rajasthan	0.41	2.79	0.74	3.94	0.22	1.59	—	1.81
Tamil Nadu	2.07	—	—	2.07	6.52	—	—	6.52
Uttar Pradesh	25.54	17.41	—	42.95	29.71	6	—	35.31
Uttaranchal	3.23	0.54	—	3.77	3.16	0.54	—	3.7
West Bengal	9.25	—	—	9.25	9.44	—	—	9.44
Arunachal Pradesh	—	—	—	0	—	—	—	0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Pondicherry	—	—	—	0	—	—	—	0
Others	—	—	—	—	—	0.45	—	—
Grand Total	228.28	167.96	6.17	402.41	246.83	147.87	8.26	402.96

Neg. Below 500 tonnes.

Tourism Development In Rajasthan

728. SHRI RAGHUVVEER SINGH KOSHAL: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Rajasthan has submitted certain proposals to the Union Government for financial assistance during 2004-05 for tourism development;

(b) if so, the details of the proposals approved/cleared so far and the pending as on date; and

(c) the amount sanctioned/released to the State till date, proposal-wise and the time by which the remaining proposals are likely to be approved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY) (a) to (c) The Ministry of Tourism provides Central financial assistance for tourism-related projects on the basis of projects identified every year in consultation with the State Government/UT Administrations for providing financial assistance under the Integrated Development of Tourist Circuits, Product/Infrastructure and Destination Development including Rural Tourism and Large Revenue Generating Projects Schemes. Project proposals that are complete in all respect are processed and funds released, subject to their inter-se priority and availability of funds under the respective Head.

During the year 2004-05 and current year following projects have been sanctioned in Rajasthan under the above schemes:—

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl.No.	Name of Project	Amount Sanctioned	Amount Released
2004-05			
1.	Development of National Capital Region Tourist Circuit in Rajasthan	738.00	590.40
2.	Development of Hadoti Tourist Circuit in Rajasthan	725.10	580.00
3.	Development of an Elephant Village (Hathi Gram) at Amber, Jaipur	492.18	393.74
4.	IT Project Scheme for translation of the existing Rajasthan tourism portal into five other languages	24.42	21.98
5.	Development of Amber Fort Complex at Jaipur	333.33	166.66
6.	Jaipur Heritage International Festival, 2005	15.00	12.00
2005-06			
1.	Mounting of Sound & Light Show at Amber Fort, Jaipur	129.26	116.33
2.	Development of Hawa Mahal and Jantar Mantar at Jaipur	464.32	371.45

Preservation of Ground Water Resources

729. SHRI NARAYAN CHANDRA BORKATAKY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the policy formulated by the Government for installing tube wells and groundwater exploration and exploitation including protection and preservation of ground water resources;

(b) the details of policy being implemented in Assam in this regard; and

(c) the funds provided to Government of Assam under the flood management during the last five years, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) (a) 'Water' being a State subject, it is primarily the responsibility of the concerned State Governments to formulate plans for installation of tube wells, groundwater exploration and exploitation including protection and preservation of ground water resources. However, the Government of India had adopted National Water Policy in the year 1987 for guiding the formulation of policies and programmes for water resources development and management. The policy has been revised and adopted in the year 2002. This policy is for implementation in the whole country including in the State of Assam. The provisions made in the policy relating various aspects of ground water are outlined below:-

- (i) There should be a periodical reassessment of the ground water potential on a scientific basis, taking into consideration the quality of the water available and economic viability of its extraction.
- (ii) Exploitation of ground water resources should be so regulated as not to exceed the recharging possibilities, as also to ensure social equity. The detrimental environmental consequences of over-exploitation of ground water need to be effectively prevented by the Central and State Governments. Ground water recharge projects should be developed and implemented for improving both the quality and availability of ground water resource.

(iii) Integrated and coordinated development of surface water and ground water resources and their conjunctive use, should be envisaged right from the project planning stage and should form an integral part of the project implementation.

(iv) Over exploitation of ground water should be avoided especially near the coast to prevent ingress of seawater into sweet water aquifers.

(b) No separate State Water Policy has been formulated by the Government of Assam so far.

(c) Funds to the Government of Assam are being released by the Ministry of Water Resources under Critical Flood Control Scheme in Brahmaputra Board and Barak Valley. This scheme was approved in November, 2004 for Rs. 150 crore as the share of the Central Government (90% grant and 10% loan). This scheme will be executed by the concerned State Governments. The funds so far released under this scheme to the State of Assam is as follows:—

Year	Funds released (Rs. in crore)
2004-05	9.30
2005-06	11.268

In addition to the above, the Planning Commission has also provided funds for Flood Control to the Government of Assam, year-wise detail of which is as follows:—

Year	2002-2003	2003-2004	2004-2005	2005-2006
Funds Released (Rs. in crore)	1.50	23.60	25.00	27.00

Land Erosion

730. SHRI M.K. SUBBA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether vast tracts of land have been lost due to erosion by Brahmaputra floods in Assam and neighbouring States this year;

(b) if so, the areas of land so eroded in Assam and other States; and

(c) the steps taken to restore the land and the Central aid sought and given to the States for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) (a) Floods and associated Erosion is a continuous and natural phenomenon of all alluvial rivers including Brahmaputra, which is occurring this year also.

(b) and (c) Government of India has approved a scheme amounting to Rs. 150 crore for funding to Assam and other North Eastern States including Sikkim and West Bengal (North Bengal) for taking up critical flood management/anti erosion works. Out of this, Rs. 11.4 crore was released during the year 2004-05. During 2005-06, Rs. 14.63 crore was released so far. A scheme amounting to Rs. 41.28 crore has also been approved in January, 2005 for the protection of Majuli island and taken up by Brahmaputra Board for execution.

[Translation]

Cooperation between India and Australia in Tourism Sector

731. SHRI RAJNARAYAN BUDHOLIA:
SHRIMATI KIRAN MAHESHWARI:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Australia's foreign minister recently visited India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any talks were held between both the countries for the development of tourism; and

(d) if so, the decisions arrived at as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY) (a) to (d) The Australian Minister for Foreign Affairs Mr. Alexander Downer had visited India from June 7.10.2005 for the fourth round of India-Australia Framework Dialogue. His talks with the then External Affairs, Minister Shri K. Natwar Singh had covered a wide range of bilateral issues. The two sides also agreed to increase interaction in various fields including tourism. However no separate

talks were held for development of tourism between the two countries.

[English]

Kansbahal Irrigation Project of Orissa

732. SHRI JUAL ORAM: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the allocation made and the amount actually spent by the Government of Orissa on the Kansbahal irrigation project in Sundargarh district;

(b) the progress achieved so far in this regard; and

(c) the total hectares of land likely to be irrigated as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) (a) and (b) As per the Annual Plan document 2004-05 of the Government of Orissa, Kansbahal Irrigation Project in Sundergarh district of Orissa is completed project. The Project was started in the year 1979-80 and was completed in the Ninth Five Year Plan with an expenditure of Rs. 33.609 crore against the revised estimated cost of Rs. 33.34 crore.

(c) The culturable command area of the project is 5050 hectare (ha) with annual irrigation of 7310 ha.

Rise in Prices of Tomato and Potatoes

733. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the prices of tomato and potatoes are very high during the current year in comparison with previous years and there is scarcity of these commodities in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the quantity of those commodities exported and imported, if any, during the last three years, country-wise alongwith its impact on foreign exchange; and

(d) the remedial measures proposed to be taken by the Government to keep prices of these commodities under control?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH) (a) No, Sir. The price of tomato in the country is normal. However, the prices of potato are slightly higher as compared to last year. There is however, no scarcity of the above commodities in the country.

(b) The hike in the price of potatoes have been caused by erratic and unprecedented rainfall which damaged the advance crop in the month of September in States like Punjab and West Bengal. This has led to decreased availability of potato in the markets leading to hike in the prices.

(c) The quantity of these commodities exported and

imported is as placed at Statement-I to IV.

(d) The Government of India has recently launched National Horticulture Mission. The programme under horticultural development aims at increasing the production and productivity of all horticultural crops through adoption of improved technologies in crop production. Emphasis will be given for regionally differentiated crops. Under this component financial assistance is being provide to the farmers for improved cultivation of horticultural crops. National Horticulture Board under the Capital Investment Subsidy Scheme for Construction/Expansion/Modernisation of Cold Storage and Storages for Horticulture Produce provides 25% of the project cost not exceeding Rs. 50 lakh per project and @ 33.33 percent of the project cost upto a ceiling of Rs. 60 lakh per project for North Eastern States.

Statement I

Export of Potato during last three years

Sl.No.	Country	Values in Rs. Lacs			Quantity (000 Kgs)		
		2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Baharain IS	—	2	—	—	41.41	—
2.	Bangladesh PR	—	4.85	36.01	—	160.3	687.32
3.	Belgium	—	—	5.46	—	—	100
4.	Canada	0.48	—	0.86	10	—	23
5.	Denmark	—	8.66	—	—	200	—
6.	France	—	—	0	—	—	0.16
7.	Germany	—	20.2	8.59	—	630	200
8.	Indonesia	—	—	0.13	—	—	3.2
9.	Italy	—	18.1	—	—	388.44	—
10.	Japan	—	0.11	—	—	7	—
11.	Korea RP	—	—	0.82	—	—	18.15
12.	Kuwait	—	0.17	—	—	3.52	—
13.	Malaysia	2.16	5.56	48.72	41	97	686.4
14.	Maldives	25.18	50.05	93.29	333.33	803.04	1,648.40

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
15.	Mauritius	98.89	269.66	180.39	1129.25	3,021.10	1,846.70
16.	Mozambique	—	—	0.13	—	—	4
17.	Nepal	501.27	1,989.15	1,646.19	14687.64	55,234.66	42,604.62
18.	Norway	—	0.23	1.46	—	3	21
19.	Oman	—	8.37	—	—	131.6	—
20.	Pakistan IR	—	—	9.54	—	—	140
21.	Qatar	4.86	2.15	0.12	70	43	2
22.	Saudi Arab	0.21	0.31	2.54	1.7	9	46.44
23.	Seychelles	—	18.2	105.22	—	216	1,725.00
24.	Singapore	16.17	9.1	53.09	121.13	114.52	487.59
25.	Sri Lanka DSR	511.8	245.99	637.38	7800.77	3,816.20	10,567.45
26.	Switzerland	0.11	—	—	1	—	—
27.	United Arab Emirates	10.49	18.71	4.76	144.9	312.09	121.11
28.	UK	10.75	0.36	2.34	24.41	8	42
29.	USA	—	35.35	—	—	800	—
30.	Yemen Republic	—	20.32	—	—	500	—
31.	Unspecified	—	51.05	1.8	—	1,200.00	38
Total		1182.37	2,778.65	2,838.85	24365.13	67739.88	61012.54

Source: Website of DGFT

*Statement II**Export to Tomato during last three years*

Sl.No.	Country	Values in Rs. Lacs			Quantity (000 Kgs)		
		2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Baharain IS	—	0.09	0.04	—	0.38	0.38
2.	Bangladesh PR	1,145.92	416.91	529.35	12,546.69	6,228.06	6,228.06
3.	Brunei	2.05	—	—	10	—	10
4.	Taiwan	—	2.9	—	—	10	10

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
5.	Finland	3.34	—	—	35	—	50
6.	Israel	—	0.41	4.2	—	10	—
7.	Italy	—	14.78	—	—	50	34.56
8.	Kenya	5.21	10.15	—	37.54	34.56	14
9.	Korea RP	5.42	2.25	0.74	28	14	—
10.	Lativa	—	0.82	—	—	5.76	5.76
11.	Malaysia	—	0.07	0.21	—	1.8	1.8
12.	Maldives	11.65	32.53	8.32	75.38	290.96	290.96
13.	Nepal	3.28	175.57	30.61	74.71	4,356.41	4,356.41
14.	New Zealand	—	0.16	—	—	6	6
15.	Oman	—	0.2	—	—	0.84	0.84
16.	Qatar	0.32	—	8.47	4.31	—	—
17.	Russia	—	2.86	—	—	21.89	21.89
18.	Saudi Arab	1.79	—	0.26	8.03	—	5.35
19.	Singapore	2.36	0.16	—	31.5	5.35	75
20.	Sri Lanka DSR	—	4.79	3.84	—	75	34.01
21.	United Arab Emirates	3.24	2.78	0.73	31.95	34.01	—
22.	USA	—	18	0.7	—	183	183
23.	Unspecified	0.46	—	0.87	3	—	—
Total		1,185.05	685.42	588.36	12886.11	11328.02	11328.02

Source: Website of DGFT

Statement III*Import of Potato during last three years*

Sl.No.	Country	Values in Rs. Lacs			Quantity (000 Kgs)		
		2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
1.	Bhutan	0	122.82	276.09	0	2,329.00	4,813.22
Total			122.82	276.09			

Source: Website of DGFT

Statement IV*Import of Tomato during last three years*

Sl.No.	Country	Values in Rs. Lacs			Quantity (000 Kgs)		
		2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
1.	Italy	—	9.23	2.67	—	31.6	4.5
2.	USA	—	—	0.3	—	—	0.96
	Total	—	9.23	2.97	—	31.6	5.46

Source: Website of DGFT

Expenditure on Production of Rice/Wheat

734. SHRI SWADESH CHAKRABORTTY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government conducted any study on the expenditure to produce rice/wheat in one acre of land;

(b) if so, the cost incurred on production of rice and wheat, head-wise;

(c) whether the Government fixes the prices of these products after considering these expenses; and

(d) if so, the margin of profit generated from one acre of land?

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 Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Ministry of Agriculture, collects data on cost of cultivation of selected crops through its Comprehensive Scheme for Studying the Cost of Cultivation of Principal Crops in India. Per hectare cost of cultivation and per

quintal cost of production of various principal crops including paddy and wheat are estimated for selected States. Statements-I and II showing different items of cost of cultivation for paddy pertaining to crop year 2002-03 and wheat for 2003-04 for major States are enclosed.

(c) and (d) While recommending Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) of agricultural commodities including paddy and wheat, the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices, in addition to the cost of production of the relevant crops, takes into account relevant factors like trends in production and productivity of different crops across States, demand and supply situation, price trends, terms of trade between agricultural and non-agricultural sectors, need for crop diversification, resource use efficiency and food security etc.

The MSPs fixed by the Government are uniform throughout the country. The price policy seeks to ensure that the A_2+FL cost of production (actual expenses in cash and kind, including rent paid for leased-in land and the imputed value of wages of family labour) is covered by the MSPs in the high cost/less endowed States. A comparative statement showing the MSPs announced for paddy and wheat for the season 2004-05 and their costs of production in selected States along with the returns per hectare of land under the two crops are given in the enclosed Statement-III.

Statement I*Item-wise break-up of cost of cultivation (Rs./Hectare)*

Year: 2002-03—Crop-Paddy

Items	States			
	Punjab	Haryana	U.P.	West Bengal
1	2	3	4	5
Operational Cost	17748.61	18544.22	11738.19	17604.03
Human Labour				
Family	2329.91	3824.04	3030.14	5041.84

1	2	3	4	5
Attached	907.48	817.27	29.05	12.92
Casual	1962.54	3193.25	2329.04	4336.04
Total	5199.93	7834.56	5388.23	9390.80
Animal Labour				
Hired	0.96	0.66	48.72	278.89
Owned	116.20	96.72	623.47	2877.10
Total	117.16	97.38	672.19	3155.99
Machine Labour				
Hired	1311.06	1137.95	1362.51	707.33
Owned	2087.66	985.52	151.54	2.36
Total	3398.72	2123.47	1514.05	709.69
Seed	554.39	340.01	1017.73	635.49
Fertilizer & Manure				
Fertilizer	2526.66	2671.85	1402.06	1532.69
Manure	151.96	62.23	90.59	354.69
Total	2678.62	2734.08	1492.65	1887.38
Insecticides	1179.12	1221.83	57.87	217.88
Irrigation Charges	4149.34	3746.82	1331.59	1210.44
Miscellaneous	4.10	0.00	0.00	15.69
Intt. on Working Capital	467.23	446.07	263.88	380.67
Fixed Costs	11809.09	10885.40	5751.99	6312.73
Rental Value Owned Land	8135.96	7774.98	3789.64	4636.38
Rent Paid for Leased-in-Land	1856.41	1380.89	274.92	84.61
Land Revenue, Taxes, Cesses	0.00	0.00	7.14	38.30
Dep. on Implements & F. Bldg.	177.48	121.02	378.30	342.85
Interest on fixed Capital	1430.24	1608.51	1301.99	1210.59
Total Cost	29348.70	29429.62	17490.18	23916.76

Statement II*Item-wise break-up of cost of cultivation (Rs./Hectare)*

Year: 2003-04—Crop-Wheat

Items	States		
	Punjab	Haryana	U.P.
Operational Cost	10978.14	13947.88	11955.96
Human Labour			
Family	887.27	2719.40	2009.71
Attached	251.30	133.65	15.47
Casual	899.26	1132.66	1330.26
Total	2037.83	3985.71	3355.44
Animal Labour			
Hired	4.11	2.70	25.85
Owned	89.04	275.68	352.27
Total	93.15	278.38	378.12
Machine Labour			
Hired	2124.26	2404.82	2436.38
Owned	1101.68	882.04	368.12
Total	3225.94	3286.86	2804.50
Seed	836.38	1004.19	1175.60
Fertilizer & Manure			
Fertilizer	2699.25	2388.72	1994.83
Manure	56.24	0.00	31.57
Total	2755.49	2388.72	2026.40
Insecticides	1202.30	757.57	21.60
Irrigation Charges	504.35	1906.19	1892.90
Miscellaneous	16.92	0.00	0.00
Intt. on Working Capital	305.78	340.26	301.40
Fixed Costs	11436.89	9632.62	7285.33
Rental Value Owned Land	6751.25	7037.40	5259.81
Rent Paid for Leased-in-Land	2451.38	641.83	69.20
Land Revenue, Taxes, Cesses	0.00	0.00	8.51
Dep. on Implements & F. Bldg.	284.26	272.85	452.63
Interest on fixed Capital	1950.00	1680.54	1495.18
Total Cost	22415.03	23580.50	19241.29

Statement III**Minimum Support Price/Cost of Production>Returns in respect of Paddy and Wheat for Selected States**

Name of the crop	MSP 2004-05 (Rs./Quintal)	Cost of Production (Rs./Quintal)							
		Punjab		Haryana		Uttar Pradesh		West Bengal	
		C2	A2+FL	C2	A2+FL	C2	A2+FL	C2	A2+FL
Wheat	640	487.20	293.73	489.51	312.05	509.44	345.61	N.S.	N.S.
Paddy (Common)	560	442.14	287.12	630.87	430.03	462.07	327.87	555.90	425.01
Paddy (Grade-A)	590								

Return (Rs./Hectare)

Name of the Crop	Return (Rs./Hectare)							
	Punjab		Haryana		Uttar Pradesh		West Bengal	
	Gross Return	Net Return	Gross Return	Net Return	Gross Return	Net Return	Gross Return	Net Return
Wheat	15206.47	5617.95	17190.48	7753.14	12613.09	3848.39	N.S.	N.S.
Paddy	16293.65	4397.53	14797.29	1589.77	7085.77	-1036.01	5736.83	-5151.97

Note:

1. Cost of Production for 2004-05 has been projected by CACP on the basis of cost estimates pertaining to earlier year(s) and Variable Input Price Index based on Wholesale Price Index Numbers.
2. C2 Cost: Actual expenses in cash & kind, including rent paid for leased-in-land, and imputed value of wages of family labour, rent for owned land and interest on fixed capital.
3. A2 Cost: Actual expenses in cash & kind, including rent paid for leased-in-land
4. FL: Family Labour
5. Gross Return: Difference between value of output and A2 Cost of Cultivation
6. Net Return: Different between value of output and C2 cost of Cultivation
7. Return for Paddy is based on cost of cultivation data for 2002-03 and for Wheat for 2003-04
8. N.S. Not covered under "Comprehensive Scheme for Studying the Cost of Cultivation of Principal Crops in India"

Central Sheep Breeding Farm at Hissar

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

(a) whether the lease agreement and lease rent issue in regard to the Central Sheep Breeding Farm at Hissar has not yet been resolved;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the time by which it is likely to be resolved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND

PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN) (a) to (c)
The Government of Haryana has agreed to extend the lease of the land occupied by the Central Sheep Breeding Farm, Hissar.

Grants to States under CADP

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

(a) whether grants are given to States for the execution of various activities under existing Command Area Development Programme (CADP); and

(b) if so, how much grants with activity-wise break up were given to States during 2003-04 and 2004-05 so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) During the years 2003-04 and 2004-05, a grant of Rs. 14144.71 Lakh and Rs. 14150.58 Lakhs respectively was released to States under the Command Area Development Programme. The activity-wise break-up is given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

Activity-wise Break-up of Grants Released under the Command Area Development (CAD) Programme during 2003-04 and 2004-05

			(Rs. Lakh)
Sl.No.	Activity under Command Area Development Programme	2003-04	2004-05
1.	Topographic and Soil Survey, Planning and Design of On-Farm Development (OFD) Works	1180.88	513.52
2.	Construction of Field Channels and/or Full Package OFD Works	14058.67	15034.77
3.	Construction of Field Drains	309.09	897.68
4.	Land Levelling*	23.91	0.000
5.	Warabandi**	174.82	0.000
6.	Training of Farmers and Field Functionaries	119.83	17.08
7.	Reclamation of Water Logging	394.67	161.17
8.	Adaptive Trials including Demonstrations	66.89	30.94
9.	Functional Grant to Water Users' Associations	57.44	153.57
10.	Monitoring/Evaluation of CAD Programme	9.48	15.66
11.	Subsidy for Ground Water Development*	1.20	0.000
12.	Establishment Cost	2333.92	2407.58
Total grant allowed for CAD works during the financial year		18730.80	19231.94
Outstanding/recoveries on account of Backlog of previous years and other adjustments		-4586.17	-5080.50
Amount Eligible for Release		14144.63	14151.44
Net Release made during the year (Difference is because of rounding off at the time of release)		14144.71	14150.58

*Activity dropped w.e.f. FY 2004-05 under Restructured CADWM Programme

**Central Assistance stopped on Warabandi w.e.f. 2004-05

Tourism Projects

737. SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has earmarked Rs. 488 crore for tourism projects in various States for the current fiscal without any pre-condition; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY) (a) and (b) During the Annual Plan 2005-06, Rs. 488 crore has been earmarked for development and implementation of various tourism projects which are prioritized in consultation with the State Governments. The project proposals which are received complete in all respects are processed on inter-se-priority basis and funds are released subject to availability. The number of the projects so far sanctioned and funds released, state-wise, during the current financial year is given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement**State-wise Tourism Projects Sanctioned and Funds Released during the year 2005-06 of the Tenth Plan**

(Rs. in Lakhs)

Sl.No.	State/UT	2005-06 (as on 21.10.2005)		
		No. of Projects Sancd.	Amount Sancd.	Amount Released
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	0	0.00	0.00
2.	Assam	0	48.97	39.17
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0.00	0.00
4.	Bihar	0	0.00	0.00
5.	Chhattisgarh	2	518.41	415.00
6.	Goa	0	0.00	0.00
7.	Gujarat	2	1253.31	562.64
8.	Haryana	0	0.00	0.00
9.	Himachal Pradesh	1	30.00	24.00
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	5	3515.37	2808.41
11.	Jharkhand	0	0.00	0.00
12.	Karnataka	0	0.00	0.00
13.	Kerala	1	2598.00	2078.40
14.	Madhya Pradesh	1	1024.25	450.19
15.	Maharashtra	1	1104.91	880.91
16.	Manipur	0	0.00	0.00

1	2	3	4	5
17.	Meghalaya	0	0.00	0.00
18.	Mizoram	0	0.00	0.00
19.	Nagaland	0	0.00	0.00
20.	Orissa	0	0.00	0.00
21.	Punjab	0	0.00	0.00
22.	Rajasthan	1	129.26	116.33
23.	Sikkim	0	0.00	0.00
24.	Tamil Nadu	8	2193.47	1415.57
25.	Tripura	0	0.00	0.00
26.	Uttaranchal	3	1039.77	831.72
27.	Uttar Pradesh	7	845.15	675.38
28.	West Bengal	2	2443.54	1850.65
29.	Andaman and Nicobar	0	0.00	0.00
30.	Chandigarh	0	0.00	0.00
31.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0	0.00	0.00
32.	Delhi	0	0.00	0.00
33.	Daman and Diu	2	138.58	109.66
34.	Lakshadweep	0	0.00	0.00
35.	Pondicherry	0	0.00	0.00
Total		36	17012.84	12362.65

Note: This includes the projects relating to Circuits, Destinations, Large Revenue Generating Project, Rural Tourism (Software and Hardware) Projects, IT, Event, Fair & Festivals Projects.

Construction of Metalled Road In Gujarat

738. SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has any proposal for construction of pucca road from Visa Vadar to Sasun Gir in the district of Junagarh, Gujarat;

(b) if so, whether it has environmental implications;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the expenditure to be incurred for this purpose alongwith the sources of its funding; and

(e) the time by which this road will be constructed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA) (a) No such proposal has been received in the Ministry.

(b) to (e) Does not arise.

Increase in Rate of Insurance Premium of Cotton Crop

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

(a) whether the Government is aware that the sharp increase in the rate of insurance premium of cotton crop for the kharif season of 2004 under Rashtriya Krishi Bima Yojana (RKBY) has proved detrimental to the overall agricultural economy of the country; and

(b) if so, the steps Government propose to take to protect the cotton growers from the burden of such sharp increase?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Development of Places as Special Tourism Areas

740. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has identified places in various States for developing them into special tourism areas; and

(b) if so, the financial assistance sanctioned/released by the Government to the States for developing those areas particularly in Madhya Pradesh during the Tenth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY) (a) Development and promotion of tourist spots/places is primarily the responsibility of the State Govt. concerned. Ministry of Tourism provide funds to the State Govts. for the projects which are prioritized in consultation with them every year in the various schemes.

(b) During the Tenth Five Year Plan Rs. 1038.85 crore has so far been sanctioned as Central Financial Assistance to various State Govts/UT Administrations, out of which Rs. 799.55 crore has so far been released. a sum of Rs. 45.25 crore has so far been sanctioned for Madhya Pradesh out of which Rs. 33.60 crore has been released.

[Translation]

Regularisation of Forest Land

741. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has issued directions to the State Governments for regularization of forest land being used for cultivation prior to the year 1980;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government has received proposals for converting forest villages of Maharashtra into revenue villages; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA) (a) and (b) The Central Government has issued detailed guidelines under Forest (Conservation) Act, on 18th September 1990 for regularization of pre-1980 eligible encroachments, conversion of forest villages into revenue villages, and settlement of disputed claims of tribals like pattas, leases and grants etc.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Proposal for conversion of 73 forest villages into revenue villages has been received from the State of Maharashtra and permission for conversion has been given for these villages.

[English]

Crops in International Market

742. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has identified certain crops in Maharashtra which can survive in the international market; 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 (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH) (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government of Maharashtra has identified crops such as Grape, Grape Wine, Alponso Mango, Kesar Mango, Pomegranate, Banana, Orange, Onion etc. which have potential for export.

Closure of Regional Office of CWC

743. SHRI P. RAJENDRAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is contemplating for closure of Central Warehousing Corporation's (CWC) Regional Office in Cochin;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government proposes to review its decision on the closure in wake of the upcoming Vallarpadam Container Terminal Project and opposition from people, workers and trade bodies against the intended closure; 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 (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH) (a) and (b) The Regional Office of Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC) in Cochin has been merged with its Regional Office in Chennai. The decision was taken as part of organizational restructuring and cost reduction exercise.

(c) and (d) There is no proposal to review the decision.

Flood Control

744. SHRI PARSURAM MAJHI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is taking Flood Control measures of major rivers with World Bank assistance;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any specific scheme is either funded or proposed to be funded by the World Bank to control flood of major rivers like Mahanadi, Brahmani, Baitarami, Vandadhura in Orissa; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) (a) and (b) No Sir. At present no scheme for flood control measures of major rivers has been taken up with the World Bank assistance.

(c) and (d) The Government of Orissa has submitted a preliminary proposal for "Mahanadi Basin Development Plan" at an estimated cost of Rs. 3493 crore for World Bank assistance.

Financial Assistance to FPI

745. SHRI M. APPADURAI: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the efforts or measures taken or to be taken by the Government in fixing the rate of agricultural produce to further reduce the burden on persons engaged in Food Processing Industries (FPI); and

(b) the innovative measures taken including extending financial assistance to the FPI by the Government to modernize the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY) (a) Keeping in view the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs & Prices, views of State Governments and other relevant factors, Government announces each season Minimum Support Prices for major agricultural Commodities and organizes purchase operations through public and cooperative agencies. The policy for the agricultural commodities seeks to ensure remunerative prices to the growers for their produce with a view to encourage higher investment and production and to safeguard the interests of consumers by making available supplies at reasonable prices. The price policy also seeks to evolve a balanced and integrated price structure in the perspective of the overall needs of the economy.

(b) Modernization of food processing industries is an ongoing process. However, Government has implemented a scheme for technology upgradation/establishment/modernization of food processing industries. Under the scheme financial assistance @ 25% of the project cost in general areas and @ 33.33% in difficult areas subject to a maximum of Rs. 50 lakh and Rs. 75 lakh respectively is provided for modernization/establishment of food processing industries. Recently in 2004-05 in order to give boost to growth of FPI sector, the Government has allowed under Income Tax Act, a deduction of 100% of profit for five years and 25% of profits for the next five years in case of new agro processing industries set up to process, preserve and package fruits and vegetables.

Damage due to Forest Fire

746. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has made any assessment of the damage caused by forest fire in the country during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons attributed thereto;

(c) whether any action plan has been prepared to avoid such forest fires specially in the hill areas;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to save the flora and fauna in the country particularly in hill regions from devastating forest fires?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA) (a) and (b) The monetary losses reported by State Governments/UTs on account of damage caused by the forest fires are indicated in the enclosed Statement. However these losses do not include intangible losses such as loss of biodiversity, loss of soil fertility, damage to re generation, adverse impact on environment etc. Almost all the forest fires are man made (intentional or unintentional). Intentional fires are set in the forest for various reasons such as collection of minor forest produce, to get fresh succulent grasses or to propitiate, the local deity etc.

(c) and (d) Integrated Forest Protection Scheme, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme has Forest fire Control and Management as one of the component. Central Assistance under the scheme is provided to States/UTs to take up effective measures for prevention and control of forest fires, such as creation and maintenance of fire lines, fire watchers, water harvesting structures, field vehicles, assistance to village forest committees, etc. During last three years, the funds released to the States and UTs under IFPS are as indicated below:

Year	Funds Released (Rs. in crores)
2002-03	45.82
2003-04	24.08
2004-05	54.00

(e) Does not arise.

Statement

Losses due to Forest Fires (As reported by States/UTs)

States/UTs	Year 2001-02 Losses (Rs. In Lakhs)	Year 2002-03 Losses (Rs. In Lakhs)	Year 2003-04 Losses (Rs. In Lakhs)
1	2	3	4
OTHER STATES			
Andhra Pradesh	0.28	*	2.02
Arunachal Pradesh	17.23	Nil	12.29
Bihar	*	*	*
Chhattisgarh	—	2.09	0.10
Gujarat	17.87	8.31	13.68
Goa	*	*	*
Haryana	*	*	*
Himachal Pradesh	40.26	74.30	86.41
Jammu and Kashmir	*	*	*
Jharkhand	*	*	*
Karnataka	Nil	0.26	0.25
Kerala	3.31	0.63	4.06

1	2	3	4
Madhya Pradesh	0.01	0.47	*
Maharashtra	23.00	15.00	11.00
Orissa	4.58	2.85	0.25
Punjab	24.34	27.71	17.08
Rajasthan	*	0.15	0.04
Tamil Nadu	*	*	*
Uttar Pradesh	2.70	1.17	1.19
Uttaranchal	1.17	5.19	10.12
West Bengal	3.04	*	*
NE & SIKKIM			
Assam	Nil	Nil	Nil
Manipur	*	*	*
Meghalaya	*	*	*
Mizoram	1.65	0.10	1.27
Nagaland	*	*	*
Sikkim	*	*	*
Tripura	0.10	*	*
UNION TERRITORIES			
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	*	Nil	9.90
Chandigarh	*	Nil	Nil
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	*	*	*
Daman and Diu	*	*	*
Lakshadweep	*	Nil	Nil
New Delhi	*	*	*
Pondicherry	Nil	Nil	Nil

*Not available

Formation of Indian Council of Veterinary and Fishery Research

747. SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to form separate Indian Council of Veterinary and Fishery Research from Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR); and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken 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) In view of the emphasis on an integrated approach of farming, which calls for integration of agriculture, livestock and fisheries sectors, creation of a separate Council of Veterinary and Fishery Research is not proposed presently.

[Translation]

Vaccine for Animals Developed by I.V.R.I.

748. SHRI RASHEED MASOOD: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Veterinary Research Institute (IVRI), Izzat Nagar has developed a vaccine to protect animals from plague;

(b) if so, the time by which the said vaccine is likely to be made available in the market; and

(c) the number of animals which die due to plague 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 (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH) (a) Yes, Sir. IVRI has developed vaccine against Rinderpest (Cattle plague) and Peste des petits ruminants-PPR (Sheep/goat plague)

(b) Cattle plague has been eradicated from the country through vaccination. The technology of PPR

vaccine has been made available to States of Maharashtra, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and West Bengal Governments besides Indian Immunologicals and Intervet for commercial production.

(c) During the year 2004 a total number of 4499 death have been reported in sheep & goats from 639 PPR outbreaks in the country.

Drought Affected States

749. SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID:
SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA:
SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT:
SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA:
DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL:
SHRI PARSURAM MAJHI:
SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the specific areas which have been affected by drought this year in the country, State-wise;

(b) the extent of loss suffered by each State as a result thereof;

(c) the States visited by the Central team for the purpose with the findings thereof;

(d) the assistance and foodgrains sought by each of the affected State;

(e) the actual amount released and foodgrains provided to each State to overcome the problem as on date;

(f) whether adequate assistance has not been provided to deal with the problem to the States particularly to Madhya Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh; and

(g) if so, the reasons therefor and the time by which the necessary amount and foodgrains are likely to be provided?

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) While no Memorandum for assistance

for drought has been received from any State after commencement of South-West Monsoon, Jharkhand has declared drought in 22 Districts and Government of Andhra Pradesh have also notified continued drought conditions in 644 Mandals. The State Government of Andhra Pradesh has been requested to conduct a fresh review of the prevailing drought like condition in that State and also to communicate their requirements, if any, for relief assistance.

Andhra Pradesh and Jharkhand have so far not communicated extent of losses, if any, caused by drought.

[English]

Shrinking of Gangotri Glacier

750. SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:
SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH:
SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:

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

(a) whether the World Wide Fund for Nature has cautioned in its recent report about the Gangotri Glacier getting shrunk due to tourist activities;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

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

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the remedial measures proposed to be taken by the Government to educate tourist and take stringent measures against wrong doers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA) (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Tista Irrigation Project

751. SHRI HITEN BARMAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 894 on December 6, 2004 regarding Tista Irrigation Project and state:

(a) the progress made so far in execution of work on the Tista Irrigation Project;

(b) whether the Government will be able to complete all the three phases of the project by 2015; and

(c) the details of the action plan or schedule of the Government on this project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) (a) to (c) Teesta (Tista) Barrage Project (TBP) was proposed to be executed in three phases. The first phase of the project envisages extending irrigation to an area of 9.22 lakh ha. The first phase is sub divided into three States and again the Stage-I is subdivided into Substage-I and Substage-II. Presently, first Substage of Stage-I of Phase-I of the project is under execution. The Substage-I contemplates for providing irrigation to an area of 3.42 lakh ha. Out of this, an irrigation potential of 1.285 lakh ha. has been created upto 31.3.2005. The prioritized components of Substage-I of the project, which are in advance stages of execution to create an additional potential of 1.25 lakh ha. are programmed to be completed by December, 2008. The first Substage of Stage-I of the project has been programmed to be completed by December, 2012.

The second phase of the project envisages construction of a storage dam over river Teesta at a distance of 600 metres upstream of the Coronation Bridge at Sevoke in the Darjeeling district in order to increase the irrigation potential as well as to generate hydel power of 235 MW. This proposal has been abandoned due to submergence of large forest areas.

The third phase of the project is related to the potential of linking up river Brahmaputra with Ganga by a canal for diverting excess floodwater as well as to provide a navigational route between the two rivers. This proposal is presently under study.

[Translation]

Irrigation Projects

752. SHRI MUNSHI RAM:
DR. M. JAGANNATH:
PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:
SHRI ASHOK KUMAR RAWAT:
SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR KUSHAWAHA:
SHRI SHISHUPAL N. PATLE:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has cleared or proposes to clear irrigation projects in States as reported in Dainik Jagran dated October 12, 2005;

(b) if so, the details of the projects approved, State-wise;

(c) whether all the projects are proposed to be launched during the current year;

(d) if so, the total expenditure proposed to be incurred during the current year;

(e) whether any time schedule has been fixed for completion of the sanctioned projects; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) (a) and (b) The Central Government is providing Central assistance under the Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) since 1996-97 for completion of major/medium and surface water minor irrigation schemes which are in an advanced stage of completion. During the year 2005-06 upto end of October, 2005 a sum of Rs. 452.99 crore has been released as grant to 18 States in respect of 35 major/medium irrigation projects and surface water minor irrigation projects under the programme. The State-wise details of these projects are given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) to (f) All the major and medium irrigation projects are ongoing projects of the Tenth Five Year Plan. There is a budget allocation for Rs. 4500 crore for providing Central assistance under AIBP during 2005-06. The major/medium irrigation projects included under AIBP are scheduled for completion within a period of four financial years and the State Governments are submitting a Memorandum of Understanding while submitting the proposal for availing Central assistance indicating balance cost, balance potential to be created, year-wise phasing and targeted year of completion.

Statement

Central Assistance (CA) released as Grant under AIBP during 2005-06

Sl.No.	Name of State/Project	Amount (Rs. crore)
1	2	3
ANDHRA PRADESH		
1.	Jurala	17.8890
	Sub Total	17.8890
ASSAM		
2.	Mod. of Jamuna Irr. Project	7.2450
	Sub Total	7.2450
BIHAR		
3.	Western Kosi Canal	5.9640
4.	Sone canal modernisation	4.8000
	Sub Total	10.7640
GUJARAT		
	Sardar Sarovar	162.0000
	Sub Total	162.0000
HARYANA		
6.	WRCP	3.3405
	Sub Total	3.3405
HIMACHAL PRADESH		
	2 Ongoing Surface MI Schemes in 2005-06	0.3465
	102 new Surface MI Schemes in 2005-06	6.6645
	Sub Total	7.0110
JAMMU AND KASHMIR		
7.	Mod. of Ranbir Canal	3.1464
8.	Mod. of Ranbir Canal	1.3959
9.	Mod. of Kathua Canal	0.6480

1	2	3
	54 surface MI Schemes	2.7000
	Sub Total	7.8903
KARNATAKA		
10.	UKP Stage-I	17.3778
11.	UKP Stage-II	36.0300
	Sub Total	53.4078
MADHYA PRADESH		
12.	Bansagar (Unit-I)	8.5593
13.	Bargi Dam RBC 16 Km.-63 Km. Bargi Div. Pro. Canal (63 Km to 104 Km)	4.8864
	Sub Total	13.4457
MAHARASHTRA		
14.	Madan Tank	1.5105
15.	Dongaragaon	1.5090
16.	Shivna Takli	4.4325
17.	Amravati	1.1820
	Sub Total	8.6340
MANIPUR		
18.	Khuga	
19.	Thoubal	3.1500
	Sub Total	3.1500
MIZORAM		
	43 New Surface MI Schemes in 2004-05	4.5000
	Sub Total	4.5000
ORISSA		
20.	Upper Indravati (RBC)	15.9840
21.	Subemrekha Multipurpose	7.9464

1	2	3
22.	Rengali	7.4688
23.	Upper Kolab	1.9242
24.	Lower Indira	26.0280
25.	Lower Suktel	4.2840
26.	Telengiri Irr. Project (KBK)	3.7440
27.	Improvement of Sasan Canal	3.8190
	Sub Total	71.1984
PUNJAB		
28.	Irr. to H.P. below Talwara	1.6965
29.	Remodelling of UBDC	3.0000
	Sub Total	4.6965
RAJASTHAN		
30.	Narmada Canal	23.3760
31.	Chauli	0.9795
32.	Mahi Bajaj Sagar	5.4480
	Sub Total	29.8035
UTTAR PRADESH		
33.	Sarju Nahar	22.5000
34.	Rajghat Canal	3.3540
35.	Mod. of Agra Canal	4.9200
	Sub Total	30.7740
UTTARANCHAL		
	228 Ongoing Surface MI Schemes in 2004-05	16.9020
	Sub Total	16.9020
SIKKIM		
	100 New MI Schemes in 2004-05	0.3375
	Sub Total	0.3375
	Grand Total	452.9892

*[English]***Problems of Labourers of Tea Industry**

753. SHRI JOACHIM BAXLA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has formed or proposes to form a Committee or Board to look into the day-to-day problems of labourers who are working in the Tea Industry of West Bengal;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and the other measures proposed to mitigate their problems?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRA SHEKHAR RAO) (a) to (c) According to the information furnished by the State Government of West Bengal, there is no formal Committee as such to look after the day-to-day problems of the labourers in Tea Gardens in West Bengal. However, there are officers in the rank of Joint Labour Commissioner, Deputy Labour Commissioners and Assistant Labour Commissioners posted in tea growing districts in North Bengal who look after the day-of-day problem of the labourers in the tea gardens in West Bengal. So far welfare measure under the Plantations Labour Act are concerned there are subject matter Committees, Board which oversees and monitors the implementation of the concerned subject matter of welfare.

Forest Land for Development of Sabarimala

754. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to hand over some forest land for the purpose of the development of Sabarimala in Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether some binding conditions are attached thereto; and

(d) if so, the details of the conditions and the manner in which they have to be complied with?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN

MEENA) (a) and (b) The Travancore Devaswom Board is developing the areas in and around Sabarimala Temple for providing facilities to the pilgrims according to a Master Plan to be prepared by the State Government of Kerala. The State Government has engaged M/s. Eco-Smart (India) Limited for preparation of the said Master Plan. On the basis of the proposal received from the State Government as per the outline of the Master Plan prepared by M/s. Eco-Smart (India) Limited for development of Sabarimala, the Central Government has granted approval under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of 110.524 hectares of forest land at Nilakkal and 12.675 hectares in Periyar Tiger Reserve in favour of Travancore Devaswom Board. The detailed Master Plan is under preparation.

(c) Yes Sir.

(d) The details of the conditions imposed by the Central Government are given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

Conditions mentioned under the approval granted by the Central Government under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of 110.524 hectares of forest land at Nilakkal and 12.675 hectares in Periyar Tiger Reserve in Kerala in favour of Travancore Devaswom Board for development of Sabarimala Temple:—

1. Legal status to the forest land shall remain unchanged.
2. Compensatory Afforestation shall be raised and maintained by the State Forest Department at the project cost.
3. (i) All the activities in the diverted area shall be undertaken according to the proposed Master Plan prepared by the State Government.
(ii) The forest land shall not be used for any purpose other than that specified in the Master Plan for the diverted area.
4. The non-forest land identified for raising Compensatory Afforestation shall be notified as Reserved Forest under Section-4 of the Indian Forest Act, 1927, or under the corresponding Section of the local Forest Act, by the State Government within six months.

5. Felling of trees shall be done only when it is unavoidable, and that too under strict supervision of the State Forest Department.
6. No damage to the flora and fauna of the area shall be caused.
7. It shall be ensured that during construction, labour-camps etc. are not set up on the forest land outside the diverted area.
8. Any other condition that the CCF (Central), Regional Office, Bangalore, may like to impose from time to time for protection and improvement of flora and fauna in the forest area, shall also be applicable.
9. The approval for diversion of 12.675 hectares of forest land in Periyar Tiger Reserve is subject to the final order to be passed by the Hon'ble Court of India in I.A. No. 1373 in WP (C) No. 202 of 1995.

Production of Tree Borne Oilseeds

755. SHRI SURESH KURUP: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated potential of tree borne oilseeds production recorded during the current year in the country and the quantum of its existing collection; and

(b) the measures taken by the Government to accelerate the production of tree borne oilseeds 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 (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH) (a) and (b) The estimated potential of tree borne oilseeds in the country is 50 lakh tones per year and the estimated existing collection is 5-6 lakh tones per year. A Central Sector Scheme "Integrated Development of Tree Borne Oilseeds" is being implemented by the National Oilseeds and Vegetable Oils Development (NOVOD) Board to accelerate the production of Tree Borne Oilseeds in the country during 10th Plan period with an outlay of Rs. 30.00 crore. The scheme envisages development of elite planting material and model plantation, establishment

of Tree Borne Oilseeds (TBOs) garden, installation of pre-processing and processing facilities etc. The need based research & development programmes have also been initiated by networking of research institutions in the country. Besides, model plantation have been organized by using elite planting material in more than 8000 ha. area during 2004-05 in 21 states.

MOU with China on Employment, Vocational Training and Social Security

756. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:
SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:

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

(a) whether the Government has signed any Memorandum of Understanding with China to extend co-operation and broaden exchange in employment, vocational training and social security;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the benefits likely to be accrued therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRA SHEKHAR RAO) (a) Yes, Sir. An MOU with Govt. of People's Republic of China was signed on 25th October, 2005 extending an existing MOU for a further period of three years for cooperation in employment, vocational training and social security.

(b) and (c) The agreement is to broaden the cooperation between the two countries in the field of employment, vocational training and social security. The areas precisely identified are labour and social security legislation, measures and policies of employment promotion, labour relations, policies on vocational training and social security and any other area of mutual interest.

Closure of Tea Gardens in Assam

757. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the fate of labourers due to closure of several tea gardens in Assam;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of workers affected due to outbreak of epidemic in tea garden area during the last two years and thereafter, garden-wise; and

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

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRA SHEKHAR RAO) (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[*Translation*]

Schemes under AIBP

758. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE:
SHRIMATI P. SATHEEDEV:
SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the schemes being implemented in the States especially in tribal areas under the Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP);

(b) the Central loan/assistance allocated and released to the State Governments under the programme during the Tenth Five Year Plan so far; and

(c) the irrigation capacity created as a result thereof during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) (a) to (c) Details of irrigation schemes receiving Central Assistance under Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) in the States including tribal areas are given in the enclosed statement-I. The State-wise details of Central Assistance/Grant released for these projects under AIBP during the Tenth Five Year Plan period upto 2004-05 are given in the enclosed Statement-II. The State-wise irrigation potential created by these projects as a result of assistance under AIBP during the years 2002-03, 2003-04, 2004-05 is given in the enclosed Statement-III.

Statement I

Irrigation Projects under AIBP

Sl.No.	Name of State/Project	Benefiting
1	2	3
Andhra Pradesh		
1.	Sriramsagar St. I	T
2.	Cheyzeru (Annamaya) (C)	
3.	Priyadarshini Jurala	
4.	Somasila	
5.	Nagarjunasagar	T
6.	Madduvalasa	
7.	Gundalavagu	T
8.	Maddigedda	T
9.	Kanpur Canal	
10.	Yerrakalva Res.	T
11.	Vamsdhara St-II Ph I	T
Assam		
1.	Pahumara	T
2.	Hawaipur lift	
3.	Rupahi (C)	T
4.	Dhansiri	T
5.	Champamati	T
6.	Borolia	T
7.	Bordikarai (C)	T
8.	Burhi Dihing	T
9.	Intg. Irr. Scheme in Kallong Basin	T
10.	Kolonga	
11.	Mod. of Jamuna Irr.	T
Bihar		
1.	Western Kosi	
2.	Upper Kiul	

1	2	3
3.	Durgawati —Bansagar	
4.	Orni Reservoir	
5.	Bilasi Reservoir (C)	
6.	Sone Modernisation	
7.	Batane	T
	Jharkhand	
1.	Gumani	T
2.	Torai	T
3.	Latratu (C)	T
4.	Kansjore	T
5.	Sonua	T
6.	Surangi	T
7.	Tapkara Reservoir (C)	T
8.	Upper Sankh	T
9.	Panchkhero	
	Goa	
1.	Salauli	
2.	Tillari I.S. (Goa Share)	
	Gujarat	
1.	Sardar Sarovar	T
2.	Jhuj (C)	T
3.	Mukteshwar	T
4.	Sipu (C)	T
5.	Damanganga (C)	T
6.	Karjan (C)	T
7.	Sukhi (C)	T
8.	Deo (C)	T
9.	Watrak (C)	T
10.	Hamav-II (C)	T
11.	Hmaria (C)	T

1	2	3
12.	Aji-IV	
13.	Ozat-II	
14.	Brahmini-II	
15.	Bhadar-II	
	Haryana	
1.	Gurgaon Canal (C)	
2.	J.L.N. Lift Irr.	
3.	WRCP	
	Himachal Pradesh	
1.	Shahnehar Irr. Project	
2.	Sidhata	
3.	Changer Lift Irr. Project	
	J&K	
1.	Marwal Lift	
2.	Lethpora Lift	
3.	Koil Lift	
4.	Mod. of Ranbir Canal	
5.	Mod. of New Pratap Canal	
6.	Mod. of Kathua Canal	
7.	Rajpora Lift	
8.	Trai Lift	
9.	Igophey	
10.	Mod. of Zaingir Canal	
11.	Rafiabad High Lift Irr.	
	Karnataka	
1.	Upper Krishna St. I	
2.	Malaprabha	
3.	Hirehalla	
4.	Ghataprabha St. III	
5.	Karanja	

1	2	3
6.	Upper Krishna St. II	
7.	Gandori Nala	
8.	Maskinallah	
	Kerala	
1.	Kallada (C)	
2.	Muvattupuzha	T
	Madhya Pradesh	
1.	Indira Sagar Unit I	
	Indira Sagar Unit II	T
2.	Bansagar Unit-I	
	Bansagar Unit-II	T
3.	Upper Wainganga (C)	T
	Rajghat Dam	
4.	Sindh Phase II	
5.	Sindh Phase I	
6.	Mahi	T
7.	Bariarpur LBC	
8.	Urmil RBC (C)	
9.	Banjar (C)	T
10.	Bawanthadi	T
11.	Mahan	T
12.	Omkareshwar, Ph-I	T
13.	Bargi Diversion Ph-I	T
	Chhattisgarh	
1.	Hasdeo Bango	T
2.	Shivnath Diversion (C)	T
3.	Jonk Diversion	T
4.	Kosarteda	T
5.	Barnai	T

1	2	3
	Maharashtra	
1.	Gosikhurd	T
2.	Surya	T
3.	Waghur	T
4.	Bhima	
5.	Upper Tapi (C)	T
6.	Upper Wardha	T
7.	Wan	
8.	Jayakwadi Stage-II (C)	T
9.	Vishnupuri	T
10.	Bahula	T
11.	Krsihna	
12.	Kukadi	T
13.	Upper Manar	T
14.	Hetwane	
15.	Chaskaman	T
16.	Upper Pen (Ganga)	T
	—Bawanthadi (IS)	
17.	Khadakwasla	T
18.	Kadvi	
19.	Kasari	
20.	Kasarsai	T
21.	Jawalgaon	
22.	Kumbhi	
23.	Patgoan	T
24.	Shivna Takli	
25.	Madan Tank	
26.	Dongargaon	T
27.	Amravati	T

1	2	3
Manipur		
1.	Khuga	T
2.	Thoubal	T
3.	Dolaithabi Barrage	T
Meghalaya		
1.	Rangai Valley	T
Orissa		
1.	Upper Indravati	T
2.	Rengali RBC	
3.	Subernarekha	T
4.	Anandpur Barr. Ph-I	
5.	Uper Kolab	T
6.	Titlagarh St-II	
7.	Lower Indra	T
8.	Lower Suktel	
9.	Potteru	
10.	Naraj Barrage	
11.	Telengiri	
12.	RET Irrigation	
13.	Kanupur	T
14.	Chheligdada Dam	
15.	Improvement to Sason Canal System	
16.	Salandi Left Main Canal-Ambahata	
17.	Improvement to Salki Irrigation	
Punjab		
1.	Ranjit Sagar Dam (C)	
2.	Remodelling of UBDC	
3.	Irr. to H.P. below Talwara	
4.	Shahpur Kandi Dam	
5.	Kandi Canal Extension (Ph. II)	

1	2	3
Rajasthan		
1.	Jaisamand (Modernisation) (C)	
2.	Chhapi (C)	
3.	Panchana (C)	
4.	IGNP Stage-II	
5.	Bisalpur	
6.	Narmada Canal	
7.	Gambhiri (Modernisation) (C)	T
8.	Chauli	
9.	Mahi Bajaj Sagar	T
10.	Mod. of Gang Canal	
Tamil Nadu		
1.	WRCP	T
Tripura		
1.	Manu	T
2.	Gumti	T
3.	Khowai	T
U.P./Uttaranchal		
1.	Sarda Sahayak (C)	
2.	Saryu Nahar	
3.	Upper Ganga including Madhya Ganga Canal (C)	
4.	Providing Kharif Channel in H.K. Doab (C)	
5.	Bansagar Canal	
6.	Lakhwar Vyasi	
7.	Tehri	
8.	Gyanpur Pump Canal (C)	
9.	Eastern Ganga Canal	
10.	Rajghat Canal	
11.	Rajghat Dam (C)	
12.	Gunta Nala Dam (C)	
13.	Mod. Agra Canal	

1	2	3	1	2	3
14.	Jarauli Pump Canal		4.	Tatko	T
	West Bengal		5.	Patloi	T
1.	Teesta Barrage	T	6.	Hanumata	T
2.	Kangsabati (C)	T	7.	Subemrekha Barrage	T
3.	Mod. of Barrage and Irrigation System of DVC	T		C-completed	-IS/-Inter-State
				T-Benefiting tribal areas	

Statement II*AIBP—Central Loan/Grant Allocation and Releases*

(Amount in Rs. crore)

Sl.No.	State	CLA/Grant Allocated/Released During						Total	
		2002-03		2003-04		2004-05		Allocated	Released
		Allocated	Released	Allocated	Released	Allocated	Released		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	Andhra Pradesh	275.000	33.186	275.000	205.530	275.000	61.263	825.000	299.999
2.	Assam	35.000	12.300	35.000	9.428	35.000	0.053	105.000	21.781
3.	Bihar	150.000	14.481	100.000	74.644	75.000	26.051	325.000	115.176
4.	Jharkhand	35.000	9.670	31.000	1.833	31.000	14.900	97.000	26.403
5.	Goa	40.000	0.000	8.000	2.000	5.000	0.455	53.000	2.455
6.	Gujarat	1000.000	1000.330	850.000	650.359	1000.000	420.000	2850.000	2070.689
7.	Haryana	18.000	18.000	25.000	7.735	25.000	7.795	68.000	33.530
8.	Himachal Pradesh	18.000	8.150	15.000	14.692	15.000	1.236	48.000	24.078
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	35.000	34.999	60.000	12.555	40.000	5.113	135.000	52.667
10.	Karnataka	737.000	620.850	450.000	266.478	567.000	314.792	1754.000	1202.120
11.	Kerala	17.000	5.665	31.000	31.000	50.000	34.606	96.000	71.273
12.	Madhya Pradesh	220.000	220.000	740.000	568.440	850.000	361.691	1810.000	1150.131
13.	Chhattisgarh	104.000	104.000	100.000	74.630	75.000	2.048	279.000	180.678
14.	Maharashtra	175.000	133.134	414.000	164.395	707.000	380.085	1296.000	677.614
15.	Manipur	28.000	18.500	22.000	12.500	18.000	8.050	66.000	39.050
16.	Meghalaya	4.000	1.500	4.000	0.000	4.000	0.000	12.000	1.500

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
17.	Orissa	250.000	179.570	250.000	147.460	280.000	13.929	760.000	340.859
18.	Punjab	150.000	36.660	100.000	0.000	100.000	0.000	350.000	36.660
19.	Rajasthan	200.000	174.385	560.000	499.837	400.000	267.966	1160.000	942.188
20.	Tamil Nadu	4.000	0.000	20.000	0.000	5.000	0.000	29.000	0.000
21.	Tripura	28.000	2.625	22.000	1.939	20.000	2.100	70.000	6.664
22.	UP/Uttaranchal	400.000	359	341	274.785	430.500	123.144	1171.500	756.929
23.	West Bengal	45.000	28.133	40.000	3.144	40.000	9.423	125.000	40.700
Grand Total		3968.000	3015.138	4493.000	3023.385	5047.500	2054.718	13508.500	8093.142

Statement III**AIBP: Irrigation Potential Created**

(Potential in Th. Ha.)

Sl.No.	State	Potential Created During			Total (upto 3/2005)
		2002-03	2003-04	2004-05 (Antd.)	
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	78.825	11.288	15.334	102.447
2.	Assam	3.653	21.853	4.639	30.145
3.	Bihar	47.950	60.694	118.655	227.299
4.	Jharkhand	2.520	0.000	0.000	2.520
5.	Goa	1.720	2.919	1.800	6.439
6.	Gujarat	89.969	40.380	128.000	258.349
7.	Haryana	3.266	2.956	6.000	12.222
8.	Himachal Pradesh	0.200	0.300	0.300	0.800
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	5.587	3.183	1.029	9.799
10.	Karnataka	45.090	138.834	79.341	263.265
11.	Kerala	4.800	9.219	5.030	19.049
12.	Madhya Pradesh	16.683	11.159	23.257	51.099
13.	Chhattisgarh	17.725	11.908	15.969	45.602

1	2	3	4	5	6
14.	Maharashtra	13.609	27.584	35.867	77.060
15.	Manipur	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
16.	Meghalaya	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
17.	Orissa	3.599	44.516	16.238	64.353
18.	Punjab	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
19.	Rajasthan	37.363	50.367	59.121	146.851
20.	Tamil Nadu	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
21.	Tripura	0.000	0.415	2.119	2.534
22.	UP/Uttaranchal	78.860	30.069	78.549	187.478
23.	West Bengal	6.145	3.499	16.768	26.412
Grand Total		454.564	471.143	608.016	1533.723

[English]

Afforestation Programmes

759. SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has formulated any scheme to convert one-third land of the country into forest land in order to maintain the ecological balance;

(b) if so, the areas identified for the purpose and acres of land available in the country for afforestation, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government proposes to invite voluntary and Non- Governmental Organizations for afforestation programmes; and

(d) if so, the detail 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 not formulated any specific scheme to convert one-third land of the country into forest land. However, the Ministry has launched National Afforestation Programme (NAP) for regeneration of degraded forests and adjoining lands. Degraded forests, scrubs and blanks

are considered appropriate for afforestation subject to local ecological requirements. State-wise estimates to wastelands as per the Wastelands Atlas of India 2000 of the National Remote Sensing Agency are given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) and (d) Ministry of Environment and Forests is implementing a Grants-in-Aid for Greening India Scheme also whereunder financial assistance is provided to various agencies, including Non-Government Organizations and Voluntary Agencies for tree planting.

Statement

Estimates of State-wise Wastelands of India
(As per Wastelands Atlas of India 2000)

(Area in km²)

Sl.No.	State/Union Territories	Total Wastelands area in Districts covered
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	51750.19
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	18326.25

1	2	3
3.	Assam	20019.17
4.	Bihar	20997.55
5.	Goa	613.27
6.	Gujarat	43021.28
7.	Haryana	3733.98
8.	Himachal Pradesh	31659.00
9.	Jammu and Kashmir*	65444.24
10.	Karnataka	20839.28
11.	Kerala	1448.18
12.	Madhya Pradesh	69713.75
13.	Maharashtra	53489.08
14.	Manipur	12948.62
15.	Meghalaya	9904.38
16.	Mizoram	4071.68
17.	Nagaland	8404.10
18.	Orissa	21341.71
19.	Punjab	2228.40
20.	Rajasthan	105639.11
21.	Sikkim	3569.58
22.	Tamil Nadu	23013.90
23.	Tripura	1276.03
24.	Uttar Pradesh	38772.80
25.	West Bengal	5718.48
26.	Union Territories	574.30
Total		638518.31

*Un-surveyed area in Jammu and Kashmir: 120849 sq. km.

International Year of Rice

760. SHRI DHANUSKODI R. ATHITHAN:
SHRI P.S. GADHAVI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the United Nation General Assembly had declared the year 2004 as the International Year of Rice;

(b) if so, the measures taken by the Indian Government in pursuance thereof and the results achieved therefrom;

(c) whether any initiatives were made by the Government to invest in high yield varieties of rice, introduction of appropriate technology for post-harvest and pre-harvest machines and education of farmers of modern crop management methods; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the achievements 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 (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH) (a) and (b) The Government of India undertook a number of activities for observing year 2004 as International Year of Rice to promote rice cultivation in the country. These included, organizing national Science Day and Quiz on Rice in India for school children, holding of national and international symposia, seminars, conferences, etc. Celebration of International Year of Rice helped in motivating farmers and State/UT Governments to improve rice productivity and in popularization of hybrid rice and the system of rice intensification (SRI) technology.

(c) and (d) The Indian Council of Agricultural Research—State Agricultural Universities System are responsible for development of rice hybrids and high yielding varieties. A large number of rice varieties have been released in last two years. These include Dhanraai, Shanti, Mugad Sugandh, Sweta, CRS 23, Sukara Dham-1 and Sumati. Further, three rice hybrids viz., Suruchi 5402, Pant Sankar Dhan-3 and Narendra Usar Sankar Dhan were also released for cultivation.

The ICAR has designed and fabricated a prototype for hitching mechanisms of the transplanter to the power tiller which is ready for trial. Further, Korean and Chinese transplanters were evaluated for planting hybrid rice. The Farm Machinery Training and Testing Institutes (FMT & TIs) imparted training in pre-harvest technology. The trainings on post harvest technology were conducted on operation of combine harvesters, self-propelled and tractor operated reapers, threshers, straw-reapers, cleaners, graders, etc.

The Central Government supported various schemes for education of farmers on modern crop management methods. Establishment of Agri-Clinic and Agri-Business centres was initiated in 2002-03. So far 2459 agri-centres have been established. Further, during 2004-05, new schemes on Mass Media Support to Agriculture and Kisan Cell Centres operating through toll free lines to provide expert advice to farmers were introduced. A new scheme, "Support to state Extension Programme for Extension Reforms" to make extension system farmer accountable has been introduced.

Development of Devarayanadurga Hills

761. SHRI S. MALLIKARJUNIAH: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to develop Devarayanadurga Hills in Tumkur district in Karnataka and include it in the tourist map; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the same is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY) (a) Development and promotion of places of tourist interest/spots is the responsibility of the State Governments/UT Administration. However, Ministry of Tourism provides funds on the basis of project proposals prioritized in consultation with them for the following schemes every year:

- (i) Product Infrastructure and Destination Development.
- (ii) Integrated development of Tourism Circuits.
- (iii) Assistance for Large Revenue Generating projects.

