

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Ninth Session
(Fourteenth Lok Sabha)



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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Monday, December 18, 2006/Agrahayana 27, 1928 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

OBITUARY REFERENCE

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I have to inform the House of the sad demise of Shrimati Sukhbuns Kaur, a sitting Member of Rajya Sabha.

Shrimati Sukhbuns Kaur was also a Member of Seventh to Eleventh Lok Sabhas from 1980 to 1984, 1985 to 1991 and 1992 to 1996 representing Gurdaspur Parliamentary Constituency of Punjab.

She was the Union Minister of State, Civil Aviation and Tourism from July, 1992 to May, 1996.

An able Parliamentarian she was a Member of the Joint committee to examine the Dowry Prohibition Act during 1981-82. During the Ninth Lok Sabha she was a Member, Committee on Absence of Members from the sittings of the House and Consultative Committee, Ministry of Human Resource Development and the Consultative Committee constituted under "Punjab State Legislature (Delegation of Powers) Act, 1987.

An agriculturist and social worker, she was closely associated with issues relating to empowerment and development of women.

Shrimati Sukhbuns Kumar passed away on 15th December, 2006 at New Delhi at the age of 63, after a brief illness.

I am sure the House would join me in conveying our condolences to the bereaved family.

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

11.01 hrs

The Members then stood in silence for a short while.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir I would like to say that ... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Not now. Sorry. Let us do some business. We have only two days left. Nothing will be allowed.

(*Interruptions*) ...*

11.02 hrs

OBSERVATION BY THE SPEAKER

Re: Concern over the hunger strike undertaken by Ms. Mamta Banerjee, M.P.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: I have another matter on which also all of us are concerned. A very distinguished Member of this House is on a fast. I am sure, all of us join me in requesting her to withdraw the fast. Certainly she can carry on with whatever demand she has or whatever protest she can make. But her life should be protected.

We are very concerned with her well-being. I believe all of you join me in making this request.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes, Sir.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): Sir, the hon. Prime Minister has also expressed his concern. We all express our concern and join you in expressing our concern in this matter.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank You. I hope she will listen to the view of the Parliament as a whole.

*Not recorded.

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, please tell the Government of West Bengal also to talk to them. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Leave it, there is no question to say anything from here.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Mr. Speakers, Sir, the Chief Minister there may be also asked to hold talks with her. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You may please talk.

[English]

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hooghly): Sir, the State Government is already in touch with her. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Let it not be a matter of debate.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: The Chief Minister has already requested her to withdraw the fast and asked her to make any suggestion. ...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: The West Bengal Government also should take the initiative ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Okay. You have expressed your views. I am only requesting on behalf of all of you, for the entire House, that she may kindly call off the fast. I am not saying anything about her claim or demand or her dispute.

Let us proceed to the Question Hour.

11.03 hrs

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

MR. SPEAKER: Shrimati Jayaben B. Thakkar, Q. No. 362.

[English]

Effects of Plastic Bags

*362. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has assessed the adverse environmental effects of plastic bags;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether some States have put a ban on the use of certain types of plastic bags;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the extent of success achieved in this regard so far;

(e) the concrete steps proposed to be taken to ban the plastic bags all over the country; and

(f) the alternatives that have been proposed/suggested for use in place of plastic bags?

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

Statement

(a) and (b) Plastic bags are made of polythylene (long chain hydrocarbon). Plastic are generally chemically inert and so used for the manufacture of a large number of consumer items including bags, personal care products, in packaging food stuff, medicine, and child care products etc. A monograph entitled "Plastics for Environment and Sustainable Development" was published in 2003 by the Indian Centre for Plastics in the Environment, Mumbai and the Central Institute of Plastics Engineering and Technology, Chennai, an autonomous institution of the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers, which comprehensively assesses issues concerning Sustainability of plastics as materials and their impact on the environment. However the indiscriminate littering of plastics and environmentally unsound recycling practices have the potential to cause adverse impacts on environment and health.

(c) and (d) The Government of India has notified the Plastics Manufacture and Usage Rules, 1999 amended 2003 under the Environment (Protection) Act 1986. As per these rules, manufacture, stocking, distribution, or selling of carry bags made of virgin or recycled plastic which are less than 20 x 30 cms in size and 20 microns thickness is banned. These rules also prohibit use of recycled plastic bags for storing, carrying, dispensing or packaging of foodstuffs. Further units manufacturing carry bags or containers made of virgin and recycled plastics

are required to register with the concerned State Pollution Control Board (SPCB) or Pollution Control Committee (PCC).

As per information made available by State Pollution Control Boards, the States like Maharashtra, Punjab, Chandigarh, Kerala, Meghalaya and Goa have laid down stricter norms than prescribed with regard to thickness of plastic bags i.e. 50, 30, 30, 30, 40, and 40 microns respectively. The State of Himachal Pradesh has banned carry bags made of non biodegradable material of thickness less than 70 microns and size less than 30 x 45 cms. Further the States of Gujarat, Orissa and Goa have banned use of plastic bags in certain religious and tourist places like Ambaji, Dakor, Somnath in Gujarat, municipal area of Puri and Konark in Orissa and some important tourist spots in Goa. The concerned State Governments and Union Territory Administrations are monitoring the implementation.

(e) and (f) There is not proposal with the Government of India, at present to ban usage of plastic bags all over the country, considering the volume of plastics consumed, size of the plastic industry and non availability of cheaper substitutes. Cloths, jute and bags made of paper wherever applicable, are considered as alternatives in place of plastic bags. With a view to identify successful approaches followed by some of the States for the managements of plastics, the Central Government is closely watching the emerging situation.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon. Minister has already replied but it would be better if plastic bags are banned in the entire country. Certain States have accepted the ban on plastic bags and implemented it. But States where the said ban has not been implemented, production of plastic bags is continuing there even today. They do not accept any norms in this regard. I would like to know as to what action hon'ble Minister is going to take in this regard and how many producers, and in which States have registered their production with the concerned Pollution Board.

SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA: So far as plastic products are concerned, the Government had formulated Plastics Manufacturer and Usages Rules, 1999. Thereafter the same were amended in 2003. After that several States put restrictions on the use of plastic bags, certain States

have increased microns thickness and some others have increased the size. The Delhi Government has asked the four and five star hotels and big hospitals to use degradable bags. It is an issue on which a lot of study has been carried out under the Plastics for Environment and Sustainable Development. It has accepted the sustainability but it has also indicated that unsound recycling of plastics may be hazardous for the environment. Certain States have put restrictions on it to some extent, some others have increased the thickness of micron, others have banned its use at religious and tourist places. The Delhi Government has made compulsory the use of degradable plastics at certain places. It is an issue the approaches of which are being monitored by the Central Government and if necessary it may be deliberated upon from time to time. So far as the question of production is concerned, many industries are producing it. The amendment carried out in 2003 has made it mandatory for all the producing industries to get themselves registered with the concerned Pollution Control Board or Committee.

SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon'ble Minister in his written answer to part (e) and (f) has said that due to the non-availability of volume of plastics being consumed scale of plastic industry and cheaper substitutes, there is no proposal with the Government of India, at present to ban the use of plastic bags throughout the country. That is why we have not been able to implement it throughout the country. The States, where the production of plastic products is going on, are also selling them to other States and these plastic bags are also reaching there. Therefore, if rule is formulated by the centre then only it can be implemented in all the States. If at all a ban is to be imposed, it should be imposed in all the States. What effective steps he is going to take to achieve the objective for which we are working?

SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA: So far as the States are concerned, they have already enacted laws in this regard. The Government of India had issued notification under the extant law which is applicable throughout the country. The States which have imposed a ban on it is in force only in that particular State, for example certain States have increased thickness.

SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR: What action he is going to take against the States which have not followed the law and the prescribed norms?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: It is part of the second supplementary only.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have allowed it because it is so important a matter.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA: The law of Government of India is applicable throughout the country and that is why it has to be followed by all.

[English]

SHRI G.V. HARSHA KUMAR: Thank you, Sir. Many States are implementing ban on plastic industries. The Government of India is also suggesting alternatives for plastic industries, but so far it is not up to the mark.

What steps should be taken by the Central Government—for the employees of the plastic industries—if the plastic industry is to be completely banned?

[Translation]

SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is no such proposal with the Government of India. If any issue crops up in regard to environment or any health-hazard is created then we bring amendments from time to time. We had introduced such amendments in 2003 and would also bring such amendments if the need be. Certain states have taken different steps. We are also taking that into account. If it becomes necessary we shall also bring amendments. But as of now there is no such proposal. I agree that it has grown into a big industry now and many people are employed into it. But at present there is no such proposal with the Government of India.

[English]

DR. BABU RAO MEDIYAM: Thank you, Sir. The use of plastics is spreading like wild fire as plastic bags and such other products are available almost all over the country. Even though, some States have banned it, yet it is not being implemented completely. The hydrocarbon

polythylene is non-biogradable as it does not mix with the soil. This is going to be a threat for the environment.

Is the Ministry going to propose alternative use of other products like jute, paper bags, etc. in place of plastics? If these plastics are burnt away, then also it can be avoided, and restricted. Is the Government proposing to restrict its use?

[Translation]

SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA: Sir, so far as the alternatives are concerned, they are always available and also available even now. If somebody wants to use those alternatives, one can do that. Jute-bags, paper-bags and even tin-containers are also available. So far as the ban is concerned, none of the States has banned it. For example, Maharashtra, Punjab, Chandigarh, Kerala, Meghalaya and Goa have increased micron thickness because the smaller bags having less thickness are more hazardous to health.

[English]

The alternatives for it are always available.

[Translation]

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a very important issue and we are expressing our concern regarding plastic. I am of the view that plastic has tried to improve the life of common people. Plastic in itself is not a problem, the problem is its disposal. Hon'ble Minister was informing the House that through Plastic Manufactures and Usage Act, 1995 it was tried to regulate this but did not succeed. I want to ask the hon'ble Minister through you, whether his Ministry is contemplating to enact a law for proper disposal and recycling of polythene, which is necessary.

SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA: Sir, notification has been done already a law in this regard. This is a law for recycling in which the recycling, disposal and manufacturing of plastic have been detailed. The pollution control boards and the committees of States control the thickness, length and width of that. So far as their disposal, transportation and storage are concerned, there are notifications for these and the Collectors and Deputy—Commissioners of districts and many authorities constituted by the States have been empowered to monitor it. If there is any instance of non-implementation.

I would like to request the hon'ble Member to bring the specific instances to my notice and I will write to the concerned States.

[English]

Basically littering is the main problem being faced in it.

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: Thank you, Sir. Plastic can neither be disposed of nor can it be recycled except into other plastics. In my own Constituency, we had banned it for six months and within three weeks the smell disappeared; there was cleanliness; the sewage pipes all opened up; the river became cleaner; and everybody's quality of life improved. There are some things that people can do by themselves, and there are some things that State has to do.

There is absolutely no point saying that it should be kept as it gives jobs to the people. Otherwise, so do drugs; so do the manufacture of many illegal items; so does pick-pocketing, etc. ... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: No, please put your Question.

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: Therefore, the State has to take a decision in this matter.

Is the hon. Minister aware of thousands of scientific studies saying that plastic is no longer sustainable?

Secondly, there is a Professor in Nagpur, who has invented a way of turning plastic bags into oil. Is the Minister aware of this? What steps has he taken to promote this?

[Translation]

SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I agree with hon'ble Member that there are indiscriminate littering which cause, different kinds of problems. The drains are blocked, and it the cattle eat it they die. It causes a lot of problems. But so far as States are concerned.

[English]

I will be happy to know of some study conducted by someone. I would request the hon. Member to forward the same to me. A study Plastics for Environment and Sustainable Development has been conducted. The

Central Institute for Plastic Engineering and Plastics, Chennai, a Public Sector Undertaking is also involved in this. If some study has been conducted, kindly sent it to me.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the pollution level in many States is increasing due to use of plastic bags. In order to control pollution Maharashtra, Punjab, Chandigarh, Kerala, Meghalaya and Goa have decided to ban it. The Union Government needs to issue guidelines, enact a law and bring reforms in order to ban it in the remaining States. Hence the Union Government must issue directives to the State Governments. On the other hand, pollution in our Indian society is also increasing. ... (*Interruptions*)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Not allowed. Second part would be expunged.

... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Second part is expunged.

... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: I did not know what he was going to say. I have expunged it immediately.

... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: It is a national problem. Hence, I am allowing a few more questions.

... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: What are you doing?

... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing is being recorded. Why are you saying all these things?

(*Interruptions*) ...*

[Translation]

SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government of India has already banned the plastic bags

*Not recorded.

having thickness less than 20 micron and size less than 20x30 cm. I have been informed regarding Maharashtra that Maharashtra Government has not banned plastic bags rather it has increased its thickness to 50 microns. The Maharashtra Government has banned the bags having less thickness than 50 microns. Several other States have also banned the bags of lesser thickness but kept the bags of having thickness more than it in use.

Functioning of PIB

+
*363. SHRI M. ANJAN KUMAR YADAV:
SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL:

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

(a) the functions of Press Information Bureau (PIB) and the mechanism available to monitor its working;

(b) the expenditure incurred by the Government on PIB during each of the last three years;

(c) whether the Government has assessed the performance of PIB during the last three years in disseminating information to the print and electronic media on Government policies, programmes initiatives and achievements;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the steps proposed to be taken to make the functioning of PIB more effective?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

(a) PIB is the nodal agency of the Government of India to disseminate information to the print and electronic media on Government policies, programme initiatives and achievements through different modes of communications such as Press Releases, Press Notes, Feature Articles, Backgrounders, Press Briefings and Photographs, Press Conferences, Interviews, Press Tours etc. It functions as an interface between the Government and the media and also provides feedback to the Government on public reaction as reflected in the media. The information released in Hindi, English, Urdu and 13 other regional languages reaches about 8,400 newspapers and media

organizations. The functioning of PIB is monitored, like any other Media Unit under the Ministry of I&B, through a system of review of performance, regularly and periodically by Ministry of I&B, Parliamentary Committees, Planning Commission etc.

(b) Expenditure incurred on PIB during 2003-04, 2004-05, and 2005-06 was Rs. 1937.58 lakhs, Rs. 2106.49 lakhs and Rs. 2867.37 lakhs respectively.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The performance of PIB over the last three financial years has been showing a steady upward trend.

(e) Does not arise.

[Translation]

SHRI M. ANJAN KUMAR YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, PIB is not playing its role in an effective manner at present. As a consequence thereof information about Government's policies, schemes and functioning is not reaching the public. PIB does not do its work in English whereas less than 5 percent people in the country know the language. The press releases in local languages issued by PIB are translated from English. The language of the translated press-release is beyond the comprehension of the common man. I would like to know from the Minister the number of employees in PIB who prepare press releases in Hindi and Tamil alongwith the number of such press releases prepared by them during this year.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, in-so-far as the present working of PIB is concerned, I would like to inform the House and the hon'ble Member with it, through you. Nearly 200 districts have been selected for coverage under NREGP, Rajiv Gandhi Rural Electrification and RSGY programmes. Out of these 200 districts, we have provided complete information about all these programmes to 52 districts at village level through a public information campaign upto 17.12.2006. It is our target to provide such information to 100 districts by 31 March. Our target is to cover 350 districts by the end of the present government's tenure since the scope of NREGP scheme is likely to be extended.

As regards the language, information is provided in Urdu, Hindi and English. Besides, information is also being provided in 13 regional languages.

The hon'ble Member will be soon informed about the number of employees who work in Hindi, English, Urdu and other languages.

SHRI M. ANJAN KUMAR YADAV: Sir, is it right on the part of PIB to get press releases in Hindi and other languages translated from English? What is the reaction of the Government thereto?

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Whenever any English page has to be translated into Hindi, it is translated after discussing it with the Hindi Adviser. However, often Hindi, Urdu and English translations reach the electronic media, district information centre and reporter's associations independently. If ever any lapse occurs and an accurate translation from English to Hindi is not done, the matter is immediately sent for correction.

SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to ask the hon'ble Minister whether the Government is aware that PIB works in a partisan manner in Gujarat and that PIB officers are availing undue benefits from the State Governments? If so, what action is being taken by the Government in this regard?

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, as far as Gujarat is concerned we have not received any written information in this regard either from the people or through the Member of Parliament. If any such petition is received by us, it would be taken up seriously.

SHRI NIHAL CHAND: Mr. Speaker, Sir, since PIB is a nodal agency of the Indian Government, I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister the names of the Committees which carry out review of its performance regularly. What steps have been taken by the Government to improve the performance of PIB and what new steps are being taken in this regard?

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, India has had no National Media Centre from the time of independence. A National Media Centre is the latest initiative taken by the UPA Government for improving the performance of PIB. 25 percent of the funds earmarked for the National Media centre by the UPA Government have been handed-over to the agencies. NPCC in front of 7, Raisina Road would work as the first National Media Centre in India. The drawings and maps would conform to Lutyen's directions and these have been submitted to the Urban Arts Commission. I think the National Media Centre would

start functioning from next year for the first time in the country.

[English]

SHRI B. MAHTAB: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. I raise a very particular question relating to Orissa. Why is it that the PIB Office which was functioning since its inception at Cuttack in Orissa does not have a person today to man it, which is the condition for the last 3-4 months? Is it because there is shortage of manpower or personnel or is there a design to close down that Office?

Some years back there was an attempt to close down that Office at Cuttack, but there was a lot of pressure and public outcry and then the Government, said it in writing, that that office at Cuttack will function. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he is going to close down that Office or that Office is going to continue. There is a tendency in the Ministry that the PIB Offices will function only in the State Capitals. I would like to know which are the States where PIB Offices are functioning at places other than the State Capitals.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: In fact, there is a policy that in each State Capital only, there should be one Office of this nature. But in Orissa, there are two Offices — one in the Capital, Bhubaneswar and the other in Cuttack. Obviously, therefore, there was a decision taken, as per the direction to the Expenditure Finance Commission, that two Offices should not exist and that the Office at Cuttack should be closed down. But however, we did respond to the will of the people in the State. I am personally going to review the whole thing after the Session; I will take the hon. Minister into confidence about the fate of this Office in Orissa.

SHRI ABDULLAKUTTY: The main problem of our broadcasting system is lack of young generation. The personnel working there are all above 40 years of age. There is no recruitment or promotion taking place in that Department. How can our broadcasting system compete with others when there is no young blood?

MR. SPEAKER: It is about PIB Offices, not about broadcasting system. You should restrict your question to PIB.

SHRI ABDULLAKUTTY: But this is the basic problem. I would like to know whether there is any measure in the Government to tackle this crisis of lack of young blood.

MR. SPEAKER: He wants young bloods in the Department.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: First of all, I would like to inform the hon. Member that there is a tremendous pressure from the EFC, not to fill up the vacancies which we are having now because of the economic drive of the Government. However, I do share with him the more young bloods are coming to us; more young bloods will enthuse more enthusiasm. Whenever we fill up the vacancies, we will keep the suggestions of the hon. Member in mind.

MR. SPEAKER: Nobody looks after the old people!

MR. SPEAKER: Q.No. 364, Shri Naveen Jindal—Not present.

Decline In Cultivable Area

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

(a) whether the area of cultivation under various crops has been decreasing continuously for the last three years;

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

(c) the comparative figures of cultivable area recorded during the Ninth and Tenth Plans, State-wise; and

(d) the remedial measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

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

(a) and (b) No, Sir. The area of cultivation under Foodgrains, Oilseeds, Sugarcane, Cotton, Jute and Mesta taken together was 159.65 million hectares during 2003-04 which increased to 160.97 million hectares during 2004-05 and further to 163.71 million hectares during 2005-06 (4th advance estimates). At the disaggregated level, however, area of cultivation under pulses showed a continuous decline during the last three years coming down gradually from 23.46 million hectares during 2003-04 to 22.43 million hectares during 2005-06.

Pulses are grown mainly on marginal and sub-marginal land under rainfed conditions with low productivity and production. These factors, among others, make pulse cultivation less attractive to the farmers compared to other crops.

(c) The State-wise comparative figures of cultivated area (average of five years of Ninth Plan period and the average of first four years of Tenth Plan period) of Foodgrains, Oilseeds, Sugarcane, Cotton, Jute and Mesta taken together are given in the enclosed.

(d) To increase the area under cultivation, Government is encouraging intercropping of short duration pulse crops, use of fallow lands and enhanced irrigation facilities besides implementing "Integrated Scheme on Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize (ISOPOM)". Under the scheme, assistance is provided on 75:25 percent basis between the Government of India and the State Governments, inter-alia, for production and distribution of seeds, provision of minikits and Integrated Post Management (IPM). A supplementary programme for major pulses growing State has been approved by the Government for Rabi and Summer 2006-07 and additional funds to the tune of Rs. 14.48 crores have been allocated under ISOPOM. Besides, large number of seed minikits of pulses have been supplied to the ISOPOM implementing States during Rabi 2006-07. A minimum price guarantee is also provided to the pulses growers through the price support mechanism.

Annexure

State-wise Average Area of Cultivation under Foodgrains, Oilseeds, Sugarcane, Cotton, Jute and Mesta taken together

State	Average Area (Million Hectares)	
	Ninth Plan 1997-98 to 2001-02	Tenth Plan 2002-03 to 2005-06
1	2	3
Andhra Pradesh	11.13	10.55
Assam	3.20	3.02
Bihar	8.66	7.19
Chhattisgarh	2.13	5.43
Gujarat	8.23	8.71
Haryana	5.56	5.59

1	2	3
Himachal Pradesh	0.85	0.83
Jammu and Kashmir	0.96	0.97
Jharkhand	0.76	1.94
Karnataka	10.41	10.29
Kerala	0.40	0.31
Madhya Pradesh	21.64	18.19
Maharashtra	19.54	18.98
Orissa	5.84	5.65
Punjab	6.95	6.97
Rajasthan	16.68	16.17
Tamil Nadu	5.06	4.27
Uttar Pradesh	24.05	22.69
Uttaranchal	0.46	1.19
West Bengal	7.79	7.80
All India	161.75	158.22

SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO: Thank you, Sir, There cannot be any development in the country without proper utilization of its soil and land resources. Prime agricultural land is a creation of many years of bio-physical and natural processes. It is termed as prime land precisely because it has the inherent capacity to produce more than the other land. One inch of soil takes thousands of years to develop, but it can get washed away in minutes. Thus, the prime land is a national asset and it requires due protection. But nothing has been done in this direction. Instead, plans and schemes are prepared to convert the agricultural land into non-agricultural land. Most Urban Master Plans have a provision for the conversion of agricultural lands to non-agricultural use. As a result thereof, the area of cultivation of various crops has come down from 133 million hectares to 107 million hectares.

So, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he has any plan to issue some specific guidelines to be followed by all the State Governments mandatorily to save the agricultural land, and whether he has any proposal to identify all prime agricultural land around our

cities through a scientific survey and declare the same as protected land.

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): Sir, the main question is restricted to whether the area of cultivation under various crops has been decreasing continuously for the last three years. But the hon. Member is asking a question about conversion of agricultural land into non-agricultural land. So, his question pertains to the main Q.No. 370. Whenever we take up Q.No. 370, I will reply to this.

But as far as Q.No. 365 is concerned, it is true that in certain crops, the area is coming down.

But this is not a general statement. The area under cultivation in the year 2003-04 was 159.65 million hectares; in 2004-05, it was 160.97 million hectares; and in 2005-06, it is 163.71 million hectares. So, there is an increase in the area but I have to accept one thing. This information is regarding particular crops, namely, food grains, oilseeds, sugarcane, cotton, jute and mesta. But if you study the position of pulses, the area under pulses is coming down. It was 23.46 million hectares during 2003-04 and it has come down to 22.43 million hectares. The reason for coming down of area for pulses is that pulses are essentially grown in marginal, sub-marginal land and rainfed conditions. So, there is no sufficient yield. That is the reason why only pulses area section has been coming down day-by-day.

I have replied in part (d) of the question exactly what scheme the Government of India has introduced and what exactly we are doing to improve the pulses area.

MR. SPEAKER: You can ask second supplementary. I can give you one opportunity when the Q.No. 370 comes. However, you put your question.

SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO: The land cultivation has been decreasing.

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister has said that it is not.

SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO: Sir, as per NSSO survey conducted recently, the land for cultivation is decreasing. In fact, the hon. Minister has replied in the Rajya Sabha on 6th December that there is decrease in the cultivation of the land.

My specific question is whether the Department of Agriculture has any plan to conduct research to find out remedies for the decrease in the cultivation of the land.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: In fact, the ICAR has one or two institutions which are continuously keeping a close eye, getting information and also providing the crop-wise information to the Government. It is true that certain area is becoming non-agricultural but I would discuss that separately when I would get an opportunity. The efforts are on to bring more area under various types of crops. That is the reason why a number of schemes have been introduced in the country. These schemes are implemented through the State Government. The Government is providing the financial support to the State Government to execute these schemes and the States are taking corrective measures.

SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: According to the written answers submitted by the hon. Minister, the cultivation of pulses is continuously declining for the past three years due to drought or other reasons. The Jatropha can be planted anywhere and even in dry land. I would like to know whether the Government is having any proposal to encourage Jatropha under the Integrated Scheme on Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Sir, Jatropha is definitely a useful crop but today the country needs pulses. There is a shortage of pulses. In fact, I will give figures how much pulses we are importing. Last year, the total import of pulses amounted to Rs. 2346 crore and a year before last, it was Rs. 1700 crore. In 2002, it was Rs. 2284 crore. So, we are importing pulses so today or tomorrow we have to resolve this problem on our own. We will have to see how can we become self-sufficient. That is why, you cannot compare pulses with Jatropha. Jatropha is a crop which one can take up in absolute barren and land also. That is definitely useful and a number of schemes have been introduced in order to popularize Jatropha in the country.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Sir, the hon. Minister has stated and we also know that we have failed to achieve the target in the Tenth Plan as regards agricultural production. The Government has also accepted it and the hon. Minister has stated that the production of pulses has come down and we know the position of wheat also as to how it has come down, its impact and how the Government has been compelled to import it. In this background, as regards the target which we have

failed to achieve, is the Government taking any step or will go in for a perspective plan so that we can make up the shortfall of the Tenth Plan during the Eleventh Plan?

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: As I said, the situation is different from crop to crop. Take the case of wheat, the production had dropped for the last one or two years. Last year, the production had not dropped that much. But we could not procure due to some other reason. That is why, the stocks with the Government have been affected. For instance, this year, the sowing operation has been practically completed. As per the information which I have about wheat, more than 20 per cent of additional area has come under wheat production and the situation will definitely improve. In the case of rice, for the last two to three years, there has been substantial production of rice and we can also procure it. Similar is the situation with oilseeds, cotton and sugarcane. But production of pulses has dropped and we are taking corrective measures in that regard.

[Translation]

SHRI MAHAVIR BHAGORA: Mr. Speaker, Sir through you, I would like to draw the Ministers's attention towards a fact. The Minister has stated in his reply that area under cultivation and production of pulses has showed a continuous decline. The Minister must surely know the reasons for this decline. The seeds being supplied are of an inferior quality—even if they are mini seeds. On the spot test of the geographical location and quality of soil is not done. I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister whether the agricultural scientists supply the seeds after carrying out proper examination of soil or distribute them arbitrarily. I would like the Minister to make this point clear.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Sir, the scientists do not distribute seeds. Their job is to develop seeds. As far as seed varieties are concerned, some new varieties of pulses have been developed which grow in a short period and need less water. These are drought-resistant variety of pulses. But I would admit that we have not had a breakthrough in this field but attention has been paid to this issue.

SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: Sir, a very important matter is being discussed. It is well known that the hon. Minister has been an agricultural scientist. Maharashtra has benefited a lot from his experience. The agricultural production in the country is declining constantly but the

hon. Minister is talking about increase in the area of cultivation. The hon. Minister has stated in his reply that there is no decline in the area of cultivation. I would like to know from him that if there is no decline in the area of cultivation then why the agricultural production is decreasing and even an ordinary thing like wheat consumed by commonman is also being imported? I had already said that Maharashtra has benefited from the hon. Minister's experience. Hon. Member Bhagora ji has also just raised the issue of seeds. I want to know whether the hon. Minister will make some concrete arrangement where the farmers, in addition to water and electricity can be provided benefit, directly by the Central Government by making a legislation?

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Two-three questions have been asked here. But, as far as wheat is concerned, I had already said in the House that procurement of wheat has been less this year and there are many reasons for this. The maximum wheat in the country is produced in Uttar Pradesh while Punjab and Haryana are in second and third place respectively followed by Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat. Both Punjab and Haryana have helped the Government of India in procuring 8.5 million tonnes of wheat while Uttar Pradesh, which produces maximum wheat, procured 48 thousand tonnes only. Madhya Pradesh Government procured two thousand tonnes while no procurement could be made in Gujarat. Thus, there has been a decline in procurement in the States which had more area under wheat. But, at the same time, I would accept that the market price was higher than the support price fixed by us and that has also affected it. Therefore, we have taken corrective measures this year. The Government has effected more than Rs. 100 per quintal increase in the price of wheat for the first time, which was never done before and we are getting more areas for cultivation as a result thereof.

Further, the other suggestions made by him are regarding irrigation and other issues. All those are looked by the Ministry of Water resources and the State Government. I agree that there is a need to pay more attention towards them.

[English]

SHRI B. VINOD KUMAR: With regard to part (a) of the Question, the Minister, in his written reply, has stated "No". The Annexure shows that there is decrease in the area of cultivation from the Ninth Plan to the Tenth Plan.

I would like to know from the hon. Minister what remedial measures are proposed to be taken with regard to crops, other than pulses. In all States, except in Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and Uttaranchal, which are the newly formed States, either it has decreased or remained *status quo*. Only in Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and Uttaranchal, there is a tremendous growth in increasing the area under cultivation.

I would like to know from the hon. Minister what remedial measures are proposed to be taken with regard to crops, other than pulses. I would like to know whether they are going to strengthen the irrigation system, etc.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Sir, the irrigation system, as I said, is a subject which is not directly dealt with by me. But this year the Budgetary provision for irrigation has been definitely increased by the Government of India. When we discuss and finalise the next plan, the thinking of the Government is to provide substantial resources to the States to bring more area under irrigation.

MD. SALIM: I have no dispute over the reply given by the Minister. But the dispute arises from the figures given by the Minister. The Minister has given the national figure annually as well as the average of the last three years. It is clear that all-India average is okay. There is no decrease in the cultivable land. But in some States, as hon. Members have already pointed out, the cultivable land is drastically going down.

The annual figures given by the Minister from 2003-04 to 2005-06 matches with the average. The figure from 1997-98 to 2001-02, which is the corresponding period of the Ninth Plan, it is okay. But why then there is a sharp fall in 2002-03? If I go by the figure given by the Minister as the average of three years out of four years of the Tenth Plan and find out the annual figure of 2002-03, then there is a sharp fall.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: I entirely agree with him. That was the position in 2002-03. In 2002-03, there was drought in many States. Whenever there is a drought farmers do not sow and they do not carry out sowing operation. That is why the area under cultivation has come down during those particular years.

Inter-State River Water Disputes

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*366. SHRI M. RAJA MOHAN REDDY:
SHRI FRANCIS FANTHOME:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether several inter-State water disputes have been pending for several decades;

(b) the expenditure incurred on resolving these disputes during the said period;

(c) the action taken by the Government in each of the dispute during the last three years; and

(d) the concrete steps taken by the Government to facilitate resolving of such disputes at a quicker pace?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

(a), (c) and (d) As per the Inter-State River Water Disputes (ISRWD) Act, 1956, the water dispute arises among two or more State Governments when the Central Government receives request under Section 3 of the Act from any of the basin States with regard to existence of water dispute. The details of the present inter-State water disputes under ISRWD Act, 1956 are as follows:

Sl.No.	River/Rivers	States concerned	Date of Reference to the Central Government	Date of Reference to the Tribunal
1.	Ravi and Beas	Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan	—	April, 1986
2.	Cauvery	Kerala, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Union Territory of Pondicherry	July, 1986	June, 1990
3.	Krishna	Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra	September 2002 — January, 2003	April, 2004
4.	Madel/Mondovi /Mahadayi	Goa, Karnataka and Maharashtra	July, 2002	—
5.	Vansadhara	Andhra Pradesh and Orissa	February, 2006	—

In accordance with the said Act, the Central Government is required to refer a dispute to a Tribunal after it is satisfied that the dispute cannot be settled by negotiations. Accordingly, the water disputes related to Cauvery and Krishna were referred to the Tribunals for adjudication in 1990 and 2004 respectively. The Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal (CWDT) passed an interim order on 25.6.1991 and the Krishna Water Disputes Tribunal passed orders on Interim Relief Applications of the States on 9.6.2006.

The water dispute related to Ravi and Beas was referred to the Ravi and Beas Waters Tribunal in 1986 under Section 14 of the said Act. The Ravi-Beas Waters

Tribunal (RBWT) submitted its report on 30.1.1987. Party States and Central Government have sought explanation/guidance under section 5(3) of the Act from the Tribunal. The Tribunal has not submitted its further report to the Government.

In respect of Mahadayi/Mandovi River Water Disputes raised by Government of Goa, the Ministry of Water Resources is of the opinion that water dispute contained in the request of Government of Goa cannot be settled by negotiation. The request has been examined in accordance with the provisions of the said Act and found to be not confirming to the provisions of the Act and therefore, the State of Goa has been requested to send a revised request on 21.11.2006.

In respect of Vansadhara Water Dispute, the Central Government has not concluded so far that the dispute cannot be settled by negotiations.

The mechanism for settlement of water dispute is already available in the form of ISRWD ACT, 1956. The ISRWD Act, 1956 has been amended in the year 2002 whereby the adjudication of the water dispute by the tribunal has been made time-bound.

(b) The expenses incurred by Ravi and Beas Waters Tribunal, Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal and Krishna Water Disputes Tribunals since their constitution till November, 2006 is Rs. 5.45 Crore, Rs. 10.43 Crore and 2.05 Crore respectively. Expenditure incurred by tribunals is to be borne by participating States.

SHRI M. RAJA MOHAN REDDY: Hon. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister, whether the Government is considering any proposal for resolving river water disputes by declaring all rivers as national resources and setting up of a Central Water Authority, empowered with statutory powers for implementation, as there is a provision in the Constitution that the regulation of inter-state can rest with the Union Government in the public interest.

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ: Sir, pursuant to the provisions of the Constitution of India, under article 262, Parliament has enacted Inter-State River Water Disputes Act which has provision to constitute a Tribunal. When the disputes are referred to us, we attend to those disputes at the Ministry. Also, if it cannot be settled through negotiation, whenever it is needed, we constitute the Tribunal.

SHRI M. RAJA MOHAN REDDY: Sir, I would also like to know whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh, in May, 2005, complained to the Central Government saying that the construction of Babli Barrage by Government of Maharashtra within the submergence area of the Sriram Sagar Project Reservoir is in violation of the Godavari Water Disputes Tribunal Award. If so, what is the action taken by the Central Government in this regard.

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ: The Babli matter was referred to us. I had a meeting with the hon. Chief Ministers of Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra. While I said that we would sit again and try to resolve it—it was a very small dispute and I was confident that it could be

resolved—I came to know the next day from the newspapers that one of the States had gone to the hon. Supreme Court. There ends the matter. Now, it is in the court. It could have been resolved with in the Ministry. I was so confident of that. Both the Chief Ministers had agreed. It is a State Subject. The Supreme Court said often in perhaps two or three judgements that within sovereign India, States are sovereign so far as water resources are concerned. Despite the fact the Chief Minister that he had agreed with me that Babli would be resolved through discussion. He went to the court.

SHRI FRANCIS FANTHOM: Sir, through you, I would like to know from the hon. Minister of Water Resources whether there are any new initiatives in place to solve the river water disputes between the States. The Ravi-Beas dispute has been with the Tribunal for nearly 20 years. The Cauvery water dispute has been with the Tribunal for more than 15 years. Sir, Rs. 16 crore has already been spent and no solution seems to emerge from the Tribunal. I would request the hon. Minister to react to this.

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ: With the Ravi Beas dispute, Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan are concerned. Tribunal was constituted in 1986. He is right that often one goes into fighting cases in the court or in the Tribunal. Sir, Rs. 5.4 crore has been spent. The Award is yet to come. But, in the meantime, Punjab passed the Punjab Termination of Agreements Act on 12th July, 2004. Later, the esteemed President of India made a reference to the Supreme Court on 22nd July, 2004. The Tribunal is waiting for the decision by the hon. Supreme Court. *...(Interruptions)* Yes, there is delay. But the delay is because of the fact that the States are not agreeing to sit and sort out matters within the Ministry. *...(Interruptions)* Kindly listen to me. So, the Tribunal is there and a reference has been made on this. The Punjab Termination of Agreements Act was passed. The reference has been made by the esteemed President of India to the hon. Supreme Court. Therefore, the Tribunal is waiting for the decision to be taken by the hon. Supreme Court. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Sit down, please.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI KIRAN MAHESHWARI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am grateful to you for allowing me to speak. Sir, the hon. Minister has replied just now that the Governments do not want to sit together and talk and the Chief Minister of Punjab had withdrawn after signing the agreement with

Rajasthan and Haryana under the inter-state water dispute and did not give Rajasthan its due share of water. I want to know from the Central Government as to what action is being taken by it in this regard because there should be a representative of Rajasthan in the Board of BBMB. We have raised this point again and again that there are representatives from Haryana and Punjab but not from Rajasthan. That is why Rajasthan is being neglected again and again. Through you, I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to when he is going to appoint a representative of Rajasthan in the BBMB? Will you please give a clarification in this regard?

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ: I will look into it as to why Rajasthan is not being invited?

[English]

I will inform the hon. Member within two-three days on this. But the difficulties are immense. For instance, the Upper Yamuna Review Committee had not met for the last nine years. I invited the member States, six Chief Ministers attended the meeting in April, 2006 and there was an atmosphere of harmony. But there is an inherent difficulty that water is a State Subject and we have sovereign States. As you say—there is a proverb in English—that you can take the horse to water, but you cannot make the horse to drink water. My difficulty is that I can only convene a meeting of Chief Ministers. I have seen some good results of the discussions too. I am confident, things can be done. The difficulty is that the Chief Ministers of Haryana, Punjab and Rajasthan do not sit together. I am amongst them. I can coordinate, but the decision has to be taken by the States themselves.

As far as Rajasthan is concerned, I will look into this as to why Rajasthan is not associated. I will also inform the hon. Member.

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS: Sir, some of these river projects were constructed during the British period and some of them were constructed before forming the State under linguistic formula. I am not quoting the examples of such projects, the Government may be knowing about them. But some of these agreements are invalid now between some of the States. I would like to know whether the Government of India is going to review such invalid agreements of such projects which were constructed before forming the States under linguistic formula and which were constructed during the British period.

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ: Sir, we have to go by Inter-State Water Disputes Act and within the parameters of this Act before considering whatever disputes will be referred to the Ministry. There are parameters set by the Act of Parliament. Therefore, we cannot go beyond that Act or move out of that Inter-State Water Disputes Act. So, it has parameters and we cannot go beyond them. We deal with these disputes within the parameters of this Act.

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Mr. Speaker Sir, since independence so many disputes are pending. The Government of India is not resolving these inter-State disputes. At present, Water is a State subject. I would like to know whether there is any proposal to bring it under the Concurrent List to resolve all these disputes speedily. Otherwise, it would be a difficult task.

The problem is that water is mainly a State subject and that is why the Government of India is not putting any pressure on the States and is leaving it to the States. It has been continuing for the last so many years. If the subject comes under the Concurrent List, they will have the power and democratically they can resolve the issue.

MR. SPEAKER: He cannot change that. The House has to change it.

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ: Sir, the Standing Committee on Water Resources has recommended that this subject should come under the Concurrent List. I cannot go beyond that. I am neither the Chairman of the Standing Committee nor I am a member of the Standing Committee. That is an independent body representing the Parliament. So, it is for this august House to decide on that. As a citizen of this country, all I can say, 'yes' it must be considered by this august House to bring water resource under the Concurrent List. I say it as a citizen of India and not as a Minister. That is the limitation. ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: He is very candid and fair. He has agreed with you.

... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will be recorded.

*(Interruptions) ...**

DR. C. KRISHNAN: Hon. Speaker Sir, the question being water resources, a part of Tamil Nadu, like

*Not recorded.

Ramanathapuram, Madurai, Dindigul, and Sivaganga, Theni areas, are in very much need of Mullaperiyar Dam water for drinking and irrigation.

That agreement was signed during the year 1886 with the then king of Travancore, that kingdom had signed an agreement with the English people for 152 feet. Now, the water level is 136 feet. ... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: No, it is not concerning the main Question.