No project proposal for development of Devarayanadurga Hills in Tumkur District has been prioritized nor has any proposal been submitted by the State Government during the current financial year.

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

ESI Hospitals in Maharashtra

762. SHRIMATI KALPNA RAMESH NARHIRE:
SHRI TUKARAM GANGADHAR GADAKH:

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

(a) whether the Government of Maharashtra has requested the Union Government for setting up ESI hospitals in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the funds allocated to the State for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRA SHEKHAR RAO) (a) No, Sir. At present, no such request is pending.

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

[English]

Amendment in Industrial Disputes Act, 1947

763. SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to amend the existing Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 to facilitate the hire and fire norms of labour in small industrial units;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which necessary amended legislation is likely to be brought?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRA SHEKHAR RAO) (a) There is no such proposal at present.

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

Rabi Crop Campaign

764. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAI:
SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a National meet on finalizing the winter (rabi) crop campaign was held in New Delhi recently;

(b) if so, the details of the issues discussed during the said meet alongwith the recommendations made therein;

(c) whether the Union Government has directed the State Governments and the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) to launch Mission 4 to raise the agricultural growth rate to 4 per cent;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the present growth rate of agriculture contributing to economy;

(f) whether the Government has identified specific regions for a particular crop; and

(g) if so, the details thereof and other steps taken or being taken to increase agricultural production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH) (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Conference was attended by the senior functionaries dealing with matters relating to agriculture under the Central and State Governments/Union Territory Administrations and agricultural research institutes including State Agriculture Universities etc. in the Conference, the participating States/UTs presented their achievements in agriculture and also put forth their requirement for various inputs, such as, seeds, fertilizer, pesticides, credit etc.

(c) and (d) In the course of the Conference it was proposed to launch a countrywide mission for raising growth rate of agriculture to 4 per cent by adopting an agro climatically differentiated strategy.

(e) A table indicating the growth rate in agriculture and allied sectors is enclosed as statement.

(f) and (g) In order to achieve the targeted growth rate of 4% in agriculture, it is considered necessary to adopt an agro-climatically differentiated strategy, that targets both commodity and agro-climatic zones for filling up potentially gaps through addressal of specific constraints whether of soil, land or water alongwith commodity specific removal of constraints relating to seed, fertilizers, micro nutrients and appropriate technologies. A short term strategy has been formulated for enhancing production of rice, wheat, maize, cotton, oilseeds & pulses etc. targeting all potential regions where productivity can be enhanced. For example for rice, areas identified are the lower and upper Gangetic Plain areas and the eastern plateau where there is great scope for increase in yields.

The other areas identified for the purpose of increased agricultural production and productivity are a concerted focus on water management, high yielding varieties, balanced fertilizers, micro nutrients and resource conservation technologies.

Statement

Agricultural growth at Constant prices (1993-94 prices)

Year	Agriculture, forestry, fishing (Rs. crore)	Growth (%)
1993-94	241967	
1994-95	254090	5.0
1995-96	251892	-0.9
1996-97	276091	9.6
1997-98	269383	-2.4
1998-99	286094	6.2
1999-2000	286983	0.3
2000-01	286666	-0.1
2001-02	304666	6.3
2002-03	283393	-7.0
2003-04	310611	9.6
2004-05	314180	1.1

Global Warming and Climate Change

765. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Pune based Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology and UK's Hadley Centre for Climate Prediction and Research have through a joint study predicted that global warming will adversely affect agriculture, bio-diversity, disease pattern and water availability in India;

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

(c) the extent to which Indian agriculture and ecology is likely to adapt to these changes; and

(d) the strategy evolved to meet the challenges of global warming?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA) (a) The Indo-UK study "Investigating the impacts of Climate Change in India" shows that climate change represents an additional stress on ecological and socio-economic systems including agriculture, biodiversity, disease pattern and water availability in the country already facing pressure due to urbanization, industrialization and other economic activities.

(b) and (c) The existing policy framework in India together with wide-ranging reforms aimed at accelerated economic growth relating to energy efficiency, energy conservation, power sector reforms, an active renewable energy programme, fuel switching to cleaner energy, afforestation and conservation of forests; steps to encourage efficient utilization of coal; reduction of gas flaring and installation of waste heat recovery systems in the oil sector; standardization of fuel-efficient irrigation pump-sets, rectification of existing pump-sets to make them more energy efficient, rationalization of power tariffs and better cultivar practices in the agriculture sector etc. address the greenhouse gas emissions in the country. In so far as adaptation to climate change is concerned, various initiatives had been taken by the Indian Council of Agriculture Research (ICAR) and Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE) in case of agriculture and forestry sectors to adapt to likely climate change in different eco-systems.

(d) The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Kyoto Protocol are two multilateral environmental agreements addressing the issues related to climate change. India is a Party to both these agreements and is fulfilling its obligations in terms of inventorization of Greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in the specified sectors. As of now developed countries (Annex I) have obligations under the Kyoto Protocol to reduce their GHG emissions while there is no such obligation on developing countries.

User Charges on Rivers/Lakes

766. SHRI M. SREENIVASULU REDDY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether for keeping rivers and lakes clean, the Government proposes to raise money by levying user charges; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA) (a) and (b) The proposal of raising money by levying user charges has been taken up with the State Governments in various fora and it has been stressed that water being a State subject, such proposals for raising revenue need to be considered by Urban Local Bodies and the State Governments for Operation & Maintenance of assets created under the National River and Lake Conservation Programmes for abatement of pollution in rivers and lakes.

[Translation]

Medical Facilities for Agricultural Labourers

767. SHRIMATI RUPATAI D. PATIL: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of farmers and agricultural labourers is 23.5 crore which comes under unorganized sector;

(b) if so, the details of medical services available to this community;

(c) whether the Government proposes to introduce separate medical facilities for them on the pattern of Employees State Insurance (ESI); and

(d) if not, the steps being taken by the Government to ensure fulfilment of medical need of this community?

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

(b) The Ministry of Labour & Employment has not been implementing any scheme for providing medical facilities to the agricultural workers.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Agricultural labourers alongwith others are availing the facilities of medical and health care infrastructure of both States and that of Central Governments from State level to district and tehsil and sub centers spread all over the country. The redesignated Universal Health Insurance Scheme is available for the families living below poverty line (BPL) which, inter-alia, include agricultural labourers also at subsidized annual premium of Rs. 165,

Rs. 248 and Rs. 330 for individual, for a family of five and for a family of seven respectively. The scheme provides for reimbursement of hospitalization expenses up to Rs. 30,000/- on floater basis per family, coverage of death of worker due to accident (Rs. 25,000/-) etc. The Government has also recently launched the National Rural Health Mission for providing integrated comprehensive Primary Health care Services, especially to the poor and vulnerable sections of the society including agricultural labourers.

[English]

Conversion of Forest Land

768. SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS:
SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK:

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

(a) whether the Government has received any request from any of the State Governments seeking permission for conversion of forest land into revenue villages;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the present status thereof;

(c) whether the Planning Commission has recommended conversion of forest land into revenue land as also rights on forest land/produce; 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 proposals for conversion of forest villages into revenue villages has been received from 5 States, namely, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Uttaranchal and Chhattisgarh. So, total 511 forest village, which include 315 forest villages of Madhya Pradesh 73 forest villages in Maharashtra, 112 forest villages in Gujarat and 11 forest villages in Uttaranchal have been given permission for conversion into revenue villages.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. However, the Ministry has issued guidelines in 1990 for conversion of forest villages into revenue villages, for regularization of eligible encroachments and for settlement of disputed claims on forest land.

Exploitation of Water by Soft Drink Companies

769. SHRIMATI ARCHANA NAYAK: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any plan/proposal to ban the extensive exploitation of ground water for soft drink products;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the State Governments including Orissa have submitted any memorandum in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken in that regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) (a) and (b) In order to regulate ground water withdrawal by industries including aerated drink manufacturers, Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA), constituted under Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, had circulated a list of critical areas to State Pollution Control Boards, Ministry of Environment & Forests etc. which refer proposals of new industries to CGWA for obtaining No. Objection Certificate (NOC) before issuing permission. Depending upon the availability of ground water and site specific scientific considerations in such areas, NOC is granted by the CGWA on case to case basis. A pre-condition for such permission is the mandatory adoption of rain water harvesting system for ground water recharge by the industry. Since licensing authority for any industry is the State Government/State agencies/State Pollution Control Board, any action to ban the exploitation of ground water by soft drink companies is to be taken by them.

(c) and (d) No memorandum for banning the exploitation of ground water for soft drink products has been received in the Ministry of Water Resources/CGWB from the State Governments including that of Orissa.

[Translation]

Import of Sugar

770. SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL:
SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA:
SHRI TUKARAM GANPAT RAO RENG PATIL:
SHRI ALOK KUMAR MEHTA:
DR. K. DHANARAJU:

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

(a) whether any survey has been conducted regarding production, consumption and cost of sugar in the country;

(b) if so, the details regarding the findings of the said survey;

(c) whether sugar is being imported in the country to meet the shortage;

(d) if so, the details regarding the total quantity and cost of sugar imported during the last three years, year-wise;

(e) the reasons therefor; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to increase the production of sugar 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 (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH) (a) and (b) As per information available with the Government, the production, consumption and cost of sugar in the country during the last three sugar years as under:-

Sugar Season (October- September)	Production	Consumption	Range of Wholesale price of sugar in four principal markets of the country (Rs./Qtl.)*
2002-2003	201.32	183.35	1190-1525
2003-2004	139.58	175.00	1265-1810
2004-2005	130.00	169.88	1570-2075

*Source: Price Monitoring Cell, Department of Consumer Affairs.

(c) and (d) Sugar is on O.G.L. (Open General Licence) and is freely importable as per commercial prudence of the importers. However, as per the Foreign Trade Policy of the Government, all commodities including raw sugar can also be imported by actual users against Advance Licences (LAS) obtained under the Duty Exemption Entitlement Certificate (DEEC) Scheme, under which such imports are exempted from duties but are subject to export obligation to be fulfilled within the stipulated period. The quantity of sugar imported and its cost during the last three years were as under:—

Financial Year (April-March)	Qty. In lakh M.Ts	CIF Value (Rs./crores)
2002-03	0.41	32.93
2003-04	0.74	62.70
2004-05	8.89	954.24

Source: Dte. General of Commercial Intelligence & Statistics, Kolkata.

(e) The sugar production during last two years seasons viz. 2003-04 and 2004-05 sugar seasons had declined to 140 lakh M.Ts and 130 lakh M.Ts. respectively, on account of drought and pest infestation in major sugar producing States viz., Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka. In order to maintain a normative opening stock equivalent of 3 month's consumption at the beginning of the ensuing sugar year (2005-06), the Government have facilitated import of raw sugar by sugar factories under the Advance License Scheme of the prevailing Foreign Trade policy.

(f) The Government have taken the following steps to increase the sugar production:—

(a) Statutory Minimum Price (SMP) for 2005-06 has been fixed at Rs. 79.50 per quintal linked to a basic recovery of 9% subject to a premium of 88 paise of every 0.1% point increase in the recovery above that level.

(b) Through effective release mechanism, better monthly open market realization was ensured for sugar mills, enabling them to clear cane arrears to the extent of 99.44% and as such encouraged sugarcane farmers to increase sugarcane acreage and cultivation.

Thus, with normal monsoon and increase in area under cultivation, the sugar production during the current 2005-06 is estimated to be 180 lakh M.T.s are against 130 Lakh M.T.s last year.

Declaration of Rabi Movement

771. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Rabi movement 2004-05 has been declared by the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this movement has been successful in achieving its targets;

(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) to (e) The Department of Agriculture & Cooperation organizes national level conferences for Kharif and Rabi campaigns each year. The last Conference on launching of Rabi campaign was held on 15th and 16th September, 2005. This was attended mainly by senior functionaries dealing with matters relating to agriculture under the Central and State Governments/Union territory Administrations and agricultural research institutes including State Agriculture Universities etc.

This conference served as an important forum to review the agriculture performance in the past cropping season and to assess the preparedness of the State Governments/Union territory Administrations to meet the requirement of the ensuing cropping season successfully. The requirement of the State/Union territories for seeds, fertilizers, pesticides and other inputs was assessed so that these could be made available in time and in sufficient quantities. The experience has shown that this kind of interaction between the Central and the State Governments proves highly beneficial in formulating a suitable strategy for increasing agricultural production and productivity.

[English]

Scarcity of Fish In Coastal Sea

772. SHRI CHENGARA SURENDRAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government proposes to conduct a scientific study of fish wealth in the coastal sea of Kerala in view of widespread complaint from the fishermen folk of Kerala that the scarcity of fish in the coastal sea is due to mechanised deep sea fishing of foreign countries;

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

(c) the salient features of National marine fisheries census in the maritime States of the country now being conducted by the Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI)?

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) Scientific studies are conducted by Fishery Survey of India along the entire coast line including that of Kerala to assess the fisheries resources. Studies have not reported any major decrease in fish landlings along Kerala coast, which in the past three years have steadied at slightly above 6 lakh tonnes. The Government has not allowed any foreign vessels to fish in Indian waters.

(c) Salient features of National marine fisheries census relates to data collection on fisher folk including their community status, educational status, occupational status, membership in cooperative societies, etc. besides their holdings of craft and gears and infrastructural facilities in fishing villages.

Plantation Labour Act, 1951

773. SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR:
SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY:

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to modify the Plantation Labour Act, 1951 to make it suitable with the changing times;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the extent to which the modifications in the Plantation Labour Act is likely to provide more safety and benefits to plantation workers in the country?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRA SHEKHAR RAO) (a) to (c) Consultation on the amendments to the Plantations Labour Act, 1951 has been taken up at Tripartite fora. Measures for amendment will be taken after consensus is arrived at.

*[Translation]***Lifting of Foodgrains**

774. SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO:
SHRI M. ANJAN KUMAR YADAV:

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

(a) whether many States have failed to lift their quota of foodgrains timely for distribution among the Below Poverty Line population through the Public Distribution System (PDS);

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

(c) whether the Government held consultations with the States for making PDS strong and effective for distribution of foodgrains to Below Poverty Line population; and

(d) if so, the outcome 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) and (b) A statement showing State-wise allocation and offtake of foodgrains (Rice & Wheat) for Below Poverty Line (BPL) and Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) families during the year 2004-2005 is enclosed.

(c) and (d) For strengthening the Targeted Public Distribution System, a Conference of all the State Food Secretaries was held on 17.09.2004 followed by a Conference of State Food Ministers on 28.10.2004. As per the recommendations of these Conferences all the State Governments/UT Administrations have been instructed, amongst other things, to ensure that all families at the risk of hunger including migrant labour/displaced persons/homeless population are issued ration entitlement authority slips; priority is given to Cooperatives of women and Ex-servicemen in the matter of allotting Fair Price Shop licenses, priority is given in the allotment of Fair Price Shops to the legal heirs of a Fair Price Licensee, publicizing the information about the scale of issue, the price of foodgrains, availability, decentralized procurement of foodgrains etc., so as to make the PDS cost effective as well as to cater to local taste.

Statement*Allocation and Offtake of Rice & Wheat for the Year 2004-2005*

(Upto March, 2005)
(Figures in '000 Tonnes)

Sl.No.	States/UTs	Allotment			Offtake			% Offtake		
		BPL	AAY	Total	BPL	AAY	Total	BPL	AAY	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1230.128	476.248	1706.376	1261.816	456.115	1717.931	*102.576	95.773	100.677
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	31.680	9.816	41.496	31.610	8.661	40.271	99.779	88.233	97.048
3.	Assam	650.434	150.086	800.520	623.762	139.178	762.940	95.899	92.732	95.306
4.	Bihar	2219.184	420.000	2639.184	809.910	382.079	1191.989	36.496	90.971	45.165
5.	Chhattisgarh	586.835	200.997	787.632	556.720	180.399	737.119	94.901	89.752	93.587
6.	Delhi	155.270	16.510	171.780	148.735	13.984	162.719	95.791	84.700	94.725
7.	Goa	11.848	4.112	15.960	0.000	5.040	5.040	0.000	*122.568	31.579
8.	Gujarat	716.567	167.081	883.648	556.091	114.301	670.392	77.605	68.411	75.866

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
9.	Haryana	257.040	71.532	328.572	217.587	65.097	282.684	84.651	91.004	86.034
10.	Himachal Pradesh	134.816	44.116	178.932	118.553	41.755	160.308	87.937	94.648	89.592
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	243.008	66.076	309.084	235.598	43.508	279.106	96.951	65.845	90.301
12.	Jharkhand	801.112	204.380	1005.492	365.914	167.666	533.580	45.676	82.036	53.067
13.	Karnataka	987.813	326.463	1314.276	972.701	300.882	1273.583	98.470	92.164	96.904
14.	Kerala	487.048	185.560	652.608	493.640	156.714	650.354	*101.353	94.657	99.655
15.	Madhya Pradesh	1326.222	406.254	1732.476	1225.005	380.325	1605.330	92.368	93.618	92.861
16.	Maharashtra	2069.837	674.467	2744.304	1773.019	598.260	2371.279	85.660	88.701	86.407
17.	Manipur	43.884	10.716	54.600	29.035	8.631	37.666	66.163	80.543	68.985
18.	Meghalaya	60.152	16.708	76.860	60.389	16.119	76.508	*100.394	96.475	99.542
19.	Mizoram	21.241	7.439	28.680	21.644	7.098	28.742	*101.897	95.416	100.216
20.	Nagaland	39.529	12.551	52.080	42.787	11.922	54.709	*108.242	94.988	105.048
21.	Orissa	1436.088	260.604	1696.692	1071.942	232.275	1304.217	74.643	89.129	76.868
22.	Punjab	186.416	30.120	196.536	110.983	22.766	133.749	66.690	75.584	68.053
23.	Rajasthan	713.839	246.701	960.540	651.375	230.951	882.326	91.250	93.616	91.857
24.	Sikkim	14.076	4.164	18.240	14.022	4.048	18.080	99.616	97.454	99.123
25.	Tamil Nadu	1608.365	434.011	2042.376	1665.081	424.791	2089.872	*103.526	97.876	102.326
26.	Tripura	100.929	22.971	123.900	104.670	21.376	126.046	*103.707	93.056	101.732
27.	Uttar Pradesh	3316.042	1169.138	4485.180	2777.114	1126.056	3903.170	83.893	96.315	87.024
28.	Uttaranchal	177.120	32.052	209.172	178.701	41.649	220.350	*100.893	*129.942	105.344
29.	West Bengal	1618.945	391.595	2010.540	1259.804	260.473	1520.277	77.816	66.516	75.615
30.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	7.430	1.800	9.230	0.887	0.000	0.887	11.938	0.000	9.610
31.	Chandigarh	8.748	0.888	9.636	0.170	0.191	0.361	1.943	21.509	3.746
32.	Dadar and Nagar Haveli	5.544	1.176	6.720	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
33.	Daman and Diu	1.428	0.252	1.680	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
34.	Lakshadweep	0.372	0.168	0.540	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
35.	Pondicherry	28.238	6.874	35.112	2.620	1.235	3.855	9.278	17.966	10.979
Total		21277.028	6053.626	27330.654	17381.895	5463.555	22845.440	81.893	90.253	83.589

*Include backlog Quota.

Development of New Varieties of Wheat

775. SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:
DR. CHINTA MOHAN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has recently developed seven new varieties of wheat crop;

(b) if so, the details alongwith the names of the said varieties;

(c) the regions of the country where the said varieties could be cultivated with optimum level of production alongwith the per hectare average yield of the said varieties;

(d) whether the average yield of the said newly developed wheat varieties may differ with the average yield shown in the research laboratories; and

(e) if so, the assessments made/drawn in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH) (a) Yes, Sir. The seven new varieties of wheat have been identified during 44th All India Wheat and Barley Research Workers' Meet, held at University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad from 27-30 August, 2005.

(b) and (c) Details are given in the enclosed Statement.

(d) and (e) The newly developed wheat varieties have been identified for consideration for release and notification by the Central Sub-Committee on crop standards, notification and release of varieties on the basis of three years of multilocational testing under the specific agroclimatic conditions for which these have been recommended. Once these varieties are released and notified, these will come in seed chain for production of quality seeds for further cultivation by the farmers, frontline demonstrations and assessments.

Statement

Variety	Production Condition	Area of adaptation	Remarks
1	2	3	4
DBW 16	Irrigated, late sown	Punjab, Haryana, Delhi, Rajasthan (except Kota and Udaipur divisions) and Western UP (except Jhansi division), parts of J&K (Jammu and Kathua distt.) and parts of HP (Una distt. and Paonta valley) and Uttaranchal (Tarai region)	The variety is resistant to both stripe and leaf rusts and yield at par to the most widely grown variety PBW 373 which is now susceptible to brown rust. This will help in varietal diversification in the zone. The average yield is 39 q/ha.
HD 2888	Rainfed, timely sown	Eastern UP, Bihar, Jharkhand, Orissa, West Bengal, Assam and plains of North Eastern States.	HD 2888 has yield advantage over the checks along with resistance to brown rust. The average yield is 23 q/ha.
HI 1531	Rainfed/restricted irrigation, timely sown	Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Kota and Udaipur divisions of Rajasthan and Jhansi division of Uttar Pradesh.	HI 1531 has superiority in yield and resistance to leaf rust over available commercial varieties and suitable for rainfed as well as restricted irrigated conditions. The average yield under rainfed condition is 25 q/ha while under restricted irrigation it is 27 q/ha.

1	2	3	4
NIAW 917	Irrigated, timely	Maharashtra, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Goa, Plains of Tamil Nadu	NIAW 917 is superior in yield, disease resistance and quality as compared to the checks. The average yield is 43 q/ha.
PBW 533	Irrigated, late	Maharashtra, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Goa, Plains of Tamil Nadu.	This variety is resistant to both stem and leaf rust along with yield advantage as compared to check varieties. The average yield is 37 q/ha.
AKDW 2997-16 (durum)	Rainfed, timely sown	Maharashtra, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Goa, Plains of Tamil Nadu.	AKDW 2997-16 has resistance with yield advantage. The average yield is 12 q/ha.
DDK 1025 (Dicoccum)	Irrigated, timely sown	Maharashtra, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Goa, Plains of Tamil Nadu as well as hilly areas of Tamil Nadu and Kerala comprising the Nilgiri and Palni hills of southern plateau.	This dicoccum variety, besides being superior in yield and disease resistance for stem and leaf rust is good in quality parameters also. The average yield is 38 q/ha.

*[English]***New System for Tiger Census**

776. SHRI UDAY SINGH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Wildlife Institute of India has devised a new system for conducting tiger census; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA) (a) and (b) The Project Tiger Directorate in the Ministry of Environment & Forests has developed an enhanced methodology for conducting the All India estimation of tiger, large carnivores, ungulates, habitat status evaluation and monitoring with inputs from the Wildlife Institute of India. The methodology involves forest beat level primary data collection by forest staff and data collectors for computing indices of relative abundance of tiger and other wild animals apart from evaluation of habitat status, followed by density computation using sampling in the GIS domain. The process would be overseen by a panel of national and international, independent experts.

*[Translation]***Amendments in Labour Laws**

777. SHRI CHANDRA MANI TRIPATHI:
SHRI SURAVARAM SUDHAKAR REDDY:
SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA:

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

(a) whether the Government is considering to bring any changes in labour laws;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has received any suggestions from certain councils and other organizations in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRA SHEKHAR RAO) (a) to (e) With a view to making labour markets flexible, a 'Discussion Paper' entitled 'making labour market flexible' has been

circulated among various stakeholders for eliciting their views. These, inter-alia, include:

- (i) Amendment in the Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1970 by placing certain activities in a separate schedule so that provisions of Section 10 may not apply to these and by replacing the term "emergency" with the term "public interest" in Section 31 of the Act; and
- (ii) Amendment in the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 by raising the number filter from 100 to 300 for applicability of chapter VB and raising the compensation ceiling payable to workers on retrenchment, and on closure of the establishment, from 15 days' average pay to 45 days' average pay for every completed year of continuous service or any part thereof in excess of six months subject to the condition that such retrenchment compensation shall not be less than 90 days of average wages; and by extending the applicability of Section 36B to all undertakings.

The views of the stakeholders are being received.

Release of Water to Rajasthan

778. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI:
SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Punjab has agreed to release water to Rajasthan during a recent meeting held in Shimla as per 1981 agreement; and

(b) if so, the time by which this water is likely to be released?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) (a) and (b) During the 25th Meeting of the Northern Zonal Council held on 25th October, 2005 in Shimla, Chief Minister, Punjab is reported to have stated that Rajasthan could be given its due share of water provided the State completes construction of the required canals and has the required capacity.

Agreement with US and Britain Under Open Sky Policy

779. SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR KUSHAWAHA:
SHRI ASHOK KUMAR RAWAT:
SHRI MUNSHI RAM RAWAT:
SHRI SHISHUPAL N. PATLE:
PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has signed any agreement with the United State of America and Britain under the open sky policy in tourism sector;

(b) if so, whether the resultant increase in the number of foreign tourists in the coming years has been estimated;

(c) if so, the number of foreign tourists arrivals in the country during the last year;

(d) whether any scheme is being formulated for providing facilities to the tourists to make India a leading tourist destination in the world; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY) (a) and (b) The Government has signed an Air Services Agreement based on "Open Sky" principle with USA on 14th April, 2005. A revised Air Services Agreement has also been signed with UK on 8th September 2005, but this is not based on "Open Sky" principle. Both these agreements have resulted in enhanced air seat capacity for foreign tourists from these markets to various tourists destinations in India.

(c) The number of foreign tourist arrivals in India during 2004 was 3.37 million.

(d) and (e) The Government has formulated the following schemes to develop tourism and provide better facilities to tourists:

- (i) Products/infrastructure development for destinations and circuits;
- (ii) Assistance to Large Revenue Generating Projects;
- (iii) Capacity Building for Service Providers.

In addition to the above, the Government has also taken steps:

1. To augment the room capacity
2. To enhance connectivity through augmentation of air seat capacity
3. Improvement in road infrastructure

[English]

Joint Ventures by Steel Ministry

780. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to go in for joint ventures through equity tie ups with coking coal producers in Australia, Canada and China so that the country does not need to import the product;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any proposal is under consideration of the Government in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(a) As envisaged in the National Steel Policy, the Government would encourage joint ventures and equity participation abroad by steel and coal companies. In a liberalized set up, the individual companies are free to explore such possibilities.

(b) to (d) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

[Translation]

Decline in Capital Investment in Agricultural Sector

781. SHRI AJIT JOGI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a continuous decline in capital investment in agricultural sector during the recent years;

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

(c) the reasons identified for this decline; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken to reverse this trend?

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. The total investment measured in terms of Gross Capital Formation in agriculture including allied sectors of forestry, logging & fishing in real terms (at 1993-94 prices) has shown an increase from Rs. 20360 crore in 2001-02 to Rs. 24186 crore in 2003-04. The total investment in last three years is as given below:

Year	Total Investment (Rs. crore)
2001-02	20360
2002-03	21500
2003-04*	24186

*Quick estimates

Source: Central Statistical Organization.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Keeping in view the importance of Agriculture in the economy, the Union Budget 2005-06 has provided substantial outlays in the areas like horticulture and irrigation including micro irrigation. The budget has provided Rs. 630 crore in 2005-06 for National Horticulture Mission, which will ensure end-to-end approach having backward and forward linkages covering research, production, post harvest management, processing and marketing, under one umbrella, in an integrated manner. The budget has provided Rs. 4800 crore for Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme for 2005-06 compared with Rs. 2800 crore in 2004-05. With a view to improving water use efficiency in Indian agriculture, the Budget has provided Rs. 400 crore for promoting micro irrigation in 2005-06. Since the flow of credit is important in accelerated the pace of investment in agriculture, the disbursement of agricultural credit is proposed to be stepped up by 30% per cent per annum from commercial banks, regional rural banks and cooperative banks to the agriculture sector during 2005-06 to 2007-08.

[English]

E.P.F. Interest Rate for Retired Subscribers

782. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that the Regional P.F. Commissioners are setting the accounts by paying 8 per cent instead of 9.5 per cent to the P.F. Subscribers retired during the years 2003-04 and 2004-05;

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

(c) the remedial measures taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRA SHEKHAR RAO) (a) to (c) The rate of interest (9.5%) which was to be credited to the account of the members for the year 2003-04 and 2004-05 was approved by the Government on 06.05.2005 and 01.08.2005 respectively. Pending declaration of final rate of interest, the claims of the members were being settled by the Employees Provident Fund Organisation in 2003-04 at a rate of 9.5%, which was the same as approved by the Government finally.

For the financial year 2004-05, the claims were being settled at an interim rate of 8.5% pending notification. However, Employees Provident Fund Organisation has issued instructions to all its regional offices to release the balance amount of interest suo-moto in respect of settled claims.

Decline in Farm Income

783. SHRI M. SHIVANNA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the farmers in various parts of the country are forced to follow "Produce and Perish Policy;"

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether according to a recent report the farm incomes have fallen in the past five years despite the increase in urban income;

(d) if so, the reasons therefore and the steps taken by the Government to increase farm income; and

(e) if so, the manner in which integration of the rural market with the global value chain is expected to rescue the Indian farmers from the prevailing agrarian crisis?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH) (a) to (d) According to a survey conducted by National Sample Survey Organisation, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation submitted in July 2005, 60 per cent of the farmer households liked farming as a profession. Only 27 per cent of farmer households did not like farming as it is not considered profitable.

An analysis of data on cost of cultivation of principal crops in selected States shows that gross returns in respect of various crops are positive, albeit with fluctuations. A statement showing the Gross Returns accrued under various crops in selected States is enclosed.

To maintain and enhance farm income, Government is emphasizing on diversification of agriculture sector towards more high value crops such as horticultural crops. During 2005-06, National Horticulture Mission (NHM) has been launched in the country with a total outlay of Rs. 2300.00 crores during the 10th Plan including Rs. 1091.00 crores for 2005-06 for the development of horticulture, duly ensuring end to end approach having backward and marketing. The NHM, inter-alia, aims at capacity building for production and supply of adequate, quality planning material, increased coverage of crops under improved/high yielding cultivation, strengthening of infrastructure facilities, building a strong base to enhance efficiency in adoption of technologies etc. Recently, a farm credit package has been announced by the Government for regular flow of easy credit to enable the farmers to adopt better technology and increase their efficiency in resource use to enhance the income. Besides, the National Agricultural Insurance Scheme is under implementation to safeguard farmers against falling income due to crop loss caused by natural calamities.

(e) One of the objectives of integration of rural markets with global value chain is to improve the income of farmers, thereby improving the terms of trade of agriculture sector. This is expected to boost demand for agricultural commodities and would benefit Indian farmers.

A sum of Rs. 72 crores has been allocated to attract large investments from private cooperative sector to set

up agricultural markets, marketing and support services such as grading, standardization etc.

Statement

Gross Return per Hectare of Cultivation under various Crops

(Rs./Hectare)

Name of	Name of	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Wheat	Haryana	18548.87	21042.94	18583.00	18212.79	18729.93
	Punjab	16916.54	20965.27	19944.64	18803.72	16714.76
	Uttar Pradesh	13049.93	13722.10	11602.47	11201.68	11494.94
Paddy	Andhra Pradesh	13817.59	12989.54	12447.50	11841.90	16918.73
	Haryana	12103.27	12610.13	17716.31	16354.62	14797.29
	Punjab	11312.87	17232.10	18350.95	21135.61	16293.65
	West Bengal	13327.06	10824.00	6672.73	7137.45	5736.83
Jowar	Karnataka	3140.37	2561.51	1213.68	833.21	777.85
	Maharashtra	5023.36	5445.95	2591.69	1865.05	5735.29
Bajra	Gujarat	N.A.	3078.92	1826.14	5527.89	2787.58
	Uttar Pradesh	5985.66	7527.28	5039.80	5527.89	4792.93
Maize	Andhra Pradesh	6597.73	4104.31	2207.90	5125.24	5067.16
	Madhya Pradesh	3170.02	3212.46	1864.15	1734.75	1617.91
Gram	Madhya Pradesh	5728.94	7683.20	8754.89	10005.83	6642.61
	Uttar Pradesh	8862.31	N.A.	14824.76	12225.84	9245.41
Arhar	Maharashtra	11480.93	10405.89	7080.38	9466.08	8552.90
	Uttar Pradesh	15132.73	14538.11	12845.11	12145.04	10086.45
Soyabean	Madhya Pradesh	5408.42	4235.31	4202.01	5605.75	2729.20
	Maharashtra	6149.83	5229.00	3897.31	6201.40	5232.62
Ground Nut	Guajrat	13392.21	4567.61	2410.63	15665.21	7786.62
	Tamil Nadu	9927.90	8417.73	6329.19	1870.35	5488.33
Jute	Assam	7891.48	10442.34	8965.71	8813.05	4805.76
	West Bengal	10398.42	11696.27	7652.54	9489.56	9895.20

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Sugarcane	Karnataka	45899.76	44540.06	36432.70	42745.17	46031.34
	Maharashtra	28460.24	25602.39	15327.38	19285.87	19329.94
	Tamil Nadu	52573.00	52654.57	51881.99	50257.19	33311.67
	Uttar Pradesh	30411.43	27582.53	28129.91	28764.85	27719.18
Cotton	Andhra Pradesh	N.A.	7785.64	12578.74	10731.05	20818.43
	Gujarat	14349.01	6312.10	1957.33	3710.00	8831.89
	Maharashtra	N.A.	6583.35	3304.54	2089.47	4000.68

Note: 1. Gross return is the difference between gross value of output and A₂ cost of cultivation (all expenses in cash and kind including rent paid for leased-in land)

2. N.A.:— Not Available

Release of Water to Karaikal Region

784. PROF. M. RAMADASS: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of water released to Karaikal region under the Cauvery Accord during the last three years;

(b) whether the water released is in accordance with the agreement;

(c) if not, the causes for the breach of accord;

(d) whether the Government proposes to consider a separate accord for Karaikal region; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) The quantum of water in Thousand Million Cubic Feet (TMC) released to the Karaikal Region, as reported by Government of Tamil Nadu and by Union Territory of Pondicherry for the past three year are as under:

Water Year	As reported by Government of Tamil Nadu	As reported by Union Territory of Pondicherry
2002-03	3.089	1.154
2003-04	2.228	1.008
2004-05	8.816	4.209

(b) and (c) As per the Interim Order of Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal (CWDT) dated 25.6.1991, 6 TMC of water of Karaikal Region of the Union Territory of Pondicherry will be delivered by the State of Tamil Nadu in a regulated manner. As per the Government of Tamil Nadu, the above 6 TMC of water has to be delivered within 205 TMC of water to be delivered by the State of Karnataka to Tamil Nadu at Mettur annually. The Meetur Dam has realized water only 94.87 TMC in the year 2002-03 and 65.16 TMC during 2003-2004 as against the prescribed quantity of 205 TMC as per the CWDT interim order from Karnataka. There was heavy deficit in inflows during the above two years.

(d) and (e) The Order dated 25th June, 1991 of CWDT is operative till the final adjudication of the dispute referred to the Tribunal. The Central Government on the request of the Tribunal has extended the time for submission of report and decision of the Tribunal by one year beyond 6.8.2005.

Poultry Industry in A.P.

785. SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that the poultry industry in Andhra Pradesh has suffered severely due to recent rains;

(b) if so, the estimated loss to the industry;

(c) whether the Government proposes to provide any assistance to the State to meet the loss; 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) and (b) Yes, Sir. The State Government has estimated the loss at Rs. 29.20 lakhs.

(c) and (d) The State will be provided necessary assistance on finalisation of a proposal based on assessment by a Central Team in this regard.

Credit Policies for Farmers

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

(a) whether the farmers of the country have been agitating against the so called anti-kisan policies of the Government, especially with regard to credit policies for farmers;

(b) if so, the demands of the farmers; and

(c) the reaction of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) The farmers in the country have been drawing the attention of the Government towards the problems of inadequate availability of credit, high interest rate on agriculture loans, insufficient debt relief measures, complexities in lending procedures including margin/security requirements for agriculture loans and have been demanding remedial measures in this regard.

(c) (1) For providing adequate agricultural credit to the farmers, Government of India on June 18, 2004 announced a farm credit package which included doubling the flow of agricultural credit in three years. The major announcements were as under—

- Credit flow to agriculture sector to increase @ 30% per year.
- The branches of Commercial Banks (CBs) and Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) to be energized to enhance the flow of agricultural credit.

- Under Special Agricultural Credit Plan (SACP), at least 100 new farmers should be financed at each rural and semi urban branches during the current year, resulting in enrolling about 50 lakh new borrowers.
- Financing at least 2 to 3 new investment projects in Plantation & Horticulture, Fisheries, Organic farming etc.
- Finance at least 10 Agro Clinics in each district during the current year.
- Public sector banks to lend more to small and marginal farmers and progress in this behalf will be monitored.
- Provide credit to tenant farmers and oral lessees.
- Debt restructuring as opposed to debt write off.
- Debt relief measures for
 - Farmers in distress
 - Farmers in arrears
 - OTS for small and marginal farmers
 - Loans to farmers for redemption of past debts from non-institutional lenders.
- Refinements in Kisan Credit Card (KCC) Scheme and revisiting of Scales of Finance and realign the same to meet the realistic needs of the farmers especially capital-intensive agricultural operations.
- Special package to promote technological upgradation in agriculture, agro-processing and agri-biotech.

(2) Kisan Credit Card (KCC) is one of the key products developed to improve farmers' accessibility to bank credit for production purposes, simplify the credit delivery mechanism and provide more flexibility in the use of credit. KCC Scheme aims at providing adequate and timely credit support from the banking system to farmers for their cultivation needs in a flexible, hassle free and cost effective manner. The content of the scheme has been revised to include the investment and consumption credit needs of farmers. The progress in the issuance of KCC is quite impressive and banks have

issued more than 530 lakh KCCs up to 31st August, 2005. There is coverage of risk of KCC holders against accidental death or permanent disability upto a maximum of Rs. 50,000 and Rs. 25,000 respectively.

(3) All the Public Sector banks have been advised to reduce their lending rate for agriculture to a single digit rate of not more than 9% per annum on crop loans upto a ceiling of Rs. 50,000/-. This rate will benefit most of the crop loan account holders and will cover almost all the small and marginal farmers. The banks have also been advised to ensure that the volume of credit to the agriculture sector does not decline due to the reduction in interest rate. Further, in case of Commercial Banks, there is a stipulation that the rate of interest charged from the ultimate borrower should not exceed their Benchmark Prime Lending Rate (BPLR) in case of loans up to Rs. 2 lakh.

(4) To improve the economic condition of the indebted farmers, Government has advised the banks to undertake debt relief measures under the following heads in accordance with the guidelines issued by Reserve Bank of India (RBI)/National Bank for Agriculture & Rural Development (NABARD):—

- Farmers in distress—Rescheduling/restructuring of the outstanding loan of the farmers as on 31st March, 2004 in the districts declared as calamity-affected by the State Government. Rescheduled loan shall be repayable over a period of five years, at current interest rates, including an initial moratorium of two years.

Farmers in arrears—Loans in default of farmers who have become ineligible for fresh credit as their earlier debts have been categorized as sub-standard or doubtful shall be rescheduled as per the guidelines so that such farmers become eligible for fresh credit.

On restructuring as above, the farmers will become eligible for fresh loans.

(5) Banks have been advised to grant a one-time settlement (OTS) including partial waiver of interest or loan to the small and marginal farmers

who have been declared as defaulters and have become ineligible for fresh credit. Banks have also been advised to review cases where credit has been denied on the sole ground that a loan account was settled through compromise or write offs.

(6) In some parts of the country, farmers face acute distress because of the heavy burden of debt from non-institutional lenders (e.g., moneylenders). Banks have been permitted to advance loans to such farmers to provide them relief from indebtedness.

(7) The banks have been advised to waive margin/security requirements for agricultural loans up to Rs. 50,000 and for agri-business & agri-clinics loans up to Rs. 5 lakh.

Housing Scheme for Fishermen

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

(a) whether the Union Government is supporting the State Governments for implementing Housing Scheme under National Fishermen Welfare Scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government has released its share to the State Governments;

(d) if so, the details thereof during the last three years and the current financial year, State-wise; and

(e) if not the reasons therefor and the time by which it is likely to be released?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The unit cost of Rs. 40000 for construction of a fishermen house is shared by the Central and State Government on 50:50 basis.

(c) to (e) The Central assistance is sanctioned to the States in installments on receipt of proposals, financial and physical progress report pertaining to the funds released earlier. The statement given State-wise details

of funds sanctioned for construction of fishermen houses under the 'Development of Model Fishermen Villages' component of the Centrally Sponsored National Scheme

of Welfare of Fishermen for the period 2002-03 to 2004-05 and 2005-06 (till 23.11.2005) is enclosed.

Statement

State-wise Central assistance sanctioned during the last three years (2002-05) and current financial year till 23/11/2005 for construction of houses under the component Development of Model Fishermen Villages of the Centrally Sponsored National Scheme of Welfare of Fishermen

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl.No.	States/UTs	2002-2003	2003-2004	2004-2005	2005-06 (till 23.11.2005)
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	0	205.50	150.00	43.75
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	32.00	0.00
3.	Assam	0	0	4.60	10.00
4.	Bihar	32.10	0	66.69	0.00
5.	Chhattisgarh	0.00	0.00	0.00	49.80
6.	Daman and Diu	0.00	0.00	0.00	15.00
7.	Gujarat	0.00	63.00	0.00	0.00
8.	Jammu and Kashmir	44.75	20.00	50.00	30.00
9.	Jharkhand	20.00	62.00	100.00	289.00
10.	Karnataka	151.65	100.00	234.88	350.00
11.	Kerala	200.00	50.00	0.00	200.00
12.	Manipur	0.00	0.00	12.52	0.00
13.	Maharashtra	0.00	2.20	30.34	0.00
14.	Madhya Pradesh	24.75	0.00	20.00	0.00
15.	Nagaland	0.00	50.00	101.55	0.00
16.	Orissa	0.00	94.00	0.00	184.07
17.	Pondicherry	0.00	70.00	0.00	0.00
18.	Rajasthan	0.00	0.00	10.00	25.00
19.	Tamil Nadu	150.64	162.36	219.38	200.00
20.	Tripura	12.52	44.20	0.00	06.00

1	2	3	4	5	6
21.	Uttar Pradesh	103.50	28.00	306.90	211.50
22.	Uttaranchal	0.00	0.00	6.45	0.00
23.	West Bengal	0.00	40.00	160.00	150.00
	Total	739.91	991.56	1505.31	1764.12

Tourism Promotion in South Asia

788. SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN:
SHRI HEMMAL MURMU:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Tourism Ministers of SAARC countries recently signed a declaration for joint efforts to promote tourism in South Asia;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to promote tourism in each State; and

(d) the total funds allocated and released by the Union Government to the State Governments during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The declaration signed on 29 July, 2005 at Colombo provides for enhancing cooperation in tourism amongst the SAARC countries. It also resolves to formulate strategies for a proactive joint campaign to promote Inter and Intra-regional tourism. It further recognizes the need to reap benefits from areas of culture and heritage, eco and adventure tourism and other tourism products in a sustainable manner by all the countries in the South Asian Region.

(c) Development and promotion of tourist places is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments. However, Ministry of Tourism provides funds to the State Governments for development of tourism infrastructure projects which are prioritised in consultation with the State Governments every year.

(d) So far, the total funds sanctioned during current financial year for development of tourism infrastructure projects in different States is Rs. 269.7 crores.

Veterinary Doctors Leaving Country

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

(a) whether the Government is aware that some of the top ranking veterinary doctors are leaving the country in large number for the West paralyzing the veterinary services in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the measures being taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to tide over the crisis?

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) So far none of the State/Union Territory Governments have reported the exodus of veterinary doctors in large numbers of the West paralyzing the veterinary services.

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

[*Translation*]

Distress Sale by Farmers

790. SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA:
SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA:

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

(a) the present status of procurement of paddy and rice State-wise;

(b) whether the Government has received complaints of suicides and distress sale of these commodities by farmers due to the failure of Government agencies to procure the entire crops in various States particularly Punjab;

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

(d) the steps taken by the Government to procure the entire stocks of these commodities and prevent distress sale in order to mitigate the hardships of the farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) Statewise Procurement of paddy and rice in Kharif Marketing Season 2005-06 (as on 23.11.2005) is given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) No such complaints on distress sale has been received from various States including Punjab by this Department during the current Kharif Marketing Season 2005-06.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) FCI alongwith the State Government and their agencies, undertake procurement of foodgrains conforming to Fair Average Quality (FAQ) Specifications at Minimum Support Prices (MSP) at a large number of Centres for the Central Pool.

In order to ensure, inter alia, that the benefit of MSP scheme reaches the farmers, the Government has, in 1997-98, introduced the scheme of Decentralised Procurement. This scheme is now in operation in various States.

Statement

Progressive Procurement of Kharif Cereals during 2005-06

Marketing Season (Oct.-Sep.)

(Figures in Tonnes)
(Provisional)

State/U.T.	Total Proc. 2004-2005 (in '000 tonnes)	Progressive Procurement 2005-2006					Position As on	Corresponding Position 2004-2005				
		Rice (levy)	Paddy	Total in Terms of Rice	Inc. Over Prev. Day	Coarse Grains		Rice (Levy)	Paddy	Total in Terms of Rice	Inc. Over Prov. Day	Coarse Grains
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	1	—	—	—	—	—		—	—	—	—	—
Andhra Pradesh	3904	65547	8776	71427	7246	141447	21/11/2005	949	4020	3642	613	86636
Assam	—	—	—	—	—	—		—	—	—	—	—
Bihar	343	—	—	—	—	—		—	—	—	—	—
Chandigarh	19	—	—	—	—	—	21/11/2005	8119	—	8119	—	—
Chhattisgarh	2837	2348	232437	158081	8188	57	22/11/2005	—	—	—	—	—
Delhi	—	—	—	—	—	—	13/11/2005	—	—	—	—	—
Gujarat	—	—	—	—	—	—		—	—	—	—	—
Haryana	1662	162992	2333876	1726689	7361	4891	22/11/2005	250555	1501878	1256813	37883	130250

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Himachal Pradesh	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Jammu and Kashmir	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Jharkhand	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Karnataka	21	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Kerala	33	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Madhya Pradesh	42	—	848	568	370	576	21/11/2005	—	—	—	—	—
Maharashtra	205	—	6716	4500	4500	8431	21/11/2005	—	64	43	—	—
Nagaland	11	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Orissa	1590	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pondicherry	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Punjab	9106	8877	11590205	7774314	4559	—	22/11/2005	578793	10021956	7293504	498	—
Rajasthan	22	1024	35	1047	400	—	22/11/2005	—	6656	4460	—	—
Tamil Nadu	652	—	6	4	—	—	22/11/2005	—	16278	10906	165	—
Uttar Pradesh	2971	36292	62898	78434	17650	—	22/11/2005	79168	61095	120102	74903	—
Uttaranchal	316	2790	5747	6640	—	—	16/11/2005	—	4375	2931	—	—
West Bengal	944	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	24683	279870	14241544	9821704	50274	155402		917584	11616322	8700520	114042	216886

Market Arrivals of Paddy/Paddy Purchased by Millers

Marketing Season	Punjab		Haryana		Uttar Pradesh		Andhra Pradesh	
	Progressive	Inc. Over Prev. Day	Progressive	Inc. Over Prev. Day	Progressive	Inc. Over Prev. Day	Progressive	Inc. Over Prev. Day
Market Arrivals of Paddy								
2005-2006	13720383	13004	3979003	33113	675000	34500	313405	35808
2004-2005	13891026	2588	3286096	22193	663672	157076	165215	67408
Paddy Purchased by Millers/Dealers								
2005-2006	2130178	8619	1645127	28807	—	—	304629	34715
2004-2005	3869070	1846	1784218	21846	822577	141993	161195	66492

Notes: Procurement under decentralized procurement scheme in A&N, Chhattisgarh, Karnataka, Kerala, Orissa, Tamil Nadu, Uttaranchal, Uttar Pradesh & West Bengal.

For agencywise breakup of rice procurement and varietywise procurement of coarsegrains please see overleaf.

Agency-wise breakup of procurement of Rice and Paddy during 2005-206 Marketing Season

(Position as on 23.11.2005)

(Figures in Tonnes)

State/U.T.	Rice					Paddy							Total in Terms of Rice	
	FCI	State Govt.	CSC	Co-op	Total	FCI	State Govt.	CSC	Co-op	SWC	Agro- Ind	Con- Fed		Total
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Andhra Pradesh	65547	-	-	-	65547	4896	-	3880	-	-	-	-	8776	71427
Assam	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bihar	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Chandigarh	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Chhattisgarh	2348	-	-	-	2348	-	-	-	232437	-	-	-	232437	158081
Delhi	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Gujarat	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Haryana	162992	-	-	-	162992	92951	649372	-	1001658	200087	218329	171479	2333876	1726689
Himachal Pradesh	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Jammu and Kashmir	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Jharkhand	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Karnataka	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Kerala	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Madhya Pradesh	-	-	-	-	-	216	-	159	473	-	-	-	848	588
Maharashtra	-	-	-	-	-	-	4643	-	2073	-	-	-	6716	4500
Nagaland	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Orissa	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pondicherry	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Punjab	8877	-	-	-	8877	1040410	2538658	2764249	2429037	1416809	1401042	-	11580205	7774314
Rajasthan	1024	-	-	-	1024	35	-	-	-	-	-	-	35	1047
Tamil Nadu	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	-	-	-	-	6	4
Uttar Pradesh	765	35527	-	-	36292	-	40871	44270	11061	-	6696	-	62898	78434
Uttaranchal	1140	1650	-	-	2790	-	2478	-	3269	-	-	-	5747	6640
West Bengal	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	242683	37177	-	-	279870	1138508	3238022	2772564	3680008	1616806	1628067	171479	14241544	9821704

*Cropwise Procurement**Andhra Pradesh*

Crop	Rice	Paddy	Total Rice
Kharif	65547	8776	71427
Rabi	—	—	—
Total	65447	8776	71427

Tamil Nadu

Crop	Rice	Paddy	Total Rice
Kuruvai	—	6	4
Samba	—	—	—
Total	—	6	4

Varietywise Kharif Coarsegrains Procurement

State	Jowar	Bajra	Maize	Ragi	Total
Andhra Pradesh	—	—	141447	—	141447
Chhattisgarh	—	—	57	—	57
Haryana	—	4891	—	—	4891
Madhya Pradesh	102	—	474	—	576
Maharashtra	5473	34	2924	—	8431
Total	5575	4925	144902	—	155402

*Includes Procurement by Tribal Development Corporation.

#Procured by SFC.

[English]

Change in Essential Commodities Act, 1955

791. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering to effect sweeping changes in the Essential Commodities Act (ECA), 1955 to bring it in consonance with the liberalised economic environment in the country;

(b) if so, whether some of the changes proposed restrict the said Act to specific sectors only;

(c) if so, the details thereof indicating the sectors to be covered;

(d) whether it is further proposed to empower the Union Government to make changes in the list of commodities and schedules under the said Act;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (e) The provisions of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 and the list of the essential commodities are being reviewed on the basis of their relevance in the context of liberalization and the need for dismantling of unnecessary or irrelevant restrictions on movement and distribution of essential commodities, particularly of agricultural commodities, across the country. After consultation with the concerned Ministries, it is proposed to amend the Act.

(f) A Bill to amend the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 will be introduced in the Parliament as and when a formal decision is taken in this regard at the appropriate level.

Committee Report on Iron Ore

792. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the committee set-up by the Government to look into the issue of iron ore has since submitted its report;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has examined the recommendations made therein; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and action taken/proposed to be taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Steel, constituted an "Expert Group", on 20th April 2005, for formulating guidelines for preferential grant of mining leases, for iron ore, manganese ore and chrome ore, by State Governments. The report of the "Expert Group" was submitted on 26th August, 2005. The "Expert Group" has, in its report, recommended a "Scheme of Preferences" for grant of mining leases by State Governments with regard to iron ore and chrome ore. Details of the "Scheme of Preference" are given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) and (d) The recommendations of the "Expert Group" are under examination of the Government.

Statement

Details of Recommendations of the Expert Group

The recommendations of the Expert Group are limited to leases for iron ore and chrome ore and basically consists of a "the schemes of preferences" to be applied while deciding on applications for iron ore and chrome ore leases under Section 11(5) of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulations) Act, 1957. The features of the scheme of preferences are as under.

Scheme of Preferences: Iron Ore:

- In the scheme of preferences for iron ore "Preference A" is for allotment of mining leases, on captive basis for steel plants. Within this preference group, steel plants/projects have been given varying priorities. Conditions are prescribed for each category. The order of priority is as follows:
 - Priority 1: existing integrated public sector steel plants both for existing capacities and projected expansion up to 2019-20 to meet 30 years requirements.
 - Priority 2: existing fully integrated steel plants owned by widely held Indian public limited company with capacity of 2 million tonnes per annum (tpa) and above both for existing capacity and brown field expansion up to 2019-20.
 - Priority 3: Greenfield plants of 2 million tpa plus capacities promoted by Indian widely held public limited company coming up in iron rich scheduled areas and brown field and green field plants (promoted by widely held Indian public limited company) of 4 million tpa capacities planned for commissioning up to 2011-12.
 - Priority 4: Green field plants with minimum 10 million tpa capacities promoted by international steel companies through FDI in widely held Indian public limited company.
 - Priority 5: Consortium of iron and steel producers with a combined capacity of minimum 2 million tpa.
- Preference B is with regard to mining companies and, within this group, first priority is for public sector mining companies; the second for

professionally managed companies with proven track record of reclamation and beneficiation for allotment of leases which contain 90% ores of below 55% Fe content and the third priority to go to widely held Indian public limited companies with proven mining track record but with a commitment to supply ores to domestic plants.

- Some important notes and provisos attached to the scheme are:
- Steel plants must use 60% of iron ore fines through agglomeration and concurrently mine all ores above 55% Fe.
- All cases for grant of leases for expansion/brown field and green field projects should be given only in principle approval in the first place and actual grant of leases should be tied up with implementation of end use project.
- Preferences should not be tied to location of plant or related to boundaries of any particular state.
- Except where leases are given for Foreign Direct Investment projects, where swaps may be allowed, none of the captive allottees should undertake exports or domestic sales of ore. However, domestic sale of agglomerates and beneficiated ores can be permitted.
- Memorandums of Understanding already entered into by State Governments to be reviewed, amended or revoked as necessary to bring them in conformity with the scheme of preferences.
- Preferential scheme, after consulting the Attorney General, may be suo-motto brought before the Supreme Court so as to avoid future litigation.

Scheme of Preferences: Chrome-Ore

- First priority: Existing charge chrome and ferro-chrome plants to meet 30 year's requirements.
- Second priority: Brownfield expansion/green field projects (to be commissioned within 2 years) to meet 20 years needs.

— No export, by the captive allottees, of natural ore to be permitted.

The Expert Group has also recommended that the Orissa Government should throw open reserves for which OMC has no prospecting/mining plan within the next 5 years.

Integrated Potential Fishing Zone Multilingual Advisories

793. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:
SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether integrated potential fishing zone multi-lingual advisories have been developed in various coastal States;

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

(c) whether search time for fish has been reduced after the usage of these advisories;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the extent to which fishing community has improve their socio-economic status thereby?

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) As per enclosed statement.

(c) to (e) The Potential Fishing Zone Information to the traditional and mechanised fishing boat operators is provided by passing the same to fish landing centres through fax/E-mail and by displaying on electronic boards at landing centres. The information is on the rich fish resources available in the various depth zones along the Indian coast and also on distances from the fishing harbours/landing centres. The fishermen can directly reach the fishing grounds without wastage of fuel and time. This adds to their profitability and thereby improves their socio-economic condition.

Statement**List of Display Boards Installed/Proposed at various locations**

Sl.No.	Board location	State	Status
1.	Veraval	Gujarat	Installed
2.	Ratnagiri	Maharashtra	Installed
3.	Panjim	Goa	Installed
4.	Malpe	Karnataka	Installed
5.	Bypore	Kerala	Installed
6.	Neendakara	Kerala	Installed
7.	Munambam	Kerala	Installed
8.	Vypeen Island	Kerala	Installed
9.	Thangachimadam	Tamil Nadu	Installed
10.	Nagapattinam	Tamil Nadu	Installed
11.	Thengaithattu	Pondicherry	Installed
12.	Veerampattinam	Tamil Nadu	Installed
13.	Royapuram	Tamil Nadu	Installed
14.	Nizampatnam	Andhra Pradesh	Proposed
15.	Machilipatnam	Andhra Pradesh	Proposed
16.	Kakinada	Andhra Pradesh	Installed
17.	Visakhapatnam	Andhra Pradesh	Installed
18.	Gopalpur	Orissa	Installed
19.	Diamond Harbour	West Bengal	Installed
20.	Fizergunj	West Bengal	Proposed
21.	Kakadweep	West Bengal	Proposed
22.	Port Blair	Andaman Island	Proposed
23.	Agatti	Lakshadweep	Installed

*[Translation]***Condition of ESI Hospitals**

794. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the poor condition of E.S.I. Hospitals;

(b) if so, details thereof;

(c) whether the plans have been formulated by the Government to improve the condition of E.S.I. Hospitals;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the amount to be allocated for the implementation of these schemes during the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRA SHEKHAR RAO): (a) and (b) The condition of ESI Hospitals and their working in the Country is generally satisfactory.

(c) and (d) The measures being taken to further improve the facilities in various ESI Hospitals in the country inter alia include the following:

(i) Modernization of State Government run ESI Hospitals—Action plans have been drawn up to augment the availability of equipment and for upgrading and modernizing the diagnostic and clinical facilities;

(ii) Tie up arrangements for speciality/super speciality services—To provide more comprehensive Medical services to Insured Persons and their families, tie-up arrangements with specialized hospitals have been made by various State Governments. Also a Revolving Fund mechanism has been put in place for easily accessing such services.

(iii) Model Hospitals Scheme—One hospital per State has been/is being taken over, with the consent of State Government concerned by ESI Corporation to be run directly so as to give financial relief to the State Governments. These hospitals are better equipped and their scope of services is being widened to provide comprehensive secondary care medical services.

(iv) Augmenting funds for provisions of medical care—The ceiling for reimbursement of expenditure on provision of medical care by State Government has been enhanced from Rs. 750/- to Rs. 900/- per Insured Person family unit w.e.f. 1.4.2005.

(e) In the budget of 2005-06 ESI Corporation has allocated Rs. 823.98 crores for providing medical services.

[English]

Revival of IDPL and HAL

795. SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering any proposal to reorganize and revive the Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Limited (IDPL) and Hindustan Antibiotics Limited (HAL);

(b) if so, details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has decided any time frame to complete the re-organisation and revival programmes; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) and (b) The proposals to revive Indian Drugs & Pharmaceuticals Limited and Hindustan Antibiotics Limited have not been finalised.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Purchase by N.C.C.F.

796. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has directed the National Consumer Cooperative Federation (NCCF) to purchase branded products either from the manufacturer directly or, failing which, through their authorized distributors only;

(b) if so, whether the NCCF has engaged suppliers who are neither the manufacturers nor their authorized distributors for supplying branded products;

(c) if so, the reasons for defying the said directions by NCCF;

(d) the action proposed to be taken against the officials responsible therefor;

(e) whether NCCF has been procuring HP computers and cartridges etc. from RSRs at higher prices and not from the company or its authorized dealers directly; and

(f) if so, the remedial action the Government proposed to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) National Cooperative Consumers' Federation of India Ltd. (NCCF) has been advised by the Government to evolve a system to enforce transparency in procedure for procurement and supplies. NCCF has been procuring branded items from manufacturers or their authorized distributors/channels.

(b) NCCF has informed that they are procuring supplies from manufacturers or their authorized distributors/channels.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

(e) NCCF has informed that they are procuring HP Computers from the authorized distributors of HP and Cartridges from the authorized RSRs as per rate contract and tripartite agreement between HP, NCCF and the distributors at most competitive rates.

(f) Does not arise.

Irrigation Potential

797. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether targets were fixed for creation of irrigation potential under major and medium irrigation projects;

(b) if so, details thereof;

(c) the extent to which irrigation potential have been created so far together with reasons for the shortfall, if any, in the irrigation potential; and

(d) the steps taken to complete the projects and to achieve the targets of irrigation potential?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A target of creation of 9.936 million hectare is likely to be achieved under major & medium irrigation projects was set for the Tenth Five Year Plan.

(c) Upto the end of 2004-05, an irrigation potential of 3.367 million hectare is likely to be achieved under major & medium irrigation projects.

(d) Irrigation development is a continuous process and the responsibility of planning, execution and funding of all types of irrigation projects primarily rests with the State Governments. However, for early completion of ongoing major & medium irrigation projects, Government of India provides Central Loan Assistance (CLA) to the State Governments under the Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP) since 1996-97. CLA under AIBP is also provided for minor irrigation schemes of the special category States comprising the North Eastern States & Sikkim, the hilly States of J&K, Himachal Pradesh & Uttaranchal as well as the drought prone Kalahandi, Bolangir & Koraput district of Orissa with effect from 1999-2000. The criteria of AIBP have further been relaxed to include new minor irrigation scheme with potential more than 100 hectare in non-special category State with preference to tribal areas and drought prone areas. The special dispensation of loan/grant have also been extended to drought prone areas, flood prone areas and tribal areas at par with special category States. Further, creation of irrigation potential of 10 million hectare is also envisaged under Bharat Nirman during next four years.

[Translation]

Increase in Food Subsidy

798. SHRI ASHOK KUMAR RAWAT:
SHRI MUNSHI RAM:
SHRI SHISHUPAL N. PATLE:
PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:
SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR KUSHAWAHA:

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

(a) the extent of increase in the burden of food subsidy registered due to the declaration of Minimum Support Price (MSP) of wheat;

(b) whether the Food Corporation of India (FCI) proposes to issue bonds for procurement of wheat;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the target fixed for the procurement of wheat during the current season; and

(e) the estimated increase in the expenditure incurred on procurement of wheat over the previous 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) The additional outgo of food subsidy on account of increase in the MSP by Rs. 10 for wheat and consequent increase in incidentals on total procurement for the Central Pool for Rabi 2005 is approximately Rs. 175 crore.

(b) and (c) The Government has permitted the Food Corporation of India (FCI) to float bonds upto Rs. 5000 crore during 2005-06 (in Phase-II) to meet part of the Working Capital requirements. Earlier, the FCI mobilized Rs. 5000 crore through bonds (in Phase-I) between February to June 2005 under Government Guarantee.

(d) Procurement of foodgrains under Minimum Support Price (MSP) operations is "open ended" and no target is fixed.

(e) As at (a) above.

[English]

Announcement of New Minimum Support Price for Rabi

799. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has announced the new Minimum Support Price (MSP) for Rabi season;

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

(c) the criteria fixed for fixing the MSP rates?

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. The Government has announced the Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) for 2005-06 Rabi season on 29th September, 2005.