DR. C. KRISHNAN: The Supreme Court has authorized and certified that water level be raised to 142 feet.

MR. SPEAKER: No, this does not come under the domain of the Question.

... (*Interruptions*)

DR. C. KRISHNAN: For this purpose, my leader Mr. Vaiko is also making a *padayatra* today ... (*Interruptions*)

Sir, I want the level of the dam to be raised to 142 feet.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, his question does not arise out of the main Question. Would you like to answer it?

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ: Sir, matter is before the hon. Supreme Court. But in the meantime, the hon. Supreme Court has suggested that the two States, namely, Kerala and Tamil Nadu should sort out among themselves with or without the help of the Central Government. ... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing would be recorded without my permission.

(*Interruptions*) ...*

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ: Sir, earlier, I took a meeting with the hon. Chief Ministers of Tamil Nadu and Kerala; and it is today that the two Water Resources Ministers of Tamil Nadu and Kerala are meeting me.

MR. SPEAKER: Very good.

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ: Let us see how things proceed further.

*Not recorded.

MR. SPEAKER: Best of luck. Best wishes. Good wishes to everybody.

... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Now, Q. No. 367: Shri M. Shivanna—not present; Shri Harikewal Prasad—not present.

Q. No. 368: Shri Rayapati Sambasiva Rao—not present

I think, on Monday there should not be any Question Hour

Now, Q. No. 369 — Shri Kashiram Rana — Thank you for being present.

[*Translation*]

D.T.H Service

*369. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA:
SHRI V.K. THUMMAR:

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

(a) whether the Government has been able to make available Direct to Home (DTH) service to the people so far;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government is satisfied with the number of DTH viewers, at present; and

(d) if not, the remedial measures taken by the Government in this regard?

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

(a) Except for Prasar Bharati's DD Direct service, the Government does not directly make available DTH Services to people. However, the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has laid down detailed guidelines for private DTH services on 15.3.2001 which are available in the Ministry's website www.mib.nic.in

(b) The Prasar Bharati; the public broadcaster is providing free DD-Direct DTH service. In addition to DD-

Direct DTH Service, two private companies namely M/s ASC Enterprises Ltd and M/s Tata Sky Ltd. are also providing DTH service in the country.

(c) Government does not maintain any viewership data of DTH service.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we have made a remarkable progress in the field of broadcasting and particularly in DTH. The hon. Minister has just said in his reply to a question that the DTH services are being provided by two private companies only. As per my information there are many private companies in the country which have sought permission from the Ministry for providing the services to the people through the DTH but they have not got the permission as yet. So far as showing channels to the viewers through DTH is concerned, 34 channels are being shown through it. Very few companies have been permitted to provide DTH services despite availability of too many channels in the country. Through you, I would like to know from the hon. Minister the number of companies from which proposals have been received and the steps to be taken by the Government for showing as many channels as possible?
... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Sorry, Mr. Kashiram Rana, it does not arise out of the main question.

[Translation]

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, how the Government would reduce the charges taken by the companies?

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as far as providing DTH service is concerned, I want to make it clear that the DTH of Prasar Bharati has become the most popular in the whole country. As far as the private operations are concerned, six operators have applied to the Ministry out of which three have been given permission. Out of these three, two are in operation and the other will start operation soon. We have rejected the two and one has been given the letter of intent.

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon. Minister has told about the operators which have been granted permission for the DTH services. I want to know whether the Government has any proposal to reduce the charges taken from the consumers for the DTH services so that maximum number of people can avail the DTH facility?

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, DTH is the only service which provides the maximum benefit to the consumers. It is free-to-air and does not require the use of cable services. Next year DTH will make its presence felt in the villages because it requires very little investment. As far as the matter of reducing charges is concerned, we will think about it.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now, Shri V.K. Thummar — not present.

Now, Q. 370; Shri K.S. Rao — not present still half a minute is there.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Sewage Treatment Plants

*364. SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether setting up of Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs) under Ganga Action Plan (GAP) and Yamuna Action Plan (YAP) is obligatory;

(b) if so, the total number of STPs set up under the GAP and YAP, State-wise;

(c) the costs involved in setting up of such plants and sources of funds mobilised therefor;

(d) whether the Union Government provides funds for such plants under any scheme;

(e) if so, the details thereof, State/UT-wise;

(f) whether these plants are fully complying with the prescribed operational norms;

(g) if so, the details thereof; and

(h) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) No Sir. However, the National River Conservation Plan (NRCP), a Centrally Sponsored Scheme, includes the works under Ganga Action Plan (GAP) and Yamuna Action Plan (YAP). As the domestic sewage contributes the major portion of pollution load in rivers, the works undertaken for pollution abatement under the NRCP include Core works of Interception and Diversion to capture the raw sewage flowing into the river through open drains and diverting them for treatment by Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) set up under the Plan.

(b) to (e) Creation of STP is among the pollution abatement schemes funded under the NRCP on a 70:30 cost sharing basis at present between Centre and States/

UTs. In the YAP — Phase-II which is assisted by the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC), the cost sharing is done on a 85:15 basis between Centre and States/UTs. A statement indicating the details of STPs setup with sanctioned costs, State-wise is enclosed.

(f) to (h) The State Governments are responsible for operation and maintenance of the assets including the STPs, created under the NRCP. Based on the performance monitoring carried out by independent agencies for 60 STPs in six States of GAP and YAP during 2005, 61% are meeting the prescribed standards in terms of Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD), an indicator for organic pollution. The performance of these STPs in the States of Uttaranchal, Bihar, Delhi and West Bengal is found generally satisfactory. The major reasons for non-compliance of standards by some of the STPs include, poor operation and maintenance of plants, inadequate resource mobilization by the States and non-availability of dedicated power supply.

Statement

Sewage treatment plants (STPs) under ganga and yamuna action plans

Sl.No.	Action Plan/State	No. of STPs		STP sanctioned cost (Rs. in lakhs)
		sanctioned	set up	
1	2	3	4	5
A Ganga Action Plan Phase-I				
1.	Uttar Pradesh	13	13	10225.2
2.	Bihar	7	5	1901.62
3.	West Bengal	15	15	7360.72
	Total:	35	33	19487.54
B Ganga Action Plan Phase-II (Including ganga and its major tributaries)				
(I) Ganga action plan-II				
1.	Uttar Pradesh	8	0	2941.55
2.	Uttaranchal	4	0	462.71
3.	Jharkhand	0	0	0
4.	Bihar	0	0	0
5.	West Bengal	22	4	1877.3
	CETP	1	1	6104
	Sub Total:	35	5	11385.56

1	2	3	4	5
(II) Yamuna action plan (Including both phases)				
1.	Delhi	3	3	1344.4
2.	Uttar Pradesh	17	15	9421.53
3.	Haryana	17	13	11066.93
	Sub Total:	37	31	21632.86
(III) Gomati action plan				
1.	Uttar Pradesh	3	1	12381.42
	Sub Total:	3	1	12381.42
(iv) Damodar action plan				
1.	Jharkhand	0	0	0
2.	West Bengal	1	0	165.51
	Sub Total:	1	0	165.51
	GAP-II (I+II+IV)	76	37	45765.55
	Gap-I + Gap-II (A+B)	111	70	65252.89

Procurement of Vegetables Under MIS

*367. SHRI M. SHIVANNA:
SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a fall in the prices of certain vegetables, particularly tomato and potato in the recent past;

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

(c) whether the Union Government has received any request from the State Governments to procure these commodities under Market Intervention Scheme (MIS); and

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

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) Wholesale prices — A comparative position of the average monthly wholesale prices of Potato and tomato prevailing in the major markets is given below, for the period January — November, 2005 and 2006.

Monthly average wholesale price of potato and tomato in the major markets of the country

(Rs./Qtl)

Month	Potato		Tomato	
	2005	2006	2005	2006
1	2	3	4	5
January	325	624	525	456
February	317	526	517	456

1	2	3	4	5
March	354	554	582	486
April	491	594	682	470
May	536	651	666	642
June	562	685	546	1289
July	584	691	909	993
August	574	713	1003	963
September	573	800	985	1126
October	661	886	984	1038
November	831	937	1050	740
December	768	*	628	*

*Not available

Source: National Horticulture Board

Retail Prices — Month-end Retail Prices of Potato and Tomato for selected Centres for the period January to November, 2006, are also enclosed as Statement.

(c) and (d) No such proposal has been received from any of the State Government.

Statement

Month end retail prices of potato and tomato for some selected centres during 2006

(Rs. Per Kg.)

Commodity	Centre Name	Jan,06	Feb,06	Mar,06	Apr,06	May,06	Jun,06	Jul,06	Aug,06	Sep,06	Oct,06	Nov,06	Average Price
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Potato	Mumbai	10	10	10	10	10	8	12	13	16	16	16	12
FAQ	Delhi	7	7	8	8	8	10	12	12	14	14	10	10
	Chennai	16	10	10	10	11	9	9	NA	8	10	13	11
	Banagalore	11	10	8	9	10	10	11	7	11	10	NA	10
	Lucknow	5	5	6	6	8	8	8	9	10	12	13	8
	Jaipur	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	9	9	9	10	8
Tomato	Mumbai	6	8	8	8	8	18	12	10	20	10	8	11
FAQ	Delhi	8	8	10	8	10	28	14	28	24	20	12	15
	Chennai	9	3	5	10	17	10	4	NA	7	7	11	8

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
	Benagalore	8	4	3	7	16	10	5	5	7	7	NA	7
	Lucknow	5	5	12	4	8	40	20	20	20	20	12	15
	Jaipur	6	6	8	8	8	10	10	15	15	15	15	11

FAQ: Fair Average Quality

Source: MI Units, Dte. of Economics and Statistics, M/o Agriculture, Govt. of India and APMC.

Segregation of Bio-Waste

*368. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has instructed State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs) to make the segregation of mercury-contaminated bio-waster a condition for granting authorization to the health care centres;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the reaction of the State Governments thereto so far;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government proposes to set up any institute for reduction of dioxins and mercury; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has instructed all the State Pollution Control Boards to incorporate appropriate conditions for taking measures to ensure that the mercury spilled due to breakage of the apparatus containing mercury does not become part of the bio-medical or other solid wastes, while granting authorization to the health care facilities under the Bio-Medical Waste (Management and Handling) Rules, 1998. Confirmation has been received from a number of State Pollution Control Boards about implementation of the above instructions of the CPCB.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The Government has no such proposal. However, regarding mercury, steps have been taken to conduct a scientific risk assessment study.

(e) Does not arise.

Utilization of Agricultural Land

*370. SHRI K.S. RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government is aware of the increasing use of agricultural land for non-agricultural purposes in different States;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government proposes to initiate measures for maintaining a meaningful balance in the utilization of land for agricultural and non-agricultural purposes keeping in view the need for the overall development of the country;

(d) if so, whether the Government proposes to enact a law to tackle all farmer related issues by shifting agriculture to Concurrent List; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (e) As per available estimates, the cultivable land has decreased from 185.09 million ha. in 1981 to 182.92 million ha. in 2002-03. The per capita availability of cultivable land has declined from 0.27 ha. in 1980 to 0.18 ha. in 2003 due to increase in population and diversion of agricultural land for non agricultural purposes such as urbanization, roads, industries etc. During the same period, land under non agricultural uses has increased from 19.86 million ha. to 24.25 million ha. The details are given in the enclosed Statement.

Government of India is implementing various watershed programmes, namely, (i) National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas (NWDPR), (ii) Soil Conservation for Enhancing Productivity of Degraded Lands in the Catchments of River Valley Project and Flood Prone River (RVP and FPR), (iii) Watershed Development Project in Shifting Cultivation Areas (WDPSA), (iv) Reclamation of Alkali Soil (RAS), (v) Externally Aided Projects (EAPs) on Watershed Development, (vi) Drought Prone Area Programme (DPAP), (vii) Desert Development Programmes and (viii) Integrated Waste-land Development Project (IWDP) for control of soil erosion and land degradation. Parts of such developed lands are also brought under cultivation to maintain balance in different types of land uses.

As per the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India, Land and Water falls under the purview of State Government, therefore, Government of India has no proposal for bringing agriculture into Concurrent List. Land is a State subject and, therefore, it is for the States to bring about suitable legislation regarding regulation of conversion of agricultural land for non-agricultural purposes. However, Government of India is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Programme of State Land Use SLUBs have issued instructions and executive orders to the line departments of their Boards (SLUBs). Some of the States, through their SLUBs have issued instructions and executive orders to the line departments of their Government to ensure that prime agricultural land is not diverted for non-agricultural purposes, and if it becomes necessary to do so, then efforts may be made to provide equivalent land in lieu of diverted land.

Statement

Distribution of land under Different Usages in India from 1950-51 to 2002-03

(Area in Million hectares)

Classification of area	1950-51	1960-61	1970-71	1980-81	1990-91	2000-01	2002-03
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1. Geographical Area	328.73	328.73	328.73	328.73	328.73	328.73	328.73
2. Reporting Area for Land Utilization Statistics (i) to (v)	284.32	298.46	303.76	304.15	304.86	306.08	306.06
(i) Forests	40.48 (14.2)	54.05 (18.1)	63.91 (21.0)	67.47 (22.2)	67.80 (22.3)	69.22 (22.6)	69.07 (22.6)
(ii) Not Available for Cultivation (a+b)							
(a) Area Under Non-Agricultural Uses	9.36 (3.3)	14.84 (5.0)	16.48 (5.4)	19.66 (6.4)	21.09 (6.9)	23.66 (7.7)	24.25 (7.9)
(b) Barren and Uncultivable Land	38.16 (13.4)	35.91 (12.0)	28.16 (9.3)	19.96 (6.6)	19.39 (6.4)	19.22 (6.3)	19.25 (6.3)
(iii) Other Uncultivated Land Excluding Fallow Land (a+b+c)							
(a) Permanent Pastures and other Grazing Lands	6.68 (2.3)	13.97 (4.7)	13.26 (4.4)	11.97 (3.9)	11.40 (3.7)	10.90 (3.6)	10.57 (3.5)

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
(b) Land under Miscellaneous Crops and Groves Not Included in net Area Sown		19.83 (7.0)	4.46 (1.5)	4.30 (1.4)	3.80 (1.2)	3.82 (1.3)	3.35 (1.1)	3.36 (1.1)
(c) Cultivable Waste Land		22.94 (8.1)	19.21 (6.4)	17.50 (5.8)	16.74 (5.5)	15.00 (4.9)	13.84 (4.5)	13.49 (4.4)
(iv) Fallow Lands (a+b)								
(a) Fallow Land Other Than Current Fallows		17.44 (6.1)	11.18 (3.8)	8.76 (2.9)	9.92 (3.3)	9.86 (3.2)	10.11 (3.3)	11.68 (3.8)
(b) Current Fallows		10.68 (3.8)	11.64 (3.9)	11.12 (3.5)	14.83 (4.9)	13.70 (4.5)	14.90 (4.9)	21.53 (7.0)
(v) Net Area Sown		118.75 (41.8)	133.20 (44.6)	140.27 (46.3)	140.00 (46.0)	143.00 (46.9)	141.08 (46.1)	132.86 (43.3)

Note:

1. Figures in parentheses indicate percentage to Reported Area.
2. Source: Agricultural Statistics at a Glance 2005, DAC, New Delhi.

Census on Wild Animals

*371. SHRI UDAY SINGH:
SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR:

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

(a) whether there have been discrepancies in the number of wild animals as per census conducted by different agencies during each of the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the scientists in the Laboratory for the Conservation of Endangered species have come up with a DNA finger printing methodology for the tiger census;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government has ascertained the exact number of tigers and other endangered animals with the use of the new technology; and

(f) if so, the details thereof, as on date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) The Annual estimation of wild animals is conducted at the State level by the forest departments in several States, which is not collated at the Government of India level. The All India estimation of tiger and elephant are coordinated/collated at the Government of India level once in every four and five years respectively. The last such estimation for tigers was done in 2001-02, and for elephants in 2002. At present the All India estimation of tigers, using the refined methodology as approved by the Tiger Task Force is ongoing. However, there is a report of disappearance of tigers from the Sariska Tiger Reserve, and a decline in tiger population in the Ranthambhore Tiger Reserve from 35 in 2001-02 to 26 in 2005 as reported by the State (Rajasthan).

(c) and (d) The laboratory for conservation of Endangered species under the Centre of Cellular and Molecular Biology, Hyderabad has applied the technique of DNA fingerprinting for identifying individual tigers. This

technique needs to be tested over large landscape for its validation and ease of applicability before it is applied at All India level. This methodology, therefore, holds promise for as a tool for estimation of tiger population in future.

(e) and (f) A refined methodology for estimating tiger, co-predator, prey base and monitoring habitat has been developed by Project tiger Directorate (now the National Tiger Conservation Authority) in association with Wildlife Institute of India, and approved by the Tiger Task Force. This methodology is currently underway in 17 tiger states of the country. As per approved schedule, estimate of tiger population on the basis of a statistically validated methodology would be given for Central India by the end of December 2006, and for the rest of the country by June, 2007.

Alkaline Soil

*372. SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the area of alkaline soil has been increasing in the country particularly in the States of Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, its effects on the agricultural produce; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to prevent soil from becoming alkaline in these States?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (c) No Sir. As per available estimate, alkalinity/salinity has declined from 8.632 million ha. in 1996 to 5.944 million ha. in 2005 in the country. In the above period alkalinity/salinity in the States of Haryana and Punjab has decreased whereas in case of Uttar Pradesh the same has marginally increased. As per Indian Council of Agricultural Research, Central Soil Salinity Research Institute, Karnal, the accumulation of excess salt in the root zone results in a partial or complete loss of soil productivity and the presence of such salt adversely affects the growth of most of crop plants.

Government of India has launched a Centrally Sponsored Programme for Reclamation of Alkali Soil (RAS) in the Seventh Five Year Plan reclamation of soils, which are suffering from alkalinity. This programme is now subsumed under Macro Management of Agricultural (MMA). Under MMA the States have been given flexibility for allocating the fund to different schemes subsumed under MMA, depending on the availability of central fund and extent of problems in the State. Under this programme, the scientific package as recommended by ICAR is being adopted in reclamation of alkali soil in the selected States where alkalinity exists as per scientific parameters. A World Bank Assisted Project on Sodic Land Reclamation is also being implemented in the State of Uttar Pradesh. Under above programmes, since inception upto end of X Five Year Plan an area of 9.01 lakh ha. has been reclaimed with an expenditure of Rs. 1214.27 crore including the States of Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh, as per State-wise details given in the enclosed statement.

Government of India is also implementing various watershed development programmes, namely, (i) National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas (NWDPA), (ii) Soil Conservation for Enhancing Productivity of Degraded Lands in the Catchments of River Valley Project and Flood Prone River (RVP and FPR), (iii) Watershed Development Project in Shifting Cultivation Areas (WDPSCA), (iv) Externally Aided Projects (EAPs) on Watershed Development, (v) Drought Prone Area Programme (DPAP), (vi) Desert Development Programmes, (vii) Integrated Waste-land Development Project (IWDP) and (viii) National Afforestation and Eco-Development Project Schemes (NAEPs) for control of soil erosion and land degradation. These programmes are also helpful in sustaining the productivity potential of the reclaimed alkaline area. Besides these, the promotion of balance use of chemical fertilizer, scientific crop and water management including farming etc. are also encouraged under different schemes/programmes for sustaining the productivity potential of the land.

Statement**State-wise extent of Alkali area, and area reclaimed upto X Plan**

(Phy. in Lakh ha. and Fin. in Rs. Lakh)

Sl.No.	Name of State	Extent of Alkalinity/ Salinity (1996) Total	Extent of Alkalinity/ Salinity (2005) Total	Alkali area reclaimed upto Tenth Plan*	
				Phy.	Fin.
1.	Andhra Pradesh	6.52	5.17	0.015	158.00
2.	Bihar	0.04	2.29	0.000	0.00
3.	Gujarat	18.26	2.94	0.421	1761.63
4.	Haryana	9.50	2.56	2.152	3043.41
5.	Karnataka	1.75	1.10	0.039	531.65
6.	Kerala	0.67	0.00	0.00	0.00
7.	Madhya Pradesh	2.31	0.46	0.001	183.53
8.	Maharashtra	4.10	10.56	0.010	100.00
9.	Punjab	7.18	2.88	2.793	3425.73
10.	Rajasthan	7.56	14.18	0.325	679.71
11.	Tamil Nadu	4.74	0.96	0.059	123.41
12.	Uttar Pradesh + Uttaranchal#	12.95	13.70	3.195	111419.50
13.	Orissa	2.54	0.75	0.00	0.00
14.	West Bengal	8.20	1.70	0.00	0.00
	Other	0.00	0.19	0.00	0.00
	Total	86.32	59.44	9.01	121426.57

Includes reclaimed area of 1.90 lakh ha. with expenditure of Rs. 1092.14 crore under World Bank Assisted Project on Sodic Land Reclamation being implemented in the state of Uttar Pradesh.

* Includes tentative achievements of 2006-07.

[Translation]

Fixing of Prices of Urea

*373. SHRI SITARAM SINGH: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether urea manufacturing units have been classified for fixing of prices of urea under the new system;

(b) if so, the details of categories under which the urea manufacturing units have been classified; and

(c) the laid down norms for such categorization?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) to (c) Under the New Pricing Scheme (NPS) for urea units introduced w.e.f. 1.4.2003 replacing erstwhile Retention Price Scheme, the existing urea units were divided into six groups namely: pre-1992 gas based units, post-1992 gas based units, pre-1992 naphtha based units, post-1992 naphtha based units, fuel oil/low sulphur heavy stock (FO/LSHS) based units and mixed energy based units. The categorization of urea units has been done keeping in view the vintage of the urea and the type of feedstock used in the manufacture of urea.

[English]

Use of Quality Seeds

*374. SHRIMATI ARCHANA NAYAK:
SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the income earned by the Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVKs) from its units of seed production during the last three years;

(b) whether the KVKs are able to supply adequate quantity of quality seeds to farmers in the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the steps taken to popularise the use of quality seeds from KVKs?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) Each KVK has an instructional farm that is used for facilitating skill-training of farmers. The KVKs undertake production of seeds and planting material at their instructional farms on a limited scale. During the last three years (2003-04 to 2005-06), an amount of Rs. 1409.79 lakh has been earned by the KVKs from the sale of seeds and planting material.

(b) and (c) The seed chain involves production of breeder seeds to foundation to certified/quality seeds. Production and supply of quality seed is primarily the responsibility of development departments. In this

endeavour, breeder seed is produced by the ICAR institutes and State Agricultural Universities, whereas the production of certified seed is largely undertaken by the State Seed Corporations and State Farm Corporation of India. During the last three years, the availability of certified/quality seeds was 397.16 lakh quintals, against the requirement of 317.23 lakh quintals. During the same period, 2.11 lakh quintals of seeds, 123.2 lakh planting material and 242.84 lakh livestock strain/fingerling were produced by the KVKs.

(d) The steps taken to popularise the use of quality seeds by the KVKs include organising frontline demonstration to establish its production potential, training programme to upgrade the knowledge and skill of farmers and extension personnel and creating awareness through various extension activities.

Foodgrains Procurement Policy

*375. SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a huge gap between the demand and supply of foodgrains;

(b) if so, whether the Government has formulated a new procurement policy;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the time by which it is likely to be implemented; and

(e) the other steps taken to bridge the demand and supply gap in foodgrains?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) The annual requirement of rice and wheat under the TPDS and welfare schemes based on present offtake trends, is 250 lakh tonnes and 120 lakh tonnes respectively. Against this the domestic procurement of rice and wheat was 276.6 lakh tonnes of rice (Kharif Marketing Season 2005-06) and 92.3 lakh tonnes of wheat [Rabi Marketing Season (RMS) 2006-07].

(b) to (e) With a view to ensuring adequate production and procurement of wheat it has been decided to fix the Minimum Support Price (MSP) of Wheat at Rs. 750 per

quintal in the RMS 2007-8 which is Rs. 100 per quintal above the MSP announced for RMS 2006-07. Moreover, the shortfall in the domestic procurement of wheat in 2006-07 is being met through imports of 55 lakh tonnes of wheat.

Private Sector in Afforestation

*376. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposed to create a balance between conservation and development for long term ecological security;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Union Government in this regard so far;

(c) whether the Government has sought participation from different stakeholders to make wastelands green under the multi-stakeholder partnership programme; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and their response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) Yes, Sir. The National Environment Policy 2006 seeks to achieve balance and harmony between conservation and development. The policy is intended to mainstream environmental concerns in all development activities. The dominant theme of this policy is that while conservation of environmental resources is necessary to secure livelihood and well-being of all, the most secure basis for conservation is to ensure that people dependent on particular resources obtain better livelihoods from the fact of conservation, than from degradation of the resource.

(b) The initiatives taken by the Ministry of Environment and Forests in accordance with the policy include rationalizing and streamlining the processes for achieving greater transparency and inducting greater expertise in decision-making, and for ensuring that decisions are taken within a given time frame on proposals seeking environmental and forestry clearances through reengineering of business processes and observance of good practices. In addition, some developmental schemes of the Ministry have provision for supplementary and alternative livelihood support, and creation of minor infrastructure by way of paths and roads, jetties, drinking water, medical and health, irrigation facilities etc. with the objective of improving the quality of life of people living in and around forests and other biological resources.

(c) and (d) The Ministry of Environment and Forests has mooted a Multi-Stakeholder Partnership (MSP) framework involving the land owning agency, the sponsor, the forest department, and the local village community for forestation on degraded forest lands, and other lands, as one of the measures to achieve one-third Forest and Tree Cover in the country. The elements of the proposed MSP framework have been drafted after discussions with the representatives of the State Governments and Union Territories Administrations, industry associations, experts, etc. Their response has been generally positive.

[Translation]

Forward Trading in Agriculture Products

*377. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the number and capacity of warehouses under the National Commodities and Derivatives Exchanges (NCDEs) in the country alongwith the quantum of each agricultural products stored therein during the last three years;

(b) the quantum of each of the said products produced and traded in futures market during the said period alongwith the prices thereof in future and open markets;

(c) whether the quantum of products traded in futures market is in conformity with its production and stocks;

(d) if not, the factors attributed thereto;

(e) whether the prices in futures market have also not been in conformity with the open market leading to unprecedented price movements in the futures market which resulted in suicidal steps by various traders;

(f) if so, the details thereof alongwith the findings of the investigations conducted in this regard, if any; and

(g) the follow-up action taken for proper regulation of futures market?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) The number and capacity of warehouses of the National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange (NCDEX) alongwith the details of agricultural products stored in these warehouses for the last three years is given in the enclosed statement-I.

(b) The production and volume of trading of the agriculture produce in which futures trading is being conducted at NCDEX during the last three years is given

in the enclosed statement-II. The details of the futures and spot prices at the NCDEX platform during the last three years are given in the enclosed statement-III.

(c) There are no established benchmarks to establish relationship between the volume of futures trading and its production and stocks.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Futures markets provide for a mechanism for price discovery and price risk management. Futures prices are largely determined by the interplay of various factors such as expected price based on demand and supply scenario, cost of carrying the goods, perceptions of the market participants, international prices etc. In view of this, there

is generally a difference between futures prices and prices in the physical market. No incident of trading member taking suicidal steps on this account has been reported to the Government.

(f) Does not arise in view of the reply to (e) above.

(g) The Forward Markets Commission (FMC) which is the Regulator for commodity futures market under the provisions of the Forward Contracts (Regulation) Act, 1952 has prescribed various regulatory measures such as limit on open position for members and clients, limit on price fluctuations, payment of margins etc. These measures along with the close monitoring by the Regulator on a continuous basis ensure that the commodity futures markets are regulated effectively.

Statement I

The number and capacity of warehouses of the national commodity and derivatives exchange (NCDEX) alongwith the details of agricultural products stored in these warehouses for the last three years

Commodity	No. of warehouses	As on 31.3.2004*		As on 31.3.2005		As on 31.3.2006	
		Capacity	Stock Position	Capacity	Stock Position	Capacity	Stock Position
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Castor Seed	6	—	—	7,700	1,586	10,367	201
Channa	4	—	—	3,600	191	10,767	3,865
Chilli	2	—	—	0	0	21,000	91
Coffee	4	—	—	0	0	7,240	0
Cotton Seed	2	—	—	0	0	3,000	180
Oil Cake							
Guar Gum	11	—	—	18,250	13,850	33,985	25,947
Guar Seed	7	—	—	4,250	3,311	15,735	4,604
Gur	2	—	—	7,500	0	10,300	390
Jeera	6	—	—	50	33	29,700	7,823
Lemon Tur	4	—	—	19,733	0	30,767	10,004
Maharashtra Lal Tur	2	—	—	0	0	22,500	10
Maize	7	—	—	0	0	14,450	505
Masoor Grain	2	—	—	3,600	0	6,100	0
Pepper	3	—	—	510	510	14,800	10,667
Rapa/Mustard Seed	6	—	—	1,805	0	8,055	20

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Raw Jute	1	—	—	200	78	200	109
Rubber	1	—	—	3,040	4	1,500	24
Seasame Seed	3	—	—	0	0	7,400	125
Soyabean Meal	2	—	—	3,600	134	4,600	3
Soyabean Meal	1	—	—	3,600	0	3,600	0
Cold							
Soyabean Seed	3	—	—	150	165	6,417	3,962
Sugar M	7	—	—	13,333	18,816	55,100	58,002
Sugar S Kol	5	—	—	16,933	0	19,933	0
Sugar S Vashi	2	—	—	2,500	390	2,500	0
Turmeric	5	—	—	500	10	3,380	0
Urad	3	—	—	19,733	13,736	30,766	6,587
Wheat	16	—	—	1,500	1,146	38,907	24,107
Yellow Peas	6	—	—	32,567	0	50,700	0
Yellow Soya	2	—	—	0	0	25,680	0
Bean export							

*Capacity of warehouses, Quantum of Agricultural Commodities stored in the Warehouses accredited to NCDEX was negligible during the year as on 31.3.2004 as the trading in NCDEX platform started only in December, 2003.

Statement II

Details of production of agricultural commodities alongwith volume of trading reported at national commodity and derivatives exchange (NCDEX)

(Volume and Production in MT)

Name of the commodity	2003-04		2004-05		2005-06	
	Volume of trading	Production*	Volume of trading	Production*	Volume of trading	Production*
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Channa	0	57,20,000	105,89,620	54,70,700	11,56,37,160	56,50,000
Chilli	0	12,88,000	16,740	9,00,000	23,95,585	9,50,000
Cotton Cake	0	23,34,000	0	27,92,000	1,25,58,970	33,27,000
Guar Gum	0	NA	27,86,360	NA	77,41,890	
Guar Seed	0	14,87,000	7,56,62,150	6,50,000	17,65,86,990	7,00,000
Gur	0	NA	1,53,450	NA	62,25,100	NA
Jeera	0	NA	3,26,163	NA	14,36,856	2,06,410
Maize	0	1,49,80,000	1,82,400	1,41,80,800	15,30,350	1,50,90,000
Masoor	0	10,35,000	0	NA	1,29,790	NA

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Mentha Oil	0	15,000	0	14,000	3,79,19,340	23,000
Pepper	0	61,000	3,54,739	60,000	6,92,716	70,000
Potato	0	279,25,000	0	2,91,89,000	0	2,98,70,000
RM Seed	21,314	62,91,000	39,04,809	75,93,000	42,54,290	78,87,000
Soya Bean	13,032	78,18,000	72,45,005	68,77,000	1,06,21,810	83,50,000
Soya Oil	17,737	NA	61,23,397	9,80,000	76,14,080	9,90,000
Sugar	0	1,39,95,000	39,64,700	1,26,99,000	1,33,99,110	1,92,66,000
Tur Desi	0		0		0	
Tur	0		0		2,03,49,370	
Mumbai						
Turmeric	0	5,07,000	4,34,480	6,00,000	15,90,740	6,50,000
Urad Desi	0	12,71,000	63,39,430	10,10,000	7,05,70,280	12,70,000
Wheat	0	7,21,50,000	36,49,240	6,86,40,000	1,87,09,390	6,94,80,000

*Source: Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE), Mumbai

Statement III

The details of futures and spot prices at NCDEX platform during the last three years*

Commodity	Price Unit	As on 31st March 2004		As on 31st March, 2005		As on 31st March, 2006	
		Spot price	Futures price	Spot price	Futures price	Spot price	Futures price
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Channa	Rs./Quintal			1505.70	1542.00	1991.25	2051.00
Chilli Sanam	Rs./Quintal			2340.90	2593.00		
Chilli LCA	Rs./Quintal					3409.10	3777.00
334							
Cotton Cake	Rs./50KG					311.80	331.30
Guar Gum	Rs./Quintal			4173.00	4247.00	4694.00	4700.00
Guar Seed	Rs./Quintal			1574.90	1678.00	1734.30	1814.00
Gur	Rs./40 KG			516.50	539.40	553.10	600.00
Jeera	Rs./Quintal			7748.00	8282.20	5824.50	5632.60
Maize	Rs./Quintal			531.40	544.50	561.95	545.50
Masoor	Rs./Quintal					1877.80	1958.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Mentha Oil	Rs./KG					460.10	406.40
Potato	Rs./Quintal						
Pepper	Rs./Quintal			7006.70	7228.00	7206.80	7246.00
Mustard Seed	Rs./20 KG	364.45	369.30	343.65	353.80	320.55	339.70
Sugar M	Rs./Quintal			1818.65	1892.00	1963.15	1945.00
Soya Bean	Rs./Quintal	1857.32	1887.90	1344.65	1365.75	1184.00	1190.45
Soya Oil	Rs./10 KG	451.94	455.90	392.15	397.30	363.65	375.55
Turmeric	Rs./Quintal			2341.25	2323.00	2209.85	2269.00
Desi Tur	Rs./Quintal						
Lemon Tur	Rs./Quintal					1898.80	1987.00
Desi Urad	Rs./Quintal						
Imported Urad	Rs./Quintal			1537.65	1557.00	3467.25	3441.00
Wheat	Rs./Quintal					804.60	783.20

*Data on spot prices as polled by NCDEX.

Expansion of Sugar Industry

*378. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH "LALAN":
SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:

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

(a) whether there has been a constant capacity expansion in the sugar industry of the country during the recent years;

(b) if so, the average annual rate of capacity expansion of the said industry during the last three years;

(c) whether the factors responsible for the said expansion have been assessed to ensure balanced expansion of the industry for making it profitable and export oriented and providing better price to farmers; and

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

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b)

The annual installed sugar production capacity during the last three years has increased from 188.02 lakh tonnes in 2003-04 sugar season 189.85 lakh tonnes in 2004-05 sugar season and further to 197.97 lakh tonnes in 2005-06 sugar season. The average annual rate of capacity expansion has been 2.24%, 0.97% and 4.28% respectively.

(c) and (d) The sugar industry has been delicensed with effect from 11.9.98. With the delicensing of sugar industry, the entrepreneurs are free to set up sugar factories or expand the existing sugar factories as per techno-economic feasibility and commercial viability of their project but maintaining a radial distance of 15 kms from the existing sugar factory. As regards payment of better price to farmers, the interest of farmers is protected under provisions of the Sugarcane (Control) Order, 1966.

[English]

Sub-Soil Water

*379. SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether large scale salinisation of sub-soil water is taking place in the various coastal and even in interior areas of the country;

(b) if so, whether the Government has assessed the impact of this salinisation of sub-soil water on availability of potable water in country;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by Government to protect sub-soil water?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) to (c) Studies carried out by the Central Ground Water Board (CGWB), under the Ministry of Water Resources, have indicated problem of salinity in ground water is of two types viz. inland salinity and salinity in coastal aquifers. Inland salinity is caused due to various hydrogeological reasons and in some areas due to water logging in canal commands. In coastal aquifers, salinity in ground water is caused due to excessive withdrawals of ground water which leads to sea water intrusion.

Inland salinity in ground water has been noticed in parts of the States of Andhra Pradesh, Delhi, Gujarat, Haryana, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. Salinity in coastal aquifers has been noticed in part of the States/UTs of Goa, Gujarat, Kanataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Andaman and Nicobar, Diu and Pondicherry. The State-wise details of areas affected by inland salinity and salinity in coastal aquifers are given in the enclosed statement-I and statement-II, respectively.

(d) 'Water' being a State subject, action to protect the sub-soil water is to be taken by the States/UTs. The steps taken by various States/UTs to protect sub-soil water are given in the enclosed statement-III. However, the steps taken by the Central Government in this regard are given below:—

- Based on studies conducted a report on Inland Ground Water Salinity in India has been brought out by CGWB.
- CGWB is promoting implementation of artificial recharge measures in areas affected with inland salinity in ground water.
- In areas where fresh water aquifers overlie saline aquifers, regulatory measures are taken to control over-development of ground water. Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA), constituted under Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, has notified Southwest district of Delhi to avoid upcoming of saline ground water. The Authority has also notified Northwest, Northeast and West districts for registration of existing ground water abstraction structures.
- To control sea water intrusion, CGWA has notified the Union Territory of Diu and Haldia area of East Medinipur district of West Bengal.
- Under the Central Sector scheme of Artificial Recharge to Ground Water implemented during IX Plan, construction of tidal regulators and desilting of creeks was taken up in Bhadrak, Kendrapara and Puri districts of Orissa. Similarly in Kerala, tidal regulators and percolation ponds were constructed to arrest saline water inflow and to recharge aquifers.
- In Andaman and Nicobar Islands, the high waves during Tsunami inundated open wells in low lying coastal tracts leading to salinity. CGWB had provided assistance to the UT Government by pumping saline water from the contaminated wells.
- In the National Water Policy, 2002, provision has been made for preparation of a comprehensive coastal land management plan by the coastal States, keeping in view the environmental and ecological impacts and regulation of development activities.

Statement I

State-wise details of areas affected by inland salinity in ground water

Sl.No.	State/UT	Districts affected by salinity in ground water	Possible causes
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Parts of coastal districts of East Godavari, West Godavari, Prakasam, Visakhapatnam, Guntur and Krishna, where deeper aquifers are saline.	Inherent marine deposition. Whenever there is reduced flow in Krishna river, increased ground water exploitation leads to upcoming of saline water.

1	2	3	4
2.	Delhi	Aquifers occurring at depth of more than 40 metres in parts of Northeast, Northwest, Southwest and West districts except for Yamuna flood plains and Delhi ridge	Natural reasons due to fine grained sediments, and lack of flushing through these sediments which leads to salt enrichment.
3.	Gujarat	Parts of Ahmedabad, Amreli, Banaskantha, Bharuch, Kachchh, Kheda, Mehsana, Rajkot, Surendranagar and Vadodara	Inherent salinity
4.	Haryana	Command areas of Western Yamuna Canal System including Agra Canal, Bhakra Canal and Lift canal system of south western part of the State	Water logging
		Parts of Southwestern and Southern districts of Kaithal, Rohtak, Hissar, Sirsa, Bhiwani, Rewari Jind, Mahendragarh, Sonapat, Gurgaon and Faridabad	Geogenic because of fine grained sediments and lack of flushing through these sediments which leads to salt enrichment.
5.	Kerala	Deeper aquifers between Trivandrum and Calicut comprising coastal areas of Trivandrum, Quilon, Alleppey, Emakulum, Trichur and Mallapuram	In situ salinity derived from leaching of salts from the formations.
6.	Madhya Pradesh	Deeper aquifers in parts of Bhind and Mandasur districts	Natural reasons
7.	Maharashtra	Purna alluvial basin	Natural reasons.
8.	Orissa	Eastern parts of the coastal tract in the districts of Cuttack, Puri, Kendrapara, Jagatsinghpur, Jajpur, Balasore, Bhadrak	Inherent salinity
9.	Rajasthan	Western Rajasthan and parts of Bharatpur and Ajmer districts	Geogenic reasons
		Parts of canal command areas of Indira Gandhi Nahar Pariyojna	Excessive irrigation
10.	Tamil Nadu	Parts of Thanjavur, Nagapatinam, Thiruvarur, Pudukottai, Ramanathapuram and Tuticorin districts	Saline deposition environment
11.	Uttar Pradesh	Sporadic salinity in aquifers in parts of Agra, Firozabad, Mathura, Ghaziabad, Badaun, Banda, Hamirpur, Allahabad, Pratapgarh and Balrampur districts	Inherent salinity
12.	West Bengal	Parts of Kolkata Municipal Corporation area, South 24 Parganas, North 24 Parganas, Haora, and East Medinipur districts	Inherent salinity

Statement II*State-wise details of areas affected by salinity in coastal aquifers*

Sl.No	State/UT	Districts affected by salinity in ground water	Possible causes
1.	Goa	Low lying estuarine regions of various west flowing rivers — 5 to 35 km from the mouth of the sea into the rivers.	Tidal inflow
2.	Gujarat	Coastal tracts of Kutch and Saurashtra	Sea water intrusion due to over-development of ground water
3.	Karnataka	Uttar Kannada, Udupi and Dakshin Kannada — along river courses and low lying areas upto 15 km in some of the rivers and 100-200 m on either side of the stream.	Tidal inflow along the backwater channels
4.	Kerala	Shallow aquifers in small pockets in Chellanam and Parur areas of Ernakulam district and Azhikkode area of Trichur district.	Tidal inflow
5.	Maharashtra	Localized pockets of coastal districts of Thane, Mumbai, Raigarh, Ratnagiri and Sindhudurg.	Intrusion of sea water through creeks during high tides, Salt pan activities, ingress of sea water due to over-pumping of ground water
6.	Tamil Nadu	Parts of Minjur block, Thiruvallur district and near Kottam, Radhapuram block, Tirunelveli district	Sea water intrusion due to over-development of ground water
7.	Andaman and Nicobar	Entire Nicobar, parts of South Andaman, a few patches of Middle and North Andaman	During Tsunami, high waves inundated open wells in the low lying coastal tracts making them saline.
8.	Daman and Diu	Parts of coastal tracts of Diu	Sea water intrusion due to over-development of ground water
9.	Pondicherry	Parts of Pondicherry Region	Sea water intrusion due to over-development of ground water

Statement III*Measures taken by the states/UTs to control the problem of salinity in ground water*

Sl.No.	State/UTs	Action taken to control problem of salinity
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Andhra Pradesh Water, Land and Trees Act, 2002—construction of new wells banned in coastal areas in order to prevent upconing of saline ground water from deeper aquifers. No new electric connection are given to lift ground water in these areas.