(b) The Minimum Support Price for the Rabi Crops of 2005-06 season have been fixed as follow:

(Rs. per quintal)	
Commodity	Minimum Support Price
Wheat	650
Barley	550
Gram	1435
Masur (Lentil)	1535
Rapeseed/Mustard	1715
Safflower	1565
Toria	1680

(c) The Government decides on the Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) for various agricultural commodities taking into account the recommendations of Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP), the views of State Governments and concerned Central Ministries as well as such other relevant factors, which in the opinion of the Government, are important for fixation of MSPs. While recommending MSP, the CACP analyses the cost of cultivation/production, trends and spread of input use, production and productivity of the crop concerned, domestic and global market prices, inter-crop price parity, supply-demand situation, procurement and distribution and terms of trade between agriculture and non-agriculture sector, etc.

Encouragement to Apiculture Industry

800. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the various steps taken/being taken by the Government to encourage apiculture industry in the country;

(b) the number of projects regarding apiculture received from various States including West Bengal during the last three years, State-wise;

(c) the number of proposals cleared and pending for clearance as on date; and

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

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) The Khadi & Village Industries Commission (KVIC) is implementing various programs for encouraging apiculture in the country. The steps taken for encouragement of apiculture include:

1. Training on skill upgradation for *Apis Mellifera* and *Cerana*.
2. Skill upgradation for *Apis Dorssata*.
3. Quality upgradation by processing Honey, through Scientific Honey Processing Units.

Besides, the Department of Agriculture & Cooperation (DAC) is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme on "National Horticulture Mission (NHM)". Pollination support through bee-keeping is one of the component in the Scheme. DAC has also been implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Macro Management in Agriculture-Supplementation/Complementation of State effort through Wcrk Plan under which Development of Bee Keeping for Improving Crop productivity was one component. This component Scheme has been subsumed under NHM from 2005-06.

The National Horticulture Board (NHB) is also providing assistance for the promotion of Bee keeping through their scheme on Development of Commercial Horticulture through Production and Post Harvest Management.

(b) and (c) The State-wise details regarding number of projects received and sanctioned by the KVIC and NHB during the last three years are given in the enclosed Statement. KVIC have received three projects under sanctioned and one project was rejected/referred back.

(d) Only one project is pending for clearance from Andhra Pradesh, in KVIC, which is likely to be cleared by the end of December, 2005.

Statement*State-wise details of Projects sanctioned for Apiculture during the last three Years.*

Sl.No.	Name of the State	No. of Projects Sanctioned				
		KVIC			NHB	
		Project received	Project sanctioned	Rejected/referred back	Sanctioned Under Scheme on Commercial Horticulture	Sanctioned Under Scheme of Macro Management
1.	Andhra Pradesh	3	2	—		1
2.	Arunachal Pradesh					
3.	Assam					
4.	Bihar	7	4	3		
5.	Gujarat					1
6.	Haryana				1	2
7.	Jharkhand	4	2	2		
8.	Karnataka	1	—	1		
9.	Maharashtra	1	1	—		
10.	Kerala					3
11.	Mizoram					3
12.	Nagaland	2	1	1		
13.	Orissa	1	1	—		
14.	Rajasthan				8	8
15.	Uttar Pradesh	2	—	2	3	2
16.	Uttaranchal	2	—	2	1	1
17.	Tamil Nadu					2
18.	West Bengal	3	2	1		
	Total	26	13	12	13	23

Water for Irrigation

801. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the present availability of water for irrigation purposes available in Union territory of Chandigarh;

(b) whether the need is likely to increase substantially in the near future; and

(c) if so, projections of such requirement and steps taken to meet the need?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES AND

MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) The present availability of irrigation in rural areas of Union Territory of Chandigarh is through under ground sources. The irrigation is done from 31 tubewells drilled in different villages. The capacity of these 31 tubewells is 18.57 cubic feet per second (cusecs).

(b) As the area under agriculture is decreasing day by day, the demand of water for irrigation is not likely to increase in near future.

(c) Do not arise.

[*Translation*]

Production of Steel

802. SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the total estimated production and demand of steel in the country by the year 2020;

(b) the approximate Quantity of iron ore available in the country at present; and

(c) the locations of iron ore mines available in the country, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) In the National Steel Policy it has been envisaged that by 2019-20 the country would attain an indigenous production of 110 million metric tonnes of finished (carbon) steel and the domestic demand for the same by that time would be 90 million metric tonnes.

(b) The in-situ reserves of relatively rich iron ore in India are 11.43 billion tonnes of haematite and 10.68 billion tonnes of magnetite ores.

(c) State-wise location of principal iron ore mines in the country is given in the table below:

Name of State	Location of Iron Ore Mine
1. Chhattisgarh	Durg, Dantewada
2. Goa	North Goa, South Goa
3. Jharkhand	Singhbhum (West)
4. Karnataka	Chickmagalur, Bellary, Chitradurga
5. Orissa	Keonjhar, Sundargarh

[*English*]

Grants to States for Lift Irrigation Schemes

803. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the grants are being given by the Government to the States for lift irrigation schemes run by marginal farmers and farming groups; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the assistance provided to the State Governments during the last three years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) The Central Government is providing Central Assistance under the Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) since 1996-97 for such approved major/medium irrigation projects proposed by the States which are in an advanced stage of construction and beyond the resources capability of the States that can be completed in four financial years. With effect from 1999-2000, the surface water Minor Irrigation Schemes of special category States (North-Eastern States, Sikkim, Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttaranchal and undivided Kalahandi, Bolangir and Korapat districts of Orissa) are also eligible for central assistance under AIBP. Grant component has been introduced under the programme since 2004-05. There is no scheme by which Lift Irrigation Schemes run by marginal farmers and farming groups are being funded by the Central Government.

(b) Does not arise.

Huge Margins by Pharma Companies to Retailers

804. MOHD. MUKEEM:
SHRI MUNAWAR HASSAN:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that the pharma companies are giving huge margins to retailers on their generic medicines;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the extent of margins given by the said companies; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to stop this practice and save the poor patients?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) to (c) Prices of Scheduled drugs and medicines are fixed by the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) in accordance with the provisions of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995 (DPCO, 95). The trade margin to retailers in respect of Scheduled formulations is fixed at 16%. Prices of non-Scheduled medicines are fixed by the manufactures themselves keeping in view various factors like cost of production, marketing/selling expenses, R&D expenses, trade commission, market competition, product innovation, product quality etc. The Government takes corrective measures where the public interest is found to be adversely affected.

The Government/National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) regularly monitors the movement of prices of medicines of mass consumption marketed through trade channel and intervenes whenever instances of unreasonable increase in prices affecting public interest adversely are noticed.

The National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) has collected data on trade margin being offered by the manufacturers to the retailers for a limited sample. It was noted that some manufacturers had offered high margin to the retailers. However, the market share of such medicines was small.

A Task Force under the Chairmanship of Dr. Pronab Sen, Principal Adviser, Planning Commission was constituted to explore options other than price control to make available life saving drugs at reasonable prices. The Task Force has submitted its report to the Government on the 20th September, 2005.

The Government in consultation with various stakeholders is examining the recommendations of the Task Force. Based on this a new Pharmaceutical Policy is likely to be announced shortly.

The drug policy, as amended from time to time is directed towards ensuring abundant availability of quality drugs at reasonable prices.

Agriculture Mele-Exhibition at Jamnagar

805. SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any plan to organize some Agriculture Mele-Exhibitions in the country particularly in district of Jamnagar, Gujarat; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the time by which the said exhibition is likely to be organized indicating the central funds earmarked therefor, 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) The Government of India has planned to organize Krishi Expo at Pragati Maidan jointly with the India Trade Promotion Organization. The Government of India has also planned to support five Regional and two other Agriculture Fairs to be organized by the State Agriculture Universities or similar institutions. There is no state-wise earmarking of funds in this regard.

There is no proposal to organize an Agricultural Fair or Exhibition in Jamnagar District of Gujarat. However, States have the flexibility to include State and or District level agriculture fairs in their State Extension Work Plan under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme 'Support to State Extension Programme for Extension Reforms.,

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Second Green Revolution

806. SHRI RAGHUVVEER SINGH KOSHAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to introduce a Second Green Revolution in the country;

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

(c) whether the Government is making efforts to check the declining trend in production of coarse grains and other agricultural products;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government is aware that the increase in Minimum Support Price of agricultural products is not commensurate with the increase in price of agricultural in-puts;

(f) if so, the details thereof showing comparative increase in Minimum Support Price (MSP) and agricultural inputs; and

(g) the steps taken by the Government to make MSP relevant to price rise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) to (d) The Government of India is already implementing a number of schemes to enhance the production and accelerate agricultural growth. For increasing the production and productivity of coarse cereals, Integrated Cereals/Coarse Cereals Development Programme is being implemented under the Macro Management Programme. Besides, the Maize, Pulses and Oilseeds Development Programmes are being implemented under the Integrated Scheme on Oilseeds, Pulses, Oilpalm and Maize (ISOPOM). National Horticulture Mission has also been launched during 2005-06 to promote horticulture in the country. All these schemes are under implementation to achieve higher growth in agriculture on a sustainable basis.

(e) to (g) While recommending the Minimum Support Price (MSP), the Commission on Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) takes into account all the relevant factors, including rise in input costs and resultant increase in the cost of production in different States.

[English]

Barapani Dam in Meghalaya

807. SHRI NARAYAN CHANDRA BORKATAKY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Barapani Dam in Meghalaya is quite old;

(b) if so, the steps the Government has taken for its safety; and

(c) the details of various water laws including International Water Law and legislation as applicable in India with special reference to Assam alongwith implementation and monitoring mechanism for these laws?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) The Umiam (Barapani) Dam in Meghalaya is 40 years old. It was completed and commissioned in 1965.

(b) Meghalaya State Electricity Board had reported problem of seepage in the gallery of dam and referred the case to Central Water Commission (CWC) seeking necessary advice. CWC is analysing the information/data made available in this regard for providing necessary advice to ensure the safety of the dam.

(c) The River Board Act, 1956 and Inter-State River Water Disputes Act, 1956, enacted by the Parliament are applicable to the whole of India. Brahmaputra Board Act, 1980, enacted by the Parliament is for the planning and integrated implementation of measures for the control of floods and bank erosion in the Brahmaputra valley and for matters connected therewith. These acts are administered by the Central Government (Ministry of Water Resources).

Work Done under NHM in States

808. SHRI JUAL ORAM:
SHRI PARSURAM MAJHI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state the details of the work done under the National Horticulture Mission (NHM) since its inception in each State?

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): The Department of Agriculture & Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture has launched a Centrally Sponsored Scheme on "National Horticulture Mission (NHM)" during the X Plan with effect from May 2005 with a total outlay of Rs. 2300.00 crore for the holistic development of Horticulture Sector. Since then, Operational Guidelines of the scheme were issued and the State Governments were requested to furnish their Annual Action Plans (AAP). The AAPs were considered by Executive Committee of NHM in different meetings and the plans in respect of all the 18 States covered under NHM have been approved. The list of States for which the AAPs have been approved is enclosed as Statement.

Statement

List of States for which Annual Action Plans have been approved under the National Horticulture Mission

S.No.	States
1.	Andhra Pradesh
2.	Bihar
3.	Chhattisgarh
4.	Delhi
5.	Goa
6.	Gujarat
7.	Haryana
8.	Jharkhand
9.	Karnataka
10.	Kerala
11.	Mahhya Pradesh
12.	Maharashtra
13.	Orissa
14.	Punjab
15.	Rajasthan
16.	Tamil Nadu
17.	Uttar Pradesh
18.	West Bengal

Allocation for Krishi Vigyan Kendras

809. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to increase the allocation of Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is also a proposal to give awards and more grants to KVKs showing good performance;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken to improve the functioning of the KVKs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The allocation of KVKs has been increased to 860.00 crores during the X Plan, against the actual expenditure of Rs. 275.48 crores during IX Plan.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The Indian Council of Agricultural Research has instituted ICAR Award for Outstanding KVK. The Award is given biennially to recognize outstanding performance and to promote a sense of institutional pride and belongingness in the mind of functionaries of the KVKs. Each award consists of a citation, a plaque and cash incentive for development of additional facilities for the KVK.

(e) The steps taken to improve the functioning of the KVKs are as follows:—

- Providing electronic connectivity to KVKs with the State Agricultural Universities and ICAR Institutes for availability of technology information to the farmers by the KVKs.
- Creation of Soil and Water Testing facilities in the KVKs.

Assistance by Foreign Agencies for Agriculture

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

(a) the details of the financial assistance given by the World Bank and other foreign agencies for development of agriculture during 2003-04 and 2004-05;

(b) the details of assistance utilized;

(c) the total amount sanctioned by the Government of Gujarat for the purpose;

(d) whether the Government of Gujarat has utilized this amount fully; and

(e) if not, the reasons for the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD

SINGH): (a) to (e) information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Production of Polymers

§11. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the production of polymers recorded in the country particularly in Maharashtra during the last three years, state-wise;

(b) the details of proposals under consideration for development of polymers for multiple use, state-wise;

(c) the details research and development proposals cleared for development of polymers during the last three years; state-wise particularly in Maharashtra; and

(d) the steps taken to identify new areas in public/private sectors where the use of polymers can play a vital role?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) The production of polymers in the country state-wise is as follows:—

State	2002-03 (M.T.)	2003-04 (M.T.)	2004-05 (M.T.)
Andhra Pradesh	65204	74502	67620
Gujarat	2374144	2511210	2618761
Haryana	3879	4877	6017
Maharashtra	679699	695883	804840
Rajasthan	34593	35496	39001
Tamil Nadu	144647	145786	127251
Uttar Pradesh	291058	263650	299123
West Bengal	581861	767763	813132
Total	4175085	4499167	4775745

(b) to (d) The petrochemical industry, of which polymers are a part, is deregulated and delicensed. There is no restriction on Foreign director investment also. This department, therefore, does not regulate specific proposals for development or for research & development. However, the department is in the process of finalizing a National

Policy on Petrochemicals to give a fillip to the growth of this sector, including polymers.

[*Translation*]

Private Participation In Forest Development

812. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to prepare a new scheme for increasing the forest area with the participation of the private sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to amend the Forest Act to facilitate the implementation of the scheme;

(d) the progress report of afforestation programmes in the country as on date;

(e) whether the Government proposes to increase the annual rate of afforestation; 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) Ministry of Environment and Forests have issued guidelines under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for participation of private sector through involvement of Non-Government Organization and Forest Department in afforestation/rehabilitation of degraded forest.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) The targets for tree planting under Point 16A and 16B of the 20-Point Programme in the country for the year 2004-05 were 12,923 lakh seedlings and 14,77,870 hectares of area respectively. The reported achievements against these targets are 9.076 lakh seedlings under Point 16A and 11,26,115 hectares under Point 16B.

(e) and (f) Yes, Sir. The targets of tree planting under Point 16A and 16B of the 20-Point Programme for the year 2005-06 has been fixed as 12,560 lakh seedlings and 16,29,475 hectares of area respectively.

*[English]***Environmental Clearance to Irrigation Projects**

813. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of development irrigation projects pending for environmental clearance in the country, State-wise;

(b) the requirement of area of forest land for each project; and

(c) the time by which all these projects are likely to be approved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) The details of State-wise irrigation projects pending for environmental clearance, showing requirement of forest land, are given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) Decision on the proposals for environmental clearance is taken within 120 days from the date of receipt of all requisite information.

Statement

Sl.No.	Name of the proposal	State	Forest land involved (ha)
1.	Godawari Lift Irrigation Project	Andhra Pradesh	344.00
2.	Revised Waghur River Project	Maharashtra	78.62
3.	Canalization Sakki/Kirannala Project	Punjab	Nil

*[Translation]***Loss on Export of Foodgrains**

814. SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID:
SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Food Corporation of India (FCI) incurred a loss of Rs. 1600 crore due to short realisation on the export of wheat and rice;

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

(c) whether the Government has suffered a loss of Rs. 500 crore by providing unnecessary facilities to the exporters;

(d) if so, the manner in which the Government proposes to make up the said losses;

(e) whether the Government purchased foodgrains in excess of the requirement and storage capacity and sold the same abroad at cheaper prices;

(f) if so, whether the responsibility has since been fixed in this regard; and

(g) if so, the details regarding the action taken by the Government against the erring officers?

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) There was no short realisation on account of sale of wheat and rice for export purposes by the Food Corporation of India, as the effective export prices were fixed by the Government as per direction of the Cabinet and recommendation of an Inter-Ministerial High Level Committee (HLC) with representatives from Ministries of Finance and Commerce.

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

(c) The Government did not provide any unnecessary facility to the exporters. The facilities provided to the exporters such as (i) allowances for broken contents of rice (ii) exemption from submission of bank guarantee and (iii) facility of movement of stocks by road from time to time, were for specific purposes of facilitating exports

and making the Indian foodgrains competitive in the world market. These facilities were withdrawn after their purposes were served.

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

(e) The Government is duty bound to purchase all the foodgrains offered to it by the farmers at Minimum Support Price (MSP), for the Central Pool. As there was not enough scientific storage capacity to store the stocks, it was decided to sell the foodgrains for export, at prices as mentioned at para (a) above, in order to bring down the high holding costs and to prevent deterioration of the stocks.

(f) and (g) Do not arise in view of above.

[English]

Fatal Accidents at Work Place

815. SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:
SHRI ASADUDDIN OSAISI:
SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR:
SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH:
SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:

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

(a) whether the International Labour Organisation (ILO) in its latest report has stated that India is under-reporting the number of fatal accidents due to poor safety and health facilities as work place;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) the reasons for under-reporting the number of fatal accidents at work place in India;

(d) whether any new mechanism is proposed to be introduced to ensure exact reporting of such accidents; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRA SHEKHAR RAO): (a) and (b) The International Labour Organisation's (ILO) Report titled "Introductory Report: Decent Work—Safe Work" presented in the XVIIth World Congress on Safety and Health at

Work held at Orlando, USA inter alia mentions that data relating to Occupational Accidents and Diseases from member countries are often very incomplete since underreporting is common and official reporting requirements frequently do not cover all categories of workers, like those in the informal sector.

(c) to (e) The reasons of gap in the number of accidents as mentioned in the Report is non-coverage of all categories of workers, mainly those in the informal economy. In respect of the manufacturing sector covered under the Factories Act, 1948, the State Governments are the enforcing agencies and are responsible to collect the details of fatal accidents. Any reporting of statistics in this regard is, therefore, based on the inputs from the State Governments.

Fertilizers and Chemicals Travancore Limited

816. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 1186 dated August 1, 2005 regarding Fertilizers and Chemicals Travancore Ltd., Kerala and state:

(a) whether the Government has since taken a final decision on the proposals submitted by the Fertilizers and Chemicals Travancore Limited (FACT);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the present status thereof?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The proposals have been sent to the Board for Reconstruction of Public Sector Enterprises, alongwith Government of India recommendations, for its consideration.

Import of Jute Bags by F.C.I.

817. SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Food Corporation of India (FCI) proposes to import jute bags in huge numbers from Bangladesh;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

- (c) the total quantity likely to be imported; and
 (d) the total expenditure involved in the said import?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

- (b) to (d) Do not arise.

Impact of Floods on Tourist Spots

818. SHRI M. APPADURAI: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) whether recent heavy rains and floods in many parts of the country have caused extensive damages to many tourist spots in the country, particularly in Tamil Nadu; and
 (b) if so, the estimated losses recorded as a result thereof and the funds released to the States during the current year to rebuild such tourist spots, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) Development and promotion of tourist spots/ places is primarily the responsibility of the State Govt. concerned. So far, no report has been received from any State Government/U.T. Administration regarding any damage caused to the tourist spots in the country due to recent heavy rains and floods.

Bio-Diversity Action Plan

819. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:
 SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:
 SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:

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

- (a) whether the Union Government has started the process of developing the national bi-diversity action plan;
 (b) if so, the details thereof;
 (c) whether any Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) has submitted report on national bio-diversity strategy and action plan;

- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
 (e) the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (e) The Ministry has started the process of developing the National Biodiversity Action Plan. As a first step, work was assigned to two organizations, 'Kalpavriksh' and 'Bio-tech Consortium India Ltd.,' under a United Nations Development Programme—Global Environment Facility sponsored project to prepare a project report based on which the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) was to be finalized. Pursuant to the completion of project tenure, the Ministry of Environment and Forests received the draft Project Report as consolidated and prepared by Kalpavriksh. Subsequently, a group of experts was constituted by the Ministry to scrutinize the draft Report prepared by the Kalpavriksh rectify the discrepancies and inconsistencies which were noticed in the Report. The report has since been duly corrected by the Group of Experts. This corrected and revised report is going to act as an input for the draft National Action Plan (NAP). The first draft of the NAP has been discussed in the Ministry and the final draft is to be prepared, harmonizing it with the provisions of the draft Environment Policy. After approval of the draft National Action Plan within the Ministry, the following actions will be initiated:

- Inter-ministerial consultation on the draft National Action Plan;
- Preparation of the Cabinet Note for approval of the Action Plan by the Cabinet;
- Release of the National Action Plan.

Task Force on Flood Management and Erosion Control

820. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) the target schedule finalized for implementation of the recommendations of the Task Force on Flood and Erosion control showing sectoral outlays approved and allocations made during 2005-06 and proposed for 2006-07; and

(b) the details of the implementation proposals under the Master Plan on erosion protection of Majuli Island, including model study and permanent protection measures being implemented during 2005-06 and proposed for 2006-07?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) The report of the Task Force has been circulated to concerned Ministries/State Governments. Action on some of the recommendations of the Task Force has already been taken. As recommended, jurisdiction of Farakka Barrage Project has been extended. Under the immediate measures recommended by the Task Force, schemes worth Rs. 15.42 crore have been approved under the continuing Centrally Sponsored Scheme and an amount of Rs. 5.51 crore has been released to Govt. of Bihar. For the funding of remaining schemes recommended by the Task Force, proposals have been formulated for obtaining approval of the competent authority keeping in view the technical parameters and availability of funds.

(b) For solution to the flood and erosion problem in the Majuli island, a scheme amounting to Rs. 86.56 crore prepared on the basis of recommendations of Master Plan of Majuli Island was technically cleared by Central Water Commission in 2003. Planning Commission granted "in principle" approval for execution of Phase I works costing Rs. 41.28 crore in 2004. Accordingly the scheme was approved by the Government of India and Brahmaputra Board in 2005-06 has taken up repair and construction, raising and strengthening of embankments and RCC procupine work including model study. An amount of Rs. 14.45 crore has been proposed during 2006-07 for these works.

Assistance to NGOs for Welfare Projects relating to Child Labour

821. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the financial assistance provided to Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) for welfare projects relating to child labour under the grants-in-aid

scheme in the tribal and scheduled castes dominated areas of the country including Maharashtra during each of the last three years and thereafter;

(b) the names of such projects and also of the NGOs;

(c) the details of the achievements made by the said organizations, especially in the tribal and scheduled caste dominated regions during the above period, State-wise;

(d) whether the Government has received any complaints against misuse of Central financial assistance by these organizations during the said period;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the follow-up action taken or proposed to be taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) Under the Grants-in-aid scheme of the Ministry, funds are given to Non-Governmental agencies for running special schools for the children withdrawn from work in different districts of the country including tribal and scheduled castes dominated areas. These applications are considered after scrutiny and on the recommendation of the concerned State Government. An amount of Rs. 1.79; 1.78 and 1.79 crores have been sanctioned during the years 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05 respectively under the scheme.

(b) Names of the NGOs who have been given the financial assistance in the last three years are given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) These Organisations after identifying the working children put them into special schools. After a period of maximum three years in the special schools, these children are mainstreamed into the regular schools.

(d) to (f) Complaints as and when received in the ministry are forwarded to the concerned State Government for enquiry and necessary action as required is immediately taken. However, no such complaint has been received recently.

Statement**Release of Funds Under the Grant-in-aid Scheme for Child Labour during 2004-05****Assam**

1. Sadau Asom Gramya Puthibhaval Santha, Nagaon
2. Bahumukhi Krishi Aru Samaj Kalyan Samity, Nagaon

Andhra Pradesh

3. Rural Social Welfare Association, Mahabubnagar
4. Rural Development Organisation, Mahabubnagar
5. Youth Assoc. for Rural Education & Dev., Khammam

Bihar

6. Vaishali Kunj, Hajipur
7. Sudha Mahila Samaj Kalyan Parishad, Nalanda
8. Mahila Evam Shishu Vikas Parishad, Khagariya
9. Gramin Samadhan Vikas Parishad, Buxar
10. Helping India, Saran
11. Bhartiya Gramin Seva Sansthan, Dharbhanga
12. Sidharth Gyan Kendra, Samastipur
13. Samta Gram Seva Sansthan, Patna
14. Shakuntala Prabha Bal Avam Mahila Seva Kendra, Vaishali
15. Subidha International, West Champaran

Jharkhand

16. Deep Jyoti, Deoghar
17. Gyan Niketan, Sahibganj,

Chhattisgarh

18. Naveen Ankur Mahila Mandal, Raipur

Haryana

19. Jan Chetna Sangthan, Sirsa

Jammu & Kashmir

20. Social Welfare of India
21. National Development Institute, Jammu

Karnataka

22. Rural Development Services Society, Bangalore

Madhya Pradesh

23. Gram Vikas Sangh, Jabalpur
24. Mahila Seva Mandal, Satna
25. Manju Mahila Samiti, Jabalpur
26. Shri Nav Niketan Shiksha Samiti, Bhopal
27. Ravindra Bhardwaj Kalyan Evam Shodh Sansthan
28. Gayanpath Shiksha Evam Samaj Kalyan Samiti, Bhopal

Maharashtra

29. Madhya Bharat Education Society, Gondia
30. Bal Vikas Academy, Aurangabad
31. Gramin Vikas S&P Sansthan, Nagpur
32. Samajik Bhuudeshiya Sanstha Nagpur
33. Sonali Shikshan Sanstha Nagpur
34. Anusaya Mata Mahila K&G Bhandara
35. Ujjawal Gondwana Mahila Mandal Nagpur
36. Lok Kalyan Shikshan Sansthan, Gondia

Manipur

37. Urban Welfare Organisation
38. APARD
39. CARE Manipur
40. Rural Voluntary Org. Pastoi Part-II Imphal (W)
41. United Rural Development Services, Thoubal
42. Manipur State Council for Child Welfare, Imphal
43. Centre of Rural Upliftment Service, Wanghal
44. Awangiri Nupi Marup, Imphal
45. Ashufime Development Society.

46. United Rural Development Services, Wang.
Nagaland
47. Dzevi Society Kohima
48. Sanenuoko Child Welfare Society, Kohima
49. Association of Tribal Welfare Development,
Dimapur
50. Old Home Multipurpose Co-op. Society
New Delhi
51. PRAYAS, Vasant Kunj.
52. Multi Vision Foundation, Narela
53. Jan Jagruthi Education, Mangol Puri
54. Chetna Janhit Society, Dilshad Garden
55. Pragati Foundation, East Azad Nagar
56. SPANDAN, Vasant Kunj
57. All India Konark Educ. & Welfare Society
58. Mobile Creches, Gole Market.
59. Bandhua Mukti Morcha, New Delhi
60. National Fed. of Labour Coop. Ltd. Siri Instt.
Area
Orissa
61. Association for Health Education & Dev.
62. Sakuntala Gramodyog and Social Action.
63. Manab Seva Sadan, Dhenkanal, New.
64. Centre for Children & Women Development,
(CCWD)
65. Council for Awareness & Rural Development
(CARD)
66. Gopinath Jew Youth Club
67. Narayani Mahila Mandal Khurda
68. Orissa Multipurpose Dev. Centre,
Chandrasekharpur.
69. Vishwa Jeevan Seva Sangh, Khurda
70. Org. for Rural Develop. & Energy Research,
Bhub
71. Gania Unmoolan Committee, Nayagarh
72. Saradhanjili, Bhubneshtwar
73. Jan Kalyan Seva Sanstha, Kendrapara
74. Bharat Jyoti, Keonjhar
75. Gandhian Instt. of Technical Advancement
76. Harijan Adivasi Mangal Samithi, Nayagarh
Rajasthan
77. Social Welfare Charitable Trust, Bharatpur
78. Karma Bal Vidhya Nikatan Samiti Kota
79. Divya Jyoti Vidya Mandir School Samiti, Kota
80. Navodaya Bal Vidyalaya Samiti, Kota
81. Deep Vidya Mandir Samiti, Dosa
82. Kota Shikshan Sansthan, Kota
83. Darshan Shiksha Samiti, Kota
84. Lok Shakti Sansthan, Jaipur
85. Shivam Shikshan Samiti, Karoli
86. Mahila Yuva Vikash Foundation, Karoli
Tamil Nadu
87. Organisation for Rural Development, Madurai
88. Chennai Mahabodhi Society, Kavaraipettai
89. Rural Stewards in India, Karur
Tripura
90. Akhand Yoga & Natural Therapy, Agartala
Uttar Pradesh
91. Sant Kabir Das Sewa Sansthan, Sidharth Nagar
92. Manav Samajothan Seva Sansthan
93. Jan Hitkari Sansthan Khushinagar
94. Samaj Kalyan Shikshan Sansthan Basti
95. MM Malviya Viklang Sewa Sansthan
96. Gram Vikas Sansthan Gazipur
97. National Women & Child Care Society

98. Harijan Avam Nirbal Shikshan Vikas Samiti
99. Sanskrit Bhasa Vikas Parishad, Sewapuri, Deoria
100. Project Mala, Mirzapur
101. Gram Sewa Sansthan, Deoria
102. Children Emancipation Society, 'Project Mala', Mirzapur
103. Life Line Welfare Society, Sant Kabir Nagar
104. Tribal Welfare Society, Shrawasti
105. Navoldya Gramodyog Samiti JP Nagar
106. Jan Priya Seva Sanstha
107. Kapil Bal Avam Seva Samithi, Basti
108. Avadh Mahila Avam Bal Kalyan Samiti, Basti
109. Shikha Mahila Samithi, Basti
110. Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar, Mehraiganj
111. Vashnavi Shiksha Samiti Allahabad
112. Jan Jivan Madhyamik Shiksha Samiti
113. All India Women's Studies & Dev. Org., Kanpur
114. All India Women's Conference, Kanpur
115. Swami Vivekananda Shiksha Samiti, Mirzapur
116. Harijan Avam Nirbal Shiksha Vikas Samiti, Allahabad
117. Krishak Vikash Samiti, Ghazipur
118. Purvanchal Manav Kalyan Sansthan, Maharajganj
119. Bhartiya Kalyan Avam Mahila Vikas Sansthan
120. PARAKH, Allahabad
121. Harijan Vikas Avam Samajik Utthan Samiti, Allahabad
122. Sant Ravidas Shiksha Samiti, Kushinagar
123. Bhartiya Samajothan Sewa Sansthan, Deoria
- West Bengal**
124. Ikhupatrika Social Welfare Organisation, Midnapore,
125. Keorakhali Jan Sewashram, South 24 Parganas
126. Mukti Rural Dev. & Child in Need Society, St. 24 Parganas
127. Indian Rural Medical Association, Calcutta
128. Village Welfare Society, Calcutta
129. Ranjapur Mitali Sangha, Hoogli
130. Gopalpur Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Kishore Seva Sangha
131. Bidhichandrapur Bharat Sangha, Howrah
132. Comprehensive Area Development Society, Nadia
133. Scotlane Poverty Eradication Centre
134. COSMOS, Kolkata
135. Badkulla Luna Silk Khadi Society, Nadia
136. Dam Dam Park Unnayani Sanabhay, Kolkata.
- Release of Funds Under the Grant-in-aid Scheme for Child Labour during 2003-04*
- Assam**
1. Sadau Asom Gramya Puthibhaval Santha, Nagaon
2. Bahumukhi Krishi Aru Samaj Kalyan Samity, Nagaon
- Andhra Pradesh**
3. Rural Social Welfare Association, Mahabubnagar
4. Rural Development Organisation, Mahabubnagar
5. Youth Assoc. for Rural Education & Dev., Khammam
- Bihar**
6. Vaishali Kunj, Hajipur
7. Sudha Mahila Samaj Kalyan Parishad, Nalanda
8. Mahila Evam Shishu Vikas Parishad, Khagariya
9. Gramin Samadhan Vikas Parishad, Buxar
10. Helping India, Saran
11. Bhartiya Gramin Seva Sansthan, Darbhanga
12. Sidharth Gyan Kendra, Samastipur
13. Samta Gram Seva Sansthan, Patna

14. Shakuntala Prabha Bai Avam Mahila Seva
Kendra, Vaishali
15. Subidha International, West Champaran
Chhattisgarh
16. Naveen Ankur Mahila Mandal, Raipur
Haryana
17. Jan Chetna Sangthan, Sirsa
Jammu & Kashmir
18. Social Welfare of India
19. National Development Institute, Jammu
Karnataka
20. Rural Development Services Society, Bangalore
Madhya Pradesh
21. Gram Vikas Sangh, Jabalpur
22. Mahila Seva Mandal, Satna
23. Manju Mahila Samiti, Jabalpur
24. Shri Nav Niketan Shiksha Samiti, Bhopal
25. Ravindra Bhardwaj Kalyan Evam Shodh Sansthan
Maharashtra
26. Madhya Bharat Education Society, Gondia
27. Bal Vikas Academy, Aurangabad
28. Gramin Vikas S&P Sansthan, Nagpur
29. Lok Kalyan Shikshan Sansthan, Gondia
Manipur
30. Urban Welfare Organisation
31. APARD
32. CARE Manipur
33. Rural Voluntary Org. Pastoi Part-II Imphal (W)
34. United Rural Development Services, Thoubal
35. Manipur State Council for Child Welfare, Imphal
36. Centre of Rural Upliftment Service, Wanghal
37. Awangiri Nupi Marup, Imphal
- Nagaland**
38. Dzevi Society Kohima
39. Sanenuoko Child Welfare Society, Kohima
40. Association of Tribal Welfare Development,
Dimapur
41. Old Home Multipurpose Co-op. Society
New Delhi
42. PRAYAS, Vasant Kunj.
43. Multi Vision Foundation Narela
44. Jan Jagruthi Education, Mangol Puri
45. Chetna Janhit Society, Dilshad Garden
46. Pragati Foundation, East Azad Nagar
47. SPANDAN, Vasant Kunj
48. All India Konark Educ. & Welfare Society
49. Mobile Creches, Gole Market.
50. Bandhua Mukti Morcha, New Delhi
51. National Fed. of Labour Coop. Ltd. Siri Instt.
Area
Orissa
52. Association for Health Education & Dev.
53. Sakuntala Gramodyog and Social Action.
54. Manab Seva Sadan, Dhenkanal, New.
55. Centre for Children & Women Development,
(CCWD)
56. Council for Awareness & Rural Development
(CARD)
57. Gopinath Jew Youth Club
58. Orissa Multipurpose Dev. Centre,
Chandrasekharpur.
59. Vishwa Jeevan Seva Sangh, Khurda
60. Org. for Rural Develop. & Energy Research,
Bhub
61. Saradhanjili Women's Welfare Develop.
Organisation

Rajasthan

62. Social Welfare Charitable Trust, Bharatpur
 63. Karma Bal Vidhya Nikatan Samiti Kota
 64. Divya Jyoti Vidya Mandir School Samiti, Kota
 65. Navodaya Bal Vidyalaya Samiti, Kota
 66. Deep Vidya Mandir Samiti, Dosa
 67. Kota Shikshan Sansthan, Kota
 68. Jan Jati Mahila Vikas Sansthan

Tamil Nadu

69. Organisation for Rural Development, Madurai
 70. Chennai Mahabodhi Society, Kavaraipeitai
 71. Rural Stewards in India, Karur

Tripura

72. Akhand Yoga & Natural Therapy, Agartala

Uttar Pradesh

73. Sant Kabir Das Sewa Sansthan, Sidharth Nagar
 74. Manav Samajothan Seva Sansthan
 75. Jan Hitkari Sansthan, Khushinagar
 76. Samaj Kalyan Shikshan Sansthan, Basti
 77. MM Malviya Viklang Sewa Sansthan
 78. Gram Vikas Sansthan Gazipur
 79. National Women & Child Care Society
 80. Harijan Avam Nirbal Shikshan Vikas Samiti
 81. Sanskrit Bhasa Vikas Parishad, Sewapuri, Deoria
 82. Project Mala, Mirzapur
 83. Gram Sewa Sansthan, Deoria
 84. Children Emancipation Society, 'Project Mala', Mirzapur
 85. Life Line Welfare Society, Sant Kabir Nagar
 86. Tribal Welfare Society, Shrawasti
 87. Kapil Bal Avam Seva Samithi, Basti

88. Avadh Mahila Avam Bal Kalyan Samithi
 89. Shikha Mahila Samithi, Basti
 90. Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar, Mehrajganj
 91. Vashnavi Shiksha Samiti, Allahabad
 92. Jan Jivan Madhyamik Shiksha Samiti
 93. All India Women's Studies & Dev. Org., Kanpur
 94. All India Women's Conference, Kanpur
 95. Swami Vivekananda Shiksha Samiti, Mirzapur
 96. Harijan Avam Nirbal Shiksha Vikas Samiti, Allahabad
 97. Krishak Vikash Samiti, Ghazipur
 98. Purvanchal Manav Kalyan Sansthan, Maharajganj
 99. Bhartiya Kalyan Avam Mahila Vikas Sansthan
 100. PARAKH, Allahabad
 101. Harijan Vikas Avam Samajik Utthan Samiti, Allahabad
 102. Sant Ravidas Shiksha Samiti, Kushinagar
 103. Bhartiya Samajothan Sewa Sansthan, Deoria
- West Bengal**
104. Ikhupatrika Social Welfare Organisation, Midnapore,
 105. Keorakhali Jan Sewashram, South 24 Parganas
 106. Mukti Rural Dev. & Child in need Society, St. 24 Parganas
 107. Indian Rural Medical Association, Calcutta
 108. Village Welfare Society, Calcutta
 109. Ranjapur Mitali Sangha, Hoogli
 110. Gopalpur Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Kishore Seva Sagha
 111. Bidhichandrapur Bharat Sangha, Howrah
 112. Comprehensive Area Development Society, Nadia
 113. COSMOS, Kolkata
 114. Badkulla Luna Silk Khadi Society, Nadia.

*Total Grants released under GAI to NGOs 2002-2003***Assam**

1. Sadau Asom Gramya Puthibhaval Santha, Nagaon
2. Bahumukhi Krishi Aru Samaj Kalyan Samity, Nagaon

Andhra Pradesh

3. Rural Social Welfare Association, Mahabubnagar
4. Rural Development Organisation, Mahabubnagar
5. Youth Assoc. for Rural Education & Dev., Khammam

Bihar

6. Vaishali Kunj, Hajipur
7. Sudha Mahila Samaj Kalyan Parishad, Nalanda
8. Mahila Evam Shishu Vikas Parishad, Khagariya
9. Gramin Samadhan Vikas Parishad, Buxar
10. Helping India, Saran
11. Bhartiya Gramin Seva Sansthan, Darbhanga
12. Sidharth Gyan Kendra, Samastipur
13. Samta Gram Seva Sansthan, Patna
14. Shakuntala Prabha Bai Avam Mahila Seva Kendra, Vaishali
15. Subidha International, West Champaran

Chhattisgarh

16. Naveen Ankur Mahila Mandal, Raipur

Haryana

17. Jan Chetna Sangthan, Sirsa

Jammu & Kashmir

18. Social Welfare of India
19. National Development Institute, Jammu

Karnataka

20. Rural Development Services Society, Bangalore

Madhya Pradesh

21. Manju Mahila Samiti, Jabalpur
22. Shri Nav Niketan Shiksha Samiti, Bhopal
23. Ravindra Bhardwaj Kalyan Evam Shodh Sansthan

Maharashtra

24. Madhya Bharat Education Society, Gondia
25. Bal Vikas Academy, Aurangabad
26. Lok Kalyan Shikshan Sansthan, Gondia

Manipur

27. United Rural Development Services, Thoubal
28. Manipur State Council for Child Welfare, Imphal

Nagaland

29. Sanenuoko Child Welfare Society, Kohima
30. Association of Tribal Welfare Development, Dimapur
31. Old Home Multipurpose Co-op. Society

New Delhi

32. PRAYAS, Vasant Kunj.
33. Jan Jagruthi Education, Mangol Puri
34. Mobile Creches, Gole Market.
35. Bandhua Mukti Morcha, New Delhi
36. National Fed. of Labour Coop. Ltd. Siri Inett. Area

Orissa

37. Manab Seva Sadan, Dhenkanal, New.
38. Orissa Multipurpose Dev. Centre, Chandrasekharpur.
39. Institute for Communication & Development Action, Bhadrak.
40. Nilachal Seva Pratishthan, Puri
41. Ruchika Social Service Wing, Bhubaneswar,
42. Centre for Children & Women Development, (CCWD)

43. Council for Awareness & Rural Development (CARD)
44. Gopinath Jew Youth Club
Rajasthan
45. Navodaya Bal Vidyalaya Samiti, Kota
46. Deep Vidya Mandir Samiti, Dosa
47. Kota Shikshan Sansthan, Kota
48. Jan Jati Mahila Vikas Sansthan
Tamil Nadu
49. Organisation for Rural Development, Madurai
50. Chennai Mahabodhi Society, Kavaraipettai
51. Rural Stewards in India, Karur
Tripura
52. Akhand Yoga & Natural Therapy, Agartala
Uttar Pradesh
53. Sanskrit Bhasa Vikas Parishad, Sewapuri, Deoria
54. Project Mala, Mirzapur
55. Gram Sewa Sansthan, Deoria
56. Children Emancipation Society, 'Project Mala', Mirzapur
57. Life Line Welfare Society, Sant Kabir Nagar
58. Tribal Welfare Society, Shrawasti
59. Kapil Bal Avam Seva Samithi, Basti
60. Avadh Mahila Avam Bal Kalyan Samithi
61. Shikha Mahila Samiti, Basti
62. Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar, Mehrajganj
63. Vashnavi Shiksha Samiti Allahabad
64. Jan Jivan Madhyamik Shiksha Samiti
65. All India Women's Studies & Dev. Org., Kanpur
66. All India Women's Conference, Kanpur
67. Swami Vivekananda Shiksha Samiti, Mirzapur
68. Harijan Avam Nirbal Shiksha Vikas Samiti, Allahabad
69. Krishak Vikash Samiti, Ghazipur
70. Purvanchal Manav Kalyan Sansthan, Maharajganj
71. Bhartiya Kalyan Avam Mahila Vikas Sansthan
72. PARAKH, Allahabad
73. Harijan Vikas Avam Samajik Utthan Samiti, Allahabad
74. Bhartiya Samajothan Sewa Sansthan, Deoria
West Bengal
75. Ikhupatrika Social Welfare Organisation, Midnapore,
76. Keorakhali Jan Sewashram, South 24 Parganas
77. Mukti Rural Dev. & Child in Need Society, St. 24 Parganas
78. Centre for Social Development, North-24 Parganas.
79. Tafa Palli Milani Sangha, South 24 Parganas.
80. Indian Rural Medical Association, Calcutta
81. Village Welfare Society, Calcutta
82. Ranjapur Mitali Sangha, Hoogli
83. Gopalpur Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Kishore Seva Sangha
84. Bidhichandrapur Bharat Sangha, Howrah
85. Comprehensive Area Development Society, Nadia
86. COSMOS, Kolkata
87. Badkulla Luna Silk Khadi Society, Nadia
- Death of Lion in Gir**
822. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE:
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:
SHRI M. SHIVANNA:
SHRI KAMLA PRASAD RAWAT:
SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:
SHRI KISHANBHAI V.PATEL:
SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH:
SHRI SHIVAJI RAO ADHALRAO PATIL:
SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:

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

(a) whether a number of lions were found dead in the Jasadhar and Rajkot ranges of Gir Sanctuary in Gujarat, taking the total number of dead lions to eight since August, 2005;

(b) whether any inquiry has been conducted in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the role of villagers around parks/sanctuaries in the death of lions;

(e) whether the carcasses of a ten-year-old leopard and a python were also found near the dead lion in Jasadhar range in Gir sanctuary;

(f) if so, the details in this regard alongwith the action taken thereon;

(g) whether the Government compensates the affected villagers against the loss of livestock; and

(h) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) As reported by Government of Gujarat, one lions was found dead in Jasadhar Range of Gir Sanctuary on 18.10.2005. The total number of lions that have died since August, 2005 is twelve. There is no Rajkot range in the Gir Sanctuary.

(b) and (c) Yes Sir. The enquiry indicated that the death of the lion was due to fight with panther.

(d) Out of the twelve lions died since August, 2005, two have reportedly died of poisoning by local people.

(e) and (f) The caracass of a panther was found near the dead body of the lion. No python was found dead nearby. The enquiry revealed the cause of death due to fight between lion and panther.

(g) and (h) Yes, Sir. Compensation is paid to the villagers for loss of livestock ranging from Rs. 250/- for the loss of one sheep to Rs. 5000/- for the loss of one milch buffalo, as per Government of Gujarat Resolutions.

Raising of Funds for Infrastructure Projects

823. SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to involve Persons of Indian Origin (PIOs) including corporations controlled by PIOs to raise funds for infrastructural projects in India; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the projects on which the said funds are proposed to be spent?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) There is no proposal with the Ministry of Water Resources regarding involvement of Persons of Indian Origin (PIOs) including corporations controlled by PIOs to raise funds for infrastructural projects.

(b) Does not arise.

Agricultural Universities

824. SHRI DHANUSKODI R. ATHITHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Agricultural Universities functioning in the country at present, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government periodically reviews their working to ensure all possible benefits to the poor rural agriculturists; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) Statement showing the list of State Agricultural Universities/Deemed Universities/Central Agricultural University state-wise is enclosed.

(b) Agricultural Education is a State subject. The State Agricultural Universities are under the administrative control of the concerned State Government. Indian Council of Agricultural Research/Department of Agricultural Research & Education provides financial support to a limited extent to the State Agricultural Universities for coordinated research, strengthening and development of agricultural education.

(c) Does not arise.

Statement**List showing State Agricultural Universities/Deemed Universities State-wise**

Sl.No.	Name of State	Name of the Agricultural University	Remarks
1	2	3	4
1.	Assam	Assam Agricultural University, Jorhat-785013	
2.	Andhra Pradesh	Acharya NG Ranga Agricultural University, Hyderabad-500030	
3.		Sri Venkateswara Veterinary University, Tirupati (AP)	Still to be approved for sanction of Development Grant from DARE/ICAR
4.	Bihar	Rajendra Agricultural University, Pusa-848125	
5.	Chhattisgarh	Indira Gandhi Krishi Visha Vidyalaya, Raipur-492012	
6.	Gujarat	Anand Agricultural University, Anand-388110	Still to be approved for sanction of Development Grant from DARE/ICAR
7.		Junagarh Agricultural University, Junagarh	-do-
8.		Navsari Agricultural University, Navsari-396450	-do-
9.		Sardar Krushi Nagar Dantiwada Agricultural University, Dantiwada-385506	-do-
10.	Haryana	Chaudhary Charan Singh Haryana Agricultural University, Hissar-125004	
11.	Himachal Pradesh	Ch. Serwan Kumar Krishi Visha Vidyalaya, Palampur-178062	
12.		Dr. Yashwant Singh Parmar University of Horticulture & Forestry, Solan-173230	
13.	Jammu and Kashmir	Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Science & Technology, Jammu-180004	
14.		Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences & Technology, Srinagar-191121	
15.	Jharkhand	Birsa Agricultural University, Ranchi-834006	
16.	Karnataka	University of Agricultural Sciences, Bangalore-560065	
17.		University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad-580006	
18.		Karnataka Veterinary, Animal & Fisheries Sciences University, Bidar-585401	Still to be approved for sanction of Development Grant from DARE/ICAR
19.	Kerala	Kerala Agricultural University, Trichur-680656	
20.	Madhya Pradesh	Jawaharlal Nehru Krishi Vishwa Vidyalaya, Jabalpur-482004	
21.	Maharashtra	Dr. Bala Saheb Sawant Konkan Krishi Vidyapeeth, Dapoli-415712	
22.		Maharashtra Animal and Fisheries Sciences University, Nagpur-440006	

1	2	3	4
23.		Marathwada Agricultural University, Parbhani-431402	
24.		Mahatma Phule Krishi Vidyapeeth, Rahuri-413722	
25.		Dr. Punjabrao Deshmukh Krishi Vishwa Vidyalyaya, Akola-444104	
26.	Orissa	Orissa University of Agriculture & Technology, Bhubaneswar-751003	
27.	Punjab	Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana-141004	
28.	Rajasthan	Maharana Pratap University of Agriculture & Technology, Udaipur-313001	
29.		Rajasthan Agricultural University, Bikaner-334002	
30.	Tamil Nadu	Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore-641003	
31.		Tamil Nadu Veterinary & Animal Sciences University, Chennai-600051	
32.	Uttar Pradesh	Chander Sekhar Azad University of Agriculture & Technology, Kanpur-208002	
33.		Deen Dayal Upadhyay Veterinary & Animal Sciences University, Mathura-281001	
34.		Narendra Deo University of Agriculture & Technology, Faizabad-224229	
35.		Sardar Ballabh Bhai Patel University of Agriculture & Technology, Meerut-250110	
36.	Uttaranchal	govind Ballabh Pant University of Agriculture & Technology, Pant Nagar-263145	
37.	West Bengal	Bidhan Chandra Krishi Vishwa Vidyalaya, Mohanpur-741252	
38.		Uttar Bang Krishi Vishwa Vidyalaya, Coochbehar-736185	
39.		West Bengal University of Animal and Fisheries Sciences, Kolkata-700037	
<i>Central Agricultural University</i>			
40.	Manipur	central Agricultural University, Imphal, Manipur-795004	
<i>Deemed Universities</i>			
41.	Delhi	Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi-110012	
42.	Uttar Pradesh	Indian Veterinary Research Institute, Izatnagar-243122	
43.		Allahabad Agricultural Institute, Allahabad	
44.	Haryana	National Dairy Research Institute, Karnal-132001	
45.	Maharashtra	Central Institute of Fisheries Education, Mumbai-400061	

Pollution due to Immersion of Idols in Rivers/Sea*[Translation]*

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

(a) whether Immersion of idols in rivers/sea is a serious threat to the environment;

(b) if so, whether the Government has assessed the damage done to the livestock and pollution of water by immersion of idols in rivers and sea;

(c) whether the Government proposes to bring legislation in this regard; and

(d) if so, the steps taken or being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) Studies carried out to assess the change in water quality due to immersion of idols in rivers, lakes and estuaries have revealed that the water quality gets deteriorated in respect of conductivity, bio-chemical oxygen demand and concentration of heavy metals.

(c) and (d) To minimize the pollution due to immersion of idols, guidelines have been evolved by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) suggesting water quality monitoring at three stages namely; pre-immersion, during immersion and post immersion, identification of adequate number of designated immersion centers, construction of temporary confined ponds/bunds, removal of worship material like flowers, clothes and decorating items for proper disposal and organizing awareness programmes.

Minor Irrigation Projects

826. SHRI RAJNARAYAN BUDHOLIA:
SHRIMATI KIRAN MAHESHWARI:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has been providing financial assistance to minor irrigation projects through certain schemes; and

(b) if so, the financial assistance provided to various States for minor irrigation projects during the last one year, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government has been providing financial assistance through two schemes, namely, Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP) for surface water schemes and "National Project for repair, renovation and restoration of water bodies directly linked to Agriculture."

(b) The financial assistance provided to various states for minor irrigation projects through AIBP (grants/loan) during 2004-05 and 2005-06 (till date) is given in the enclosed Statement-I. The financial assistance provided under the "National Project for repair, renovation and restoration of water bodies directly linked to Agriculture to various states for minor irrigation projects in states (districtwise) during 2004-05 and 2005-06 (till date) is given in the enclosed Statement-II.

Statement I

Statement showing state-wise Financial Assistance provided for Surface Water MI Schemes under AIBP during 2004-05 and 2005-06 (till date)*

(Rs. in crore)

Sl.No.	Name of the State	During 2004-2005	During 2005-2006 (till date)	Total
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	10.00		10.00
2.	Assam	16.855		16.855

1	2	3	4	5
3.	Manipur	1.50		1.50
4.	Meghalaya	1.7438		1.7438
5.	Mizoram	5.00	4.50	9.50
6.	Nagaland	4.00		4.00
7.	Sikkim	0.75	0.3375	1.0875
8.	Tripura	8.00		8.00
9.	Himachal Pradesh	1.925	7.011	8.936
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	5.44	4.95	10.39
11.	Uttaranchal	38.9917	20.952	59.9437
	Total	94.2055	37.7505	131.9560

*90% as grants and 10% as loan.

Statement II

Central Share released during 2004-05 & 2005-06 (till date) under the National Project for Repair, Renovation and Restoration of Water Bodies Directly Linked to Agriculture

SI.No.	Name of State	Name of Direct	Estimated Cost (Rs. in crore)	Central Share released (Rs. in crore)	
				2004-05	2005-06- (till date)
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Mahabub Nagar	12.81	2.44	2.70
		Anantpur	13.77		5.1625
2.	Karnataka	Gulbarga	35.537	4.42	
		Bangalore Rural	19.42	1.00	
3.	Jharkhand	Seraikela	3.14	0.33	0.619
		Palamu	11.06	1.17	0.525
4.	Chhattisgarh	Kabir Dham	2.236		0.750
5.	Orissa	Ganjam	12.82	1.14	
		Gajapati	6.01	0.55	
6.	Rajasthan	Ajmer	4.489		1.125
		Pali	2.45		0.75

1	2	3	4	5	6
7.	West Bengal	Uttar Dinajpur	4.934	0.74	0.565
		South-24 Paraganas	18.664	0.21	1.20
8.	Tamil Nadu	Sivagangai	1.222		0.458
		Villupuram	9.372		3.5145
9.	Madhya Pradesh	Tikamgarh	3.923		0.70
10.	Himachal Pradesh	Mandi	1.0401		0.156
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	Kupwara	3.0588		0.6375
12.	Kerala	Palakkad	1.3753		0.30
		Pathanamthitta	1.404		
13.	Gujarat	Sabarkantha	6.5512		
		Banaskantha	7.6653		
Total	13	22	202.9819	12.00	19.1925

[English]

Price of Essential Drugs

827. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken any step or evolved a policy to bring down and keep the prices of essential drugs in check in consultation with the major pharmaceutical Multi-National Companies;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken in this regard and the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) to (c) As per the present Pharma Pricing Policy, the 74 bulk drugs specified in the First Schedule of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995 (DPCO, 95) and the formulations based thereon are under price control and their prices are fixed/revised by the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) in accordance with the provisions of the DPCO, 95.

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 NPPA monitors the prices of medicines as per monthly Retail Audit Reports of ORG-IMS Research Pvt. Ltd. The Government takes corrective measures where the public interest is found to be adversely affected.

A Task Force under the Chairmanship of Dr. Pronab Sen, Principal Adviser, Planning Commission was consulted to explore options other than price control to make available life saving drugs at reasonable prices. The Task Force has submitted its report to the Government on the 20th September, 2005.

The Government in consultation with various stakeholders is examining the recommendations of the Task Force. Based on this a new Pharmaceutical Policy is like to be announced shortly.

Assistance for Herbal Farming

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

(a) whether India has tremendous opportunity for herbal farming and research; and

(b) if so, the assistance given by the Government to the herbal farmers during the last three years and the current 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) Yes, Sir.

(b) Financial assistance was being provided by the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture to the State Governments under the

comprehensive Macro Management Scheme till 2004-05 for development of horticulture including the medicinal and aromatic plants. This component of the scheme has now been transferred to National Medicinal Plants Board under the aegis of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. Statement-I showing the funds released to State Governments during the last three years and the current year (upto October, 2005) by the National Medicinal Plant Board for development of medicinal plants is enclosed Statement-II showing funds released to State Governments under Macro Management scheme for the years 2002-03 to 2004-05 is enclosed.

Statement I

Summary of the Projects Sanctioned 2001-2005

(Rs. in Lakhs)

#	SMPB	Number of Projects Sanctioned/Amt. sanctioned during 2001-02				Number of Projects Sanctioned/Amt. sanctioned during 2002-03				Number of Projects Sanctioned/Amt. sanctioned during 2003-04				Number of Projects Sanctioned/Amt. sanctioned during 2004-05				Funds sanctioned during 2005-06 (upto October, 2005)
		Contractual	Amt. Sanctioned	Promotional	Amt. Sanctioned	Contractual	Amt. Sanctioned	Promotional	Amt. Sanctioned	Contractual	Amt. Sanctioned	Promotional	Amt. Sanctioned	Contractual	Amt. Sanctioned	Promotional	Amt. Sanctioned	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	—	—	4	80.00	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2.	Andhra Pradesh	—	—	7	155.00	10	34.90	5	59.00	42	67.51	6	83.00	48	55.24	5	109.00	13.00
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	—	—	6	32.50	3	20.00	1	2.00	9	36.41	1	6.00	20	100.43	5	30.00	8.00
4.	Assam	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	17.00	—	—	5	44.00	—
5.	Bihar	—	—	1	2.00	—	—	1	1.00	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5.00
6.	Chandigarh	—	—	1	22.00	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	3.00	—
7.	Chhattisgarh	—	—	9	225.00	—	—	4	47.50	48	198.15	4	100.00	1	5.00	2	28.00	35.75
8.	Delhi	—	—	2	30.00	—	—	5	54.80	—	—	6	70.90	1	1.95	5	37.00	—
9.	Goa	—	—	2	50.00	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10.	Gujarat	—	—	3	40.00	1	9.00	4	56.00	8	14.86	2	16.00	49	58.07	2	30.00	50.50
11.	Haryana	—	—	1	14.00	1	9.00	2	40.00	43	94.47	2	27.00	62	191.11	3	15.50	10.90
12.	Himachal Pradesh	—	—	8	137.00	—	—	3	12.50	3	5.79	4	46.00	4	12.82	6	74.00	33.00
13.	Jammu and Kashmir	—	—	2	20.00	—	—	7	66.00	7	28.68	2	13.00	2	11.07	7	87.00	8.00
14.	Jharkhand	—	—	3	60.00	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	25.00	—

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
15.	Lakshadweep	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
16.	Karnataka	—	—	9	137.00	—	—	5	54.00	53	70.49	1	8.00	78	52.92	13	139.00	69.50
17.	Kerala	—	—	1	13.00	9	34.00	9	144.00	5	4.21	2	17.00	33	30.07	10	95.70	11.00
18.	Madhya Pradesh	—	—	8	135.00	42	236.90	5	35.00	261	631.81	4	38.00	266	583.98	3	39.00	37.00
19.	Maharashtra	—	—	8	50.80	2	7.00	5	30.00	40	92.91	—	—	80	81.38	6	56.50	20.00
20.	Manipur	—	—	3	53.00	—	—	1	2.00	12	36.23	1	10.00	96	463.31	1	10.00	16.00
21.	Meghalaya	—	—	3	20.00	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	23.00	—
22.	Mizoram	—	—	5	96.00	—	—	2	45.00	—	—	1	2.00	—	—	5	58.50	9.00
23.	Nagaland	—	—	4	43.00	—	—	1	10.00	1	8.10	—	—	10	21.11	1	15.00	—
24.	Orissa	—	—	9	193.00	3	16.50	1	5.00	47	102.13	2	32.00	41	52.64	11	125.00	18.00
25.	Punjab	—	—	1	10.00	—	—	1	8.00	—	—	—	—	16	73.45	—	—	2.00
26.	Rajasthan	—	—	5	78.00	5	40.20	1	2.00	51	137.33	2	30.00	354	1161.58	5	46.00	3.00
27.	Sikkim	—	—	13	274.00	—	—	—	—	2	1.95	—	—	19	40.79	3	36.00	—
28.	Tamil Nadu	—	—	1	10.00	—	—	4	28.00	9	20.31	7	59.20	18	28.25	26	277.50	65.50
29.	Tripura	—	—	1	9.00	—	—	1	21.00	—	—	—	—	1	8.44	—	—	10.00
30.	Uttar Pradesh	—	—	10	167.00	1	9.00	8	44.00	15	55.29	6	59.00	2	8.53	13	124.00	32.30
31.	Uttaranchal	—	—	13	197.00	1	3.00	22	211.96	30	33.49	8	113.5	41	63.92	34	419.00	18.00
32.	West Bengal	—	—	1	25.00	1	3.00	3	17.00	1	00.60	3	7.50	16	43.98	6	68.00	29.80
33.	New Delhi	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Total	—	—	144	2378.33	79	422.50	101	995.76	687	1838.82	66	755.10	1258	3161.02	183	2014.70	507.25

Statement II*Horticulture under Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Macro Management in Agriculture (Ministry of Agriculture)*

Sl.No.	State/UTs	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1370.57	1323.35	1168.90
2.	Bihar	0.00	747.39	500.00
3.	Jharkhand	0.00	95.00	103.00
4.	Goa	447.00	106.00	101.25
5.	Gujarat	621.61	383.33	591.00

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

*[Translation]***Special Permission to Polluting Companies**

829. SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL:
SHRI V.K. THUMMAR:

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

(a) whether any companies causing pollution have been given special permission to operate from the forest land despite enforcement of Forest Conservation Act, 1980;

(b) if so, the names of the such companies, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government of Gujarat has forwarded the proposals of such companies with its recommendations in this regard;

(d) if so, the grounds on which such recommendations have been made; and

(e) the reasons for recognising these grounds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) No special permission has been granted to companies causing pollution to operate from forest land in Gujarat under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

(c) to (e) Does not arise.

*[English]***Report of Task Force on Drug Price**

830. SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR:
SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:
SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK:
SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA:
SHRI RAGHUVeer SINGH KOSHAL:

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

(a) whether the Government has since received the reports from the Task Force and the Committee constituted on drugs prices and their availability on reasonable rates;

(b) if so, the date on which this report was received and the main recommendations thereof;

(c) whether the Government has accepted the recommendations of the Task Force; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) to (d) A Task Force under the Chairmanship of Dr. Pronab Sen, Principal Adviser, Planning Commission was constituted to explore options other than price control to make available life saving drugs at reasonable prices. The Task Force has submitted its report to the Government on the 20th September, 2005. Some of the salient recommendations of Task Force are, that Price Controls should be imposed on the 'essentiality' of the drug and not on the basis of turnover and it should be applied only to formulations and not to bulk drugs. Some of the other major recommendations of Task Force are to promote generic drugs, to encourage public health facilities, to revive the Public Sector Enterprises in the manufacture of drugs, to provide fiscal incentives in R&D activities in drugs, to provide financial support for implementation of Schedule M of Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, to enact Drugs and Therapeutics (Regulation) Act, to establish a National Authority on Drugs and Therapeutics (NADT), to establish price negotiation process for new patented drugs, to streamline the bulk procurement regime, to exempt the excise duty, customs duty and other levies on cancer and anti HIV/AIDS drugs, to establish the State Illness Funds in the States/Union Territories for BPL families, to reduce the excise duty on drugs from 16 to 8%, to enhance the exemption limit of SSI units from Rs. 1 crores to Rs. 5 crores, to establish a Settlement Commission which is authorized to settle the disputed overcharged amount from the pharma companies.