1	2	3
		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• R and D programme on injection of fresh water during floods in the river and canals has shown positive results.
2.	Goa	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Construction of marginal bunds along the bank of rivers in estuarine region to arrest the inundation by saline water during high tide in low lying areas.• Construction of bandharas/barrages across the rivers to stop the ingress of saline water to deep inland.
3.	Gujarat	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Two High Level Committees constituted by the Govt. of Gujarat studied the salinity problem of Saurashtra and Kutch regions and suggested remedial measures thereof.• The Committees recommended various remedial measures like construction of tidal regulators, bandharas, recharge trenches, recharge wells, recharge reservoirs, spreading channels etc. Construction of such works taken up by the Govt. of Gujarat.
4.	Karnataka	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• State Government in coordination with the Zilla Panchayats is undertaking construction of saline extrusion dams across the rivers and rivulets to avoid saline ingress through the rivers during summer months.• Individual farmers also construct exclusion bunds in low lying areas
5.	Kerala	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Construction of tidal regulators and check dams across the backwater channels to prevent movement of tidal water inland.
6.	Maharashtra	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• From 1984, banned construction of new wells in coastal areas.• Imposed control on irrigation, only 2 acres/well in the affected areas• Construction of tidal regulators through KHARLAND Development Scheme for restricting entry of sea water into the main land.
7.	Tamil Nadu	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Regulation of ground water withdrawal in coastal areas through legislation• Mandatory implementation of rain water harvesting systems to improve aquifer recharge and quality of ground water• Implementation of artificial recharge structures including construction of structures under Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme
8.	Pondicherry	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pondicherry Ground Water Authority controls and regulates ground water development.• Extraction of ground water for industrial and irrigation uses from wells within 6 km of the coastline has been banned.• Installation of rain water harvesting has been made mandatory for all buildings.

Post Harvest Loss

*380. SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA:
SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of post harvest losses assessed in agricultural sector annually;

(b) the details of techniques developed by Central Institute of Post Harvest Engineering and Technology, All India Coordinated Research Project on Post Harvest Technology and National Horticulture Board to reduce the post-harvest losses in the country during the last three years; and

(c) the steps taken to minimize the losses?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (c) Annually, the estimated percentage of post harvest losses range from 8-10% in respect of food grains and 8-30% in respect of horticulture produce. The details of techniques developed by Central Institute of Post Harvest Engineering and Technology (CIPHET), Ludhiana and All India Coordinated Research Project (AICRP) on Post Harvest Technology to reduce post harvest losses in the country during the last three years are given in the enclosed statement. The technology developed by CIPHET and AICRP on post harvest technology are being demonstrated to farmers and entrepreneurs to minimize post harvest losses. To minimize losses of cereals and pulses, a Central Sector Scheme on "Construction/Renovation of Rural Godown" is being implemented by Directorate of Marketing and Inspection (DMI) since April 2002. For horticulture crops, the Government has launched Centrally Sponsored Schemes on "Technology Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture in North Eastern States" in 2000-01 and "National Horticulture Mission" in 2005-06 under which assistance is provided for creating post-harvest infrastructure. Besides, the National Horticulture Board (NHB) is implementing programmes aimed at reducing the losses of horticulture produce through the schemes such as "Capital Investment Subsidy

Scheme for Construction/Expansion/Modernization of Cold Storage for Horticulture Produce" and "Development of Commercial Horticulture through Production and Post-Harvest Management".

Statement

The technology developed by Central Institute of Post Harvest Engineering and Technology (CIPHET) and All India Coordinated Research Project (AICRP) on Post Harvest Technology to reduce post harvest losses in the country.

1. Large capacity (5 tonne) evaporatively cooled structure for storage of perishables
2. Safe storage of pulses
3. Groundnut seed storage in coastal areas of Karnataka
4. Pedal cum Power operated grain cleaner
5. Solar cabinet dryer for vegetables
6. Insect trap for safe grain storage
7. Fluidized bed dryer for Mushroom
8. Package for storage of ginger rhizomes
9. Package for enhanced Shelf Life of Kesar Mango
10. Village level milk sterilizer
11. Drying-cum-storage bin for jaggery
12. Heated Uncapping knife for honey extraction
13. Plant based grain protectants
14. Sunflower dehulling mill
15. CIPHET Tomato Grader
16. CIPHET rotary maize cob sheller
17. Banana Comb/Hand Cutter
18. Technology for dried garlic slices
19. Mobile cool chamber

Receding Ground Water Level

*381. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank or any other international fora have suggested various measures for development of ground water level in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Union Government as per their suggestions?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) and (b) The World Bank and other international agencies bring out publications from time to time on various issues including those related to water resources. A Report titled "India's Water Economy: Bracing for a Turbulent Future" has been brought out by the World Bank in 2005 which inter-alia presents its authors' view points about ground water resources alongwith certain suggestions. The suggestions include: (i) bringing ground water abstractions in line with the re-charge; (ii) improving the quality of poor and deteriorating water related environment; and (iii) introducing incentive-based, participatory regulation of services and water resources.

(c) Water being a state subject, the schemes for development and management of water resources including those for ground water are taken up by the State Governments. Similarly, the steps to check exploitation of ground water are also undertaken by the respective State Governments. However, most of the issues highlighted in the above-said report are duly addressed in the National Water Policy and appropriate action is taken in the light of the present policies of the Union and State Governments. Further, with a view to encourage and assist the State Governments in this regard, the Ministry of Water Resources has undertaken the following measures:

(i) A draft Model Bill to regulate and control the development and management of ground water has been circulated to the States and Union Territories. The Union Minister of Water Resources in his letter date 11.9.2006 addressed

to the Chief Ministers of States and Administrators of Union Territories, has requested to the State Governments to enact ground water legislation for checking over-exploitation of ground water.

(ii) Central Ground Water Authority has issued directions to the Chief Secretaries of States having over-exploited blocks to take all necessary measures to promote rain water harvesting and artificial recharge to ground water falling under their jurisdiction and ensure inclusion of roof top rain water harvesting in the building bye-laws.

(iii) The Ministry of Water Resources has constituted an Advisory Council on Artificial Recharge to Ground Water under the Chairmanship of Union Minister of Water Resources with the main objective to popularize the concept of artificial recharge to ground water among all stakeholders.

Proposals of Karnataka

3593. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of proposals from the States including Karnataka pending with the Central Water Commission as on date for approval;

(b) the time since when these projects are pending with Commission; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) At present, out of 190 new irrigation project proposals (105 major and 85 medium) received from various State Governments, 109 projects (58 major and 51 medium) are under different stages of appraisal and remaining 81 projects (47 major and 34 medium) have been techno-economically accepted by the Advisory Committee of Ministry of Water Resources subject to compliance of a few observations. The state-wise number of proposals under appraisal and those accepted by the Technical Advisory Committee of Ministry of Water Resources are given in the enclosed statement.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
23.	Tamil Nadu	—	1	1	—	1	1	—	2	02
24.	Tripura	—	—	—	1	—	1	1	—	1
25.	Uttar Pradesh	5	7	12	1	—	1	6	7	13
26.	Uttaranchal	1	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	01
27.	West Bengal	1	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	01
Grand Total		58	47	105	51	34	85	109	81	190

A-Project under various stages of appraisal.

B-Accepted by the Advisory Committee of MOWR subject to certain observations.

Lifting of Water

3594. SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received any preliminary investigation report of lifting of water from Tunga Bhadra river near Rajanahalli in Harihar Taluk to fill up minor irrigation tanks to solve the drinking water problems in these areas;

(b) whether the Union Government has considered this preliminary investigation report;

(c) if so, the action taken by the Union Government thereon;

(d) the estimated cost of this project and the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(e) the time by which the funds are likely to be released for this project and the time of its completion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) No Sir.

(b) to (e) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Pollution in Sea

3595. SHRI KULDEEP BISHNOI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that private ships and tankers have sunk in the sea territory of India and a large quantity of crude oil has polluted the sea;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of pollution control ships possessed by India at present and the action being taken by them to check the rising pollution in the sea territory of India;

(d) whether the Government has constituted a Committee on monitoring of oil spilled in the sea;

(e) if so, whether the Committee has submitted its report/recommendations; and

(f) if so, the details thereof alongwith the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) As per information furnished by Ministry of Defence, Govt. of India, two private ships/tankers are reported to have sunk during 2006 in the sea off Indian waters and small quantity of oil had spilled in the sea, which was effectively neutralized by the Coast Guard. The details in this respect are given in the enclosed statement.

(c) The Coast Guard being the Central Coordinating Agency has various pollution control equipments fitted on the vessels for pollution control operations. At present, no dedicated pollution control vessel exists in the country. The Coast Guard is in the process of acquiring three pollution control vessels which are expected to be inducted in the Coast Guard within next three years.

(d) to (f) An Inter-Ministerial Committee to review the progress of long term measures for oil spill management for India, has been constituted in the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India. The Committee in its first meeting has recommended creation of facilities handling Tier-III spills by the Coast Guard, besides constitution of

a committee to draft Policy Document addressing preventing, mitigation, preparedness and response measures and examination of the existing legislations dealing with relevant areas in oil spill management. The committee to draft the Policy Document as recommended has been constituted.

Statement

List of sinking incidents during 2006 till date

Sl.No.	Date of Incident	Name of Vessel	Flag	Cargo	Fuel on board	Position	Nature of Incident
1.	06-05-06	DCI TUG-VI	Indian	Nil	129 KL of HFHSD and Lub Oil 3875 ltrs	OFF PT Calimer, Tamil Nadu	Sunk
2.	02-08-06	MV OEL Vision	Indian	With container	24 KL of furnace fuel oil and 11 KL of diesel	OFF Bombay High	Sunk

[English]

Audio Visual Unit

3596. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to be set up an Audio Visual Unit under the Ministry; and

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

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) With a view to authentically articulate the official position of the Government on various issues, for use by the media in general and electronic media in particular, a permanent Audio Visual Unit is proposed to be set up by the Press Information Bureau (PIB) by way of acquisition of equipments and deployment of appropriate manpower. Meanwhile, an interim Audio Visual Unit has started functioning in the Press Information Bureau (PIB)

w.e.f. 12th September, 2006 by hiring equipment and manpower through Broadcast Engineering Consultants India Limited (BECIL), a Government of India Enterprise.

[Translation]

Foreign Trip by NCUI President

3597. SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH VERMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of foreign trips undertaken by the President of National Cooperative Union of India (NCUI) alongwith the details of the Members who accompanied as well as the expenditure incurred on each trip undertaken by the above separately;

(b) whether the cooperative movement was benefited as a result of these foreign travels; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) A statement containing the information is annexed.

(b) and (c) As per information received from NCUI, the President and the accompanying members presented the Indian point of view in the various meetings and seminars attended by them. They also exchanged views

with delegates of other participating countries. Thus, the members were benefited from such experience and exchange of idea. This also benefited the cooperative movement.

Statement

Period	Particulars of the events	Participants	Allowances	Air fare, Visa Fees, airport taxes, insurance, etc. (in Rs.)
1	2	3	4	5
2004-05				
2-3 July 2004	International Conference on Globalization and Cooperative Enterprise, Genoa, Italy.	Dr. S.S. Sisodia President, NCUI	US \$ 3000 (DSA @ 300 \$ for 4 days in Genoa + \$ @ 400 for 2 days in Paris + Entertainment Allowance 1000 \$).	1,16,319.00
18-23 Sept., 2004	ICA Board Meeting and other related events, Warsaw, Poland.	Dr. S.S. Sisodia, President, NCUI	US \$ 3800 (DSA @ 400 \$ for 7 days + Entertainment Allowance 1000 \$).	1,30,984.00
3-5 Nov., 2004	11th IRU General Meeting 2003 and 2nd Raiffessin Forum of IRU, Berlin, Germany.	Dr. S.S. Sisodia, President, NCUI	US \$ 2600 (DSA @ 440 \$ for 4 days + Entertainment Allowance 1000 \$).	1,31,779.00
30 Nov. to 4th Dec., 2004	6th ICA Regional Assembly and 3rd ICA Regional Cooperative Forum and other specialized Committee meetings of ICA, Chiang Mai, Thailand.	(i) Dr. S.S. Sisodia, President, NCUI	US \$ 2800 (DSA @ 300 \$ for 6 days + Entertainment Allowance 1000 \$).	45,222.00
		(ii) Sh. Bhagwati Prasad, Chief Executive, NCUI	US \$ 2100 (DSA @ 300 \$ for 7 days).	29,148.00
10-13 Dec., 2004	ICA Board Meeting, Nairobi, Kenya.	Dr. S.S. Sisodia, President, NCUI	US \$ 3400 (DSA @ 400 \$ for 6 days + Entertainment Allowance 1000 \$).	55,174.00
2005-06				
9-14 May 2005	ICA WTO Symposium, AFGC and IFAP meeting, Seoul, Korea	(i) Dr. S.S. Sisodia, President, NCUI (9-11 May 2005)	US \$ 3000 (DSA @ 400 US \$ for 5 days + Entertainment Allowance US \$ 1000).	By Host Org. Rs. 530/- (airport tax).
		(ii) Sh. Bhagwati Prasad, Chief Executive (12-14 May 2005)	US \$ 2000 (DSA @ US \$ 400 for 5 days).	40,944.00

1	2	3	4	5
18-23 May 2005	ICA Board and Standing Committee Meeting, New Lanark (Scotland) and U.K Cooperative Congress, Glasgow, Scotland and study visit to cooperatives in Amsterdam.	Dr. S.S. Sisodia, President, NCUI	US \$ 3500 (DSA @ 300 US \$ for 3 days + 400 US \$ for 4 days + Entertainment Allowance US \$ 1000).	1,64,822.00
11-12 July 2005	International Symposium on Agriculture by JA ZEN CHU, Tokyo, Japan	Dr. S.S. Sisodia, President, NCUI	US \$ 1500 (lump sum US \$ 500 + Entertainment Allowance US \$ 1000).	By Host. Org JA ZENCHU.
18-23 Sept., 2005	ICA General Assembly 2005 for the election of the president and Board Members of the ICA and Related Events, Columbia.	(i) Dr. S.S. Sisodia, President, NCUI	US \$ 6000 (DSA @ US \$ 400 for 10 days + DSA @ US \$ 500 for 2 days + Entertainment Allowance of US \$ 1000).	3,75,574.00
		(ii) Sh. G.H. Amin, Vice President, NCUI	US \$ 5000 (DSA @ US \$ 400 for 10 days + DSA @ US \$ 500 for 2 days).	1,29,673.00
		(iii) Sh. Sitaram Chauhan, Vice President, NCUI	US \$ 5000 (DSA @ US \$ 400 for 10 days + DSA @ US \$ 500 for 2 days).	1,43,603.00
		(iv) Sh. Surender Singh Sisodia, Member, Governing Council.	US \$ 5000 (DSA @ US \$ 400 for 10 days + DSA @ US \$ 500 for 2 days).	1,43,074.00
		(v) Sh. Bhagwati Prasad, Chief Executive	US \$ 5400 (DSA @ US \$ 400 for 11 days + DSA @ US \$ 500 for 2 days).	1,43,957.00
22-24 March 2006	ICA- AP/VCA/IO Conference on Role of Cooperatives in Poverty Alleviation, Hanoi, Vietnam.	Dr. S.S. Sisodia, President, NCUI	US \$ 3000 (DSA @ US \$ 400 for 5 days + Entertainment Allowance US \$ 1000).	54,821.00
2006-07				
14-18 May, 2006	ICA AP Standing Committee Meeting, Agri. Expo and Seminar, Wuxi City, China.	Dr. S.S. Sisodia, President, NCUI	US \$ 1600 (lumpsum US \$ 600 + Entertainment Allowance US \$ 1000).	1,11,391.00
3-5 July, 2006	IRU Board Meeting, St. Gall, Switzerland	Dr. S.S. Sisodia, President, NCUI	US \$ 4000 (DSA @ 500 US \$ for 6 days + Entertainment Allowance US \$ 1000).	1,59,694.00 (net for the visit to Switzerland and Poland).

1	2	3	4	5
6-10 July 2006	NCUI study exchange visit to Poland as leader of the delegation.	(i) Dr. S.S. Sisodia, President, NCUI (ii) Sh. Surendra Singh Sisodia, GC Member, NCUI.	US \$ (lump sum US \$ 600 + Entertainment Allowance US \$ 500). US \$ 600 (lump sum)	17,593.00 (tax for the air ticket) + 4,760 (visa fees).
14-18 Aug., 2006	ICA — AP Regional Assembly and other events, Colombo, Sri Lanka.	(i) Dr. S.S. Sisodia, President, NCUI (ii) Sh. Bhagwati Prasad, Chief Executive, NCUI. (iii) Sh. Ved Prakash Setia, PS to President, NCUI.	US \$ 2750 (DSA @ US \$ 250 for 7 days + Entertainment Allowance US \$ 1000). US \$ 1750 (DSA @ US \$ 250 for 7 days). US \$ 1400 (DSA @ US \$ 200 for 7 days).	69,210.00 18,852.00 35,501.00
27-29 Oct., 2006	International Cooperative Trade Fair and Symposium, Tehran, Iran.	(i) Dr. S.S. Sisodia, President, NCUI (ii) Sh. Sitaram Chauhan, Vice President, NCUI (iii) Sh. B.S. Vishwanathan, Governing Council Member, NCUI. (iv) Sh. Bhagwati Prasad, Chief Executive NCUI.	US \$ 3000 (DSA @ US \$ 400 for 5 days + Entertainment Allowance US \$ 1000). US \$ 2000 (DSA @ US \$ 400 for 5 days). US \$ 2000 (DSA @ US \$ 400 for 5 days). US \$ 2000 (DSA @ US \$ 400 for 5 days)	54,059.00 41,495.00 41,495.00 47,559.00

Consumption of Foodgrains by BPL Families

3598. SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the consumption of foodgrains by the people living below poverty line is lesser in comparison to its availability;

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

(c) the per capita consumption of foodgrains by the people living below poverty line and the people above poverty line in the country; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to bridge the 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) The details of Domestic Production and Projected Consumption Requirement of Foodgrains are as under:

Year	Foodgrains (Million Tonnes)		
	Domestic production	Projected Consumption Requirement	Difference
2001-02	212.85	180.04	32.81
2002-03	174.77	182.73	-7.96
2003-04	213.19	185.57	27.62
2004-05	198.36	188.38	9.98
2005-06	208.30*	191.17	17.13

*4th advance estimates as on 15.7.06.

(b) and (c) The Planning Commission estimates the incidence of poverty at national and State level from the large sample survey on household consumer expenditure conducted by the National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO) at an interval of approximately five years following the methodology contained in the Report of the Expert Group on Estimation of Proportion and Number of Poor (Lakadwala Committee). From the large sample survey of consumer expenditure data of the 55th round of NSS, per capita consumption of foodgrains by the persons living below poverty line (BPL) and the above poverty line (APL) in the country has been estimated as per the following details:

Per Capita Consumption of foodgrains among the BPL and APL people in 1999-2000 (kgs/month/person).

All India	Rural		Urban	
	BPL	APL	BPL	APL
Quantity Consumed (kg)	11.90	14.13	10.66	11.59
% persons	27.90	72.91	23.62	76.38

(d) Under the Targetted Public Distribution System (TPDS), the Central Government makes an allocation of foodgrains @ 35 kg. per family per month on the basis

of number of ration cards issued by the States/UTs or the number of house-holds on the basis of poverty estimates of the Planning Commission for 1993-94 and the population projection of Registrar General of India as on 1.3.2000 whichever is less. The total BPL households as per this formula are estimated to be 6.52 crore families, who were supplied foodgrains at a lower Central Issue Price vis-a-vis APL households, as is indicated below:

Central Issue Price (CIP):

Commodity	(Rs. per quintal)	
	APL	BPL
Wheat	610	415
Rice	830	565

Smuggling of Animals

3599. SHRI ASHOK ARGAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government is aware of the fact that animals of various species are being smuggled from India to Bangladesh every year;

(b) if so, the number of animals smuggled during the last two years, species-wise; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to check smuggling of livestock from India?

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 number of cattle seized by Border Security Force on the Eastern Border are as follows:—

Year	No. of Cattle
2004	69056
2005	64093

(c) Following steps have been taken by Border Security Force to check smuggling of livestock from India:—

(i) Round the clock surveillance of the borders by carrying out patrolling (on foot, by boats and mobile), laying nakas (border ambushes) and

- The vesting age of pension be increased from 58 to 60 years but without application of reduction factor if pension is claimed at the age of 58 years,
- Contribution rate be raised from 12% to 15% (share of both employee's and employer's contribution)
- The Government contribution be enhanced.

So far, no recommendations on these suggestions have been made by the Central Board of Trustees, Employees' Provident Fund to the Government.

Diversion of Salt Pan Lands

3606. SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether certain salt pan lands have been allowed to be diverted in Mumbai for housing construction;
- (b) if so, whether clearance has been obtained under Coastal Regulation Zone;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) No environmental clearance has been granted by the Ministry of Environment and Forests for diversion of salt pan lands in Mumbai for housing construction, under the provisions of Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) Notification, 1991.

- (c) Does not arise.
- (d) The salt pans which use tidal waters for salt pan activities are categorized as CRZ-I (ii), namely inter-tidal areas.

Restriction on Withdrawals from EPF

3607. SHRIMATI KARUNA SHUKLA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to impose certain restrictions on withdrawals from Employees Provident Fund savings; and

- (b) if so, the details and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) and (b) No such proposal has been sent to the Government by the Central Board of Trustees, Employees' Provident Fund.

Revised Village Grain Bank Scheme

3608. SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government of Maharashtra has sent any proposal for approval of revised Village Grain Bank Scheme;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) whether the information/queries sought by the Government have since been furnished;
- (d) if so, the reasons for delay in according sanction to the proposal; and
- (e) the time by which it is likely to be sanctioned?

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) Yes, Sir. Government of Maharashtra has sent a proposal for setting up of 1750 Village Grain Banks in the State under the revised scheme. The State Government was requested to provide the Utilization Certificates in respect of the amount sanctioned to them by Ministry of Tribal Affairs for setting up of 259 Grain Banks during 1997-98 to 2003-04 in the old scheme, which have not been received so far.

Special Agricultural Produce Scheme

3609. SHRI K.C. PALLANI SHAMY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has introduced Special Agricultural Produce Scheme (Vishesh Krishi Upaj Yojana);
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the salient features of the Scheme and its status of implementation in the country particularly in Tamil Nadu; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to boost the exports of fruits, flowers and vegetables in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Government of India has taken various steps to boost the export of fruits, vegetables and flowers in the country through Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA). These include development of pre and post harvest manuals for export of fresh fruits and vegetables; development of standards of fruits and vegetables; residue monitoring of pesticides; recognition of pack house engaged in export of fruits and vegetables; training programme for extension officer, Agmark official and laboratories; encouragement to adopt good agri practices at farm level; upgradation of laboratories and their recognition; market promotion and market access, etc.

In addition, the Government had approved setting up of six Agri Export Zones (AEZs) one each in Karnataka, Maharashtra, Sikkim, Uttaranchal and two in Tamil Nadu to boost the export of flowers and bring floriculture upto international standards in the country.

[*Translation*]

Promotion of Floriculture

3610. SHRI JAI PAKASH (MOHANLAL GANJ): Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to take steps to bring floriculture upto international standards in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to develop genetic design of flowers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government of India had provided assistance to the State Governments/UTs under comprehensive Macro Management Scheme for

development of Agriculture including Horticulture, which included floriculture, up to the year 2004-05. The scheme provided flexibility to the State Governments to take up programmes and fix targets as per their felt needs and requirements according to their Work Plans. After the launch of National Horticulture Mission (NHM) during financial year 2005-06, the programme for Horticulture in Macro Management Scheme subsumed with National Horticulture Mission. The National Horticulture Mission addresses the issues related to holistic growth of horticulture including floriculture sector through an area based regionally differentiated strategies which include research, technology promotion, extension, post harvest management, processing and marketing in consonance with comparative advantage of each state/region and its diverse agro-climatic feature.

In the North East and Himalayan States of the country, the Technology Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture for North-Eastern States and Himalayan States (TMNE), provides assistance for production of horticulture crops including floriculture crops.

In addition, Government is taking following steps to bring floriculture up to international standards in the country:

- (i) Government had approved setting up of six Agri Export Zones (AEZs) one each in Karnataka, Maharashtra, Sikkim, Uttaranchal and two in Tamil Nadu.
- (ii) A Marketing facilitation Centre has been set up at Aalsmeer, the Netherlands under the MAI Scheme of MoC&I. The centre has helped the exporters in better price realization and improved quality of the cut flowers.
- (iii) Wholesale market-cum-flower auction centres at Bangalore, Mumbai, Noida (UP) and Kolkata are approved with the assistance of Govt. to facilitate exports of flowers.
- (iv) Perishable cargo centres have been set up at Mumbai, Delhi, Bangalore, Hyderabad, Chennai and Trivandrum.
- (v) APEDA rehabilitated 17 floriculture units.
- (vi) Government has sanctioned financial assistance of Rs. 348.66 lakhs under infrastructure development scheme of APEDA for setting up of Tanflora Infrastructure Park at Hosur in Tamil Nadu for production of flowers for exports.

(c) Through hybridization, mutation and polyploidy breeding and through biotechnological tools, the Government is trying to improve the genetic design of flowers.

More than 500 rose varieties, some 100 gladiolus, more than 150 chrysanthemum varieties, a few orchids, jasmine bougainvillea, hibiscus, 8 tuberose, 8 China aster, one zinnia, a few cooperies and amaryllis, 2 marigold and a few hollyhock varieties have been developed through conventional or mutations breeding.

Introduction of new genes for resistance to certain diseases and pests as well as colours is going on through biotechnological interventions.

[English]

Environmental Clearance to Projects from Maharashtra

3611. SHRI TUKARAM GANGADHAR GADAKH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of assistance and clearance granted to the environmental projects of Maharashtra during the last three years and the current year;

(b) the details of proposals submitted by Maharashtra Government for environmental clearance as on date;

(c) the total cost of cleared proposal; and

(d) the time by which pending projects will be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (c) Details of assistance granted to environmental projects of Maharashtra in the last three years and the current year are given in the enclosed statement-I.

(b) and (d) Details of pending projects along with their current status are given in the enclosed statement-II.

Statement I

Details of Assistance granted to Projects of Maharashtra during the last three years and current year

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl.No.	Name of the Scheme	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
1.	Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries	165.25	108.05	241.68	320.00
2.	National River Conservation Plan	1075.00	880.00	1069.00	1240.00
3.	National Lake Conservation Plan	70.00	50.00	100.00	56.00
4.	Project Tiger	228.45	255.95	334.19	181.39
5.	Integrated Forest Protection Scheme	50.00	64.17	0.00	150.00
6.	Common Effluent Treatment Plants (CETPs)	396.80	392.00	410.00	0.00

Statement II***The Projects submitted by Government of Maharashtra***

Sl.No.	Name of Project & Cost	Status
1.	Kollapur town along river Panchganga (costing Rs. 49.74 crore)	As the outlay available under the Tenth Five Year Plan is less than the sanctioned cost of project already approved, 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. Subsequently, on seeking the comments on project proposals related to the town of Pandharpur, Parkasha and Paithan by the Planning Commission, these were examined in the Ministry and found to be lacking in important details and requisite information. Accordingly, the Government of Maharashtra has been informed to revise these project proposals.
2.	Wai town along river Krishna (costing Rs. 53.83 crore)	
3.	Padharpur town along river Bhima (costing Rs. 26.57 crore)	
4.	Prakasha town along river Tapi (costing Rs. 4.62 crore)	
5.	Paithan town along river Godavari (costing Rs. 15.72 crore)	
6.	Nawapur town along river Raangawali (costing Rs. 4.55 crore)	
7.	Infrastructure Projects for Environmental Clearance	Projects have been appraised and to be considered by Environmental Appraisal Committee
	1. M/s Commr. of Fisheries 2. M/s MSRDC	
8.	Construction Projects for Environmental Clearance	Projects have been appraised and to be considered by Environmental Appraisal Committee
	1. MHADA, Maharashtra Government 2 M/s MADC	

[Translation]**Indira Gandhi Canal Scheme**

3612. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Rajasthan has made any request to Union Government to declare 'Indira Gandhi Canal Scheme' as a national scheme;

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

(c) whether the State Government has made any request to Union Government for release of additional funds for maintenance and extension of IG Canal; and

(d) If so, the details thereof, and the steps being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) No sir. The concept of National Project is yet to be evolved and finalized.

(c) and (d) Indira Gandhi Nahar Project (IGNP) Stage-I has been completed. Central Government is very keen to complete IGNP Stage-II. Central Government assistance in the form of Advance Plan Assistance, Drought Relief Assistance and Border Area Development Programme has been extended to canal works of IGNP State-II from time to time. Assistance provided so far is Rs. 611.62 crore. The project is under AIBP since 1997-98 and has received total CLA of Rs. 523.979 crore and Grant of Rs. 58.741 crore up to March 2006. No request has been received for release of additional fund for maintenance of IG Canal.

*[English]***Elephant Rehabilitation Centres**

3613. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to set up Elephant Rehabilitation Centres in various parts of the country;

(b) if so, the locations identified and the amount released for setting up of the same; and

(c) the time by which the Elephant Rehabilitation Centres are likely to be set up?

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

(b) and (c) The locations are to be identified by the State/UT Governments. The Ministry as on date has received only one such proposal from the Government of Haryana for which an amount of Rs. 90.75 Lakhs has been sanctioned and first instalment of Rs. 50.00 Lakhs has been released to the State in November 2006. The scheme as submitted by the State Government is for the year 2006-07.

Desalination of Water

3614. SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the schemes for desalination of hard water into potable water for drinking purposes implemented in the country during the last two years, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government is seeking financial assistance for such schemes from international financial institutes like Asian Development Bank and International Monetary Fund;

(c) if so, the details of funds received and disbursed to various States during the said period, State-wise;

(d) whether the Government of Karnataka has sent any specific projects for desalination of water during the last two years; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) The Department of Drinking Water Supply, Ministry of Rural Development has informed that the drinking water supply is a State Subject and Government of India assist the States technically and financially through the Centrally Sponsored Scheme "Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP)" for providing safe drinking

water in adequate quantity to all rural habitations in the country. State Governments are empowered to sanction and implement projects including Desalination Plants. Till 2005-06, 15% of ARWSP funds released to the State every year could be utilized for tackling water quality problems including salinity. Further, the Department of Drinking Water Supply, Ministry of Rural Development have informed that no State Government has reported installation of desalination plants during the last 2 years. In Kavaratti Island of UT of Lakshadweep, a 1000 cum/day capacity "Low temperature Thermal Desalination Plant" has been installed by National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT), Chennai, at a capital cost of Rs. 4.95 crore. This was fully funded by NIOT, Chennai as a pilot project. In Andaman and Nicobar Islands, 10 Reverse Osmosis based Desalination Plants were sanctioned and funds released to Central Ground Water Board for installation as a post-Tsunami water supply restoration measure.

(b) As informed by Department of Drinking Water Supply, Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India has not sought any assistance from international financial institutions like Asian Development Bank, International Monetary Fund for installation of desalination plants.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The Department of Drinking Water Supply, Ministry of Rural Development have informed that no proposal from Government of Karnataka has been received for projects on desalination during the last 2 years.

(e) Does not arise.

Children Parliament

3615. SHRI M. APPADURAI: Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any request from some schools of Tamil Nadu to hold 'Children's Parliament';

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

(c) the propaganda/publicity efforts proposed to be made to popularise such 'Children Parliament' among the school and student community; and

(d) the funds earmarked for the purpose during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) and (b) No such request has recently been received from schools of Tamil Nadu for holding 'Children's Parliament';

(c) and (d) With a view to inculcate democratic values and disseminate knowledge on the working of parliamentary institutions among the student community, four schemes of 'Youth Parliament Competitions' are being implemented. These are namely, 'Youth Parliament Competition Scheme for recognized Educational Institutions in the National Capital Territory of Delhi'; 'National Youth Parliament Competition Scheme for Kendriya Vidyalayas'; 'National Youth Parliament Competition Scheme for Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas' and 'National Youth Parliament Competition Scheme for Universities/Colleges'. In addition to the above four schemes, financial assistance up to a maximum of Rs. 2 lacs per annum is being extended to the States/Union Territories for conducting similar 'Youth Parliament Competitions' in their educational institutions. No specific quantum of funds have been earmarked for organising the 'Youth Parliament Competitions'. However, expenditure in this regard, is being met from an allocation of Rs. 35 lacs for 'other charges' provided in the current year's budget of the Ministry. Apart from the above no specific propaganda/publicity efforts to popularise Youth Parliaments in the schools are envisaged.

Unemployment Rate

3616. SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether according to the 61st Round of National Sample Survey Organisation the unemployment rate in rural and Urban areas of the country is 17% and 45% respectively during July 2004 to June 2006;

(b) if so, the reasons for increase in the rate of unemployment during the last two years;

(c) whether any analysis to this effect has been made by the Government;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof;

(e) whether the Survey has revealed that the unemployment rate in women is higher than that of men; and

(f) if so, the reasons therefor;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a), (e) and (f) As per 55th and 61st

round of NSSO, unemployment rate in the country on usual status basis during 1999-2000 and 2004-05 are given below:

Year	Rural (%)			Urban (%)			All (%)
	Male	Female	Person	Male	Female	Person	
1999-2000	1.7	1.0	1.5	4.5	5.7	4.7	2.2
2004-2005	1.6	1.8	1.7	3.8	6.3	4.5	2.3

(b) to (d) The results of these surveys indicate that while unemployment rate in the rural areas has marginally gone up, in the urban areas, it has declined. On the whole, unemployment rate has marginally gone up 2.2% in 1999-2000 to 2.3% during 2004-05.

Small Scale Pharma Units

3617: SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has provided assistance to Small Scale Pharma Units who are to shift from semi-urban areas to implement schedule M and good laboratory manufacturing practices notified by the Government;

(b) if not, the time by which it is likely to be provided;

(c) whether the impurity standards of drugs are not provided at subsidized rate to said units by Government organizations; and

(d) if so, the steps taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) and (b) As per information received from Department of Small Scale Industries, financial assistance upto Rs. 1 crore with 15% capital subsidy is available to small scale Pharma units for implementation of Schedule 'M' norms/modernization under Credit Linked Capital Subsidy Scheme (CLCSS).

(c) and (d) This Department has no information in this regard. As per comments obtained from the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare they have also no information to furnish in this regard.

[Translation]

PDS for APL Families

3618. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has discontinued distribution of foodgrains to the beneficiaries of Above Poverty Line (APL) category under Public Distribution System (PDS);

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
8.	Gujarat	88.079	88.079	88.079	88.079	88.079	88.079	88.079	88.079	88.079
9.	Haryana	24.77	24.77	24.77	24.77	24.77	24.77	24.77	24.77	24.77
10.	Himachal Pradesh	16.144	16.144	16.144	16.144	16.144	19.364	16.144	16.144	16.144
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	26.117	26.117	26.117	26.117	26.117	26.117	26.117	26.117	26.117
12.	Jharkhand	12.618	12.618	12.618	12.618	12.618	12.618	12.618	12.618	12.618
13.	Karnataka	119.868	119.868	119.868	119.868	119.868	119.868	119.868	119.868	119.868
14.	Kerala	113.42	113.42	113.42	113.42	113.42	113.42	113.42	113.42	113.42
15.	Madhya Pradesh	58.57	58.57	58.57	58.57	58.57	58.57	58.57	58.57	58.57
16.	Maharashtra	137.488	137.488	137.488	137.488	137.488	137.488	137.488	137.488	137.488
17.	Manipur	2.769	2.769	2.769	2.769	2.769	2.769	2.769	2.769	2.769
18.	Meghalaya	3.104	3.104	3.104	3.104	3.104	3.104	3.104	3.104	3.104
19.	Mizoram	2.446	2.446	2.446	2.446	2.446	2.446	2.446	2.446	2.446
20.	Nagaland	4.369	4.369	4.369	4.369	4.369	4.369	4.369	4.369	4.369
21.	Orissa	56.938	56.938	56.938	56.938	56.938	56.938	56.938	56.938	56.938
22.	Punjab	36.831	36.831	36.831	36.831	36.831	36.831	36.831	36.831	36.831
23.	Rajasthan	67.578	67.578	67.578	67.578	67.578	67.578	67.578	67.578	67.578
24.	Sikkim	1.551	1.551	1.551	1.551	1.551	1.906	1.906	1.906	1.906
25.	Tamil Nadu	305.665	305.665	305.665	305.665	305.665	305.665	305.665	305.665	305.665
26.	Tripura	10.941	10.941	10.941	10.941	10.941	13.599	13.599	13.599	13.599
27.	Uttaranchal	17.664	17.664	17.664	17.664	17.664	17.664	70.656	17.664	0
28.	Uttar Pradesh	270.585	270.585	270.585	270.585	270.585	270.585	270.585	270.585	270.585
29.	West Bengal	228.928	228.928	228.928	228.928	228.928	228.928	228.928	228.928	228.928
30.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	1.439	1.439	1.439	1.439	1.439	1.439	1.439	1.439	1.439
31.	Chandigarh	1.887	1.887	1.887	1.887	1.887	1.887	1.887	1.887	1.887
32.	Dadar and Nagar Haveli	0.466	0.466	0.466	0.466	0.466	0.466	0.466	0.466	0.466
33.	Daman and Diu	0.698	0.698	0.698	0.698	0.698	0.698	0.698	0.698	0.698
34.	Lakshadweep	0.261	0.261	0.261	0.261	0.261	0.261	0.261	0.261	0.261
35.	Pondicherry	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
Total		2037.156	2037.156	2037.156	2037.156	2037.156	2043.389	2093.161	2040.169	2022.505

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
COARSE GRAINS										
1.	Karnataka			20.796	20.796	0	3.985	3.837		
2.	Madhya Pradesh			2.769	2.769	2.769	2.769	2.769	2.769	
3.	Sikkim	0.1	0							
4.	Rajasthan									
Total		0.1	0	23.565	23.565	2.769	6.734	6.606	2.769	0
Grand Total (Wheat Annexure+Rice+ Coarsegrains)		3605.953	3605.953	2244.716	2244.716	2231.654	2243.602	2296.194	2234.667	2215.437

Statement III

Details of adhoc/addtional monthly allocation of foodgrains (wheat) for APL category for the year 2006-2007. (from September, 2006 to December, 2006)

(Figures in Tonnes)

Sl.No.	State	September	October	November	December
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	4000	4000	4000	4000
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	300	300	300	300
3.	Assam	4000	4000	3000	3000
4.	Bihar	4000	4000	2000	2000
5.	Chhattisgarh	3000	3000	—	—
6.	Delhi	8000	8000	10000	10000
7.	Goa	500	500	500	500
8.	Gujarat	5000	5000	5000	5000
9.	Haryana	2500	2500	1500	1500
10.	Himachal Pradesh	3500	3500	3500	3500
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	5000	5000	5000	5000
12.	Jharkhand	2000	2000	2000	2000
13.	Karnataka	4000	5000	5000	5000
14.	Kerala	5000	6000	8000	8000
15.	Madhya Pradesh	5000	5000	5000	5000

1	2	3	4	5	6
16.	Maharashtra	5000	6000	10000	10000
17.	Manipur	300	300	300	300
18.	Meghalaya	300	300	300	300
19.	Mizoram	300	300	300	300
20.	Nagaland	300	300	300	300
21.	Orissa	4000	5000	4000	4000
22.	Punjab	2500	2500	2500	2000
23.	Rajasthan	6000	6000	6000	6000
24.	Sikkim	300	300	300	300
25.	Tamil Nadu	4000	5000	5000	5000
26.	Tripura	800	800	800	800
27.	Uttar Pradesh	5000	5000	5000	5000
28.	Uttaranchal	5000	5000	5000	5000
29.	West Bengal	10000	5000	5000	5000
30.	Andaman and Nicobar	100	100	100	300
31.	Dadar and Nagar Haveli	50	50	50	50
32.	Pondicherry	100	100	150	150
33.	Chandigarh	50	50	50	50
34.	Lakshadweep	50	50	—	50
35.	Daman and Diu	50	50	50	50
Total		100000	100000	100000	99750

*[English]***Strengthening of Consumer Courts**

3619. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government provides financial assistance to States for strengthening the infrastructure of the consumer courts;

(b) if so, the details of assistance provided to various States during the last three years and the current year;

(c) the names of States which have so far failed to submit utilization certificate against assistance provided during the last three years;

(d) the action taken by the Government against such States; and

(e) the time by which the said States are likely to complete the work of strengthening of the infrastructure in the respective States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) As per provisions of the Consumer Protection Act, 1986, it is the responsibility of the States to establish the District Fora and State Commission in their respective States, providing requisite infrastructure to these institutions to enable them to discharge their functions in accordance with the provisions of the Act. However, to supplement the efforts of the States in strengthening the infrastructure of consumer fora, the Central Government has provided financial assistance in the past. An amount of Rs. 61.80 crores was released to all the States/Union Territories under the scheme of One Time Grant of 1995 to strengthen the infrastructure of 458 District Fora and 32 State Commissions that had been established by 1995. An amount of Rs. 10.20 crores was further released to 13 States under the scheme of One Time Grant of 2004-05 for strengthening the infrastructure of 53 District Fora and 3 State Commissions established after 1995. In the current financial year 2006-07, grants amounting to Rs. 20.34 crores have been released/sanctioned till 13.12.2006 as first instalment to 9 eligible States under the scheme of Integrated Project on Consumer Protection to meet critical gaps in infrastructure of Consumer Fora.

(b) Details are furnished below

(Rupees in lacs)

2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07 (till 13.12.2006)
NIL	1020.00	NIL	2033.96

State-wise details of grant released under the scheme of One Time Grant of 2004-05 are given in the enclosed statement-I. The State-wise details of grant released in the current financial year till 13.12.2006 under the scheme of Integrated Project on Consumer Protection are given in the enclosed statement-II.

(c) The States are required to completely utilize the amount of grant received under the scheme of One Time Grant of 2004-05 by 31.03.2007.

(d) and (e) Do not arise in view of (c) above.

Statement I

The State/UT-wise release of grant during 2004-05 under the scheme of One Time Grant of 2004-05

(Rs. in lacs)

Name of the State	Amount of grant released
Andhra Pradesh	105.00
Bihar	45.00
Jharkhand	75.00
Haryana	45.00
Madhya Pradesh	105.00
Chhattisgarh	75.00
Maharashtra	45.00
Mizoram	75.00
Nagaland	15.00
Orissa	270.00
Rajasthan	45.00
Uttaranchal	75.00
West Bengal	45.00
Total:	1020.00

Statement II

The State/UT-wise sanction/release of grant under the scheme of Integrated Project on Consumer Protection (Status as on 13.12.2006)

(Rs. in lacs)

Name of the State	Amount of grant released
1	2
Andhra Pradesh	348.15
Arunachal Pradesh	257.80
Chhattisgarh	298.22
Himachal Pradesh	161.27

1	2
Kerala	265.50
Madhya Pradesh	449.52
Mizoram	141.00
Sikkim	67.30
Tripura	45.20
Total	2033.96

Perspective Plan by NDDB

3620. SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:
SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH:
SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) has drawn up a perspective plan 2010;

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

(c) the amount earmarked for the purpose;

(d) whether the milk unions have also given their consensus for this plan; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Perspective Plan has been drawn up to strengthen the infrastructure of dairy cooperatives in the country. It covers areas of Cooperative Business, which includes procurement, processing and marketing, Quality Assurance, Productivity Enhancement and Information Network.

The proposed outlay for Perspective Plan is Rs. 1250 crore.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. About hundred milk unions/ Federations have submitted proposals for financing from NDDB under Perspective Plan.

[Translation]

Swarna Rekha Multi-Purpose Project

3621. SHRI GIRIDHARI YADAV:
SHRI SUNIL KUMAR MAHATO:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether many villages submerge in water due to non-completion of Swarna Rekha Multi-Purpose Project;

(b) if so, the number of villages affected from 1996 till date, year-wise and the value of the property damaged;

(c) the details of the relief works undertaken and assistance provided to the affected people of submerged villages; and

(d) the extent of relief provided so far to the affected people?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) Swarna Rekha Multi Purpose project consists of two dams viz., Chandil dam and Icha dam. Due to construction of Chandil dam total 116 villages are affected in Jharkhand. Out of 116 villages, 38 villages are likely to be fully submerged and 78 villages would be partially submerged. Due to construction of Icha dam, total 87 villages are likely to be affected in Jharkhand and 36 villages in Orissa. Out of 87 villages affected in Jharkhand, 26 villages are likely to be fully submerged and 61 villages would be partially submerged.

(c) and (d) In Chandil sector, 98 villages have been paid compensation for land and houses acquired while in Icha sector where currently land acquisition and rehabilitation work has been suspended due to cessation of the construction of Icha dam, 33 villages have been paid the compensation.

Resettlement and rehabilitation works are in progress by the State Governments. Irrigation is a State subject and planning, execution, funding as well as resettlement and rehabilitation of the project affected persons is within the purview of State Governments as per their own policies.

*[English]***Violation of Norms**

3622. SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR:
SHRI P.S. GADHAVI:
SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU:

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

(a) whether major producers of Beer were found filling up of bottles with less quantity than that declared on the labels as reported in the major English dailies recently;

(b) if so, the details in this regard together with the names of the companies involved therein; and

(c) the action Government proposes to take in the matter?

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) As per information received, the enforcement authorities of Weights and Measures of States/UTs have reported short filling of beer in 650 ml bottles of M/s. The Skole Beverages Limited of brand name 'Haywards', M/s. Millennium India Limited of brand name 'Kingfisher strong premium', M/s. Foster India Private Limited of brand name 'Foster' and M/s. Charminar Breweries of brand name 'Haywards 5000' by 1.69 ml, 10.29 ml, 0.87 ml and 25 ml respectively.

(c) In the case of M/s. Charminar Breweries, the case has been compounded by the firm by paying a compounding fee of Rs. 25000. In other cases also action is taken as per provision of the law.

MIS for Cotton

3623. SHRI C.H. VIJAYASHANKAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to introduce the Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) for Cotton;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any proposal from Government of Karnataka requesting MIS for cotton in the state has been pending; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (d) The Government is implementing Minimum Support Price (MSP) scheme under which cotton is also included. The MSP for cotton is announced for each crop session. As such, the question of inclusion of cotton under MIS does not arise nor any such proposal has been received from the Government of Karnataka.

Advertisement Rate

3624. SHRI SARVEY SATYANARAYANA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the policy of empanelment of private satellite channels of DAVP for approving advertisement rates and the total budget earmarked for the Financial Year 2006-07 therefor;

(b) the names of the private satellite channels empanelled with Directorate of Advertising and Visual Publicity (DAVP) for the year 2006-07;

(c) whether the advertisement rates have been approved for each of the channels for the above period; and

(d) if so, the details of latest Television Rating Point (TRP) of Doordarshan and all the DAVP empanelled private channels for Hindi Speaking Market?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) The policy for empanelment of private satellite channels with DAVP, is given in the enclosed statement-I.

DAVP budget for publicity through Audio-Visual medium for the year 2006-07, is Rs. 94.00 lakh.

(b) Names of the private satellite channels empanelled with DAVP are given in the enclosed statement-II.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The details are given in the enclosed statement-III.

Statement I

AV advertisement policy of the Government of India for telecast/broadcast through TV/radio channels

1. DAVP undertakes release of TV and Radio spots/jingles/programmes etc. for Ministries/Departments and organizations of the Govt. of India on AIR, Doordarshan and satellite TV/Radio channels. DAVP is the nodal agency for release on private TV/Radio channels.
2. In view of the fluctuations in the performance of channels/programmes, telecast/broadcast rates are fixed on yearly basis. The primary objective of empanelment of channels and fixing their telecast/broadcast rates is to obtain the widest possible coverage of the intended content or message for the target audience in a cost effective manner. While releasing such advertisement spots/jingles etc. DAVP does not take into account the political affiliation or editorial policies of radio/TV channels. However, DAVP will not release advertisements to such channels, which incite or tend to incite communal passion, preach violence, offend sovereignty and integrity of India or socially accepted norms of public decency and behaviour. Since media planning for a campaign would be done on the basis of publicity requirement and target audience for that campaign, the empanelment of a channel would not guarantee assured business.
3. All Central Government publicity releases on private TV/Radio channels will be routed through DAVP. All attached offices, autonomous organizations and PSUs under the Ministries/Departments will also route their releases through DAVP.
4. EMPANELMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (EAC)

An Empanelment Advisory Committee headed by Cost Advisor, Ministry of Finance, Government of India will be constituted to consider applications of the channels for making recommendation regarding their empanelment and telecast/broadcast rates for spots, ticker/

scroll, Programmes etc., The Committee will submit its report to Ministry of Information and Broadcasting for acceptance.

5. EMPANELMENT OF SATELLITE TV CHANNELS:

All Channels must apply to be considered for empanelment in response to DAVP's advertisements, which will be once a year. Doordarshan channels would be automatically empanelled. However, if Doordarshan has appointed some agency for marketing for specific events e.g. sports events, the Committee can call for their quotations.

The channels are divided into two categories—National and Regional and also genre on the basis of dominant viewership in a particular area/region.

Criteria for Empanelment of Satellite TV Channel:

A channel should fulfil following minimum criteria to be eligible for empanelment:

- (a) Minimum telecast period—the channel should have completed atleast six months telecast at the time applications are invited (last date of submission of applications will be cut off date). But if, there is a new channel, which is showing good viewership after three months, it can be considered by the EAC as a special case with the approval of DG:DAVP.
- (b) Minimum channel share—Any channel to be empanelled must have atleast 0.02% all-channel share in all-India universe in C&S homes (parameters: 15 + age group, both male/female, all SECs, 06.00-23.59 hrs. time band, all week days) as per TAM or any other established TV viewership survey agency considered by DAVP
- (c) Exemption category—The following would be exempted from criterion mentioned at (b) above:
 - (i) The regional channels in North-East, Jammu and Kashmir and Bihar, since TAM is not yet covering these States.
 - (ii) Channels dominant in backward, border or remote areas or in tribal/minority languages.

- (iii) International channels having Indian sub-continent regional beam (covering countries around India), since the viewership outside India is not taken into account by TAM data.

Criteria for Fixation of rates of empanelled TV Channels:

The rates of empanelled channels will be decided by the EAC after considering the following:

- (a) Comparison on the basis of the six month average C&S Viewership Data of TAM (15 + age group, both male/female, all SECs, all-India market for National Channel and respective State for regional channels) except for regional channels) of North East, Jammu and Kashmir and Bihar (not covered by TAM so far). If, the channel is less than 6 months but more than 3 months old, the viewership data of respective number of months between 3-6 months, would be considered. Rates will be decided by the committee after comparing the viewership data and rates of these channels with Doordarshan, wherever possible and comparison within channels in respective genre and programmes.
- (b) Negotiations based on market rates.
- (c) the effective rate of a particular channel would be determined by the rate structure pattern depending on the number of bonus, ticker/scroll etc. provided with the rate.

6. EMPANELMENT OF PRIVATE RADIO CHANNELS:

Radio channels can be categorized on the basis of number of stations as on 31st March of every year.

Big—Operating in metro cities Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata and Chennai

Medium—operating in cities with population over 10 lakh, non-metro cities

Small—Operating in cities with 1 to 10 lakh population.

Criteria for Empanelment of Private Radio Channels:

Minimum broadcast period—the channels/station should have completed atleast six months broadcast at the time, applications are invited (last date of submission of application will be the cut off date). But if, there is a

new channel/station, which is showing good listenership after three months, it can be considered by the committee as a special case with the approval of DG: DAVP.

Criteria for fixation of rates of Private Radio Channels:

(a) Comparison on the basis of listenership data of field survey agencies, provided by the channels. As and when an independent established Radio listenership data agency so considered by DAVP comes into existence, data produced by such agency would be considered for comparison for rate fixation.

(b) Negotiations based on market rates.

(c) Rate Structure pattern would determine the effective rate depending on the number of bonus etc. provided with the rate.

7. OTHER CONDITIONS REGARDING EMPANELMENT/FIXATION OF RATES:

(a) the channel will submit a certificate that the information submitted by them is correct and that they will abide by the decision of Director General, DAVP regarding empanelment. In case the information submitted by the channels is found to be false in any manner, it can be suspended and/or debarred from empanelment.

(b) The channels or their authorized representatives may be required to make presentation before the EAC at their own cost.

(c) The empanelment and rates will be valid for one year or till such time as new panel and rates are in place, whichever is later. However, in case of more than 15% variation in TAM ratings continuously for 6 month period, DAVP can review the rates.

(d) The EAC will meet only once a year in June, to consider new applications as well as review.

(e) the channels will agree in writing that rates accepted by them are lowest and exclusive to DAVP and cannot be offered to any other agency. DAVP reserves the right to review if this condition is violated.

(f) Notwithstanding any of the provisions mentioned above for empanelment of channels and their rates and other terms and conditions, decision of Director General, DAVP will be final and binding.

8. RELEASE OF SPORTS ETC.:**Statement II**

(a) As soon as requisition for release of advertisements are received from various Ministries/Departments, DAVP will prepare a suitable media plan, keeping in view the contents of message, the target audience and budget after consideration of requirements of the client, if any. Efforts would be made to give sufficient weightage to regional channels. Broadly, the distribution of advertisements in monetary terms would be as follows:

National Channels : 70%

Regional Channels : 30%

(b) After receiving approval of the Ministry/Deptt. regarding the media plan, the spots will be released on various TV/Radio channels. DAVP will ensure availability of funds before the advertisement are released. Client Ministries/Departments will provide funds within 30 days of the release of the advertisements on the basis of estimates.

(c) DAVP will not take any departmental charges. DAVP will pass on to the client the 15% agency commission received from channels.

9. PAYMENTS OF BILLS:

Every channel will be obliged to submit its telecast/broadcast bills complete in all respects along-with telecast/broadcast certificates within 30 days of completion of campaign or last date of monthly telecast. The telecast/broadcast certificates submitted by the channels is considered to be the basic proof of telecast/broadcast. However, third party monitoring service viz. TAM (Adex) in case of TV channels can be subscribed to get additional supporting telecast certificates for the channels being covered by them. DAVP will make every effort to pay the bills within 60 days of receipt of bills.

9. Recovery shall be made in case of excess payment.

10. This policy may be amended from time to time as considered necessary.

11. This policy shall come into force with immediate effect.

Sl.No.	Name of the Channel
1	2
1.	Aaj Tak
2.	Zee News
3.	India TV
4.	Awaaz
5.	CNN-IBN
6.	Star Plus
7.	Sahara One
8.	ETC
9.	Channel V
10.	Zee Cinema
11.	HBO
12.	AXN
13.	POGO
14.	Toon Disney
15.	Animal Planet
16.	Discovery Travel and Living
17.	History Channel
18.	CNN South Asia
19.	Sun TV
20.	Sun Music
21.	Gemini
22.	Maa TV
23.	Udaya TV
24.	Surya TV
25.	Asianet
26.	Kairali
27.	Zee Regional

1	2
28.	STAR Ananda
29.	Zee Punjabi
30.	NE TV
31.	Channel Siti
32.	S I
33.	Radio City (Delhi, Mumbai, Bangalore and Lucknow)
34.	Suryan FM (Chennai, Coimbatore, Tirunelveli and Vishakhapatnam)
35.	Go 92.5 FM (Mumbai)
36.	Star News
37.	Zee Business
38.	Channel 7
39.	NDTV Profit
40.	NDTV 24x7
41.	Sony TV
42.	Star One
43.	Zee Music
44.	SET Max
45.	Star Gold
46.	Star Movies
47.	Zee Studio
48.	Cartoon Network
49.	Disney Channel
50.	Discovery
51.	National Geographic Channel
52.	Sanskar
53.	Zee Jagran
54.	BBC World
55.	KTV

1	2
56.	STAR Vijay
57.	Teja TV
58.	ETV Telugu
59.	Usha TV
60.	Kiran TV
61.	Asianet Plus
62.	ETV Network (Regional)
63.	Aakash Bangla
64.	ETC Punjabi
65.	Balle Balle
66.	Sahara Samay Group
68.	Hungama
69.	Red FM (Delhi, Mumbai and Kolkata)
70.	Radio Mirchi (Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Pune, Indore and Ahmedabad)

Statement III

HINDI NEWS CHANNELS

Name of the Channel	TVR
Aaj Tak	0.18
Star News	0.17
Zee News	0.12
India TV	0.09
Sahara Samay National	0.07
DD News	0.03

MASS ENTERTAINMENT CHANNELS

Name of the Channel	TVR
Star Plus	1.30
Sony TV	0.41
Star One	0.30
Sahara One	0.30
DD I	0.16

MOVIE CHANNELS

Name of the Channel	TVR
Max	0.68
Zee Cinema	0.54
Star Gold	0.37

[Translation]

Film on Dr. Ambedkar

3625. SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE:
SHRIMATI BHAVANA PUNDALIKRAO
GAWALI:
SHRI BAPU HARI CHAURE:

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

(a) whether the film made on the life of Dr. Ambedkar is proposed to be released in the country in nine languages simultaneously;

(b) if so, the languages in which it has been dubbed; and

(c) the time by which it is likely to be released?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Government of India) and the Government of Maharashtra have jointly produced the film titled Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar, directed by Dr. Jabbar Patel with NFDC as the Executive Producer. The film was originally made in English and thereafter dubbed in the Hindi, Marathi, Gujarati, Bengali, Punjabi, Tamil, Telugu and Oriya. The film has been released in seven languages namely Hindi, Marathi, Gujarati, Bengali, Punjabi, Tamil, Telugu.

[English]

Closure of Grain Storage Research Centre

3626. SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has closed down the activities of Indian Grain Storage Management and Research Institute at Udaipur, Rajasthan;

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

(c) whether the said institute is currently housed on the land leased from Maharana Pratap University of Agriculture and Technology (MPUAT);

(d) if so, whether the land has not yet been transferred to the Institute;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor;

(f) whether the Government is considering any proposal for the transfer of the said land;

(g) if so, the details thereof; and

(h) the time by which it is likely to be transferred?

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. Due to non-sanction of Plan component beyond 30.9.2002 by the Planning Commission, Indian Grain Storage Management and Research Institute (IGMRI) located at Udaipur (Rajasthan) has been closed down with effect from 01.10.2002.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) to (h) As per the lease agreement between IGMRI and Maharana Pratap University of Agriculture and Technology (MPUAT), Udaipur the Government decided to hand over the leased land together with buildings constructed, electrical and water installations to MPUAT, Udaipur after realizing Rs. 151.17 lakh, being the written down book value of the buildings etc. constructed by IGMRI. Accordingly, MPUAT, Udaipur has been requested to pay the amount to enable the Department to hand over the land, buildings etc. MPUAT, Udaipur vide communication dated 12.12.2006 has informed that the payment will be made within a period of two weeks positively. After receipt of payment, the land, buildings etc. will be handed over to MPUAT within a month.

*[Translation]***Losses in Akashvani**

3627. DR. RAJESH MISHRA:
SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA:
SHRI SAJJAN KUMAR:

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

(a) whether the Government has suffered financial losses in crores of rupees due to poor management and monitoring of FM in Akashvani in the last few years;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Import of Wheat

3628. SHRI RAKESH SINGH: Will the Minister of

CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of wheat imported by the Government during the current year;

(b) whether tenders for higher prices have been received for the wheat to be imported presently in comparison to the tenders received in the month of February 2006; and

(c) 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 State Trading Corporation of India (STC) has finalized contracts for import of 55 lakhs tonnes of wheat for Central Pool stocks. A quantity of 38.21 Lakh MTs of wheat has arrived at the various Indian Ports upto 11.12.2006.

(b) Tenders for higher prices were received for the wheat imported subsequently in comparison to the tenders received in the month of February, 2006.

(c) The average price finalized in the five tenders is given in the enclosed statement. The price trends were rising in the international market.

Statement*Tender-wise details of import of 55 lakh tonnes of wheat by STC*

Sl.No.	Tender No.	Name of Suppliers	Quantity (MTs) Covered	Port of Delivery	Weighted average US\$ PMT C&F FO
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	STC/WHEAT/IMP 1/2006 Dated 10.02.2006	AWB (Geneva)SA	500,000	Chennai Tuticorin, Cochin, Vizag	178.750
		Sub - Total	500,000		
2.	STC/WHEAT/IMP 2/2006 Dated 08.05.06	AWB (Geneva) SA, Agrico (Switzerland)	500,000 300,000	Chennai, Vizag, Mundra	191.388
		Sub - Total	800,000		

1	2	3	4	5	6
3.	STC/WHEAT/IMP 3/2006 Dated. 12.06.06	ADM (USA) Cargil (Geneva), Concordia (Singapore), Glencore (Netherlands), Toepfer (Singapore)	300,000 405,000 225,000 550,000 720,000	Kandla, Mumbai, Mundra	197.817
		Sub - Total	2,200,000		
4.	STC/WHEAT/IMP 4/2006 Dated. 27.07.06	Agrico (Geneva)	330,000	Chennai, Vizag, Tuticorin Cochin	210.72
		Sub - Total	330,000		
5.	STC/WHEAT/IMP 5/2006 Dated 30.08.06	Concordia (Singapore) Glencore (Netherlands) Toepfer (Singapore), AWB (Geneva) SA	135,000 680,000 260,000 595,000	Mundra, Kandla, Vizag, Chennai	228.94
		Sub - Total	1,670,000		
Grand Total			5,500,000		

Weighted Average for the Total Purchase:- US\$205.37/MT

[English]

Irrigation Projects in Andhra Pradesh

3629. DR. M. JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Hon'ble Supreme Court has stayed the construction of irrigation projects in Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the details of such projects alongwith the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Discrimination in Advertisement

3630. SHRI TUKARAM GANPAT RAO RENG PATIL:
SHRI SUNIL KUMAR MAHATO:
SHRI GIRIDHARI YADAV:

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

(a) whether Directorate of advertising and Visual Publicity reportedly exercises discrimination in matter of advertisements;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of complaints received by the Government in this regard during the last three years and thereafter; and

(d) the number of officers found guilty on the basis of the said complaints alongwith the action taken in this regard so far?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) No, Sir. However, DAVP ensures their content is as per journalistic norms.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No complaints of discrimination has been received by DAVP in the last three years.

(d) Does not arise.

*[English]***Escape of Deers**

3631. SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR:
SHRI MOHAN SINGH:

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

(a) whether five sambar deers escaped from their enclosure in Delhi zoo as reported in 'The Times of India' dated November 16, 2006;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the zoo authorities are not properly handling the zoo inmates;

(d) if so, the number of animals that died in Delhi zoo during the last three years due to negligence of zoo authorities; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to fix responsibility on zoo officials in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Presently the renovation work of animal enclosures is going on in the zoo. The common fencing of Sambars and Bentang enclosures was also under repair. Due to negligence of contractor, the fencing was not properly fixed, as a result of which the Sambar came out of their enclosure via Bentang enclosure in the night of 11th/12th November, 2006. However, when the animals were noticed outside in the morning of 12th November, 2006, all the Sambars were taken into their enclosure.

(c) There is no mishandling of zoo animals by the zoo staff but certain isolated cases cannot be ruled out.

(d) and (e) In the last 3 years, only one incident of death of 2 Jaguar Cubs due to negligence of zoo staff has occurred on 31.03.2006. In this case, the concerned Assistant Keeper was placed under suspension and disciplinary proceedings against him have been initiated. As a follow up action and to update the zoo keepers of the best practices on animal up-keep a workshop-cum-seminar was conducted in the zoo premise.

*[Translation]***Fruits and Vegetables Plants of Mother Dairy**

3632. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details and location of fruits and vegetables plants of Mother Dairy functioning in Delhi at present.

(b) the details of employees including Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes/Other Backward Classes working in these plants, plant-wise;

(c) whether the norms prescribed for reservation are being followed in these plants;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which the reserved vacant posts in these plants are likely to be filled up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) The Fruit and Vegetable Unit of Mother Dairy, Delhi is located in Mangolpuri.

(b) Category-wise details of employees belonging to the Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes/Other Backward Classes are as under:

Category	No. of Employees
Scheduled Casts	47
Scheduled Tribes	4
Other Backward Classes	15
Others	397

(c) and (d) The guidelines issued by the Government of India with regard to the reservation policy are being followed.

(e) Efforts will be made to fill up vacant posts from amongst the reserved category candidates, including Special Recruitment Drives.

*[English]***Standardization of Agricultural Commodities**

3633. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether an Expert Committee to Facilitate Standardization in Agricultural Commodities has submitted its report;

(b) if so, the details of recommendations of the committee;

(c) if not, the time by which the said report is likely to be submitted;

(d) whether the Codex Standard is being made applicable;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) Ministry of Agriculture has not set up an Expert Committee to facilitate standardization in Agricultural Commodities. However, Department of Consumer Affairs has set up a Working Group on Standards and Grading of Agricultural Commodities in order to identify key agricultural commodities which are high on the list of priorities in terms of both commodity futures trading and price monitoring and align domestic standards of these agricultural commodities to the best international standards. The Working Group consists of representatives from Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, Department of Food and Public Distribution, Department of Agriculture Research and Education, Bureau of Indian Standards, Forward Markets Commission, Senior Economic Adviser and three national multi-commodity Exchanges.

(b) and (c) The Working Group is yet to submit its report. However, in its two meetings, the Working Group has identified 31 agricultural commodities on the basis of their importance for futures' grading and price monitoring. Directorate of Marketing and Inspection (DMI), Faridabad and attached office of this Ministry has been asked to update/harmonise standards of 25 commodities and frame

harmonized standards of 4 commodities. Bureau of Indian Standards has to update/harmonise standards of 6 commodities.

(d) and (e) Codex Alimentarius Commission has formulated standards of few agricultural commodities. These standards are advisory for member countries. Codex standards are considered while formulating/revising standards of agriculture commodities. The emphasis is given to characteristics and intrinsic quality of Indian produce while fixing the standards.

(f) Question does not arise.

*[Translation]***Cotton Bales in Market**

3634. SHRI SHISHUPAL N. PATLE:
SHRI KAILASH NATH SINGH YADAV:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of cotton bales arriving in market expected to increase during the current year as compared to the previous year;

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

(c) whether the cotton crop has been affected in some States;

(d) if so, whether the Union Government is contemplating to provide financial assistance to the affected farmers; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. According to information available from the Cotton Corporation of India (CCI), the number of cotton bales arriving in the market expected to increase during the current year as compared to the previous year. Increase in arrival is due to increase in production as a result of Technology Mission on Cotton, release of modern seeds and farmers' response. Till 19th December 2006 nearly 73.80 lakh bales which is nearly 19% higher than

same period last year, have already arrived in various markets. State-wise arrivals are as under:-

State-wise Arrivals	(In lakh bales)
State	2006-07
Punjab	13.30
Haryana	6.30
Rajasthan	3.40
Gujarat	22.50
Maharashtra	12.50
Madhya Pradesh	4.80
Andhra Pradesh	7.00
Karnataka	1.40
Tamil Nadu	0.25
Others	0.35
Plus loose lint	2.00
Total	73.80

(c) Yes, Sir. Due to unprecedented heavy rainfall followed by floods during the months of July and August 2006 the cotton crop got affected in some districts of Karnataka, Orissa, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Gujarat and Tamil Nadu.

(d) and (e) Financial assistance in the wake of natural calamities is provided to the affected States under two schemes viz. Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) and National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF). Based on the recommendations of the Finance Commission, each State is required to open a CRF Account and is located certain amounts as per the award of the Finance Commission. The corpus of Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) is contributed by the Government of India and the State Government in the ratio of 75:25. The Central contribution is released to the States in two equal installments; first in June and the second in December. The State Level Committee headed by Chief Secretary of the concerned State is fully empowered to operate the CRF, in accordance with terms and norms approved by the Government of India. The extant norms, inter-alia, provide assistance to the affected farmers in the form of agriculture input subsidy for damage of crops due to natural calamities. Additional financial assistance is provided in the wake of calamity of a severe nature from NCCF. Besides, the farmers are also

compensated for the loss in production through National Agriculture Insurance Scheme.

Reserve Bank of India has also issued standing guidelines to the banks for providing relief to the farmers in areas affected by natural calamities. These guidelines have been issued to enable the banks to take uniform and concerted action expeditiously, particularly to provide the financial assistance to the farmers affected by natural calamities.

[English]

Montreal Protocol

3635. SHRI BALASHOWERY VALLABHANENI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a meeting regarding Montreal Protocol was recently held in Delhi;

(b) if so, the parties involved therein and the details of discussions held thereat;

(c) whether India has raised objections to the use of trade environment related aspects in the meeting;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the objectives achieved and the final decisions arrived thereat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) The 18th Meeting of Parties to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer was held from 30th October to 3rd November, 2006 at New Delhi where representatives from 132 countries were present. The Meeting of Parties considered reports of Scientific Assessment Panel, Environmental Effects Assessment Panel and Technology and Economic Assessment Panel, and took thirty six decisions.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Prime Minister's statement at the High Level segment is enclosed.

(e) Text of the decisions adopted is enclosed as statement-II.

Statement**PM's ADDRESS AT THE HIGH LEVEL SEGMENT OF
THE 18TH MEETING OF PARTIES TO THE
MONTREAL PROTOCOL**

November 2, 2006

Hindi Version

"I am delighted to be here at your meeting. On behalf of the people and Government of India, and on my own behalf, I extend a warm welcome to you all to this High Level Segment of the 18th Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol. I hope we are able to provide you a conducive environment for a purposeful and fruitful conference.

India's approach to the challenge of the protection of our environment was shaped by the very wise and perceptive observations of our former Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi, who told the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment in 1972 that "Poverty was the worst polluter".

In saying so, Prime Minister Indira Gandhi launched a global debate on the relationship between poverty alleviation, economic growth, and environmental conservation. In the years since then, an organized structure of multilateral agreements and institutions for realizing the goal of sustainable development has been developed.

It is this perspective of Indira Gandhi that also defines our own National Environmental Policy, which we adopted earlier this year. Our policy says, "while conservation of environmental resources is necessary to secure livelihoods and well-being of all, the most secure basis for conservation is to ensure that people dependent on particular resources obtain better livelihoods from the fact of conservation, than from degradation of the resource".

To liberate people from poverty, to ensure the well being of all citizens, to provide employment for all, and yet pursue a sustainable development path that preserves and protects our common natural heritage - that is the challenge before humanity as a whole.

India has participated in major international events on the environment, since 1972. We have contributed to, and ratified several key multilateral agreements on

environmental issues recognizing the trans-boundary and global nature of environmental problems and concerns, and their implications for long-term development. We have also participated in numerous regional and bilateral programmes for environmental cooperation. Environment is something which unites the entire humankind because the entire humankind faces a single common environment. We also provide assistance to other developing countries, particularly for scientific and technological capacity building. We seek to help other countries meet their commitments under various international and regional environmental treaties.

At the national level too, we have set up an effective regime of policies, regulations, programmes, and scientific capacity for addressing sustainable development issues. Our national regime for sustainable development seems to have had a positive impact on our development process. Consider the fact that while in industrialized countries, key environmental parameters reversed their decline at per-capita incomes of \$ 6,000-8,000 in Purchasing Power Parity terms, in India, this decline has been reversed at a per-capita income of \$ 2,000 in Purchasing Power Parity terms. This is by no means a mean achievement.

The depletion of the Ozone Layer has emerged as a significant global environmental concern in the last few decades. In 1985, the Vienna Convention established mechanisms for international cooperation in research into the Ozone layer and the effects of Ozone Depleting Substances (ODSs). Thereafter, the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer was agreed upon the 16th September 1987. It was a binding multilateral treaty to protect the ozone layer by reducing to predetermined levels, global emissions of Ozone Depleting Substances. However, ratification by developing countries did not proceed rapidly, until the Protocol was amended in London in 1990.

We believe that the Protocol is successful in implementing a global phase-out for Ozone Depleting Substances. By and large, the national action plans and phase-out schedules have been adhered to. India has fulfilled, without exception, all our obligations under the Protocol. Indeed, we have done so in the case of all other multilateral environmental agreements we are party to. This has been done within the timetable laid down and, in some aspects, before the promised schedule.

What are the reasons for our success in this arena? What lessons does our experience hold for the design of other multilateral agreements on the global environment?

First, the treaty was preceded by strong scientific consensus about the causes of the problem; clarity about responsibility for the problem; the availability of mitigation technologies at reasonable cost; and, fairly accurate knowledge about the extent of resources needed to address the problem.

Second, and this is the key shift that occurred in the London amendment, the eventual entitlements to Ozone Depleting Substances on a per capita basis between developed and developing countries are identical.

Third, there are explicit financial arrangements set out, for meeting the incremental costs of changes in technology in, and transfer of technology to, the developing countries. These contributions generally in line with the Principle of "common but differentiated responsibility" and respective capabilities", and contributions from developed countries are voluntary.

However, in terms of the realization of broader goals of sustainable development in developing countries, which must be a principal objective of multilateral environmental agreements, the Protocol could have done better.

I say this because technology transfer has not occurred to any significant extent. I am not referring to the simple sale of capital equipment embodying the technology, and related training in operations. Rather, I am talking about the development of capacity in developing countries to manufacture and further develop capital equipment they require.

A provision in the Protocol that enables the use of trade restrictions to ensure compliance is also a source of concern. While fulfillment of commitments in multilateral environmental agreement by all Parties must certainly be ensured, the use of trade restrictions is in my view, not advisable. Such restrictions may adversely impact economic growth prospects and poverty alleviation efforts. We need to be more creative and less adversarial in our approach to compliance.

Let us not seek trade advantages through the instrument of environmental treaties. This would nullify gains for developing countries accomplished after strenuous negotiations in the World Trade Organisation

regime. Let us not trim the flow of multilateral and bilateral resources for poverty alleviation to accomplish - unrelated environmental objectives. Let us, instead, ensure that the financial and environmental objectives. Let us, instead, ensure that the financial and technological resources needed to accomplish agreed environmental objectives, consistent with growth and poverty alleviation strategies, are indeed additional. And that they are administered efficiently through dedicated and well tried out mechanisms. I urge you to approach the global environmental agenda keeping in mind these lessons.

India is a multi-cultural, multi-religious, multi-lingual and multi-ethnic nation, a country of over a billion people seeking their salvation within the framework of an open society and an open economy committed to respect for all fundamental human rights and also committed to the rule of law. The success of our experiment in nation building within the framework of a democratic polity, I believe, is vital to the future of mankind. If we are able to eliminate poverty, provide gainful employment to all and do this while protecting the environment, we would have shown a new path to sustainable development. It is therefore, imperative that we make the process of economic development more inclusive, make processes of globalisation more inclusive and make our societies and polities more inclusive. In doing so we can, I dare say, ensure that the harmony between man and nature is sustained for all times. I do hope that the key Principles of sustainable development that inform the negotiations of the Meeting of Parties recognize the vital importance to humankind of finding a consensual means to address our common problems. I started by saying that the environmental concerns unite the entire humankind. I wish you all success in your deliberations, which have a vital bearing on the future evolution of humankind in this 21st century that we are going through".

Statement II

PART TWO: HIGH-LEVEL SEGMENT

I. Opening of the high-level segment

160. The high-level segment of the Eighteenth Meeting of the Parties was held on 2 and 3 November 2006 and was opened at 10.20 a.m. on Thursday, 2 November, by Mr. Manmohan Singh, Prime Minister of India.

161. Opening statements were made by Mr. Singh; Mr. Thiru A. Raja, Minister for the Environment and Forests of India; Mr. Shafqat Kakakhel, Deputy Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), who spoke on behalf of Mr. Achim Steiner, the Executive Director of UNEP; and Mr. Elias Mulungula, President of the Bureau of the Eighteenth Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol.

A. Welcome by representatives of the Government of India

162. Welcoming all to his country, Mr. Singh recalled Indira Gandhi's famous remark that poverty was the worst form of pollution, which he said had launched a global debate on the relationship between poverty alleviation, economic growth and environmental conservation that had led to the global recognition of the need to liberate people from poverty while protecting the world's common natural heritage. With that in mind, India had ratified many environmental instruments since 1972 and participated in numerous regional cooperation and bilateral aid programmes. Domestically, India's sustainable development regime had succeeded in reversing the deterioration in the key environmental measures at a far lower level of per capita earnings that was normally the case.

163. Recounting the history of the global ozone layer protection regime, he noted that India had met all its obligations under the Protocol and other multilateral environmental agreements, sometimes ahead of schedule. The Protocol's success, he said, rested on a strong scientific consensus; clarity about responsibility for the problem; the availability of reasonably priced mitigation technologies; the introduction through the London Amendment of identical per capita entitlements for both developing and developed countries; and financial arrangements to cover the incremental costs of developing countries in line with the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities. Still there was room for improvement. Further capacity-building for developing countries was needed, as was more intensive technology transfer, in particular to enable such countries to produce capital equipment. There were also pitfalls to avoid, such as the use of trade restrictions to compel

compliance, which was undesirable since it could adversely affect economic growth and poverty alleviation; a better approach was to provide the necessary resources, delivered through well-tested mechanisms, above and beyond those earmarked for poverty alleviation.

164. Concluding, he said that if India could eliminate poverty within an open, democratic society that protected human rights, the rule of law and the environment, it would represent a new path to sustainable development. It would be necessary, however, for economies, globalization, society and politics to become more inclusive. In view of the Protocol's great global importance, he urged the Parties to seek a consensual means of addressing the world's shared concerns.

165. Mr. Raja warmly welcomed the meeting participants to New Delhi. He noted that the Montreal Protocol was at an advanced stage of compliance, with most ozone-depleting substances set to be phased out by 2010, and reviewed some of the activities taken by India to implement its provisions. He praised the Protocol as the first agreement by which developed and developing countries had taken proactive steps to undertake binding commitment on the basis of common but differentiated capabilities and responsibilities and said that its implementation offered important lessons on how to address other challenging global environmental issues. The decisions to be considered by the Parties were significant and potentially contentious, given that they had both environmental and economic implications, but he expressed confidence that the spirit of cooperation that had always prevailed in the Meeting of the Parties would ensure a successful outcome.

166. Mr. Namo Narain Meena, Minister of State for the Environment and Forests of India, took the floor to give a vote of thanks to all those who had contributed to making the Eighteenth Meeting of the Parties possible.

B. Statement by Executive Director of the United National Environment Programme

167. Mr. Kakakhel, on behalf of Mr. Achim Steiner, Executive Director of UNEP, thanked the Prime Minister of India and his Government for their

warm hospitality. He said that the Montreal Protocol was a shining example of global solidarity and the application of the principle of common but differentiated responsibility and an admirable instance of science and technology facilitating and guiding action for addressing a vital issue for human survival. The Protocol's success had been facilitated by the work of its assessment panels and the funding provided by the Multilateral Fund and other funding mechanisms, as well as industry's ability to devise affordable alternatives to ozone-depleting substances. The fulfillment of the Protocol's goals, however, required persistent and resolute efforts by the Parties and other actors to overcome the challenges ahead. Those challenges included the use of methyl bromide in quarantine and pre-shipment application and the need for timely and full contributions to the ozone treaties' trust funds and for further regulatory and enforcement efforts to phase-out ozone-depleting substances. The latter would require capacity-building activities for developing countries and countries with economies in transition. Calling on the Parties to maintain their resolve to implement the Protocol fully, he wished them success in their deliberations.