The Government in consultation with various stakeholders is examining the recommendations of the Task Force. Based on this a new Pharmaceutical Policy is likely to be announced shortly.

Poaching of Gibbon

831. SHRI UDAY SINGH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the rare species of Gibbon is also being subjected to poaching;

(b) if so, the number of gibbons killed during the last three years alongwith their current population; and

(c) the remedial steps proposed/taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) Few incidents of poaching of gibbons have been reported. However, no alarming reports have been received from the States.

(b) During the last three years two gibbons have been reported to be killed in the State of Mizoram. As per information available, the population of hoolock gibbons in States having important habitat for the species is given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) The steps taken for protection of Gibbons are as follow:

1. Hoolock gibbon has been included in Schedule I of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, thereby affording highest degree of protection to the species.
2. The Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 has been further amended in 2002 and made more stringent against wildlife related crimes.
3. Intensive patrolling by anti poaching staff of State Forest Departments.
4. In the community forests the help of Village Council Authority together with socio economic development of the fringe villages is undertaken to elicit their cooperation in conservation efforts.
5. Increasing awareness towards conservation through the media.

Statement

Population in Major Gibbon Bearing States

Sl.No.	Name of State	Population
1	2	3
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	70
2.	Assam	1,985

1	2	3
3.	Manipur	200
4.	Mizoram	Not available
5.	Tripura	80
6.	Meghalaya (as per census in Nokrek National Park)	399
7.	Nagaland	20

[*Translation*]

Development of Desert Triangle of Rajasthan

832. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether any steps are being taken by the Government for development of tourism in desert triangle of Rajasthan; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the assistance provided to the State Government therefor during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) Ministry of Tourism, Government of India extends financial assistance for the tourism-related projects which are identified in consultation with the State concerned for providing financial assistance under the schemes Integrated Development of Tourist Circuits, Product Infrastructure and Destination Development including Rural Tourism Projects and Large Revenue Generating Projects. Project proposals that are complete in all respect are processed on the basis of inter-se priority and funds released, subject to their availability under the respective Head.

During the current financial year following projects have been sanctioned in Rajasthan under the above schemes:—

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl.No.	Name of Project	Amount Sanctioned	Amount Released
1.	Mounting of Sound & Light Show at Amber Fort, Jaipur	129.26	116.33
2.	Development of Hawa Mahal and Jantar Mantar at Jaipur	464.32	371.45

Syphoning of Ground Water

833. SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR KUSHAWAHA:
SHRI AJIT JOGI:
PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:
SHRI ASHOK KUMAR RAWAT:
SHRI MUNSHI RAM:
SHRI SHISHUPAL N. PATLE:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken any steps to check the syphoning of ground water illegally to meet scarcity of water in urban areas of the States;

(b) if so, whether the Government has identified such sensitive areas in the States;

(c) if so, the total number of areas identified as over exploited and dark; and

(d) the steps being taken to supply the water to such areas by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) to (d) "Water" being a State subject, it is primarily the responsibility of the concerned State Governments to take steps to regulate the withdrawal of the ground water. 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/UTs 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/UTs.

However, the Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) constituted under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 is taking the following regulatory measures to check the over-exploitation of the ground water:—

(i) CGWA 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.

(ii) CGWB is regulating withdrawal of ground water by industries/projects in over-exploited, critical and semi-critical areas. Proposals for setting up of new industries/projects are referred to CGWA by the State Pollution Control Boards and the Ministry of Environment & Forests for seeking clearance with regard to ground water withdrawal which are evaluated on case-to-case basis based on site-specific technical studies etc.

Water levels are periodically monitored by the Central Ground Water Board (CGWB), a subordinate office of the Ministry of Water Resources, as well as the States. As per assessment carried out, out of 5723 assessment units (blocks/mandals/talukas) in the country, 839 units have been categorized as "Over-exploited" i.e. annual ground water extraction exceeds the annual replenishable resource and significant decline in long term ground water level trend has been observed either in pre-monsoon or post-monsoon or both. In addition, 226 units are 'Critical' i.e. the stage of ground water development is between 90% and 100% of annual replenishable resource and significant decline is observed in the long term water level trend in both pre-monsoon and post-monsoon periods. There are 550 "Semi-critical" units, where the stage of ground water development is between 70% and 90% and significant decline in long term water level trend has been recorded in either pre-monsoon or post-monsoon.

Further, the Union Ministry of Urban Development is implementing a Centrally Sponsored "Accelerated Urban Water Supply Programme" (AUWSP) under which financial assistance is provided to implement water supply in small towns having population less than 20000 as per 1991 census. Funding pattern is 50:50 between the Centre and the States, which includes 5% contribution from urban local bodies. Priority has been assigned to towns with special problems like very poor per capita supply, very distant and very deep water source, drought prone areas, excess salinity, fluoride & iron content in water source and high incidence of water borne diseases etc.

Impact of Liberalization on Fertilizer Industry

834. SHRI AJIT JOGI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of fertilizers producing units both in Government and Non-Government Sectors functioning in the country at present, State-wise;

(b) the impact of liberalization policy of the Government on fertilizer industry; and

(c) the efforts being made by the Government to safeguard the fertilizer industry?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) The information regarding the total number of fertilizer producing units both in Government and Non-Government sectors functioning in the country, State-wise is given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) and (c) Urea is the only fertilizer at present which is under statutory price control and partial movement and distribution control. The phosphatic and Potassic fertilizers were decontrolled w.e.f. 25.8.1992. Sale price of urea is statutorily fixed by the Government. Similarly, decontrolled Phosphatic and Potassic fertilizers are sold to the farmers at an indicative MRP fixed by the government. Subsidy/concession is accordingly paid to the manufacturers/importers to enable them to sell fertilizers to farmers at an affordable price which is fixed by the Government

and which is generally lower than the cost of production of these fertilizers. Through the subsidy mechanism, while the farmer is insulated from increase in the price of fertilizers, the manufacturer/importer is paid compensation for the lower price at which he is required to sell these fertilizers to the farmers.

Until 31.3.2003, the subsidy to indigenous urea manufacturing units was paid in terms of the erstwhile unit specific Retention Price Scheme (RPS), which has been replaced by the group based New Pricing Scheme (NPS) for urea units w.e.f 1.4.2003. NPS aims at greater transparency, uniformity and efficiency in the disbursement of subsidy and inducing urea units to take cost reduction measures on their own to be competitive. NPS is being implemented in stages. Stage-I was of one year duration from 1.4.2003 to 31.3.2004 and Stage-II is of two years duration from 1.4.2004 to 31.3.2006. For reviewing the effectiveness of Stage-I & II of NPS and for formulating a policy for urea units for Stage-III commencing from 1.4.2006, a Working Group has been constituted under the chairmanship of Dr. Y.K. Alagh.

Statement

State-wise and Sector-wise number of major fertilizer units operating in the Country

Sl.No.	Name of States	No of Units in operation	Sector.			Total
			Public	Co-operative	Private	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Andhra Pradesh	4	—	—	4	4
2.	Assam	1	1	—	—	1
3.	Goa	1	—	—	1	1
4.	Gujarat	8	—	3	5	8
5.	Haryana	1	1	—	—	1
6.	Karnataka	1	—	—	1	1
7.	Kerala	2	2	—	—	2
8.	Madhya Pradesh	2	2	—	—	2
9.	Maharashtra	5	4	—	1	5
10.	Orissa	2	—	—	2	2
11.	Punjab	3	2	—	1	3

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
12.	Rajasthan	3	—	—	3	3
13.	Tamilnadu	4	1	—	3	4
14.	Uttar Pradesh	7	—	4	3	7
15.	West Bengal	1	—	—	1	1
Total		45	13	7	25	45

*[English]***MSP for Milk****Agreement between Port Blair Council and Phuket Authorities in Water Harvesting**

835. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether an agreement between Port Blair Council and Phuket Authorities on water harvesting in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands was signed in the recent past;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the follow-up action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. An agreement on Friendship/Cooperation was signed by the Lt. Governor of Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Governor of Phuket Province of the Kingdom of Thailand on 29.06.2005 in Port Blair in the areas of tourism, education & culture, urban development, solid waste management, commerce and investment. Under the area of urban development, an agreement for regular exchange of expertise in innovative water harvesting techniques, upgradation of water treatment plants, study old water supply network and rationalization of water distribution network and desilting—relining of old sewerage lines have been agreed.

(c) In pursuance to the above agreement, the Port Blair Municipal Council has decided to send delegation of Councillors and officials in three groups for interaction with Phuket Authorities in the areas like water harvesting techniques, study of modern and sustainable methods of solid waste management, promotion of tourism etc.

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to declare Minimum Support Price (MSP) for milk as for other commodities;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to improve the quality of milk and milk products in the country right from primary production to the finished product and for upgradation of state of art technologies in the area?

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) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Dairying is a state subject and the prices of milk are fixed by the State Governments/State Dairy Federations.

(d) The Government of India is implementing the following schemes/regulatory order to improve the quality of milk and milk products in the country:

1. Intensive Dairy Development Programme
2. Strengthening infrastructure for quality and clean milk production.
3. Dairy/Poultry Venture Capital Fund
4. Milk and Milk Product Order.

In addition, finance at soft terms are being provided by National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) to Cooperative Milk Unions for improvement in quality of milk for creation of infrastructure for clean milk production, technology innovations and strengthening of quality controlled laboratories. Dairies are being encouraged and financed by NDDB to go for quality management system/ food safety management system.

[*Translation*]

Kisan Call Centres

837. SHRI VIJAY KUAMR KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has shut down some Kisan Call Centres which were giving agriculture related information to farmers;

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

(c) if not, the number of calls received by the centres during the current years; and

(d) the specific type of information provided?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) As per enclosed Statement.

(d) The specific subjects on which information was sought by farmers in their calls included crop cultivation practices, diseases, availability of seeds, credit, post harvest management, marketing information etc.

Statement

Sl.No.	Call Centre Location	States to be serviced	No. of calls received during current year Jan-Oct., 05
1.	Mumbai	Maharashtra, Goa, Daman, Diu	31199
2.	Kanpur	Uttar Pradesh, Utranchal	39415
3.	Kochi	Kerala, Lakshadweep	32876
4.	Banglore	Karnataka	21738
5.	Chennai	Tamil Nadu & Pondicherry Andaman & Nicobar Island	44012
6.	Hyderabad	Andhra Pradesh	19606
7.	Chandigarh	Chandigarh, Jammu & Kashmir Himachal Pradesh, Punjab	37513
8.	Jaipur	Rajasthan	47489
9.	Indore	Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh	39039
10.	Kolkata	(i) West Bengal, Bihar, Orissa, Jharkhand (ii) Tripura, Assam, Mizoram, Manipur, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh,	62990 22692
11.	Ahmedabad	Gujarat, UT of Dadra & Nagar Haveli	49787
12.	Delhi	Delhi Haryana	28285
Total			380773

*[English]***Allocation for D.A.R.E.**

838. PROF. M. RAMADASS: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the allocation to Department of Agricultural Research and Education (DARE) has been declining;

(b) if so, the details and reasons therefor during the last three years;

(c) whether keeping in view the need for toning up research facilities in the country or second green revolution the Government propose to provide 1 per cent of outlay of the Ministry of Agriculture to DARE; 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 (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Department of Agricultural Research & Education (DARE) has been provided more than 1 per cent Outlay of the Ministry of Agriculture and the actual Outlays account for 32.50 per cent, 31.91 per cent and 25.34 per cent for the financial years 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06, respectively.

Plight of Agricultural Labourers

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

(a) whether the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) of the United Nation has pointed out that many of the 450 million waged agricultural workers are suffering from a high incidence of poverty and hunger;

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

(c) the action taken/being taken to help and improve the conditions of agricultural labourers in India?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRA SHEKHAR RAO): (a) A news item containing such a statement has appeared in a daily newspaper "The Hindu" on 14.10.2005.

(b) and (c) The Government has made assessment of incidence of poverty for the population as a whole. According to the NSSO survey (1999-2000), about 26% of the population is living Below Poverty Line. Rural economy being agriculture based, a large number of agricultural labourers live below the poverty line. However, no estimate of poverty among agricultural workers separately is available.

The Government has launched several welfare and poverty alleviation/employment generation schemes for the rural poor which, inter-alia, include agricultural workers. Some of such schemes are: Swarnjayanti Gram Swarajgar Yojana, Sampurna Gramin Rojgar Yojana, Pradhanmatri Gram Sadak Yojana, National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP), etc. The Government is implementing Indira Awas Yojana (IAY) with the objective to provide assistance to the Below Poverty Line (BPL) rural households. Further, Janshree Bima Yojana providing for insurance cover to people living below or marginally above the poverty line, is also available for workers in the unorganised sector including agricultural workers. The Government has also redesigned the Universal Health Insurance Scheme (UHS), which is available to families living below poverty line (BPL) which, inter-alia, include agricultural workers, at subsidized annual premium of Rs. 165, Rs. 248 and Rs. 330 for individual, a family of five, and a family of seven respectively. The scheme provides for reimbursement of hospitalisation expenses up to Rs. 30,000/- basis per family, coverage of death of worker due to accident (Rs. 25,000/-) etc. Recently the Government has enacted National Rural Employment Guarantee Act which provides for 100 days of employment in a year for poor families in the rural areas to atleast one person in every rural household for assets creating public works programmes.

Investment In Steel Industry

840. SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has approved Rs. 3 lakh crore investment in the steel industry;

(b) if so, the respective shares of the private and public sector and the FDI; and

(c) the future proposals of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) to (c) Since the steel industry is de-licensed and de-regulated, individual steel plants in the private sector are free to make investments without obtaining Government approval. Furthermore, there is no restriction of FDI infusion into the steel industry.

In the case of the public sector, Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL), a Navratna PSU under the administrative control of Ministry of Steel, is free to make its down expansion plans without Government approval. They have drawn up a Corporate Plan (including IISCO) for achieving a growth in production to about 22.5 million tonnes of Hot Metal by 2012 at an estimated expenditure of Rs. 35,000 crores. This investment would be largely financed from SAIL's internal resources.

Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (RINL), another public sector undertaking, has drawn up an expansion proposal to increase the liquid steel capacity from 3 million tonnes to 6.3 million tonnes with an investment of Rs. 8,692 crore by 2008-09, which would be financed from internal resources of RINL. Recently the Government has accorded its approval for this project.

Allocation for Agriculture and Irrigation

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

(a) whether the Union Government has urged the State Governments to step up the budgetary allocation for the farm sector and irrigation;

(b) if so, the allocations made by the State Governments, especially Government of Karnataka for the farm sector and irrigation for the current year;

(c) the target fixed for achieving growth in the sector;

(d) the extent to which the target has been achieved till June, 30, 2005;

(e) the extent to which this allocation has been less; and

(f) the nature of help and assistance being provided by the Union Government to the States in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) to (e) The State Governments including the State Government of Karnataka were requested recently in the month of July 2005 to review the policy parameters in their respective States in right earnest and provide a higher allocation in the State Plan for development of agriculture and allied sectors. It was further emphasized that it would be difficult to achieve the targeted growth rate of 4 percent per annum in agriculture sector unless there was commensurate step-up in investment in agriculture sector at the State level particularly in irrigation and water resource management, watershed development and reclamation of water/degraded land and provision of essential infrastructure for effective extension services, marketing and processing.

Pursuant to the aforesaid request, it is expected that the State Governments would suitably enhance the budgetary allocation in State Plan for development of agriculture sector.

(f) The Central Government is providing financial assistance to the State Governments under various Centrally Sponsored and Central Sector Schemes for development of agriculture sector in the States.

Per-Capita Consumption of Foodgrains

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

(a) whether the per-capita consumption of foodgrains is less than the availability of foodgrains for people living below poverty line;

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

(c) the per-capita consumption of foodgrains among persons belonging to the below poverty line and above poverty line in the country; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to bridge the consumption gap?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD

SINGH): (a) to (d) The latest quinquennial survey undertaken by National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) in 1999-2000 (55th Round) estimates the per capita consumption of foodgrains among the people living Below Poverty Line (BPL) in rural areas at 11.90 kg/month and in Urban areas at 10.66 kg/month while the per capita consumption of foodgrains among the people living Above Poverty Line (APL) in Rural areas has been estimated at 14.13 kg/month. The per capita availability of foodgrains in 1999 was 13.97 kgs per month in the country.

With a view to increase the availability of foodgrains, the Government implements employment generation and welfare schemes to enhance access of the needy sections of population to foodgrains. These include the Sampooram Grameen Rozgar Yojana, the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), Mid-day Meal Scheme and the Antyodaya Anna Yojana.

Agricultural Marketing Infrastructure Projects

843. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to introduce a scheme to encourage entrepreneurs investing in agricultural marketing infrastructure projects picking up to 26 per cent equity;

(b) if so, whether the scheme covers a wide range of agricultural and allied sectors activity including collection, cleaning, grading, quality certification, labelling, packing, ripening chambers, retailing, wholesale activity and value addition facilities; and

(c) if so, the time by which the schemes 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 (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir. The Ministry of Agriculture is implementing a Central Sector Scheme for Agri-Business Development by providing venture capital assistance to agri-business projects and assisting producers' group in the preparation of detailed reports for such projects. The main objective of the Scheme is to catalyse private

investment in setting up of agri-business projects and thereby providing assured markets to producers for increasing rural income and employment. Venture capital assistance is provided to eligible projects in the form of equity upto an extent of 26% of the project equity or 10% of the total project cost or Rs. 75 lakhs whichever is less. The scheme is implemented by the Small Farmers' Agribusiness Consortium (SFAC), an autonomous organization under this Ministry.

(b) The Scheme covers a wide range of agribusiness projects related to collection, cleaning, grading, quality certification, labelling, packaging, ripening chambers, retailing, wholesale activity and value addition facilities in all agriculture and allied sectors namely horticulture, floriculture, medicinal and aromatic plants, minor forest produce, sericulture, organic farming vermin compost, apiculture, plantation crops, and fisheries. However, poultry and dairy projects will not be covered under the scheme.

(c) The Scheme has been implemented with effect from 11.07.2005.

[Translation]

Saunda Mining Incident

844. SHRI RASHEED MASOOD: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Saunda Mining incident has since been probed into by Ministry of Labour and Employment;

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

(c) the follow-up action taken thereon;

(d) whether any directions/guidelines have been issued by the Government to the coal India Limited regarding safety of the employees during mining; and

(e) if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRA SHEKHAR RAO): (a) The Ministry of Labour and Employment has constituted a Court of Inquiry under Section 24 of the Mines Act, 1952 on 17th October, 2005 under the Chairmanship of Dr. P.D. Shenoy, former Secretary, Ministry of Labour and Employment to hold an inquiry into the accident at Central Saunda Colliery which occurred on 15th June, 2005 (III shift of 14th June, 2005).

(b) and (c) The court of Inquiry held its first sitting on 19th and 20th November, 2005. Follow-up action, if any, will depend on the findings of the Court of Inquiry.

(d) and (e) Besides the provisions for safety already existing in the Mines Act, 1952 and the regulations framed thereunder, the Directorate General of Mines Safety issued circulars, from time to time, containing safety guidelines to coal companies.

[*English*]

Linkage of Coal to Ministry of Steel

845. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether certain sponge iron units had applied for linkage of coal to the Ministry of Steel;

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

(c) whether the Government is aware that these units were denied the benefit of getting coal at regulated price due to denial of coal linkage by the authorities;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) action taken/proposed in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Sponge iron units have been applying for grant of coal linkage. Linkages were being granted after examination of individual cases by the Linkage Committee for Sponge Iron Units operating in the Ministry of Steel. However, since January, 2005 the cases were kept in abeyance due to certain policy changes being contemplated by the Government. The examination of cases has restarted after constitution of a Standing Linkage Committee (Long Term) for Sponge Iron Units on 3.10.2005 in the Ministry of Coal. State-wise pendency statement is enclosed.

(c) and (d) Coal prices are not regulated. In absence of linkage the sponge iron units are free to source their coal requirement from the open market.

(e) The Standing Linkage Committee (Long Term) for Sponge Iron Units functioning in the Ministry of Coal is now dealing with the pending cases.

Statement

Sl.No.	Name of the State	Number of requests
1.	West Bengal	63
2.	Orissa	130
3.	Jharkhand	45
4.	Chhattisgarh	110
5.	Andhra Pradesh	21
6.	Karnataka	8
7.	Madhya Pradesh	3
8.	Uttar Pradesh	1
9.	Maharashtra	8
10.	Gujarat	3
11.	Goa	1
12.	Tamil Nadu	3

[*Translation*]

Conference in Water Sector

846. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a two days conference of Chief Secretaries, Secretaries and Command Area Officers of Irrigation and Water Resources Departments of States was organized recently in Delhi to complete the ongoing irrigation projects under the Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP);

(b) if so, the details of issues discussed and the decisions arrived at therein;

(c) whether the Government has implemented the suggestions/recommendations made in the conference; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) Yes,

Sir. A two day conference of Principal Secretaries/ Secretaries (Irrigation and Water Resources) and Command Area Authorities of States was held on 4th and 5th October, 2005 at New Delhi which inter-alia discussed completion of ongoing irrigation projects under the Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP).

(b) to (d) The issues discussed were steps taken by the State Governments to complete the projects, new project proposals to be brought under AIBP, raising the loan component of central assistance by the States from the market and monitoring the physical and financial progress of projects under AIBP. The conference recommended the following:—

- Identify the schemes to be included under Bharat Nirman and prepare and submit a 'Plan of Action' to the Ministry of Water Resources.
- Specify the sources of funding for identified schemes under Bharat Nirman, in consultation with the State Finance Department.
- The States should adhere to the schedule for completion of each ongoing project as provided in the Memorandum of Undertaking submitted by the States.
- Every effort would be made by the respective State/Centre to obtain investment approval for all the ongoing unapproved projects.
- Centre may facilitate speedy resolution of inter-State issues, like share-cost, hampering the progress of inter-State Projects.

The recommendations of the conference have been brought to the notice of the States for compliance.

[English]

Flood in Ichamati River

847. SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the sudden flash flood in the river Ichamati recently in the Basirhat subdivision in the North 24 Parganas District of West Bengal;

(b) if so, whether the Government has conducted any survey to contain flood in future;

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

(d) the quantum of funds allocated/released by the Government to the State Governments during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) As per the information furnished by Government of West-Bengal, the level of river Ichamati was high during September, 2005 due to high upland discharge synchronized with high tide.

(b) and (c) The State Government has initiated that due to the reasons mentioned above, no special survey was done in the Basirhat region. High ruling level in the river caused breach of embankment in one place and caused damages in vulnerable locations. The breach closure works have been completed and restoration works in the vulnerable reaches have been taken up selectively on priority basis.

(d) Nil.

Complaint against Officials of PSU/Cooperatives

848. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received large number of complaints against the officials of fertilizers PSUs/Cooperatives during the last three years;

(b) if so, whether some of the complaints have been forwarded to Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) for registration of regular cases;

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

(d) whether the CBI has completed investigations into those cases and submitted any report; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) Yes, Sir. About 40 complaints have been received against the officials of fertilizer PSUs/ Cooperatives during the last three years.

(b) Out of these, two complaints pertaining to officials of Fertilizers and Chemicals Tranvancore Ltd. (FACT) have been forwarded for investigation to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI).

(c) and (d) CBI has registered a regular case in one complaint and in the other preliminary enquiry has been registered. Considering that the cases are under investigation it would not be in the public interest to disclose any details at this stage.

(e) Does not arise.

[*Translation*]

Production of Drugs

849. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to take steps for increasing production of drugs in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the percentage of consumption of drugs being indigenously produced; and

(d) the time by which the country is likely to be self sufficient in drugs production sector?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) to (d) A large number of units manufacturing drugs and related items, both in the organized sector and in the small scale sector are operating in the country. Under the provisions of Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 and Rules there-under, the responsibility for regulating manufacture and sale of drugs is vested primarily with the State Governments. The Central as well as the State Governments are providing various fiscal and non fiscal incentives for setting up of manufacturing units in selected areas/regions. The share of Indian Pharmaceutical sector in the overall drug market in the country, has now gone upto about 70%.

There has been a substantial impact on pharma sector in terms of production, quality and cost competitiveness due to the various fiscal and non fiscal measures/incentives adopted from time to time by the Government. This has resulted in the fresh investments

for manufacture of bulk drugs and formulations, setting up of facilities for R&D work, enhanced quality as per the global regulations and more importantly increased domestic production and exports to large number of destinations around the world in a cost competitive manner. The country is self-sufficient in production of most of the drugs. The imports of drugs may not be related to the lack of production in the country, as imports made by manufacturers are for different reasons like availability of cheaper drugs in international market, imports linked to procurement from Principals abroad etc.

[*English*]

Social Security for Farming Families

850. SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal of social security like old age pension, insurance, scholarships, marriage assistance etc. is presently provided by the Government to small, marginal farmers, farm labourers and their families;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to uplift the livelihood of the farmers 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 (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) to (c) The agricultural workers along with others are presently availing benefits under existing schemes being implemented by various Ministries/ Departments. Under the National Old Age Pension Scheme persons of the age of 65 years and above are entitled to receive person. An assistance of Rs. 10,000 in the event of death of the bread winner in a family is available under the National Family Benefit Scheme. Janshree Bima Yojana provides insurance cover to the persons living below or marginally above the poverty line and for the workers in the unorganized sector including agricultural labourers. The redesignated Universal Health Insurance Scheme is also available for the families living below poverty line and for the workers in the unorganized sector including agricultural labourers. The redesignated Universal Health Insurance Scheme is also available for

the families living below poverty line (BPL) which inter-alia include agriculture labourers also at subsidized annual premium of Rs. 165, Rs. 248 and Rs. 330 for individual, for a family of five and for a family of seven respectively. The scheme provides for reimbursement of hospitalisation expenses upto Rs. 30,000 on floater basis per family, coverage of death of worker due to accident (Rs. 25,000) etc.

Very recently, the National Rural Health Mission providing integrated comprehensive Primary Healthcare Services, especially to the poor and vulnerable sections of the society including agricultural labourers has been launched.

(d) In order to make the agriculture sector more vibrant and dynamic with the objective to increase production and productivity thereby enhancing income level of farmers, the Government has taken many initiatives which include (i) enhancing institutional credit flow to the farmers and strengthening of cooperative credit structure; (ii) ensuring the timely availability of quality inputs; (iii) promoting farmers friendly, demand driven agriculture extension system; (iv) accelerating diversification to high value crops including horticulture/activities; (v) strengthening infrastructure and the supply chain; (vi) optimising the efficient utilization of available water resources through micro irrigation and enhancing the sustainability of dry-land/rainfed farming system; (vii) reforming agricultural markets, and widespread use of post harvest technology; and (viii) putting in place a broader spectrum of risk-management apparatus for farmers.

Review of Implementation of Recommendation of Tiger Task Force

851. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has reviewed the implementation of the recommendations of Tiger Task Force;

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

(c) whether any lacunae has been found out in the implementation process;

(d) if so, the corrective steps taken/proposed in this regard; and

(e) the progress in respect of setting up of wildlife crime control bureau?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Action has been initiated on seven urgent recommendations of Tiger Task Force which have been accepted for implementation.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Question does not arise.

(e) Action has been taken for setting up a multidisciplinary Wildlife Crime Control Bureau in the Ministry of Environment & Forests.

Task Force Report on Tiger Reserves

852. SHRI SURESH KURUP: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the salient points of the report submitted to the Prime Minister by the Task Force constituted to review the management of Tiger Reserves in the country;

(b) the immediate and long term action plans suggested by the task force; and

(c) the plans of the Government to protect the tiger keeping in view the Indian environment where forests are not only wilderness but also the habitats of people?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) The key recommendations of the Tiger Task Force Report are as below:

(i) Reinvigorate the institutions governance.

(ii) Strengthen efforts geared towards protection of the tiger, checking poaching, convicting wildlife criminals and breaking the international trade network.

(iii) Expand the inviolate spaces for the tiger by minimising human pressure in these areas.

(iv) Repair the relationships with the people who share the tiger's habitat by building strategies for coexistence.

(v) Regenerate the forest habitats in the fringes of the tiger's protective enclaves by investing in forest, water and grassland economies of the people.

(b) The urgent actions (including long-term) recommended by Tiger Task Force which have been accepted for implementation are given in the enclosed statement.

(c) Eco-development for the benefit of local people living in and around tiger reserves and other protected areas, has been included in Centrally Sponsored Schemes of 'Project Tiger' as well as 'Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries' to elicit support for wildlife conservation.

Statement

Action has been taken on the following urgent recommendations of the Task Force which were accepted for implementation:

1. Request the Prime Minister to head the Steering Committee of Project Tiger for a period of 2-3 years.
2. The Project Tiger Directorate to be converted into a statutory authority under the Ministry of Environment & Forests. This will give it greater autonomy and ability to coordinate with state governments.
3. The Wildlife Crime Bureau to be created immediately under the Ministry of Environment & Forests.
4. The next census (planned for November) of tigers and habitat to be done using the new methodology, suggested by Ministry of Environment & Forests and endorsed by the Tiger Task Force. Independent audit report also be presented to Parliament in 6 months, which will rate state performance on different criteria.
5. The plan for relocation of villages from key tiger habitats to be finalized within one year, with its financial and logistical implications and completed with 2-3 years.
6. The plan for coexistence to be prepared by each tiger reserve within one year so that benefits of conservation can be shared with local communities.
7. The benefits of tourism to be shared with local communities using the recommendations of the Task Force.

Production on Groundnut

853. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total Production of Groundnut recorded in the country during the last three years and thereafter;

(b) the steps being taken or proposed to be taken to increase the production of Groundnut in the country; and

(c) the progress made in this regard so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) The production of groundnut in the country during the period 2002-03 to 2005-06 is given as under:

Year	Production (in lakh tonnes)
2002-03	41.21
2003-04	81.82
2004-05	70.24 (IVth Advance Estimate)
2005-06	59.43 1st Advance Estimate-Kharif)

(b) and (c) Government of India is implementing a Centrally Sponsored "Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oils Palm and Maize" (ISOPOM) in 14 major oilseeds growing States with a view to increase the production and productivity of oilseeds including groundnut in the country. Under the Scheme, financial 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 equipment, weedicides, 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 including groundnut. In order to disseminate information on improved production technologies amongst the farmers, block demonstrations and Integrated Pest Management (IPM) demonstrations are also organized through State Departments of Agriculture and Front Line Demonstration through ICAR.

Relaxation in Procurement Norms for Rice

854. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that the delayed and continued monsoon rains in some parts of the country has caused huge damage to paddy crop in some States;

(b) if so, whether the Government has relaxed the norms fixed for rice procurement;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether the Government has provided any assistance/concession to the States to off-set the losses suffered;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) to (f) Due to delayed and continued rains in some parts of the country affecting the kharif crop, some of the State Governments have requested for relaxation in uniform specification norms for procurement of kharif foodgrains. On the request of the State Governments of Punjab, Haryana and Madhya Pradesh, the following relaxations in specifications of rice have been allowed for the Kharif Marketing Season 2005-06.

Punjab

The Maximum limit in respect of damaged/slightly damaged grains in rice allowed upto 3% in respect of raw rice both Grade A & Common as against the existing limit of 2%. In addition, rice having incidence of pin point damage to the extent of 1% above 3% damaged/slightly damaged grains has also been allowed to be accepted both for CMR and Levy rice. The out turn ratio for custom milled rice reduced to 66% and 67% against the existing limit of 67% and 68% for raw parboiled rice respectively.

Haryana

The Maximum limit in respect of damaged/slightly damaged grains in rice allowed upto 3% in respect of raw rice both Grade A & Common as against the existing limit of 2% to ensure milling of paddy procured under relaxes specifications. In addition, rice having incidence of pin point damaged to the extent of 1% above 3% damaged/slightly damaged grains also allowed to be accepted. The out turn ratio for custom milled rice reduced to 66% and 67% against the existing limit of 67% and 68% for raw and parboiled rice respectively.

Madhya Pradesh

The out turn ratio of raw rice obtained from the paddy procured under relaxed specifications reduced by 1% i.e. 66% against the existing limit of 67%.

Foreign Assistance for Water Resources

855. SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of financial assistance received from the World Bank and other foreign agencies for development of water resources in 2003-04 and 2004-05;

(b) the amount sanctioned by the Union Government to Gujarat Government for the purpose;

(c) whether the Government of Gujarat has utilized the amount fully; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) A statement indicating the amount of assistance received from various funding agencies for water resources project in various States during 2003-04 and 2004-05 is enclosed.

(b) For implementation of approved Externally aided projects provision is made in the Plan allocations of the State Government. Separate sanction is not issued by the Government of India for this purpose. The expenditure incurred is subsequently re-imbursed.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

*Statement***World Bank**

Sl.No.	State	Name of Projects	Date of Agreement/ Completion	Assistance amount in Million Donor Currency	Disbursement received during	
					2003-04	2004-05
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Andhra Praesh Irrigation Project-III Cr. 2952-IN Ln-4166-IN	<u>03.06.1997</u> 31.07.2004	SDR 108.100 US\$ 130.00	38.290	11.317
2.	Andhra Pradesh	A.P. Economic Restructuring Project (Irrigation component) Ln-4360-IN	<u>04.02.1999</u> 31.3.2006	US\$ 170	28.02	14.33
3.	Karnataka	Karnataka Community Based Tank Management Project CR. 3635-IN	<u>06.06.2002</u> 31.1.2009	SDR 80	1.500 (USD 2.160)	3.740
4.	Madhya Pradesh	Madhya Pradesh Water Sector Restructuring Project LN. 4750-IN	<u>11.1.2005</u> 31.3.2011	USD 394.02	—	21.97
5.	Orissa	Orissa Water Resource Consolidation Project Cr. 2801-IN	<u>05.01.1996</u> 31.3.2004	SDR 194.800	19.096	11.76
6.	Rajasthan	Rajasthan Water Sector Restructuring Project Cr. 3603-IN	<u>15.3.2002</u> 31.3.2008	SDR 110	3.475	12.303

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
7.	Tamil Nadu	Tamil Nadu Water Resource Consolidation Project Cr. 2745-IN	<u>22.09.1995</u> 31.3.2004	SDR 161.900	9.884	5.894
8.	Uttar Pradesh	UP Water Sector Restructuring Project Cr. 3602-IN	<u>08.3.2002</u> 31.10.2007	SDR 117	1.568	7.698
9.	Multi-State	Hydrology Project*	<u>22.9.1995</u> 31.12.2003	SDR 75.1	6.645	—

European Economic Community—Grant

Sl.No.	State	Name of Projects	Date of Agreement/ Completion	Assistance amount in Million Euro	Disbursement received during	
					2003-04	2004-05
10.	Orissa	Orissa Minor Irrigation Project	<u>03.07.1995</u> 31.12.2004	Euro 10.700	2.366	—
11.	Pondicherry	Tank Rehabilitation Project	<u>21.02.1997</u> 31.12.2004	Euro 6.650	—	0.557
12.	Maharashtra	Saline Land Reclamation Project-II	<u>11.7.1995</u> 31.12.2005	Euro 15.500	—	—

**Bilateral Assistance
(JBIC Japan—Loan)**

Sl.No.	State	Name of Projects	Date of Agreement/ Completion	Assistance amount in Million DC	Disbursement received during	
					2003-04	2004-05
13.	Andhra Pradesh	Modernization of Kurnool— Cuddapah Canal	<u>25.01.1996</u> 26.02.2005	(Tranche-I) 16049 (Tranche-II) 4773	4325.92	2350.79 828.313
14.	Madhya Pradesh	Rajghat Canal Major Irrigation Project	<u>25.02.1997</u> 29.05.2006	Yen 13222	1686.264	1385.984

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
15.	Orissa	Rengali Irrigation Project	12.12.1997 31.12.2004	(Tranche-I) 6844.227 (Tranche-II) 6342	1193.941 —	819.678 177.318
Germany-Loan						
16.	Maharashtra	Minor Irrigation Project	31.12.1998 30.12.2006	Euro 23.008	1.360	0.731
17.	Orissa	Lift Irrigation Project**	19.02.1993 30.06.2003	Euro 28.121	0.018	0.014
18.	Himachal Pradesh	Minor Irrigation & Rural Water Supply Project	31.10.2002 31.12.2005	DM 5.20	—*	—*
France-Credit						
19.	Gujarat	Hydroplus Fusegate System***	10.12.1998 30.06.2004	Euro 5.399	0.137	0.87
Netherlands-Grant						
20.	Kerala	Kerala Community Irrigation Project	17.12.1993 11.12.02	Euro 1.057	0.022	0.00
21.	Andhra Pradesh	Andhra Pradesh Tube Well Project	14.11.94 31.3.02	Euro 10.722	0.788	0.00
22.	Uttar Pradesh	Bundelkhand Integrated Water Development Project	12.6.96 31.3.03	1.270	0.330	0.00

*The technical assistance not reflected in the disbursement.

12.01 Hrs.

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT

Alleged involvement of some Indian entities and individuals as non-contractual beneficiaries of the UN Oil-for-Food Programme in Iraq

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I have to inform the House that I have received two notices of Adjournment Motion from

Sarvashri L.K. Advani and George Fernandes regarding "the Central Government's failure to take proper action against the involved Indian entities and individuals as non-contractual beneficiaries of the United Nations' Oil-for-Food Programme in Iraq, as reported in the Report of the United Nations' Independent Inquiry Committee (Volcker Committee) and its efforts to cover up these serious crimes".

I have given my consent to Shri L.K. Advani who has secured first place in the ballot to move the motion in the following form:—

[Mr. Speaker]

"The Central Government's failure to take proper action against the Indian entities and individuals allegedly involved as non-contractual beneficiaries of the United Nations' Oil-for-Food Programme in Iraq, as reported in the Report of the United Nations' Independent Inquiry Committee (Volcker Committee) and its efforts to cover up these serious crimes".

Shri L.K. Advani may now ask for leave of the House.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI (Gandhinagar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am grateful to you for permitting me to move this Adjournment Motion but I had written a letter to you yesterday and I have spoken to you that in order that a debate in the House on the Volcker Committee Report be purposeful, really substantial and enlighten the country and the House, perhaps, the papers that have been received by our "Special Envoy from the Volcker Committee are required. He has himself told the Press in New York that all the relevant papers are essential papers. This is the world he has used.

MR. SPEAKER: May I suggest that after leave is granted, you may raise that issue.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: I do not know whether the Government has received those papers.

MR. SPEAKER: Therefore, I will just formally go through the process. You just formally ask for leave of the House.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I seek leave of the House for moving the Adjournment Motion regarding "the Central Government's failure to take proper action against the Indian entities and individuals allegedly involved as non-contractual beneficiaries of the United Nations' Oil-for-Food Programme in Iraq, as reported in the Report of the United Nations' Independent Inquiry Committee (Volcker Committee) and its efforts to cover up these serious crimes".

MR. SPEAKER: Is the leave opposed?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): Sir, as it has been decided in the informal consultation with the representatives of the Government, I am not formally opposing the Motion.

MR. SPEAKER: Leave is granted. Under rule 61, the Adjournment Motion is to be taken up at 18.00 hours

or at an earlier hour. Under rule 62 not less than 2 hours and 30 minutes are allotted for its discussion. The discussion on the motion may be taken up immediately after laying of papers, etc. It will be after the routine matters. I think the House agrees.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: Sir, I want the Government's response.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): Sir, that is a separate issue.

MR. SPEAKER: You have already raised it.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: You raise this question.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: Yes, I have already raised it.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Then, I am responding to it.

Mr. Speaker, Sir. Yesterday when I was in Kolkata I received a telephone call from you informing me of the demand of the hon. Leader of the Opposition that all the relevant papers which the Special Envoy has received from the Volcker Committee should be placed on the Table of the House. Immediately on my return from Kolkata, you were kind enough to send me the copy of the letter which the Leader of the Opposition has sent to you and I responded. I pointed out that Shri Virendra Dayal has been engaged as a special envoy to liaison with the United Nations and its Member States to gather the material and document to help Justice Pathak Inquiry Authority to ascertain this truth. The papers were handed over by the Volcker Committee to the Directorate of the Enforcement who accompanied Shri Dayal. They are in the lawful custody of the Enforcement Directorate and after analysis and investigation, they will be submitted only to Justice Pathak for the purpose of his inquiry and necessary action. Nobody other than Justice Pathak Inquiry Committee is entitled to examine these papers till the Inquiry is over. The judgements in Vineet Narayan's case and in some other cases have made it quite clear that the investigating agencies like CBI and Enforcement Directorate are not subject to any administrative control in matters of investigations and are answerable only to the law and the courts of law. Therefore, the question of

placing these materials and documents on the Table of the House before the Inquiry is completed is out of question. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: They want to cover it up. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Let him finish.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Please allow me to complete. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: This is an important matter. Let him finish.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Most respectfully, I would like to submit that because of this in rule 188, it has been provided that a matter which is under the consideration or examination or investigation of a Commission of Inquiry need not be discussed. But there is a provision and under that proviso you have permitted it and you have accepted it. But simply it is not possible because nobody in the administration has any authority to examine it except the investigating officers who are assisting. Their job is to assist the Inquiry Authority which has been set up under Justice Pathak. ...(*Interruptions*)

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: We are only asking that the papers should be laid on the Table which the whole world knows.

[*Translation*]

The whole world knows this why these papers are not being laid on the Table. ...(*Interruptions*) We are already saying that they are trying to cover-up. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Let me listen to the Leader of the Opposition.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I may candidly admit to you that when I was writing this letter, some colleagues suggested that after all lately the CBI has raided so and so who have been named in the Hamdan and Andaleeb Sehgal, etc. etc. Can you not demand that? I said: 'No'. The CBI has done it and the CBI is an investigating authority. The Directorate of Enforcement has done it on its own. But in this case, the Prime Minister asked the special envoy to go and meet the Volcker Committee and get the necessary papers relating to this, this and this. Now, I think that there is a difference. The fact that the Director of the Enforcement also went along with him, I do not know. I simply know that he said this to the Press in New York, and he spent one week in New York interacting with the Volcker Committee there. I see no reason as to why these papers should not be regarded as part of the Volcker Committee Report itself because the Volcker Committee itself could not have given all these papers; thousands of papers relating to scores of countries. Therefore, it is that we had to send Mr. Virendra Dayal separately to him. I feel that if the Government and the Party also are keen, as the Party President has said that we are keen to find out the truth, there should be no hesitation in giving these papers to Parliament.

This is my submission. I would like him to reconsider it. This is not a matter of investigation by the CBI or the Enforcement Directorate.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Sir, we need a clear observation from you.

MR. SPEAKER: I would make my observation.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Sir, most respectfully, I would like to submit that Mr. Dayal was appointed to assist the Pathak Inquiry Authority. It is not to help the Prime Minister to ascertain the truth. To ascertain the truth, the Inquiry Authority has been appointed and Mr. Dayal was appointed to assist the Inquiry Authority.

Mr. Dayal was appointed because he is well conversant with the functioning of the United Nations' systems. He was Permanent Under Secretary under the Secretary General. He was our Permanent Representative there. Therefore, he is acquainted with the United Nations' systems. His job is to assist the Justice Pathak Inquiry Authority and not to help the Administration understand the truth or to have some information. Therefore, it is as simple as that.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria): Mr. Speaker, Sir, what the hon. Leader of the House has said is undoubtedly correct. It is the first incident in the history of India when a party in power has come under a cloud. This House. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please mention only about the papers.

[Translation]

It is not a question of speaking on merit.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH: Therefore, regarding papers, I want to say that this House may not review the papers but if all the documents are brought to the notice of the House just to uphold the prestige of the party, it will cause no harm to the party, the House and to the document itself. Therefore, it is my request that the document should be brought to the notice of the House.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajanj, Bihar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, as per information received through newspapers, there is not only one person holding one post but persons holding top most post of the parties. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please state about the documents.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am on the same thing. I shall state when I speak. I have to tell the truth to this House through you. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: If I need anybody's help, I would ask you.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the country should know the truth, the world should know the truth. I want to state through you that issues related to external and internal security of the country have been raised in the House several times. Not only the country but the world also has to know the truth through these

documents. Hiding those documents would mean that the Government is under-punishing the guilty, protecting the guilty persons. It is possible. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You cannot go on like this. I am sorry. Please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat. Now, I have to give my ruling.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, whenever I stand, why do they cry like this?

MR. SPEAKER: Please leave it.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, please ask them to be silent.

MR. SPEAKER: I honour you.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, therefore I want to tell you. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please take everything in good spirit.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Therefore, I want to tell you that I do not want to go on merit. I want to tell that the Government will gain reputation by placing this document in the House and the whole country will know the truth. Therefore I. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: It is an advice for them, not for me.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Therefore, I request you to give your observation. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Have you finished your statement?

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have not finished. I have got lost in din and bustle.

MR. SPEAKER: Please say in brief.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, let me have two minutes. Ask them to be silent, only then I shall speak. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: What are you doing? What do you gain from it?

[*English*]

Only what Shri Prabhunath Singh says would be recorded. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I ...*am not taking name ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: No, it would not be recorded.

...(*Interruptions*)*

[*Translation*]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, when I am not calling them by name. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI KIRIP CHALIHA (Guwahati): Sir, it should not go on record. This is highly objectionable. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am telling that. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: This is very unfortunate on both sides. Hon. Members from all sides should have a little patience. I am sure, your leaders' position would not at all be affected by some observations.

[*Translation*]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: I want you to state your observation on it.

*Not recorded.

MR. SPEAKER: Please give me an opportunity to state my observation.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: You are our patron, you are speaker of the House, therefore get the available documents brought in the House, so that the country may know through the House about the persons involved in it, let them be exposed, be they influential person or common men. Therefore. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Kirip Chaliha, please restrain yourself. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: A lot of people are behind the curtain in it. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down, now your point has been noted.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Some persons have been exposed while the others are hidden. I want that hidden persons should be exposed in it.

MR. SPEAKER: Now you have finished.

[*English*]

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: Sir, in reply to a question it has been stated that the Government has also appointed him; so that these two things are not inter-related. In fact, to the best of my recollection, Shri Virender Dayal was appointed first for fact-finding. It was only subsequently that Justice Pathak was brought in as a Judicial Commission. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down.

...(*Interruptions*)

PROF. M. RAMADASS (Pondicherry): He was only appointed to collect the papers. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: yes, it is right. There is difference between the role of the Judicial Commission under the Commission of Inquiry Act. I will come to it in the course of my debate. But so far as Shri Virender Dayal in concerned, it related to the enquiry being conducted by

[Shri L.K. Advani]

Justice Pathak and on that ground it is said that it cannot be given. Frankly, I would plead with you that it is first replied. The Leader of the House referred to the fact that the Director of Enforcement accompanied him and on that basis sought to say that we cannot give papers that are collected by the Directorate of Enforcement. I myself conceded that when the CBI had conducted raids here, I cannot demand those papers. 'I cannot'. That is a different matter. But in this particular case it was Shri Virender Dayal, who in pursuance of the desire of the Government to find out what is in the Volcker Committee's Report or papers, which has made them mention the name of the Congress Party and Shri Natwar Singh, had brought all those papers. Would it not be fair to the House if those papers are not made available in the House? ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU (Srikakulam): Sir, please give me a chance to speak. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: No, Shri Yerrannaaidu, please take your seat.

Hon. Members, there is a plea raised by hon. Leader of the Opposition in support of his Adjournment Motion. I have heard it twice or thrice. There is a response from the Opposition. Let me give my views.

Now, it is correct and our rules specifically provide that when some matter is before any court or any Commission of Inquiry or Inquiring Authority, it should not be discussed on the floor of the House. This is the usual rule. But there is a proviso giving discretion to the Speaker. I have exercised this discretion in favour of a discussion because the country or my friends in the Opposition are asking for a debate. I have also conceded it because of the importance of the matter. The matter is important to be debated on the floor of the House in spite of institution of an inquiry which is now under the Commission of Inquiry Act. I have been told that.

Therefore, once a matter is seized by the Inquiry Commission, we do not ordinarily discuss this matter. But once the inquiry has been constituted and the papers have been submitted to them, I think, this is a matter which should not be insisted upon at this stage. In any event when the report is submitted, it is bound to be presented in the House along with the Action Taken Report. Then, the House can again discuss it. In any event, there is no provision in the Rules of Procedure

and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha under which I can direct the Government to place any document, impugned or otherwise, on the Table of the House. There is catena of rulings given by the hon. Chair in the past reiterating this position.

Now, as the hon. Members are aware, the Inquiry Committee has already started its work, as it is known and the report of the Committee is to be laid on the Table of the House. The hon. Members will get an ample opportunity to discuss the matter on the floor of the House. Therefore, I am sorry, I am not in a position to accede to the request of the hon. Leader of the Opposition.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Your submission is not being recorded.

...*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: Nobody can make a statement after the Speaker's ruling. It is not being recorded. No.

...*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: You cannot give direction, but the act of hiding such things by the Government is amazing in itself.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: That is your comment. You make your observations. I am not stopping it.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR (Bangalore South): Sir, we are only requesting for laying of the papers. Why could they not lay the papers on the Table of the House? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You make the observations in your speech.

Thank you very much. Now Papers to be laid on the Table.

*Not recorded.

12.21. hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Notification No. S.O. 1445 (E) (Hindi and English version) published in Gazette of India dated the 1st October, 2005, containing Order indicating the supplies of urea to be made by domestic manufacturers, mentioned therein, to States and Union Territories during Rabi season 2005-2006, under sub-section (6) of section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2864/2005]

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): Sir, on behalf of Shri Kantilal Bhuria I beg to lay on the Table of the House:

- (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 Orissa Agro Industries Corporation Limited, Bhubaneswar, for the year 1999-2000.
 - (ii) Annual Report of the Orissa Agro Industries Corporation Limited, Bhubaneswar, for the year 1999-2000, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2865/2005]

12.21¹/₄ hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT

Ninth Report

[English]

SHRI LALIT MOHAN SUKLABAIIDYA (Karimganj): Sir, I beg to present a copy of the Ninth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment on "Working of National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation".

12.21¹/₂ hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON HOME AFFAIRS

One Hundred and Seventeenth Report

[English]

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY (Puri): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the One Hundred and Seventeenth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Home Affairs on Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the Eighty-third Report of the Committee pertaining to the Personnel Policy of Central Industrial Security Force.

12.23 hrs.

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

(I) Killing of official of the Border Roads Organisation in Afghanistan

[English]

*THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): Sir, with a heavy heart, I rise to speak on the tragic killing of an official of the Border Roads Organisation (BRO), Shri Maniappan Raman Kutty, who was working in Afghanistan on the Zaranj-Delaram Road project as a driver. The Border Roads Organisation is engaged in building a 218 kilometres road in Afghanistan.

*Placed in Library. See No. LT 2866/2005.

[Shri Pranab Mukherjee]

This road is vital for its development and for the well being of the Afghan people. It is inconceivable that anybody should be opposed to it and threaten those working on it. The Government is deeply shocked and grieved by the death of Shri M.R. Kutty who was killed in harness in Afghanistan. He was a sincere and dedicated worker of the BRO.

Shri Maniappan Raman Kutty was abducted on 19th November, 2005 along with three Afghan nationals. Upon receiving this news, the Indian Embassy in Kabul immediately established contact with Afghan authorities and sought their help in locating the whereabouts of the hostages and also to seek their safe and secure release. The next day on 20th November 2005, the Taliban claimed responsibility for the abduction and demanded the withdrawal of the BRO from Afghanistan within 48 hours, failing which the Indian hostage would be killed.

This was done in a telephone call to a news agency and no effort was made by the abductors to contact either the Embassy or the BRO. The Afghan Government too was unable to establish contact with them.

I would like to assure this House that the Government of India made every effort possible to seek the safe release of Shri Maniappan Raman Kutty in cooperation with the Afghan authorities. President Karzal himself took charge of these efforts by convening a special Cabinet Meeting and setting up a Task Force to deal with the crisis.

In Delhi, hon. Prime Minister personally monitored developments in this regard. Upon his instructions, a group comprising officials from the Ministries of Home, External Affairs, Defence and security agencies was set up under the Cabinet Secretary to monitor developments on a regular basis. The family of Shri Maniappan Raman Kutty was also contacted for extending support and solace to them in their hour of need.

Late in the evening on 22nd November 2005, some news agencies reported that they had received calls from people claiming to represent the Taliban stating that they had killed the Indian hostage. The news was confirmed the next day when Shri Maniappan Raman Kutty's body was found near Delaram. Arrangements to send his mortal remains to his hometown for the last rites have been made by the Government.

The Taliban and its backers bear the responsibility for the consequences of this outrageous act. The

perpetrators of this heinous crime must be brought to justice swiftly.

The Government remains firmly committed to extending support and assistance to Afghanistan in its quest for economic development and building a stable and prosperous country. We are in touch with Afghan authorities to ensure the safety of all Indians in Afghanistan. We have also reviewed the security arrangements with concerned Ministries and agencies. A team led by DG BRO has already left for Afghanistan to review security arrangements of our people.

We strongly condemn this inhuman and barbaric act against an innocent person. Shri Maniappan Raman Kutty was working on an India-Afghan Friendship project with utmost devotion. His untimely death is a loss to the Border Roads Organisation and to the country. We value the ultimate sacrifice he has made to the cause of India-Afghan Friendship. Our heartfelt condolences go to the bereaved family members. We assure them that we will ensure their livelihood and security. The family will receive a total of about Rs. 9 lakh as compensation and benefits with free education to the secondary level for Shri Maniappan Raman Kutty's two children, and liberalised family pension for Mrs. P. Bindu widow of the deceased in addition.

I wish to assure the House once again that we attach the utmost importance to the safety and security of all our citizens and will not hesitate in taking whatever measures are necessary in order to ensure this.

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

MR. SPEAKER: No questions are permitted. But the Leader of the Opposition wants to say something.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Sir, I have given notice.

MR. SPEAKER: Please Rules are very strict. Shri Acharia, please control him.

[*Translation*]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria): The matter should be discussed.

MR. SPEAKER: Who says that there will be no discussion. The discussion is not held on sitting in such a manner, one has to give notice for this.

[*English*]

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: I have my own feelings.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI (Gandhinagar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I associate myself with the Leader of the House in condemning this inhuman and barbaric act of the Taliban. I have seen a report this morning in the newspapers about a report attributed to the National Security Advisor saying that Pakistan is involved in this dastardly act. It is a very serious matter, if it is so. I have no basis to say this except that particular press report. For a long time we have been trying to improve our relations with Pakistan, ever since they agreed to issue a joint statement with former Prime Minister Vajpayee that they will not allow any kind of terrorism to be operated from Pakistani soil against India. This act against the Border Roads Organisation in Afghanistan is a serious matter. It is against India. Further more it is an attempt to break the friendship between India and Afghanistan. I fully endorse all the other points made in the statement except to say that this House must be taken into confidence as to whether there is any substance in the statement attributed to the National Security Advisor.

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, Shri Radhakrishnan! What do you want to do? Do you want to sympathise with the family?

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: I have given notice. The security of the life of persons who are working abroad including Malayalees is now in danger.

MR. SPEAKER: Of all Indians.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Yes, all Indians including Malayalees.

MR. SPEAKER: Malayalees are also Indians.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Yes. I would like to draw the attention of the Government in a very specific manner. The Government of India has already dealt with such matters and we all know that. Even in a case where the Supreme Court of Pakistan had sentenced a person to death, the Government was prepared to converse with the Pakistan Government. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: This is not a debate. What are you doing, I do not understand!

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Here also the National Security Advisor had come out with a statement that Pakistan had the knowledge about this thing. If that is the case, the Prime Minister ought to have intervened in the matter and asked the Pakistan President in order to save the life of the innocent Malayalee.

MR. SPEAKER: He had done it.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Not only that. We have previous instances wherein we have even surrendered captors from the jail and produced them before the Taliban.

MR. SPEAKER: Merely your raising of voice does not help.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: It was quite unwise on the part of the Central Government to ask the Afghan Government to intervene and save Shri Kutty. How can they do that? They are fighting with the Afghan Government.

MR. SPEAKER: I cannot hear anything.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: The course ought to have been to intervene in a very specific manner. We are poor Malayalees. Nobody is hearing our grievances. I have gone to his village accompanying the dead body. I know the feelings of the people assembled there.

MR. SPEAKER: It was very nice of you to have done so. I appreciate your concern.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: I accompanied the dead body to his home village. I saw thousands of people attending the funeral there. All of them had a feeling that we are citizens of India and the Government should take proper steps. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Now, take your seat.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: I am on my legs. Please sit down. This is not a matter of Kerala alone. This is a matter of the country.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: It was very callously dealt with. ... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not force me to take unpleasant action. These are not empty threats. Please take your seat, Mr. George.

Because of the great importance and seriousness of the matter, on the very first day I had mentioned it from the Chair showing the country's concern. If you do not think that the Chair represents the House, then I do not think you need to have a Chair at all. In that case, do not have a Speaker in the House! If you treat the entire House according to your own sweet will, how will this House run?

I have allowed the matter to be raised again. The Minister has made a statement. The Leader of the Opposition has made some observations. Instead of making an observation, you are going on about your accompanying the dead body and seeing the relatives. Do not misuse the facility given to you.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Sir, I would just like to clarify one point raised by the hon. Leader of the Opposition. I have inquired about this from the National Security Advisory this morning. He is not here, he is in Kerala. What he told me was that he had been misquoted. He did not say that Pakistan was responsible for it. In the course of his conversation with the press somebody asked him and he narrated the past. He said that in the past Pakistan had contact with Taliban and he mentioned that incident. Now, when we tried to have contact with the Pakistani authorities in order to rescue the person concerned to see whether they can help us, they stated that they were sorry. They stated that at some point of time they had contact with the Taliban but they had ceased any contact with Talibans now, and therefore, they would not be able to give any help to us to rescue that person. So, he has not stated that Pakistan is responsible for that.

I thought I should correct the position.

12.30 hrs.

(II) Relief and rehabilitation in the aftermath of Jammu and Kashmir earthquake

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Item No.7—Shri Shriprakash Jaiswal. You have got six statements to make. You can lay them on the Table of the House.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): Sir, these are important matters.

MR. SPEAKER: Certainly, you can give notice. Any hon. Member can give notice. I invite notices from you. It is not that I am suppressing any discussion.

*THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): On behalf of Shri Shivraj V. Patil, I beg to lay on the Table a statement regarding relief and rehabilitation in the aftermath of Jammu and Kashmir earthquake.

As all the Hon'ble Members are aware, an earthquake of an intensity of 7.4 on the Richter scale occurred on 8th October, 2005. The epicentre of the Earthquake was in Pakistan at Latitude 34.6 N and Longitude 73.0 E, 55 Kms, west-north west of Muzaffarabad. The tremors of the earthquake were felt in several States of Northern India which *inter-alia* includes the States of Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Haryana, Punjab and Uttaranchal. The State of Jammu & Kashmir has been the worst affected.

In the State of Jammu & Kashmir, the districts affected in the Kashmir Division were Srinagar, Baramulla, Kupwara, Pulwama and Budgam and in Jammu Division, the districts affected are Udhampur, Kathua, Poonch, Doda and Rajouri. Uri and Tangdhar were the worst affected. 95 villages of Uri in Baramulla district and 42 villages of Tangdhar in Kupwara district were affected, of which 7 villages in Uri and 7 villages in Tangdhar were severely affected.

The State Government has reported loss of lives and damage to property as per their provisional assessments, as under:—

1336 persons (1216 Civilians and 120 Defence and Central Para Military Forces) lost their lives.

6587 persons (6240 civilians and 347 Defence and Central Para Military Force personnel) are reported to be injured.

38875 houses/buildings (36,693 in Kashmir division, 2182 in Jammu division) are reported to be fully damaged.

71,078 houses (53,000 in Kashmir division and 18,078 in Jammu division) are reported to have been partially damaged.

*Laid on the Table and also placed in Library. See No. LT 2867/2005.

The Government of India immediately responded to the situation and provided financial and logistic support to the Government of Jammu & Kashmir for undertaking rescue and relief operations in the earthquake affected areas. The MHA Control Room, which functions round the clock, closely monitored the situation caused by the earthquake. An advisory was issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs on 8th October 2005 to the important Central Ministries/Departments to discharge necessary Emergency Support Functions in the affected areas. The Army & Para-Military Forces located in J&K promptly responded to the situation and provided full support to the local Administration in carrying out relief and rescue operations.

The Hon'ble Prime Minister, Defence Minister and Chairperson UPA visited the affected areas to review the relief and rehabilitation efforts. The Cabinet Secretary and the Union Home Secretary have been holding regular meetings to review the overall situation and relief operations on ground.

Two senior officers of MHA were immediately deputed to Srinagar to coordinate relief efforts with State Government.

The situation caused by the earthquake was reviewed regularly at various levels in the Government. An amount of Rs. 1000 crores was immediately released to the State Government on 10th October, 2005 from the National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF). The second installment of Central share of Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) i.e. Rs. 32.42 crore was also released in advance, on 10th October 2005, to facilitate immediate relief operations. On 11th October, 2005, the Hon'ble Prime Minister visited the affected areas of the State to review the relief operations with the State Government and announced further release of Rs. 500 crore to the Government of J&K for relief and rehabilitation in the affected areas. Out of this amount of Rs. 500 crore, Rs. 200.28 crore has been released by the Ministry of Finance as advance from Normal Central Assistance/advance payment of state share of Union Taxes/duties.

An Inter-Ministerial Central Team was also deputed to the State between 11th to 14th October, 2005 to make an assessment of the damage caused by the earthquake and requirement of funds by the State Government. Additional financial assistance will be considered based on the report of the Central Team, and as per laid down procedure.

The Armed Forces and Central Para Military Forces promptly responded to the situation and have rendered invaluable support to the local administration in rescue, relief and rehabilitation operation.

The Emergency Support line Central Ministries/Departments have been coordinating action with their counterparts in the State for extending all necessary assistance required by the State Government. Some of the actions taken by various Ministries/Departments are given below.

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare have provided adequate supplies of essential medicines and equipment etc. to the State Government. Teams of doctors and Public Health Specialists have been deployed to assist the Army and State authorities in conducting medical relief activities and instituting public health measures.

The Department of Food and Public Distribution has made available adequate stocks of food grains and sugar to the earthquake affected areas of the State including Uri, Tangdhar and Poonch.

There were adequate stocks of POL and LPG in the State. Additional allocation of 3000 KL of Kerosene Oil has been sanctioned under PDS to meet any exigent situation.

The Department of Drinking Water Supply was released an amount of Rs. 2.00 crore to the State Government from the provision of 5% allocation under Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP) to meet the contingencies arising out of the earthquake including construction of new handpumps in lieu of choked/damaged/handpumps.

The Ministry of Urban Development is (i) constructing 130 Community Halls at 130 locations with pre-fabricated materials for usage as shelters, (ii) constructing Building Demonstration Centres, and (iii) organizing training programmes for the technical professionals viz. engineers of Government of J&K.

Telecommunication network was made operational in the earthquake affected areas of the State within 48 hours. The telephone exchanges in Uri and Tangdhar have been made operational. 7 STDs/PCOs (Uri-4 and Tangdhar-3) are being operated free of charge for the general public. 104 INMARSAT Satellite phones have been deployed to improve communication in the affected areas.