C. Statement by the President of the Eighteenth Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol

168. Mr. Mulungula thanked the Indian Government for hosting the meeting and commended India's efforts to protect the environment and to implement the Montreal Protocol. He reported that Montenegro had very recently become the 191st Party to the Protocol, calling it an encouraging sign that universal membership might soon be achieved and an indication of the international community's commitment to protect the ozone layer. Congratulating all the Parties for their efforts to comply with their obligations under the Protocol, he called on them to maintain their determination until the task was completed.

II. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

A. Election of officers for the Eighteenth Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol

169. At the opening session of high-level segment, in accordance with paragraph 1 of rule 21 of

the rules of procedure, the following officers were elected, by acclamation, to the Bureau of the Eighteenth Meeting of the Parties of the Montreal Protocol:

President:	Mr. Elias Mulungula (Democratic Republic of the Congo) (African group)
Vice-President:	Mr. Faisal Saleh Hayat (Pakistan) (Asian and Pacific group) Mr. Evgeny Gorshkov (Russian Federation) (Eastern European group) Mr. Juan Filpo (Dominican Republic) (Latin American and Caribbean group)
Rapporteur:	Mr. Paul Krajnik (Austria) (Western European and others group)

Annals to decision XVIII/36

Agenda for a dialogue on key future challenges faced by the Montreal Protocol Nairobi, Kenya,

Day 1

Welcome / Introduction

Speech by an eminent person

Summary of key achievements of the Montreal Protocol (Ozone Secretariat)

Questions / Discussion of summary presented by the Ozone Secretariat

Lunch

Future challenges related to scientific assessment, analysis and monitoring of the state of the ozone layer

Challenges in phasing-out HCFCs. Open discussion.

Key future policy challenges related to the further management, control and/or phase-out of ozone-depleting substances other than HCFCs.

Day 2

Issues related to sustaining compliance, maintaining enforcement and combating illegal trade beyond 2010.

Lunch

Improving cooperation and coordination of the Montreal Protocol with other multilateral environmental agreements and processes.

The future of the Multilateral Fund beyond 2010.

Administration and institutional issues related to the Montreal Protocol including issues related to the Meeting of the Parties, the assessment panels, the Implementation Committee and the Ozone Secretariat.

Summary and conclusions.

Decision XVIII/37: Nineteenth Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol

To convene the Nineteenth Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol in Montreal, Canada from 17 to 21 September 2007.

Comments made at the time of adoption of decision

222. A representative of the Russian Federation, speaking on the decision on essential use exemptions, expressed concern that the adoption of the decision on metered-dose inhalers would invalidate the essential use authorization granted to the Russian Federation for 2007 under decision XVII/5. The Executive Secretary clarified that decision XVII/5 was still valid and that the decision on metered-dose inhalers adopted at the current meeting would not operate retrospectively to affect decision XVII/5.
223. The representative of the European Community, speaking on behalf of the Community and its member states, made a statement on the decision on critical-use exemptions for methyl bromide. She thanked the Methyl Bromide Technical Options Committee for its valuable work and expressed the belief that its recommendations provided a sound basis for critical-use exemptions for 2007 and 2008. The Committee's recommendations were agreeable to the Community and its member States, some of which had already accepted final amounts well below the Committee's recommendations. She had hoped that they would also have proved acceptable to other nominating Parties, but the Community was prepared to compromise

with the aim of bringing the meeting to a successful conclusion. She sincerely hoped that the decision would assist in all Parties' endeavours to phase out critical uses of methyl bromide in the near future and that it would also help to reduce the amounts of Methyl bromide licensed for domestic use.

224. The representative of the United States of America stated that his delegation acknowledged that was indeed the purpose of the Montreal Protocol to reduce and eliminate all non-critical and non-essential uses of ozone-depleting substances. He also noted, however, that it was not the intention of the Protocol, and thus could not be intention of the Parties, to eliminate all uses of a substance for which no alternatives that were technically and economically feasible were yet available. In the context of decision IX/6, the United States had been seeking to reduce and eliminate stocks of methyl bromide produced before the 2005 phase-out. To the extent consistent with national and international law, his Government intended to increase its efforts to accelerate the phase-out of those pre-existing stocks.
225. The representative of Switzerland reiterated his confidence in the Work of the Methyl Bromide Technical Options Committee and the Technology and Economic Assessment Panel. He stated his belief in the need for further improvements in the data and information provided by Parties putting forward critical-use nominations, which would further assist that work. He believed that the Panel's recommendations were to a certain extent disappointing to everyone: those Parties that had already eliminated the use of methyl bromide felt that they were not ambitious enough, while those which had put forward critical-use nominations felt that they were not generous enough. That suggested that the Panel's recommendations had achieved an appropriate level of neutrality.
- X. Adoption of the report of the Eighteenth Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol**
226. The present report was adopted on Friday, 3 November 2006, on the basis of the draft reports submitted to the Meeting.

XI. Closure of the meeting

227. The Parties expressed their sincere appreciation to the Government and people of India for their excellent assistance and hospitality during the meeting.
228. Following the customary exchange of courtesies, the President declared the meeting closed at 10.15 p.m. on Friday, 3 November 2006.

[Translation]

NGOs Registered under FCRA

3636. SHRI MAHAVIR BHAGORA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the details of organisation, especially the social organisations in Rajasthan registered under Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA) which are engaged in bringing out newspapers and news letters;

(b) the details of foreign funds received by such organisation during the last three years, organisations-wise and the year-wise; and

(c) the details of organisations out of them put on black list for misuse of the funds?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) Under section 4(1) of the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA), 1976, no foreign contribution shall be accepted by any correspondent, columnist, cartoonist, editor, owner, printer or publisher of a registered newspaper. Therefore, there is no questions of any organisation registered under FCRA to publish any newspaper or newsletter.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Sugar Mills

3637. CH. MUNAWAR HASSAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the sugar mills have committed irregularities in excise including illegal sale of sugar and Molasses;

(b) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to check such Irregularities;

(c) whether the Government proposes to prepare the monthly report on sugar and Molasses produced by each sugar mill on the basis of recovery and crushing of cane; and

(d) if so, the time by which it is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) The requisite information is being collected by the Central Board of Excise and Customs, Department of Revenue, from their formations all over the country.

(c) No such proposal is under consideration of the Government.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

Environmental Clearance to Hydro-Electric Projects

3638. SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are Hydro-Electric Projects pending with the Ministry for environmental clearance; and

(b) if so, the details of such projects, State-wise and the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to clear these projects?

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

(b) The details are as follows:-

State	Name of the Project	Steps taken by the Government
Kerala	Athirapalli H.E. Project	The proposal was placed before Expert Appraisal Committee on 15.11.2006 which recommended environmental clearance subject to the production of study of the baseline environmental parameters up to 7 km length below the confluence of tailrace channel and the river. The project authorities were requested to submit these details <i>vide</i> letter dated 29.11.2006.
Kerala	Patharkkadavu H.E. Project	The proposal was placed before the Expert Committee/Expert Appraisal Committee on 19.04.2006 and 18.10.2006 and as recommended by the Committee, the project authorities were requested to provide clarification on public hearing and protection plan for fishes <i>vide</i> letter dated 13.11.2006.
Manipur	Tipaimukh H.E. project	The proposal was placed before Expert Appraisal Committee on 25.11.2006 and as recommended by the Committee, the project authorities were requested to provide clarification mainly on public hearing, Seismicity, bio-diversity conservation and catchment area treatment <i>vide</i> letter dated 27.11.2006.
Sikkim	Panan H.E. Project	The proposal was placed before Expert Appraisal Committee on 18.10.2006 and 15.11.2006. The Committee recommended for grant of Environmental Clearance.
Sikkim	Rongnichu H.E. Project	The proposal was placed before Expert Appraisal Committee on 15.11.2006 and as recommended by the Committee the project authorities were requested mainly to provide comments of Chief Wildlife warden on the impact of Fambonglho Wildlife Sanctuary, methods for drilling and blasting for tunnelling, and CAT plan <i>vide</i> letter dated 20.11.2006.
Uttaranchal	Lata Tapovan H.E. Project	The proposal was placed before Expert Appraisal Committee on 18.10.2006 and as recommended by the Committee, the project authorities were requested to provide information mainly on boundary of Nanda Devi bio-sphere reserve, land holding of the land losers, and medical centre. <i>vide</i> letter dated 25.10.2006.

Increase in Budgetary Support for Child Labour

3639. SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to increase budgetary support to child labour projects in each State of the country especially in North-East in the Eleventh Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the budgetary support in the Tenth Plan has been increased as compared to the Ninth Plan as reported in *Dainik Jagran* dated November 19, 2006; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government proposes to expand the National Child Labour Project (NCLP) Scheme during the 11th Five Year Plan to cover all the child labour endemic districts, including North-

Eastern states in the country from the existing 250 districts. It also proposes to introduce some new components into the existing programme. However, it is subject to the necessary approvals.

(c) and (d) The Government is implementing the National Child Labour Project (NCLP) scheme in 250 districts for the rehabilitation of working children during the 10th Plan. The budget allocation of Rs. 249.60 for the NCLP Scheme was made during the 9th Plan and the same was increased to Rs. 602 crores during the 10th Plan Period.

Abolition of Child Labour

3640. DR. SHAFIQR RAHMAN BARQ: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that an Indian child who was projected as the Brand Ambassador of United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) on child labour in India is reported to be washing utensils of others even today;

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

(c) the names of the schemes being run by the Government and UNICEF to stop child labour; and

(d) the total amount spent by the Government on the said schemes during the last three years, alongwith the number of children benefitted from the said schemes, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) and (b) As per the information received from UNICEF, they do not have child brand Ambassador on child labour in India. However, in their media campaign against child labour in Bihar, UNICEF had used the picture of a girl child, who use to help her father in his tea-stall. On receipt of the report, State Government has taken steps for her educational rehabilitation.

(c) Government is implementing two schemes, namely National Child Labour Projects (NCLP) and Grants-in-aid to voluntary organisations. Under the scheme of National Child Labour Projects, the children withdrawn from work are put into the special schools, where these children are provided with education, vocational training, stipend,

nutrition and health checkup facilities. At present, the NCLP scheme is being implemented in 250 districts of 20 states in the country. The scheme of Grants-in-aid to voluntary agencies for the benefit of children withdrawn from work is also being implemented in the districts which are not covered by NCLP Scheme.

Apart from these two, an INDUS project which is a joint project of Government of India and US-Deptt. of Labour on equal sharing basis is being implemented in 21 districts of the country.

Under the Joint Master Plan of Operations between Government of India and UNICEF, following two activities are under implementation:

1. Development of Child Labour Tracking System
2. Development of National Communications Strategy on child labour.

(d) The amount spent by the Government of India an elimination of child labour during the last three years is as follow:

Sl.No.	Year	Amount (in crores)
1.	2003-04	67.34
2.	2004-05	93.09
3.	2005-06	114.54

The children withdrawn from work are put in the special schools being run under the NCLP scheme for a period of three years. So far, under the scheme of NCLP, about 3.78 lakh children were mainstreamed into formal education system. State-wise details are given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

State-wise details of children mainstreamed

Name of States	Total
1	2
Andhra Pradesh	173297
Bihar	13516
Chhattisgarh	4311

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(a) whether there is any proposal to increase budgetary support to child labour projects in each State of the country especially in North-East in the Eleventh Plan;

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(c) whether the budgetary support in the Tenth Plan has been increased as compared to the Ninth Plan as reported in *Dainik Jagran* dated November 19, 2006; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government proposes to expand the National Child Labour Project (NCLP) Scheme during the 11th Five Year Plan to cover all the child labour endemic districts, including North-

Eastern states in the country from the existing 250 districts. It also proposes to introduce some new components into the existing programme. However, it is subject to the necessary approvals.

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(c) the names of the schemes being run by the Government and UNICEF to stop child labour; and

(d) the total amount spent by the Government on the said schemes during the last three years, alongwith the number of children benefitted from the said schemes, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) and (b) As per the information received from UNICEF, they do not have child brand Ambassador on child labour in India. However, in their media campaign against child labour in Bihar, UNICEF had used the picture of a girl child, who use to help her father in his tea-stall. On receipt of the report, State Government has taken steps for her educational rehabilitation.

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nutrition and health checkup facilities. At present, the NCLP scheme is being implemented in 250 districts of 20 states in the country. The scheme of Grants-in-aid to voluntary agencies for the benefit of children withdrawn from work is also being implemented in the districts which are not covered by NCLP Scheme.

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State-wise details of children mainstreamed

Name of States	Total
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Bihar	13516
Chhattisgarh	4311

1	2
Jharkhand	10761
Karnataka	10467
Madhya Pradesh	2314
Maharashtra	8235
Orissa	67194
Rajasthan	11371
Tamil Nadu	39523
Uttar Pradesh	19842
West Bengal	16086
Punjab	1368
Grand Total	378285

[Translation]

Subsidy to Agriculture Sector

3641. SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD:
SHRI SUNIL KUMAR MAHATO:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the subsidy being paid to agriculture sector from only a negligible part of the Gross Domestic (GDP) of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the subsidy given to agriculture sector in the country is also very low as compared to other developed countries;

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

(e) whether the Government proposed to increase the subsidy on agriculture; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) Subsidy in India's Agriculture Sector forms negligible part of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of the country. As per latest information available from Central Statistical Organization (CSO), subsidy given to Agriculture Sector for fertilizer, irrigation and other subsidies (for seeds etc.) during 2004-05 is Rs. 45,244 crore which is 1.59 per cent of the total GDP of Rs. 28,43,897 crore at factor cost.

(c) and (d) India has so far filed domestic support notifications with the WTO only upto the year 1997-98. Comparative Domestic Support provided by United States of America, European Communities, Japan and India as notified to the World Trade Organization (WTO) for the years 1995 to 1997 are given below:-

*Details of Comparative Domestic Support**

(In US \$ million)

Name of the Countries	Year		
	1995	1996	1997
United States of America	60,926.10	58,875.90	58,295.70
European Communities	1,16,537.70	1,14,606.10	1,00,698.70
Japan	69,607.30	54,912.80	47,748.30
India	8,221.98	8,288.28	9,048.13
	year (1995-96)	(1996-97)	(1997-98)

*Domestic Support excludes Export Subsidies.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Doesn't arise.

By-Products of Sugar Industry

3642. DR. CHINTA MOHAN:
SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:

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

(a) whether the sugar industry in the country also manufacture other by-products alongwith the sugar;

(b) if so, the names of these products;

(c) the production capacity of each of the said by-products in the sugar industry of the country as on date; and

(d) the assessment made in regard to the demand of these products 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) Sugar industry in the country generates molasses, bagasse and press-mud as by-products in the process of manufacture of sugar. Since these are by-products, the production capacity of these by-products depends upon the cane crushed by the sugar industry during a particular sugar season. The production of molasses, bagasse and press-mud is 4.2% to 4.5%, 30% to 33% and 3% to 5% on cane crushed, respectively.

(d) The demand of molasses for meeting 0.56 million K.L. ethanol doping with petrol per annum would be 26 lakh tonnes and about 100 lakh tonnes of bagasse to produce surplus power of about 570 MW. As regards press-mud, the entire quantity is used as manure.

[English]

Difference in PDS Price

3643. DR. K. DHANARAJU: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the prices of commodities being distributed through Public Distribution System (PDS) differ in different States;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to bring uniformity in prices of commodities being distributed through PDS?

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) Yes, Sir. The Central Issue Price (CIP) of wheat and rice under TPDS for APL/BPL/AAV categories is as under:-

(Rs. per Kilogram)					
APL		BPL		AAV	
Wheat	Rice*	Wheat	Rice	Wheat	Rice
6.10	8.30	4.15	5.65	2.00	3.00
(Grade 'A')					

* Rs. 795 for Common Grade which is applicable only to Jammu and Kashmir, H.P., North Eastern States, Sikkim and Uttaranchal.

The CIP for coarse grains for APL and BPL households is 70% and 50% respectively of the Economic Cost for varies from State to State. For AAV category, the CIP for coarse grains is Rs. 200 per quintal.

However, the end retail price is fixed by the States/UTs. after taking into account margins for wholesalers/retailers, transportation charges, levies, local taxes, etc. This varies from State to State due to different geographical conditions and taxation policy, etc. Under the TPDS the States were requested to issue foodgrains at a difference of not more than 50 paise per kg. over and above the CIP for BPL families. Subsequently, flexibility to States/UTs has been given in the matter of fixing the retail issue prices by removing the restriction of 50 paise per kg. over and above the CIP for distribution of foodgrains under TPDS except with respect to Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAV) where the end retail price is to be retained at Rs. 2 a kg. for wheat and Rs. 3 a kg. for rice.

From 1.2.2001, the supply of levy sugar has been restricted to Below Poverty Line (BPL) families, except

for North Eastern States, Hill States and Island Territories, where universal coverage is allowed. The Retail Issue Price of levy Sugar is Rs. 13.50 per kg. which is uniform throughout the country.

Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas has made the allocation to the States for supply of kerosene through PDS channel. No categorization as APL/BPL is made for such supplies. The prices of PDS kerosene vary from State to State depending upon the Sales Tax and dealers Commission. The price of PDS kerosene in Delhi is Rs. 9.05 per litre.

In view of the situation explained above bringing of uniformity in the end retail price is not feasible for the commodities distributed under TPDS except AAY.

[Translation]

Landless Farmers

3644. SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has conducted any survey/study on the number and conditions of landless farmers in the country;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(d) the concrete measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to improve the condition of such landless farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILALA BHURIA): (a) and (b) Results of the 59th round survey (2003) of National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO) on various aspects of landholdings and farmers reveal, *inter alia*, the followings:

- the percentage of Rural "household operational holdings" with no land or a land of an area not exceeding 0.002 hectare (landless) stood at 31.9 per cent during 2002-03.
- the percentage of indebted farmer household in the land size class of less than 0.01 hectare

stood at 45.3 per cent against 48.6 per cent for the farmers of all land size classes.

- the farmer households with less than 0.01 hectare of land had an average farm and non-farm business income of Rs. 1380.00 (excluding rent, dividend, interest and remittances) against the average income of Rs. 2115.00 for all land size classes.

(c) and (d) Land Resources and its management falls within the jurisdiction of States as enshrined in the Constitution of India. However, the Ministry of Rural Development monitors land reform programmes implemented by the States/UTs, including distribution of Government wasteland to the eligible rural poor.

Surplus land are distributed to landless poor. Till 2005-06, 54.03 lakh acres declared ceiling surplus land, 21.75 lakh acres of *Bhoodan* land 147.47 lakh acres of Government waste and land were distributed among the rural landless.

[English]

Afforestation

3645. SHRI JOACHIM BAXLA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of tourist ranges brought under the programme of afforestation particularly in North Bengal hills during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the range-wise areas covered under such programme, State-wise; and

(c) the quantum of funds allotted and utilised on such programme, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Environment and Forests is not implementing any specific scheme aimed at afforestation in tourist areas. However, the Ministry is implementing National Afforestation Programme (NAP) Scheme for regeneration of degraded forests and adjoining areas, which may also include areas of tourist interest. The scheme is being implemented through a two-tier decentralized set up of Forest Development Agency (FDA) at Forest Division level and Joint Forest Management Committees (JFMCs) at village level. 431 FDA projects

have been approved in 28 States, including the hills in northern West Bengal, to cover a total project area of 4.46 lakh hectare under the scheme during last three years (2003-04 to 2005-06). State-wise number of

approved FDA projects, total area covered and fund released during the said period is given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

State-wise number of FDA projects approved, total area covered and funds released during 2003-04 to 2005-06

SI.No.	Name of State/UT	Total No. of FDA Projects approved	Total Area Covered (in hectares)	Funds Released (Rs. in Crore)
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	19	24310	32.19
2.	Chhattiegarh	20	24894	45.33
3.	Gujarat	13	16530	24.02
4.	Haryana	9	9300	19.57
5.	Himachal Pradesh	24	27908	26.63
6.	Jammu and Kashmir	12	15055	16.05
7.	Karnataka	15	15800	59.74
8.	Madhya Pradesh	24	23570	40.71
9.	Maharashtra	33	43410	39.72
10.	Orissa	16	14566	29.27
11.	Punjab	8	7585	5.85
12.	Rajasthan	26	14390	17.62
13.	Tamil Nadu	20	28353	49.62
14.	Uttar Pradesh	28	22045	56.54
15.	Uttaranchal	33	34197	29.45
16.	Goa	3	1250	0.64
17.	Jharkhand	27	34150	25.8
18.	Bihar	10	12315	8.04
19.	Kerala	18	9650	9.5
20.	West Bengal	12	13386	17.5

1	2	3	4	5
21.	Arunachal Pradesh	11	6540	8.14
22.	Assam	29	26955	19.07
23.	Manipur	6	6700	16.81
24.	Nagaland	3	2398	19.91
25.	Sikkim	1	1000	14.23
26.	Tripura	3	2200	12.87
27.	Mizoram	1	600	37.11
28.	Meghalaya	7	7400	7.63
	Total	431	446457	689.56

[Translation]

Sowing Area of Mustard

3646. SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA:
SHRI JAI PRAKASH (MOHANLAL GANJ):

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the sowing area of Mustard has declined in the country as compared to the previous year;

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

(c) whether the decline in the area under cultivation of oilseeds including Mustard is likely to have an adverse impact on domestic availability of edible oils in the country increasing its dependence on imports; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to bridge the gap between demand and supply of Mustard and other 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 (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) As per the latest reports received in the weekly Crop Weather Watch Group meeting held in the Ministry on 08.12.2006, the area coverage under Rapeseed and Mustard is estimated at 63.69 lakh hectares which is

5.83 lakh hectares less than the 69.52 lakh hectares during the corresponding period last year. State-wise details are given in the enclosed statement.

(c) The area coverage under Rabi oilseeds is estimated at 85.22 lakh hectares (as on 08.12.2006) compared to 93.29 lakh hectares during the corresponding period last year. Sowing of Rabi oilseeds is in progress and more area coverage is envisaged. The estimated production of Rapeseed and Mustard in 2005-06 stood at 78.87 lakh tonnes, which was higher than the level of 75.93 lakh tonnes in 2004-5. However, the demand-supply gap of edible oils in the country can be met through imports.

(d) To increase the production and productivity of oilseeds, Government is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme "Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize (ISOPOM)". Under this scheme, assistance is provided on 75:25 percentage basis between the Government of India and the State Governments for production of breeder seed, foundation seed and certified seed, crash programme for quality seed production, distribution of certified seed and Minikits, infrastructure development and Integrated Pest Management. Besides, front line demonstrations on improved production technologies in oilseeds are being conducted through Indian Council of Agricultural Research for transfer of technology to the farmers. A minimum price guarantee is also provided to the oilseeds growers through the price support mechanism.

Statement*Area sown under Rapeseed and Mustard during Rabi 2006-07*

(Lakh Hectares)

Sl.No.	State	2006-07 (As on 08.12.2006)	2005-06 (Corresponding period)	Difference
1.	Andhra Pradesh	0.00	0.00	0.00
2.	Assam	2.44	2.85	-0.41
3.	Bihar	1.48	1.06	0.42
4.	Chhattisgarh	1.08	0.90	0.18
5.	Gujarat	3.55	3.34	0.21
6.	Haryana	6.20	7.09	-0.89
7.	Karnataka	0.04	0.09	-0.05
8.	Madhya Pradesh	6.57	8.38	-1.81
9.	Maharashtra	0.00	0.00	0.00
10.	Orissa	0.67	0.45	0.22
11.	Punjab	0.61	0.70	-0.09
12.	Rajasthan	28.61	30.30	-1.69
13.	Tamil Nadu	0.00	0.00	0.00
14.	Uttar Pradesh	7.65	9.48	-1.83
15.	West Bengal	4.35	4.40	-0.05
16.	Others	0.44	0.48	-0.04
	Total	63.69	69.52	-5.83

*[English]***Ginger Cultivation**

3647. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any plan to encourage ginger cultivation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the assistance provided for the purpose during the last three years and the current financial year, State-wise;

(d) the details of production recorded during the said period, State-wise;

(e) whether any ginger processing units are being set up; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Under Centrally Sponsored Schemes of Technology Mission for integrated Development of Horticulture in North Eastern States, Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttaranchal and National Horticulture Mission assistance @ Rs. 13000 per hectare is provided to the cultivators for growing of spices including ginger.

(c) The details of assistance provided for ginger cultivation under the scheme of Technology Mission for

Integrated Development of Horticulture in North Eastern States, Sikkim, Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttaranchal (TMNE) during 2003-04 to 2006-07 is annexed as statement-I, and the details of financial assistance provided under National Horticulture Mission is annexed as statement-II.

(d) Statement-III showing the details of State-wise area and production during 2002-03 to 2004-05 is enclosed.

(e) and (f) An assistance of Rs. 46.00 lakh was provided for establishing a processing unit at Byrnihat, Meghalaya by NERAMAC under the Scheme of TMNE.

Statement I

The details of the assistance provided for cultivation of ginger under Technology Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture in North Eastern States during last three years and the current year

(Rupees in Lakhs)

Sl.No.	State	2003-04		2004-05		2005-06		2006-07	
		A	F	A	F	A	F	A	F
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	300	39.00	500	65.00	400	52.00	700	65.00
2.	Assam	150	19.50	300	39.00	480	62.40	600	78.00
3.	Manipur	—	—	100	13.00	540	70.20	500	65.00
4.	Meghalaya	—	—	210	27.30	400	52.00	—	—
5.	Mizoram	50	6.50	—	—	—	—	—	—
6.	Nagaland	100	13.00	400	52.00	400	52.00	400	52.00
7.	Sikkim	650	84.50	800	104.00	600	78.00	1000	130.00
8.	Tripura	125	16.25	200	26.00	300	39.00	300	39.00
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	—	—	—	—	100	13.00	—	—
10.	Himachal Pradesh	—	—	—	—	—	—	300	39.00
11.	Uttaranchal	—	—	—	—	100	13.00	600	78.00
Total		1375	178.75	2510	326.30	3320	431.60	4400	546.0

A= Area in hectare

F= Rs. in lakhs

Statement II

The state-wise details of assistance provided/allocation for Spices under National Horticulture Mission (2005-2006 and 2006-2007)

(Rupees in Lakhs)

Sl.No.	States	Fund released (2005-2006)	Allocation (2006-2007)
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	663.75	416.14
2.	Bihar	—	337.50
3.	Chhattisgarh	185.63	2092.50
4.	Goa	—	5.63
5.	Gujarat	1046.25	1158.75
6.	Haryana	79.35	149.07

1	2	3	4
7.	Jharkhand	84.38	159.75
8.	Karnataka	416.25	471.00
9.	Kerala	393.75	501.25
10.	Madhya Pradesh	191.25	708.75
11.	Maharashtra	—	286.43
12.	Orissa	225.20	281.28
13.	Punjab	84.38	112.50
14.	Rajasthan	294.75	1125.00
15.	Tamil Nadu	67.60	789.75
16.	Uttar Pradesh	285.77	1197.39
17.	West Bengal	25.88	67.50
18.	Andaman and Nicobar	—	46.35
Total		4043.99	9906.46

Statement III

Details of state-wise area and production of Ginger in India (2002-03 to 2004-05).

(Area: '000 ha, Production: '000 tonnes)

State	2002-03		2003-04		2004-05 (Provisional)	
	Area	Production	Area	Production	Area	Production
Andhra Pradesh	2.0	3	1.873	5.614	1.9	10.9
Arunchal Pradesh	4.4	32.3	4.7	37.2	4.5	32.9
Himachal Pradesh	2.5	17.1	2.0	14.7	2.0	14.7
Karnataka	10.9	14.4	8.28	10.854	9.1	11.9
Kerala	9.0	32.4	8.5	10.954	8.9	45.30
Meghalaya	8.9	46.7	8.882	51.8	9.2	47.1
Mizoram	5.1	31.1	4.5	29.6	4.5	29.6
Nagaland	1.0	13.5	1.0	4	10.2	63.5
Orissa	15.3	29.5	15.5	30	15.7	30.4
Sikkim	5.0	3.8	6.5	33.5	6.5	34.7
Tamil Nadu	0.4	6.7	0.4	5.6	0.6	23.0
West Bengal	9.4	20.2	9.408	18.269	9.1	18.8
All India (Including other states)	88.2	276.965	85.89	303.28	97.00	392.29

*[Translation]***Consumption of Steel**

3648. SHRI HEMMAL MURMU: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to take assistance of private advertisement agencies for enhancing the consumption of steel in the domestic market and to make the steel companies 100% export oriented; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action proposed/taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (DR. AKHILESH DAS): (a) and (b) The National Steel Policy envisages to augment the demand and consumption of steel in the country by conscious promotion of steel usage. A Steel Promotion Coordination Committee, comprising representatives from Government, steel producers and Institute of Steel Development and Growth (INSDAG) has been formed with the aim to launch a country wide promotional campaign for steel. Utilizing the services of advertising/media agencies is one amongst the various possible strategies for promotion of steel awareness in the country. The Ministry of Steel has also written to the Zila Parishad President and Chairman, District Boards to create awareness about usage of steel in rural areas. There is no proposal for making steel companies 100% export oriented.

*[English]***Revenue from Sundarbans Forests**

3649. SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the forest produce of Sundarban in West Bengal earns considerable foreign exchange every year;

(b) if so, the details of the earnings during the last three years; and

(c) the steps proposed/taken to increase such revenue and check further depletion of the Sundarbans as on date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) No, Sir. No foreign exchange is earned from Sundarbans.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

*[Translation]***Vegetation Treatment Drive**

3650. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Forest Research Institute has launched the unique 'Vegetation Treatment Drive' with a view to improving the health of the old trees of the national capital;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is a provision of replacement of trees also besides treating them under the said scheme; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) The Forest Research Institute (FRI) Dehradun is working on a research project, sanctioned by the New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC), main objectives of which include preparation of inventory of roadside plantations maintained by the NDMC, inventory of diseased trees, identify causal organisms of disease, and suggest control measures, demonstrate disease control techniques to the NDMC officials, prepare replacement plan for old and diseased trees and provide technical guidance for setting up of high tech nursery for raising of good quality planting stock.

(b) An inventory of the avenue trees, maintained by the NDMC, is being prepared. The survey work at Central Vista has been completed. All the existing trees were inspected and observations on the occurrence and intensity of disease have been taken. The causal organisms of the disease have been identified in most of the cases and control measures suggested to the NDMC to extend the life of the diseased trees. One demonstration for disease control has already been organized for the staff of NDMC.

(c) and (d) The survey work has already been completed at the Central Vista. Out of total 1864 trees, 107 trees which are completely dead or decaying and may pose danger to human life and property, have been recommended for replacement. A report on inventorization and replacement plan for trees of Central Vistas has already been submitted to NDMC.

*[English]***Export of Floriculture**

3651. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) has submitted a proposal to boost floriculture output and exports;

(b) if so, whether this proposal is based on the inputs provided by consultants which recently conducted a detailed study on the problem faced by the industry;

(c) if so, whether the Ministry has considered this proposal; and

(d) if so, 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 (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) Yes, Sir. Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) has submitted the proposal to the Department of Commerce.

(b) The proposal is based on the recommendations emanated during International Conference organized by Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) at the Flora Expo 2006 held at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi from 8-10 September 2006.

(c) and (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

*[Translation]***Share of Agriculture in Planned Growth**

3652. DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA:
SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH:
SHRI PARSURAM MAJHI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to accord top priority to Agriculture Sector in the Eleventh Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the targets fixed for Agriculture Growth; and

(c) the areas identified to give focused thrust to increase growth rate of Agriculture during the Eleventh Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) The "Approach Paper" of the Planning Commission for the Eleventh Plan (2007-12) titled 'Towards Faster and More Inclusive Growth - An Approach to the Eleventh Five Year Plan' has accorded high priority to the agriculture sector and has accordingly targeted around 4% per annum growth rate for the sector in 11th Five Year Plan which is double of that likely to be achieved in the 10th Five Year Plan.

(c) Alongside addressing the demand side issues, the 11th Plan strategy to raise agricultural output is based on the following elements:-

- Double the rate of growth of irrigated area;
- Improve water management, rain water harvesting and watershed development;
- Reclaim degraded land and focus on soil quality;
- Bridge the knowledge gap through effective extension;
- Diversify into high value outputs, fruits, vegetables, flowers, herbs and spices, medicinal plants, bamboo, Bio-diesel etc., but with adequate measures to ensure food security;
- Promote animal husbandry and fishery;
- Provide easy access to credit at affordable rates;
- Improve the incentive structure and functioning of markets;
- Refocus on land reforms issues.

*[English]***Afforestation**

3653. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has undertaken a study on systematic forest inventories in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government has identified any region in the country which are denuded and taken up for forestry;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to develop the denuded forests in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) The Forest Survey of India conducts systematic inventory of the forest resources of the country on sampling basis. For conducting systematic inventory of the forests, the country has been divided into 14 physiographic zones based on similarity in vegetation, climate, soil conditions etc. and sixty districts representing all the physiographic zones are randomly selected on a two year cycle for inventory of forest resources. The results obtained from the selected districts are aggregated at the physiographic zone level and finally at the national level to obtain the estimates of growing stock. In addition, the Forest Survey of India carries out assessment of the forest cover of the country through image processing of digital satellite data.

(c) to (e) The various steps taken by the Central Government to develop the denuded/degraded forest areas are as under:-

- (i) Management measures like working of forests according to approved Working Plans; Forest Development Agencies and eliciting people's participation through Joint Forest Management.
- (ii) Implementation of National Afforestation Programmed (NAP) Scheme for regeneration of degraded forests and adjoining forest lands during the Tenth Five Year Plan. The Scheme is being implemented through a two-tier decentralized mechanisms of Forest Development Agency (FDA) at Forest Development Agency (FDA) at forest division level and Joint Forest Management Committees (JFMCs) at village level.

(iii) A restructured scheme for Grants-in-Aid for greening India has been launched in 2005-2006 to promote production and use of quality planting material in tree planting.

(iv) States have been advised to constitute State-level coordination committees under chairmanship of Chief Secretaries for eliciting cooperation of all land-owning Departments for contributing towards increase in Forest and Tree Cover.

(v) Guidelines for rationalizing of felling and transit regulations for tree species growth on non-forest private lands to promote large-scale afforestation in non-forest areas.

(vi) A Multi-Stake Holder Partnership (MSP) framework for afforestation of degraded lands has been mooted.

In addition, the State/Union Territory Governments are also implementing afforestation programmes under various schemes.

Ethanol Production from Sugarcane

3654. SHRI P. MOHAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any project has been launched to produce Ethanol directly from sugarcane in view of its advantage over production from Molasses/Alcohol indicating the cost of production by using the different raw materials;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the likely impact of the said project on the domestic sugar 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) As per information available from the sugar industry, two sugar mills produced ethanol from secondary cane juice on a trial basis, but are no longer producing ethanol directly from cane juice. Since no significant commercial production of ethanol from sugarcane juice route has taken place in India, it is yet to establish whether this is a more advantageous route than production of ethanol from molasses/alcohol.

(c) Does not arise.

Investment of EPFO Money

3655. SHRIMATI MANORAMA MADHAVRAJ: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Employees Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) has decided to confine investment only to debt papers despite the permission from the Ministry of Finance to invest incremental deposits in shares and mutual funds;

(b) if so, whether this would render funds idle without earning any returns;

(c) if so, whether the EPFO will be facing additional liabilities by December, 2008 because of redemption from the erstwhile Special Deposit Scheme (SDS); and

(d) if so, the steps being taken by EPFO to avert the projected loss of Rs. 300 crores for the current fiscal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) to (d) All monies belonging to the Fund are invested in accordance with the pattern of investment prescribed by the Government from time to time. Though the Investment Pattern prescribed by the Ministry of Finance ~~vide~~ its notification No. F.5(53)/2002-ECB&TR dated 24.01.2005 provides for an option for investment in equities, the same is yet to be notified by the Ministry of Labour and Employment for the purpose of investment of monies belonging to Employees' Provident Fund. Funds are not kept idle when appropriate investment opportunities exist.

The investment are made by the Fund Manager, namely, the State Bank of India keeping in view the risk-return prospects and in accordance with the existing pattern of investment.

Integrated National Cash Crops Plan

3656. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering to draw up an Integrated National Cash Crop Plan in view of the large scale diversion of farmers from food crops to cash crops cultivation;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the said plan is likely to be finalized?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) No, Sir. The Government does not propose to formulate an integrated national plan for cash crops in the country.

(b) and (c) The Question do not arise.

Agriculture Testing Laboratories

3657. SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of agriculture testing laboratories for pesticides, fertilizers, micronutrient working at present under the control of the Union and State Governments, location-wise;

(b) whether these laboratories are sufficient to meet the existing needs of the farmers;

(c) if not, the steps taken to increase the number and capacity of such laboratories;

(d) whether the Government proposes to invite private sector in this field; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) The number and location of Pesticides Testing Laboratories and Fertilizer Quality Control Laboratories working under the control of the Union and the State Governments are provided at statement-I and II.

(b) and (c) The State Governments are advised from time to time to establish/strengthen Pesticides Testing Laboratories and Fertilizer Quality Control Laboratories, for which financial assistance is made available by the Union Government.

(d) and (e) Government is open to allowing the participation of the private sector in the establishment of Pesticides Testing Laboratories provided they fulfill all the duties, responsibilities and obligations prescribed under the Insecticides Act.

Statement I***Pesticide testing laboratories in State/UTs***

SI.No.	State/UTs	Number of Laboratories	Location
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	5	Rajendra Nagar, Guntur, Anantpur, Tadepalligudem and Warangal
2.	Assam	1	Guwahati
3.	Bihar	1	Patna
4.	Gujarat	2	Junagarh and Gandhinagar
5.	Haryana	2	Karnal and Sirsa
6.	Himachal Pradesh	1	Shimla
7.	Jammu and Kashmir	2	Srinagar and Jammu
8.	Karnataka	5	Bangalore, Bellary, Dharwad, Shimoga, Kunnoor
9.	Kerala	1	Trivandrum
10.	Madhya Pradesh	1	Jabalpur
11.	Maharashtra	4	Pune, Amaravati, Thane and Aurangabad
12.	Manipur	1	Mautripukhri
13.	Orissa	1	Bhubaneshwar
14.	Punjab	3	Amritsar, Ludhiana and Bhatinda
15.	Rajasthan	2	Jaipur and Bikaner
16.	Tamilnadu	9	Coimbatore, Kovilpati, Erode, Mudarai, Trichy, Aduthrai, Salem, Cuddalore and Kanchipuram
17.	Tripura	1	Agartala
18.	Uttaranchal	1	Rudrapur
19.	Uttar Pradesh	4	Meerut, Lucknow (2) and Varanasi
20.	West Bengal	1	Midnapore
21.	Pondicherry	1	Pondicherry
Total		49	

1	2	3	4
B. Regional Pesticide Testing Laboratories			
1.	All States/UTs	2	Kanpur Chandigarh
C. Central Insecticides Laboratory			
1.	All States/UTs	1	Faridabad

Statement II*Details of fertilizer quality control labs in the country*

Sl.No.	State	No. of Labs	Location
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	5	Ananthapur, Guntur, Hyderabad, Warrangal, West Godawari
2.	Assam	1	Guwahati
3.	Bihar	1	Patna
4.	Chattisgarh	1	Raipur
5.	Gujarat	3	Gandhi Nagar, Junagarh, Bardoli
6.	Haryana	2	Kamal, Sunder Nagar
7.	Himachal Pradesh	2	Hamirpur, Sunder Nagar
8.	Jammu and Kashmir	2	Jammu, Srinagar
9.	Jharkhand	1	Ranchi
10.	Karnataka	4	Belthangady, Bangalore, Dharwad, Gangvati
11.	Kerala	2	Patambi, Thiruvanthapuram
12.	Madhya Pradesh	4	Bhopal, Jabalpur, Gwalior, Indore
13.	Maharashtra	4	Amravati, Aurangabad, Nasik, Pune
14.	Mizoram	1	Aizwal
15.	Orissa	2	Bhubaneshwar, Sambalpur
16.	Pondicherry	1	Pondicherry
17.	Punjab	2	Ludhiana, Faridkot
18.	Rajasthan	3	Jaipur, Jodhpur, Udaipur

1	2	3	4
19.	Tamil Nadu	14	Coimbatore, Kovilpatti, Villupuram, Nagarcoll, Kancheepuram, Trichirapalli, Madurai, Paramkudi, Udhaganmandalam, Dindigul Salem, Kumbakanam, Dharampuri, Thiruvarur
20.	Uttar Pradesh	3	Meerut, Varanasi, Lucknow
21.	Uttaranchal	2	Udham Singh, Pauri
22.	West Bengal	3	Kolkata, Murshidabad, Midnapore
23.	Central Govt. Labs.	4	Faridabad, Chennai, Mumbai, Kolkata
Total No. of Labs.		67	

Clinical Research Market

3658. SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether clinical research market in India is reportedly estimated to be US \$ 100 million and would be US \$ 300 million by 2010;

(b) if so, the extent of outsourced research grabbed by India in the World Pharmaceutical Market;

(c) whether China is the fastest growing pharma market in the World;

(d) if so, whether India is not able to compete with China and other Multi-National Companies due to lack of resources, strong linkage between industry and academia; inadequate regulatory standards etc.; and

(e) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to address these issues to make India Pharma India Research and Development hub of the World?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) to (e) According to McKinsey Report as reported in Pharma Bio World (March - April, 2005), the Clinical Research Market is expected to grow to US \$ 1.5 billion in 2010. With the application of product patents in case of pharmaceuticals in India w.e.f. 1.1.2005, the confidence level of Western pharma companies towards India for contract Research and Development work is going up, while leading Indian

companies by themselves are also conducting clinical trials in India. India has around 50% cost advantage over USA in clinical trials. Due to availability of upgraded infrastructural facilities, the country is becoming a hub of clinical trials. Many MNCs are using India as a base for running their Phase-II and Phase-III clinical trials. Fiscal and non-fiscal incentives are given to promote Research and Development in pharmaceutical sector in the country. These developments have led to the rapid increase in clinical research market in India though the exact size of the present market is not available with this Department.