[Shri Shriprakash Jaiswal]

Electricity supply has been restored in most of the affected areas of the State.

Department of Women and Child Development is setting up three Swadhar Homes at Kupwara, Poonch and Uri which would provide shelter, food, clothes etc. to orphans and widows. Cash assistance of Rs. 10,000 is being provided to each widow.

The Ministry of Civil Aviation has organized, through five domestic airlines, airlifting of 199.3 MTs of relief material, free of charge to Srinagar/Jammu from various parts of the country.

Ministry of Railways have transported, relief material free of charge, to the affected areas of J&K.

The Hon'ble Members would agree that in view of ensuing winter season, the major area of concern for the present is to provide shelter to all the affected persons. The State Government and the Government of India have accorded due priority to the provision of shelters to all the earthquake affected families whose houses have been fully/severely damaged prior to the onset of winter season. To facilities this objective there has been a convergence of effort by various agencies through which various options have been explored and synchronized in the formulation of a definite time bound Action Plan.

Keeping in view the exigency of the matter, I had alongwith the Chief Minister, Jammu & Kashmir conducted a detailed review on the overall relief operations, with specific reference to providing shelter to the earthquake affected families on 22nd October 2005. Thereafter I have alongwith Chief Minister of Jammu & Kashmir conducted a further detailed follow up review on 21st November, 2005 which was attended among other by the members of the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), Planning Commission, besides senior officers of the Government of India and State Government who attended the meeting. Through this concerted effort a comprehensive report on the provision of shelter and relief material to the earthquake affected people is given below.

In its immediate response at providing shelters, the focus of the Government was on providing tents to the affected persons. The Government of India has already mobilized and made available to the Government of Jammu and Kashmir approximately 28,612 tents up to 22nd November 2005 which includes 2,300 high altitude/arctic imported tents. We propose to supply approximately

30,900 tents to the State Government by the end of November 2005 and about 50,620 by December 2005. In addition, provisional figures on relief material provided to the earthquake affected persons, through logistical support provided by MHA includes, 46,153 tarpaulin sheets, 3,305 sleeping bags, 17,340 mattresses, 2,04,470 blankets and 2,51,466 woollens.

To facilitate the process of providing shelter to the affected persons, the State Government has announced a financial assistance of Rs. 100 lakh to each of the affected families, whose houses were fully damaged, for the reconstruction of their damaged houses on their own. The distribution of first installment of 40% of the said amount i.e. 40,000 to each such beneficiary had started w.e.f. 19.10.2005 and an amount of Rs. 84.00 crores is reported to have been distributed by the State Government upto 21st November 2005.

This assistance provided by the State Government has enabled the affected people to start the process of rebuilding their houses partially by salvaging CGI Sheets and timber from the debris of their houses and also by purchasing CGI sheets and timber from sale outlets at Tangdhar, Uri and Poonch owned by the J&K State Forest Corporation and from SICOP, a PSU of the State Government.

The State Government has ensured the supply of construction materials i.e. cement, CGI Sheets, wood and iron bars in sufficient quantities, at concessional rates to the affected persons. The Ministry of Urban Development has trained 376 out of the targeted 450 engineers of the State Government to oversee and provide timely guidance to the affected persons in the construction of their houses.

Apart from the above, the State Government has also decided to construct 22,000 Temporary Shelters Units (TSUs) (15,000 in Uri and 7,000 in Tangdhar) for those families whose houses have been fully damaged. Some of these shelters for the hapless families who would not be in a position to erect intermediate shelters before the onset of the winter, are proposed to be constructed by the State Government and Government of India's agencies (i.e. NHPC, Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd.) while the remaining shelters are being constructed by the affected families themselves for which the State Government has decided to provide assistance of Rs. 30,000. The State Government has also announced an incentive of Rs. 5000 to those families who are able to construct their TSUs before November 30, 2005.

Engineers and masons have also been trained for assisting the people in the construction of earthquake proof houses/buildings.

The proto type of these houses have been approved by experts from MHA. In the construction of these intermediate shelters, it is proposed to use CGI Sheets, with timber/brick walls and with cemented flooring. The size of each shelter will be 12' x 10'. The Ministry of Home Affairs has procured 8000 MT of CGI sheets from SAIL, the delivery of which has been made to the State Government.

As the construction of permanent housing is likely to take sometime, the Ministry of urban Development has initiated steps to construct Community Halls for the affected people. Each community hall has the capacity to accommodate about 150-200 persons. Construction of such community halls with common toilet and kitchen will cost about Rs. 30 lakh per unit. The Ministry of Urban Development has proposed to construct 130 community halls in 130 locations i.e. Uri-66, Tangdhar-38 and Poonch-26. The construction of these community halls has already commenced and 32 community halls (i.e. 22 in Uri and 10 in Tangdhar) have been completed. Construction work is in progress for 25 community halls. The Ministry of Urban Development proposes to complete the construction of all 130 community halls by 15.12.2005.

As part of the overall rehabilitation effort, various agencies of Government of India have adopted 22 villages for relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction activity, Within this framework the Army has adopted three villages, Air Force four, BSF four, CRPF one, ITBP one, NHPC six and Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd. Three villages, in the adopted villages, appropriate action has been initiated by various agencies to construct shelters and provide other amenities to meet the short term and long-term need of the affected persons.

The Non-Governmental Organization have also rendered support in providing shelter to the earthquake affected persons of J&K. Bhartiya Jain Sangathan (BJS) has donated 870 prefabricated structures which are to be erected in the earthquake affected areas of J&K, particularly in Uri and Tangdhar. The first consignment of 245 pre fabricated structures was delivered to the State Government at Jammu on 12th November, 2005 and has already been transported by the State Government to Tangdhar. The second consignment of 277 pre fabricated structures was delivered at Jammu on 21.11.2005 and

the third consignment of the remaining 348 pre fabricated structures will be dispatched to the State Government by 30th November, 2005. These pre fabricated structures will be erected at four locations in Tangdhar and one location in Uri where households were required to be relocated because of their vulnerability to landslides/avalanches.

SEEDS, another NGO has offered to construct 400 houses in Poonch by the end of December, 2005.

The Ministry of Home affairs is coordinating with various Ministries/Departments/Agencies for convergence of the relief and rehabilitation effort, to ensure timely supply of relief materials to the earthquake affected areas of the State. The Ministry is constantly monitoring the relief and rehabilitation measures with the State Government.

I would like to inform the Hon'ble Members that like on previous occasions, there has been an overwhelming response wherein the State Governments, Armed Forces, Central Para Military Forces, Corporate Sector and various agencies of the Government and the public have extended their wholehearted support for the persons affected by the earthquake in Jammu and Kashmir.

I would like to assure the August House that Government of India would extend all possible help to the Government of Jammu and Kashmir for rehabilitation of the earthquake affected persons. I would also seek the valuable suggestions of the Hon. Members thereon.

12.31 hrs.

(iii) Heavy rainfall and floods in various States and relief operations undertaken by the Governments

[English]

***THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL):** On behalf of Shri Shivrajji V. Patil, I beg to lay on the Table a statement regarding heavy rainfall and floods in various States and relief operations undertaken by the Governments.

**Laid on the Table and also placed in Library. See No. LT 2868/2005.*

[Shri Shriprakash Jaiswal]

The Hon'ble Members are aware that our country is vulnerable to various natural disasters due to its geographical features. 60% of the land mass is prone to earthquakes, about 8% area i.e. over 40 million hectares is prone to floods and about 8000 Km of coast line is prone to cyclones and storm surges. The country was also hit by the Tsunami, which we had experienced for the first time in December 2004. Recently a severe earthquake of 7.4 magnitude on the Richter scale had been experienced in Jammu and Kashmir and in some other parts of Northern India, which caused extensive damage.

I have already made a Statement in the House during the last Session about the damage caused due to floods and heavy rains during the South West Monsoon 2005. 26 States/UTs had reported damage of varying degrees during the Monsoon Season. The States of Himachal Pradesh, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka and Maharashtra were severely affected during that period.

Thereafter, during the current North East Monsoon 2005, the Southern States/UTs of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry have been affected in varying degrees by heavy rains and floods caused mainly due to depressions and cyclonic storms.

The concerned State Governments promptly responded to the situation and undertook rescue and relief operations on a large scale in the flood affected areas. These include evacuation and shifting of the people to safer places, setting up of relief camps, providing gratuitous relief, distribution of essential commodities, provision of safe drinking water, health and hygiene measures, etc.

The Government of India has closely monitored the situation in each of the these States and rendered necessary financial and logistic support to deal effectively with the flood situation. The National Crisis Management Committee under the Cabinet Secretary and the Home Ministry have been conducting regular reviews and follow up meetings with the representatives of the affected State Governments and the Emergency Support Ministries to provide required financial and logistic support.

The Central Government deployed Air Force helicopters, Army Boats, Army Columns and Central Para Military Forces to assist the State Governments in rescue and relief operations. The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare provided the requisite stocks of essential

medicines and drugs, bleaching powder, Chlorine tablets, ORS packets to meet the requirements of the State Government and to prevent the outbreak of the water borne diseases and epidemics. Additional stocks of essential commodities and petroleum products were provided to flood affected States, wherever needed. The Ministries and other concerned Organisation i.e. Ministries of Road Transport and Highways, Telecommunication, Power, Drinking Water Supply, National High Authority of India, Border Road Organisation were directed to ensure immediate repair and restoration of damaged infrastructure on a priority basis.

Now I would like to inform the Hon'ble Members in some detail about the situation caused by heavy rains and floods during the current North East Monsoon in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and the UT of Pondicherry.

In Andhra Pradesh, under the influence of the cyclonic storm, heavy to very heavy rains, accompanied by high velocity winds of 70-80 Kms., were experienced in September, 2005 in many places of Coastal Andhra i.e. Srikakulam, Vizianagaram, Visakhapatnam, East Godavari, Krishna, Guntur, Varangal, Khammam and Nalgonda districts. The State Government has reported the following losses due to cyclonic storm and consequent heavy rains and floods:

- (a) No. of human lives lost: 56
- (b) No. of people affected: 350 lakh
- (c) No. of kuchha houses fully damaged: 34218
- (d) No. of kuchha houses severely damaged 83252
- (e) Cropped area damaged 333758 ha.
- (f) Estimated loss to crops Rs. 939.54 crore.

The Government of Andhra Pradesh has submitted a Memorandum, in which the total loss due to cyclonic storm, heavy rains and floods has been projected at Rs. 2746.77 crore. An inter-Ministerial Central Team visited the State from 26.9.2005 to 28.9.2005 for an on the spot assessment of damage and requirement of funds. The report of the Central Team is being processed as per the laid down procedure for release of funds from NCCF.

Subsequently, the state of Andhra Pradesh again faced an unprecedented rainfall and floods due to deep depression in the South Bay of Bengal from 26-28th October, 2005, which *inter alia* impacted 59 Mandalas in

the districts of Vellore, Prakasham, Chittoor, Kadapa and Nalgonda. In this spell of floods 31 persons are reported to have lost their lives and 2934 houses were damaged. The State Government evacuated 44,554 people and accommodated them in 107 relief camps.

The State of Andhra Pradesh has been allocated an amount of Rs. 344.08 crore in the Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) for the year 2005-06 comprising Rs. 258.06 crore as the Central contribution and Rs. 86.02 crore as the State contribution. The first installment of Central share of CRF of Rs. 129.03 crore for the current year was released to the State Government on 8.6.2005. While the second installment of the same amount has been released in advance on 8.11.2005, for the instant calamity. In addition, the Ministry of Finance has been requested to make an adhoc release of Rs. 100 crore from National Calamity Contingency Fund. The Department of Food & Public Distribution has also been requested to make an adhoc release of 1.50 lakh MT of rice for distribution in flood affected areas of Andhra Pradesh.

The State of Karnataka has experienced heavy rains and floods in three spells. The 1st spell heavy rains and floods was in the month of July and August 2005. The flood situation was caused due to heavy rains and release of excess water from the reservoirs of Maharashtra, which resulted in severe damage to the life and property in the 61 Talukas of the State. The flood damage was maximum in the districts of Belgaum, Bijapur, Bagalkote, Gulbarga and Raichur. The district of Shimoga, Chikmagalur, Udupi and Coorg also suffered considerable damage. The State Government has reported the following damage:

- (a) No. of human lives lost: 130
- (b) No. of people affected: 27.24 lakh
- (c) No. of Animals lost: 11601
- (d) No. of houses damaged: 84049
- (e) Cropped area damaged 1.94 lakh ha.
- (f) Total estimated damage: Rs. 3640.07 crore

The State Government had submitted Memorandum to the Government of India. An Inter-Ministerial Central Team was deputed to the State for an on-the-spot assessment of damage and requirement of funds. The Central Team visited the State from 17.8.2005 to 20.8.2005 and submitted its report. The report of the

Central Team was considered in the Inter Ministerial Group (IMG) in its meeting held on 11.9.2005 and thereafter by the High Level Committee on 5.10.2005. The HLC has approved:

- (a) Financial assistance of Rs. 255.05 crore from NCCF from floods in July and August, 2005.
- (b) 0.72 lakh MT foodgrains under special component of SGRY for relief employment.

The Second spell of floods in Karnataka was due to incessant rainfall in Northern Karnataka on 20th and 21st September, 2005 and due to excessive water releases from Dhanegaon Reservoir and Koyna Dam in Maharashtra State. The three districts which were severely impacted are Belgam, Bidar and Gadag. The State Government has reported the following damage due to flash floods in September, 2005.

- (a) Number of Districts affected: 3
- (b) No. of Talukas affected: 9
- (c) No. of villages affected: 134
- (d) Population affected: 13067
- (e) No. of relief centres opened: 20
- (f) No. of houses damaged: 950
- (g) Crops affected (in acres): 56,584
- (h) Total estimated damages (Rs. in lakh): 8974.71

The third spell of heavy rains and floods in Karnataka was reported during the last week of October 2005 mainly on account of depression in the Bay of Bengal. As a result of depression some parts of the districts of Mysore, Bangalore rural, Mandia, Chamrajnagar, Davangere, Hassan, Kolar and Raichur received heavy rains. Bangalore city is also reported to have suffered extensive inundation, flooding of roads, disruption of road communication, collapse of houses and railway bridges, which resulted in the cancellation of a large number of trains. In this spell of rains, 30 persons lost their lives, 21,000 houses were damaged, 60,000 acres of agriculture land were affected while the damage caused to public utility works included *inter alia* damage to 500 tanks, 500 bridges/culverts, 4,000 electric polls.

A second inter-Ministerial Central Team was constituted and deployed to the flood affected areas in

[Shri Shriprakash Jaiswal]

the State in the second week of November 2005 for an on the spot assessment of damage and requirement of funds for floods in the second and third spells i.e. September and October 2005. Further action will be taken on receipt of the report of the Central Team, as per the laid down procedure.

Both the installments of Central share of CRF of Rs. 86.00 crore for the current year has already been released to the State Government on 30.5.2005 and 11.8.2005 respectively. In addition, an adhoc release of Rs. 357.00 crore was made to the State from NCCF on 11.8.05 for floods in July-August, 2005.

In Tamil Nadu during the last week of October, 2005, there were heavy rains and floods in Chennai and adjoining districts. A flood situation also developed due to a unprecedented inflow of water into the Mettur Dam and consequent discharge of water in the Cauvery basin. Floods were also reported from Krishnagiri Vellore District belt due to incessant rains.

As per preliminary reports, the extent of damage reported by the State Government, since the onset of North East Monsoon, is as under:

- (a) No. of persons died: 64
- (b) No. of villages affected: 750
- (c) No. of villages marooned: 125
- (d) No. of persons marooned: 7.00 lakhs.

About 360 relief centres were opened and 12 lakh food packets supplied in the relief centres and affected areas. Coast Guard at Madipakkam (Kanchipuram Distt.) and Army at Pulianthope area in Chennai assisted the State Government in rescue operations including movement of supplies.

The State of Tamil Nadu has been allocated an amount of Rs. 209.08 crore in CRF for the year 2005-06 consisting of Rs. 156.81 crore as Central contribution and Rs. 52.27 crore as State contribution. The first instalment of Central share of CRF of Rs. 78.40 crore for the current year would be released to the State Government upon receipt of information relating to the crediting of earlier released funds, utilization certificate and Annual report.

An Inter Ministerial Central Team has visited the flood affected areas in Tamil Nadu from 17-18th November, 2005. Further action for providing financial assistance would be taken on receipt of the report of the Team as per the laid down procedure.

The Union Territory of Pondicherry has also experienced heavy rains and floods during the current North East Monsoon. These floods have caused inundation and resulting in damage to roads, bridges and agricultural land, thereby disrupting normal life in the UT of Pondicherry. A causeway bridge across the river Arasalar in Karaikal district was washed away due to torrential rains.

The UT of Pondicherry has reported damage to 47000 houses and cropped area measuring 7015 ha. The tentative assessment of damage in various sectors like agriculture, public works, electricity, local administration, animal husbandry, housing etc. has been estimated by the UT Administration at Rs. 150 crore.

90 relief camps are reported to have been organized in Pondicherry and 30 in Karaikal District to accommodate affected people.

The Inter Ministerial Central Team constituted for assessment of damage due to floods in Tamil Nadu has also visited Pondicherry to assess the damage caused due to floods in the Union Territory of Pondicherry. Further action for providing financial assistance would be taken on receipt of the report of the Central Team and in accordance with the laid down procedure.

The relief and rehabilitation measures being undertaken by the UT Administration will be provided from the budget provision of UTs maintained by the MHA.

I would like to assure the Members that the Government of India will extend all required financial and logistic support to the States to supplement their efforts in meeting the situation caused by the natural disasters effectively and continue to work to bring improvement in the Disaster Management Mechanism. I would like to seek the valuable suggestions from the Hon'ble Members in this regard.

12.32 hrs.

(iv) Serial bomb blasts in Delhi on 29.10.2005

[English]

*THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): On behalf of Shri Shivraj V. Patil, I beg to lay on the Table a statement regarding the serial bomb blasts in Delhi on 29th October, 2005.

I would like to inform the Hon'ble Members of this House that three bomb explosions took place in Delhi on 29.10.2005 at Paharganj, Sarojini Nagar Market and Kalkaji. The first explosion took place in the Main Bazar of Paharganj at around 1730 hours. There was heavy rush in the market at the time of explosion as a result of which 16 persons died and 108 were injured. The second explosion took place at the bus stand near Okhla Bus Depot. One passenger travelling in a Mudrika bus plying on the outer ring road informed the Conductor about a bag left behind by some other passenger. Suspecting that the bag contained a bomb, the Driver and Conductor threw it away. As soon as the bag was thrown, there was explosion, which resulted in injuries to 12 persons. The driver of the bus was seriously injured. The third explosion took place at around 1800 hours near a chat shop in the main Sarojini Nagar Market. The owner of the shop was informed about a bag left there by somebody. As soon as he approached the bag, explosion took place, causing blast of the gas cylinders and fire in the clothes kept in the hawker's shops opposite the chat shop. 43 persons were killed and 104 injured in the explosion.

Seven more persons have died subsequently thus taking the death toll to 66.

Delhi Police has deployed a team of over 300 officers and men led by Joint Commissioner of Police, Special Cell, to investigate these blasts. Experts of National Security Guards, who were called to the scene of the crime, found high explosives at all the three locations in varying quantities. It is suspected that RDX was used in the explosions. Delhi Police has announced a reward of Rs. 1 lakh for giving clue of the suspects. During the investigation of the case, it is revealed that the conspiracy for the bomb explosions in Delhi was hatched by a

foreign-based militant organisation. Delhi Police has so far arrested three persons, namely, Tariq Ahmed Dar, a resident of Srinagar, who was arrested on 10.11.2005 and Md. Hussain Fazil, a resident of Srinagar and one Rafique who were arrested on 22.11.2005. The interrogation of Tariq Ahmed Dar has revealed that he was the main coordinator and facilitator of these blasts. Further investigation is in progress.

Immediately after the blasts, intensive efforts were made by the police with the help of the general public to very quickly restore their confidence and bring in normalcy. Mass media was used extensively for general sensitization of the public and for creating a sense of confidence. The shops were opened in most of the areas the very next day. Diwali, Id and Chhath festivals, which drew huge crowds, were indicative of the restored public confidence. Guru Parb procession on 15th November, was a major success as it has a crowd of over 50,000. Security arrangements for the Trade Fair are also being handled in a very effective manner.

The Delhi Police has also taken various steps to strengthen security in the capital. Special checking at the entry points of markets is being done. Barricades have been put up at entry points and vehicles are allowed to enter after checking with the help of inverted mirror. Hand help metal detectors are used for checking. Abandoned vehicles are checked and if no claimant is found they are removed.

Managers and staff of all the hotels/guest houses have been briefed to keep details regarding identity of guests and their luggage properly. They have also been asked to provide full details of guests staying in their hotels/guest houses. They have been briefed to note down the registration number of vehicles by which guests arrived at the hotel. All the guest house owners have been requested to install CCTVs at the entrance of the hotels at the earliest.

Several meetings have been organized with the associations of traders as well as resident welfare bodies. Nearly 900 such meetings have been held so far. They are sensitized about the threats from the terrorist outfits.

Every shop in market is being visited by the beat staff. Vendors are briefed to be extra vigilant and careful. Audio cassettes prepared by district police regarding security measures are being played in different markets. Taxi stand owners/parking attendants are being briefed regularly about unattended vehicles. They are also being briefed to check vehicles at the entry point to the extent possible.

Security of Metro Rail network is being maintained through the deployment of police personnel as well as

*Laid on the Table and also placed in Library. See No. LT 2869/2005.

[Shri Shriprakash Jaiswal]

three companies of CISF men. Airport's security has also been tightened by deploying PCR vans on all peripheral roads.

The Central Government has decided to grant ex-gratia relief of Rs. 2 lakh in each case of death of an adult and Rs. 1 lakh in each case of death of a minor. The Government of NCT of Delhi has also decided to grant ex-gratia payment at the same rate to the next of kin of those who were killed. In addition, the Government of NCT of Delhi has also decided to give Rs. 1 lakh in case of permanent incapacitation; Rs. 50,000 in case of serious injury; Rs. 5,000 in case of minor injury; and compensation at the rate of 50% of the loss in respect of commercial property subject to the maximum of Rs. 50,000.

The Government of NCT of Delhi has also approved special rewards to the driver and the conductor of the DTC bus whose presence of mind and timely action saved many lives. These include cash reward of Rs. 2 lakh each to the driver and the conductor; regular job for the driver in DTC; and promotion to the conductor.

Yatra was completed peacefully with 3.88 lakh pilgrims having darshan of Holy Cave. The revival of tourism, along with the successful Amarnath Yatra has given a boost to the economy of the State. A yearning for peace and normalcy among the people is also discernible.

However, of late, terrorist outfits have been resorting to demonstrative action to make their presence felt by using car bombs, IEDs and suicide attacks and targeting political leaders/activists and security forces.

We are sorry to inform that Dr. Ghulam Nabi Lone, MoS (Education) was assassinated at his residence on October 18, 2005 in Srinagar in a terrorist attack. Terrorists also tried to storm the residence of Md. Yusuf Tarigami, MLA but were prevented by the timely action by the security personnel. The terrorist struck at a time when the entire Government machinery was engaged in providing succor to the victims of the earthquake.

Soon after the new Government took over in the State. Terrorists undertook some high profile incidents between November 14 to 16, 2005. On November 16, 2005, a car bomb blast took place near J&K Bank Headquarters, in Srinagar located near the TRC, killing 4 persons and injuring 50 including the MLA and former Minister. On November 15, 2005, a terrorist hurled a grenade while a former Minister was addressing a meeting at Tangmarg, District Baramulla. The former Minister suffered minor injuries. Six persons were killed and 71 persons were injured in the incident. On November 14, 2005 terrorists hurled a grenade and opened fire on the CRPF bunker at Lal Chowk, Srinagar. Three civilians and two CPRF jawans lost their lives and nine persons sustained injuries.

The escalation in terrorist violence in terms of high profile incidents may be viewed in the context of the political transition in the State. The State Government is determined to continue operations to contain and control terrorism in J&K.

The political changeover in the State has been usually accompanied by a spurt in violent incidents. A similar trend was seen when the previous Government has assumed office in November 2002. Terrorists had carried out 10 major incidents, including the suicide attack on Raghunath Temple, between November 2002 to January 2003. Another reason for the escalation in demonstrative violence is that the terrorist outfits wish to prove that despite the recent earthquake, their striking capabilities

12.33 hrs.

(v) Terrorist violence in Jammu and Kashmir

[English]

*THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): On behalf of Shri Shivraj V. Patil, I beg to lay on the Table a statement regarding the terrorist violence in Jammu and Kashmir.

The overall levels of violence in the State of Jammu and Kashmir have been perceptibly lower in 2005. The first ten months of 2005 have witnessed 22% fewer terrorist incidents as compared of the corresponding period of 2004. Till October 2005, 219 terrorists are estimated to have infiltrated, which is a decline of 55% over 2004.

There has been a significant increase in the tourist inflow to the Valley in 2005 as compared to 2004. Till October this year, 5,33,211 people have visited the Valley as against 3,03,109 people during last year. Amarnath

*Laid on the Table and also placed in Library. See No. LT 2870/2005.

and their resolve to terrorized stand undiminished. Though the number to infiltrators has gone down due to the border fencing and effective counter infiltration measures, the infiltration continues in a calibrated manner. Funding of terrorist organisations from the other side of the border also continues.

The Unified headquarters (UHQs), under the Chairmanship of Chief Minister, Jammu and Kashmir and the Government of India are continuously refining and monitoring the strategies for countering the nefarious designs of terrorist outfits. Security Forces have been asked to enhance their vigilance and coordinate efforts with intelligence agencies more effectively.

Government is committed in its resolve to bring normalcy to the State of Jammu and Kashmir and pursuing a holistic multi-pronged approach. The Government has initiated a political dialogue with various political parties, communities and regions about the all round development of Jammu & Kashmir. The Prime Minister held discussions with a five-member delegation of All Party Hurriyat Conference (APHC) led by Mirwaiz Umar Farooq on 5th September 2005. During the discussions, the Prime reaffirmed his faith in the peaceful resolution of all issues pertaining to J&K and reminded the delegation that violence had no role in a democracy. He reiterated his commitment to ensuring a life of peace, self-respect and dignity for the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

The Government is determined to take all necessary action to contain the nefarious activities of terrorist groups in Jammu and Kashmir.

12.34 hrs.

(vi) **Naxalite attack that took place in Jehanabad, Bihar on 13.11.2005**

[English]

*THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): On behalf of Shri Shivraj V. Patil, I beg to lay on the Table a statement regarding the naxalite attacks that took place in Jehanabad, Bihar on 13th November, 2005.

Sir, I rise to make a statement in connection with the naxal attacks in Jehanabad on 13.11.2005.

*Laid on the Table and also placed in Library. See No. LT 2871/2005.

As informed by the State Government, 300 to 400 naxalites on the 13th of this month at about 2100 hrs. simultaneously attacked the CRPF camp at SS college, Town Police Station, Police Lines and Sub Jail, Jehanabad. While the attacks by the naxalites on the SS College, town police station and the police lines were repulsed, the naxalites were able to break the sub-jail, Jehanabad. In the process, 389 prisoners escaped from the jail including some naxalites including a top naxalite leader and Ranvir Sena activists. The naxalites also looted 7 Home Guard rifles and some ammunition from the jail.

Altogether, two jail personnel, two Ranvir Sena activists and two naxalites and one civilian were killed or have died in these attacks.

The State Government has informed that there were intelligence inputs about the movement of naxalites in certain areas of Jehanabad which indicated apprehension of naxal attacks on the Nadaul railway station, Kako police station and police patrols.

The State Government has suspended the SP, Jehanabad after *prima facie* ascertaining his lapses in handling the situation. The State Government has constituted a two member Committee comprising Shri V. Jaishankar Commissioner & Secretary, Water Resources Department and Shri A.C. Verma, IG (Railways) to inquire into all aspects of these attacks including the role of the Government officials in countering these attacks. The report of the Committee is expected by the end of the month.

The State Government has launched 'Special Operations' under the supervision of an IG level officer. One DIG, 2 SSP and 6 Dy. SP rank officers have been deployed to lead the security forces for extensive raids with a view to apprehending the naxalites and re-arresting the escaped prisoners. Adequate security and police personnel have been made available for undertaking these special operations. All districts and police stations have been alerted to make all out efforts to intercept and engage the retreating naxal extremists and prevent any backlash following the Jehannabad incident 222 escaped prisoners have returned so far. 20 naxalites have been arrested from Jehanabad and other districts where operations are being carried out.

The Central Government is in touch with the State Government and is constantly monitoring the situation. 4 Coys of CRPF and 2 Coys of RAF were deployed in

[Shri Shriprakash Jaiswal]

Jehanabad immediately after the attacks. In addition, 5 Coys of BSF have been kept ready for any emergent requirements. 2 teams of NSG have been stationed at Patna and Gaya for need based operations. Besides, 2 MI-17 helicopters have been placed at the disposal of the Government of Bihar.

Special Secretary (Internal Security) in the Ministry along with IG (Ops), CRPF and IG (Admn.), NSG were deputed to Patna for one week to guide and assist the State Government officers in counter operations against the naxal militants.

In the wake of the Jehanabad incident, the Central Government has also advised all the naxal affected states to review and strengthen the security arrangements for safeguarding the armouries and jails so as to rule out recurrence of Jehanabad type incidents.

Till the end of October this year, while the level of naxal violence remains almost at the same level, a few major incidents of naxal violence have taken place in the State of Bihar, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh and Andhra Pradesh.

The Central Government has been providing to the naxal affected States need based deployment of Central Para Military Forces, Mine protected Vehicles and Air support wherever required for effective anti-naxalite operations. Besides, India Reserve battalions have also been sanctioned to these states. The Government have recently approved additional India Reserve battalions for the naxal affected states with a higher funding from the Central Government.

The Government has set up mechanisms to bring about greater coordination among the naxal affected states. The Union Home Secretary convenes the meetings of the Coordination Centre regularly once in every three months to review and coordinate the measures being taken by the State to counter the problem. Similarly, Special Secretary (Internal Security), MHA, holds monthly meetings of the Task Force on Naxalism to streamline anti-naxalite operations being undertaken by the States including joint operations between them.

Besides, the first meeting of the Standing Committee of the Chief Ministers of the naxal affected states was held on 19th September, 2005. At this meeting, it was agreed that (i) the states will adopt a collective approach and pursue a coordinated response to effectively combat the menace of naxalism; (ii) suitable mechanisms for joint operations will be finalized quickly; (iii) the states will

strengthen and upgrade the state police forces and also intelligence work; and (iv) the states will set up special and stable administrative structures at the state and district levels for better governance and faster socio-economic development of the naxal affected areas and also ensure full and proper utilization of funds given to them under the various schemes of the Central Government.

The Government is alive to the menace of naxalism and will deal sternly with the naxalites indulging in senseless acts of violence. The Government remains committed to combating this problem through a multi-pronged approach on political, security and development fronts. The Government is also willing to further supplement the efforts of the State Governments in undertaking more focused, sustained and intensified anti-naxalite operations against the naxalites and their infrastructure.

12.34¹/₄ hrs.

(vii) **Naxalite attack that took place at the Home Guard Training Centre, Girdih, Jharkhand on 11.11.2005**

[English]

*THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): On behalf of Shri Shivraj V. Patil, I beg to lay on the Table a statement regarding the naxalite attack that took place at the Home Guard Training Centre, Girdih, Jharkhand on 11.11.2005.

As informed by the State Government on the 11th of this month at about 1720 hrs. nearly 150 naxalites attacked the district Home Guard Training Centre in Girdih town. The attack was so sudden, swift and camouflaged that the sentry could not react and was overpowered. The naxalites killed three Home Guards and one outsider on the spot and looted 183 guns (31-4DP rifles, 91-4. Mark rifles, 10-.22 rifles, 51-.303 rifles), 2 revolvers and about 2500 rounds of ammunition. Prior to the attack at the district Home Guard Training Centre, the naxalites had blocked the other important roads in the town leading to the Training Centre by planting landmines/keeping mines/IEDs in tractor on the road side. Simultaneously, the naxalities blasted a tractor on the Girdih—Jamua road, about 300 yards from the Home Guard Training Centre. The naxalites after looting the weapons, fired randomly at the nearby ongoing Goshala Mela which led

*Laid on the Table and also placed in Library. See No. LT 2872/2005.

to a stampede in the Mela and death of one civilian. They also ambushed a police party on the Giridih-Dumri bypass road killing one Jharkhand Armed Police Constable. The naxalites after the attack fled toward Parasnath, Jhoomra Hills and Ganwa Jungles situated on the border of Jamui district in Bihar.

Altogether, 8 persons (4 Home Guards, 2 JAP and 2 civilians) were killed and 9 other (6 Home Guards and 3 civilians) were injured during these attacks.

The State Government has reported that they had input on naxals attacking the Police Pickets/Police Stations/Police Establishments in Giridih district and the district Police were informed about it. However, the Home Guard Training Centre located in the heart of the town was not considered to be the target.

The State Government has launched massive cordon-search and combing operations under the leadership of Zonal IG, Bokaro and Zonal IG, Ranchi in Giridih and other adjoining districts of Koderma, Hazaribagh and Dhanbad. As per the latest reports, in the post-event operations, 3 naxalites have been neutralized in an encounter and 7 other apprehended in Hazaribagh and other districts. The vehicles used by the naxalites along with the drivers have been taken into custody. Interrogation of apprehended naxalites and the suspected villagers is in progress.

The State Government has put all district officials on high alert and they have been asked to review and strengthen the security arrangements of the arms and ammunition establishments and also the jails.

The Central Government is in constant touch with the State Government and is monitoring the situation on a regular basis. 6 battalions of CRPF are deployed on anti-naxalite duty in Jharkhand. The State Government has been advised to launch a massive manhunt so as to nab the naxalites and recover the weapons and ammunition looted by the naxalites from the Home Guard Training Centre.

12.35 hrs.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI):
Sir, with your permission I rise to announce that

Government Business during the week commencing Monday, the 28th of November, 2005 will consist of:

1. Consideration of any item of Government Business carried over from today's Order Paper.
2. Consideration and passing of the following Bills:
 - (i) The State Emblem of India (Prohibition of Improper Use) Bill, 2004.
 - (ii) The Prevention of Insults to National Honour (Amendment) Bill, 2005.
3. Discussion on the Statutory Resolution seeking disapproval of the Taxation Laws (Amendment) Ordinance, 2005 and consideration and passing of the Taxation Laws (Second Amendment) Bill, 2005.
4. Discussion on the Statutory Resolution seeking disapproval of the Manipur University (Ordinance), 2005 and consideration and passing of the Manipur University (No. 2) Bill, 2005, after it has been passed by Raja Sabha.
5. Consideration and passing of the Disaster Management Bill, 2005, after it has been passed by Raja Sabha.

MR. SPEAKER: Submissions to the Business of the House may be taken as laid on the Table of the House.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: They will be fully taken note of. I will send them to the concerned Minister.

Please see that all these are sent to the Minister.

[*Translation*]

*DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA (Ujjain): The following matters of urgent public importance may also be included in the ensuing week's agenda:

1. Inter-linking of rivers must be taken up as a time-bound programme in the country. The work must commence at the earliest and the two projects sanctioned for Madhya Pradesh must form part of it. There is a need to take effective measures to conserve water in Malwa region as part of Narmada Kshipra Water Conservation Scheme.

*Translation of the speech originally laid on the Table in Sanskrit.

[Dr. Satyanarain Jatiya]

2. Proposals pertaining to Madhya Pradesh regarding Road Construction Projects under Central Road Construction Funds must be cleared first. This is very essential to ease traffic congestion in several towns of Madhya Pradesh especially Ujjain.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): *Sir, kindly include the following items in the agenda for the present week:

1. the need to immediately extend the route of the new intercity train being run on the broad gauge line from Gwalior via Agra Fort to Jaipur upto the famous historic city Ajmer which is also an important place of pilgrimage.
2. the need to include Ajmer district under the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme expeditiously in view of the fact that it has been facing famine and drought continuously for the past many years and taking into account the number of BPL (below poverty line) and poor population along with the large number of marginal farmers in the districts.

SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL (Tonk): *Sir, the following items may be included in the agenda for the present week:

1. discussion on the reports of the National Commission on Scheduled Tribes presented to the Government regarding the increasing incidents of atrocities and discrimination against scheduled castes as a result of caste-based biases and prejudices and of collective, organised attacks that are being carried out against them.
2. the need for making provision of a special economic package for Rajasthan in view of the fact that the geographical profile of this large state contains a huge desert, hilly jungles, drought-prone areas and under developed regions which makes the construction of basic infrastructure needed for allround development and progress of the State a very expensive proposition.

12.36 hrs.

MOTION RE: EIGHTEENTH REPORT OF THE BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

[English]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): Sir, I beg to move the following:

"That this House do agree with the Eighteenth Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 25th November, 2005."

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That this House do agree with the Eighteenth Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 25th November, 2005."

The motion was adopted.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhanjharpur): Sir, I had given notice for Breach of Privilege. ...*(Interruptions)* Sir, I had given notice for Breach of Privilege, I would like your ruling on it.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Your notice is under my consideration.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P. MOHAN (Madurai): Sir, I have given a notice for the Calling Attention.

MR. SPEAKER: Calling Attention cannot be granted like this, Mr. Mohan. You should have known it by this time.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Do you know what is a Calling Attention?

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Then, I have to hold the orientation classes, it seems.

...(Interruptions)

12.37 hrs.

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT

Alleged involvement of some Indian entities and individuals as non-contractual beneficiaries of the UN Oil-for-Food Programme in Iraq—Contd.

MR. SPEAKER: Now, the hon. Leader of the Opposition.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI (Gandhinagar): I beg to move:

"That the House do now adjourn."

Sir, today is the 28th of November, 2005. Almost exactly one month back, on the 27th of October, 2005, the fifth and final Report of the Volcker Committee was released by the Chairman, Mr. Paul Volcker in New York. It is after one month that this House is discussing the Report.

The nature of the Volcker Committee and the task assigned to it were ordinarily such that this may not have become a major discussion in this House. It was more concerned with the United Nations itself, as to how a programme of the United Nations seeking to give some relief to the people of Iraq, who were under great distress because of the sanctions imposed on them, became converted into something totally different, and what was the UN Secretariat doing all the while? On that very day the concluding observations of the Chairman were:

"The results of the Committee's investigations into the corrupt and illicit activity by many buyers of oil and sellers of humanitarian goods reinforces the Committee's central conclusion of failures in UN oversight and management. The need for stronger executive leadership through administrative report and more reliable controls and audit within the UN is underscored."

I am referring to this particular remark of the Chairman only to emphasise that we were not the subject

matter of discussion; India was not, as such. The subject matter of discussion and inquiry by this Independent Inquiry Committee (IIC) headed by Volcker was: why has a programme, which was sought to benefit the people of Iraq who were under great strain, has become converted into a massive programme of corruption and illicit helping of Iraq Government and all that?

The first four Reports mainly related to the UN and the UN Secretariat, what the UN had been doing for that while. Now, it is the fifth Report. What they did was, whatever paper they had discovered, surprisingly, the Iraq Government was very meticulous in keeping all the records of these transactions. About the officials, in fact, when I happened to meet Mr. Shashi of the UN, he told me that 'while the Head of the Government may have distributed at will and signed anything, the records maintained were very meticulous.'

It so happened that that oil Ministry's building was not destroyed, not bombed, and so all the papers are available. It is, therefore, when the fifth volume was published with all these reports, the country was naturally surprised how so many Indian companies had been mentioned there. More than 125, around 130, companies were mentioned. This was a matter of surprise for us that they had been profiting from this kind of an operation. This was a big scam. They made a lot of money.

We were certainly shocked and I am sure the Congress Party would have been even more shocked when it found the names mentioned, among the non-contractual beneficiaries, of the country's Foreign Minister, Shri Natwar Singh and the Congress Party itself. ...(*Interruptions*) Therefore, it was not surprising when sometime later the Congress President said, "I am angry, upset as to how this has happened". I welcomed her statement that very day. It was on the 15th of November when she went to address the Hindustan Times Conclave, she made these observations in the morning. In the evening, I was also invited to the same Conclave. I welcomed the statement made by the Congress President. But I did feel surprise and that surprise I would express even today. Why it had taken nearly three weeks for her to express this kind of indignation? It could have been done immediately after the appearance of the Volcker Committee Report. If it had happened then, none of the irresponsible statements made by either the Foreign Minister or by the Congress Party Spokesman would ever have been there. No one would have said that.

[Shri L.K. Advani]

What was the initial response of Shri Natwar Singh? I really felt surprised. He gave his initial response from Frankfurt. Later on when he came here, he went to the extent of saying that this Report is all. ... "untruth. When we went to meet the President, Shri George Fernandes and other colleagues were also there. We pointed out to him, is this the way. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Do not bring the President into the debate.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: Let me quote the hon. Minister. At one point he said, "I am a diplomat and being a diplomat I am under great restraint. I am not allowed to go beyond expressing myself in controlled indignation". He said that the only emotion a diplomat is allowed is controlled indignation.

But what he actually said, which was widely reported by the PTI News Agency, was "This Report is ... untrue". These were the words he used. Then he went on to say that this is a conspiracy to malign the Congress Party and some of its functionaries. How would the Volcker Committee be interested in maligning the Congress Party and some of its functionaries? Something identical, without using the word functionaries, was repeated by the Congress Party General Secretary. She said that it is an attempt to malign the Congress Party. When the Pressmen asked her as to what about Shri Natwar Singh she said, "I cannot say about him. I am talking about the Congress Party". These have been discussed widely and, therefore, I am referring to them.

But I would say that this is the background of the whole Volcker Committee Report and it should be accepted as such. All the three men on the Volcker Committee are eminent persons. Mr. Volcker himself has been an eminent leader in his own field. He has been the Chairman of the Federal Reserve in America.

The other member is a professor in crime and criminology and he has been supposed to be an expert in the field of money laundering. The third person has been a judge in Switzerland. So all of them are eminent persons and they had nothing against India. They had

nothing against any particular individual or a party. Therefore to be telling the whole world so much so that on the first day when the Congress Party met to consider this, they even went to the extent of hinting at a legal action. Mr. Chidambaram has subsequently denied that. He said that they did not talk of libel or defamation. May be, they did not talk of libel or defamation but there was a mention of legal action and that the legal notice will be served. So much so that Mr. Volcker himself had to take cognizance of it and say that he would welcome such a notice, and that let them send a notice. Then obviously, people like our friend Shri Kapil Sibal must have told them how can they do this. It is not possible. Then they must have realised and therefore, the whole threat was withdrawn. But the initial reactions were of threat saying that they will do that and they will do this. The Foreign Minister meets the Prime Minister and the Congress President and comes out again and again by saying that they had given him clean chit. He said that he has explained the whole thing to them and they have given him clean chit. These are reactions which did not really enhance the reputation of this country. The immediate reaction should have been that if these names have come here, they will inquire it and they will go into it thoroughly. The kind of a situation that has come now would not have come. The initial reactions were to call the whole report bunkum even malicious, even motivated and now the situation is that we have set up an inquiry.

They first appointed Mr. Virendra Dayal to find the facts from the UN and the Volcker Committee. Subsequently, the pressure went on increasing. I must say that my Party and other parties belonging to the NDA did build up this pressure. But even greater pressure was built up by the media itself. There was almost a universal demand that Mr. Natwar Singh has to resign in this situation. In diplomatic circles, it was generally being said that how can a person who has been named in this kind of a report continue to be the Foreign Minister. Obviously, this much was conceded that he cannot continue to be the Foreign Minister. Even though he himself kept on saying that he shall be the Foreign Minister. He told a television correspondent: "I shall be the Foreign Minister, you will see." She asked him if after sometime she comes to see you in this very library of yours will you still hope to be the Foreign Minister. He said: 'Of course, why not? He will be the Foreign Minister. Why should he quit? Why should he resign? These kinds

of statements did not enhance the reputation and prestige either of the Government or even of the country. The country should have accepted the Volcker Committee's report with grace. They did not say that these are their findings. They said that whatever papers they have got from the Ministry of Oil, Government of Iraq, they are publishing them. Why should we blame the Volcker Committee? Iraq was not our enemy.

So far as the action of America or of the UN against Iraq is concerned, I do not think there is much of a difference in the country irrespective of which Government is there in office. Our Government was there and we did not approve of it. Now your Government is there. But to say that because we have taken certain stands against the United States which had been reflected in the United Nations, therefore, this is being done. These statements and such remarks did not add to our reputation.

SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID (Periyakulam): The NDA Government was in power at the Centre for six years and Shri Ram Naik was the then Minister of Petroleum. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: I am aware of it. Therefore, immediately I enquired from the then Oil Minister as to what had happened at that time. I felt satisfied when my attention was drawn even to the Volcker Committee Report and even to the tables that said that the amount attributed to the Indian Oil Corporation had not been lifted and there was no pay back of any kind. When these things came, my former Oil Minister told me, and I felt happy. When these things came, my former Oil Minister told me, and I felt happy. I enquired from him immediately as to what had happened.

The hon. Prime Minister as well as the hon. Law Minister is not present here. But I do not understand as to why Mr. Justice R.S. Pathak has not been given all the powers which can be given to him under the Commission of Enquiry Act. He has been constituted into an Authority under Section 11 of the Act. Our Member here would be able to enlighten me more. But what I understand is that even though under that particular provision also, all the full powers in the Act, which are invested in a Commission, can be granted to him yet it depends upon the Executive when he is constituted as a Commission he derives his powers from a parliamentary statute. It is not the Executive that grants him the powers. As it is, for example, today an Authority cannot hold

public hearings, whereas a Commission always holds public hearings. Also, I believe, while a Commission can issue a notice to a person under Section 8B, this Authority cannot issue a notice under Section 8B unless the Government grants him that power and the Government that can grant him powers can always withdraw it. If today it grants him power saying: "All right, you hold your enquiries in public on a particular matter and when a person comes to give testimony, the Government can say that we withdraw". I would like to understand from the Government, why Mr. Justice R.S. Pathak's has authority been so circumscribed? Why not make him a full-fledged Commission under the Commission of Enquiry Act? To the best of my recollection all the Enquiry Commissions appointed earlier have always been Commissions. I do not remember any case where this particular Section 11 has been invoked to convert a Commission into an Authority, that too in case of a person who had been the former Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of India and impose constraints on him that way. A rationale is needed. I do not know what is the rationale. I feel, therefore, it is that there are misgivings and suspicions that here is a Government which in the beginning said it is bunkum and there is no truth in these allegations and then the Congress Party President went to the length of conceding that may be someone has misused the name of Congress for his personal benefit. This is a very serious matter. If that is true, then there should be even more keenness on the part of the Government to see that the enquiry is not in any way constrained and Justice Pathak is able to identify as to who has tried to make money by misusing the name of the Congress Party. After all, the Congress Party being named in this Volcker Committee Report is not good for the country. It may be of advantage to the Opposition to make an issue out of it. But, in fact, I am surprised as to why the Communist Party—is anyone here from the Communist Party—is silent? ...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

At least the Congress Party and the government became respective. When criticised

[*English*]

they stripped Shri Natwar Singh of his Foreign Ministry portfolio and then appointed Shri R.S. Pathak.

[*Translation*]

I do not recall the Communist Party demanding a probe at any stage.

...(*Interruptions*)

[Shri L.K. Advani]

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Sir, our Party is the first Party who demanded probe. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Member, please address the Chair. You do not have to reply to him at this point of time.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, he is misleading the House.

MR. SPEAKER: I believe somebody will speak on behalf of your Party.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: All right. Shri Salim, you will have the right to reply when you participate in the debate.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: Let me know if the silence has anything to do with the fact. When I went through Table- III relating to the non-contractual beneficiaries of this particular scam, I found names of more than half a dozen countries ruled by Communist Parties in various parts of the world. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

If you wish I will read out the names of those countries whose communist parties, separately in each case, have been the beneficiaries. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria): If our country is not part of it then leave it. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: All I want to say is that at least they should demand it. It should be found out who has taken the money. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Alright, it is done.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: We were the first ones to make the demand. ...*(Interruptions)*

MOHD. SALIM (Calcutta-North East): We had demanded a probe even before we looked at the list of those countries. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I would not allow that, Shri Advani.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Please do not bring the names of other countries here. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: I am not mentioning their names. I am just asking our own Community Party. I am not mentioning about others.

...*(Interruptions)*

MOHD. SALIM: This is part of the game. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

To their regret name of no Indian Communist featured in the list. ...*(Interruptions)* I am only reminding Advaniji. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: A little interruption is alright. Interruptions have already taken place once so please do not do it again.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: Sir, of course, the Leader of the House referred to the case of Mr. Kutty who has been brutally assassinated. But, in this House, we have discussed the issue of cross border terrorism many times. In all those discussions, we were concerned about violence and the killings and we were always even more concerned about financing of terrorism and how this is being financed by other countries. In fact, the comprehensive resolution against terrorism given in the UN by India deals mainly with financing of terrorism. Let me say that foreign finance being used to promote terrorism and violence in India is bad. Foreign finance being used in any manner to make people here in India trade the country's sovereignty or trade the decision-making autonomy of the people or of the political parties is a very sad thing. It is a very sad thing.

Corruption, no doubt, is an evil but what Volcker has exposed is corruption plus lack of integrity. It betrays willingness on the part of the political leadership to trade the country's sovereignty and its decision-making independence. It is a matter of sadness and shame. Therefore, I was not able to understand why the Congress Party and the Government are not willing to discuss the revelations made by the Mitrokhin Archives though not in the form of a book. I can understand that we cannot discuss the book. But the revelations made in that are very serious and those should be considered.

Before I conclude, I would plead with you that that is a matter on which I have enquired from the British High Commission here and I am told that various questions in that regard have been permitted in the House of Commons and replied to.

13.00 hrs.

I see no reason why we should not have a discussion on that. But that is a matter which you have to consider. I do not agree with the approach of the Congress Party that this matter of Mitrokhin Archives will not be discussed. I would plead with you and discuss with you that matter separately. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MOHD. SALIM: And he* visit? ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI LAL KRISHNA ADVANI: Why only him? Many people must have perished. There is no problem in that. Yes, if his name had featured there I would have said so at once. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Leave it now.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: I will not allow any name of a person who is not a Member of the House to be taken.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: So far as I am concerned, if his name had been there, I would have been the first to ask for an inquiry. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: You can deny any member of your Party is involved.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: I would again plead that the matter is not confined to merely Volcker Committee Report. It is a matter relating to the vulnerability of Indian politics, vulnerability of Indian politicians, vulnerability of Indian political parties to the lure of big money. The lure of big money in this case certainly affects us. Mr. Chidambaram is nodding. I remember that when he was the Minister of State for Home, in the Consultative Committee of the Home Affairs I had raised the issue of foreign funding. In our country we have a law. I do not know whether similar laws exist in other countries. According to that law, if a person accepts an invitation from a foreign country and goes there and enjoys its hospitality without permission from the Government, when he comes back he is taken to task saying that he did it without the permission of the Government. Even a cup of tea cannot be accepted. There are strict laws insofar as foreign funding is concerned for the common man. The Reports that have surfaced in the past few months show that these do not apply to political parties and politicians who can amass huge and enormous wealth. Therefore, while a discussion is needed, I would appeal to you, to the President of the Congress Party and to the Home Minister that an Experts Committee should be constituted to examine how the influence of foreign money could be really and effectively contained in the Indian domestic politics. If a law is needed for that, let us have it. But not a law like the one that we have till now, that is the Foreign Contributions (Regulation) Act, which applies only to small people or an MP who does not know about it or a journalist who does not know about it and is taken to task for that. This is my final point. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. He has concluded.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MOHD. SALIM: Why did you not make any improvements regarding foreign funding when you were Home Minister? Why did you not make any enquiries then? Why did you back off? ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That the House do adjourn now."

*Not recorded.

[Mr. Speaker]

This is an important matter. I have allowed an Adjournment Motion. We can have a very good discussion. Already there is a good opening.

Hon. Members, do you want lunch hour or not? Do you want recess?

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

MR. SPEAKER: There will be lunch hour. We will meet at 2 o'clock. The voting will be at around 6 o'clock.

13.04 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till Fourteen of the Clock.

14.05 hrs.

The Lok Sabha reassembled after Lunch at Five minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

(Mr. Speaker in the Chair)

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): Mr. Speaker, Sir, today hon. Leader of the Opposition Shri L.K. Advani has brought in an adjournment motion in the House and you allowed a debate on this. I had the opportunity to hear his statement in this regard. The discussion on adjournment motion begins with this statement—

[English]

"The Central Government's failure to take proper action against the Indian entities and individuals allegedly involved as non-contractual beneficiaries of the United Nations' Oil-for-Food Programme in Iraq, as reported in the Report of the United Nations' Independent Inquiry Committee (Volcker Committee) and its efforts to cover up these serious crimes."

[Translation]

Advaniji emphasised on the point that the Government had enough time to take action since the day the report

came. Advaniji has been the Deputy Prime Minister of this country and he has also worked as a Minister of Home Affairs. He knows that question of taking action arises only when the Government is in possession of certain papers or it is provided certain facts. I would like to clarify the stand of Government in this regard. The Committee constituted by the Security Council of UNO under the Chairmanship of Paul Volcker submitted its fifth and final substantial report on the 27th. Though the World was getting its page by page report. The journalists and political leaders of world were getting information in this regard. The report was made public on the 28th and 29th which comprised of two volumes. Show me a single instance in any of the volumes of the report where the name of any big business house or famous personality has been referred to. If at all some big names might have figured in the report it is unlikely that any notices were served on them or their replies incorporated therein.

I have tried to go through each page of both the volumes of the report. I found that the countries and companies which had been referred to in the context of contractual agreement or non-contractual agreement were served notice and their replies were included in this report. But it is regrettable that they published a list on the basis of unverified documents, unverified transactions, it has been continuing for centuries. After the publication of this list, several magazines taking clue from 'Alamada' news magazine, mentioned the name of India at two places. They do not contain the name of Indian National Congress or All India Congress, perhaps they might not have been knowing the name of our party, but contain the name of India Congress Party and mentioned the name of one person in the report regarding whom Poul Volcker himself termed as unverified. Advaniji did the right thing, he has very skillfully and aptly moved this motion. He did not say that he had the proof but he only asked that an inquiry should be conducted.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I have put that word.

[Translation]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Your view is good.

MR. SPEAKER: But it is done as per the convention.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: I would like to tell you about unverified clients, unverified issue. Advaniji

himself is an example of being the victim of this in this House. There was a time when the magazines and the media of this country tried to bring into focus that such and such persons took money from Jain and their name figured in Jain Diary.

SHRI HARIN PATHAK (Ahmedabad): How he responded to it.

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not interrupt.

[[English]

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: He immediately resigned.
...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: I am coming to that. You need not advise me. I know that.
...*(Interruptions)* I know it. First, I would request you to listen to me. ...*(Interruptions)* Sir, if they interrupt me like this in the very beginning itself, I seek your protection.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Harinji, you know, he is not yielding.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: I would request him to listen to me. I told you about the people who became victims of unverified documents all over the world. Advaniji rightly said that the Court should inquire into it. Unless the enquiry is completed I shall not enter the House. I was coming to this point. If anyone's name figures in the Jain Diary he is not proved guilty. But the court acquitted him. Now I am coming to the main issue.

Today's discussion is confined to only about the Government view about the names associated with transactions figuring in the transaction list placed in the table I to V of Volcker Report. If at all there was any transaction the Government of India was not involved in that. When the detailed list of Volcker Committee in table I to V has been public, and the half of that list has been rejected by the people, then what should the Government of a country do? The news regarding this remained in prominence in all the newspapers in the country on 29th and 30th. Within a week our Government appointed Hon'ble Deyalji on the 6th to collect all the facts himself in this regard. Our Government and Hon'ble Prime Minister announced within 24 hours to trace out the origin and the fact of the matter and said that he was setting up an enquiry authority under Hon'ble R.S. Pathak to see into

in. Did the Government not take action immediately? Along with this, the Minister of External Affairs has to talk to United Nations, to the foreign ministers and also to observe protocol. Government's action, in stand, was executed within eight days. No country of the world has even done so. I would name no country. I do not want that our relations with any country should get affected. Our Government not only set up an enquiry committee within such a short span of time in a sovereign and democratic country like ours but also sent a person to make available and collect relevant and primary documents to be provided to the committee and directed the Director of Enforcement to see whether, FEMA has been violated in the said transaction. Is it not an action? I will give you a comparative list later. When the matter came up for discussion under Rule 184 and adjournment motion, we could have opposed the discussion before it was held on the ground that it could not be discussed under Rule 184 and that why we should hold discussion on R.S. Dayal and so on. But, on the very first day we made it clear on behalf of the Government that we were ready to hold discussion under any rule which ever was applicable. We were ready to have discussion two days before but NDA took two more days in celebrating its victory. The stand of the Government was clear from the very first day. There are people who hold different vies about the war and the world. Even before Late Pandit Nehru became Prime Minister of India Congress Party had decided to extend its support to all those countries of the world who were engaged in revolution to achieve the goal of freedom and strove to form their own Governments in their respective countries, we supported them all whether it was Spanish civil war or the freedom struggle of African countries. The Government of India ...*(Interruptions)* Please do not prevent me from speaking, I am not uttering anything against you.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: This is not to be recorded.

...*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): After becoming the Prime Minister of the country not only the Congress party but also the Communist Movement of India, raised their voice unitedly both inside and outside the House against the devastation in various states and

*Not recorded.

[Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi]
 the dictatorship in different countries of the world. From Suez Canal crisis of Gamal Abdul Nassir to the release of Nelson Mandela, the Government of our country along with Congress party and some other parties expressed their support and sympathy towards them in this House. I am proud that our party and some other parties raised their voices in the world against sanctions imposed on Iraq. Two lakh children died in 1994. Not one or two but 36 thousands people died for want of medicine in Basara in 1995. Where had they come from? They had come from Babylone; some of them fixed came from the banks of Eufudis. We as well as the countries of the world raised voice in the United Nations. Mr. Speaker, Sir, you know that we were in opposition at that time. The day Iraq was attacked, we stood and requested that the House should condemn to prevent attack. I say it with all responsibility that the Government did not think it proper to say something itself at that time. A censure motion on the issue was passed by the Hon'ble Speaker under our pressure, which was in Hindi. Had it been in English, the occupation force would have known it immediately. ...*(Interruptions)* It is in record. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hindi is our national language, most treasured language. Nobody can insult Hindi.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: He is saying that it took time for him to understand Hindi ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: He is speaking in Hindi.

[Translation]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we shall reply the 45 questions at the time when the Government replies. ...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): You about Hindi ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: The statement given by him in Hindi was correct.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: I welcomed Mr. Speaker, Sir for giving statement in Hindi. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

'Strong condemnation' was translated into 'ghore ninda' ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I will see that. If anything is said against anybody, I will remove that.

[Translation]

SHRI LAL MUNI CHOUBEY (Buxer): Rashtrabhasha is being insulted in the House. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please carry on.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI LAL MUNI CHOUBEY: You are speaking in Hindi, I am listening to you ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You leave it to me. If there is any such allegation I will remove it.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: The leader of opposition has the right to criticize the Government and if the Government commits some mistake he should bring it before the House. ...*(Interruptions)* Advaniji fulfilled such responsibility on Volcker Report issue. I want to put forward two things before you.

The first thing is that our party is being defamed. I congratulate Advaniji for his grief on involvement of the name of Congress in it. I congratulate you for your sympathy and grief.

But I want to say that the Congress Party is competent enough about its own policy and common action. Our leader has made it clear on the very first day itself that an inquiry will be conducted for bringing out truth and action will be taken against the person responsible if some truth will be revealed in the inquiry.
 ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing else will be recorded.

...(*Interruptions*)*

[*Translation*]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: You should compare. I do not want to make noise. One of the incidents related to the Volcker incident. In this regard the Indian Government has no responsibility. Volcker has held Iraq regime responsible. Neither Atal ji, nor Advani ji nor Manmohan Singh ji was responsible for it. What action did we take in one more incident for which the Indian Government itself was responsible and had direct involvement in that? Just compare both of them. It is Volcker's Inquiry Report which is Security Council's appointed Committee. We are discussing a report which has not been discussed by the Security Council and General Assembly till date which is a very good thing as it is the highest assembly of the country. No country in the world has discussed it but we have discussed it which is a very good thing. The Government's focus is not on Baghdad or New York currently. It happened in Delhi in front of my eyes at the stone's throw distance from the House and the South Block when the journalists had brought into open; the Tehelka episode on 13th March to show their journalism skills. Members got tired of asking for debate on the people caught red-handed on the camera and many Members got cardiac problems shouting many a times but they did not agree to have debate on Adjournment Motion and even on discussion on under Rule 193 not to talk of discussion under Rule 184. There is a difference between the two. We have accepted Adjournment motion and discussion under Rule 184 due to which you have risen up for debate. We constituted Inquiry Committee before reaching the House and allowed discussion thereon. You raided the houses of the journalists by taking action under the Tehelka and arrested

them and throw out the company which had sponsored it. There is a difference between the two. ...(*Interruptions*) you can say anything. When is the cause of action? Debate takes place when it is there. Cause of action happened the day inquiry into Tehelka was ordered cause of action happened the day when a man in the inform was sent for court of martial. But, today even an FIR has not been registered against man without uniform. Demand for debate on cause of action was made but you did not allow it. You leave all these things. You have not policy but our policy is clear. We want a frank debate and have come forward for it by accepting this discussion.

The whole world is aware of the sanctions in Iraq. The Volcker report also accepted it. I can read out the para. They had got the permission to sell the oil below the international prices through escrow account and the price of the oil under humanitarian groups was higher than the international prices. Iraq's decision should be made by Iraq. We were neither the advisor nor the finance minister of the Saddam Hussain. They decided it and supplied it. It has been said in the report that the funds are used for meeting the humanitarian needs. A little bit expenditure is also incurred on the committee whose work is to search the weapons of mass destruction.

Thirdly, Advani ji, you were the Home Minister and Deputy Prime Minister of the country. You know everything about the country. You tell us that Saddam Hussain was in power when weapons of Mass Destruction Committee was appointed and we used to maintain the relations, whether it is maintained by Atal ji or anyone else or Manmohan Singh ji. We used to maintain it. When was the inquiry constituted for Oil for Food Programme? It was constituted in April 2004 when the Saddam and his cabinet were under arrest, some minister had died, someone was under House arrest, trial of someone was going on

[*English*]

weapons for mass destruction is carrying 28 per cent of the money of the transactions of the escrow accounts.

At that time, nobody raised an issue, which is right and which is wrong

[*Translation*]

when omitted nations noted that member of United Nations is involved.

*Not recorded.

[Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi]

[English]

We are proud of being a member of the United Nations. We do not like to question the authority of the United Nations. We respect the United Nations.