[Translation]

Facility for Storage of Farmers Wheat

3659. SHRI D.P. SAROJ: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to formulate any scheme for storing the wheat of farmers in public godowns;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the benefits likely to accrue to the farmers under 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) Central Warehousing Corporation and State Warehousing Corporations have formulated schemes for

keeping the agriculture produce of farmers including wheat in Government godowns.

(b) Farmers may store their wheat and other agricultural produce in Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC) warehouses as well as State Warehousing Corporation (SWCs) warehouses.

- (c) (i) CWC allows 30% rebate in applicable storage charges for the benefit of the farmers for their stocks stored in CWC warehouses.
- (ii) Credit facilities/soft loan are also provided to the farmers by the banks on the strength of the warehouse receipt issued by CWC against their deposit.
- (iii) Wheat is stored in scientific manner and storage losses are minimized.

Improvement in Agri-Economy

3660. SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to implement new action plan to improve agri-economy in the country;

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

(c) the time by which the new action plan is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (c) The National Policy on Agriculture (2000) seeks to actualize the vast untapped growth potential of Indian agriculture, strengthen rural infrastructure to support faster agricultural development, promote value addition, accelerate the growth of agro business, create employment in rural areas, secure a fair standard of living for the farmers and agricultural workers and their families, discourage migration to urban areas and face the challenges arising out of economic liberalization and globalization. Over the next two decades, it aims to attain:

- A growth rate in excess of 4 per cent per annum in the agriculture sector;
- Growth that is based on efficient use of resources and conserves our soil, water and biodiversity;

- Growth with equity, i.e., growth which is widespread across regions and farmers;
- Growth that is demand driven and caters to domestic markets and maximizes benefits from exports of agricultural products in the face of the challenges arising from economic liberalization and globalization;
- Growth that is sustainable technologically, environmentally and economically.

Accordingly, the Government is implementing a number of schemes for development of the agriculture sector and improving the condition of farmers. The strategies formulated, *inter alia*, 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 farmer friendly, demand driven agriculture extension system; (iv) accelerating diversification to high value including horticulture activities; (v) strengthening infrastructure and the supply chain; (vi) optimizing the efficient utilization of available water resources through micro irrigation, watershed development projects and measures for water conservation for 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.

Books Published by Publication Department

3661. SHRI TUFANI SAROJ: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the number of books published by Publication Department during the last three years and thereafter;

(b) whether the Government pays royalty to the authors of these books; and

(c) if so, the number authors and details of royalty paid during the said period, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) The total number of books published by Publication Division in the years 2003-04, 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07 (upto Nov 2006) is 516.

(b) Yes Sir, the Government pays royalty to authors, subject to the terms and conditions and the Memorandum of Understanding.

(c)	Year	No. of authors	Amount of Royalty (Rs.)
	2003-04	310	10,62,883
	2004-05	420	8,50,637
	2005-06	356	5,16,912
	2006-07 (upto Nov' 06)	178	2,72,237
	Total	1264	27,02,669

Production of Guar

3662. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA:
SHRIMATI KIRAN MAHESHWARI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the production and consumption of 'Guar' in the country at present, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government proposes to provide financial assistance to the farmers to increase the production of 'Guar'; and

(c) if so, the decisions thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) The state-wise production of Guar in the country during 2005-06 was as under:-

(Production in tonnes)

1.	Gujarat	109600
2.	Haryana	2890
3.	Punjab	17800
4.	Rajasthan	593218
5.	Uttar Pradesh	1880
	All India	725388

Guar is use for Human consumption, fodder and industrial applications in the country.

(b) and (c) Government of India is implementing a Centrally Sponsored "Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oilpalm and Maize" (ISOPOM) in 14 major pulses growing states viz. Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamilnadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal for increasing the production and productivity of pulses including Guar. Under the scheme, financial assistance is provided for purchase of breeder seed, production of foundation seed, production and distribution of certified seeds, distribution of seed minikits, distribution of plant protection chemicals, equipments, weedicides, supply of rhizobium culture/ phosphate solubilising bacteria, distribution of gypsum/ pyrite/liming/dolomite, distribution of sprinkler sets and water carrying pipes, publicity, etc. to encourage farmers to grow pulses on a large scale. In order to disseminate information on improved production technologies amongst the farmers, block demonstrations and Integrated Pest Management (IPM) demonstrations are organized through State Department of Agriculture and Frontline Demonstrations through Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR).

[English]

Environmental Clearance to Tourism Projects

3663. SHRI RANEN BARMAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some tourism development projects of West Bengal are pending for environmental clearance with the Union Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to expedite clearance of these projects?

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

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Employment Rate in Agriculture Sector

3664. SHRI K. SUBBARAYAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the agriculture sector employs more persons than any other sector, both as farmers and agricultural workers in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the rate of employment in agriculture sector during the past two decades;

(c) the details of various Central welfare schemes for agriculture workers; and

(d) the details of assistance provided to various States under each of such scheme during 2004-05 and 2005-06?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) As per survey conducted by the

National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) in 1999-2000, the total number of workers in the unorganised sector was 36.9 crores. Of this, 23.7 crore workers were in the agriculture sector.

(b) The statement is annexed.

(c) and (d) At present, there is no central labour welfare scheme exclusively for all agricultural workers. However, the Programmes that are being implemented by Ministry of Rural Development are aimed at sustainable development of rural areas with focus on poverty alleviation. While the 'Sampoorna Gramin Rojgar Yojana' and the 'National Rural Employment Guarantee Act' aim at providing wage employment, the objective of the 'Swamjayanti Gram Swarajgar Yojana' is to provide self employment to the rural poor, including agricultural workers.

Statement

Per 1000 distribution of usually employed person in agriculture

(Source: NSSO)

NSS round (Survey period)	Rural		Urban	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
61st (2004-05)	665	833	61	181
55th (1990-00)	714	854	66	177
50th (1993-94)	741	862	90	247
43rd (1987-88)	745	847	91	294

[Translation]

Water Development Programme

3665. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to start any Water Development Programme at National level to be implemented by Panchayati Raj Institutions;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to expand the Hariyali programme only; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) Water being a State subject, the respective State Governments conceive plan and implement major, medium and minor schemes, both surface and ground water for utilization of water resources. Government of India is providing central assistance to the State Governments through various schemes/programmes, such as Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programmes (AIBP); Command Area Development and Water Management (CADWM) Programme; National Project for repair, Renovation and Restoration of Water Bodies directly linked to Agriculture, etc. The Government

of India also encourages rain water harvesting and recharge to groundwater. The areas related to (i) water conservation and water harvesting, (ii) irrigation canals including micro and minor irrigation works, (iii) provisions of irrigation facility to land owned by households belonging to scheduled castes and scheduled tribes or to land of beneficiaries of land reforms or that of the beneficiaries under the Indira Awas Yojana of the Government of India, (iv) renovation of traditional water bodies including desilting of tanks, and (v) flood control and protection works including drainage in water logged areas are duly focused in the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005 of the Ministry of Rural Development.

(c) and (d) As informed by Department of Land Resources, Ministry of Rural Development, Hariyali is not a programme but common guidelines for implementation of three Area Development Programmes namely Integrated Wastelands Development Programme (IWDP), Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP) and Desert Development Programme (DDP) are implemented on watershed basis.

Noise Pollution

3666. SHRI RAKESH SINGH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether airports have become a major source of noise pollution in the country, particularly in the metros;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has undertaken/proposes to undertake a noise pollution monitoring exercise; and

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the limitations involved in the implementation of such exercise; and

(f) the measures proposed/initiated to overcome the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) The increase in the air traffic in airports, particularly in metro cities, is one of the major sources contributing to noise pollution in the vicinity of airports.

(c) and (d) The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) had sponsored a study to Indian Institute of

Technology, Roorkee for monitoring the ambient noise levels around Indira Gandhi International Airport, Delhi. CPCB has also carried out ambient noise level monitoring around Indira Gandhi International Airport, New Delhi and Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose, Airport Kolkata. The monitoring results indicate that the noise levels exceed in comparison to the notified ambient noise standards.

(e) and (f) For effective monitoring of the ambient noise levels around the airports due to movement of aircrafts and for establishment of necessary monitoring network, the CPCB has initiated preparation of a document on "Procedure for Monitoring Ambient Noise Levels around Airport due to Aircrafts".

[English]

Privatisation of Water Sector

3667. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is contemplating to hand over water management to private sector;

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

(c) whether the Government has formulated any national water policy; and

(d) if so, the salient features thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The National Water Policy, 2002 (NWP) was adopted by the National Water Resources Council during its 5th meeting held on 1st April, 2002.

(d) The salient features of the National Water Policy, 2002 are given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

Salient features of National Water Policy, 2002

- Water is a precious national resource and its planning, development and management should be governed by national perspectives.

- A well developed information system for water related data at national/state level should be established with a network of data banks and data bases integrating and strengthening the existing central and state level agencies.
- Water resources development and management will have to be planned for a hydrological unit. Appropriate river basin organisations should be established for the planned development and management of the river basins.
- Water should be made available to water short areas by transfer from other areas including transfer from one river basin to another, after taking into account the requirements of the areas/basins.
- Planning of water resources development projects should, as far as possible, be for multi-purpose with an integrated and multi-disciplinary approach having regard to human and ecological aspects including those of disadvantaged sections of the society.
- In the allocation of water, first priority should be given for drinking water, followed by irrigation, hydro-power, ecology, agro-industries and non-agricultural industries, navigation and other uses, in that order.
- The exploitation of groundwater should be regulated with reference to recharge possibilities and consideration of social equity. The detrimental environmental consequences of over-exploitation of ground water need to be effectively prevented.
- Careful planning is necessary to ensure that construction and rehabilitation activities proceed simultaneously. A skeletal national policy on resettlement and rehabilitation needs to be formulated such that project affected persons share the benefits through proper rehabilitation.
- Adequate emphasis needs to be given to the physical and financial sustainability of existing water resources facilities. There is need to ensure that the water charges for various uses should be fixed such as to cover at least the operation and maintenance charges initially and a part of the capital costs subsequently.
- Management of the water resources for diverse uses should incorporate a participatory approach by involving users and other stakeholders alongwith various governmental agencies, in an effective and decisive manner.
- Private sector participation should be encouraged in planning, development and management of water resources projects for diverse uses, wherever feasible.
- Both surface water and ground water should be regularly monitored for quality. Effluents should be treated to acceptable levels and standards before discharging them into natural streams. Minimum flow should be ensured in the perennial stream for maintaining ecology.
- Efficiency of utilization should be improved in all the diverse uses of water and conservation consciousness promoted through education, regulation, incentives and disincentives.
- There should be a Master Plan for flood control and management for each flood prone basin. In flood control and management, the strategy should be to reduce the intensity of floods.
- Land erosion by sea or river should be minimized by suitable cost-effective measures. Indiscriminate occupation of, and economic activity in coastal areas and flood plain zones should be regulated.
- Needs of drought-prone areas should be given priority in the planning of project for development of water resources. These areas should be made less vulnerable through various measures.
- The water sharing/distribution amongst the states should be guided by a national perspective with due regard to water resources availability and needs within the river basin.
- Training and research efforts should be intensified as an integral part of water resources development.

Rice Production

3668. SHRI G. V. HARSHA KUMAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total rice production at present in the country during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) whether the production of rice is matching its requirements in the country;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to bridge the gap between production and requirement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) State-wise production of rice in the country during the last three years, i.e., from 2003-04 to 2005-06, is given in the enclosed statement.

(b) and (c) The table below gives the production and estimated consumption requirement of rice in the country during the years 2003-04 to 2005-06:

(Million Tonnes)

Year	Rice		
	Domestic Production	Consumption Requirement	Difference
2003-04	88.53	87.92	0.61
2004-05	83.13	89.24	-6.11
2005-06	91.04*	90.54	0.50

*4th advance estimates released on 15.07.2006.

Note: Consumption requirement has been worked out on the basis of monthly per capita quantity of consumption reported in the National Sample Survey, 55th Round Report (1999-2000) and the population projections given by the Office of the Registrar General of India. The figures are inclusive of seed, feed and wastage.

The domestic production of rice matches with the projected consumption requirement barring the year 2004-05 during which rainfall from the south-west monsoon was deficient resulting in reduced rice production.

(d) To increase the production of rice in the country a Centrally Sponsored Scheme "Integrated Cereals Developments Programme in Rice Based Cropping Systems Areas (ICDP-Rice)" is under implementation. 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; for farm implements; installation of sprinkler irrigation system; varietal replacement and production of certified seeds. Besides, Frontline Demonstrations are also organized by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) on farmers' fields on 100 percent Central assistance.

Statement

State-wise Production of Rice

(Million Tonnes)

Sl.No.	State/UT	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06*
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	8953.0	9601.0	11692.0
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	154.6	135.0	#

1	2	3	4	5
3.	Assam	3880.0	3470.0	3430.0
4.	Bihar	5447.8	2472.2	3417.0
5.	Chhattisgarh	5567.6	4383.3	5012.0
6.	Goa	170.7	145.2	#
7.	Gujarat	1277.0	1238.2	1331.0
8.	Haryana	2790.0	3023.0	3210.0
9.	Himachal Pradesh	120.6	122.0	109.0
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	504.2	492.2	518.0
11.	Jharkhand	2310.0	1677.0	1558.0
12.	Karnataka	2550.0	3547.0	4351.0
13.	Kerala	570.0	667.1	635.0
14.	Madhya Pradesh	1750.3	1169.0	1656.0
15.	Maharashtra	2835.0	2164.0	2433.0
16.	Manipur	381.2	435.9	#
17.	Meghalaya	200.7	193.7	#
18.	Mizoram	114.6	104.1	#
19.	Nagaland	248.0	259.8	#
20.	Orissa	6733.7	6466.0	6753.0
21.	Punjab	9656.0	10437.0	10193.0
22.	Rajasthan	164.8	150.4	153.0
23.	Sikkim	21.2	21.6	#
24.	Tamil Nadu	3222.8	5082.2	6127.0
25.	Tripura	516.6	545.1	#
26.	Uttar Pradesh	13018.8	9555.6	11130.0
27.	Uttaranchal	569.0	572.0	590.0
28.	West Bengal	14662.3	14884.8	14864.0
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	30.9	29.2	#
30.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	22.3	23.4	#
31.	Delhi	11.1	14.3	#

1	2	3	4	5
32.	Daman and Diu	3.9	4.0	#
33.	Pondicherry	67.0	65.7	#
34.	Others	NA	NA	1877.0
35.	All India	88526.0	83131.7	91039.0

*4th Advance Estimates released on 15.07.2006

Included in Others

NA: Not Applicable.

Advertisement from AIR, Rohtak

3669. SHRI KISHAN SINGH SANGWAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of All India Radio Stations other than AIR, Rohatak broadcast UPSC's recruitment advertisements for the information of the candidates;

(b) if so, whether there is a proposal under consideration to broadcast the UPSC's recruitment advertisement through All India Radio, Rohtak keeping in view a big demand of unemployed youth of the State; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) to (c) Prasar Bharati have informed that AIR being a premier public service broadcaster in the country, it regularly broadcasts Rozgar Samachar/Employment information making use of the information received from various sources including that published in Employment News. AIR, Rohtak also broadcasts daily, in its youth programme, the vacancies advertised by UPSC in Employment News and also from time to time vacancies advertised by other Government agencies.

Jhum Cultivation

3670. SHRI MANI CHARENAMEI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the agency/institutions responsible for study of jhum cultivation in the country, particularly in the North East;

(b) the number of families engaged in jhum cultivation in the country, State-wise;

(c) the yield of paddy per hectare from jhum cultivation, State-wise;

(d) whether alternative sustainable vocations have been recommended for jhum dependent farmers; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) Indian Council of Agriculture Research (ICAR) Complex for North Eastern Region at Barapani, Meghalaya and North Eastern Regional Institute of Water and Land Management (NERIWALM), Tezpur Assam are involved for study of Jhum Cultivation in North Eastern States.

(b) As per the Task Force Report on shifting Cultivation in India Statewise number of families involved in jhum cultivation is given in the enclosed statement.

(c) The productivity level in jhum land has been assessed by National Productivity Council while evaluating the programme of Watershed Development Project in Shifting Cultivation Areas in the States of Nagaland and Tripura. The average yield of paddy under mixed cropping was found 755 Kg/Ha. in pre and post treatment for Nagaland. In case of only paddy cultivation pre and post figures are 1632 Kg/ha. and 1786 Kg/ha for Tripura.

(d) and (e) Government of India is implementing a Additional Central Assistance to the State Plan Scheme of "Watershed Development Project in Shifting Cultivation

Areas (WDPSCA)* in all North Eastern States namely Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland and Tripura with 100% grant from 1994-95 and is continuing during Tenth Five Year Plan. The Scheme aims at overall development of jhum areas on Watershed Basis, reclaiming the land affected by shifting cultivation and socio-economic upliftment of jhumia families living in these areas by way of encouragement for adoption of settled agriculture.

During first four year of the Tenth Plan (2002-06) an amount of Rs. 88.66 crore have been utilized for development of 0.898 lakh ha. Area and for 2006-07 and amount of Rs. 40.00 crore is allocated to cover 0.40 lakh ha. area. During Tenth Five Year Plan 43967 families were given alternate employment through diversified agricultural practices, Horticulture development, Household activities and Livelihood support system for encouraging jhumias for adoption of settled agriculture.

Statement

Sl.No.	States	No. of families in lakh No. of Jhumia families
1.	Andhra Pradesh	0.232
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.540
3.	Assam	0.580
4.	Bihar	0.122
5.	Madhya Pradesh	0.025
6.	Manipur	0.700
7.	Meghalaya	0.523
8.	Mizoram	0.500
9.	Nagaland	1.161
10.	Orissa	1.410
11.	Tripura	0.430
Total		6.223

Source—Task Force Report on Shifting Cultivation in India.

Production Capacity of Sugar Mills

3671. SHRI MANJUNATH KUNNUR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of sugar mill in the country alongwith their production capacity and the actual quantity of sugarcane crushed and sugar produced during the last three years, year-wise and State-wise;

(b) the lowest and the highest price paid to sugarcane growers by these mills during the said period; and

(c) the Central assistance provided to the mills in form of subsidy, loan etc. 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) Statement showing year-wise and state-wise number of installed sugar mills, their production capacity, sugarcane crushed, sugar produced during the sugar seasons 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06 is enclosed.

(b) The range of price paid to the sugarcane growers for the sugar seasons 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06 is as under:-

(Rs. per quintal)	
Sugar Season	Range of Price Paid
2003-2004	73.00 — 134.00
2004-2005	74.50 — 165.00
2005-2006	79.50 — 184.10

(c) The position of assistance in the form of subsidy and loan provided by the Central Government during the financial year 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06 is as under:-

(Rupees in crores)		
Financial Year	Subsidy	Loans
2003-2004	237.56	64.66
2004-2005	244.99	214.84
2005-2006	96.37	123.14

Statement

Year-wise and State-wise No. of Factory Installed, Production Capacity, Sugarcane Crushed and Sugar Produced during 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06 sugar seasons (October-September)

Sl.No.	State	Installed Sugar Factory (Numbers)			Production Capacity (Lakh tonnes)			Sugarcane crushed (Lakh tonnes)			Sugar Production (Lakh tonnes)		
		2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
1.	Punjab	23	23	23	6.84	6.84	6.84	40.65	32.20	37.64	3.88	3.37	3.89
2.	Haryana	15	15	15	5.36	5.36	5.36	55.80	39.16	37.19	5.86	3.98	3.88
3.	Uttar Pradesh	120	122	131	44.11	45.37	52.34	463.52	514.72	605.74	46.08	51.52	55.64
4.	Uttaranchal	10	10	10	4.12	4.12	4.12	39.73	39.55	45.19	3.83	3.36	4.14
5.	Madhya Pradesh	11	11	11	1.54	1.54	1.54	9.17	5.95	8.02	0.94	0.78	0.94
6.	Gujarat	22	22	22	10.71	10.71	10.71	98.49	74.05	107.09	10.77	8.32	12.44
7.	Maharashtra	185	186	188	69.35	69.78	70.09	291.88	194.54	442.75	31.99	23.03	52.84
8.	Bihar	28	28	28	4.85	4.85	4.85	28.97	26.49	44.59	2.77	2.70	4.19
9.	Andhra Pradesh	42	42	42	9.08	9.08	9.08	86.50	92.17	117.55	8.81	12.03	12.75
10.	Karnataka	47	48	51	14.46	14.59	15.44	109.35	102.78	161.83	11.57	11.32	20.09
11.	Tamil Nadu	38	38	38	15.24	15.24	15.24	92.80	114.92	165.97	11.90	14.75	21.38
12.	Orissa	8	8	8	1.02	1.02	1.02	4.45	4.66	4.42	0.44	0.847	0.52
13.	Pondicherry	2	2	2	0.38	0.38	0.38	2.06	1.85	3.42	0.20	0.19	0.26
14.	Rajasthan	3	3	3	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.99	0.52	0.79	0.10	0.11	0.05
15.	Chhattisgarh	1	1	1	0.22	0.22	0.22	1.75	1.02	1.85	0.17	0.13	0.22
16.	Assam	3	3	3	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
17.	Kerala	2	2	2	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
18.	West Bengal	2	2	2	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.83	0.58	0.59	0.07	0.05	0.07
19.	Nagaland	1	1	1	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
20.	Goa	1	1	1	0.09	0.09	0.09	1.12	0.89	1.21	0.10	0.09	0.11
	All India	564	568	582	188.02	189.85	197.97	1327.86	1246.05	1785.84	139.58	136.60	193.21

[*Translation*]

Production and Demand of Corn

3672. SHRI KAILASH NATH SINGH YADAV:
PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any assessment has been made regarding low production of corn and its increasing demand by the corn based industries in the country during the last three years;

(b) the quantity of corn being received by the corn based industries each of last three years;

(c) the production and consumption of corn in the country during the last three years and current year;

(d) whether the Government proposes to reduce the corn export; and

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

[*English*]

Forestry with Japanese Assistance

3673. SHRI B. MAHTAB:
SHRI ANANTA NAYAK:

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

(a) whether the Government has a proposal to implement a Forestry Sector Development Project in Orissa with Japanese assistance during the current financial year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the project would be implemented in the scheduled districts of the State; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. Orissa Forestry Sector Development Project is being implemented in Orissa with the loan assistance from the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) starting from the current financial year 2006-07 and ending in the year 2012-13. The project components *inter alia* include Restoration of Degraded Forests, Coastal Plantation, Bio-diversity Management and Community/Tribal Development. The total cost of the project is Rs. 659.78 crores which includes Rs. 100.08 crores as state share. The districts including scheduled districts in which the project is being implemented are Angul, Deogarh, Gajapati, Keonjhar, Koraput, Rayagada, Kandhamal, Sundargarh, Balasore and Bhadrak.

Agri-Growth Centres

3674. SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Agri-Growth Centres working at present in the country, State-wise and location-wise;

(b) whether the Government of Gujarat has sent any proposal to the Union Government for setting up of Agri-Growth Centres in the State;

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

(d) the time by which the approval is likely to be given?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) The Department of Agriculture and Cooperation (DAC) is not implementing any scheme with the title "Agri-Growth Centres".

The DAC is, however, implementing a scheme with the title "Agri-Clinics and Agri-Business Centres" (ACABCs). Training and handholding support is provided to agriculture graduates selected for coverage under the

scheme. The trained graduates are expected to set up their agri-ventures in self-employment mode for providing fee-based extension and other services to farmers.

A total of 3771 agri-ventures have been set up by agriculture graduates trained under ACABCs scheme so far. Number of such agri-ventures set up in different States is given in the enclosed statement-I. Information on number of such agri-ventures set up in different districts of Gujarat given in the enclosed statement-II.

(b) to (d) Gujarat Agro-Industries Corporation Ltd. (GAIC) had sent a proposal to National Institute of Agriculture Extension Management (MANAGE), Hyderabad seeking financial support for imparting training to about 400 prospective agri-preneurs under ACABCs scheme. Implementation of this proposal requires signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between MANAGE and GAIC, which is pending with GAIC for signature. Training under this proposal will have to follow all the norms and guidelines of ACABCs scheme.

Statement I

State-wise number of agri-ventures established by trained agri-graduates under agri-clinics and agri-business centres scheme (Period from 01/04/2002 to 12/12/2006)

Sl.No.	State	No. of Agri-ventures established by trained agri-graduates
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	207
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0
3.	Assam	15
4.	Bihar	341
5.	Chandigarh	0
6.	Chhattisgarh	42
7.	Delhi	0
8.	Goa	1
9.	Gujarat	119
10.	Haryana	12
11.	Himachal Pradesh	10

1	2	3
12.	Jammu and Kashmir	9
13.	Jharkhand	8
14.	Karnataka	564
15.	Kerala	15
16.	Madhya Pradesh	122
17.	Maharashtra	713
18.	Manipur	20
19.	Meghalaya	0
20.	Mizoram	0
21.	Nagaland	0
22.	Orissa	74
23.	Pondicherry	1
24.	Punjab	12
25.	Rajasthan	479
26.	Sikkim	0
27.	Tamil Nadu	167
28.	Tripura	0
29.	Uttar Pradesh	754
30.	Uttaranchal	35
31.	West Bengal	51
Total		3771

Statement II

District-wise number of Agri-ventures established in Gujarat under Agri-Clinics and Agri-Business Centres (ACABCs) Scheme

Sl.No.	District	No. of Agri-ventures established
1	2	3
1.	Ahmedabad	6
2.	Amreli	2

1	2	3
3.	Anand	5
4.	Banaskantha	4
5.	Bharuch	1
6.	Bhavnagar	4
7.	Dohad	2
8.	Gandhinagar	6
9.	Jamnagar	3
10.	Junagadh	11
11.	Kachchh	12
12.	Kheda	5
13.	Mahesana	2
14.	Navsari	6
15.	Panch Mahals	1
16.	Rajkot	6
17.	Sabarkantha	4
18.	Surat	8
19.	Surendranagar	10
20.	Vadodara	11
21.	Valsad	10
Total		119

Policy for Tiger Reserves

3675. SHRI KULDEEP BISHNOI:
SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD:

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to frame a comprehensive tourism management policy for Tiger Reserves spelling out the role of the Project Tiger Directorate and State authorities;

(b) if so, details thereof; and

(c) the reasons for very slow rate of increase in the population of tigers in Tiger Reserves during the last 20 years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) Yes sir. The Ministry has taken action for implementing an eco-tourism strategy involving various stakeholders, so that benefits of tourism can be shared with local communities as recommended by the Tiger Task Force, which was constituted on the recommendations of the National Board for Wildlife.

(c) No such trend is discernable. The tiger reserve-wise tiger estimation figures pertaining to the last three All India estimations, as received from States, is given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

Sl.No.	Name of Reserve	1995	1997	2001-02
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Bandipur (Karnataka)	74	75	82
2.	Bandhavgarh (Madhya Pradesh)	46	46	56
3.	Bhadra (Karnataka)	—	—	35
4.	Bori-Satpura-Pachmari (Madhya Pradesh)	—	—	35
5.	Buxa (West Bengal)	31	32	31
6.	Corbett (Uttar Pradesh)	128	138	137

1	2	3	4	5
7.	Dampha (Mizoram)	4	5	4
8.	Dudhwa (Uttar Pradesh)	98	104	76*
9.	Indravati (Madhya Pradesh)	15	15	29
10.	Kanha (Madhya Pradesh)	97	114	127
11.	Kalakad (Tamil Nadu)	16	28	27
12.	Manas (Assam)	94	125	65*
13.	Melghat (Maharashtra)	71	73	73
14.	Nagarjunasagar (Andhra Pradesh)	34	39	67
15.	Namdhapu (Arunachal Pradesh)	52	57	61
16.	Nameri (Assam)	—	—	26
17.	Pakhuli (Arunachal Pradesh)	—	—	—
18.	Palamau (Bihar)	47	44	32
19.	Panna (Madhya Pradesh)	22	22	31
20.	Periyar (Kerala)	39	40	36
21.	Pench (Madhya Pradesh)	27	29	40
22.	Pench (Maharashtra)	—	—	14
23.	Ranthombore (Rajasthan)	38	32	35
24.	Sariska (Rajasthan)	25	24	22
25.	Similipal (Orissa)	97	98	99
26.	Sunderbans (West Bengal)	242	263	245
27.	Tadoba (Maharashtra)	36	42	38
28.	Valmiki (Bihar)	N.R.	53	53
Total		1333	1498	1576

* Under compilation/vetting

N.R.—Not reported by the State.

Functioning of ESI Scheme

3676. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any Committee has been set up by the Employees State Insurance Corporation to review the functioning of medical care under ESI Scheme;

(b) if so, the term and composition of the Committee and the time by when the Committee is likely to present its report;

(c) whether the Government has received any complaints/suggestions regarding inadequate medical facilities available in the ESI hospitals in various States particularly in Karnataka; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANADES): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. General Purpose Medical Care Sub-Committee of ESI Corporation has been constituted by the Chairman, ESI Corporation on 16.03.2005.

General Purpose Medical Care Sub-Committee (GPMCSC) visits various States by rotation to review the functioning of the ESI Scheme in the States and there is no time limit within which it is to complete its work. The composition and terms of reference of the Committee is given in the enclosed statement.

(c) and (d) Some complaints/suggestions for improvement in the medical facilities are received from time to time. The action taken for improvement of medical facilities in ESI Hospitals is as under:-

- (i) Modernization and upgradation of hospitals by providing modern equipments for diagnostic and clinical services. To facilitate early sanction of equipments for hospitals, Sr. State Medical Commissioners/State Medical Commissioners have been delegated powers to sanction equipments up to Rs. 15 lakhs per unit at the State level itself.
- (ii) ESI Corporation has increased the ceiling for providing medical care from Rs. 750 to Rs. 900 per Insured Person family unit per annum w.e.f. 01.04.2005 to facilitate State Governments with more funds to improve medical services in ESI Hospitals.
- (iii) ESI Corporation has introduced the Scheme of Revolving Fund for providing advance/reimbursement for super speciality/speciality treatment, purchase of drugs and dressings and purchase and repair and maintenance of equipments.
- (iv) Tie up arrangements have been made with other reputed Government/Non-Government hospitals for providing super speciality/speciality services which are not available in ESI Hospitals.
- (v) ESI Corporation is in the process of getting hospitals graded by professional agencies.

(vi) The ESI Corporation is in the process of getting hospitals ISO 9001-2000 certification. One ESI hospital in Delhi has already been granted ISO Certification.

Statement

Composition of Sub-Committee of ESI Corporation.

1. Shri Chander Kant Khaira, Hon'ble Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha).
2. Shri G. Sanjeeva Reddy, President, INTUC, New Delhi, Employees' Representative.
3. Shri Ram Kishore Tripathi, Secretary, HMS, Kanpur, Employees' Representative.
4. Shri C.P. Singh, President, INTUC, Patna, Employees' Representative.
5. Shri Sharad S. Patil, Secretary-General, Employers' Federation of India, Mumbai, Employer's Representative.
6. Shri Sudershan Sarin, National President, Laghu Udyog Bharati, New Delhi, Employer's Representative.
7. Shri M. K. Garg, Sr. Advisor, ASSOCHAM, Corporate House, New Delhi, Employer's Representative.
8. Director-General, Health Services, Min. of Health and Family Welfare, Govt. of India.
9. The Secretary, Labour Department, Govt. of Tamil Nadu.
10. The Secretary, Labour Department, Govt. of Karnataka.
11. The Secretary, Health Department, Govt. of Gujarat.
12. The Secretary, Health Department, Govt. of Punjab.
13. The Director-General, ESI Corporation.

The Medical Commissioner, ESI Corporation will assist the Committee.

The terms of reference of the General Purposes Medical Care Sub-Committee will be as follows:-

- (i) The Committee will make suggestions for improvement of delivery/functioning of ESI medical scheme.
- (ii) To oversee the administration of Medical Care in various States.
- (iii) To interact with the representatives of employees, employers, medical profession, State Govt. Authorities and ESIC officials on issue of medical care provided under ESI Scheme.
- (iv) To undertake field visits and inspect ESI Hospitals, Dispensaries and Branch Offices, etc.

Water Pipeline through Ambaji Sanctuary

3677. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government is aware that the proposal regarding laying of drinking water supply pipeline for Ambaji Town through Forest Area of Balam Ambaji Wildlife Sanctuary in Gujarat is still pending for forestry clearance;

(b) if so, the reasons for delay; and

(c) the time by which approval is likely to be given thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (c) The proposal for laying of drinking water supply pipeline for Ambaji Town under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 has been approved in-principle by the Central Government on 15.11.2006.

Decline in Price of Cotton

3678. SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the prices of Cotton have been falling steeply in the country as reported in 'Dainik Jagran' dated October 11, 2006;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to safeguard the interest of the agriculturists?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINSTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) The 'Dainik Jagran' dated October 11, 2006 reported fall in prices of cotton (Kapas) and lint in some Mandis of Punjab and North India due to slump in market. It also mentioned that in the Mandis of Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan, the market arrival of cotton has been lower.

As per information available from the Cotton Corporation of India (CCI), the opening prices of Kapas during the current cotton season 2006-07 in the Northern Zone are ruling above the Minimum Support Price (MSP) level. The MSP for 2006-07 had been fixed by the Government on 26.9.2006 at Rs. 1770 per quintal for Cotton (Kapas) of medium staple length and at Rs. 1990 per quintal for long staple length cotton (Kapas). The MSP per quintal of other varieties of Kapas ranges from Rs. 1320 to Rs. 34. Variation in MSPs is due to difference in quality and other factors. Rise and fall in prices in the open market are due to interplay of demand and supply forces. Currently, the prices of Kapas have been ruling in the range of Rs. 1800 to Rs. 2100 per quintal in Northern States. Cotton arrivals are higher in Punjab and Haryana.

(c) With a view to safeguard the interest of farmers, the Government has announced the MSPs well before the commencement of the Kapas season. The CCI is the nodal agency to undertake MSP operations. The MSP operations of CCI are in progress. The CCI has been continuing its operations including the States of Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan.

Complaints Received by Coastal Management Authority

3679. SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of complaints received by the National Coastal Zone Management Authority and the State Coastal Zone Management Authorities since their inception; and

(b) the reaction of respective Governments thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN

MEENA): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Sharing of Water

3680. SHRI K. C. PALLANI SHAMY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government holds any talks with the neighbouring countries regarding sharing of water resources;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof and the rivers which are identified for the same; and

(c) the details of the dams, canals, projects, if any, proposed to be build on the rivers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. Talks regarding sharing of water of common rivers are held between India and Bangladesh.

A Treaty has been signed between India and Bangladesh in December, 1996 for sharing of waters of river Ganga/Ganges at Farakka during the lean season (1st January to 31st May every year). The common rivers, namely, Teesta, Jaladhaka, Torsa, Manu, Khowai, Gumti, Muhuri and Feni have been identified for talks regarding sharing of water resources between both the countries with priority to river Teesta.

(c) Dams, canals and projects on the rivers are proposed by the State Governments as per their priorities and resources. As per information made available by various states, the Working Group for XI Plan has assessed that 309 new projects can be proposed during the XI Plan.

[Translation]

Water to Rajasthan from Sardar Sarovar Dam

3681. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the area in Rajasthan likely to be benefited from the water supply from Sardar Sarovar Dam on Narmada River;

(b) the time by which the water supply is likely to commence;

(c) whether infrastructure like canals/channels/ reservoirs etc. in the related areas of Gujarat and Rajasthan has been completed; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) 3.00 lakh hectares of Gross Command Area with Culturable Command Area of 2.46 lakh hectares in Rajasthan is likely to be benefited from the water supply from Sardar Sarovar Dam on Narmada River. In addition, 233 villages are also expected to get drinking water facility through Narmada Canal system in Rajasthan.

(b) Government of Gujarat has planned to release 500 cusecs of Narmada Water for Rajasthan by 1st week of April 2007.

(c) and (d) No sir. the works are in different stages of progress by the State Governments.

[English]

Sourashtra Channel

3682. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to start a channel in Sourashtra Language and to relay programmes in the said language on DD and AIR in various stations;

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

(c) the time by which the new channels is likely to be started.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) Prasar Bharati have informed that there is no such proposal under consideration in Doordarshan.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Construction of Malls

3683. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to refer to the reply given to USQ No. 3433 dated May 15, 2008 regarding construction of malls and state:

(a) whether the information has since been collected;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken against the mall costing more than Rs. 50 crore constructed without obtaining mandatory environmental clearance; and

(d) the present status of W.P. No. 202/1005 pending before the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEEENA): (a) and (b) The information is still being collected.

(c) and (d) The Writ Petition number 202/1995 the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India has been disposed off on 17th October 2008. In compliance with the Supreme Court directions, *inter alia*, the Ministry has taken action under the Environment Protection Act, 1986 against four parties, who had started construction without obtaining prior permission.

[Translation]

World Bank Assistance to Check Pollution

3684. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken/proposes to take assistance from the World Bank to control industrial pollution;

(b) if so, whether any action plan has been prepared by the Government in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the amount of financial assistance provided by the World Bank to the Government for checking pollution of industrial area as on date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) Yes Sir, the World Bank has agreed to provide to India an advance to finance certain expenditures required for the preparation of the proposed Capacity Building for Industrial Pollution Management Project.

(b) and (c) The details of the action plan are spelled out in the Terms and Conditions of the advance and include.

(i) Carrying out institutional needs assessment for the purpose of facilitating development of plans for building pollution management capacity at the state level;

(ii) Developing a National Program for Pollution Management and Rehabilitation of Contaminated Sites, which includes needs assessment study for implementation of hazardous waste management.

(iii) Carrying out studies on innovative waste dump remediation and safe land filling for the purpose of developing waste management pilots to be implemented under the project.

(iv) Providing operational and monitoring support to the Project Preparation Cell within the Ministry of Environment and Forests;

(v) Carrying out information, education, public-outreach and communication activities; and

(vi) Carrying out social and environmental assessments for the purpose of identifying social and environmental impacts likely to result from the carrying out of the Project.

(d) The World Bank has agreed to provide to India an advance not exceeding five hundred seventy thousand U. S. Dollars (\$570,000). The purpose of the Advance is to finance certain expenditures required for the preparation of the proposed Capacity Building for Industrial Pollution Management Project.

[English]

Employees under ESI Scheme

3685. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of employees in various States still remain unattended under ESI Scheme;

(b) if so, the number of such employees as on date;

(c) the details of the targets and the number of area estimated by the Government to cover during 2005-06 and 2006-07;

(d) the details of the targets achieved so far;

(e) the names of States in which the implementation of the scheme remain poor; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government for effective implementation of the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) and (b) The ESI Act applies to factories using power in manufacturing process and employing 10 or more employees and to non-power using factories, shops, hotels, restaurants, cinemas including preview theatres, road motor transport undertakings and newspaper establishment employing 20 or more employees in the implemented areas under the Act. Workers of all such factories and establishment drawing wages upto Rs. 10,000 per month are covered under the Scheme.

(c) and (d) Details is given in the enclosed statement I and II.