The member of the Security Council of the United Nations thought about the Oil for Food Programme. A committee was formed in 2004 to see whether there was some scam in it or not, whether the office bearers of the United Nations made mistakes or not. With whom the Committee will talk now? Just imagine that there is a complaint against me and then who will give statement from my side if my mother is in jail, my father is also in jail or my brother has been killed? It will be given either by my neighbour or by the police.

[English]

The Government operated the whole programme. I am not going to comment whether it is right or wrong. It is up to the United Nations to comment. I will not make any comment whether they are right or wrong.

[Translation]

I am ready to say this and I am also ready for a political discussion. When the session started in April 2004, it was said that the records were burnt and no data were available in this regard. Some records were with the Oil Ministry and some records were with some other ministry and some records burnt out who were supplying records? Of course, ministers were supplying them and who the ministers were, I do not want to make any comment on that. I do not want to make any comment against the persons who were the ministers in 2004 or in 2003 during the Saddam's regime or about their logic. The remaining colleagues of mine would discuss on that. Thus, overall a substantial report is ready.

[English]

I just like to read one paragraph, Mr. Speaker, Sir, from Part I of the Report.

[Translation]

The awakened politicians and parties know about it. Now just see the beginning of the report.

[English]

Sir, I repeat that I am not going to question the Report, oppose the Report or criticize the Report. I am

talking about the content, the language. I am quoting page 1623. It says:

"The Report illustrates the manner in which Iraq manipulated the programme to dispense contracts on the basis of political preference and to derive illicit payments from companies that obtained oil on humanitarian grounds."

Illicit payments have been defined in three parts. ...*(Interruptions)* I am coming to that. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: He is reading it.

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, illicit payments have been defined in three parts, part I defined by Saddam regime.

[Translation]

I was receiving the money. I levied the surcharge. The rates of surcharge were seven percent, ten percent or fifteen percent. They were in full control of the things. They did it as their will, whether that was right or wrong. That was the law of that country at that point of time. It is our in perpetration that the surcharge which has been paid is illicit payments. That means that there was no surcharge on the contact with the United Nations through the account. But the payment which was received or given against the surcharge was wrong. They would charge because every country has its own enforcement. The Volcker Committee was made some references in its investigation that it was wrong to receive payment. The countries which have figured in its references would give reply to them. The Government which is there in the country presently. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I request him to yield for a minute. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I have no objection if he yields.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: All right.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, he has made some of the observations about the Volcker Committee. I wish that every Minister at least must take note of the

fact that this Committee was appointed by the Secretary General but ratified by the United Nations General Assembly, of which we are also a member. So, this is our Committee in a way. He cannot cast any doubts. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: He said that he is not casting any doubts.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: I said so. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: After all, Saddam was no longer there. It is true ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, I am thankful to the hon. Leader of the Opposition. I did not criticize. I said that we respect the United Nations and we are a proud member and also about the Committee's outcome.

I am coming to the main important point. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: What are you doing. Is it right?

[*English*]

He has not yielded. It is not to be recorded. Nothing will go on record unless he yields.

...(*Interruptions*)*

MR. SPEAKER: You see, your leader asked whether he yields or not, and then he spoke.

[*Translation*]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: If any trader acts wrongly just to enter into any deal and acts against the United Nations laws, then it is the responsibility of the Government to take action against such trader.

[*English*]

I now take the liberty, Mr. Speaker, Sir, to read out a Press statement from *The Hindu*, dated 19.11.2005.

[*Translation*]

Our former minister of Petroleum, Shri Ram Naik Ji said it very candidly, for which I want to congratulate him.

[*English*]

The then Minister of the Government of India said, "I knew about oil surcharge in 2002." He said, "I knew." It is fine that he knew. What did he do? I quote: "The former Petroleum Minister in the National Democratic Alliance Government Ram Naik said on Friday that he knew as early as July 2002. I remember July 2002 is a very important period to me as per the Volcker Report. Why? It is because Volcker's findings say that autumn 2002 was the peak period of the highest surcharge amount of transactions which have been done between the business groups of various countries. "In July, 2002, the then Iraqi President Saddam Hussain was asking for a surcharge on oil coupons under the Oil-for-Food Programme controlled by the United Nations."

Addressing the press, Ram Naik said, "Leading a large delegation of business men to Iraq, he gave a letter from the former Prime Minister, Mr. Atal Bihari Vajpayee to Mr. Saddam Hussein. He was offered coupons for Indian Oil by the Iraqi President himself." Mr. Naik said very rightly, "But he refused the offer when he was told that a surcharge of one dollar per barrel would have to be paid above the United Nations' price." Mr. Ram Naik did the right thing. But what is next?

The next is very important. Here I come to the conclusion. "Mr. Naik, however, admitted that the businessmen who were part of the delegation would have done business with Iraq. When a Reporter said that deals worth more than a billion dollars were done, Mr. Naik did not deny or contradict the claim saying that he did not have figures. He was asked whether he had facilitated the deals for the Indian companies, Mr. Naik said, "as a leader of the Indian delegation it was his business to do so." Could not have some kickbacks come his way or that of other leaders in the NDA *via* the Indian companies? Mr. Naik said, "This is an allegation."

Asked whether he wanted the Indian businessmen not to flout the UN laws, Mr. Naik's answer was, "No". He also replied in the negative to the question when asked whether he had warned the then Finance Ministry that these Indian firms could have violated foreign exchange regulations. Mr. Naik could not explain why the NDA Government did not expect other Indian companies to follow what was considered a good ethical position for Indian Oil—that is refusal of the oil coupons.

*Not recorded.

[Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi]

I would like to say that for the Indian Oil, which is a public sector company, Mr. Naik did the right thing. He said, "No surcharge; go by the UN route." but he admitted he facilitated the business deals of the businessmen he took with him in the delegation. He is not very clear about them, and when the question was put, he said, it could be an allegation. I repeat, it is also an allegation which will be proved in the R.S. Pathak Commission.

[Translation]

When Ram Naik Ji knew it that the Indian companies be it 'A' 'B' 'C' or 'D' or be it your brother or my uncle are doing this work through surcharge and Advani Ji who was the Dy. Prime Minister at that time the Government of India should have taken action so that his black spot is not inflicted on India's prestige. They should have taken steps in this regard. ...*(Interruptions)* Today, it is not good to say this thing, we do not come here to sling mud on others. You started on a good note for which I want to congratulate you. If something is happening against the prestige of India and the former Petroleum Minister knew it that this could happen, why did he not take steps? I would also say that ...*(Interruptions)* You would say so about our party, we have already said that. ...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: You get conducted a judicial inquiry. Why are you running away from that? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Tripathi Ji, you will get an opportunity to speak.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: I am not going to comment on the UN Report. The Volcker Committee has given its report and that would be examined. So far as it is concerned with India's true transaction, we are committed for them and we would see to it as to what we can do. I want to say from the political angle that those who have supported Iraq, those who have extended political support for Iraq, whatever happened for them, that is in the book but at the same time Volcker has done a good job. I want to congratulate him for this. What he has mentioned in his report, I want to read out that for you.

[English]

In page 10, the Report says:

"Iraq's policies did not prevent companies from disfavoured countries from obtaining Iraqi crude oil.

A substantial volume of oil under contract with Russian companies was purchased and financed by companies based in the United States and elsewhere. Many of the letters of credit executed under the programme were financed by non-contracting companies. Table-IV provides a listing of the underlying financiers of oil companies that the Committee was able to identify."

In the very next page, it says: "The names of these companies typically do not appear on SOMO contracts or United Nations records." Therefore, would it be proper on the part of the House to decide and make a conclusive comment on the Report unless it is comprehensively discussed by the Security Council and adopted by the General Assembly, by its findings; or, so far as India part is concerned, unless it is not scrutinised with authenticity on the unverified findings, by the Pathak Inquiry Authority?

Advaniji, I humbly appeal to you, being the Leader of the Opposition, would it be proper for anyone to score a point against any individual just for a character assassination campaign as once somebody tried to do with you on the issue of 'Jain hawala diary case'?

[Translation]

If somebody has written a diary, has it led to the doom's day? At that time, you had questioned whether that was the right way and asked whether we were going to adopt that way for the country? ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

The Government, through the Authority, shall find the truth; and whatever is the truth, the Government shall act upon. Please do not teach us lessons how the Congress Party should functioning or how the Congress Party should behave.

The Congress Party knows how to pay the price to support the cause of the world when it comes between peace and war. The Congress Party knows how to pay the price when it comes between a colonial oppression and liberation. The Congress Party knows how to pay the price when it takes a stand against the sanctions on South Africa to support the struggle against apartheid. The Congress Party knows how to pay the price in respected quarters of the world when it supports the battle led by Ho Chi Minh in Vietnam. The Congress Party

knows how efforts were made to assassinate the character of Madam Indira Gandhi and later the world admitted her as a great human leader. The Congress Party knows how you tried to humiliate and assassinate the character of Shri Rajiv Gandhi, which was ultimately upheld by the Delhi High Court. The Congress Party knows how much sacrifice he made for that. The Congress Party would continue to seek the outcome of the R.S. Pathak Inquiry Authority and stand before the people. We need not be taught and guided by the BJP.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hooghly): Sir, when the *Loha Purush* of the BJP rose to speak, we hoped that he has a lot of ammunition and he will justify why two precious days of the Winter Session have been wasted. But ultimately, the mountain produced—you understand what he produced. You have seen, you have heard. That is it. He was said in the very beginning about the credibility, accuracy and how dependable the documents are of the Paul Volcker report. Meticulously the records were kept as reported by a very important functionary of the United Nations.

If you prepare a list of the destruction in Iraq for the last 15 years before invasion, during the Sanctions period and which is continuing till today, more than 1.5 million people lost their lives who are all civilians and more than 0.5 million children died. Who is the biggest beneficiary of all these 15 years of Sanctions—both pre-Sanctions and post-Sanctions? I have calculated it. Eighty per cent of the looted products had gone to benefit the American multinational oil companies through smuggling, through under-pricing and through various methods. But not even a single American company has been named. No document could be found when the meticulously kept records of the SOMO were made available to Paul Volcker.

I am not accusing anyone. But there are several instances within the Paul Volcker report and elsewhere also which indicates it. The museums were looted, precious valuables could be found in the auction houses of London. Those who loved these important articles, valuable articles relating to Iraqi civilisation detected them. These people see that massive corruption was involved in the Oil-for-Food programme.

Unfortunately, I am very very shocked to know that the *Loha Purush* of the BJP Party and the Leader of the Opposition in this House also says the same thing as what the American administration says. On these

Sanctions, the whole world said, the public opinion compelled and that too it started as a Resolution in 1995 which could be implemented at a later date only. But what had happened? Eighty three per cent of the living standards, availability of the calorific effect improved only after this Oil-for-Food programme was introduced. Who has admitted about child mortality rate? It is not only by the American Press but it is there throughout the world. I am not questioning whether it was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly about the antecedents of Paul Volcker and all these things. But even before the reports came, what is being circulated; what was said by important people about the credibility? A report came in the Wall Street Journal by a former Associate Editor of the Wall Street Journal. It said the Volcker report is just another trick. The CPI (M) is not saying that. The CPI(M) on the very first day demanded that let there be an enquiry and let it be incorporated of the misdeeds and all sorts of allegations that can be heard. It said: "The Volcker report is just another trick of the neo conservatives to blow away anyone who gets in the way of their plan of global empire."

It is not the CPI(M) saying; it is not the Congress Party saying; it is not Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunshi saying. It is being said by many others. I can go on like anything. American companies were involved in the scandal mostly through oil being smuggled. Who were the beneficiaries? Halliburton, one US company, Dick Cheney and others are named. What about the credibility? Paul Volcker Report did not care to look into all this. No document could be found in SOMO or elsewhere.

MR. SPEAKER: The names should not be addressed.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Yes. What is the credibility? The name of one Member of UK Parliament, George Galloway, who was a great supporter of the Iraqi cause, came just as Shri Natwar Singh's name came. He challenged. He appeared before the Senate. What happened ultimately? The Senators, who had been making the charges, flew away, vanished.

The charges are not against the Congress Party. It is not called the Congress Party; it is called India Congress. They do not know the name of the party. They do not know whether Shri Natwar Singh is a Foreign Minister or not, but we shall have to believe it only because it came from Paul Volcker. Is he credible? Yes, of course. Which are the other names? Of course, there is the name of son of Mr. Kofi Annan. ... (*Interruptions*)

[Shri Rupchand Pal]

There is the name of Megawati Sukarnoputri, the former President of Indonesia, the Russian Foreign Minister, important leaders of the African National Congress, even of those respected priests and clerics who stood in support of the Iraqi cause. The name of a catholic priest who had never seen a barrel of oil came, but still we have to believe because. ...*(Interruptions)* Signatures were forged of the Russian Foreign Minister. It has been admitted. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: You tell the Government to withdraw the Commission, if you are sure that the Report was forged. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Harin Pathak, your name is there in the list.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing is to be recorded.

...*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: Your name is in the list. You would be making contribution. You note the points.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Those who will interrupt will not be called. If you interrupt, your name will not be called.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: This reference to forgeries came when the forgeries were taking place. It is not that CPI(M) published in its journal that forgeries had taken place long back, only after everything has come to this Parliament. No. It came out in Hazim Al Amin's *Al Hayat* in November 2003 that forgeries were taking place. Zerox copies of everything and Minister's letterheads have been collected. It came out in Sajad Ahmed Ali's *Duniya al Watan*, a Palestinian journal. It is not that it is published today after the name of Natwar Singh has come, after the name of the Congress Party has come. The Report is being taken with sheer neglect and indifference the world over.

Unfortunately, I am not a great supporter of everything the Congress is doing. The only person Shri Natwar Singh had to leave. He was the Foreign Minister. The Government has taken its own decision. Nowhere a single person has been affected. Big names have come, but more big names have not come. Paul Volcker has not

incorporated the names of 80 per cent of the oil companies who benefited. ...*(Interruptions)* These names have come. Paul Volcker has himself admitted. Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunshi was reporting about it, the George Galloway story. He saw the story. George Galloway has been supporting their cause. What is the pattern in accusations?

What is the pattern in the accusation? Is this yellow man, that white man and that black man chosen according to this colour? No. There is a pattern in the accusation. It is those who opposed the sanctions, those who opposed the invasion that are accused. India has a tradition of non-alignment and standing by the sovereignty of the free nations of the world. That is our legacy. On the basis of that legacy our foreign policy is framed. Who are the parties that are accused? The Russian Foreign Minister, the administrative officers who have been working in the office of the Russian President, Indonesian leaders, African leaders, France—is not there a pattern?

Unfortunately, there is a pattern in the support of the BJP and the way they are extending to it. There is a pattern in it. We in this House wanted to condemn the sending in of troops. What happened then? Some people talked about Hindi and *Angrezi, Angrezi* and Hindi. The whole world knows this. When there was a Resolution it was said, 'No, no, condemnation is a word you cannot use on the floor'. But in Hindi it can be *Ninda!*

What were we doing during the period of sanctions? Was RSS collecting money for the benefit of sanctions—hit children of Iraq? No. Who did it? The Indian youth did it. The responsible political parties did it. We had sent medicines. We know what sanctions mean. The Cuban people know what sanctions mean. Is it they who decided what the price of oil will be?

The Leader of the Opposition was talking about sovereignty and compromising the decision-making process. This Government, this Congress, this Natwar Singh is not sovereignty. What is sovereignty? A Government elected by its own people cannot decide what the price of its oil will be! What will happen to the BJP if the price of Himachal apple is determined by the American Administration, by the WTO at Geneva? What will they do?

I take pride in saying that I will work in the interest of the suffering people. It does not matter to me if you call the measure illicit or call it not illicit, I am a patriot.

*Not recorded.

The people of Iraq will vouch for it. Going by the little amount of money paid as surcharge, you may call it illicit. How much is that money? How much will the total money paid as surcharge, what is being described as kickbacks, comes to? It is less than two per cent. It is 100 billion dollars. Eighty per cent benefit goes to the American companies. Still they are not satisfied and invasion takes place. The Leader of the Opposition speaks of sovereignty. But he has forgotten about the sovereignty of Iraqi Government. There lies a pattern. There is a pattern in the BJP's stand.

Yes, Paul Volcker cannot have any motive behind his report. Why should he have a motive? He does not know the name of the Congress Party. He calls it India Congress. He does not know that it is Indian National Congress. He did not know that Natwar Singh was a Minister. The name does not matter. The role smells as sweet with any other name. When you talk of the credibility of the report, the whole world has treated it with indifference. But the BJP is taking it up as the most urgent issue. When the Winter Session started, people have started looking towards us with expectations. There have been earthquakes. There have been floods. There are issues of workers which are required to be highlighted. We have been thinking of demanding to know what the Government has done to fulfil the commitments made in the National Common Minimum Programme.

The farmers are dying. But we are not getting the opportunity to discuss those burning issues in the House. The whole House is being held to ransom. Two precious days have been wasted in a small period. When the *Lah Purush* stood up, we thought that there would be very big justification for wasting two precious days. But what the mountain produced, we know.

Now, after the credibility, let me come to the next point.

MR. SPEAKER: Are you the only speaker from your party?

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Another speaker is also there.

MR. SPEAKER: Then you have to share the time.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Sir, I am sorry. I shall conclude soon.

The big wrongs committed by the Bush Administration, by the US Imperialism have been ignored by them. Is it not a big wrong to fix the price of oil of another sovereign country? It was being decided at Manhattan although there was a Committee, the Security Council 661. But the real pricing was being done at Manhattan. Is it not a fact that the sovereign rights of a sovereign nation were being taken away? Who fixed the prices? Why was it so? Paul Volcker did not inquire into it. Why? It is a big question. I would, only on the floor of this House, ask and let the nation know. The whole world is asking this question.

Will the prices of apples of Himachal Pradesh be determined by some other people from outside? Shall we accept it? If we do not accept it in the case of fixing of prices of apples of Himachal Pradesh by someone from outside, why should the Iraqi people accept the fixing of prices of their oil by someone from outside?

Now, in whose interests is the surcharge? It is a massive corruption. The BJP has suddenly discovered what corruption means. We know their track record. We know, what happened in *Tehelka*. He had been speaking and he demanded that there should be an expert committee to look into the foreign funding. Was he sleeping when it produced a list of the RSS-led NGOs?

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH (Uluberia): It was more than Rs. 1,0000 crore.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: He was sleeping as a Home Minister. I am not casting any aspersion on the efficiency and the competency of anyone. But he did not care to look into that. And now, he is demanding that there should be an expert committee! Yes, let that be done. We shall produce certain things as to how the RSS had been taking money, how the NRIs had been giving money.

Sir, since you have rung the bell, I would try to just conclude as early as possible. I told you that there is a pattern. I am coming to the Ram Naik part, as tow hat Mr. Ram Naik had stated.

MR. SPEAKER: When he was a Minister.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Yes, Sir, when he was a Minister. In July, he said that the 'IOC was told to pay the surcharge but I am such a man, how could I allow my public sector to pay the surcharge? So, I stopped it.'

[Shri Rupchand Pal]

But what about the industrialists who had been travelling with him? What personal benefit was accrued to them? Do you know, Mr. Pathak how much was it? I have calculated it.

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: What do you want from me?

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: How much he benefited to that industrialist? It was Rs. 1400 crore. ...*(Interruptions)*
It was Rs. 1400 crore. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: To whom?

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: It was Rs. 69 million dollar.
...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: The name of the beneficiary is not Ram Naik. The name of the beneficiary is Natwar Singh and the Congress Party. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Pal, please address the Chair.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: I am addressing the Chair.

15.00 hrs.

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: Volcker Report says that the money went to the Congress Party and Shri Natwar Singh.
...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: He will tell us. Please conclude.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: There was 69 million barrels of oil and a large part of it was allowed to be lifted by an American company. If you calculate the total benefit—four dollars margin—huge amount of money was shared by that company. ...*(Interruptions)* When next BJP speaker speaks, he may say why is it so. I do not hold any brief for the Congress. Let there be an inquiry. All these issues like the companies benefited the most. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: We also demand an inquiry.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: There may have been some companies who supplied the humanitarian goods. That is their right. Why should they get involved? I do not any brief for anyone. Let there be a through, fruitful and purposeful inquiry. If the BJP has any meticulously collected record, they can supply but what has happened in Iraq is known to the rest of the world. The destroyed everything. The documents supplied by SOMO are not

sacred documents on the basis of which credibility should not and cannot be questioned. With these words I oppose the Motion.

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: You should sit there and speak on behalf of the Congress. You are sitting on the wrong bench. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing, except Shri George Fernandes, will go on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: It does not matter, you leave it.

...*(Interruptions)*

AN HON. MEMBER: Why are you sitting on this seat, go and sit in the American Senate. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: To whom you are saying so? Are you saying this to me?

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: Sir, he is sending me to the American Senate. I am proud to be a Member of this House. I do not want to go there.

MR. SPEAKER: You do not respond to everything. That should be taken as humour!

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: People of my city feel proud to send me here sixth time. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Some humour is also good.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES (Muzaffarpur): Sir, whatever debate on this topic has taken place so far.
...*(Interruptions)*

KUNWAR MANVENDRA SINGH (Mathura): I want to give an information before listening to him.

...*(Interruptions)*

*Not recorded.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: This is not right. He is an hon. Member.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: He is a senior Member of the house and it is enough for me.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Unless the hon. Member yields, nothing else is recorded without my permission.

...(*Interruptions*)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Manvendra Singh, you have to get rid of your bad habits.

[*Translation*]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Sir, the debate on this issue has brought many things to the fore. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Who is it? Please stand up. As soon as you will stand up, your name will be recorded and you will get the order.

[*Translation*]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: I would not like to dwell upon those points.*

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: It is not relevant.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: I have not pointed out anybody's name here. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Give it to me, I shall strike it off.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: I have deleted it.

[*Translation*]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: I am not going out of the subject of the ongoing debate. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Please refer to Volcker Committee Report.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. If there is anything unparliamentary or improper, I shall look into it. But there is a method of raising it. You can ask for a Point of Order or you can ask him to yield. You cannot just stand up and start shouting.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Goyal, please sit down.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not go beyond this subject.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: This is a specific subject.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: I am referring to a specific matter and we want to know as to what relationship is there between the Congress Party and Mr. Farni Gonnì, Governor of Lombardi, Northern Italy as this has bearing on this discussion. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: This is not fair.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: I do not think that the Congress President cannot look after herself.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (Chandigarh): Sir, I am on a point of order.

MR. SPEAKER: What is your point of order and under which rule?

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Sir, I wish to refer to Rule 58 of the Rules of Procedure.

We are on a motion—as you read it—relating to the Volcker Committee Report. Rule 48(iii) says:

“the motion shall be restricted to a specific matter of recent occurrence involving responsibility of the Government of India.”

.Here Mr. George Fernandes is referring to the Italy's connection with the Congress Party. This is what the point of order is.

MR. SPEAKER: I uphold your point of order.

Mr. Fernandes, please do not go into this unless you establish its connection with the Volcker Committee Report. Therefore, first you make a foundation of it.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You lay the foundation of the connection with the Volcker Committee Report.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: First you make a connection with the Volcker Committee Report.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: What is the relation with Volcker Committee Report. If it is connected with the Volcker Committee Report, you lay the foundation. You are putting a question without laying the foundation of how Italy concern is relevant so far as Volcker Report is concerned. You have to establish that first. You do that, then I will allow it. Show from the report how this Italian concern comes in. I am not stopping it provided it relates to Volcker Report. I am only saying that.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Sir, it entirely relates to this debate here.

[Translation]

Shri Farni Goni has got the lion's share in the said oil coupons. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Is it there in it?

...(Interruptions)

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Yes, Sir. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: On which page did RSS figure? ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: It is not right. You should not interrupt like this. You cannot put a snide question like that Mr. Pathak. You are a senior Member. You have yourself said that you are here for six times. Do not make such snide references.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: This man was given coupons for 2 crore 47 lakh barrel oil, out of which ...(Interruptions) You people should be ready to hear. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, why are you disturbing? This is really unfair. I have already said that if it is connected to the Volcker Committee Report, then he can refer to it. He is trying to make out a case for that. He is trying to relate it.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Mr. Speaker, Sir, for that 9 lakh 45 thousand dollars were given...*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: This will not go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

*Not recorded.

MR. SPEAKER: You are making an allegation against a Party.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have already deleted it.

Shri Fernandes, you are a very senior Member. You cannot make such allegations without any notice to me.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Manabendra Singh, you are creating difficulty.

Shri Fernandes, please wait for a minute.

The motion under discussion is about the action against Indian entities and individuals. This House is not concerned with whether any Italian concern has made money or not. Therefore, if the names of any Indian entities or individuals have been mentioned in the Report, then you can refer to them. How can this Government answer for an Italian concern?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have already deleted that remark. That allegation cannot go without any notice and without any proper procedure.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: You please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: On 5th May this year.
...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: What is this? You address the chair as 'manyavar' but do not listen to it.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: There are many hon. Members who will be participating in this debate. Names of the Members are here. I will call them. Therefore, please allow the

debate on this important issue to be conducted properly. I am requesting Shri George Fernandes that he is a very senior and experienced Member and he should not refer to something beyond the scope of the Resolution.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Shri Natwar Singh as well as the Congress President, both had sent messages to this person when investigation started. ... (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, let him quote the page number and which part of the report he is referring to. Which page of the annexure is he referring to? ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You show it. Otherwise, it has no relevance to the Volcker Report. Do not take it.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I have deleted it. I have already expunged it.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Bansal, I have expunged it. Shri Fernandes, please confine yourself to the Volcker Report relating to Indian entities and individuals.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I am again reminding the hon. Members. This is the Motion given by the Leader of Opposition himself. I have only added the word 'allegedly' because that is the form. I am sure Shri Advani will agree with me. It says: "Central Government's failure to take proper action against Indian entities and individuals allegedly involved in non-contractual beneficiaries, etc. as reported in the Report of the UN." Therefore, that Report must mention the names of individuals or entities. And on that basis, you can make reference.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have said that. Therefore, Shri Fernandes, please restrict to the form of the Motion itself. That is the ambit of the discussion. I am requesting you.

...(Interruptions)

*Not recorded.

MR. SPEAKER: I have already given my ruling. Why are you standing up? Therefore, please restrict yourself to the ambit of discussion.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing else will be recorded except what Shri George Fernandes says. The Leader of Opposition spoke within that ambit. He did not refer to anything which is objectionable.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Valuable time of the House is going on. I have given my ruling. If I need anybody's help, I will ask for it. Kunwar Manvendra Singh, you will be in trouble one day.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Mr. Speaker, Sir, if you are saying that this is a restricted discussion. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: The same thing is there in the Motion.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: We assume that both ...*... and Natwarsighji's name have come to light in this. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: No.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I do not know what is happening here. Let him yield first. I can only allow you if he yields.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN (Khurja): All the Ruling are for us. Is there no Ruling for them? ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: What is this going on?

[English]

Please sit down. I would appeal to all the hon. Members. This is the House of the People of India. There

are some rules, regulations and procedures to be followed. Now, he has yielded. Shri Advani wants to say something.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: Sir, the disturbance now has been only because Shri George Fernandes took the name of Shrimati Sonia Gandhi.

MR. SPEAKER: It is not now. He has been referring to names which are not permissible.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: I did not say that when he mentioned the names earlier.

He rightly said that he has to lay the foundation before he refers to any other name. It has to be Indian entities. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: He need not refer to her name. Her name is not mentioned here.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: Her name is not mentioned here. But she is the President of the Congress Party. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri George Fernandes, you can refer to the Congress. I do not mind that. You can refer to the Party.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record. You know that. I have said that no individual's name can be taken.

...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Sir, I was not aware that she has resigned from the Congress Party. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: O.K. You need not refer to anybody's name. You make your submission referring to the Party.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Sir, parties have no sign boards. Parties have Members and Presidents. ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You can refer to the Party.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, please take your seats. I will not allow it. Nothing will go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, please take your seats.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri George Fernandes, you are a very senior Member.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Will you please keep quiet?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have allowed this debate in spite of the fact that there is an inquiry going on because of its importance. I have told you that. Shri George Fernandes, since you started speaking, you are only mentioning names which are not relevant here. You are naming some hon. Members of the House. Her name is not mentioned in that Report. Why do you not mention the name of the Party? Restrict yourself to that.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, you please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have not asked your support.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri V.K. Thummar, please go to your seat. Unless I permit you, do not open your mouth.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: This will not go on record. Sorry. It seems that you are not going to speak. Already he has mentioned the names. What are you talking? I won't allow this.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I have said that I have not allowed it.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, please take your seats. Shri George Fernandes, I appeal to you to restrict yourself. This is not fair.

[Translation]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSHI: Sir, anybody having personal political malice to anybody else should not use the House to express his agony until and unless the same is an issue of debate. The debate should not be spoiled in this manner and privileges should not be misused.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): I want to appeal that we cannot let parliamentary norms to be denigrated to this level. ...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: You please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will be recorded.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I am appealing to you to come to the substance of this debate.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: What is this going on. You please continue.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: These are running commentaries.

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we are discussing the loot of oil which has taken place, we discussing that. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: We are discussing the action to be taken against Indian entities and individuals as reported in the Report of the Volcker Committee.

[Translation]

You talk about that.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Whatever we want to speak on Volcker Report, we had asked for the papers which have come from there, these should be made available to us to. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: That chapter is closed. You know everybody knows it. That is over long time back in the morning.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: What discussion can take place without those papers? Whatever proof or evidence has come from there, they are sitting on them. In that case, when we are asked to speak on the subject, what can we speak.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Do not record anything. Why are you shouting? Nothing is being recorded.

...*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: You are in a sense questioning the Speaker's ruling which you cannot do. Please carry on.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Can we not discuss a serious and important matter?

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You are a Minister. Sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: You all please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I think, all of us, the disturbance has shown, are not serious to discuss this issue. There is a Chair, person in the Chair, whose duty is to see whether you are entitled to raise a Point of Order in a manner which is consistent with the procedure.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Who is this speaking?

[English]

I would like to know. Have the courage to stand up. This is not the way. You are ridiculing the Chair. This is the House. Are you proud to be a Member of this House? Take a Point of Order. If it is admissible, I shall certainly deal with it. When I found which is not to be recorded, I have myself already directed 'not to be recorded'. They are already expunged. Even then, everybody is passing comments and trying to dictate to the Chair. I am requesting Mr. Fernandes, again and again, to please restrict himself to the subject-matter of this Adjournment Motion which deals with it if he has to say anything. Otherwise, these types of scenes will be there.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I want a good and structured debate. I must compliment the hon. Leader of Opposition for raising it at a proper level. Therefore, I want that this level should be maintained. That level was maintained by him. We should all learn how to.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: Sir, I am grateful to you for this comment. But I am not able to understand why a reference to Shrimati Sonia Gandhi's name should create this kind of disturbance.

MR. SPEAKER: I would tell you why I have not allowed it.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Whatever I am saying is falling on deaf ears. This is very unfortunate. Why I did not allow it is because her name is not mentioned in the Report.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: The Congress Party's name has been mentioned. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: That fact is unnecessary for him to mention because he has twice mentioned it. He knows it. Now, he says that one name can be mentioned and the other name cannot be mentioned. What is the imputation?

...(Interruptions)

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: The name of the Congress Party should be there.

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, the Congress Party's name should be there. You mention the name of Congress. I have no objection to it. Please leave it to me.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please have some respect for the Chair to regulate it. Certainly, I shall see this debate. If anything objectionable is there, you are entitled to take recourse to parliamentary procedure in raising a point of order. But shouting all together is not mentioned anywhere in the rules. It applies to both sides.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: It applies to all sides.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Leader of the House, please control your Members.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, you are in the ruling party. It does not behove of you to do it.

[*Translation*]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Sir, I was saying that on two persons. ...(Interruptions) I will not at all get an opportunity to speak. ...(Interruptions)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: I do not think this House wants a debate. I am very sorry to say this. You are only creating problems. Do you not feel disturbed? You raised a point of order. I have allowed it. Your name is not there. It has already been deleted. I am requesting you again to keep quiet. If he does it again, I am there to look after it. To my understanding and knowledge of parliamentary procedure, as I know in my humble capacity for all these years, I am repeating that in spite of the Inquiry, I have allowed this debate because it is an important issue. If anything is to be said or done, naturally the Government can also consider it. Without influencing the Report, this debate may give some good inputs. But what is being done here? Shri Fernandes, you are travelling much beyond the Report unnecessarily and making personal referenes which could be avoided. I am requesting you to avoid it and come to the subject matter.

...(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): Sir, I would just like to make one small submission for the consideration of the Leader of Opposition and also Shri George Fernandes.

We are considering the Volcker Committee Report about the Indian entities. Here, two entities are concerned. One is Shri Natwar Singh whose name has been mentioned. Another entity is the Congress Party. Repeatedly, Shri George Fernandes is going on saying about two persons. Who are these two persons? The Congress Party consists of so many persons.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: There are two entities.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Therefore, it is totally unfair on his part to say about two persons. As I said earlier, one entity is the Congress Party. Another entity is Shri Natwar Singh. I would not have any objection if he says about the Congress Party, if he says about Shri Natwar Singh. But if he just picks up one person of the Congress Party, it is most unfair. It speaks of his own personal vendetta against an individual. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have already deleted it.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: The Parliamentary forum cannot be used for that. ...(Interruptions) Again, I say that the Parliamentary forum cannot be used for reflecting personal vendetta against an individual. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY (Puri): What about Shri Ram Naik's name? All the Members were discussing Shri Ram Naik's name. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Tripathy, it is very wrong. I do not expect it from you. I warned him saying that he could not refer to anything except what Shri Naik said when he was a Minister. I am, therefore, trying to protect to the best of my ability. As an outsider, what he may have said, that should not be brought in. I did not allow him. Why are you mentioning that? As a Minister, if he had said anything on the floor of the House, you are entitled to refer to that.

That is what I have allowed. Nothing more than that I allowed. I warned him that nothing should be said when he was the Minister. Please do not say that.

[Translation]

Please you speak

[English]

without referring to any individual, except Mr. Natwar Singh.

...(Interruptions)

MR. GEORGE FERNANDES: The Congress Party is an entity. *...(Interruptions)* But all Congressmen are not involved in this. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: How do you know? Wherefrom do you get this information? *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: What is this? This is very unfortunate.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: He is a habitual offender. What he is quoting is misquoting which is out of the purview. That is what he is doing. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: This debate should not be raised in this fashion.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: This is a very sensitive issue. Please do not refer to names which are not here. They have mentioned about the Congress Party. It is a name of a Party. This is the biggest Party at the moment in this country. They are in power. I am not just saying because they are in power. The Congress Party is a known Party, whatever the mistake may be in the appellation. One can understand the Congress Party. You mention it. But to say that so and so is involved referring to companies have no relevance here. Please do not do that.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record, except what Mr. Fernandes says. If there is anything to be said or done, a Point of Order is to be raised, and that depends on my permission.

*...(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: What is going on?

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: They want debate on Tehalka. Fix one day for this so that debate on this issue may take place. *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Chaliha, I have already warned you once. You are repeatedly defying the chair.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I may tell you that you are in trouble Mr. Goyal. You will be my first target.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: How much I reprimand these people? My throat has gone sore.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: At 6 O'clock voting will take place. At present Members of various other parties want to speak on this issue.

*Not recorded.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please maintain silence in the House.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: You have started this debate at this level which is going on. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Not me, he has started this debate. Please go through the language of the motion.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: But certain issues are connected with it which must come to the fore.

MR. SPEAKER: Please seek another opportunity for it. Introduce a motion properly, I'll give you time to speak.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Since it is a scam involving corruptions within corruption. ...(Interruptions) and there is evidence of his. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Proof is there but nobody is judge here. Judge sahib is sitting there.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: In House you are in that position. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nobody listens to me. You speak, please.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: There is too much noise in the House. Those who cannot go outside, please restrain yourselves.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Ram Kripal Yadav, you are also in my list, do not worry. Mr. Jain, Mr. Manvendra Singh, Mr. Aaron Rashid, Mr. Thummar and also yourself. Any day, action may be taken against you and Mr. Pradhan is joining it.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: My request is that it is necessary to take action against those people whose names have figured or are likely to figure in this scam. I request that action should be taken in this regard as quickly as is taken in an expeditious case. Immediate legal action should be taken against all those who figure therein either as criminals or by concealing or revealing their own identity. I do not want to speak much in this regard and with this I conclude.

[English]

DR. SUJAN CHAKRABORTY (Jadhavpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, can he take 50 minutes to speak these three sentences. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: He alone has not taken 50 minutes.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Let bygones be bygones.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria): Mr. Speaker Sir, I and my party are against this adjournment motion. But we associate ourselves with the feeling of this motion. It is our problem that the Congress has a long history and that is why we seek the examples of both good and bad traditions in Congress Party. When Interim Parliament was in existence in 1951, the then Prime Minister of our country Shri Jawahar Lal Nehru had introduced a motion to terminate the Membership of a Member belonging to his own party. Shri Yachadi Mudgal's membership was terminated because he was accused regularly accepting one thousand rupees to five thousand rupees from Bombay bullion market to finance his own activities. Thus the history of this Institution and that of the Congress Party is such that when a member was accused of taking five thousand rupees, a Parliamentary Committee was set up and the Congress Party expelled its own member thereby setting up a high standard in public life. Congress Party's set up examples like that. I would like to correct the statement of hon'ble Minister of Parliamentary Affairs that we are not debating the report of the Volcker Committee but we are discussing the failure of the Government in taking action against those people or

[Shri Mohan Singh]

organizations whose names figure in this report. When we come to this issue we have to accept that after the Publications of Volcker Committee Report for first time that committee has given the names of 2400 companies in its 630 page report and out of them two are Indian companies. One is the Congress Party and second is Natwar Singh. I am surprised that the Congress Party is taken as an outside company and this company has been accused. Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to say that as had been levelled against the Congress party in the wake of the report, it should have taken the initiative to exonerate itself and the Minister of External Affairs of this country should have resigned. If he did not resign then the Prime Minister of India should not have expelled him from the Cabinet in order to maintain the high standards. But this work was not done either by the Congress Party or by this Government. We regret that and therefore we are concerned.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the other thing is that the Congress Party has said about the report that it will file a defamation suit. After that a report came in that they have written a letter in which it has been mentioned that Volcker committee has provided opportunity to explain things to all those whose names have appeared in report but such opportunity was not given to us. It is understandable that the opportunity was not given to the Congress Party but the report against the persons who have been given opportunity to be heard, has not been changed. The opinion was expressed even on it. They regretted it later that the man named Natwar Singh is Minister of External Affairs in India. It was stated that it was not out of personal enmity or malice with him that his name figured in the report. These names were showed to us on the basis of documents of oil selling company of Iraq and documents recovered by us. I want to say that Congress party should take quick action to set public standards in the country. The Congress party as well as this Government Constituted a commission which we can call a judicial commission. But Commission of Enquiry Act is there to constitute this commission. Announcement for the same should have been made within the House. The report should have been submitted before the House. But the Government constituted a commission. Therefore, we demand that the commission should be constituted under Commission of Enquiry Act and the report should be tabled in the House so that the House may discuss it fully.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the third thing is as to the details of the allegation made. Volcker Committee states that

these are not allegations. It has been mentioned in their report that we have not filed any charge-sheet against anyone. Therefore we must be apprised of the fundings on the basis of the facts revealed in the report. The lifting of Oil in 13th and 14th trip includes lifting of 2 metric tonne in each trip for Congress Party. Whether one metric tonne barrel of oil was lifted by Congress Party or by some one or some institution named Masfield A.G. Company, a swiss company on behalf of Congress party out of this 4 metric tonne Oil.

Shri Natwar Singh Ji was re-allocated 2.2 billion barrel Oil and 1.9 billion barrel was lifted out of that. The Committee states about it is that Natwar Singh has got a profit of more than 32 crore rupees from the Oil lifted in his name. It has been revealed under the facts disclosed by the Committee. It should be made clear before the people of the country. The Ministry of Finance has raided the company of a friend of the son of the Minister of External Affairs of this country belonging to Congress Party. I accept that the Government of India has received facts related to Volcker Committee. But the same is not needed and cannot be tabled in the House, because a judicial committee, a fact-finding committee under the chairmanship of Shri Dayal has been constituted. Some facts would have been disclosed to the Ministry of Finance, Government of India during the raid by D.I.R. on the company of the friend of Jagat Singh. What problems do the Ministry of Finance of Government of India have in disclosing those facts before the House. The facts should be disclosed before the House.

The other thing I want to say is that the relationship of Congress and Shri Natwar Singh with the Mesfield company of Switzerland be clarified at the end of the discussion and the Government of India should disclose both the facts before this House. Volcker stated before the whole world about the leaders of India that the Government of India and some political parties of India helped Saddam Hussain at the time of hardship and took some fees in lieu of that help, which he is trying to dub as bribe. Nothing can be more shameful to the public life of our country than sticking of such allegation of bribery on any party or some senior minister of the Government at international level. Therefore, the Congress party and this Government should clear their part so that the chaff may be separated from the grain before the country and the Government should try its level best in this regard.

The third thing I want to say is that the statements of the Minister of External Affairs in the country after the

allegations and disclosure of the facts were not in keeping with the sense of responsibility which the status of being the Minister of External Affairs carries with it. I think so. The statements given by him led to a situation in which the relations of India with a friendly country started going sore. Therefore, the Prime Minister, in a bid to save his prestige, removed him from the Ministry of External Affairs. The Government of India should clarify on those statements given by the Minister of External Affairs between the time of leveling of allegations against him and his removal from the Ministry of External Affairs. The change in foreign diplomacy of India on the issue of Iraq was announced by him as a Minister of External Affairs. The stand of the Government as on date regarding this should also be clarified before the country. At the same time I want to say that he had said about many things that this had been done by persons of a country who have an imperialistic mindset. Since we had actively opposed the attack on Saddam Hussain by that country, therefore he had tried to frame us. If the statement made by him on this issue is correct it should also be clarified. Because we go outside the country and try to have blessings of a great country and for that purpose the Prime Minister of this country pats his back inside the country and simultaneously says that it is a conspiracy hatched by imperialistic forces of that kind to defame the leadership of our country, there is a clear contradictions between the two stands. All these should be clarified before the House.

With these words, I oppose the adjournment motion but support the intent and spirit the adjournment motion, before concluding.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY (Puri): Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, Volcker Committee report has exposed the Congress party. This should be condemned. The leaders of Congress party should be condemned here in the House for taking money and compromising with the prestige and honour of the country. Besides, Congress party should also be condemned for covering up the serious crime it has committed and for making an attempt to prevent truth to come to the fore.

There is a mention of both Congress and Natwar Singh in phase 10, 11, 12 and 13 contained in table 3 of Volcker Committee of the United Nations Organizations. Besides, there is a mention of non-contractual beneficiaries in the said report. Natwar Singh and Congress party should tell as to who received money on behalf of Congress party because the name of Congress party has

figured in the report. On behalf of Congress party the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs was speaking on this issue in the House. He asked as to who mentioned the name of the Congress party and how the name of Congress figured therein, how four million barrel oil was allotted to Congress party and who lifted two million barrel oil on behalf of Congress party. The Government has not given any clarification here in the House in this regard. This shows that definitely 4 million barrel oil has been allotted to Congress party and 4 million barrel oil was allotted to Natwar Singh. What is the name of a Swiss company which has come up now? The name of this company is Hamdan which is an Indian company. Premises of this company has also been raided and it is linked to the son of Natwar Singh. This is what is being reported in the newspapers. The Swiss company Mesfield AG is in league with Hamdan. The government has not said anything here in the House about this also.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the people from ruling party and left parties trust much on the reports of Tehelka. I would like to tell as to what is the report of Tehelka on Volcker Committee report. In November issue of Tehelka weekly it is said

(English)

"After Natwar, who?" Seven more Congressmen are there. Who are they?

MR. SPEAKER: Do not name them.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: I am not taking anybody's name. They are supporting very much Tehelka.

MR. SPEAKER: May be.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: I am just referring to Tehelka. Yes, what is there? I am not referring to anybody's name. A Chief Minister of a Northern State is known very much close to 10 Janpath. That is there in Tehelka. There is a Union Minister of State (Independent Charge). Who is he? Why has he not resigned? He has got close relations with 10 Janpath. His name is there in Tehelka. So, the Ruling Party and the Government should say who is this Minister of State (Independent Charge) whose name is there? There is one AICC Secretary. Who is he? ...*(Interruptions)* You are trusting Tehelka. You are disturbing. I am referring to Tehelka. I am not referring to anybody's name. It is there in Tehelka.

MR. SPEAKER: you see, you cannot authenticate that. Can you authenticate it? It is not permissible to reproduce any statement here.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: I am not telling anybody's name. But they are demanding.

MR. SPEAKER: This is not the way.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. Why do you not sit down? This is not fair.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: There is a high profile Member of Rajya Sabha who is considered to be close to 10 Janpath. Sir, I am not naming anybody.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: He is not naming anybody.

MR. SPEAKER: He cannot authenticate himself about the truth of the allegation. Can you authenticate?

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: This is with reference to the Volcker Committee.

MR. SPEAKER: Can you authenticate?

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: They have not tabled the Report. Let them deny.

16.00 hrs.

Let them deny that this is not there in the report.
...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Can you authenticate that?

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Sir, we do not have the report. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Can you authenticate it?

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Yes, that is there in *Tehalka*... weekly ...(Interruptions) I can authenticate

that this is published in *Tehalka*, ...(Interruptions) dt. 19.11.2005.

MR. SPEAKER: Not report. What he is reading is an allegation made in some context.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: They are demanding *Tehalka*. That is why I am referring *Tehalka*...(Interruptions) I do not have to say anything of *Tehalka*; something which has been reported in the newspaper, that I am referring. ...(Interruptions) This section of the people are demanding *Tehalka*.
...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: This is not fair.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You are reading from a newspaper which you cannot authenticate yourself.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: They have referred to so many newspapers but nobody has objected.
...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: All right, you carry on.

[English]

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: I have not completed. ...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: You please carry on.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: A former Union Minister and who is now currently PCC President of a Northern State, who is he? ...(Interruptions) Let them say. A former General Secretary of the Rajasthan Youth Congress, let him say if Congress people are not involved. ...(Interruptions) Not only Shri Natwar Singh is involved

other people are also there. ...(*Interruptions*) It has also reported in all sections of the national papers, Mrs. Sonia Gandhi, the President, has written a letter to Mr. Saddam Hussein, the former President of Iraq. ...(*Interruptions*) Please listen. ...(*Interruptions*) You all have to listen to me. ...(*Interruptions*) Yes, she has written a letter. What was the content of that letter she should make it public. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRIMATI TEJASWINI SEERAMESH (*Kanakpura*): You cannot take all the names. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: She has written a letter. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: I ask you to sit down.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: The Government have not denied this ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Rashid, that is not fair.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: He is mentioning about the letter written. Let me see what you say.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

KUNWAR MANVENDRA SINGH: Mr. Speaker Sir, these people have got published something about you also.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: You should listen to me as to what allegations I am levelling. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: I will have to ask you to leave the House.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Mr. Natwar Singh, the former External Affairs Minister has himself told that he has got a letter from Mrs. Sonia Gandhi, the President of Congress Party and met Saddam Hussein. ...(*Interruptions*) This House is entitled to know about it. ...(*Interruptions*) The Congress name is there in the Volcker Committee Report. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRIMATI TEJASWINI SEERAMESH: What is the letter? ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: That is for you to tell us; Mrs. Sonia Gandhi to tell us. ...(*Interruptions*) The nation is entitled to know as to what are the contents in the letter. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: If somebody has written as the President of the Party, are you entitled to know? What is all this?

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Your time is over.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: How can I know the content of the letter? ...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

The people of the country want to know as to what Shrimati Sonia Gandhi has written in her letter. The Government should furnish proper information in this regard.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: You had five minutes, you have taken eight minutes.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: This matter should be got investigated through C.B.I. who will take evidence of the committee constituted by the Government? Mr. Speaker, there is no need of your ruling, law is a must for taking evidence. There is no legal entity of the committee constituted under which law evidence will be taken from abroad.

[Shri Braja Kishore Tripathy]

[English]

C.B.I. is the only agency through which they can take the evidence from other countries.

[Translation]

Conducting an investigation through C.B.I. the country will come to know about the congress party and corruption. Therefore, the congress party does not want to get this matter investigated through C.B.I. This is the second scam after Bofors. All the countrymen are aware of it. Congress not only nationalised corruption but also has internationalised corruption. There is a hundred years old party. This is a fake congress party not a genuine one. This fake congress party has tarnished the image of the entire country. Today corruption has prevailed in oil for food programme. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: If you continue to do like this, I will ask you to get out.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: This can not bring any laurels to the country. What the people of all the states will say? The congress party which is also the ruling party has adopted corrupt means in oil for food programme. It is serious matter. This should be investigated through C.B.I.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Show it to me. You have taken double of your time.

Now Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav.

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhanjharpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to oppose the adjournment motion which is before the House. This adjournment motion by the opposition is on a subject which concerns with the sovereignty of the nation. This is because the thinking and the approach of the opposition is different. It is just like much cry and little wool. You people are making too much efforts but you are not going to get anything out

of it, on the contrary, this would boomerang on you. you just listen to me where you are going to be entangled and try to save yourself. This is an issue concerning the U.N. It is not an issue concerning treasury and opposition benches. By bringing in the adjournment motion on this issue, I think the opposition has been trapped in America's diplomacy. The opposition is doing like sitting in a glass house and throwing stones on others. They do not know when the stone would be thrown back on their house, it would be broken to pieces.

Sir, when thousands of infants started dying due to hunger and for want of medicines due to economic sanctions imposed by America and when the news to this effect started publishing in the newspapers. Then this food for Oil Programme was launched in 1995. This was an assistance programme launched by the U.N. for making available food and medicines to the Iraqi people besides other necessary items. This programme was launched under the aegis of the U.N.O. in which America had a major say. Iraq has got petrol in heritance, therefore, it was natural that the citizens there got essential things by selling the petrol.

Sir, America has been exerting pressure on Iraq for 30-40 years so that it can make Iraq its subservient. America wanted that Iraq should sell oil only to American, that is why it imposed economic sanctions against Iraq. This is the reason that no head of any country would want to compromise on its sovereignty be it Saddam Hussain or any other. No independent country or head of any state can tolerate such pressure. This was the reason behind imposing economic and strategic sanctions against Iraq by America and once America had also targeted Iraq. When the children and public of Iraq were dying due to hunger, America resorted to economic blockade.

Sir, it's all right that the Volcker Committee report is being discussed here. This report relates to the year 2001 when the Food for Oil Transaction Programme was launched. America earned a net profit of worth 69.4 billion Americans dollars. It is mentioned in this report that America spent 38.6 Billion dollars for providing aid to Iraq on humanitarian grounds. Since there is paucity of time, I do not want to go into the details of this expenditure as to how much amount was spent on which item. Kofi Annan and America both conducted all the works by themselves. 38.6 million American dollars were spent on humanitarian aid in Iraq and out of that 18 billion dollars were taken for the war on Iraq during the

regime of the late Gorge Bush-I, the father of the present President of America. 5.3 billion dollars were spent on the Oil export. That amount was also taken. 0.5 billion dollars which were spent on the inspection of weapons were also taken. 9.35 billion dollars were taken from the Development funds for Iraq before the attack took place. Implementation and administrative expenses incurred on all these things were also realised in Iraq itself. Under this head 1.4 billion dollars were taken. The Volcker Committee took its entire expenses from the amount meant for providing the food and medicines to the Iraqi infants. His eighteen months salary works out to 30 million dollars. This 30 million dollars was also taken out of the amount meant for the humanitarian aid. All these things have been recorded in the report by the Volcker Committee, Volume I and II could be seen for all these things. Is it not an open loot in Iraq? Does the U.S. not loot Iraq through the U.K. or the U.S. expansion under the oil for food programme? because this entire exercise was undertaken at the instance of America. Therefore, I do say that the grounds and facts on which this report is based is under doubt. Its credibility is still doubtful. The Volcker Report could also, be a political ploy under the well thought out diplomacy of America, therefore it needs to be examined in depth. This is what I feel because it could be a major trick to malign the image of the country which supports Iraq. Therefore, it's a matter of investigation. Wherever there is corruption it stems from the top and then goes down the ladder.

Therefore, the top needs to be cleansed. I am in its favour in principle. At the same time, it is pertinent to mention here that the Volcker Committee report has been rejected by the countries like Russia, South Africa and many other countries including France. Big companies like the STC etc. are also involved in it. It is mentioned in this report. In 2001 the NDA Government was in power and there is a full list of names of the persons who visited, I would like to read out their names, its not a question of Shri Ram Naik only.

[English]

The following leaders in the N.D.A. regime visited Iraq with or without delegation.

[Translation]

In 1999-2000 from July 27 to 29 Shri V.K. Ramamurthy, Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas, in 2001 from September 22 to 25, Shri Ajit Kumar Panja. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: No allegation has been made so far. I am waiting for that.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: If any allegation will be made, I will expunge that.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: What happened in Iraq. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I have mentioned name.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: When oil for food Programme was operational they had visited Iraq with large delegations. In 2002 Shri Ajit Kumar Panja, the minister of state in the ministry of Foreign Affairs visited Iraq. ...*(Interruptions)*

MOHD. SALEEM: Posters with Sadam Hussain were put up.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: It only shows our close relations will Iraq.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Between August 31 and September 2 in 2001 a 75 member goodwill delegation headed by the Deputy Chairperson, Rajya Sabha Dr. Najma Heptulla visited Iraq.

[Translation]

They were congress people, why you accorded them status of cabinet minister and why they were included in the delegation. ...*(Interruptions)*

MOHD. SALEEM: In Iraq this delegations was termed as Supreme Council of Indian Parliament. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Had I got time I would have shown it with photo. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: No photo is necessary.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: That is why I am not considering it necessary. ...*(Interruptions)* Whenever any adjournment motion is moved, time is allotted as per party strength.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I will decide about your time. He is only upsetting you.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: We should get time as per our strength. ...*(Interruptions)* From July 6, 2002 to July 7, 2002 Shri Ram Naik ji, and from January 20 to January 22, 2002 Shri Digvijay Singh, Minister of State for Railways visited Iraq. They didn't go there for honeymoon. ...*(Interruptions)* what was the purpose? ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

6-7 July, 2002 Shri Ram Naik, Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas visited Iraq heading a 53-member Indian delegation.

What could be the reason of such a large number of visits by party functionaries in the Government, far beyond the normal diplomatic interactions? Shri Ram Naik took a 53-member business delegation. Shri Ram Naik had a two-hour meeting with Saddam Hussein, President of Iraq besides meeting Shri Taha Yassain Ramadhan, Vice-President; Mr. Hikmat Al Azzawi, Deputy Prime Minister; and Dr. Saddoun Hammadi, Speaker of the National Assembly of Iraq.

MR. SPEAKER: Give only the designation.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Shri Ram Naik also had meetings with the Ministers of Oil, Trade, Industry and Minerals, Health, Electricity, Transport and Communications, wherein Oil for Food Programme was discussed in detail. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

I will state the connection.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: He has not spoken anything unparliamentary. He is speaking within his allotted time. He is using his time. Why are you interrupting?

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: When hon'ble Members from your party were speaking we didn't utter even a single word. If we also resort to interruptions, you will not be able to speak even a single word. ...*(Interruptions)* I will your relations. Mr. Speaker Sir, with your permission I want to say. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: This permission has not been given to us.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: It is interesting to note that Shri Ram Naik specifically promoted business interests of the companies accompanied in the delegation, namely, Mohan Exports, L.K. Trading Overseas. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker Sir, names have been mentioned in it. You go through the Volcker Committee report. They have taken surcharge. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Yes Sir, names have been mentioned in the Volcker Committee report.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: There were also representatives of Aganta Pharma, Vadodara Alembic,

Unique Pharmaceuticals, who all have been named by Mr. Paul Volcker's Report of having paid surcharge to the Saddam Hussein's Government.

MR. SPEAKER: Now, your time is over.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI ANANTA GANGARAM GEETE (Ratnagiri): You should demand action from the Government in this regard. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Definitely we will demand action from the Government but why you people were silent?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Your time is over.

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Mr. Speaker Sir* Ambassador of India wrote a letter to the ministry of External Affairs on 28 January 2004 on which higher officers have made their comments. He has written very clearly in his letter. ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: No, you have not given any notice.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : They read it in newspapers. A copy of the English version of the 'Jang and Almada' was also enclosed. This news-item was carried in both the newspapers with the headlines that Saddam Hussain gave away lakhs of barrels of crude oil to the Presidents, political leaders, journalists and political parties. What were you doing at that time? The NDA Government was in power as on 28 January, 2004 and Shri Yashwant Sinha was the Minister of External Affairs at that time. Why did he keep silent at that time? What was the reason behind it? What was the secret behind that? That letter came from Baghdad.* The Indian Ambassador had written that letter to the Foreign Secretary, Government of India. And those people were

there in the Government of India. Now they are feigning ignorance in this matter, thus they cannot shrug off their responsibility. One can not run the country in a clever manner. The country takes every thing seriously. They are seeing who is doing what? ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: That will not be recorded.

...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Why the noose was not tightened around these companies? Today the needle of suspicion is pointing towards them. This is a big question that they people are under cloud, that is why he kept silent. Therefore, an investigation is absolutely necessary to bring out the truth because the report on the oil for Food Programme in Iraq is not pin-pointed. There is only a guess about the actual beneficiary be it the contractual or non-contractual, only a hint is given. The UPA Government has set up a judicial inquiry to go into this report under the Chairmanship of Justice R.S. Pathak and it has been asked to submit its report in six months. Showing promptness on its part, the Union Government has entrusted the responsibility of collecting papers and facts on Shri Virendra Dayal ji.

I think the manner in which the opposition is showing off itself to be transparent, that is doubtful. I have already asked them not to sit in glass house. Let us discuss it in this august House and let us discuss it today itself and a Commission should be set up to inquire into the tenders invited within and outside the country in the 10-15 years in order to know about their transparency. So, we want a Commission, be it an independent inquiry commission or any other commission so that one knows about the benefits taken in the context and non-context and finally truth would come out. ... (Interruptions)

Why Shri Satyendra Dubey, an officer engaged in constructing the national highways was killed. Who was the contractor at that time? The President of a national party was shown taking bribe on camera. ... (Interruptions) How things have come to such a posts today? They have been clearly exposed, which was that national party, Malhotraji knows about it. ... (Interruptions) The Tehlka

*Not recorded.

*Not recorded.

[Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav]

expose was seen by the entire country on TV. ...*(Interruptions)* corruption had become a formality during their time. There should be a check on corruption. A high level Independent Committee should be set up to check corruption. ...*(Interruptions)*

I want to bring one more fact before you. The Volcker Committee set up by the United Nations to inquire into the oil for Food Programme in Iraq has thrown up some such facts as to raise questions on the credibility of the findings of the Committee itself. The most surprising fact is that the standing committee of Parliament on International Affairs... the House of Representatives of America discussed the interim report of the Volcker Committee seven months back before the report was finally prepared and member countries of the UN were not given any copy of it. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: There are many hon. Members to speak. Please conclude.

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: The UN Member countries were not taken into confidence. ...*(Interruptions)* Be it the name of the Congress Party or the name of the Panther Party of JK which has appeared in the Volcker Committee report but the kind of situation it has created in the Indian politics, I would do say that why such a situation has cropped up. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Sorry, I would not allow this. Nothing will be recorded.

...*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: The violation of international law should stop. But for that we have to put our act together...** There should be an in-depth investigation into corruption and as the report would come out within six months and that would bring out the truth. Those who are talking about taking the foreign money...** what is happening. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: This is not good.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: A strict law should be made that prohibits taking foreign money.*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I will see the proceedings. If any allegation is there, I will look into it.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: I am also not hearing properly.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: I have referred to an organisation. I have not taken the name of any individual. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: It is I who will have to decide it, Mr. Yadav. You have made a mistake and I have made a mistake. You spoke from the wrong seat. I did not notice it earlier. I could have rejected the whole speech. Because it was my mistake, I am allowing your speech to go on record. You should speak from your own seat.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (Chandigarh): May I speak from this seat? There is a difference of just a row.

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, but not to be treated as precedent.

[Translation]

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Mr. Speaker Sir, the Volcker Committee, constituted to enquire into the so-called irregularities in 'Food for Oil' in Iraq, has mentioned the names of persons and institutions of many countries in its report, but there is no such anger and excitement in any country that we found in India. It is natural. As Shri Mohan Singhji had told while speaking earlier that we did so because of our conduct and tradition. He mentioned about the tenure of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru when he presented a resolution to suspend a Member of a party. The first thing is that we want to raise our voice against corruption when we see any sign of it anywhere. It is true that there was anger and excitement in our country for that. But the second

*Not recorded.

**Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

*Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

thing is that on seeing even a word against one another, we do not try to examine whether it is true or whether it can be true or not. We raise that issue and make fountain out of mole. This is what happened presently.

It is a very extensive report. I accept that I have not gone through the report completely and for anyone to go through it completely is tough. Many people have gone through it. I do not know whether even Advani Sahab had gone through the report completely or not. We are discussing here the facts, supposed to be true, which were published in newspapers. Whether anyone has tried to know as to anything is mentioned in the report about non-contractual entities or persons, talked of again and again. This report consists of five volumes. Many things have been shown extensively in four volumes, but that is not mentioned. Fifth volume deals with that extensively, but that is mentioned nowhere. A long list has been given, later on in table three. It includes names of two of our leaders. It has been caught as if someone is insinuated and punished. Whether you have tried to know the facts? I think that the step taken by the Government should be praised and it should be praised properly that the Government has set up a Commission within short time.

What has been said here? It has been said that this is not a Commission but an authority. I do not want to comment on that since the Hon'ble Members are aware of many things regarding it. Had it been read simply and seen as to what notification is. Has anyone tried to see the notification? Whether it has not been seen in it that it too is under Commission of Enquiry Act. It has got all the rights. You will ask as to why was it not named a Commission? Go through section 11, it becomes the same Commission, which the other is. Because the Government wants that it may not take years and not a Commission like Tahika Committee be set up on that to decide.

16.29 hrs.

(SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV *in the Chair*)

We want to know the truth within stipulated period which has been fixed in that. It is possible only when we do not need section 8-B. That is being objected. It is an effort from the Government to reveal the truth before us.

It was mentioned here again and again that the Congress Chairperson Smt. Sonia Gandhi mentioned that very late. I want to say that one should go through the

report completely. I say again that you have decided anything on reading few words from the newspapers. Do you not know that she had told, "I had kept saying"? Should she send all her press sentiments to you that she has said so today and she has expressed in such a way today? We are discussing this issue in the Parliament. It is a good discussion. There was certainly an interruption for about 40 minutes. There is an old Member who has his own mind set to say something in any manner, no matter whether it is under rules or not. I would like to mention those 40 minutes. I would like to mention the rest of the time when there was a good and positive discussion. Issues were raised during that period. I want to tell one more thing. The purpose of constituting the Commission should be known. The issue is before us. I do not say that this proves that we have nothing to do with anything anywhere. If a name was mentioned therein, it creates a basis to enquire further. And that enquiry is being conducted by an authority, a Commission. The documents were brought here within ten days and not fifteen days as is mentioned here. Had you ever heard it happening so soon? Does not it show the curiosity of the government to reach to the truth? Are not the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence and the Directorate of Enforcement under the government? Is not the government taking action under that? Should not it be appreciated that the Government did not care that there can be an inquiry against its own party and statement can be taken from them also. This Government could have stopped that, but the Government understood its responsibility—why? Because, we believe that whatever has been shown in that report, is not true. Names have cropped up from somewhere. Today, it is not my right to say from where they have cropped up but possibilities are there and what are these? I would like to accept what is the first possibility. The first possibility could be that whether any irregularity has been committed by the alleged two names. Whether any money was made from the voucher managed from there somehow. This has not been said anywhere. This is my presumption. This could be one possibility.