(e) The ESI Scheme can not be implemented in new geographical areas unless the concerned State Government make arrangements for medical care. During the year 2006-07, the implementation in the State of Assam, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Rajasthan, and West Bengal is below the fixed target.

(f) The ESI Corporation has initiated various steps for effective implementation of the Scheme, such as:

(i) The entire expenditure for providing medical care for initial three years is borne entirely by ESI Corporation and for five years in respect of North-Eastern States.

(ii) The ESI Corporation in its 136th meeting held on 15.06.06 has taken in-principle decision to consider to take over the administration of Medical Scheme from those States who are willing to hand over the same to ESIC under Section 59 of ESI Act, 1948. A Committee has been constituted to work out and examine the feasibility and modalities for taking over the ESI Scheme from State Governments.

(iii) The progress of implementation of the ESI Scheme is discussed in various forums with the State Government and pursued at Regional level and the Headquarters Level, etc.

Statement I

Implementation of ESI Scheme to new areas as per phased programme for 2005-06 (Target and Achievement)

Sl.No.	Name of the Region	Target Fixed for 2005-06		Achievement during 2005-06	
		No. of Centres	No. of Employees	No. of Centres Implemented	No. of Employees covered
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	5	4860	15	17635
2.	Assam	3	3584	1	1664
3.	Bihar	Nil	Nil	1	185
4.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	1	15500	1	15500
5.	Daman and Diu	1	28000	1	28000

1	2	3	4	5	6
6.	Himachal Pradesh	1	2500	1	2500
7.	Jharkhand	2	3600	2	3600
8.	Haryana	Nil	Nil	9	25675
9.	Karnataka	5	11700	1	1500
10.	Kerala	23	8718	24	8766
11.	Madhya Pradesh	2	13950	1	1255
12.	Maharashtra	3	9050	Nil	Nil
13.	Meghalaya	1	4500	1	4500
14.	Nagaland	1	1670	Nil	Nil
15.	Orissa	1	1500	Nil	Nil
16.	Punjab	11	14185	13	12560
17.	Rajasthan	8	9680	12	11275
18.	Tamil Nadu	1	5850	3	12125
19.	Uttar Pradesh	4	3235	3	1350
20.	Uttaranchal	Nil	Nil	1	675
21.	West Bengal	3	12650	Nil	Nil
Total		76	154710	90	148785

Statement II*Implementation of ESI Scheme to new areas as per phased programme for 2006-07*

Sl.No.	Name of the Region	Target Fixed for 2006-07		Achievement upto Nov, 2006	
		No. of Centres	No. of Employees	No. of Centres implemented	No. of Employees covered
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	5	6701	5	10850
2.	Assam	7	12400	1	1065
3.	Chhattisgarh	1	13100	—	—
4.	Gujarat	6	38400	3	8250
5.	Haryana	2	2265	2	760

1	2	3	4	5	6
6.	Karnataka	5	18500	1	2700
7.	Kerala	5	672	4	970
8.	Madhya Pradesh	7	22810	2	11710
9.	Maharashtra	6	44787	—	—
10.	Orissa	3	10700	—	—
11.	Punjab	7	6440	7	6090
12.	Rajasthan	7	10335	1	2835
13.	Tamil Nadu	6	18700	7	10250
14.	Uttar Pradesh	3	5630	2	2380
15.	Uttaranchal	1	1450	3	7080
16.	West Bengal	3	8335	1	4700
Total		74	221225	39	75,640

Expansion of ESI Scheme in Unorganised Sector

3686. SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:
SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH:
SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:

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

(a) whether the Government has a proposal to extend provision of ESI scheme to the workers in unorganised sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the workers in unorganised sector would be covered?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) No, Sir. There is no proposal to extend provisions of ESI Act to unorganised sector workers.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Land for Construction of ESI Hospitals

3687. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:
SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:

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

(a) whether Employees State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) has acquired land for construction of hospitals/dispensaries in various States;

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

(c) the States in which hospitals/dispensaries have been constructed and started operation so far;

(d) the States in which construction of building has not been taken up so far; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to expedite the construction work in such States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Details of property acquired for construction by ESI Corporation are given in the enclosed statement-I.

(c) Details are given in the enclosed statement-II.

(d) Details are given in the enclosed statement-III.

(e) Hospitals/dispensaries on vacant plots are constructed on need basis in consultation with the State Government concerned keeping in view the norms prescribed for the purpose. The position is reviewed from time to time.

Statement I

*Details of land acquired for construction of ES/
Hospitals/Dispensaries (State/UT-wise)*

Sl.No.	State	Number of plots acquired	Area (in acres)
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	38	168.48
2.	Assam	3	7.44
3.	Bihar	8	43.67
4.	Punjab	30	74.41
5.	Chandigarh	2	5.78
6.	Chhattisgarh	2	2.08
7.	Tamilnadu	71	223.85
8.	Delhi	35	67.12
9.	Karnataka	62	75.36
10.	Madhya Pradesh	32	183.31
11.	Maharashtra	12	117.94
12.	Orissa	22	67.55
13.	Rajasthan	50	93.12
14.	Pondicherry	5	20.56
15.	Uttar Pradesh	39	133.03
16.	West Bengal	19	430.97
17.	Himachal Pradesh	3	0.67
18.	Kerala	62	233.53
19.	Gujarat	84	144.39

1	2	3	4
20.	Haryana	24	73.44
21.	Goa	9	6.25
22.	Jammu and Kashmir	1	4.00
23.	Jharkhand	3	45.00
24.	Uttaranchal	1	0.75

Statement II

*Details of States/UT in which hospitals/dispensaries
has been constructed and made operational*

Sl.No.	State	Number of Hospitals	Number of dispensaries
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	11	25
2.	Assam	1	3
3.	Bihar	3	4
4.	Punjab	8	21
5.	Chandigarh	1	1
6.	Chhattisgarh	Nil	2
7.	Tamilnadu	9	54
8.	Delhi	4	17
9.	Karnataka	9	52
10.	Madhya Pradesh	6	26
11.	Maharashtra	11	2
12.	Orissa	6	10
13.	Rajasthan	5	39
14.	Pondicherry	1	4
15.	Uttar Pradesh	16	21
16.	West Bengal	14	3
17.	Himachal Pradesh	1	1
18.	Kerala	13	39

1	2	3	4
19.	Gujarat	12	70
20.	Haryana	5	16
21.	Goa	1	5
22.	Jammu and Kashmir	1	—
23.	Jharkhand	2	—
24.	Uttaranchal	—	1

Statement III

Details of States/U.T. in which construction of building has not been taken up so far

Sl.No.	State	Number of vacant plot
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2
2.	Assam	NII
3.	Bihar	1
4.	Punjab	NII
5.	Chandigarh	NII
6.	Chhattisgarh	NII
7.	Tamilnadu	8
8.	Delhi	5
9.	Karnataka	1
10.	Madhya Pradesh	NII
11.	Maharashtra	5
12.	Orissa	6
13.	Rajasthan	6
14.	Pondicherry	NII
15.	Uttar Pradesh	2
16.	West Bengal	2
17.	Himachal Pradesh	1
18.	Kerala	10

1	2	3
19.	Gujarat	2
20.	Haryana	3
21.	Goa	3
22.	Jammu and Kashmir	NII
23.	Jharkhand	1
24.	Uttaranchal	NII

[Translation]

Sitanallah Project

3688. SHRI TEK LAL MAHTO: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Sitanallah Project in Jharkhand has been under consideration of the Union Government for the last twenty years; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the details of the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) No such proposal namely "Sitanallah Project" in Jharkhand State has been received for techno-economic appraisal in the Central Water Commission.

[English]

Contaminated Water

3689. SHRI UDAY SINGH:
SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the new Nano-Technology based system for removal of arsenic from water as reported in 'The Times of India' dated November 11, 2006;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken to adopt this technology in the country;

(c) whether a large number of iron removal plant were installed by the Government for purification of water and most out of them have now become defunct; and

(d) If so, the details thereof and steps taken by the Government to defunct plants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government is aware of Nano-Technology based system for removal of arsenic from contaminated ground water. As the technology reported in 'Times of India' newspaper dater 11.11.2006 is still to be field tested, its adoption by the State Governments depends on the success of field test reports. Rural drinking water is a State subject and the State Governments can sanction and implement projects for providing safe drinking water.

(c) and (d) As per information available, 16386 iron removal plants were approved, of which 9524 plants were installed. Out of these, only 4494 are reported in working condition. The main reason for iron removal plants getting defunct is lack of community participation to own the assets created and take up proper Operation and Maintenance (O&M). For all the iron removal plants being installed in the country after 01.04.2006, States have been advised to mobilize community in a manner that they contribute partial capital cost for intra-village distribution network and own the assets created and take up full O&M responsibility. Funds for the Information, Education and Communication (IEC) activities have been released to all States through the Communication and Capacity Development Units and the National Rural Drinking Water Quality Monitoring and Surveillance Programme.

[Translation]

AICTE Norms

3690. SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH VERMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of institutes of National Council for Cooperative Training where MBA/MCA programmes are being conducted currently;

(b) whether the Council is following the terms and parameters fixed by All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) and including basic salary to be provided to the faculty conducting above programmes;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether this is violative of the fundamental rights guaranteed in the Constitution; and

(e) if so, the steps taken to provide salaries as per AICTE norms?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) National Council for Cooperative Training (NCCT) has informed that six institutes including Vaikunth Mehta National Institute of Cooperative Management (VAMNICOM), Pune are conducting MBA/MCA programmes independently. In addition, two institutes *viz.* Institute of Cooperative Management, Trivandrum and Kannur are offering MBA programmes as extension centers of the University of Kerala and University of Kannur respectively.

(b) The NCCT is following all the terms and parameters of the AICTE, New Delhi except the salary which is being paid at par with the Government of India employees along with pensionary benefits as approved by the Government of India.

(c) to (e) NCCT is managed by grants-in-aid given by the Government of India. The pay scales have been revised from time to time as per the recommendations of the Pay Commissions. There are 20 Institutes of Cooperative Management functioning under the aegis of NCCT, out of which only 8 Institutes MBA/MCA programmes. Hence, it could not be possible to have two different pay scales for the faculty working under the control of the same organisation.

[English]

Killing of Mongoose

3691. DR. M. JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether lakhs of mongoose protected under the Part II of Schedule II of Wildlife Act are being killed every month for their high quality hair for manufacture of various kinds of painting brushes; and

(b) if so, the action taken or proposed to be taken to protect the animals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) Isolated incidents of illegal killing of mongoose and seizure of mongoose hair and painting

brushes made thereof have been reported from time to time. The steps taken by the Government for protection of this species are as follows:

- (i) Mongoose is included in the Part-II of Schedule- II of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, thus affording high degree of Protection under the Act.
- (ii) Hunting of mongoose is prohibited under the provisions of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.
- (iii) Officers are legally empowered under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 to detain and arrest the offenders, seize the vehicles, tools, animal, and animal articles, etc.
- (iv) Financial assistance is provided to the State Government for development and management of the Protected Areas which include the habitat of mongoose.
- (v) Export of all forms of wild animals including their parts and products is prohibited under the Export-Import policy of the country.
- (vi) Regional and sub-regional offices of Wildlife Preservation have been set up at the main export centres of the country to prevent smuggling of wildlife products.
- (vii) Stringent penalties are imposed on the offenders for contravention of the provisions of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

[Translation]

Recovery of Iron

3692. SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) carries out the recovery of iron from Blaster Furnace Waste Dump (Mug Dump) in its steel plants through the Ferro Scrap Corporation Limited;

(b) if so, the names of such plants;

(c) whether this is done through open tenders;

(d) if so, whether there is any such plant where this task is being regularly entrusted to any particular private company without inviting new tenders; and

(e) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (DR. AKHILESH DAS): (a) Yes sir.

(b) Rourkela Steel Plant, Rourkela and IISCO Steel Plant, Bumpur.

(c) SAIL has a long term MOU with FSNL. Wherever the requirement of such scrap is more and FSNL is not able to fulfill SAIL's requirements, then it is also done through open tender.

(d) and (e) Not Applicable, in view of answer to part (c) above.

[English]

Productivity of Wheat

3693. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:
SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government is considering a new perspective on agriculture and rural development that recognized the need for ending the rural urban divide by bridging for areas of deficit;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the measures taken by the Union Government to prove the productivity of wheat and the results achieved therefrom so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. With a view to ending the rural-urban divide, Government has identified four areas of deficit namely (i) the public investment and credit deficit, (ii) the infrastructure deficit, (iii) the market economy deficit, and (iv) the knowledge deficit. To bridge these deficits, Government has already launched several steps. These include Bharat Nirman Programmes, access to adequate and affordable credit to farmers, providing adequate and affordable infrastructure in rural areas, investment in

irrigation and rural drinking water, improving the functioning of agricultural markets and increasing the productivity of farms through infusion of knowledge, modern science and technology.

(c) To increase the productivity of wheat in the country, Government is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme "Integrated Cereals Development Programme in Wheat Based Cropping Systems Areas" (ICDP-Wheat) since 1994-95. Under the scheme assistance is provided for propagation of improved production technology, integrated pest management through field demonstrations, training of farmers including women, transfer of technology through electronic media and published literature, farm implements, installation of sprinkler irrigation system, varietal replacement and production of certified seeds. As a result of these efforts, wheat productivity increased from 2.56 tonnes per hectare during 1994-95 to 2.71 tonnes per hectare in 2003-04 attaining a high of 2.78 tonnes per hectare during 1999-2000.

Workers Friendly Insurance Scheme

3694. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to implement worker friendly insurance scheme; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the main features of the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) and (b) The Government is considering enactment of legislation and formulation of Social Security Scheme for workers in the unorganized sector in consultation with all the stake holders.

Production of Mangoes

3695. SHRI K. S. RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the production of raw mangoes of export variety and their export recorded during each of the last three years and the current year; and

(b) the foreign exchange earner therefrom 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 (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) Production of raw mangoes as per data provided by the National Horticulture Board (NHB), exports and foreign exchange earned therefrom as per data provided by Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics (DGCI&S) during last three years and current year are given below:

Year	Production (including export variety 000 MT)	Quantity Exported (000 MT)	Value of Exports (Rs. lakh)
2003-04	11490	60.551	11052
2004-05	11605	53.480	8961
2005-06	11921 (P)	69.607	12811
2005-07	12140 (E)	39.306*	9495*

(P) = Provisional

E = Estimated

*For the period April-June.

Warehouses

3696. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of warehouses of National Commodities and Derivatives Exchange (NCDEX) located in Jodhpur;

(b) whether the lab test of foodgrains kept in the said warehouses have been conducted;

(c) if so, the details and the outcome thereof indicating date on which such tests were conducted;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the extent of forward trading taking place in various foodgrains during the last three years in Jodhpur; grain-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) There are nine warehouses in Jodhpur which are approved by

the National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange (NCDEX) for storage of Guar Gum, Guar seed and Jeera.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The deposits received in NCDEX approved warehouses in Jodhpur for the above mentioned commodities are tested and certified by the Exchange appointed assayers to see whether the tendered materials meet the requirements of NCDEX quality specifications. This is a continuous process, done at time of accepting the deposits and at periodical intervals thereafter. Any lots not passing the specified quality parameters upon reassaying at periodical intervals have to be removed from the applicable warehouses immediately.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The futures trading in national level commodity Exchanges is executed online through orders placed on screen-based trading workstation located throughout the country and watched in the centrally located trading engine (server) at the Exchange. The buyer and the seller, whose order gets matched in the server culminating into a trade, generally belong to different locations. Accordingly, the trade cannot be attributed to any specific location and separate trade data for Jodhpur is not available.

Review of Dam Operations

3697. SHRI SARVEY SATYANARAYANA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has suggested States to review dam operations and revision of flood cushion provisions in a transparent manner; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the response of the State Governments thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) Reservoir Management is within the purview of State Government. Central Water Commission issues inflow forecast for selected reservoirs on the request of State Governments.

The Ministry of Water Resources formulated a National Water Policy in 1987, which was subsequently revised in 2002. In the National Water Policy document 2002, it is stipulated that there should be a Master Plan for flood control and management for each flood prone basin. It has also been suggested to the States that

adequate flood cushion should be provided in water storage projects wherever feasible, to facilitate better flood management. In highly flood prone areas, flood control should be given overriding consideration in reservoir regulation policy even at the cost of sacrificing some irrigation or power benefits. Copies of this policy documents were sent to all concerned and the State Governments for compliance.

The Task Force for Flood Management/Erosion Control constituted in 2004 by the Ministry of Water Resources of the Government of India has also recommended that even in reservoirs constructed for power/irrigation, the operation rules be framed in such a way that effective flood moderation becomes feasible. The flood management benefit can be enhanced by installing modern and effective flood forecasting and warning network in the catchment areas of reservoirs for real time forecasting and to allow maximum possible moderation of the anticipated flood peaks by effective reservoir management.

[Translation]

Minimum Wages

3698. SHRI M. ANJAN KUMAR YADAV:
SHRI TUKARAM GANPAT RAO RENGE
PATIL:

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

(a) whether the payment of minimum wages as per the Government Rules is not being made due to negligence of labour inspectors;

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

(c) the norms laid down for payment of minimum wages and also the prescribed procedure for compliance thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) to (c) Under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, the regular inspections so as to ensure payment of minimum wages to the workers engaged in scheduled employment in the Central Sphere are undertaken by the officers of the chief Labour Commissioner (Central), while

at the State level, the responsibility of enforcement lies with the respective State Enforcement Machinery. Whenever any irregularity is detected by the inspectors i.e., any case of non-payment or less payment of wages to workers, the employer is advised to make payment of short-fall of wages. In case of non-adherence of the advice, recourse to legal and penal actions against the defaulting employers is undertaken.

[English]

Sea Erosion in Karnataka

3699. SHRI M. SHIVANNA:
SHRI D. V. SADANAND GOWDA:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether sea erosion is very severe in Uttal Kotepura Stretch near Mangalore, Karnataka;

(b) if so, whether the Government of Karnataka has undertaken construction work of protection wall as a pilot-project using French technology "Stabilplage" with financial assistance from the Government of France;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government of Karnataka has requested the Union Government to release its share out of the funds received from France; and

(e) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Yes Sir. As reported by Government of Karnataka sea erosion is very severe in Uttal-Kotepura stretch near Mangalore.

(b) No Sir.

(c) to (e) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Violation of Rules by Sugar Mills

3700. SHRI SITA RAM SINGH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the private sugar mill owners of the country are reportedly violating the rules and regulations laid down by the Government;

(b) if so, the details of the steps taken by the Government against such sugar mill owners to ensure compliance of the rules;

(c) whether such private sugar mill owners also exploit the labourers working in their mills; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken against such mill owners?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) The sugar factories are required to sell and despatch the specified quantity of sugar as allowed in the Monthly Release Orders of the Government. Some sugar mills have also obtained orders from the courts to sell sugar over and above the quantity allowed in the Release Orders. In order to ascertain the position, the Central Government decided to make random check on sugar factories in Uttar Pradesh. So far, 30 sugar factories belonging to different sugar companies have been inspected in two rounds-12 in the first round and 18 in the second round in months of October and November, 2006, respectively. On the basis of the inspection reports of the first round, show cause notices have been issued to four sugar factories. The reports of the second round of the inspection are yet to be examined. Appropriate action shall be taken against the sugar factories found violating the Release Orders of the Government.

(c) and (d) The State Governments are the appropriate Government under the Industrial Dispute Act, 1947 in the state sphere and legally vested with powers to intervene/settle the grievances under various labour laws. Whenever complaints are received about the violation of labour laws in the state sphere, the concerned State Governments are asked to take suitable action in the matter.

[English]

Conditions for Setting up New Sugar Mills

3701. SHRIMATI ARCHANA NAYAK: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has increased the deposit amount on filing of application for setting up new sugar mills in the country;

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

(c) whether this move is aimed at enabling the sick units to improve their performance; 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 Central Government has not increased the deposit amount for filing application for setting up of new sugar mills in the country. However, the Central Government has amended the Sugarcane (Control) order, 1966 *vide* Notification No. S.O.1940(E) dated 10.11.2006. It has been provided in the amended Order, *inter alia*, that after filing the Industrial Entrepreneur Memorandum, the concerned person shall submit a performance guarantee of Rupees one crore to the Chief Director (Sugar), Department of Food and Public Distribution, Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, within thirty days of filing the Industrial Entrepreneur Memorandum as a surety for implementation of Industrial Entrepreneur Memorandum. A copy of the Sugarcane (Control) Amendment Order, 2006 has already been laid on the table of the House on 4th December, 2006.

(c) No Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Functioning of CMFRI

3702. SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the functioning of Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFIR) has been adversely affected recently;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND

PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) In view of (a) above the questions do not arise.

[*Translation*]

Training Programme for Small and Marginal Farmers

3703. SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD:
SHRI TUKARAM GANPAT RAO RENGE
PATIL:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of current training programmes and Centrally sponsored schemes running for small and medium farmers;

(b) the details of small and medium farmers benefited from these training programmes and schemes during the last three years, State-wise;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to upgrade these schemes and training programmes; and

(d) the success achieved by the Government due to the steps taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) Training of farmers is one of the components under various production oriented Centrally Sponsored Schemes currently in operation. The financial assistance for conducting these training programmes is extended to the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations as per the norms laid down under the relevant Scheme.

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

[*English*]

Prawn and Shrimp Farming

3704. DR. K. DHANARAJU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether business of prawn and shrimp farming is fast developing;

(b) if so, the details of the scheme implemented for development of prawn and shrimp farming;

(c) the financial assistance provided for the purpose during the last three years and the current financial year; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken to augment the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government of India is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Development of Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture through establishment of 429 Fish Farmers Development Agencies (FFDAs) and 39 Brackishwater Fish Farmers Development Agencies (BFDAAs), in the States/Union Territories.

The BFDAAs set up under this scheme provide technical, financial and extension support to shrimp/prawn farmers. Subsidy is given for developmental activities relating to brackishwater shrimp culture like—renovation/ construction of Brackishwater shrimp farms and training of shrimp farmers.

(c) Central assistance of Rs. 296.97 lakhs has been provided to various State Governments for brackishwater shrimp farming during 2003-04 to 2006-07.

(d) Apart from Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Development of BFDAAs, the coastal aquaculture has been included as one of the activities under the National Fisheries Development Board set up in July, 2006 in order to bring more areas under coastal aquaculture with proper training and demonstration arrangement. The Coastal Aquaculture Authority has been set up under Coastal Aquaculture Authority Act, 2005 to promote coastal aquaculture including shrimp culture in a sustainable and eco-friendly manner.

Prices of Chemical Fertilizers

3705. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:
SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:

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

(a) whether the prices of the chemical fertilizers in the international market is less than those produced in the country;

(b) if so, whether the Government has conducted world-wide survey in this regard;

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

(d) the average prices of all the chemical fertilizers in the international market as well as in the domestic market during 2005-06;

(e) the steps taken by the Government to bridge this gap to meet the farmers, requirement in WTO regime?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) to (c) The prices of fertilizers in the international market varies from time to time based on the demand and supply position. The urea produced through indigenous gas in the country is cheaper in comparison of the present international prices. However, the cost of production of urea from naphtha based unit is more than the prices of urea in the international market.

The country is almost fully dependent on imported raw materials/intermediates for production of phosphatic fertilizers. The costs of production of phosphatic fertilizers, in the country, depend upon the prices of raw materials/intermediates like ammonia, rock phosphate, sulphur and phosphoric acid in the international market.

The country is fully dependent on imports to meet its requirement of potash as there are no exploitable reserves of potash in the country.

The international prices of chemical fertilizers depend upon demand supply situation and weekly prices are widely reported in various market bulletins world over.

(d) and (e) The average delivered prices of Urea, DAP (both imported and indigenous) and MOP prevailed in the year 2005-06 was as under:-

(Rupees per MT)

Product	Imported	Indigenous
Urea	13178	9874
Urea (imported from Sur, Oman under Long Term Agreement)	8388	
DAP	15075	15316
MOP	—	11049

Government is encouraging domestic manufactures of fertilizers to explore possibilities of setting up joint venture project in the resource rich countries to ensure adequate supplies of raw materials/finished fertilizers at reasonable long term fixed price.

Level Playing Field for Steel Manufacturers

3706. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Committee of Secretaries appointed by the Prime Minister to look into iron ore exports and to consider a level playing field for integrated steel manufacturers in raw material linkage held its meeting in the month of October, 2006;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Committee has submitted its report;

(d) if so, its main recommendations and the decision taken thereon; and

(e) if not, the time by which the final decision thereon is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (DR. AKHILESH DAS): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A Committee of Secretaries, comprising of Member Secretary, Planning Commission; Secretary, Steel; Secretary, Mines; Secretary, Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion; Secretary, Economic Affairs; Secretary, Department of Commerce was set up by the order of Cabinet Secretariat on 14.08.2006. The Committee held four meetings on 25.08.2006, 21.09.2006, 12.10.2006 and 10.11.2006.

The Term of Reference of the Committee was:

- Review the existing mineral exports policy in respect of iron ore for suggesting any policy change, which should also take into account the employment and investment concerns of the mining industry.
- To examine the suggestions for restricting iron ore exports at the current levels and progressively phase out the exports by review of existing domestic demand and expected growth in it.

(c) to (e) Yes, Sir. A draft export policy with following features was considered:

- (1) Restrictions on iron ore export of 64% Fe and above (fines and lumps), at current level be maintained for the next three years through canalization. All existing LTAs to be reviewed at the time of renewal.
- (2) Review of the policy after three years.
- (3) Mandatory requirements on all captive and new steel capacities to beneficiate, sinter and pelletise subject to technical variations.
- (4) Incentivise, sintering, pelletisation and beneficiation of low grade iron ore.
- (5) Encourage extraction of low grade ore by both captive and non-captive miners through Mining Plan.
- (6) Constitution of a Group to study the demand and supply projections of steel and consequently of iron of various grade and types of India.

There was broad agreement in respect of item nos. (2) to (6) of the draft, but not on item no. (1). In the last meeting held on 10.11.2006, it was decided that since it was not possible to reach a consensus on item no. (1), the same may be decided by government appropriately.

The issue is under consideration of the government.

Change in Product Composition

3707. CH. MUNAWAR HASSAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some drugs companies have changed their product composition to circumvent the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995 (DPCO, 95);

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the complete names of these formulations, their companies, the earlier and the changed compositions; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to prevent this malpractice?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) to (c) Whenever it comes to the notice of National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) that the drug companies have changes their product composition to avoid following a price fixation notification for certain composition, the NPPA examines the matter and fixed price for revised/changed composition also. Whenever cases on non-standard combination formulations, replacement of scheduled bulk drug by non-Scheduled bulk drug in a formulation come to the notice of the NPPA, matter is taken up with State Drug Controller concerned and Drug Controller General (India). This is a continuous and ongoing process.

Scarcity of Water

3708. SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a scarcity of water for irrigation in the country;

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

(c) whether the Government has formulated any plan to increase the number of reservoirs for irrigation water in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) The average annual water availability in the country is estimated to be of the order of 1869

Billion Cubic Metre (BCM). Owing to topographical, hydrological and other constraints, the utilizable water is assessed as 1123 BCM out of which 690 BCM is surface water and 433 BCM is replenishable ground water. The availability of water for the country as a whole is considered adequate to meet the present level of demand of water for divers purposes. However, there are considerable spatial and temporal variations in the availability of water. The Ultimate Irrigation Potential has been assessed as 139.88 hectares out of which 100.97 hectares has been created upto March, 2006. The State-wise position in respect of irrigation potential created is given in the enclosed statement.

(c) and (d) Water being a State subject, necessary measures for development and management of water resources are undertaken by the respective State Governments which include creation of storages, restoration of water bodies, rain water harvesting, artificial recharge to groundwater and adoption of better management practices etc. State Governments conceive plan and implement major, medium and minor schemes, both surface and groundwater for utilization of water resources. Storage capacity of about 213 BCM has been created so far. As per present assessment, the total estimated storage capacity of the various projects under construction is about 76 BCM. Further, the State Governments have identified various other schemes for investigation and planning and the estimated storage for such schemes is about 108 BCM. Government of India provides central assistance to the State Governments through various schemes/programmes, such as Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP); Command Area Development and Water Management (CADWM) Programme; National Project for Repair, Renovation and Restoration of Water Bodies directly linked to Agriculture, etc.

Statement

Irrigation potential state-wise details of ultimate irrigation potential, potential created and potential utilised (upto March 2006)

(000 Ha.)

Sl.No.	Name of the State	Irrigation Potential Created (IPC)		
		Major and Medium	Minor	Total
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	35.33	3070.31	6,604.27
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1.70	112.18	113.88
3.	Assam	328.72	623.93	952.65

1	2	3	4	5
4.	Bihar	2834.00	4843.46	7,677.46
5.	Chhattisgarh	1137.00	594.76	1,731.76
6.	Goa	32.55	20.85	53.40
7.	Gujarat	2610.81	2021.92	4,632.73
8.	Haryana	2166.07	1637.67	3,803.74
9.	Himachal Pradesh	14.45	169.09	183.54
10.	Jharkhand	378.08	626.05	1,004.13
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	189.30	392.11	581.41
12.	Karnataka	2626.63	1617.32	4,245.95
13.	Kerala	659.49	672.02	1,331.51
14.	Madhya Pradesh	1907.55	2357.87	4,265.42
15.	Maharashtra	3494.15	3063.90	6,558.05
16.	Manipur	33.40	89.19	122.59
17.	Meghalaya	0.00	60.19	60.19
18.	Mizoram	0.00	17.73	17.73
19.	Nagaland	0.00	84.08	84.08
20.	Orissa	1956.63	1604.65	3,561.28
21.	Punjab	2576.86	3430.26	6,007.12
22.	Rajasthan	2758.80	2462.90	5,221.70
23.	Sikkim	0.00	32.98	32.98
24.	Tamil Nadu	1561.06	2134.48	3,695.54
25.	Tripura	14.84	133.97	148.81
26.	Uttar Pradesh	8520.63	23178.12	31,698.75
27.	Uttaranchal	289.76	511.04	800.80
28.	West Bengal	1754.81	4022.68	5,777.49
Total States		40863.25	59585.71	100,968.96
Total UTs		0.00	1.39	1.39
Grand Total		40863.25	59587.10	100,970.35

Schemes for Drainage

3709. SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA:
SHRI SARVEY SATYANARAYANA:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government is providing assistance to States under Centrally sponsored schemes for improvement of drainage in critical areas of the country.

(b) whether any requests from States particularly Andhra Pradesh has been received for improvement of drainage in the States;

(c) if so, the details of assistance provided to each State during the last three years, year-wise;

(d) whether there is any proposal to set up National Commission on drainage; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the time by which it is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) and (c) On the basis of requests received from the States the Government of India is providing central assistance to the States of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Orissa, Uttar Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir, under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme, "Improvement of Drainage in the critical areas of the country" during 10th Plan period. The details of the central assistance provided to these States during 2004-05 to 2006-07 (Upto November 2006) are given below:

Name of State	Funds released (Rs. in crore)			
	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	Total
Andhra Pradesh	1.50	3.00	—	4.50
Bihar	5.00	7.00	5.00	17.00
Orissa	1.50	3.25	3.00	7.75
Uttar Pradesh	1.50	0.00	0.00	1.50
Jammu and Kashmir	0.00	0.00	2.50	2.50
Total	9.50	13.25	10.50	33.25

(d) No Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

**Creation of Collective Body of
Exempted P.F. Trusts**

3710. SHRI RAVICHANDRAN SIPPAPARA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to create a collective body of exempted Provident Fund Trusts;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has also a proposal to set up a regulator for monitoring Provident Fund; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) No, Sir.

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

(c) and (d) The task of regulating Provident Fund Trusts is already being done by the Employees' Provident Fund Organization in respect of establishments to whom the Employees' Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952 applies.

Minimum Wages of Rural and Urban Workers

3711. SHRI K.S. RAO: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the average wages and earnings of a rural and urban worker recorded during each of the last three years;

(b) the linkages and computation between the rural and urban wages and poverty line; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to workout a policy to establish a relationship between minimum wages, poverty line and dignified living conditions for a family?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) On the basis of survey which is conducted by National Sample Survey Organisation after every five years, the average/salary earnings by the casual wage labourers for the country as a whole in rural and urban areas during 2004-05 is estimated to be Rs. 48.89 and Rs. 68.68 per day respectively. The average wage/salary earnings per person received by regular wage/salaried employees for the country as a whole in rural and urban areas during 2004-05 is, however, estimated to be Rs. 133.81 and Rs. 193.73 per day respectively.

(b) and (c) Wages are generally determined by market conditions. Above-stated wage rates have been computed on the basis of the results obtained from the quinquennial Survey undertaken by the National Sample Survey Organisations. The minimum wages are fixed/revised by the appropriate Governments under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948 taking into account prevalent wage rates, poverty line, etc. as well as the norms recommended by the 15th Indian Labour Conference, 1957 and the judgement of Hon'ble Supreme court in case of Reptakos Brett and Co. *Vs.* its Workmen.

Special Package for Wheat Output

3712. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has announced a special package for raising wheat production by wheat growing States by way of input intervention; and

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the areas likely to be covered therefrom State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) The Government of India has drawn up a special three years plan for increasing the production and productivity of wheat in 138 identified districts in the States of Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Gujarat and West Bengal. Under the plan, provision has been made to provide assistance for seed distribution, demonstration, micro-nutrients, improved farm implements and subsidy for diesel.

[Translation]

NAFED

3713. SHRI D.P. SAROJ: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the objectives of setting up of the National Agriculture Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Limited (NAFED) alongwith its main activities;

(b) whether the NAFED has been invested with power to grant loan to farmers in the country;

(c) if so, the amount of loan granted by NAFED during the last three years and the current year alongwith the interest earned thereon during the said period; and

(d) the activities for which loan is being provided alongwith the number of farmers benefited therefrom during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) The main objectives of NAFED are to organize, promote and develop marketing, processing, storage of agricultural, non-agricultural and non-traditional items, horticultural and forest produce; wholesale or retail; import, export and inter-State trade; distribution of agricultural machinery, implements and other inputs. Being a national level apex body of the agricultural marketing cooperatives, it also extends marketing support to its members, partners, associates and State level Cooperative Marketing Federations and Primary Agricultural Co-operative Marketing Societies.

(b) As per the bye-laws of NAFED, it can grant loans to its members and other cooperatives institutions only and not to the farmers.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Low Frequency Transmitter at Solapur

3714. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the transmission power of All India Radio broadcasting station at Solapur, Maharashtra is low resulting in inaudible radio transmission;

(b) if so, whether the Government is taking steps to raise the transmission power of the above-mentioned radio station; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) Presently, 1kW MW transmitter is working at full power. The coverage area of this transmitter is approximately 35 Kms. in radius.

(b) Under Plan Scheme this transmitter has been approved for replacement by 10 kW FM transmitter.

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

Orientation Course for Tourists

3715. SHRI RANEN BARMAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government proposes to start orientation course for tourists visiting National Parks; 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) No Sir. There is no proposal under consideration of this Ministry to start orientation course for tourists visiting National Parks. However, some of the National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries in the country are offering nature interpretation programmes to the tourists.

Per Capita Consumption of Agricultural Products

3716. SHRI K. SUBBARAYAN:
SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Per Capita Domestic Consumption of Agricultural Products has declined in recent years;

(b) if so, the factors attributed thereto; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to promote consumption of agricultural products in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) The all India per capita monthly consumption of rice and wheat, as indicated by Surveys carried out by National Sample Survey Organisation, is given in the table below:

(in kgs.)

Commodity	43rd Round 1987-88		50th Round 1993-94		55th Round 1999-2000		60th Round 2004	
	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban
Rice	6.81	5.26	6.97	5.13	6.59	5.10	6.80	4.88
Wheat	4.48	4.37	4.32	4.44	4.45	4.45	4.25	4.67

Though the per capita consumption of rice in rural areas has not shown much change but the per capita consumption of wheat has declined from 4.48 kgs. in 1987-88 to 4.25 kgs. in 2004. However, in urban areas the per capita consumption of rice has declined significantly, while the per capita consumption of wheat has increased from 4.37 kgs. in 1987-88 to 4.67 kgs. in 2004. The changes in consumption pattern are attributed to changes in consumption habits of the populace dependent mainly on their income levels.

(c) The Government implements employment generation and welfare schemes to enhance access of the needy sections of population to foodgrains. These include the Sampooma Grameen Rozgar Yojana, the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), Mid-day Meal Scheme and the Antyodaya Anna Yojana.

[Translation]

Settlement on Forest Land

3717. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR:
SHRI MAHAVIR BHAGORA:

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

(a) the date on which the Union Government received the proposal for settlement of the persons belonging to Scheduled Castes and Schedule Tribes in the forest land of Madhya Pradesh;

(b) the number of proposals out of the above disposed of alongwith the number of proposals still pending with the Ministry; and

(c) the details of the process for settlement of SCs/ STs on forest land and by when this process is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) No proposal specifically for settlement of persons belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes has been received by the Central Government from Government of Madhya Pradesh. However, on the basis of the proposals received from the State Government, 384 forest villages have been approved for conversion into revenue villages.

(c) Further conversion of forest villages into revenue villages has been kept in abeyance till the ban imposed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court on dereservation of forest land is lifted.

[English]

Roadmap for Fisheries, Aquaculture and Dairy Sectors

3718. SHRI G.V. HARSHA KUMAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is preparing any roadmap for fisheries, aquaculture and dairy sectors development in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the present position of dairy sectors in the country particularly in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASILMUDDIN): (a) and (b) In order to develop fisheries, aquaculture and dairy sectors across the country, Government extends assistance under various schemes to the State Governments. Major schemes are as under:

- (i) Development of Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture.
- (ii) Development of Marine Fisheries, Infrastructure and Post Harvest Operations.
- (iii) Intensive Dairy Development Programme.
- (iv) Assistance to Cooperatives.
- (v) Strengthening Infrastructure for quality and clean milk production.
- (vi) Dairy/Poultry venture capital fund.

(c) The production of milk in the country reached a level of 97.1 million MT (provisional) in 2005-06 and is expected to reach 100 million MT in 2006-07. As a result, the per capita availability of milk is expected to reach 245 grams per day in 2006-07. Most of the milk produced by small, marginal farmers and landless labourers who have been organized into cooperatives at village level.

About 12 million farmers have been brought under the ambit of over one lakh village cooperatives in the country as a part of Operation Flood Programme to provide a steady market and remunerative price. The milk production in Andhra Pradesh in 2005-06 has been estimated as 7624 thousand tonnes compared to 6584 thousand tonnes in 2002-03. The state has milk handling and processing capacity of 5242 thousand litres per day registered under the Milk and Milk Product Order, 1992 in both the cooperative and private sector as on 31.3.2006.

Transfer of Land

3719. SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan has submitted a proposal to the Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Limited (IDPL) for transfer of land building and other infrastructure from where Kendriya Vidyalaya is functioning in IDPL Rishikesh premises;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any modalities have been worked out to transfer the land and building to Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan, New Delhi; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor and the time by which it is likely to be transferred?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) to (d) The land at Rishikesh was made available to the Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Limited (IDPL) by the then Uttar Pradesh State Government on lease basis. IDPL continues to hold the land on lease basis even now.

A proposal to transfer land, building and other infrastructure including 21 staff quarters, to Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan was received in IDPL. The proposal was not pursued as the Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan wanted the transfer of land and building free of cost.

Funds for Mithi River

3720. SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any request for special financial support from Government of Maharashtra to revive, clean and protect Mithi river in Mumbai;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which such assistance is likely to be granted?

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

Clearing of Virgin Forest Land

3721. SHRI MANI CHARENAMI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the area of virgin forest cleared every year for jhum cultivation during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the strategies adopted to tackle clearing and burning of forests particularly in the North-East States;

(c) whether any timeframe has been fixed to bring the jhum cultivation to a complete halt; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (d) As per State of Forest Report 2003 the forest cover affected due to Shifting Cultivation in North-Eastern States between the period 2001-2003 is given in the enclosed statement. The strategies adopted to tackle clearing and burning of forests in North East States are Indian Council for Agricultural Research 3-tier model, Sloping Agricultural Land Technology (SALT), Sloping Watershed Environmental Engineering Technology (SWEET), Nagaland Empowerment of People through Economic Development (NEPED) tree planting model and Jhum Project under National Afforestation Programme. There is no time frame fixed to bring the jhum cultivation to a complete halt.