The second possibility can be that whether at some time somebody used another's name and deposited money by taking it in other's name and money was siphoned off? These points will be determined. I do not want to make allegations against them in this connection. The point which has been mentioned here time and again is that they were in power at that time. They had made all efforts at that time to have maximum number of deals

[Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal]

for the country from there. They must have made efforts to clinch the deals. Whether something could have taken place in between? They stressed this point against and again. "Whether Sonia Gandhi ji did not write a letter?" Do not they read the newspaper? Whether it did not appear in the newspapers after that or they do not want to know? Even if you read the newspapers that if someone is given fraternal greetings then they are mentioning that letter again and stressing on it again. Have you forgotten that Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee ji, who was the then Prime Minister, had given a letter to Ram Naik who had said after that on a website that he had brought that letter and would like to maintain relations with Iraq with full seriousness as Iraq has faced the sanctions bravely. This was told by them and today they are making these allegations against us. I respect Advanji a lot and I had the opportunity to see him closely since 1984 when I entered the parliament and we were together in committees also. I do not think that he can say such a thing in a hurry but he has said something serious which he did not say merely to speak there but he did not think about its ramifications. He said that this money is being used to change the policies of the country. This has been said, and his very senior colleague who is not a Member of the House today, I do not want to take his name, might have briefed Advanji. He had said it clearly outside, that money was taken at that time and they reached the conclusion and they had even given their verdict which is final for the countrymen and also at the international level. He had said that this money has been taken because lobbying took place inside the House, that this NDA Government which wanted to send forces to Iraq that time, should not do so—it was said. Now read both the points. This allegation is not being made against one member only. This allegation is not being made against one member only but against the whole of the Parliament because this resolution was passed in the Parliament. How dare they say this? Malhotra ji, was also a participant in the decision so made. Did not he want it? We had told them that they were helpless because Iraq has always been on India's side. During many a challenging times, Iraq was on our side. They did not care about it then. But, even then resolution was passed here. Now, they are interpreting that to say that one international force for that resolution was that money was received from there. They should accept this. Did they try to ask its terms and conditions? They did not try to know what has been said by that Commission. They just said that the Government failed to take action against those named in the report. Whether inclusion of two

names is enough? What if I get four names from their party included in it and then make a hue and cry here that they should be hanged? I am not saying anything except Volcker Committee. There is much to say and I want to reiterate that it is not proper for me to give advice but I will have to repeat the same thing. It is their right to raise their voice if they find something against the Government. It is their right and their duty as well. Those who live in glass houses should not throw stones on other's houses. But, nothing else is taking place from their side. When they have no issue in their hand, then they read something in newspaper from anywhere and pursue it relentlessly. Are they giving an opportunity to the other people to fix agenda for them? The business of the House could not be conducted for two days owing to noise etc. Just on the very first day we had agreed and told that we are ready to initiate debate on this issue but they did not agree. They gave notice for it under the Rule 184. Despite the fact that this matter does not fall under Rule 184, we conceded to your demand. Discussion was started but what efforts did you make in this regard? Anyway, we need not discuss this because that effort failed. Your intention were foiled. You are fully aware that no where does the report mention the name of Congress including the names of the two person or any company. It has not been provided in any way that they were beneficiaries. Instead of saying that it was not proved I would rather say that the Volcker Committee did not conduct any investigation at the time.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: No interruptions, please.

[Translation]

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: It was not investigated whether the hand-writing or signature of any Congressman was present anywhere. Does the report mention any such thing? I challenge you to tell me if the report says anywhere that any representative or any member of the Congress has put his signature anywhere? ...*(Interruptions)* This commission has been set up to conduct a probe into that aspect. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Bansal, please address the Chair.

[*Translation*]

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Has it been written anywhere that any condescendence took place in the congress initially or on behalf of the congress with the companies mentioned by you such as Masfield and Hamdan? Hundreds of companies were present there and they were taken there by your minister for purposes of trade promotion. These were contractual parties and they were there to carry out this work. where is it mentioned that those companies were favoured?

It is said that the Congress Party received Rs 32 crore. How do we differentiate between fact and fiction, can't we make out the difference? Are such debates going to take place in Parliament now? I would also like to ask if there is any mention of any arrangement, agreement or discussion that the congress party is alleged to have held with anyone.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Bansal ji please conclude now.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Sir, I may be given two more minutes to speak.

Has anything of the sort been mentioned anywhere in the report? I do not wish to be held responsible for commenting on the Volcker Committee Report but I would like to point out that the other people named in the Volcker Committee report had documentary proof against them. There were no documents pertaining to any Indian national. Shri Malhotra ji, I would like to point out that neither the congress party nor any member of the party was named in the Report. These names are mentioned in only one table. There is documentary proof against other people.

I would conclude my speech citing two examples. The first name was discussed here now.* I only wish to talk about that Report and not about anything else.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The name may be deleted.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: I take back my words. Let it be consider up said. But what I am now going to say is important. Names were given in two places. They have challenged it. They have proved that the documents presented were fake, they had been forged on fabricated. One of the members had got the opportunity to meet the Senate Committee. Subsequent to this meeting the Senate Committee changed its mind.

Shri Malhotra ji should read the report. I have read certain parts of the report. A comment has been made in the Volcker Committee Report. I do not say that nothing should be said against us. What I am saying is that two names have come up and the government has adopted the correct stance in this regard. The Congress President Soniaji adopted the stance and told the UPA Government that if at all there is a mention it should be looked into thoroughly and the government has agreed to examine the matter. Hence, I say that the report has been provided to be baseless. It would not be right to carry forward the same analogy. These documents could be fabricated or forged. The Iraqi official himself confessed that he was employed by the organization, State Oil Marketing Organisation (SOMO) to prepare the documents. Either you or Roop Chand Pal ji had mentioned that when the occupation forces reached Baghdad letter pads were being distributed in Baghdad indiscriminately. Any kind of document could have been prepared. We are governed by rule of law and our judicial system is held in high esteem world over but it would be wrong if on this basis we stop using our wisdom and simply take off after any lead offered by some person and start thinking that whatever has been reported is correct would be improper. Opposition is also guided by the same notion, I regret this ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

This is the commission ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record. I am not allowing you.

...(*Interruptions*)*

[*Translation*]

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: You constituted Commission. Everything was caught on camera but to no avail. What had happened when we were not listened to for 15 days in the Parliament. We had given notice for discussion under Rule 193 also let alone Rule 184 but you said that you notice under Rule 184 should be converted into Adjournment Motion. We conceded to your demand. Hence you cannot compare yourselves with us. You may say what you wish in the Parliament but introspect yourself in solitude and think of the difference between the situation then and now. The UPA government exemplifies how a participatory democracy should be run. If you point out any mistake we will give thought to it.

*Not recorded.

*Not recorded.

[Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal]

We want your cooperation in this regard. Creating disturbance is not the way to cooperate. We want you to critically analyze the facts and consider the difference that has been brought about in jurisprudence.

[Translation]

Mr. Chairman Sir, you have asked me to conclude my speech. I just want to say that the point mentioned by Shri Mohan Singhji, Congress is still following the same tradition. The ideals this party is following are the same even today which were laid down by Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehruji. This party is treading on the same path which was shown by Mahatma Gandhi. That is our source of inspiration. There is no need to reiterate that we are committed to those ideals.

The committee was constituted on the 7th and after some days on 11th the authority was set up. We want that these people should go into details of it and it should be got investigated within the stipulated time and submit the report to the Parliament as per law and there should be a debate on that report. Thereafter, it should be seen as to what has not been covered under it? It is being said outside that perhaps something is being suppressed or transparency is not being observed. You should not try to mislead the people because people cannot be misled now.

16.45 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

They are aware of the reality. People are aware of it and they have decided it some time back. ...*(Interruptions)* This has happened in Maharashtra and in other states and it will happen in future also. ...*(Interruptions)* I want to say that the U.P.A. Government is well aware of its responsibilities. With these words I strongly oppose this resolution.

[English]

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI (Pilibhit): Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity. I would like to start by referring to Mr. Rupchand Pal's extremely moving speech where he started about Iraq. Iraq has been the victim of a genocide which followed years and years of sanctions. Thousands of people of this wonderful, brave and independent country suffered for the fault of its leader and a few people around him. The moment sanctions

were put on it, it started dying. What are we discussing? We are not discussing the Congress Party's relationship with Iraq which has been indeed long and very supportive. We are not discussing India's relationship with Iraq which has been the same. We are discussing why people went to this dying country like flies to suck off little bits of blood and money from its carcass. ...*(Interruptions)* We are not talking about you. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record. Please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)**

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: We are talking about all the people not just the Indian names or other names. We are talking about all the people who went there to get contracts, to get vouchers and to get whatever little bit of money they could get from a country that was already bleeding to death.

Now Mr. Pal has said that the report has not names any American companies. I agree with him. It is extremely strange that they have not. But the companies that it has named and the people that it has named, many of those people, as he has also said, belong to high political positions in every country and he questions the fact that they have been named. I would like to say that it is only these kinds of people that have access to international deals and vouchers. We are not the only country. Perhaps every country has got black sheep who take advantage of positions and situations like this to go and make money. What we are asking here is not who has been named in the Volcker report.

The point is what does India object to the most? We object to the word 'dalal' which is considered the most abusive word in the entire vocabulary. Why do we object to middlemen in Defence deals? Because we believe it compromises our defence security. Our Foreign Policy security perhaps precede defence deals because our defence deals or defence management is done only after our Foreign Policy is made. Mr. Pal said that everybody who was picked up or named was named because he opposed the sanctions. What I am saying is that let us twist it around. After all it is a prism. The truth is prismatic and you can look at it from so many different directions depending on what their own experience is. We are saying here that it is not that they were named because they opposed sanctions. We are wanting to find this out: Did they oppose sanctions because they were paid? That is

*Not recorded.

what we are finding out. Now who came first—the chicken or the egg? Did they get paid before or did they get paid after and was it directly related to the stand that they took in the international foreign policy for India?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): Were they paid?

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: That is an excellent question and that would be found out by the Commission. *...(Interruptions)* If we were to presume that the Volcker Committee. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: You are asking your questions a little bit too early. First let us establish that there were payments made and then we can see that what it is concerned with.

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: I do not have to establish that because the Volcker Committee has said it and this discussion is on what the Volcker Committee has said. We are not questioning the Volcker Committee, we are questioning the reasons as to why it happened and according notice what has happened to the people indicted or named—you can put the word 'allegedly' all over the place. That is fine. I am sure the speaker will do that. There are no shades of grey that can be allowed in an issue that clearly compromises the Foreign Policy of India and imputes the taking of fund by the Congress Party and the Foreign Minister. If the Congress party sees that their Foreign Minister is culpable, then they should have removed him outright. If they did not see him culpable, then they should not have removed him at all. This action of allowing him to be a Cabinet Minister, attend Cabinet meetings till today and have his words in decisions that affect national integrity and foreign policy while under a cloud is inexplicable. The only opinion that it generates in public is that, perhaps, he was acting under the behest of his seniors in the Party which is why he cannot be punished, or that he knows the names of other beneficiaries who are so highly connected. *...(Interruptions)* None of this, the Food-for-Oil Committee vouchers, specifically for India, could have been done without the knowledge of the Food for Oil Committee. Who was one of the most senior Indians heading that Committee. I will not take his name. I am sure it will come out in the report of the Commission. What was his previous assignment under the two Congress Prime Ministers? Who had sent him to the United Nations? What was the relationship of the permanent

representatives of India to the United Nations during that time to the Executive Director of the Rajiv Gandhi Foundation? All these have been named and all of them are there in the Volcker Committee Report. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSHI: Sir, earlier, the hon. Speaker had given a ruling that except for the purported issue named within the Volcker Committee Report and also the text of the motion, nothing should be quoted. That is the ruling *...(Interruptions)* Now, any issue of a Government of India official who had been deputed from time to time to the United Nations cannot be questioned in this manner like during whose Prime Ministership they were sent. That is most unfair. It is not in the tradition of the House to discuss any issue in this manner. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: You had spent ten minutes on discussing the Report of the Jain Commission. Some other people spent more than 20 minutes on the Tehelka Report. I also can surely ask questions. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSHI: But you cannot ask anything beyond the scope of the debate. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: Who was the owner of M/s Hamdam? *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSHI: We have to regulate the proceedings of the House as per the ruling given by the hon. Speaker and also as per the text of the motion. We cannot discuss Tom, Dick and Harry as to trying to find out a relationship between a person who was deputed to the United Nations some 20 years back and things like that. Those are out of the text of this motion. How could you do that. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: Now, has M/s Hamdam been mentioned in the Report or not? Who are the owners of this company? M/s. Hamdam has been mentioned as a company. Who are the two owners of this company? One of them is a close relative and a close friend of Shri Natwar Singh and his son. He is the son-in-law of a senior Himachal Pradesh Congress leader. Who is the other owner? The other owner is the son of the previous OSD to the former Prime Minister, the late Shri Rajiv Gandhi. These are the two owners of Hamdaam. Everywhere you look, you will find that it

[Shrimai Maneka Gandhi]

comes back to the same central point. Everybody is connected with it. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSHI: Sir, I am talking of rules. ...*(Interruptions)* Sinners are killers. ...*(Interruptions)* If Nathuram Godse was the killer of Mahatma Gandhi, does it mean that all relatives of Nathuram Godse are linked with the killing of Mahatma Gandhi? ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: Sir, I am not going to say more on this. The Congress Party has very many people whom I have known for many years. They are honourable, decent and honest people who genuinely have a vision for India. Are they all going to be led into Bofors Chapter II?

SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY (Sriperumbudur): Sir, I rise to oppose this Motion on behalf of DMK Party.

Oil-for-food scheme launched by the United Nations Security Council permitting Iraq to trade oil to pay for essential goods was on humanitarian consideration. There is no doubt that every scheme has got loopholes and some people might have exploited them. The Volcker Report has come now and it has named many companies in India and abroad where some irregularities had taken place. There are also reports that tax violations had taken place and the Enforcement Directorate is already investigating the matter. The Volcker Report has also said that these transactions had taken place mostly during 2000 and 2002 when the BJP Government was in office.

The Opposition Parties, especially our friends in the BJP are demanding the resignation of Shri Natwar Singh on the plea that he has been named in the Volcker Report. Sir, I am just asking a question to them through you. When the scam had happened, the BJP was in the Government. Then how can they forget their responsibilities? But we appreciate the steps taken by the Government of India and the hon. Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh by instituting an Inquiry Committee headed by Mr. Dayal who is a renowned diplomat. That Committee will go into all the technicalities of the deal, including scrutiny of documents as being made available by the United Nations panel and the independent Inquiry Committee. Apart from this, the Government has also appointed former Chief Justice of Supreme Court, Justice Pathak under the Commission of Inquiry Act to go into the whole issue with proper terms of reference.

Therefore, instead of waiting for the findings from these two panels, jumping to the conclusion and asking for the resignation of Shri Natwar Singh is very unfortunate. Our leader, Dr. Kalaingnar has already issued a statement to the effect that only when a person is found guilty, he should be asked to quit office.

Now, the BJP friends may touch their hearts and answer one question. Only by the mention of the name of Shri Natwar Singh in the Report, you are seeking his resignation. But when Advaniji was the Home Minister, how did he deal with a person who was convicted in a corruption case? In April 2001,...* nomination papers in four Assembly Constituencies, namely, Andipatti, Krishnagiri, Pudukkottai and Bhuvanagiri were rejected by the respective Returning Officers. At least, two of them were rejected on the ground that she stood convicted not in one but in three corruption cases.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Sir, how is it relevant to Volcker Report? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It may be expunged.

SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY: Sir, I am talking of corruption cases.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Do not mention the names of persons who are not present in the House.

SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY: On 14th August, 2001, she was allowed to take office as the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu. I am asking the BJP friends one question. Why did you not advise the then Tamil Nadu Governor not to allow a convicted person to take oath of the office of Chief Minister?

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: How is this related to Volcker Report? ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY: Sir, Advaniji spoke about the sovereignty of the country. I would put him one question. Has he protected the sovereignty of the country? Those who were convicted were permitted to occupy the highest chair of the State, the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu.

17.00 hrs.

The present situation is entirely different. Before stating the proceedings of the House, before making any

*Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

demands or making any protests, the Opposition should consider that the hon. Prime Minister has already ordered an Inquiry and divested the portfolio of the Minister concerned pending result of the Inquiry.

I would request our friends on the Opposition not to adopt double standards because if they start making such demands like resignation at the drop of the hat, then there will be problems for the smooth functioning of democracy in this country. I appeal to our friends on the Opposition to wait for the findings of the two panels.

[*Translation*]

*SARDAR RATTAN SINGH AJNALA (Taran Taran): Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, I thank you for allowing me to participate on the Adjournment Motion on Volcker report.

Sir, I am surprised at the behaviour of the Congress party. They have indulged in ... *** but they are not accepting it. The people of India are greatly concerned that earlier, the Congressmen used to indulge in... *** in the country but now they have become. ***

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSHI: No, Sir. This should be expunged. That word should be expunged. ...(*Interruptions*) This should be expunged. This cannot go on like this. He cannot accuse a party as a.*** This is unparliamentary. Sir, you can see the rules. This is unparliamentary. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have already expunged it. One who is not the member of this House, his name will not go.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Except Dr. Rattan Singh Ajnala's speech, nothing will go on record.

...(*Interruptions*)**

SARDAR RATTAN SINGH AJNALA: The people of India are concerned about this. They should have accepted that they have indulged in this but instead of accepting their crime, they are pleading innocence.

*Translation of the speech originally delivered in Punjabi.

**Not recorded.

***Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

If they had not done anything wrong, where was the need of constituting a Commission. If they had not done anything unlawful, why did the person concerned resign? If nothing wrong was done, why raids were conducted? You will be surprised that on the one hand, people are dying in Iraq. On the other hand, these people are minting money. Is this humanity? What are they saying? That you can take the name of Congress Party but you cannot take the name of its leader. *

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have already expunged it.

...(*Interruptions*)

SARDAR RATTAN SINGH AJNALA: Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, what was needed was that Mr. Natwar Singh should have resigned on his own. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have already expunged it.

SARDAR RATTAN SINGH AJNALA: He says that he is not involved. If he is not involved, then there is no need to read the Volcker report. Sir, the fact is that he is involved. But, he alone is not involved. People from Punjab are involved.is involved.(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have expunged it.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have already expunged it.

SARDAR RATTAN SINGH AJNALA: They were earlier an Indian company indulging in theft. They have become an international company. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSHI: No Sir, this should be expunged.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have already expunged that.

SARDAR RATTAN SINGH AJNALA: Sir, if they are true and have nothing to hide, why are they afraid? Only Indians are not involved in this. Foreigners are also

*Expunged as order by the Chair.

[Sardar Rattan Singh Ajnala]

involved in this. Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, we are all concerned.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please conclude.

SARDAR RATTAN SINGH AJNALA: Deputy Speaker Sir, everyone is concerned. We all want those who are involved in it should be given stern punishment, so that people should know that this loot not of national level but of international level has stopped.

[Translation]

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY (Sabarkantha): Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, I have risen to oppose the motion moved by opposition in the House. I know that this motion has a political motive and has been brought for political gain with a malicious attitude. It has nothing to do with truth. These people do not want to find out the truth. They are not interested in it. Their interest is only in getting maximum political gain through this motion and to realise their political aspirations. They have no interest in any other things. It is evident from today's debate that they have nothing to do with truth. The Governments of the day is sensitive one. ...*(Interruptions)* It is not like the previous government. Examples of Tehlka and other episodes were cited here. The attitude of the previous Govt. in bringing a motion on the issues was different. Thus Government is much more sensitive than the previous one and it is an accept fact. But we know that despite all this as soon as this thing came to the fore the Government immediately constituted an inquiry committee and changed the portfolio of the minister of External Affairs. The Government did all this to know the fact and to go into the root of all this. WE wanted to know the truth. But my friends sitting on the other side have no interest in it.

Now, I come to report. Much hue and cry is being made about this report since morning. Numerous questions have been raised all over the world about the entire constitution of the Committee, its composition as well as the contents of this report. I would like to quote from the limited portion of that report which I have got. The task of preparation of this report in UN was assigned to 60 officers. Nobody knows as to who were those sixty officers, what was their background and what was their affiliation. People are demanding to know the content of this report but they are not disclosing it. To whom they have given their interview and what is the content of that

interview, there is no mention of all this in the U.N. Committee report. This thing has even been concealed from various committee of U.N. This has not been put before them. Its contentions are directly linked with other things. That is why I want to say that neither the process of preparing the report itself is transparent nor they want to make it transparent. Due to which a big suspicion arises about this report as to what can be the motive of the contents of the report. You know that thinking of a country is dominated in UN. Many countries have complained about Human Right Committee of UN, because the Committee reveals the incidents of violation of human rights in a particular country before the whole world. Therefore, they are unhappy with that. Not only this, many people of this country still want to present a resolution in UN on processing of Uranium and Plutonium being carried out by many countries of the world, but people are not agreed. A member of this committee has also said about this country that US state department has put pressure on the officials of the committee of his country Not only this, he was told to examine the report of UN and not to examine the role of companies in this country. Therefore, no name of the companies of US figures in it. About the transparency of this report, I want to tell that the name of former UN Secretary General also figured in the report among the names of persons at the time of writing it. But he was given an opportunity, a letter was written to him. They came to know from his bank account that he is not involved in it and hence his name was removed. The Chairman of this Committee did not adopt any such procedure with regard to India and the name of two persons from India was mentioned in the report without providing them any such information.

Advanji raised a question today in the morning as to how can the name of minister of External Affairs and that of Congress be figured in the report. I want to express my suspicion and hope that my views will be correct. I want to ask as to how many countries of the world are interested in the politics of middle-east and

[English]

change of the Government in this country has displeased a number of Government in the world.

[Translation]

The new government came into power and it has a very good relationship with the whole world especially with the Islamic countries of the middle-east. Also want to state that the background affiliation of the 60 officers of

UN is not being disclosed because they may have affiliation with several powerful countries.

Sir, I think that the reason for figuring name is ... and I want to state it. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please do not disturb.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY (Sabarkantha): I know that you do not like it. I want to state as to how do the names figure. I also want to state that international intelligence agency, which has always have a relationship with many countries of the world and who are against this Government and who want to destabilize this government and who want us not to have any relationship with Islamic world and middle-east countries, have included their names in it for the same purpose, so that the entire government may change due to these names. Congress party is being defamed. I think that they have their interest attached with it therefore these names have been included in it.

What was the sudden response of the Congress party after it? We constituted a committee and presented the facts before the country. The investigation being conducted in this regard would reveal the true facts. This question is raised time and again and all the newspapers of the country have asked as to why no opportunity to clarify the position was provided to the minister of External Affairs and to the congress party? It has been made very explicit in the newspapers that had they been provided even with an opportunity to clarify, then the report of Volcker Committee and its facts would have been different and they would have not been shown in the manner, they are shown. Hence, the question of overall credibility of this report raises before us. Although this report has been prepared under the influence of UN system. The report we are talking about is full of criticism of the Secretary General of UN and when someone asked him in an interview whether he would resign, he bluntly said that he was not going to resign. The reaction of the diplomats of the France is same and it was told that enquiry will be conducted first. And they are not talking about resignation. Here the government removed the minister of External Affairs from his post first, so that

enquiry may be conducted fairly. These people are alleging me of treason and selling out the interest of the country. I want to ask these people as to whether they are alleging the same party which fought the war of independence for the country. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

...(*Interruptions*)*

[*Translation*]

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: When Congress Party was fighting for freedom in this country, the persons of their party were in jail and wrote forgiveness letters to the British Government and were released...(*Interruptions*) When Congress party was fighting for independence, these people used to organize *shaka*. These people are talking to us of selling the interest of the country. You have not formed Bangladesh. Bangladesh was formed by Congress Party. ...(*Interruptions*) Leave the talk of coffin. You do not want to do anything. You do not want to progress. I am saying so because patriotism is not solely your heritage.

17.19 hrs.

(MR. SPEAKER *in the chair*)

Congress party has a bright history in this country. You can not create a miracle by alleging Congress party. You know it very well that even the light of thousand of candles cannot dim the brightness of sunshine. There can be no other motive except your political motive in alleging Congress party, in bringing the matter for discussion in Parliament without knowing the facts about a minister and prior to submission of enquiry report.

You are following only the politics of defaming, of degrading, of communal violence. You do not want to raise above it. Your place is going to be secured and will remain secured, please note it down. You are not going to come here again.

With these words, I finish my statements.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, we decided that the voting will be at 6 o' clock, including the reply. But still I have got about 12-13 names.

*Not recorded.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): You have still got 13 names!

MR. SPEAKER: Excluding yours.

If I want to give chance to all parties, I will first call those whom I have not called so far and then I will call the Minister. Then, probably we will finish the debate at 6.30 p.m.

[Translation]

SHRI LALMANI PRASAD (Basti): Sir, I rise to oppose the Adjournment Motion on behalf of the Bahujan Samaj Party brought in by the opposition. The BSP is of the view when the inquiry committee has been set up, the opposition should wait till the report of the committee comes and when the report is submitted, a discussion should be held thereon and that would have been better. Our party wants that strict action should be taken against the persons found guilty in it, whosoever they may be. This is what our party wants.

Sir, I want to tell the opposition that no discussion is being held on the burning problems the country is facing and no efforts are being made to find a solution to them but on the contrary, the time is wasted on such a topic which needs no discussion at this point of time.

Today, no attention is being paid to the burning problems faced by the common man. The crores of farmers of the country are facing the problems of seeds, fertilizers and water. There is drinking water problem in the country. There is an army of unemployed youth before us, there problem needs to be addressed. But we are not having any discussion on these issues to find a way out to them. There are so many problems in the country like the problem of persecution of Dalits, power problem, problems of flood, draught and naxalism, problems of SCs/STs and OBCs issue of women, reservation, price rise, shortage of medicines and doctors in hospitals, need of electoral reforms etc. All these problems should have been discussed in the House, but no discussion is being held on them.

Sir, finally I would certainly say that today the members of opposition instead of paying attention towards the basic problems facing the country are wasting the time of the House. Their role is destructive rather than constructive. Therefore, the Bahujan Samaj Party and I oppose the Adjournment motion brought in the House.

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE (Ratnagiri): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Adjournment Motion on behalf of the Congress Party. Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal, the hon. Member was speaking here. When he started speaking here, he laid special emphasis on this point and he made a mention of it that perhaps he might not be knowing nor Advaniji would have read this report properly and stating this he told that there were five volumes of this report, there was nothing objectionable in 4 volumes and in the 5th volume, a table contained two names concerned our country. One was of a party and the other was of a leader. I am just repeating what you have said, I am saying nothing new. ...*(Interruptions)* One is of a party and the other name is of a leader.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to know this much only as to whether such a reference is a matter of any honour to our country or the congress party for that matter. You have said this much only that there are only two names in that table. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: This has caused an excitement in the House and that is why I mentioned about that. Mohan Singh Ji made a mention of Pandit Nehru Ji that he had talked of taking action against any sort of corruption. That is right to that extent. But what we are witnessing here is that someone has said something and others are also toeing his line without knowing about the facts. ...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: He has said that suspend or expel him but here the entire party is involved. How the entire party could be expelled? ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: That time everyone used to talk together, but today, I regret that if someone gets a matter to upset other, he makes it his agenda. Now, you people have also started this thing. Earlier it was not so. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, now when there is a mention of Nehru Ji here, we and the country as well would like to know whether today's congress is the same congress that was in Nehru's time? Are you following the same policies today also? ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SURENDRA PRAKASH GOYAL: Yes, of course ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: You just have some introspection as to what your image is?

MR. SPEAKER: What you have asked, the reply is given to that.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am mentioning this thing here because all of us are not debating Volcker Report here. This report is not the subject matter of today's discussion. This motion is being opposed by the congress. The discussion that we are doing here through adjournment motion is not on Volcker Report. That is not the subject for today's discussion but Bansal ji has said that the name of the congress party and one of its leader has figured in the table of one of the volumes and that is the subject of discussion here. That is a matter of concern for the country and, therefore, discussion is taking place on that issue here today.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Your time is being taken away. You have only five minutes. Do not get upset.

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: I am concluding in five minutes. When all these things were published in the newspapers for the first time the name of our minister of External Affairs and the congress party appeared in the news. Just on the next day of the news of some minister or party receiving some benefit in the Food for Oil deal there was this headlines in all the newspapers in the country that our Prime Minister has given clean chit to Natwar ji and said that he has no connection with it. The whole of the country has read this news. These news were published in all the newspapers. Then later on minister of External Affairs was removed from his post and was made a minister without portfolio. He was given clean chit and if he had no connection with that then why was he removed from his post? Why his ministry was taken away from him and why was he made a minister without portfolio? When this matter was being discussed out side the House Natwarji was giving statements repeatedly that he had no connection with it and these allegation were wrong and he would not resign in any case and would not relinquish his post. But, finally, he was made a minister without portfolio. Now, all these

points will be enquired into by the inquiry Committee. We trust the government and believe that the intention of the government is quite clear. The government wants to bring the reality before the country. We want that the truth should come before the House and the people of the country through the committee.

There was a lot of uproar in the House on a statement made by Shrimati Maneka Gandhi. I have been elected to the House for the last four tenures. I have also been a minister in the government led by Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee. Shri Ram Naik took initiative in this regard considering the situation of Iraq and India at that time and it was decided to supply Food for Oil. There was surplus foodgrain in the country at that time. It was a matter of concern for the country as to what should be done to that surplus stock. We had lakhs of tonnes of foodgrain in the country and we were throwing it in the sea. Therefore, it was in the interest of the country and there was a need to save the foreign exchange, I would thank the then Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee who had mentioned such a large reserve of foreign exchange, the fruit of which is being enjoyed by the present finance minister. Food for Oil deal was signed at the time when Iraq was in critical situation. The name of the congress party and its leader and minister have cropped up in connection with that deal. It is a matter of concern not only for the party but for the country as well. It is a matter of shame for our country. With this, I conclude.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now, I call upon Shri C.K. Chandrappan to speak. Please conclude within five minutes.

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN (Trichur): Sir, I am given a special warning.

MR. SPEAKER: Not at all. A lot of discussion has taken place.

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN (Trichur): Sir, I stand here to oppose the Motion moved by Shri L.K. Advani.

While initiating the discussion, the Leader of the Opposition has tried to lionise the Report of Volcker. He said that it is an international committee, independent committee, and it is also done with the consent of the United Nations. So, it gives an impression that what Volcker said in that Report is something like a Gospel's truth or something like *Gita* that we should do *poorja*. So much has appeared in the Press. If you go through that,

[Shri C.K. Chandrappan]

it does not give that impression. It is a biased Report. Let us be very clear about it. The Report accuses those who took an anti-imperialist position consistently. The Report turns a Nelson's eye towards the trans-national companies who were doing most of the business. There is no word about them. It accused the South African National Congress along with what they call Congress, India.

Shri Advani asked whether any communist is here in the House because he found the names of some communist parties there. But I must say that India has done utmost fairness to this Report because we have appointed a judicial probe into it. It is a kind of a judicial inquiry. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: it is not a kind of a judiciary inquiry. It is a judicial inquiry. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPA: It is a judicial inquiry to look into the allegations about Shri Natwar Singh and about the Congress Party. I do not think many countries have done so.

The present Foreign Minister, Mr. Sergei Lavrov of the Russian Government—I am not speaking of the Soviet Government—accused the Paul Volcker Committee of basing its conclusions on false evidence. That is how they said. Part of the information Moscow received from the Volcker Committee they said, was not backed by documented evidence. These are reflections made by the Russian Government on Volcker Committee. You were so gleefully happy that the name of the Russian Communist Party's leader was mentioned there. They said it was based on concocted documents. However, the Head of the Presidential Administration, Voloshin of Russia was accused. The Russian Government say that his signature was false. His signature is known. He is a very important functionary of the State. They say that it was on false signature that the allegation was made. So, this is about the Volcker Committee Report.

Now, coming to India, Advani said that when he was the Deputy Prime Minister he had asked his Minister, I think, he was referring to Mr. Ram Naik and said that the Indian Oil Company did not have the lure of money offered by Iraq. Well, probably that is a very clever move. The Indian Public Sector Company did not have any unfair deal. But when Naik was asked why he was there in Iraq, he was saying that he was leading a business delegation he was leading a large Indian delegation of

businessmen to Iraq in July, 2002. When he gave Mr. Atal Bihari Vajpayee's letter to Mr. Saddam Hussein and was offered oil coupons for Indian Oil by Iraqi President himself, Mr. Naik said he did not want that. But did he allow the others to do business?

When he was asked specifically what about those industrial houses or companies which he took with him, he said it was his business to promote their interests, their business with that country. When he allowed them to do business, did he receive any commission? That was the question the Pressmen asked. He said, "That is an allegation." I have a request to the Government that that allegation also should be looked into. Yes, you should look into the allegation whether Mr. Natwar Singh is involved. You should look into the allegation whether the Congress Party is involved.

MR. SPEAKER: Please conclude.

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPA: Sir, I am concluding.

But you should also look into the allegation which Mr. Ram Naik said "that it is an allegation". That has also to be looked into. Then we will get a complete picture as to who were all involved in this. I said that we had done fairness to the Report because we are, perhaps, the only Government in the world that has taken the step to look into the allegations made against responsible people and Parties in our country. But if we have to discuss this Report, may be after we get the Report of the inquiry—probably, the Chair may permit to discuss the Volcker Committee Report here—then we can say how the American imperialists are trying to use the United Nations in the most unethical fashion against the countries who are taking an independent foreign policy, an independent position in relation to the US imperialists.

Sir, I would request you to give me one or two minutes. I think, you will allow me to do so.

MR. SPEAKER: One minute for last sentence only which should be middle sized; not too long.

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPA: Okay Sir. The thing is that in the name of fighting communism, in the name of containing communism, in the last part of the 20th Century, we have seen US imperialism running roughshod over the world. Now, in the name of fighting terrorism, they did attack Afghanistan under UN flag. But when they attacked Iraq, no UN flag was given to them. They

did attack Iraq with their own forces supported by NATO.

Sir, it is their occupation Government now in Iraq. Mr. Advani said that all the records were intact because that building of oil Ministry was not bombed. The whole documents were placed before Volcker Committee. Who placed those documents? Is there any democratic Government sitting there in Iraq to give the documents? It is the American occupation forces who occupied that country, occupied that Ministry, received the records and placed it before Volcker. It is not an independent Government of that Country; a sovereign Government of that Country who placed the records. Let us not put so much faith in Volcker who stands denounced in front of the countries of the world. We are doing enquiry because we want a little more justice to be done to our own democrate institutions and people. That is why we have set up an inquiry into this. Sir, I oppose this Motion. I think that the inquiry should be done properly and after that we should have a discussion on this here in Parliament.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Harin Pathak. You have five minutes only.

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: I will try to be brief.

MR. SPEAKER: I am sure because you are such an astute parliamentarian.

[Translation]

SHRI HARIN PATHAK (Ahmedabad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, with your permission I rise to support the adjournment motion moved today in the morning by our party leader and leader of opposition Shri Advani ji. The subject of the motion is very serious. It would not be appropriate to go into the details of this issue because a commission has been set up for enquiry in this connection. But, I am sorry to say in this House that for the first time in the history of 58 years of independence that a ruling political party of our country has been alleged in this report to have received commission many governments came and went during this political journey of 58 years. Many allegation were made and many of them were probed but is not it a matter of shame for this House and for all of us that a foreign agency associated with UNO has pointed finger towards a political party of the country and that too against a minister in the ruling political party? ...*(Interruptions)* Do the people of the country not want to know that. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please, take your seat. We have to conclude the debate. What are you doing?

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the whole country wants to know. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: There is not so much time.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: Whenever one incident takes place within the country, then its report is discussed before the country. But, here these four words which have been repeatedly told before the House in English and Hindi—"Oil for Food" but I say "Food for Oil"—on these four words the honour of the country is at stake. The Volcker Committee which was constituted. ...*(Interruptions)* (from 1999 when Iraq attacked Kuwait. I do not want to go into the details of that but taking further the subject presented before the House by Shri Mohan Singhji and Maneka ji, I want to urge the government not to take the allegations related to the honour of the country so lightly. This question is not related to any party or a person an individual. I felt sorry when our minister and my friend Shri Priyaranjan Dasmunshi ji tried to confound the issue through argument about he himself got trapped in to it. Our communist party leader Shri Rupchand Pal ji tried to tell this. Everybody agrees that Iraq should have been helped on humanitarian grounds, considering the situation prevailing at that time. Some persons also tried to justify this surcharge saying what is wrong in that.

Providing foodgrains and medicines there to the poor in the wake of genocide there was fair enough as far as it goes. You also said it was the right thing to do. But these two things must be viewed separately. Giving surcharge and sending foodgrains from here by taking surcharge and purchasing oil from there in exchange for foodgrains and accepting/pocketing commission in the bartering process. This is the most dangerous thing and this is what we want to discuss today. Medicines and foodgrains were sent there on humanitarian grounds and the kickbacks which was received by the companies or a person or a party in lieu there of is not a good thing. I think the coming generations will not pardon the congress party for this nor will they pardon Natwar Singh ji if his involvement is confirmed. Merely giving resignation does not end the matter. If you want me to confine to the Volcker Committee report only, I would like to submit

[Shri Harin Pathak]

my point after giving a reference. The government should study the table nos. 3, 9, 10, 11 and 12 thoroughly. Table no. 3 clearly mentions the name of Natwar Singh ji. It clearly mentions the name of the congress party also. I do not want to comment on an individual. George Saab was talking about an individual. I certainly say that the table no. 3 in the Volcker Committee report clearly bears the name of the congress party. I would not like to discuss individuals as George Saheb was talking about while speaking on the subject. Plainly speaking, the congress party's name does appear in Table No. 3 of the Volcker Committee's report.

[English]

Mr. Singh is shown in Table III of the Report as a non-contractual beneficiary in connection with four million barrels of oil allotted to Masefield AG, the contracting company which actually lifted 1.936 million barrels. Out of this, the phases in which oil was allocated is shown as Table IX. The Congress party is also listed in the same Table III as non-contractual beneficiary in connection with four million barrels allotted in phases 10, 11, 12 and 13. Out of this allocation, 1.001 million barrels were lifted in this case by Masefield AG, shown as contracting company in phase 10.

[Translation]

I am saying this because Dasmunsi ji was making comparisons. He started with praising Advani ji, I thought that he would say something good that they would ask Natwar Singh ji to quit but he himself got confused while making comparisons. He was drawing a parallel between the Volcker Committee report and the Tehlka and he started with Advani ji when Advani ji's name figured in the Jain's Diary case, he didn't take even a single day to resign. He decided to withdraw himself from the public life till his name would be cleared by the judges and he won the election again. But here the congress party has failed to react for full 17 days.

[English]

For 17 days there was no response from the Congress Party. As Advaniji has rightly pointed out and stated in this opening remarks, it was the flip-flop response from the Congress Party at that time? He said the report is.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Do not use that expression. That expression need not be used.

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: That was the report.

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister said certain things.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Do not write that word. Shri Harin Pathak, you need not repeat that.

[Translation]

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: I had expected from Munsji that if at all he was drawing parallels, then he would have accepted that on the one hand we have a party the leader of which resigned in no time just because his name inadvertently had figured in a diary and he resigned from his Gandhi Nagar Seat and finally his name was cleared, on the other hand there is a party whose partyman is still continuing as a minister even in the wake of the Volcker Report. I do not want to go into the depth of the report. But I would like to make a mention of what Maneka ji said.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Two more speakers of your Party are there to speak. Please conclude.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please address to me.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: That is not recorded. You ignore them.

...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: The people of Ahmedabad have elected me to the House by thumping majority. Therefore, you should think before raising a finger at me.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I will call the next speaker if you do not conclude.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: That is not to be recorded.

...(Interruptions)*

*Not recorded.

[Translation]

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: Sir, I would like to invite the attention of hon. Finance Minister.

[English]

The Enforcement Directorate has questioned two partners of the controversial firm Hamdan exports—Andy Sehgal and Vikas Dar in connection with Iraq Oil for Food scam. Is it true? Secondly, there are links which have already been established, you could inquire and you can reply on that when you give reply to the debate, that the calls were made to Jagat and Andy Sehgal of Hamdan Export which is fairly established.

[Translation]

Sir, I want to give the numbers from which the calls were made.

[English]

That number is 9810008661. The address is C-180, first floor, Defence Colony, New Delhi. Calls and SMSs were made till late night. ...(*Interruptions*) I am concluding. On these days, after the Volcker report was released on 28th October, Jamil sent a SMS message and phoned on the same day at night to Jordan. The number is 00962777275665 and the other call was made to London number 00447968444999. Then he telephoned to Jagat. The telephone number which is held by Jagat is 9871089116. These calls were made from Jamil to Jagat.

[Translation]

The name of three MOS also figure in talks. I want to know as to why so many calls were being made on the 28th night? Were they discussing only film or Delhi's temperature? I want to say, through you, that all these things should come out before the country. The names of 130 companies figure in that. Shri Ram Naik ji visited Iraq during his tenure but no wherein the report, there is a mention of the names of the BJP or any of NDA's constituents. There is no name of any person belonging to the NDA. The companies which have taken surcharge needs to be fully investigated. I would like to tell that out of 130 companies, 46 companies supply tea. I mean to say that the companies which were supplying tea were also given the contract.

[English]

This is something horrible and shameful for the nation. So, I demand removal of Shri Natwar Singh from the Council of Ministers and that a top level inquiry, in addition to Justice Pathak Inquiry, may be made with reference to Volcker Committee Report.

MR. SPEAKER: Dr. M. Jagannath, your party has got only two minutes. I will give you four minutes.

DR. M. JAGANNATH (Nagar Kumool): Thank you. Respected Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Adjournment Motion. After Iraq invaded Kuwait in 1990, there were so many difficulties for the country in general and for the human beings in particular in Iraq. Reports had started appearing that millions of people were dying of malnutrition and UNICEF also came out with the report that if something was not done, the country was heading towards a disaster. That paved the way for putting Oil for Food Programme in place.

The Volcker Committee Report has made it very clear and exposed how the Congress Party and some of its leaders behaved in an inhuman manner for the programmes which were made for the welfare of the human beings. Sir, the contracts which were awarded, they were totally in contravention of the guidelines suggested by the United Nations and there were allegations of corruption in awarding contracts, and money generated from sale of oil under Oil for Food Programme has been diverted for other purposes. Nearly 130 companies from India had contravened the United Nations guidelines and got illegal gratification and illegal money.

Coming to the question of the role of Shri Natwar Singh, the former Minister of External Affairs and now the Minister without portfolio and the Congress, they have been listed in the recently released Volcker Committee Report as non-contractual beneficiaries under Iraq's Oil for Food Programme. The contracting company was Masfield AG. I would like to know the relationship between the Masfield AG and Shri Natwar Singh and also the Congress Party. This was very clearly mentioned in Table III of the Report and also that four billion barrels of oil was allotted to Masfield AG and was lifted. This has been made very clear.

If Shri Natwar Singh and the Congress Party are very clear that they have to be given a clean chit, what was the necessity of, first of all, relieving Shri Natwar

[Dr. M. Jagannath]

Singh of his portfolio of External Affairs? Secondly, what was the necessity of instituting a Commission of Inquiry to go into all the aspects? If, according to their contention, they are very clean, what was the necessity of going through these procedures? It is because the Volcker Committee Report has thoroughly exposed the Congress Party and its access to foreign money in Oil for Food Programme and this has given an opportunity to the foreign Governments and agencies to interfere in the internal affairs of the country. This is a very dangerous trend.

On behalf of the Telugu Desam Party, we strongly condemn the Congress Party and its leaders for compromising the interests of the country for their monetary gains. Telugu Desam Party also condemns the UPA Government's efforts to cover up the serious crime of the Congress Party and its leaders by ordering a Commission of inquiry which does not have any sanctity under the Commission of inquiry Act. What for has this Commission been constituted? It has been constituted only for an eye-wash and to save the culprits. This is the only idea behind setting it.

18.00 hrs.

Finally, because there are a number of companies involved, because a big national party which is ruling the country is involved, and also because some of the Left parties are involved. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: What Left parties are involved? ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. M. JAGANNATH: In the morning hon. Advaniji mentioned it. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Dr. Jagannath, you have not followed him. He said 'some foreign Communist parties'.

DR. M. JAGANNATH: Yes, Sir, they are not from this country.

MR. SPEAKER: You make your point. I have already been very liberal with you.

DR. M. JAGANNATH: Since a number of companies are involved and there is a lot of money involved in illegal transactions, on behalf of the Telugu Desam Party I demand that the entire case should be handed over to the CBI so that an impartial inquiry could be conducted and necessary action can be taken.

MR. SPEAKER: Prof. Ramadass, you have got three minutes but I will allow you four minutes.

PROF. M. RAMADASS (Pondicherry): Please give me eight minutes, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: Sorry. No bargains with the Chair. Carry on.

PROF. M. RAMADASS: Hon. Speaker, Sir, I rise to oppose the Adjournment Motion moved by the Leader of the Opposition, both its content as well as the arguments advanced by the BJP and its allies. The Motion says that there is a failure on the part of the Government to take action and that the Government is trying to cover up certain issues. I fully refute both these allegations of the Adjournment Motion.

If the Government has to take any action, there should be documentary evidence, there should be *prima facie* evidence, and there should be some iota of evidence to show that there is some involvement of somebody, some Minister, or some Party. In this case, there is none of this. Therefore, no Government in the world can take any action on the basis of some kind of a casual reference that is made.

The Volcker Committee Report, on the basis of which they are making these allegations, is spread over 630 pages. In none of those pages there is a mention of either Mr. Natwar Singh or the Congress Party. There is Table-III in which there is a one-line mention that they are non-contractual beneficiaries. How can anybody take action on the basis of that casual reference? Can any Government take action on that basis without any conclusive evidence on the benefits received by anybody?

There are a number of contradictions in the Volcker Committee Report on the basis of which these allegations have been made. This Volcker Committee was intended to inquire into an economic aspect. It was intended to find out what transpired in the transactions between Iraq and other countries. It is about the purchase and sale of commodities. It is about business. How can anyone assume that a political party is doing the business? An individual can do business; a company can do business. How can a political party to business? It is only a figment of imagination on the part of BJP to say that the Congress Party was involved in a business transaction and, therefore, it received kickbacks or it received bribes etc. Therefore, the very fact that it mentioned about a political

party shows that this Report is not reliable and incongruous.

Not only that, the Volcker Committee Report itself says that mere mention of any company, or an individual, or a party is not a guarantee that that company, or the individual, or the party has authorised the payment. This is the exact sentence of the Volcker Committee Report. Identification of a particular company's contract does not necessarily mean that the company either made such payment or authorised, or otherwise aware of it. That means, the Committee has concluded on unsure foundation.

It mentions a company but it does not say that the company has actually paid it or not, or authorised it or not. It also asks for detailed investigations. That means, the investigation that it has done and the conclusion that it has arrived at are not conclusive enough to come to any conclusion. That has been accepted by the Volcker Committee Report itself. How can we reach any conclusion on the basis of this kind of a report? Therefore, I would feel that the Volcker Committee Report is only a bunch of conjectures, hypothetical statements and mere probabilities. The methodology and procedures used by the Committee are faulty. It contains a lot of inconsistencies in the data used. The Committee says, "we certainly listed the information indicated from Iraqi records; we did not say what is right or wrong." This is a very important point. The committee says, "we have certainly listed information indicated from the Iraqi records but we did not say what is right or wrong; we only said what was there in the Iraqi records." Whether there was denial, acceptance or if there was something in between, there are no answers to these questions. That means, the Committee has not passed any judgement that the Congress Party has done wrong or Shri Natwar Singh has done wrong. They have merely relied on the records. Where from these records have come? Did Volcker Committee visit the place, and then collected the information? None of the members of the Committee, including Mr. Volcker, visited Iraq and collected data from there. All the records were supplied to them by the forces which have occupied Iraq, on behalf of the USA. Any record which has been seized by a party cannot be taken as an evidence, according the minimum legal jurisprudence. The Opposition must know that the elementary international jurisprudence which says that no conclusion can be evidently drawn from a document which has been seized under invasion.

Therefore, I would feel that nobody should give any importance to the Volcker Committee Report. Many of the countries which have been indicted by this Committee have also disregarded it. One South African company has even launched a legal prosecution against Volcker Committee, and it says that the Committee has made untrue, reckless, irresponsible, highly damaging and derogatory statement in the report, and therefore, it has dismissed it. When all the countries in the world have done it, the Government of India has taken it very seriously, and it has gone deep into the matter and has instituted a Commission as per the law and the Commission of Inquiry Act. Therefore, we should wait for the veracity of this Report. We should wait for the findings of the Committee. I would urge upon the House to reject the adjournment Motion lock, stock and barrel.

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, let us continue till about 6.45 or 7.00 p.m. There are seven or eight Members. Please cooperate with the Chair.

Shri Uday Singh. You are very articulate. Hence, five minutes maximum is allotted to you.

SHRI UDAY SINGH (Pune): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I will wrap up in five minutes.

I will go back to the beginning of this debate when our leader, the Leader of the Opposition made his opening remarks. To move forward from there, I would like to say that I was extremely impressed by the very expressive and very candid remark of Shrimati Sonia Gandhi at a Leadership Summit in Delhi recently when she went beyond the Volcker Report, and said that she was extremely worried at the present public perception which is prevailing of political parties and organisations being seedy and wily. I could not help but be extremely impressed by what she said. But when I see the action the Government has taken, the two things do not seem to be falling into place. Whether the Volcker Committee Report is true or false, only the authority appointed by the Government can find out. But it has given clear indications that there is a *prima facie* involvement of an individual's name who was then the Foreign Minister, and also one of the largest political parties in India, known not only in India but known throughout the world. It has been the brunt of the Congress party's argument that these are probably conspiracies hatched to bring a bad name to the Congress Party.

[Shri Uday Singh]

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I begin to wonder as to what the reasons could be for the whole world to have somehow connived against the Congress Party, its leaders, both past and present. I am not going into the details. I am only making a very brief reference.

We have a book by Danial Patrick Moynihan who was not only a former Ambassador to India but was also a key policy-maker in Washington. We then have the book called the Mitrokhin Archives, which names the Congress Party and some of its leaders. We now have the Volcker Committee Report. Now for us to actually accept the fact that the whole world has connived against the Congress Party to bring it a bad name is stretching our imagination a bit too far.

With regard to the individual who was named, the hon. Minister Shri Dasmunsi was trying to explain to us how with great alacrity the Government has acted. I am not really impressed by his argument. The Government could have acted in a very simple manner. The individual named, who was holding a key portfolio in the Government, should have been politely, if he was not doing it on his own, asked by the prime Minister to kindly step aside for the investigations to take place and he could have been brought back honourably. There have been instances like this. *...(Interruptions)* Now, if you disturb me, then I promise to do the same thing to you. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You do not have to take notice of him. You please address the Chair.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Your Minister will reply. There are other hon. members who will reply. Please do not go on with a running commentary.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI UDAY SINGH: I am trying to be as simple as possible. I do not know why they are getting excited.

Dr. Manmohan Singh is known for his integrity, an overall integrity not only in India but throughout the world. For him to have taken so long and then use some rocket science in divesting Shri Singh of his Foreign Affairs portfolio, baffles me. It is like we hear in satellite launchers that stage-I of the rocket has now been detached; stage-II has now been detached. What is this? What is

this half way measure? He is either not at all guilty, in which case he should have remained the Foreign Minister; and if there was the slightest doubt, then he should not be a member of the Cabinet where he is privy to decisions, where he is privy to information which could have a direct bearing on the outcome or on the proceedings.

MR. SPEAKER: Please conclude.

SHRI UDAY SINGH: I will just wrap up in a minute.

The Congress Party has been named as a beneficiary. I heard Mrs. Gandhi with great attention at that Summit. I would like to say this. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I will allow you to speak if your Party gives your name. So long you have not been chosen as a speaker, you have to keep quiet.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI UDAY SINGH: Shrimati Gandhi is the president of the Congress Party. She is the Chairperson of the UPA and, therefore, she either has to designate a person who will take the responsibility for the Congress Party or will have to take the responsibility herself. That is all we are asking for. Pent up emotions seem to be coming out in this House without reason. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I am sure, they will consider your suggestion.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, is the name of Sonia Gandhi unparliamentary, they all stand up the moment anybody takes her name. *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

I have not ruled him out. She is an hon. Member of the House. We are entitled to have respect from each other.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI UDAY SINGH: I would, therefore, most respectfully submit for the consideration of this House

that while in the case of an individual named, he must not be a member of the Cabinet and in case of the Congress Party, its President must take moral responsibility.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am most intrigued by the language of the Motion that has been brought before this House.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Hon. Speaker has approved it.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Of course, he has approved it. But I can still be intrigued. I must intrigue, Sir, because I can understand our condemning the involvement of individuals, and I can understand our alleging the involvement of individuals. But I fail to understand how we can condemn an alleged involvement because until the involvement, which is alleged, is proved, there is nothing for us to condemn! And that is basically why this debate has wound from the morning till this evening in such a meandering fashion. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: It says, 'to take proper action.'

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: It is 'failure to take proper action.'

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, 'failure to take proper action.'

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Sir, it begins by saying: "This House condemns the alleged involvement. ..."

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: No. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Oh, I withdraw my remark, Sir ...(*Interruptions*) I was looking at what was given to me earlier.

MR. SPEAKER: But you cannot get your minute back.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Sir, I withdraw and I apologise to the House for having wasted its time with display of words.

MR. SPEAKER: Okay, it is all right.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: But the fact of the matter is that no one has as yet been established as

having been involved. There is an allegation, and when there is an allegation, the proper course of action to take, is to secure the information, which would either confirm the allegation or which would result in the allegation being proved to be baseless. The action has been taken. If we were to take action on the basis of allegations but without proof, that would not be proper action; that would be improper action. The most important thing for us to establish is whether the individual and the party to which he belongs, which has been mentioned in the Report, have been mentioned in the Report either individually or together or with some kind of a connection between the two, on the basis of information available to Mr. Volcker, which has not been made available by Mr. Volcker to the rest of us.

Therefore, the single most senior person we could find in India today, who has experience of all the workings of the United Nations for an entire life time in the service of the United Nations, was rushed across to the United States of America. In a commendably short period of time, he has collected whatever documents are required. He has brought them back to India, and if we wish to be fair to the individuals involved rather than try to make capital out of the fact of an allegation, it would not take too long for us to examine that, and apply a judicial mind to the process.

So, the documents have been brought and a Body authorised to undertake an inquiry with exactly the same powers as what would have been vested in a Commission of Inquiry, has been set up. A deadline has been set about the amount of time, which it is supposed to spend on this, and instead of the kind of roving fishing expedition which this House has had to witness in its previous incarnation, we are having a determined effort to discover the facts on the basis of which alone proper action can be taken. ...(*Interruptions*)

AN HON. MEMBER: They are afraid of action.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: I do not know, on the one hand, the Opposition is terribly keen that we discuss this, and when the subject is permitted by the Speaker to be discussed, for three days they want to have sound bites before a television camera instead of discussing the matter here. We then spend an entire day sitting here, listening to the Opposition one after the other, and one of the most distinguished Members of the Opposition, against whom I was supposed to be fielded by my party, has left me speechless because he was

[Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar]

speechless; 50 minutes to say absolutely nothing. ...*(Interruptions)* Oh, what a fall there was my countrymen. When I was a young officer sitting in that gallery. I would sit in total admiration of the manner in which Shri George Fernandes would get up and fight the battle of Saint George against every dragon and, now 50 minutes of irrelevancy! Why? Only because, hatred veils in his heart against one individual.

This is the problem with the Opposition. They do not have a cause. They have vendetta and, therefore, all that they have alleged here will be proved in the fullness of time to be a figment of imagination.

MR. SPEAKER: Everything is on record. I have been requesting all the hon. Members. Whatever a Member is saying, other Members are not bound by his statement. Therefore, you need not react to everything.

SHRI UDAY SINGH: I would like to have just an explanation from the hon. Minister.

MR. SPEAKER: Did he refer to you?

SHRI UDAY SINGH: No, Sir. He talked about documents being brought from the United Nations. Do we take it that Shri Natwar Singh has been divested of his portfolio post the documents have been examined?

[Translation]

MOHD. SALIM (Calcutta North East): Mr. Speaker, Sir, we have been discussing the matter since morning, but it is generally seen that we are talking on headlines without going into the minuteness of the matter. There is a saying in Hindi 'Ped ginate, ginate our ginaate jungle bhi bhul gaye'. Advaniji moved the motion when the final report of the Volcker committee was made public when they were asking for someone's resignation, our party CPM demanded for inquiry for going into depth of the matter, in the same day when the headlines were published in the newspapers. One should know the truth. But our swadeshi brigade says so much about the foreigners that our own swadeshi ambassador sent some one from Baghdad to Delhi to request Vajpayee ji for looking into the matter because such things were being published in newspapers. Since he was a swadeshi ambassador. He did not face problem at that time and since the report has been prepared by Paul Volcker, it is being given importance, whereas no importance was given to the report of Mr. Volcker anywhere in the whole world. Why should it be given importance. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

MOHD SALIM: Why was this report made public? Why was the Committee constituted? I would not state all things that occurred from 1990 to 1993, which have been stated by my colleagues. The economic blockade which continued for 12 years was a black spot on the face of humanity. When the whole world was of the opinion that there was a need to save Iraqi children, then oil for food programme was launched. It was launched in 1996 and the quota fees was increased in 1998. Americans were making allegations against the U.N. and their henchmen were approving the programme to show their human face on the one hand but on the other hand they also used to disapprove the programme. Volcker has disclosed in the report as to what extent the enquiry committee is independent. He himself has used the words 'kickback' and 'malpractices' in this terminology. I do not want to comment on the other member but everyone knows about the fame earned by him in the case of apartheid in South Africa. This is an important thing that a country on which economic blockade is imposed is not permitted to contact or to do trade with foreign countries. It would have got opportunity after five years. You are talking about sovereignty of that Government. That government has every right to impose the tax to save the people and to go on functioning. Our party or your party have itself said that we all and the whole country were against the sanction, then why this question is raised today. Mr. Volcker and other members have themselves accepted that they did not go to Iraq, then were did they got the documents which are meticulously maintained. They did not drop bombs on that building. America knew that all those documents were kept in that building. America, UK and their coalition forces dropped bombs for fifteen years during peace and war but they kept the building protected because they knew that the documents were to be recovered from there for Advaniji. He is, himself telling after that the documents has been given by the post-invasion government of henchmen formed by America. It has been stated in the report that they thank the American Government very much, without whose active assistance they would not

*Not recorded.

have functioned there. Why is it being told in the whole world? Volcker committee has nothing to do with the name of the Congress government or the Government of India. Not only the Congress, but whosoever helped Iraq in the whole world, who is against the invasion of American on Iraq, who is against the effort of America in forming a world umpire, all of them realised later on that America is continuing its effort for the same.
...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI UDAI SINGH: Why his name was not there?

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not interrupt each other. Please conclude. You address the Chair and ignore the interruptions.

[*Translation*]

MOHD. SALIM: I am not ashamed of disclosing the report of UN committee. I say with certainty that UNO has been converted into UNA during the last ten years. It has tried to made it United Nations of America in any way. I want to ask the persons like you, who think of making US a world umpire as to whether India is a sovereign country or a country of henchmen of America?
...(*Interruptions*) You will have to listen.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Please conclude.

[*Translation*]

MOHD. SALIM: They are disturbing. ...(*Interruptions*) It is a matter of international solidarity. Now it is being debated whether kickbacks or orders or oil coupons were received—is solidarity meant for this? Whether oil coupons were received because their Government and the party associated itself with the people of Iraq? If we accept this fact, then the whole talk of the New World order which is taking place all over the world will also become useless when we are talking of

[*English*]

more rationale, representative and democratic UN Security Council.

[*Translation*]

An inquiry should be conducted in the matter and the core of the matter should be unearthed. But, why do we

feel shy of all the entities? If Ram Naik ji reached there and Indian Oil told that it will not pay surcharge but why feel shy to tell that Reliance was made the beneficiary? Everyone got the benefits. They say that Congress Party worked for itself.

[*English*]

You have worked for self-reliance but you have worked for self and Reliance.

[*Translation*]

Today, they claim themselves to be clean, Vajpayee ji and Advani ji should have ordered an inquiry at that time in 2004. It is being done now if it could not be conducted them. It should be probed deeply. Whom do you want to appease by removing Natwar Singh ji from the Ministry of External Affairs—the BJP or the masters of whom you are talking about? A new propaganda is being made in the whole world. Only those will be kept whom Washington will approve of and those will be removed whom they disapprove.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will be recorded.

(*Interruptions*)*

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Salim, you have concluded your speech. Please do not get provoked. I thank you for your cooperation.

SHRI MANVENDRA SINGH: Sir, how much time do I have?

MR. SEPAKER: I am sorry to say that like others you also have five minutes.

SHRI MANVENDRA SINGH: Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak in favour of the Adjournment Motion.

I am really moved by the great yarns that have been woven all through this debate. The Cabinet Ministers and Comrades have spoken of this great international conspiracy. It is astonishing to see their imagination and great feel of foreign policy expertise that they have shown. Of course, it is expected because the Comrades have made a great leap forward in their ideological positioning and they found that anybody who opposes the US way

*Not recorded.

[Shri Manvendra Singh]

of life is targeted in a conspiracy. Of course, the conspiracy sounds a lot like Don Quixotes but that is a separate matter.

I am astonished that they would think that this is a conspiracy to tarnish the image of the Congress party when the same Government and its constituents entered into two very far-reaching foreign policy agreements—a nuclear deal and a vote on Iran—with the United States that shocked them, I am sure, as much as it shocked a lot of other people. So, to assume that this is a conspiracy against the party is a great fiction. It is stretching the imagination beyond possibility.

As far as this conspiracy of the Volcker Committee is concerned, I do not want to get into the tables; I do not want to get into the names and I do not want to get into the entities. It is a fairly simple case. It is so simple that even Inspector CLUSOE could have solved it. It involves the people and entities who were not contracted by the United Nations to lift oil and those entities benefited. Those entities benefited because somebody signed on their behalf, or they signed themselves. Somebody signed on behalf of the former Minister of External Affairs and somebody signed on behalf of the Congress party. We, as Indians, are concerned that the image of India is being tarnished and we would like to know as to who signed on behalf of these entities. It is a very simple request. It is not a conspiracy. ...*(Interruptions)*

The Volcker Committee examined, according to my information, twelve million documents. It is not 630 pages as various hon. Members have made out to be. The Committee examined twelve million documents. Some hon. Members here have suggested that Mr. Volcker was so ignorant that he even named the Congress party wrong. If you read the Report it says specifically that the names are translated from the Arabic original. I had been a student of Arabic and I can say that what has been recorded as the name of the Congress party is how you write it in Arabic. To assume that this is a conspiracy and to assume that because sovereignty lies in somebody else's hands and a regime that we were friendly with and that regime has been removed, so there is a conspiracy, I would like to remind the hon. Members that I have had the experience of living in a Ba'athist regime and it seems that life there is nothing like what the Members here have made out to be. The unpleasant daily existence of life in a Ba'athist regime is beyond the

expectation and beyond the imagination of what any comrade has ever achieved in a Gulag. This is not in defence of Mr. Saddam Hussain. This is not in defence of any Government. It is a simple matter of entities and names benefiting from a programme that was meant to secure Iraq and its people commodities at the best price. In that process, as my senior colleagues have already pointed out, somebody did *dalali* and somebody made profits. It is an immoral transaction and it is the details of that immoral transaction that we are after.

The details are fairly simple. It does not take a retired UN official, whether of Indian origin or any origin, to travel to New York to get those documents. It is because we have our UN Mission existing in New York in any case. You do not need a fancy name in order to get those documents. All that is required is to send the right officials, procure the documents which are available for any Government. We would like to have the same documents which detail who signed on behalf of the former External Affairs Minister and who signed on behalf of the Congress party to benefit. That is all we are asking for.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you very much for your kind co-operation.

The next speaker is Shri Subroto Bose. You have only one and a half minute to make your submission. But you may finish your submissions within four minutes.

SHRI SUBRATA BOSE (Barasat): Sir, I rise to oppose the Adjournment Motion moved by the Leader of the Opposition earlier in the day.

I think, first of all, we should all appreciate the prompt and appropriate action taken by the Government firstly appointing or deputing a special envoy to the UN to collect the documents, secondly by appointing an Inquiry Authority to investigate and inquire into the allegations made in the Volcker Report and its enclosures against Indian entities for having been involved in the oil-for-food programme scam and thirdly, to take a difficult decision, maybe for any Government, to divest a Minister of the portfolio which he was having for quite sometime.

The hon. Leader of Opposition had mentioned or had opined that the documents collected by the Special Envoy should be placed before the House immediately. But I think it is fit and proper that when an Inquiry Authority has been appointed, the documents so collected

should be first given over to the Inquiry Authority so that it could investigate and inquire into all these documents and submit a comprehensive report.

The hon. Leader of Opposition has also expressed his apprehensions on the appointment of an Inquiry Authority instead of a Commission of Inquiry. I think he has expressed his apprehension particularly on one point, if I am right, regarding Section 11 of the relevant Act which will be available to the Inquiry Authority. I think, perhaps there is a point in what he says. But such a respected and reputed person and a person who has held the highest post and position in the judiciary of the country will take care of the decisions, if any, of the Inquiry Authority and will be able to give us a full and comprehensive report.

I think the Motion moved today by the hon. Leader of Opposition is premature because without the report of the Inquiry Authority, no fruitful discussion can take place. It is not only without the report of the Inquiry Committee but also the Action Taken Report of the Government. Therefore, I oppose the Motion moved by the hon. Leader of the Opposition.

SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAIISI (Hyderabad): Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak.

The debate was initiated by the Leader of the Opposition. In his opening remarks, he has stated that the offices of the Iraqi Oil Trading Company were and damaged during the carpet bombing which took place from 1991 onwards till the occupation of Iraq and just now, I have heard the hon. Member from the BJP stating that nearly a million copies were looked into. I really find it surprising that the same American forces have failed to unearth an iota of evidence relating to the weapons of mass destruction but Mr. Volcker has somehow unearthed it. He has somehow found that so many individuals, companies and the Congress Party are the non-contractual beneficiaries.

Sir, through you, I would like to suggest to the Government that India should have a motion in the UN that Mr. Paul Volcker should be sent to Iraq once again to search for weapons of mass destruction so that the whole world should know the truth. I really do not know and I am surprised that this particular building was saved. In Iraq, small children could not get milk powder and more than ten lakh small children died but Mr. Volcker could somehow find it out. I am surprised at this.

It shows, may be, his integrity also. There is a meeting point between the BJP and the Organisation to which Mr. Volcker belongs to. Both of them are called neocons, that is neo conservatives. I would say that they are neo cons also. They are newcons also and neo cons also. So, there is a meeting point. The meeting point is that anyone who opposes the US hegemony has to be targeted.

As a party, we oppose the Congress Party, in our State also. Many times we have gone against them. We still go against them. As far as my opinion is concerned and my Party's opinion is concerned, as long Shrimati Sonia Gandhi is the President of the Congress Party, I do not think any corruption charges can be alleged against her. I cannot talk about the past. I do not want to go into the past. But at the same time I really find it surprising that a political party, which under his leadership demolished Babri Masjid on 6th December, which butchered humanity in Gujarat when he was Home Minister, is talking like this today. There is double talk. Of course, corruption is corruption. I am condemning corruption. But how can you hold moral ground? When the same thing happened, at that time what happened to your conscience? What happened to your integrity? What happened to the sovereignty and love for the country? All that was not there.

This is time for self-introspection for the UPA also. We should not fall head over heels and do whatever US wants us to do or whatever policy it wants us to adopt. It is high time that we follow an independent foreign policy. Whatever you do, the US will target you. Let us also ponder, if the UPA was not in power and if the NDA had been in power, would Shri Natwar Singh have been named or would the Congress Party have been named? This is also a question which the UPA should think over.

I oppose the Motion moved by the hon. Leader of the Opposition.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise, on behalf of the Government, to oppose the Adjournment Motion. I can quite appreciate the fact that not many had an opportunity to wade through the hundreds of pages of the Volcker Committee Report. It is not light reading. But I am surprised that the hon. Leader of the Opposition, for whom I have great respect did not pay a little more attention to the provisions of the Commissions of Inquiry

[Shri P. Chidambaram]

Act and the Terms of Reference of the Justice Pathak Inquiry Authority. Some of the younger Members of the Opposition, I thought, would have summoned the time and the energy to go through the Volcker Committee Report. I think they ought to have taken the trouble to go through the Report to assist the senior leaders.

Sir, sanctions were imposed on Iraq in or about 1990 or 1991. Iraq was not allowed to sell oil. In December 1996 the United Nations authorised a Programme called the Oil For Food Programme (OFFP). Every contract was approved by the United Nations, but—this is important—the purchaser was to be chosen by Iraq. In fact, it was the Government of Iraq which chose the purchasers. I think, Shrimati Maneka Gandhi should pay attention to this. Far from people rushing to Iraq—in a colourful expression like flies swarming on a corpse—it is the Government of Iraq which chose the purchaser. For four years, nothing happened. But the suffering of the people of Iraq reached such acute proportions, that Iraq—I am not holding a brief for the then Government of Iraq—was forced to find ways and means to raise money. Why did they raise money? What did they spend the money on? It is a matter for the Government of Iraq and the people of Iraq. Some say they raised the money so that they could get milk, they could get food, they could get drugs and pharmaceuticals. Some say they raised the money so that they could get weapons. It is not for me standing here to stand in judgement over the Government of Iraq. That was for the Government of Iraq.

In the autumn of the year 2000, the Government of Iraq decided that while the Government chose the purchaser and sold the oil at an UN approved price, there was an opportunity to charge an extra amount which was called the 'surcharge'. The contracting party, for example in the two cases we are considering, was Masfield. The sale was to Masfield. According to the Volcker Report, Masfield paid a surcharge to an Iraqi controlled account in Jordan. The question is this. In that transaction, was there another beneficiary whom the Volcker Committee names as non-contractual beneficiary? Now, it is on record that the Volcker Committee does not regard its Report as a finding of guilt nor does it say it is an indictment of anyone named in the Report. Mr. Shashi Tharoor, Under Secretary-General, on the 7th of November said:

"The Report was not tantamount to a legal charge-sheet or a finding that some wrong has been committed."

On the 9th of November, he said:

"It is a Committee of Inquiry. It is not a judicial panel and it is not in a position to make any judicial determination of guilt. It has laid out a number of facts that it has been able to establish with varying degrees of proof and substantiation."

Sir, you are a distinguished lawyer. There are many distinguished lawyers in this House. They will understand the import of the statement. Now, I repeat it:

"It has laid out a number of facts that it has been able to establish with varying degrees of proof and substantiation." The onus, thereafter, is on the national Governments, national authorities to take such action, as they deem appropriate".

Therefore, when this fifth and final substantive Report was published, we were faced with, among other entries, two entries which caused grave concern. One entry said: "Mr. K. Natwar Singh". The other entry said: "India-Congress Party". I am not quibbling about the way it is described. Let us assume that the entries refer to the then External Affairs Minister and to the Congress Party. There are many other entries. There are other contracting parties with an India-connection. There are other non-contractual beneficiaries with an India-connection. But this Motion is on the Indian entities and individual allegedly involved in non-contractual beneficiaries. That is why, I confine my reply only to the non-contractual beneficiaries. There is a public sector company which had an oil contract but no surcharge was paid. There is a public sector company which is concerned with humanitarian goods contract. There are private sector companies with humanitarian goods contracts. There is a private sector company with an oil contract. In some cases, there is a reference to non-contractual beneficiaries. In most of the cases, there is none. In two of the most important cases, there is no surcharge paid. The Volcker Committee says so. In any event, it has not been possible to "establish a fact with varying degrees of proof and substantiation of any payment."

The question is this. What credence do we give to this Report? Other Governments reacted differently. Some of them have dismissed it out of hand. In the case of one or two, or course, some internal inquiry is being done. I want you to contrast what other Governments have done and what this Government has done.

Now, look at the internal evidence in the Volcker Committee Report. It is a fundamental principle of jurisprudence in any system of jurisprudence that before you name somebody, you give him an opportunity. Mr. Volcker was asked: "Did you give notice?" His memory played tricks with him. He said: "Yes, we gave notice to everyone named." He was confronted with the Report. It turned out to be that when he said "I gave notice to everyone named", he was referring to the contracting parties, the 139 contracting parties. It is now on record that no non-contractual beneficiary was given a notice by the Volcker Committee. And, even of the 139, the Volcker Committee admits "by inadvertence, we did not give notice to 12." So, it is absolutely clear that no notice was given either to Shri Natwar Singh or to the Congress Party yet they were named.

Now, read that circumstance with the earlier statement of the Volcker Committee, on behalf of the Volcker Committee that these are facts with varying degrees of proof and substantiation. So, facts are not proved: facts are not fully substantiated, read with the fact that no notice was given. Another Government could have taken the position saying "we reject it outright." In fact, there are cases in this country where people against whom charges were made were asked to resign—that is an honourable way out—but were brought back even before they were acquitted. ...(*Interruptions*) There are cases in this country where people facing charge-sheets running into 10,000 pages were holding high offices. ...(*Interruptions*) The point is this. How did this Government react? ...(*Interruptions*) Just wait for a moment. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: You make allegation and there are people sitting behind you who have been to jail many times. They are telling difference of Government while there are cases against them running into 10,000 pages.

[*English*]

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I know that some of them are your very close friends. So, in this case, the allegation is that there were four payments made concerning these two non-contractual beneficiaries in March 2001, May 2001, June 2001 and November 2001.

The point now is, "Were these payments made? Who made these payments? On whose behalf these payments

were made?" If these payments were made on behalf of 'someone', that 'someone' was also a beneficiary. There are the questions which have to be answered. Are there answers in the Volcker Committee report for this? Can anyone, Sir, in this House stand up and say, "Answers to these questions can be found in the Volcker Committee." Report", I rest my case. I have nothing further to say. But there are no answers to these questions. These questions have to be raised and answered and the only way to do it and that is the honourable way to do it and that is the honourable path with this Government has taken, namely, to appoint a Commission of Inquiry. Now, question is being asked and I am surprised that my friend should shake his head vigorously when somebody asserted that this is the Commission of Inquiry. It is a Commission of Inquiry. Is there any doubt about it? Here is the Commission of Inquiry Act. This Act was made in 1952, not by this Government. There are Section 3 and Section 11. Under Section 3, you can appoint a Commission of Inquiry; all other provisions of the Act automatically apply. Under Section 11, you can appoint an Inquiry Authority and apply such of the provisions of the Act as the Government so directs. That is the only difference. But someone should have briefed Shri Advani.

The last portion of Section 11 is crucial—"and upon a Notification made directing that the said provisions of this Act shall apply to that Authority and "on the issue of such Notification, that Authority shall be deemed to be a Commission appointed under Section 3 for the purposes of this Act." I am sure somebody should have briefed you on this.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Why briefed? ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I tell you 'why'. For the first time, you are hearing this Section read out to you. Therefore, wait for me to tell you 'why'. So, we have a choice—Section 3 or Section 11. The hon. Leader of the Opposition asked rightly, "Why invoked Section 11 first in the history of India?" The answer is, Sir, your Government. In April, 1977, in May, 1977, it was the then Government which, I believe, you were a distinguished member invoked Section 11, appointed an Authority and applied the provisions of the Act to that Authority. Again, in February, 1988, Section 11 was invoked. Again, in February, 1989, Section 11 was invoked. So, invoking Section 11 is not new. Why did we invoke Section 11?

[Shri P. Chidambaram]

After we were able to obtain the consent of Chief Justice R.S. Pathak, I went to him and said, "Chief Justice, here is the Act. Now, please tell us whether you would like to be appointed under Section 3 or whether you would like to be appointed Section 11." Chief Justice Pathak told me and he said that on television. "Government has agreed to give me all the powers that I want." I gave him the Act. Chief Justice Pathak said, "Appoint me under Section 11 and here are the following provisions which I would like apply to me." So, what did we do wrong? The only two Sections that have not been given to Chief Justice Pathak, apart from one or two irrelevant Sections which do not apply to this Inquiry, are Sections 8 (B) and 8 (C). Sections 8 (B) and 8 (C), Sir, do not confer powers. They are restrictions upon the Commission. They are procedural restrictions upon the Commission. So, Chief Justice Pathak said, "I do not want these restrictions. I want complete flexibility to frame my own procedure, to frame my own rules." Therefore, appoint me under Section 11, give me the following powers and I do not want Section 8 (B) and Section 8 (C). If Chief Justice Pathak wants Section 8 (B) and Section 8 (C), here I make a promise—"Tomorrow we will make a Notification giving him Section 8 (B) and Section 8 (C)." So, what is the complaint? It is a full-fledged Commission of Inquiry, and if you go through the Section, you will find it has the powers under Section 5; it has the powers under Section 5 (A) to utilise any investigating agency. It has the power under Section 6.

19.00 hrs.

It has the powers under Section 8 without the restriction in Section 8 B, it has the powers under Section 9 which is protection of action taken in good faith, it has the powers under Section 10, it has the powers under Section 10 A, and any other power, not restriction which the Commission wants, we are willing to confer upon it. Therefore, this is a full-fledged Commission of Inquiry. It is a Commission of Inquiry for all purposes and the Report of the Commission of Inquiry will be laid on the Table of the House with an Action Taken Report as required under Section 3 (4) and this House is free to discuss and come to its conclusion.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: When you have bothered to explain Section 11, why have you not gone to Section 3?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I tried to answer in English language. If I try to answer in Hindi, you will have difficulty because my Hindi is not good. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: You have explained Section 11. Why have you not done so about Section 3?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, I have just explained that.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: You have just explained that Justice Pathak wanted the Commission of Inquiry to be set up under Section 11. That is the only summary you have explained.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Is that not a good explanation?

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Why not under Section 3?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: It is because if you appoint it under Section 3, the restrictions of Section 8 B and 8 C will automatically apply and the Chief Justice does not want those restrictions. I hope you understand now. Anyway, your leaders have understood. That is enough for me.

Sir, it is easy to wake up a man who is asleep, but if someone is pretending to sleep how can you wake him up?

Sir, what are the steps that we have taken? There were various comments made that we are trying to whitewash and trying to cover up. What is the cover up? From day one and until today, kindly remember, these references are, to use the mildest phrase, unverified references. There is no proof, there is no substantiation. Why do I say so?

There are 139 oil contracts and there are 2,253 non-oil contracts. Of the 139 oil contracts, notice was issued to 127 companies. Volcker committee took the trouble of discussing several oil contracts in Chapter II, a very detailed discussion is there. Volcker Committee took the trouble of discussing several non-oil contracts in another chapter. But for some strange reason, not one Indian entity's oil contract or non-oil contract is discussed anywhere in those 600 and odd pages. There is nothing at all, there is no reference at all. The only places where the references have occurred in on the Tables. Mr. Natwar Singh's name and the Congress Party's name occur in Table 1, Table 3 and Table 5. There is nothing anywhere in the Report dealing with these contracts. If the

references were unverified on the 27th of October when the Report was published, I say with utmost humility, they remain unverified today and they will remain unverified until Justice Pathak pronounces upon it. Until the material is gathered, the documents are gathered, they are placed before the inquiry authority, until he has had an opportunity to examine them and until he has had an opportunity to conduct an inquiry and pronounce his opinion, they will remain unverified and that is all that the Prime Minister has said. The Prime Minister, in every statement, said, 'as it stands today, the references are unverified'. But the Prime Minister also said that we are determined to go to the root of the matter and establish the truth or otherwise of these references. This statement was made on the 3rd of November. On the 7th of November Mr. Virendra Dayal was appointed.

On the 11th of November, Justice Pathak was appointed. On the 17th of November, Shri Virendra Dayal, accompanied by the Enforcement Director, left for New York. On the 24th of November, he returned with a mass of documents. Is there, in the history of free India, an example, where in a space of 17 days such material has been gathered? From the 7th of November to the 24th of November, in a matter of 17 days, an envoy has been able to gather most of the material made available to Mr. Volcker and this material is now available in India.

I have a feeling that the Opposition, more than angry and indignant, is really disappointed and envious. That is why, the opening bowler, the hon. Leader of the Opposition, bowled some very tame and tepid deliveries and the one who was expected to pour fire and brimstone came up with something like water and sand stone.

Shri George Fernandes' performance today, with great respect, does no justice to his wonted reputation. It was pathetic. He had nothing to say. *...(Interruptions)* Now, the material is here. It is now being investigated, examined and analysed. It will be placed before Justice Pathak.

What is the link between the special envoy and the inquiry authority? The Special Envoy was appointed in order to gather the material. Has he done his job or not? Does anyone in this House, I ask, doubt the stature, the integrity and the objective of Shri Virendra Dayal? No one said so. He has gathered the material.

If you look at Justice Pathak's Terms of Reference, you will find that the Terms of Reference say, "Justice Pathak will inquire into the sources of information,

materials and documents that were available with the independent inquiry committee, the Volcker Committee, with reference to the report of said Committee pertaining to Contract No. M9-54 and M10-57 and give his opinion on the authenticity and reliability of the said sources, materials and documents and whether in his opinion, the purported transactions on oil are genuine or not".

First, the judge is being asked to determine whether the documents are authentic and reliable and whether the references are genuine or not. Then, he is being asked to give his opinion whether the references are justified or not. Then, he is being asked to inquire into the question whether any Indian entity or individual received any money or paid any money or any other thing.

I think, they are envious that in the matter of 17 days the inquiry has proceeded at such a rapid pace. I think, they are disappointed that we did not give them an opportunity for another political spectacle like the one in staged with the Justice Shah Commission Inquiry. That is why, they have virtually nothing to say about what we are doing. This is the only Government, to my knowledge, which has acted with such great speed. In fact, Mr. Volcker told Shri Dayal that the request for documents that came from India is the best-documented request and the best-substantiated request and you are the first Government to which we are handing over the documents.

Sir, does anyone doubt the integrity, fairness, and the judicial wisdom of Justice Pathak? Is there anyone in this country with better credentials than the former Chief Justice of India and the former Judge of International Court of Justice, who has undertaken this task as a national duty? Those are the words he told me. He undertakes this task as a national duty. He will now go through these documents and pronounce whether there is any basis for the references to Shri Natwar Singh and the Congress Party.

The Prime Minister and the Congress President—the Prime Minister, on behalf of the Government and the Congress President, on behalf of the Congress Party—have said, "no one will be spared, no one is above law. If anyone has misused his or her position or authority, if anyone has misused the name of the Congress Party, we are determined to go to the root of the matter and find out who that person is and no one is going to be spared."

[Shri P. Chidambaram]

Sir, references were made to a number of points. I do not wish to deal with them at great length.

Some references were made to a letter written by the Congress President. Yes, of course, the Congress President sent a letter greeting Saddam Hussein on his birthday. She also gave the usual customary letter of greetings through an Indian delegation. But so did the then Prime Minister, Shri Vajpayee. I think, he was right. Shri Vajpayee gave a letter to every Indian delegation that went to Iraq when he was the Prime Minister. What is wrong with it?

Sir, a reference was made to certain investigation that were being carried on the Enforcement Directorate. I am not going to disclose what the Enforcement Directorate is doing. Obviously, you are in a way happy and in a way disappointed that the Enforcement Directorate is doing its job. It has interrogated persons and searched premises. If more persons deserve to be interrogated, they will be interrogated. If more premises deserve to be searched, they will be searched. Under Section 5A, Justice Pathak will call upon the investigating agency to assist him in the inquiry.

Sir, here we have a three-pronged approach, one through the Special Envoy to gather the material, the other through the investigating agency to investigate persons, places and documents available in India and elsewhere, and finally, Chief Justice Pathak to pronounce whether anyone has done anything wrong. Once that is done, this House is paramount. The Report will come here, the Action Taken Report will come here, and you will then pronounce whether the Government is acting fairly and honourably. If anyone is guilty, he will be punished.

Sir, I cannot think of any other honourable way to react to the Volcker Committee Report which, as it stands today, contains unverified references, facts which have not been proved, and facts which have not been substantiated. Yet, having regard to the status of that Committee, having regard to the fact that it was the United Nations Secretary-General who appointed that Committee, and having regard to the fact that the UN Security Council endorsed that Committee, and having regard to the fact that the UN Security Council endorsed that Committee, we have taken the most honorable course which any Government can take, and we are determined to go to the root of the matter.

Sir, there was a reference to a legal notice sent by the Congress Party. I am a member of the Congress Party. Therefore, I am entitled to speak for the Congress Party as much as the hon. Members spoke for the BJP or whatever party they belong to. Please go through the statement. Where did that statement talk about suing the United Nations? Where did that statement talk about defamation? That statement said: "We will issue a comprehensive legal notice to the United Nations Secretary-General." The notice issued was indeed comprehensive. It ran into five pages with facts. It was indeed legal. It was issued by an eminent law firm. It was indeed a notice. So, a comprehensive legal notice was indeed issued. You may laugh it away. The UN did not. The UN took it seriously. The United Nations acknowledged the receipt of the notice and said, "Yes, we shall pass it on to the Volcker Committee for action." Therefore, the Government's request backed by the Special Envoy, Shri Virendra Dayal, who has a very high reputation in the United Nations, supported by the Enforcement Directorate armed with the provisions of FEMA and the Congress Party's notice requesting the Volcker Committee to make available all these facts, all this together have contributed to the situation where in 17 days we have gathered hundreds of pages of documents and materials.

We will go through these documents. They will be analysed. They will be examined. Further investigation will take place. The entire matter will be placed before Justice R.S. Pathak Inquiry Authority. We will find out the truth and we will place that with our action taken report before this House. There is no need, no occasion and no justification for this House to adjourn. I oppose the Motion and request that it be rejected.

[*Translation*]

PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV (Sambhal): I had great hope that the minister would say something which people might believe when the hon. Minister would give reply. If everything was wrong, then I want to know as to why the Congress Party stayed away from Natwar Singh ji from the very first day? Public became suspicious right from that day that there was something fishy in the matter. One wants to be saved, the other wants to save. I feel great disappointment and therefore walk out from the House with my Party in protest to the unsatisfactory reply.

19.16 hrs.

(Shri Ram Gopal Yadav and some other hon. Members then left the House)

[English]

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Mr. Speaker, Sir, my Party is also walking out for the same reason.

19.16 $\frac{1}{4}$ hrs.

(At this stage, Shri Kinjarapu Yerrannaidu and some other hon. Members left the House)

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Leader of the Opposition has a right of reply.

[Translation]

SHRI L.K. ADVANI (Gandhinagar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am grateful to you, that you provided an opportunity to the House in the form of Adjournment Motion to discuss the Volcker Committee Report today. The debate that took place today in the House was very good. In this debate, as far as the members opposing the Adjournment Motion are concerned, there are two main categories and there is a small third category too. There was a category which even considered that the Volcker Committee was wrong. That category used to challenge not only the contents of the Volcker Committee but also its motivations.

I am happy that the points told by the hon. Minister are in a way his reply because according to him nowhere has Volcker Committee declared anyone guilty. But, he has also said that they have prepared all these documents by compiling whatever documents they received from there. The second category was the one which completely supported our contention and told that whatever has been said and doubts have been raised and doubts on the Government's intent—they all are true and they support them. But, even then they oppose the adjournment motion because they know that passing of the adjournment motion in a parliamentary system is, in a way, like passing of the No Confidence Motion. May be they do not want to remove the Government today and therefore, even after supporting our contention, they do not want to support the adjournment motion and, perhaps, because of this reason some hon. Members have walked out

feeling unsatisfied with the hon. Minister's statement.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the third category is the one which believes that this adjournment motion is wrong because the Government has already addressed the points raised in the adjournment motion and the House should wait till Justice Pathak gives his report and the Government takes action on it. Even that action taken report should be laid in the House and then there should be a debate and only from there it can be concluded if someone is guilty or not, etc. The Government had already given this assurance and has repeated it again today that anyone found guilty will be punished. I knew that a reply would be made and that is why the point which I stressed upon in my speech was that I could not understand the flip-flop between the response of the Government and the Congress Party. Had the Government and the Congress Party taken this stand, which they have taken today, in the beginning, then such a situation may not have arisen calling for adjournment motion like this. After listening today's speech, I feel that today Shri Natwar Singh has full right to think and he will be fully justified in doing so that if this is the stand of the Government and the Congress Party then why was he removed?

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: He has been made a scapegoat.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: Therefore this suspicion is right and what Shri Harin Pathakji has said is also a general perception. It appears that he has been made a scapegoat. I don't know. I shall wait. Particularly the learned advocate Shri Chidambaramji has given his reply with such dexterity. *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: For a minutes please. Sir, I am surprised of the hon. Leader of the Opposition should say that there has been a flip flop. The earlier statement given by the Prime Minister. *...(Interruptions)* Just a moment please. *...(Interruptions)* The problem is that I think you read only your own Party newspaper. You do not read anything which is authentic. On behalf of the Prime Minister, it was said on the 30th of October that the facts mentioned in the Report are insufficient to arrive at any adverse conclusions. *...(Interruptions)* Just a moment. I am reading the statement. *...(Interruptions)* The Prime Minister does not write *The Hindu*. *...(Interruptions)* The Government of India does not publish a newspaper. The Government of India's statements are with me. On

[Shri P. Chidambaram]

behalf of the Prime Minister, on the 30th of October, it was said that the facts mentioned in Table 3 of the Report of the independent Inquiry Committee are insufficient to arrive at any adverse conclusion against the External Affairs Minister. On the 3rd of November, this is what the Prime Minister said: "The Volcker Committee Report as it stands today is insufficient to arrive at any adverse or definitive conclusion." There is no flip and there is no flop. These are the same words. Then the Prime Minister said: "Therefore, the Government is determined to go to the root of the matter and establish the truth or otherwise of these allegations." This is the first statement issued by the Prime Minister. There has been no flip and no flop. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: The entire country has seen it. He has said that Shri Manmohan Singhji and Smt. Sonia Gandhi have given him clean chit and that he is not guilty at all and will not step-down from Ministership. All the T.V. Channels in the country have telecast it.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now it is 1925 hours. We could to have voted by this time.

[Translation]

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Shri Chidambaramji is a learned advocate. I cannot compete with him but I will definitely say that the day on which the word clean chit was used and Shri Natwar Singhji said. ...*(Interruptions)* It may not be there in your statement. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: And he is arguing without jees!

[Translation]

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: I have high regard for the hon. Prime Minister.

[English]

On that day, I was in my Bihar campaign and I was constrained to observe that I have always deemed him.

Mr. Clean Prime Minister. Suddenly, he has become a 'Clean-chit Prime Minister' incidentally, on that very day, he had described our friend sitting beside you as *Vikas Purush*. So, that also made me wonder really.

[Translation]

This is what I am saying. You are making all out efforts to make out from your side that the campaign of opposition is aimed at defaming the congress party and Shri Natwar Singhji. You must have noticed that I made no allegation in the morning. I even wished to know from you even about the Commission of Inquiry and as to why section eleven has been used? I have no knowledge of it. You should have told this and if Justice Pathak wished that we should act accordingly, we have said to him that a judicial commission can be set up. Had he asked for authority I would have been satisfied then and there.

[English]

I was not making any allegation at that time. I can only tell you about the changes that have taken place in the Congress Party's stand.

[Translation]

I had told you at that very moment *i.e.* in the morning. On 15th when I heard the statement of congress party's President, I welcomed it. Though I did feel that it should have been said during these two and three days that some one might have misused my party's name in order to earn money. I am sure that then anyone could have defended as to how the name has figured in it about which numerous speeches have made here today. Today Volcker Committee report was dubbed here as a motivated report. The people, the parties and the countries who said it. ...*(Interruptions)* I said that I am happy that there is no similarity between them and these people be it economic field or international field but overall many times it makes me wonder as to how you would have treaded on the right track in the absence of such companions as you have had. ...*(Interruptions)* But I would repeat the point which I made today morning.

[English]

This discussion on the Volcker Committee Report is not merely about this particular Report or the mention of one person or one entity in it. I regard it as a more

serious problem of the vulnerability of our political leaders and political parties.

[*Translation*]

Shri Bansal ji got annoyed on this. He said how this has been said? But such things have come to the fore that is why I would like to tell the hon. Speaker.

[*English*]

I am going to give him a Report of the House of Commons in respect of the Mitrokhim Archives. I would like that matter also to be discussed. ...(*Interruptions*) You can argue about that but we would do it. We have not done it today because today the Congress Party and the Government are not in favour of discussing the Mitrokhin Archives. But I would plead with the Speaker and show him what it says. Basically, the vulnerability needs to be stopped. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MOHD. SALIM: Where did this report come from? ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: He is not here.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: And if out of this debate. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not disturb your leader.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: From this debate the House can decide that a committee of experts be constituted to ascertain as to how the foreign money influences or can influence our polity and how it prevent it? If that happens, I think this debate can bring about very good results. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: He is not conceding.

...(*Interruptions*)

MOHD. SALIM: I supporting him but I am at the same time challenging him. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

An expert committee should be constituted about foreign funds to carry out investigation. I support this matter.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat. Nothing is being recorded.

...(*Interruptions*)*

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the House do now adjourn."

The motion was negatived.

19.29 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377**

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Matters under rule 377 would be treated as laid on the Table of the House.

(i) **Need to extend guarantee to the Government of Andhra Pradesh to raise debt finance and commercial loans**

SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO (Guntur): State Government of Andhra Pradesh had requested to extend guarantee from Government of India to raise debt finance, annuity payment irrigation bonds and commercial loans.

State Agriculture growth rate of 4.1% during 9th Plan collapsed to (-) 1% during first two years of the 10th Plan. The growth forecast for this year is a meagre 0.6%. It is a gigantic task to rejuvenate this most important sector supporting 62% population for Andhra Pradesh Economy. The required changes in the policy framework are already in place. The plan expenditure for irrigation and Agriculture was 32.1% in 1994-95. It gradually shrunk to a level of 19.1% by 2003-04. Outlay for the year 2004-05 has been jacked up to 34.4% in the next five years, it is proposed to complete 26 pending irrigation

*Not recorded.

**Treated as laid on the Table.

[Shri Rayapoti Sambasiva Rao]

projects costing Rs. 46,000 crores for creating a potential of 60 lakh acres. It would also provide drinking water to a population of 48 lakhs.

The challenge of raising such a huge quantum of resources in a short period of 5 years is obviously beyond the capacity of State alone. I request the Government of India to provide support in availing facilities in the form of guarantees from Government of India to raise debt finance, annuity payments, irrigation bonds and commercial loans.

(ii) Need to expedite opening of a Central School at Parlakhamundi in Gajapati district, Orissa

SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU (Berhampur—Orissa): My Parliamentary Constituency consists of two districts that is Ganjam and Gajapati. At per the decision of the Hon'ble Minister of Human Resource Development, each district shall have at least one Central School. But in my Parliamentary Constituency there is no Central School in Gajapati District. In principle, all the formalities have been over and a decision has been taken to open the Central School at Parlakhamundi, the Headquarter of the Gajapati District. Though the decision has been taken more than one year ago but till today the school has not been opened.

So, I once again draw the attention of the Hon'ble Minister of HRD through you to immediately start the Central School at Parlakhamundi to avoid further difficulties being faced by the public as well as Central and State Government servants who come after transfer over there.

(iii) Need to clear Kasau Dam project on river Yamuna for promoting Irrigation in Delhi, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh.

[Translation]

SHRI SAJJAN KUMAR (Outer Delhi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, developing agriculture sector and boosting production are on the priority in the agenda of the United Progressive Alliance Government. It is necessary to give clearance to the irrigation projects to boost agriculture production. There are some parts of Delhi, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh where sufficient water is not available for irrigation. Keeping this in view, an agreement was reached on the Kasau Dam Project on river Yamuna among these States which has been lying pending in the Ministry of Water Resources. As per my information, the Ministry has had talks with the concerned states recently, and I do not know as to what decision was taken thereon.

I urge the Government to give clearance to the said project and necessary funds should be made available for this so that these states are benefited from the said project and agriculture production may be increased.

(iv) Need to set up Khadi and Cottage Industries in Banaskantha Parliamentary Constituency, Gujarat.

SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA (Banaskantha): Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is vast scope for setting up cottage and more industries in my parliamentary constituency, Banaskantha. The people here have agriculture land but due to lack of irrigation facility they are unable to sow crops and due to this reason the village women do fine weaving in their spare time and it has been seen that their weaving work has been liked very much not within the country but outside the country also. The men folk can also prepare cotton yarn, so Khadi cloth could be prepared in good quality. The Gandhian spirit is filled in them to the core. Therefore, there is vast potential for setting up Khadi and Cottage Industries in Banaskantha district of North Gujarat. People of this area migrate to Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh and work there in factories and workshops to earn a livelihood for their families. This migration of people could be arrested by setting up Khadi and Village industries.

I appeal the Union Government through this House that a survey should be conducted in my parliamentary constituency for setting up Khadi and Village Industries as this is necessary to generate job opportunities there.

(v) Need to extend the benefits of Seventh National Wage Agreement to the coal workers of Tata Steel.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR DUBEY (Dhanbad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the then Prime Minister of the country late Smt. Indira Gandhi nationalised the coal companies in 1971-73 seeing the pitiable condition of coal workers and this was a step forward in ameliorating the living standard of coal workers. Under it a provision for National Wage Agreement for coal workers was made for the payment of their salaries etc. and it covered the coal workers from all over the country including the workers from the captive mines and this agreement takes place between the coal management and nationally recognised Trade Unions every five years. Recently seventh national wage agreement took place and the workers working in the Coal India Ltd. are getting its benefit whereas the workers

working in the Tata Steel, which runs captive mines, a settlement was reached in February, 2004 and December, 2005 which was faulty and they are being paid salary and other allowances after deducting 1/3rd portion which is against the Wage Agreement No. 7.

I, therefore, demand from the Government that both these settlements should be cancelled immediately and the coal workers of the Tata Steel should be given the benefits of the Seventh Wage Agreement so that equal wage for equal work is ensured and justice is done to the coal workers of the Tata Steel.

(vi) Need to provide stoppage of all the trains at Karmali railway station, Goa

SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK (Panaji): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Goa is a very important state from the point of tourism and lakhs of people visit there every year. National and international level ceremonies are also organised there where a large number of visitors from the country and abroad come there which results in income to the tune of crores of rupees to the Railways every year.

Karmali is the main station of Goa. Panaji is only 9 km. from Karmali railway station and the main tourist spots of Goa are a little away from there and means of transport are also available from this station to reach these places. But as only 3-4 trains have stoppage at Karmali railway station, tourists have to alight at Madgaon railway station where every train has a stoppage as a result of which tourists face a lot of inconvenience. Therefore, it is necessary to provide a stoppage of every train plying on this route at Karmali station.

I, therefore, request the Hon. Railway Minister to take necessary action to provide stoppage of every train plying to and from Goa at Karmali Railway Station in view of the inconvenience faced by the tourists so that tourism gets a boost in Goa and as a result of which the income of the Railways may also increase.

(vii) Need to provide assistance to the Government of Uttar Pradesh for providing compensation to the farmers whose crops have been affected due to flow of water from Karai dam at Jhansi-Jalaun border

[Translation]

SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH (Jalaun): Mr. Speaker, Sir, all the four floodgates of the Karai dam at Jhansi-

Jalaun border were opened at the beginning of the month of November to prevent the dam from bursting which caused submersion and rotting of crops spanning in more than a dozen villages such as Kishanpura, Paretha, Pulela, Imrauli, Khairi, Seta, Deogaon, Mopata, Imilia etc. situated in my Lok Sabha constituency Jalaun-Garotha. The farmers had sown 'Arari' and other seeds costing five thousands of rupees per quintal, nurtured and fertilised them and all their hard labours has gone waste.

I demand that the Central Government find a permanent solution to the problem of overflow of water from Karai dam and provide a relief package to compensate the loss of crores of rupees borne by the farmers at present. Requisite funds should be provided to the State Government for the said purpose.

(viii) Need to provide voting rights to the people from Pakistan, who settled in Jammu (J&K) after partition in 1947

SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA (Hoshiarpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the partition of the country took place on 15th August, 1947. Many Hindus migrated from Pakistan and settled in various parts of India. Lakhs of people settled in Jammu. Even after 58 years of independence, these people have not been given the right to vote. Children of such people are not entitled to get even a peon's job in Jammu and Kashmir. They cannot get entrance in medical and engineering colleges or vote for the Legislative Assembly. This is violation of human rights. Many of these people are dalits, many belong to the minorities. The fundamental rights of these people are being violated.

Hence, the government is requested to take immediate action in this regard.

(ix) Need to realign four-laning of National Highway No. 76 passing through village Eswal and Nayaguda in Rajasthan.

[Translation]

SHRI MAHAVIR BHAGORA (Salumber): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Surface Transport Minister towards the fact that the proposal of four laning of Palampur-Udaipur section of National Highway No. 76 involves construction of road through village Eswal and Nayaguda etc. which would entail large scale relocation and would lead to noise and air pollution. It would come in the way of development of the villages

[Shri Mahavir Bhagora]

and also the work has been awarded after a mere pretence at giving a hearing to the objections and before a hearing by the Authority has taken place, which is a disregard of the judicial procedure. I would request the Minister to look into the matter to find a solution to the problem faced by the rural denizens, half of whom belong to the Meghwal Scheduled Castes.

- (x) **Need to continue the system of exemption of saving instruments from taxation at all three stages of contribution, accumulation and withdrawal.**

[English]

SHRI SWADESH CHAKRABORTTY (Howrah): The saving instruments comprising provident funds, small saving, insurance policies etc. have all been exempted from taxation at all three stages, viz. contribution, accumulation and withdrawal known as EEE System. But the proposed migration to the EET System, on which an expert committee is reportedly at work, will virtually make the exemption at the earlier stages of contribution and accumulation, a mockery. The imposition of tax at the withdrawal stage is nothing but cumulative taxation on the entire corpus and will be at the peak rate of tax. This will not only discourage the savings of vast section of people, it will doom the institution like LIC, GIC, PF, and Small Savings and cause financial hardship to the millions of workers and employees and vast community of small savings public including the senior citizens.

Sir, the Government had, over the year, cut down the administered rate of interest, payable on the these instruments, from 12 per cent in June 2000 to 8 per cent from 2002. The Government has not responded to the unanimous demand of the trade unions for restoration of the interest rate to 12 per cent. The move to tax all savings instruments at the withdrawal states, is a further attack on the workers and employees and saving public.

Hence, I urge upon the Government to give up this retrograde move and continue the decades old EEE mode for all savings instruments.

- (xi) **Need to convert Bareilly-Lakhimpur-Sitapur-Lucknow metre-gauge rail line into broad gauge.**

[Translation]

SHRI RAVIPRAKASH VERMA (Kheri): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Tarai region of Uttar Pradesh is cut off from the

rest of the country as it is not linked with broad gauge railway line. This region is far ahead of the other parts of the country in production of foodgrains. The farmers of this region have to face great difficulty in transporting their produce to the big mandis in the country.

This matter has been raised in the Parliament by the MPs of the Tarai region time and again but the government has not given adequate consideration to the matter so far.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to request the hon. Railway Minister to convert the Bareilly-Lakhimpur-Sitapur-Lucknow metre-gauge line into broad gauge line so that optimum development of the Tarai region may take place and this area may be linked to other areas of the country by means of broad gauge railway line.

- (xii) **Need to provide Central Assistance for early completion of Darbhasan Hydro Projects in Banka Parliamentary Constituency, Bihar.**

SHRI GIRIDHARI YADAV (Banka): Mr. Speaker, Sir, work on Darbhasan reservoir in Katuria division in my parliamentary constituency Banka is in abeyance for the last 15 years because of which the construction that has already taken place is falling into disrepair and the machines installed have also broken down. Crores of rupees have been invested on this reservoir. Fifty to sixty percent work on the reservoir had been completed. This reservoir project had been meant for the benefit of the tribals and to irrigate the land of the tribals. Non-completion of this scheme means lack of irrigation facilities for tribals lands. The standard of living of the tribals can be improved if the government provides assistance to complete the work of the reservoir project.

The Union Government is requested, through the House, to assist in getting the work of the Darbhasan Reservoir project completed.

- (xiii) **Need to set up a gas power project at Unnao, Uttar Pradesh with a view to solve acute power shortage in the region.**

[Translation]

SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK (Unnao): Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is an acute power crisis in the country particularly in Uttar Pradesh. Acute power shortage is continuing in Uttar Pradesh particularly in backward and rural areas. My parliamentary constituency which is a very backward

region, is also not spared of power shortage. The situation in Unnao parliamentary constituency is very pitiable. There is no electricity in this region for many days together and the situation worsens during the summer season. That is why the villagers, farmers and common people have to face great difficulty for want of electricity.

Therefore, I request the Central Government to take effective steps to set up a gas based power project at Unnao parliamentary constituency, Uttar Pradesh with a view to solve acute power shortage in the region.

- (xiv) **Need to attach a Pantry Car, besides second and third AC bogies in Devgiri Express running between Mumbai and Secunderabad.**

[*Translation*]

SHRI TUKARAM GANPAT RAO RENGE PATIL (Parbhani): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Devgiri Express train used to run between Mumbai and Nizamabad. After conversion of the track into broad gauge, now the train is running between Mumbai and Secunderabad and large number of passengers are travelling by it. But this train still does not have pantry car and third A.C. bogies. That is why the passengers taking up long journey are facing great inconvenience. If pantry car, second AC and third A.C. bogies are attached to this train, the passengers will get the facility and the railway will earn extra income simultaneously.

I, therefore, request the Central Government through this House to direct the concerned authority to attach pantry car, second the third A.C. bogies to Devgiri Express train.

- (xv) **Need to extend postal services in Phulbani Parliamentary Constituency, Orissa.**

[*English*]

SHRI SUGRIB SINGH (Phulbani): Postal services have not reached in the tribal dominated Khandamal District and in my Phulbani Parliamentary Constituency of Orissa even after the 58 years of independence. There is a shortage of staff in the post offices due to which postal service has been badly affected. The number of existing post offices are not able to fulfil the requirement of people of my constituency. A large number of post offices are being run from the buildings which are in a dilapidated condition. All these factors encourage private couriers.

When we are going for all round advancement and modernization our prime responsibility is that we should not forget the Tribal population of the country. We have to bring them in the main stream of the nation and for that we have to pay extra attention for the development programmes for such Constituency of Orissa.

I, therefore, urge the Government to increase the allocation for expansion, modernization and development of postal services in Phulbani Parliamentary Constituency, Orissa.

- (xvi) **Need to acquire surplus land of N.T.C. by Railways at Coimbatore for expansion of Coimbatore Railway Junction.**

SHRI K. SUBBARAYAN (Coimbatore): The National Textile Corporation owned mills (1) Somasundara Mills and (2) Kalaswara mill which functioning very near to Coimbatore Railway Junction have been permanently closed. Its land, nearly 40 acres is left without any use. It is learnt that the NTC propose to sell out these lands to private persons. These lands are located very near between the Railway Junction at Coimbatore and adjacent North Coimbatore Railway Station. This important Industrial city which expands in growth day by day may require these lands in the near future for expanding the required facilities and developments to the Railway Junction at Coimbatore. Considering this need I have already requested the Minister of Railways and Textiles for acquiring these lands for the future expansion and development of Railway Junction at Coimbatore. But the Railway Ministry is presently not interested in acquiring this land owned by NTC.

Therefore, I urge upon the Hon'ble Prime Minister to intervene and instruct the Minister of Railways to purchase these lands for the future expansion of Coimbatore railway junction.

- (xvii) **Need to allocate more funds for early completion of Ahmednagar-Beed-Parli railway line in Maharashtra.**

[*Translation*]

SHRI JAYSINGRAO GAIKWAD PATIL (Beed): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the new railway line of Ahmednagar-Beed-Parli (Vaidyanath) falls within my parliamentary constituency Beed, Maharashtra for which land acquisition is being done in Beed district. Land acquisition amounting to approximately Rs. 15 crore has already been done

[Shri Jaysingrao Gaikwad Patil]

but the payment for the same is still pending. An amount of Rs. 42 crore out of the amount allocated for this work is yet to be released.

All parties, organisations and reputed social organisations have expressed the need for construction of this railway line by staging agitation in all forms and at all levels with a view to expedite the construction.

Therefore, I request the Hon'ble Minister of railways through you to take up the matter personally. The payment for Rs. 15 crore for the said work may be made immediately and a provision for more than Rs. 100 crore may be made in the next year's budget of 2006-2007 by prioritising the construction on this railway line.

(xviii) Need to review the rates of petroleum products in view of the declining prices of crude oil in international market

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN' (Begusarai): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Finance Minister along with the Reserve Bank of India had expressed his concern over hike in the prices of fuel sources such as petrol and diesel consequent upon hike in the price of crude oil last month and he had termed it as a curse for the economic development of the country. The price of crude oil in the international market at the end of August and in the beginning of September was 70 dollar per barrel, which was estimated to be 62.78 dollar per barrel for Indian basket. It was the highest price so far. Hence, the Government increased the prices of petrol and diesel for the common consumers on the pretext of the prices in international market. Today the prices have decreased to the extent of 54 dollar to 55 dollar per barrel for Indian basket. The price has fallen in international market but the Government refused to reduce the prices of petrol and diesel on the plea that the decision will be taken after the Rangrajan Committee submits its report.

I request that since the prices of petrol and diesel have been increased so far on account of hike in international market, same should be reduced on the reduction of prices. This is what is justified. When the report of Rangrajan Committee is submitted, it will be thoroughly considered. But, now it is necessary for the Government to reduce the price as per the convention followed in the past.

(xix) Need to exempt railway freight tariff levied on pulses transported from Northern States to Tamil Nadu.

[English]

SHRI RAVICHANDRAN SIPPAPARAI (Sivakasi): Tamil Nadu State largely depends on northern states like Haryana, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh and Gujarat for pulses requirement. Food Processing Industries and Food Traders in Tamil Nadu mainly depend upon Railways for the transportation of the same.

The Railways grant the exemption only for the PDS—food grains. In Tamil Nadu only Rice and Wheat comes under PDS and all the food-grains especially pulses are not covered. Freight on Food commodities has increased to 33.5% due to the Rationalisation of Freight Tariff during 2005-06, Railway Budget.

In view of this, I urge the Government to kindly extend the exemption for pulses also.

MR. SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet tomorrow at 1100 hours.

19.29 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Tuesday, November 29, 2005/Agrahayana 8, 1927 (Saka).

ANNEXURE I

Member-wise Index to Starred Questions

SI.No.	Member's Name	Question Number
1.	Shri Athithan, Dhanuskodi R.	78,
2.	Shri Aaron Rashid, J.M.	62,
3.	Shri Appadurai, M.	73,
4.	Shri Athawale, Ramdas	76,
5.	Shri Budholiya, Rajnarayan	63,
6.	Shri Chandrappan, C.K.	80,
7.	Shri Charenamei, Mani	75,
8.	Shri Chouhan, Shivraj Singh	72,
9.	Smt. Gandhi, Maneka	77,
10.	Shri Jogi, Ajit	67,
11.	Shri Kharventhan, S.K.	74,
12.	Shri Kurup, Suresh	71,
13.	Shri Mallikarjunah, S.	79,
14.	Smt. Mane, Nivedita	65,
15.	Shri Munshi Ram	66,
16.	Smt. Nayak, Archana	66,
17.	Shri Owaisi, Asaduddin	62,
18.	Shri Parste, Dalpat Singh	68,
19.	Smt. Patil, Rupatai Diliprao Nilanga	73,
20.	Shri Patle, Shishupal	70,
21.	Smt. Purandeswari, D.	81,
22.	Prof. Ramadass, M.	78,
23.	Shri Rao, K.S.	67,
24.	Shri Ravichandran, Sippiparai	81,
25.	Shri Rawale, Mohan	64,
26.	Shri Rawat, Ashok Kumar	70,
27.	Shri Sai Prathap, A.	69,
28.	Dr. Sarma, Arun Kumar	75,
29.	Shri Shivajirao, Adhalrao Patil	74,
30.	Smt. Sujatha, C.S.	68,
31.	Shri Thomas, P.C.	69,
32.	Shri Yadav, Sita Ram	63

Member-wise Index to Unstarred Questions

SI.No.	Member's Name	Question Number
1	2	3
1.	Shri Athithan, Dhanuskodi R.	696, 760, 824,
2.	Shri Aaron Rashid, J.M.	749, 814,
3.	Shri Acharia, Basudeb	630, 792, 845,
4.	Shri Adsul, Anendrao V.	638, 756, 819, 822,
5.	Dr. Agrawal, Dharendra	719, 749,
6.	Shri Ahir, Hansraj G.	655, 741, 812,
7.	Shri Ajay Kumar, S.	704,
8.	Shri Angadi, Suresh	704,
9.	Shri Appadurai, M.	745, 818,
10.	Shri Athawale, Ramdas	758, 821,
11.	Shri Bansal, Pawan Kumar	716, 801,
12.	Shri Barad, Jashubhai Dhanabhai	651, 738, 810, 855,
13.	Shri Barman, Hiten	635, 751,
14.	Shri Barman, Ranen	631,
15.	Shri Baxla, Joachim	631, 666, 753,
16.	Shri Bhagora, Mahavir	646,
17.	Shri Bhakta, Manoranjan	687, 782, 835,
18.	Shri Bhargava, Girdhari Lal	693,
19.	Shri Bishnoi, Jaswant Singh	633, 778, 832,
20.	Shri Bishoni, Kuldeep	647, 735, 836,
21.	Shri Borkataky, Narayan Chandra	639, 729, 807,
22.	Shri Bose, Subrata	650,
23.	Shri Budholiya, Rajnarayan	731, 826,
24.	Shri Chakraborty, Swadesh	645, 734,
25.	Shri Chakraborty, Ajoy	709, 795, 847,
26.	Shri Chandel, Suresh	672,
27.	Shri Chavan, Harishchandra	681,
28.	Shri Chavda, Harisinh	665, 674, 719, 721, 749,
29.	Dr. Chinta Mohan	695, 775,

1	2	3
30.	Shri Chowdhury, Ahdir	662, 683, 746, 773, 813,
31.	Shri Dasgupta, Gurudas	705, 777,
32.	Shri Deo, Bikram Keshari	685,
33.	Smt. Deo, Sangeeta Kumari Singh	632, 668, 774,
34.	Dr. Dhanaraju, K.	688, 770,
35.	Shri Gadakh, Tukaram Gangadhar	670, 762,
36.	Shri Gadhavi, P.S.	722, 760, 803, 853,
37.	Shri Gaikwad, Eknath M.	750, 815,
38.	Smt. Gandhi, Maneka	759, 823,
39.	Shri Ganesan, L.	713,
40.	Shri Gangwar, Santosh	678,
41.	Shri Gehlot, Thawarchand	749,
42.	Shri Gohain, Rajen	699, 788
43.	Shri Hassan, Munawar	804,
44.	Dr. Jagannath, M.	700, 752, 789, 842,
45.	Dr. Jatiya, Satyanarayan	671,
46.	Smt. Jayaprada	702, 706,
47.	Shri Jha, Raghunath	657, 796, 814, 848
48.	Shri Jigajinagi, Ramesh Chandrappan	669,
49.	Shri Jogi, Ajit	665, 781, 833, 834,
50.	Shri Karunakaran, P.	692,
51.	Shri Kaswan, Ram Singh	638,
52.	Shri Khaire, Chandrakant	652, 739, 811,
53.	Shri Khandelwal, Vijay Kumar	691, 771, 837,
54.	Shri Khanna, Avinash Rai	701, 790,
55.	Shri Kharventhan, S.K.	733, 809, 854,
56.	Shri Koshal, Raghuvør Singh	637, 728, 806, 830,
57.	Shri Krishna, Vijoy	684, 802, 830,
58.	Shri Krishnadas, N.N.	673, 768,
59.	Shri Kumar, Nikhil	773, 815, 830,
60.	Shri Kumar, Shailendra	658,
61.	Shri Kurup, Suresh	755, 852,
62.	Shri Kushawaha, Narendra Kumar	752, 779, 798, 833,

1	2	3
63.	Shri Madam, Vikrambhai Arjanbhai	723, 805,
64.	Shri Mahajan, Y.G.	712,
65.	Shri Mahato, Bir Singh	665,
66.	Shri Mahato, Sunil Kumar	674,
67.	Smt. Maheshwari, Kiran	731, 826,
68.	Shri Mahtab, Bhartruhari	714,
69.	Shri Mahto, Tek Lal	703,
70.	Shri Majhi, Parsuram	648, 744, 749, 808,
71.	Prof. Malhotra, Vijay Kumar	678,
72.	Shri Mallikarjuniah, S.	761,
73.	Shri Mandal, Sanat Kumar	661, 800,
74.	Smt. Mane, Nivedita	750, 815,
75.	Dr. Manoj, K.S.	698, 704, 787,
76.	Shri Masood, Rasheed	663, 748, 844,
77.	Shri Meghwal, Kailash	637, 778,
78.	Shri Mehta, Alok Kumar	688, 702, 770,
79.	Dr. Mishra, Rajesh	676,
80.	Shri Moghe, Krishna Murari	664,
81.	Shri Mohd., Mukeem	660, 804,
82.	Shri Mohite, Subodh	704,
83.	Shri Munshi Ram	752, 779, 798, 833,
84.	Shri Murmu, Hemlal	699, 710, 788,
85.	Smt. Narhire, (Saw.) Kalpana Ramesh	670, 674, 762,
86.	Shri Nayak, Ananta	720,
87.	Smt. Nayak, Archana	679, 769,
88.	Shri Oram, Jual	644, 732, 808,
89.	Shri Owaisi, Asaduddin	764, 815, 825,
90.	Shri Parste, Dalpat Singh	740, 822,
91.	Shri Paswan, Virchandra	656,
92.	Shri Patel, Jivabhai Ambalal	642, 770, 829,
93.	Shri Patel, Kishabhai V.	707, 793, 822,
94.	Smt. Pateriya, Neeta	678,
95.	Shri Pathak, Brajesh	708, 768, 794, 830, 846,
96.	Shri Patil, Balasaheb Vikhe	686, 780,

1	2	3
97.	Smt. Patil, Rupatai Diliprao Nilanga	767,
98.	Shri Patil, Shrinivas Dadasaheb	653,
99.	Shri Patle, Shishupal	752, 779, 798, 833,
100.	Shri Pingle, Devidas	689,
101.	Shri Prasad, Harikewal	668,
102.	Smt. Purandeswari, D.	763,
103.	Shri Radhakrishnan, Varkala	758,
104.	Shri Rajendran, P.	659, 743,
105.	Prof. Ramadass, M.	784, 838,
106.	Shri Ramakrishna, Badiga	667, 705, 749,
107.	Shri Rao, Rayapati Sambasiva	641, 695, 764, 791, 843,
108.	Shri Rathod, Haribhau	638, 712,
109.	Shri Rawale, Mohan	742,
110.	Shri Rawat, Ashok Kumar	752, 779, 798, 833,
111.	Shri Rawat, Kamla Prasad	628, 725, 822,
112.	Shri Reddy, G. Karunakara	654, 727, 786, 841,
113.	Shri Reddy, Megunta Sreenivasulu	627, 714, 766, 828,
114.	Shri Reddy, Suravaram Sudhakar	705, 777,
115.	Shri Renge Patil, Tukaram Ganpatrao	770,
116.	Shri Sai Prathap, A.	737, 817,
117.	Shri Saradgi, Iqbal Ahmed	629, 726, 830, 839,
118.	Dr. Sarma, Arun Kumar	757, 820,
119.	Adv. Satheedevi, (Shrimati) P.	677, 758,
120.	Shri Scindia, Jyotiraditya M.	643, 765, 827,
121.	Smt. Sen, Minati	695,
122.	Shri Shaheen, Abdul Rashid	715,
123.	Shri Shakya, Raghuraj Singh	688, 770,
124.	Shri Shivajirao, Adhalrao Patil	638, 756, 819, 822,

1	2	3
125.	Shri Shivanna, M.	690, 783, 822,
126.	Prof. Shiwankar, Mahadeorao	752, 779, 798, 833,
127.	Shri Siddeswara, G.M.	790,
128.	Shri Sidhu, Navjot Singh	697,
129.	Shri Singh, Ganesh Prasad	702,
130.	Shri Singh, Kirti Vardhan	696, 760, 815,
131.	Shri Singh, Mohan	675,
132.	Shri Singh, Prabhunath	684, 711, 797, 849
133.	Shri Singh, Rewati Raman	822,
134.	Shri Singh, Sugrib	707, 793, 822,
135.	Shri Singh, Uday	683, 776, 831,
136.	Shri Singh, Rajiv Ranjan "Lalan"	682, 695,
137.	Shri Subba, M.K.	640, 730,
138.	Shri Sugavanam, E.G.	636, 727, 850,
139.	Shri Suman, Ramji Lal	682, 755,
140.	Shri Surendran, Chengara	680, 772,
141.	Shri Swain, Kharabela	705,
142.	Smt. Thakkar, Jayaben B.	649, 736,
143.	Shri Thomas, P.C.	754, 816,
144.	Shri Thummar, V.K.	642, 721, 829,
145.	Shri Tripathi, Chandra Mani	634, 777,
146.	Shri Tripathy, Braja Kishore	712, 799, 851,
147.	Shri Vallabhaneni, Balashowry	678, 694, 785, 840,
148.	Shri Varma, Ratilal Kalidas	701,
149.	Shri Veerendrakumar, M.P.	679,
150.	Shri Verma, Ravi Prakash	638, 756, 819, 822,
151.	Shri Yadav, Anjan Kumar M.	718, 774,
152.	Shri Yadav, Giridhari	718,
153.	Shri Yadav, Mitraser	717,
154.	Shri Yerrannaidu, Kinjarapu	724,
155.	Shri Zahedi, Mahboob	626, 747, 749

ANNEXURE II

Ministry-wise Index to Starred Questions

<i>Agriculture</i>	62, 68, 69, 71, 77, 81
<i>Chemicals and Fertilizers</i>	79
<i>Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution</i>	70, 75, 76, 78
<i>Environment and Forest</i>	
<i>Food Processing Industries</i>	
<i>Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises</i>	
<i>Labour and Employment</i>	67, 72, 80
<i>Steel</i>	65
<i>Tourism</i>	
<i>Water Resources</i>	63, 74

Ministry-wise Index to Unstarred Questions

<i>Agriculture</i>	633, 638, 639, 643, 644, 647, 650, 654, 655, 656, 679, 682, 686, 687, 688, 698, 701, 704, 708, 713, 717, 719, 722, 723, 724, 726, 733, 734, 735, 738, 739, 742, 747, 748, 749, 755, 760, 764, 771, 722, 775, 781, 783, 785, 786, 787, 789, 793, 799, 800, 805, 806, 808, 809, 810, 824, 828, 836, 837, 838, 841, 842, 843, 850, 853
<i>Chemicals and Fertilizers</i>	626, 628, 633, 661, 700, 703, 709, 715, 727, 795, 804, 811, 816, 827, 830, 834, 848, 849
<i>Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution</i>	652, 658, 681, 683, 695, 697, 702, 711, 716, 743, 770, 774, 790, 791, 796, 798, 814, 854
<i>Environment and Forest</i>	: 627, 631, 632, 634, 636, 651, 653, 657, 662, 667, 670, 676, 684, 689, 691, 710, 721, 738, 740, 741, 746, 754, 759, 765, 766, 768, 776, 812, 813, 819, 822, 825, 829, 831, 851, 852
<i>Food Processing Industries</i>	635, 669, 693, 699, 714, 745
<i>Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises</i>	
<i>Labour and Employment</i>	645, 659, 664, 668, 674, 678, 692, 705, 718, 753, 756, 757, 762, 763, 767, 773, 777, 782, 794, 815, 821, 839, 844
<i>Steel</i>	630, 648, 663, 666, 720, 723, 780, 792, 802, 840, 845
<i>Tourism</i>	640, 672, 675, 706, 707, 728, 731, 737, 750, 761, 779, 788, 818, 832
<i>Water Resources</i>	629, 637, 641, 642, 646, 649, 660, 666, 671, 673, 677, 680, 685, 690, 694, 712, 729, 730, 732, 736, 744, 751, 752, 758, 769, 778, 784, 797, 801, 803, 807, 820, 823, 826, 833, 835, 846, 847, 855.

INTERNET

The original version of Lok Sabha proceedings is available on Parliament of India Website at the following address :

<http://www.parliamentofindia.nic.in>

LIVE TELECAST OF PROCEEDINGS OF LOK SABHA

Lok Sabha proceedings are being telecast live on the dedicated channel of Doordarshan, viz DD-Lok Sabha. Live telecast begins at 11 A.M. on everyday the Lok Sabha sits, till the adjournment of the House.

LOK SABHA DEBATES ON SALE

Printed copies of Lok Sabha Debates of English and Hindi Versions and other Parliamentary Publications are available for sale at the Sales Counter, Parliament House, New Delhi-110 001.

© 2005 BY LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

Published under Rules 379 and 382 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha
(Eleventh Edition) and printed by Shree Enterprises, New Delhi.