Statement*Forest cover affected due to shifting cultivation in N-E States during 2001-2003*(area in km²)

State	Forest cover affected due to Shifting Cultivation			Loss of forest cover due to other reasons	Total forest cover affected	Total gain in forest cover	Net loss/gain in forest cover
	Dense forest	Open forest	Total				
Arunachal Pradesh	-663	-262	-925	-256	-1,181	-1,155	-26
Assam	-272	-337	-609	-2,086	-2,695	2,807	112
Manipur	-125	-730	-855	-108	-963	1,256	293
Meghalaya	-141	-543	-684	-71	-755	2,010	1,255
Mizoram	-351	-336	-687	-900	-1,587	-2,523	936
Nagaland	-321	-1,011	-1,332	-57	-1,389	1,653	264
Tripura	-221	-163	-384	-1	-385	1,413	1,028
Total	-2,094	-3,382	-5,476	-3,479	-8,955	12,817	3,862

Allocation of Foodgrains

3722. SHRI MANJUNATH KUNNUR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIR, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state the total quantity of foodgrains allocated and released by the Union Government under each of the centrally sponsored scheme during the years 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06, State-wise particularly Karnataka?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): The total quantity of foodgrains allocated and released by the Union Government under each of the Centrally scheme during the years 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06, State-wise including Karnataka are given in the enclosed statements 1 to 26.

Statement 1

Sl.No.	States/UTs	Allotment				Offtake				% Offtake			
		BPL	APL	AAY	Total	BPL	APL	AAY	Total	BPL	APL	AAY	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1,268.430	2,266.740	337.946	3,973.116	1,319.231	434.289	330.659	2,084.179	96.405	19,159	97.844	52.46
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	35.148	64.206	6.348	105.702	33.897	55.5	6.231	95.628	96.441	86.441	98.157	90.47
3.	Assam	682.284	735.140	118.236	1,535.66	628.166	343.616	112.266	1,084.048	92.068	46.472	94.951	70.59
4.	Bihar	2,219.184	2,291.520	420.00	4,930.704	627.119	7.1	380.872	1,015.091	28.259	0.310	90.684	20.59

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
5.	Chhattisgarh	566.228	1,045.800	155.967	1767.993	509.173	23.2	147.141	679.514	89.924	2.218	94.341	38.43
6.	Delhi	158.340	996.516	13.440	1168.296	165.223	346.739	12.989	524.951	104.347	34.795	96.644	44.93
7.	Goa	12.888	118.296	3.072	134.256	6.959	4.963	2.408	14.33	53.996	4.195	78.385	10.67
8.	Gujarat	753.948	2,767.564	136.500	3678.012	473.951	41.453	55.286	570.89	62.863	1.487	40.503	15.52
9.	Haryana	274.004	1,014.204	47.664	1335.872	228.899	96.524	45.804	373.217	83.535	9.714	96.098	27.94
10.	Himachal Pradesh	195.872	348.900	33.060	577.832	177.196	66.968	33.099	279.265	90.466	19.767	100.118	48.33
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	261.660	443.940	47.424	753.024	253.097	257.76	47.368	558.245	96.227	58.068	99.682	74.13
12.	Jharkhand	839.268	216.300	153.936	1209.504	297.369	11.285	139.541	448.195	35.432	5.217	90.649	37.06
13.	Karnataka	1,095.996	2,070.600	218.260	3394.876	1048.154	839.788	196.471	2083.413	95.635	40.558	90.009	61.56
14.	Kerala	534.551	1,808.940	118.057	2461.548	440.186	137.125	117.405	694.716	82.347	7.580	99.448	28.22
15.	Madhya Pradesh	1,225.343	2,535.372	330.805	4091.32	1049.194	30.369	318.297	1397.86	85.625	1.198	96.277	34.17
16.	Maharashtra	2,293.204	4,700.880	451.100	7445.184	1580.159	28.524	391.325	2000.008	68.906	0.607	86.749	26.86
17.	Manipur	43.884	47.460	10.716	102.06	44.356	18.05	11.094	73.5	101.076	38.032	103.527	72.02
18.	Meghalaya	65.052	45.024	11.806	121.884	69.503	18.992	12.567	101.062	106.842	42.182	106.428	82.92
19.	Mizoram	23.190	54.564	5.490	83.244	23.727	51.043	4.953	79.723	102.316	93.547	90.219	95.77
20.	Nagaland	42.120	86.688	9.980	138.768	43.228	66.079	9.304	118.611	102.631	76.226	93.414	85.47
21.	Orissa	1,484.376	1,155.564	212.316	2852.256	632.892	148.92	209.274	991.086	42.837	12.887	96.567	34.75
22.	Punjab	168.416	1,473.240	30.120	1669.776	120.195	16.0157	16.824	153.078	72.226	1.090	55.587	9.17
23.	Rajasthan	778.608	2,763.756	181.852	3724.216	619.442	111.073	170.297	900.812	79.558	4.109	93.646	24.19
24.	Sikkim	14.636	25.812	3.604	44.052	14.676	13.272	3.49	31.438	100.273	51.418	96.837	71.37
25.	Tamilnadu	1,742.352	3,787.980	300.024	5830.356	1782.975	228.641	311.361	2322.977	102.332	6.036	103.779	39.84
26.	Tripura	104.904	179.232	18.996	303.132	102.15	34.109	18.922	155.181	97.375	19.031	99.610	51.19
27.	Uttar Pradesh	3,654.295	6,494.460	830.885	10979.64	2121.809	10.669	806.635	2939.313	58.063	0.164	97.105	26.77
28.	Uttaranchal	177.120	333.352	32.052	542.724	148.288	19.412	27.175	194.875	83.722	5.820	84.784	35.91
29.	West Bengal	1,702.752	4,069.180	307.078	6099.72	1215.756	477.595	218.58	1911.909	71.399	11.679	71.009	31.34
30.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	7.434	36.360	1.806	45.6	4.67	14.595	218.558	21.127	62.819	38.919	127.685	46.33
31.	Chandigarh	8.748	75.516	0.888	85.152	0.785	NA	0.733	1.518	8.973	NA	82.545	1.78
32.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	5.544	7.140	1.176	13.86	3.044	0.899	0.83	4.773	54.906	12.591	70.578	34.44

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
33.	Daman and Diu	1.428	9.420	0.252	11.1	0.782	0.195	0.149	1.136	55.462	2.070	56.127	10.23
34.	Lakshadweep	0.372	3.708	0.188	4.248	NA	2.85	NA	2.85	NA	76.861	NA	67.09
35.	Pondichery	30.736	13.200	4.376	48.312	17.667	0.549	3.413	21.629	57.480	4.159	77.694	44.77
Total		22,570.319	44,126.774	4,565.912	71,262.999	15,803.920	2,961.779	4,165.247	23,930.946	70.021	8.978	91.425	33.586
1.	CRP/BSF	NA	55.512	NA	55.512	NA	11.719	NA	11.719	NA	21.111	NA	21.111
2.	Defence	NA	255.504	NA	255.504	NA	232.689	NA	232.689	NA	91.071	NA	91.071
3.	Bhutan	NA	20	NA	20	NA	18.03	NA	18.303	NA	91.515	NA	91.515
Grand Total (All India)		22,570.313	44,467.790	4,565.912	71,584.015	15,803.920	4,224.490	4,165.247	24,193.657	70.21	9.502	91.425	33.798

*Statement II**Allocation and offtake of foodgrains under mid-day meal scheme during 2003-04*

(fig. in '000' tonnes)

1	2	Annual Allocation			Offtake		
		Rice	Wheat	Total	Rice	Wheat	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	178.28	—	178.28	151.78	—	151.78
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	5.45	—	5.45	1.88	—	1.88
3.	Assam	97.14	—	97.14	77.41	—	77.41
4.	Bihar	88.97	156.33	245.3	51.55	118.91	170.46
5.	Chhattisgarh	56.57	—	56.57	—	—	—
6.	Delhi	3.74	17.99	21.73	1.99	5.26	7.25
7.	Goa	1.25	—	1.25	—	0.50	0.50
8.	Gujarat	30.05	30.05	60.10	20.56	19.40	39.96
9.	Haryana	22.94	45.88	21.14	20.64	20.65	41.79
10.	Himachal Pradesh	18.45	—	18.45	17.84	—	17.84
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	24.66	—	24.66	0.59	—	0.59
12.	Jharkhand	47.44	4.36	51.80	20.46	2.59	23.05
13.	Karnataka	135.60	10.26	145.86	82.05	5.35	87.40
14.	Kerala	43.33	—	43.33	43.35	—	43.35

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
15.	Madhya Pradesh	37.75	128.08	165.83	33.01	116.88	149.89
16.	Maharashtra	223.60	—	223.60	184.84	—	184.84
17.	Manipur	8.89	—	8.89	7.83	—	7.83
18.	Meghalaya	10.28	—	10.28	9.39	—	9.39
19.	Mizoram	1.88	—	1.88	1.89	—	1.89
20.	Nagaland	5.21	—	5.21	4.04	—	4.04
21.	Orissa	123.31	—	123.31	113.88	—	113.88
22.	Punjab	—	45.49	45.49	0.39	23.24	23.63
23.	Rajasthan	—	170.08	170.08	—	136.90	136.90
24.	Sikkim	1.54	—	1.54	1.29	—	1.29
25.	Tamil Nadu	110.60	—	110.60	79.30	—	79.30
26.	Tripura	9.08	—	9.08	8.92	—	8.92
27.	Uttar Pradesh	172.64	318.60	491.24	140.75	269.03	409.78
28.	Uttaranchal	20.51	3.11	23.62	18.80	1.05	19.85
29.	West Bengal	289.35	±	289.35	251.54	—	251.54
30.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0.70	—	0.70	0.95	—	0.95
31.	Chandigarh	—	0.98	0.98	—	0.20	0.20
32.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0.68	—	0.68	0.20	—	0.20
33.	Daman and Diu	0.30	—	0.30	0.28	0.04	0.32
34.	Lakshadweep	—	—	—	—	—	—
35.	Pondicherry	1.25	—	1.25	1.36	—	1.36
Grand Total		1771.44	908.27	2679.71	1349.26	720.00	2069.26

Statement III*Allocation and offtake of foodgrains under Special Component of SGRY during 2003-04*

(fig. in '000' tonnes)

Sl.No.	State	Allocation			Offtake		
		Rice	Wheat	Total	Rice	Wheat	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1820.00	—	1820.00	1572.19	—	1572.19
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	24.80	—	24.80	7.30	—	7.30

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
3.	Assam	50.00	—	50.00	—	—	—
4.	Bihar	—	—	0.00	—	—	—
5.	Chhattisgarh	238.00	—	238.00	—	—	—
6.	Gujarat	79.00	79.00	158.00	51.50	197.46	248.96
7.	Karnataka	679.75	—	679.75	600.75	—	622.75
8.	Kerala	61.00	—	61.00	29.23	—	29.23
9.	Madhya Pradesh	127.98	349.78	477.76	0.18	0.65	0.83
10.	Maharashtra	23.16	492.64	515.80	—	—	—
11.	Orissa	522.00	—	522.00	469.10	—	469.10
12.	Punjab	—	—	—	—	—	—
13.	Rajasthan	—	1357.63	1357.63	—	1966.17	1966.17
14.	Sikkim	—	—	—	—	—	—
15.	Tamil Nadu	679.00	—	679.00	445.22	—	445.22
16.	Uttar Pradesh	—	—	—	—	12.21	12.21
17.	Uttaranchal	—	—	—	20.60	12.94	33.54
18.	West Bengal	—	—	—	37.05	—	37.05
19.	Pondichery	—	—	—	0.15	—	0.15
Grand Total		4304.69	2279.05	6583.74	3255.37	2189.43	5444.80

Note 1. Offtake includes lifting against backlog quota.

Note 2. Allocation made to Arunachal Pradesh and Assam is for flood relief.

Statement IV

Allocation and offtake of foodgrains under 5% of BPL monthly additional allocation for hostels/welfare institutions, etc. during 2003-04

(fig. in '000' tonnes)

1	2	Annual Allocation			Offtake		
		3	4	5	6	7	8
	State	Rice	Wheat	Total	Rice	Wheat	Total
1.	Andhra Pradesh	200.07	0.00	200.07	204.05	0.00	204.05
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1.56	0.24	1.80	0.00	0.00	0.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
3.	Assam	34.08	0.00	34.08	0.15	0.00	0.15
4.	Bihar	44.40	66.60	111.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
5.	Chhattisgarh	22.56	6.48	29.04	0.01	0.03	0.04
6.	Delhi	2.28	5.64	7.92	0.00	0.00	0.00
7.	Goa	0.36	0.24	0.60	0.00	1.41	1.41
8.	Gujarat	9.84	27.84	37.68	5.18	1.10	6.28
9.	Haryana	0.00	13.08	13.08	0.00	0.00	0.00
10.	Himachal Pradesh	4.32	2.88	7.20	0.00	0.93	0.93
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	9.96	3.12	13.08	0.00	0.00	0.00
12.	Jharkhand	23.64	17.16	40.80	0.00	0.00	0.00
13.	Karnataka	62.74	29.39	92.13	21.52	3.40	24.92
14.	Kerala	27.60	0.00	27.60	1.43	0.00	1.43
15.	Madhya Pradesh	12.72	51.00	63.72	2.54	2.93	5.47
16.	Maharashtra	40.68	75.48	116.16	15.62	11.54	27.16
17.	Manipur	2.16	0.00	2.16	0.56	0.00	0.56
18.	Meghalaya	3.24	0.00	3.24	1.54	0.00	1.54
19.	Mizoram	1.20	0.00	1.20	1.03	0.00	1.03
20.	Nagaland	1.80	0.48	2.28	2.84	0.48	3.32
21.	Orissa	74.16	0.00	74.16	6.30	0.01	0.11
22.	Punjab	0.00	8.28	8.28	0.00	0.11	0.11
23.	Rajasthan	0.48	39.72	40.20	0.00	0.27	0.27
24.	Sikkim	0.72	0.00	0.72	0.28	0.00	0.28
25.	Tamil Nadu	87.12	0.00	87.12	42.31	0.00	42.31
26.	Tripura	5.28	0.00	5.28	0.00	0.00	0.00
27.	Uttar Pradesh	65.16	124.80	189.96	0.00	0.00	0.00
28.	Uttaranchal	5.64	3.24	8.88	1.69	0.50	2.19
29.	West Bengal	42.60	42.60	85.20	6.40	0.00	6.40
30.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0.24	0.12	0.36	0.21	0.00	0.21
31.	Chandigarh	0.00	0.48	0.48	0.00	0.00	0.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
32.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0.24	0.00	0.24	0.16	0.04	0.20
33.	Daman and Diu	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
34.	Lakshadweep	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
35.	Pondicherry	1.56	0.00	1.56	0.92	—	0.92
Grand Total		786.41	518.87	1307.28	314.74	22.88	337.62

Note 1. Offtake includes lifting against backlog quota.

Note 2. Quantity shown against allocation and offtake in respect of Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka includes allocation and offtake figures of SC/ST/OBC Hostels also as both of these two states were allotted 1,27,634 MT and 38,450 MT of foodgrains respectively, over and above, 5% of BPL allocation.

Statement V

Allocation and offtake of foodgrains under wheat based nutrition programme during 2003-04

(fig. in '000' tonnes)

Sl.No.		Annual Allocation			Offtake		
		Rice	Wheat	Total	Rice	Wheat	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	25.63	32.73	58.36	22.55	26.67	49.22
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	—	2.00	2.00	—	—	—
3.	Assam	—	—	—	—	—	—
4.	Bihar	—	—	—	—	—	—
5.	Chhattisgarh	—	50.00	50.00	—	45.51	45.51
6.	Delhi	—	—	—	—	—	—
7.	Goa	—	—	—	—	—	—
8.	Gujarat	—	31.00	31.00	—	30.49	30.49
9.	Haryana	—	0.90	0.90	—	7.67	7.67
10.	Himachal Pradesh	1.80	1.10	2.90	1.84	0.81	2.65
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	—	—	—	0.50	—	0.5
12.	Jharkhand	—	—	—	—	—	—
13.	Karnataka	58.60	35.00	93.60	20.09	3.42	23.51
14.	Kerala	—	—	—	0.14	—	0.14

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
15.	Madhya Pradesh	—	80.00	80.00	2.77	49.73	52.5
16.	Maharashtra	—	—	—	11.27	0.90	12.17
17.	Manipur	—	—	—	0.15	—	0.15
18.	Meghalaya	—	1.81	1.81	0.12	1.71	1.83
19.	Mizoram	3.00	8.80	11.80	0.10	—	0.10
20.	Nagaland	5.00	5.00	10.00	0.46	0.36	0.82
21.	Orissa	—	—	—	—	47.12	47.12
22.	Punjab	9.74	13.31	23.05	—	11.40	11.40
23.	Rajasthan	—	—	—	—	1.79	1.79
24.	Sikkim	—	—	—	—	—	—
25.	Tamil Nadu	—	1.55	1.55	0.54	11.17	11.17
26.	Tripura	—	—	—	—	—	—
27.	Uttar Pradesh	—	106.14	106.14	—	8.52	8.52
28.	Uttaranchal	—	3.00	3.00	—	—	—
29.	West Bengal	—	—	—	—	—	—
30.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	—	—	—	—	—	—
31.	Chandigarh	—	—	—	—	—	—
32.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0.01	0.06	0.07	0.01	0.01	0.02
33.	Daman and Diu	0.01	0.05	0.06	—	—	—
34.	Lakshadweep	—	—	—	—	—	—
35.	Pondicherry	—	—	—	—	—	—
Grand Total		103.79	372.45	476.24	60.54	247.28	307.82

Statement VI*Allocation and offtake of foodgrains under SGRY during 2003-04*

(fig. in '000' tonnes)

Sl.No.	2	Allocation			Offtake		
		Rice	Wheat	Total	Rice	Wheat	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2078.91	0.00	2078.91	2002.92	0.00	200.92
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	29.71	0.00	29.71	7.30	0.00	7.30

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
32.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0.56	0.00	0.56	0.00	0.00	0.00
33.	Daman and Diu	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
34.	Lakshadweep	0.42	0.00	0.42	0.00	0.00	0.00
35.	Pondicherry	1.59	0.00	1.59	0.37	0.00	0.37
Grand Total		7355.44	3935.38	11290.82	6349.60	4273.04	10622.64

*Statement VII**Allocation and offtake of foodgrains under Annapurna Yojana during 2003-04*

(fig. in '000' tonnes)

SI.No.		Annual Allocation			Offtake		
		Rice	Wheat	Total	Rice	Wheat	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	11.18	—	11.18	9.46	—	9.46
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.57	—	0.57	0.12	—	0.12
3.	Assam	—	—	—	—	—	—
4.	Bihar	8.00	11.99	19.99	6.18	9.30	15.48
5.	Chhattisgarh	—	—	—	—	—	—
6.	Delhi	—	0.02	0.02	—	—	—
7.	Goa	0.09	—	0.09	0.06	—	0.06
8.	Gujarat	—	—	—	—	—	—
9.	Haryana	—	—	—	—	1.99	1.99
10.	Himachal Pradesh	0.77	—	0.77	0.72	—	0.72
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	1.22	—	1.22	—	—	—
12.	Jharkhand	6.59	—	6.59	7.19	—	7.19
13.	Karnataka	—	—	—	—	—	—
14.	Kerala	3.72	—	3.72	3.72	—	3.72
15.	Madhya Pradesh	—	—	—	0.93	—	0.93
16.	Maharashtra	3.60	—	3.60	4.52	—	4.52
17.	Manipur	—	—	—	—	—	—

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
18.	Meghalaya	1.11	—	1.11	—	—	—
19.	Mizoram	—	—	—	—	—	—
20.	Nagaland	—	—	—	—	—	—
21.	Orissa	7.78	—	7.78	6.24	—	6.24
22.	Punjab	—	—	—	—	1.86	1.86
23.	Rajasthan	—	12.64	12.64	—	12.35	12.35
24.	Sikkim	—	0.30	—	0.02	—	0.02
25.	Tamil Nadu	—	—	—	—	—	—
26.	Tripura	1.78	—	1.78	1.79	—	1.79
27.	Uttar Pradesh	—	42.00	42.00	—	38.26	38.26
28.	Uttaranchal	—	—	—	—	—	—
29.	West Bengal	9.60	—	9.60	4.07	—	4.07
30.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	—	—	—	—	—	—
31.	Chandigarh	—	—	—	—	—	—
32.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0.05	—	0.05	0.04	—	0.04
33.	Daman and Diu	—	—	—	—	—	—
34.	Lakshadweep	—	—	—	—	—	—
35.	Pondicherry	—	—	—	—	—	—
Grand Total		56.06	66.95	123.01	45.08	63.76	108.82

Note: Offtake includes backlog quota.

Statement VIII

Allocation and offtake of foodgrains under nutritional programme for adolescent girls during 2003-04

(fig. in '000' tonnes)

Sl.No.	State	Annual Allocation			Offtake		
		Rice	Wheat	Total	Rice	Wheat	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	22.10	0.00	22.10	18.80	0.00	18.80
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.10	0.00	0.10	0.00	0.00	0.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
32.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0.80	0.00	0.80	0.78	0.00	0.78
33.	Daman and Diu	0.50	0.00	0.50	0.15	0.00	0.15
34.	Lakshadweep	0.10	0.00	0.10	0.00	0.00	0.00
35.	Pondicherry	0.40	0.00	0.40	0.00	0.00	0.00
Grand Total		223.10	29.00	252.10	63.18	1.61	64.79

Note 1: Offtake figures for 2003-04 based on fax received from FCI on 13.7.2005.

Statement IX

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

(In'000 Tonnes)

Sl.No.	States/UTs	Allotment				Offtake				% Offtake			
		BPL	APL	AAY	Total	BPL	APL	AAY	Total	BPL	APL	AAY	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1,230.128	2,226.740	476.248	3973.116	1261.816	1137.642	458.115	2855.573	102.576	50.188	95.773	71.87
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	31.680	76.680	9.816	118.176	31.81	54.709	8.861	94.98	99.779	71.347	88.233	80.37
3.	Assam	650.434	885.140	150.086	1685.66	623.782	521.126	139.178	1284.086	95.899	58.875	92.732	76.18
4.	Bihar	2,219.184	2,219.520	420.00	4930.704	809.91	10.312	382.079	1202.301	36.496	0.450	90.971	24.38
5.	Chhattisgarh	586.635	1,045.800	200.997	1833.432	656.72	42.368	180.339	779.487	94.401	4.051	89.752	4252
6.	Delhi	155.270	996.516	16.510	1168.296	148.735	410.117	13.984	572.836	95.791	41.155	84.700	49.03
7.	Goa	11.848	118.296	4.112	134.256	NA	NA	5.04	5.04	NA	NA	122.588	3.75
8.	Gujarat	716.587	2,787.564	167.081	3671.212	556.091	93.809	114.301	764.201	77.805	3.365	68.411	20.82
9.	Haryana	257.040	1,014.204	71.532	1342.776	217.587	154.641	65.097	437.325	84.651	15.248	91.004	32.57
10.	Himachal Pradesh	134.816	348.900	44.116	527.832	118.553	152.004	41.755	312.312	87.937	43.587	94.648	59.17
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	243.008	447.720	86.076	756.804	235.598	292.756	43.508	571.862	96.951	65.388	65.845	75.56
12.	Jharkhand	801.112	216.300	204.380	1221.792	385.914	20.607	167.666	554.187	45.676	9.527	82.036	45.36
13.	Karnataka	987.113	2,070.600	326.463	3384.876	972.701	848.631	300.882	2122.214	98.470	40.985	92.164	62.70
14.	Kerala	487.048	1,808.940	185.580	2461.548	493.84	284.047	156.714	914.401	101.353	14.587	94.657	37.15
15.	Madhya Pradesh	1,326.222	2,535.372	406.254	4267.848	1225.005	22.732	380.325	1628.062	92.368	0.897	93.168	38.15

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
16.	Maharashtra	2,069.837	4,700.880	874.467	7445.184	1773.019	67.391	598.26	2438.67	85.880	1.434	88.701	32.75
17.	Manipur	44.084	47.480	11.930	103.474	29.035	18.305	8.831	55.971	65.863	38.589	72.347	54.09
18.	Meghalaya	60.152	45.024	16.708	121.884	60.389	21.808	16.119	98.318	100.384	48.436	96.475	80.86
19.	Mizoram	21.241	83.840	7.439	122.52	21.644	70.007	7.098	98.749	101.897	74.809	95.416	80.80
20.	Nagaland	39.529	122.040	12.551	174.12	421.787	108.915	11.922	163.624	108.242	89.245	94.988	93.97
21.	Orissa	1,438.088	1,155.564	260.804	2852.256	1141.878	132.305	240.04	1514.223	79.513	11.449	92.109	53.09
22.	Punjab	166.416	1,473.240	30.120	1669.776	110.983	25.348	22.766	159.097	68.690	1.721	75.584	9.53
23.	Rajasthan	708.868	2,763.758	251.672	3724.296	651.375	301.545	230.951	1183.871	91.889	10.911	91.787	31.79
24.	Sikkim	14.076	25.812	4.164	44.052	14.022	18.152	4.058	36.812	99.616	71.796	97.454	63.11
25.	Tamilnadu	1,808.365	3,787.980	434.011	5830.356	1665.081	630.638	424.791	2720.51	103.526	16.648	97.878	46.66
26.	Tripura	100.929	179.232	22.971	303.132	104.67	60.168	21.376	186.214	103.707	33.570	93.056	61.43
27.	Uttar Pradesh	3,318.042	6,494.460	1,169.138	1097.64	2777.114	7.763	1126.056	3910.933	83.748	0.120	96.315	35.62
28.	Uttaranchal	177.120	333.552	32.052	542.724	178.697	16.772	41.62	237.089	100.890	5.028	129.851	43.69
29.	West Bengal	1,618.945	4,089.180	391.595	6099.72	1259.8	924.827	280.473	2445.1	77.816	22.616	66.516	40.09
30.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	7.430	36.360	1.800	45.59	0.887	2.023	NA	2.91	11.938	5.564	NA	6.38
31.	Chandigarh	8.748	75.516	0.888	85.152	0.17	NA	0.191	0.361	1.943	NA	21.509	0.42
32.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	5.544	7.140	1.176	131.86	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
33.	Daman and Diu	1.428	9.420	0.252	11.1	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
34.	Lakshadweep	0.372	3.708	0.168	4.248	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
35.	Pondicherry	28.238	13.200	6.874	48.312	2.82	0.085	1.235	3.94	9.278	0.644	17.986	8.16
Total		21,272.257	44,387.856	6,059.811	71,989.724	17,451.813	6,431.933	5,471.291	29,355.037	82.040	14.497	90.288	40.942
1.	CRP/BSF	NA	54.652	NA	54.652	NA	39.278	NA	39.278	NA	71.889	NA	71.889
2.	Defence	NA	281.064	NA	281.064	NA	246.748	NA	246.748	NA	87.791	NA	87.791
3.	Bhutan	NA	22.048	NA	22.048	NA	10.914	NA	10.914	NA	49.501	NA	49.501
Grand Total (All India)		21,272.257	44,725.420	6,059.811	72,057.488	17,451.813	6,728.873	5,471.291	29,651.977	82.040	15.045	90.288	41.50

*Statement X**Allocation and offtake of foodgrains under mid day meal scheme during 2004-05*

(fig. in '000' tonnes)

Sl.No.	State	Annual Allocation (P)			Offtake (P)		
		Rice	Wheat	Total	Rice	Wheat	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	213.41	0.00	213.41	208.42	0.00	208.42
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	3.56	0.00	3.56	3.92	0.00	3.92
3.	Assam	101.36	0.00	101.36	87.28	0.00	87.28
4.	Bihar	113.67	164.34	278.01	113.49	50.63	164.12
5.	Chhattisgarh	56.57	0.00	56.57	0.00	0.00	0.00
6.	Delhi	10.78	10.78	21.56	9.71	5.74	15.45
7.	Goa	1.23	0.00	1.23	0.00	0.00	0.00
8.	Gujarat	30.11	30.11	60.22	28.02	24.53	52.55
9.	Haryana	23.04	23.04	46.08	8.30	12.53	20.83
10.	Himachal Pradesh	17.52	0.00	17.52	16.52	0.00	16.52
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	24.94	0.00	24.94	1.02	0.00	1.02
12.	Jharkhand	82.00	0.00	82.00	55.32	0.00	55.32
13.	Karnataka	111.92	5.63	117.55	88.56	3.10	91.66
14.	Kerala	42.63	0.00	42.63	42.39	0.00	42.39
15.	Madhya Pradesh	39.07	120.91	159.98	33.16	103.93	137.09
16.	Maharashtra	222.30	0.00	222.30	133.14	2.53	135.67
17.	Manipur	9.17	0.00	9.17	8.02	0.00	8.02
18.	Meghalaya	10.06	0.00	10.06	9.51	0.00	9.51
19.	Mizoram	1.82	0.00	1.82	1.63	0.00	1.63
20.	Nagaland	3.47	0.00	3.47	4.36	0.00	4.36
21.	Orissa	135.29	0.00	135.29	104.97	0.00	104.97
22.	Punjab	0.00	43.22	43.22	0.00	28.88	28.88
23.	Rajasthan	2.66	165.90	168.56	1.07	119.94	121.01
24.	Sikkim	1.67	0.00	1.67	1.68	0.00	1.68

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
10.	Himachal Pradesh	0.76	0.00	0.76	0.52	0.00	0.52
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	1.23	0.00	1.23	0.00	0.00	0.00
12.	Jharkhand	6.59	0.00	6.59	6.43	0.14	6.57
13.	Karnataka	8.16	0.00	8.16	0.00	0.00	0.00
14.	Kerala	3.71	0.00	3.71	2.72	0.00	2.72
15.	Madhya Pradesh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
16.	Maharashtra	5.40	9.00	14.40	6.27	6.43	12.70
17.	Manipur	1.03	0.00	1.03	0.15	0.00	0.15
18.	Meghalaya	1.11	0.00	1.11	1.67	0.00	1.67
19.	Mizoram	0.31	0.00	0.31	0.49	0.00	0.49
20.	Nagaland	0.80	0.00	0.80	0.81	0.00	0.81
21.	Orissa	7.78	0.00	7.78	7.62	0.00	7.62
22.	Punjab	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.28	0.28
23.	Rajasthan	0.00	12.64	12.64	0.00	12.26	12.26
24.	Sikkim	0.30	0.00	0.30	0.15	0.00	0.15
25.	Tamil Nadu	8.64	0.00	8.64	8.64	0.00	8.64
26.	Tripura	1.78	0.00	1.78	1.78	0.00	1.78
27.	Uttar Pradesh	0.00	42.010	42.00	0.00	39.62	39.62
28.	Uttaranchal	1.26	0.00	1.26	1.02	0.00	1.02
29.	West Bengal	9.60	0.00	9.60	5.71	0.00	5.71
30.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0.06	0.00	0.06	0.00	0.00	0.00
31.	Chandigarh	0.00	0.06	0.06	0.00	0.00	0.00
32.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0.04	0.00	0.04	0.00	0.00	0.00
33.	Daman and Diu	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00
34.	Lakshadweep	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00
35.	Pondicherry	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Grand Total		89.89	76.72	166.61	64.22	68.15	132.37

Note: Based on information provided by FCI as on 5.5.2005.

*Statement XII**Allocation and offtake of foodgrains under wheat based Nutrition Programme during 2004-05*

(fig. in '000' tonnes)

Sl.No.	State	Annual Allocation (P)			Offtake (P)		
		Rice	Wheat	Total	Rice	Wheat	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	29.56	29.00	58.56	33.34	26.60	59.94
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
3.	Assam	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
4.	Bihar	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
5.	Chhattisgarh	0.00	39.57	39.57	0.30	33.48	33.78
6.	Delhi	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
7.	Goa	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
8.	Gujarat	0.00	40.00	40.00	0.60	27.93	28.53
9.	Haryana	0.00	1.72	1.72	0.00	56.23	56.23
10.	Himachal Pradesh	1.90	1.10	3.00	1.09	0.63	1.72
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
12.	Jharkhand	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.42	0.00	0.42
13.	Karnataka	51.84	19.20	71.04	23.06	5.46	28.52
14.	Kerala	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
15.	Madhya Pradesh	0.00	72.00	72.00	14.86	118.91	133.77
16.	Maharashtra	29.56	0.00	29.56	7.96	3.98	11.94
17.	Manipur	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.45	0.00	0.45
18.	Meghalaya	0.00	2.26	2.26	0.00	1.94	1.94
19.	Mizoram	2.00	0.00	2.00	0.82	0.00	0.82
20.	Nagaland	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.55	0.00	1.55
21.	Orissa	0.00	68.88	68.88	0.00	57.80	57.80
22.	Punjab	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
23.	Rajasthan	0.00	4.00	4.00	0.00	4.67	4.67
24.	Sikkim	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.30	0.00	0.30

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
25.	Tamil Nadu	0.00	12.50	12.50	0.80	16.80	17.60
26.	Tripura	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
27.	Uttar Pradesh	0.00	51.66	51.66	0.00	0.00	0.00
28.	Uttaranchal	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
29.	West Bengal	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.85	1.85
30.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0.80	0.00	0.80	0.00	0.00	0.00
31.	Chandigarh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
32.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0.09	0.05	0.14	0.00	0.00	0.00
33.	Daman and Diu	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
34.	Lakshadweep	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
35.	Pondicherry	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.59	0.59
Grand Total		115.75	341.94	457.89	85.55	356.87	442.42

Note: Based on information received from FCI on 5.5.2005 in respect of offtake.

Statement XIII

Allocation and offtake of Foodgrains under Hostels/Welfare Institutions during 2004-05

(fig. in '000' tonnes)

Sl.No.	State	Annual Allocation (P)			Offtake (P)		
		Rice	Wheat	Total	Rice	Wheat	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	63.56	0.00	63.56	69.33	0.00	69.33
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1.51	0.23	1.74	0.04	0.00	0.04
3.	Assam	33.20	0.00	33.20	0.03	0.00	0.03
4.	Bihar	44.40	66.60	111.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
5.	Chhattisgarh	24.29	5.65	29.94	0.20	5.87	6.07
6.	Delhi	0.25	5.61	7.86	0.00	0.00	0.00
7.	Goa	0.36	0.24	0.60	0.00	0.00	0.00
8.	Gujarat	9.67	26.99	36.66	0.04	27.09	27.13
9.	Haryana	0.00	13.56	13.56	0.00	0.38	0.38

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
10.	Himachal Pradesh	4.20	2.78	6.96	0.76	0.42	1.18
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	9.64	3.04	12.68	0.00	0.00	0.00
12.	Jharkhand	24.51	16.20	40.17	0.40	0.00	0.40
13.	Karnataka	40.12	10.00	50.12	19.30	3.34	22.64
14.	Kerala	18.86	6.28	25.14	3.40	1.13	4.53
15.	Madhya Pradesh	10.12	57.20	67.32	1.34	15.69	17.03
16.	Maharashtra	38.68	67.11	105.79	14.34	16.53	30.87
17.	Manipur	2.16	0.00	2.16	0.34	0.00	0.34
18.	Meghalaya	3.16	0.00	3.16	1.58	0.00	1.58
19.	Mizoram	1.05	0.00	1.05	0.62	0.00	0.62
20.	Nagaland	1.56	0.35	1.92	1.66	0.37	2.03
21.	Orissa	74.16	0.00	74.16	31.47	0.02	31.49
22.	Punjab	0.00	8.28	8.28	0.00	0.00	0.00
23.	Rajasthan	0.36	35.88	36.24	0.00	1.20	1.20
24.	Sikkim	0.72	0.00	0.72	0.00	0.00	0.00
25.	Tamil Nadu	84.28	0.00	84.28	48.20	0.00	48.20
26.	Tripura	5.16	0.00	5.16	1.30	0.00	1.30
27.	Uttar Pradesh	59.35	109.20	168.55	0.03	0.06	0.09
28.	Uttaranchal	5.64	3.24	8.88	0.00	0.00	0.00
29.	West Bengal	41.32	41.32	82.64	0.01	3.27	3.28
30.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0.24	0.12	0.36	0.00	0.00	0.00
31.	Chandigarh	0.12	0.24	0.36	0.00	0.00	0.00
32.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0.24	0.06	0.30	0.00	0.00	0.00
33.	Daman and Diu	0.05	0.02	0.07	0.00	0.00	0.00
34.	Lakshadweep	0.02	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.00
35.	Pondichery	1.40	0.00	1.40	0.00	0.00	0.00
Grand Total		606.36	480.19	1086.55	194.39	75.37	269.76

Note 1: Based on information received from FCI on 5.5.2005 in respect of offtake.

Note 2: Offtake of Andhra Pradesh includes lifting against backlog quota.

*Statement XIV**Allocation and offtake of Foodgrains under SGRY scheme during 2004-05*

(fig. in '000' tonnes)

Sl.No.	State	Annual Allocation (P)			Offtake (P)		
		Rice	Wheat	Total	Rice	Wheat	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	264.33	0.00	264.33	469.61	0.00	469.61
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.30	0.00	2.30
3.	Assam	338.74	0.00	338.74	396.58	0.00	396.58
4.	Bihar	543.19	0.00	543.19	305.45	5.38	310.83
5.	Chhattisgarh	137.81	0.00	137.81	5.52	0.00	5.52
6.	Delhi	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
7.	Goa	2.81	0.00	2.81	12.92	0.00	12.92
8.	Gujarat	0.00	141.33	141.33	2.78	63.48	66.26
9.	Haryana	0.00	61.53	61.53	0.00	56.36	56.36
10.	Himachal Pradesh	14.09	12.07	26.16	13.80	13.53	27.13
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	22.14	7.71	29.85	22.12	8.06	30.18
12.	Jharkhand	219.23	88.21	307.44	78.07	51.85	129.02
13.	Karnataka	159.29	37.60	196.89	239.46	33.58	273.04
14.	Kerala	61.23	30.61	91.84	62.25	33.40	95.65
15.	Madhya Pradesh	89.08	229.26	318.34	105.77	358.30	464.07
16.	Maharashtra	143.17	222.68	365.85	90.00	597.31	687.31
17.	Manipur	20.05	0.00	20.05	18.51	0.00	18.51
18.	Meghalaya	23.81	0.00	23.81	38.72	0.00	38.72
19.	Mizoram	6.11	0.00	6.11	19.46	0.00	19.46
20.	Nagaland	7.26	7.26	14.52	15.87	8.31	24.18
21.	Orissa	285.32	0.00	285.32	267.83	0.00	267.83
22.	Punjab	0.00	67.83	67.83	0.00	61.32	61.32
23.	Rajasthan	0.00	160.70	160.70	0.01	195.14	195.14
24.	Sikkim	7.01	0.00	7.01	9.52	0.00	9.52

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
25.	Tamil Nadu	248.29	0.00	248.29	254.07	0.00	254.07
26.	Tripura	43.80	0.00	43.80	78.04	0.00	78.04
27.	Uttar Pradesh	269.05	606.70	875.75	221.67	458.96	680.63
28.	Uttaranchal	34.23	25.56	59.79	38.42	28.02	66.44
29.	West Bengal	317.85	0.00	317.85	258.73	0.00	258.73
30.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	2.46	0.00	2.46	0.00	0.00	0.00
31.	Chandigarh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
32.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	1.21	0.00	1.21	0.00	0.00	0.00
33.	Daman and Diu	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
34.	Lakshadweep	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
35.	Pondicherry	2.29	0.00	2.29	0.00	0.00	0.00
Grand Total		3263.85	1699.05	4962.90	3027.28	1973.00	5000.28

Note: Based on information received from FCI on 5.5.2005.

Statement XV

Allocation and offtake of Foodgrains under Special Component of SGRY scheme 2004-05

(fig. in '000' tonnes)

Si.No.	State	Annual Allocation (P)			Offtake (P)		
		Rice	Wheat	Total	Rice	Wheat	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	402.00	0.00	402.00	180.14	0.00	180.014*
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.00	0.00	0.00	30.04	0.00	30.04
3.	Assam	100.00	0.00	100.00	90.58	0.00	90.58
4.	Bihar	384.00	0.00	384.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
5.	Chhattisgarh	90.00	0.00	90.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
6.	Delhi	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
7.	Goa	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
8.	Gujarat	0.00	0.00	0.00	10.88	92.44	103.32
9.	Haryana	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	9.00	9.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
10.	Himachal Pradesh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
12.	Jharkhand	67.00	0.00	67.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
13.	Karnataka	353.62	0.00	353.62	361.00	1.71	360.71
14.	Kerala	42.00	0.00	42.00	59.11	0.00	59.11
15.	Madhya Pradesh	0.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	1.41	1.41
16.	Maharashtra	0.00	300.00	300.00	37.13	111.00	148.13
17.	Manipur	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
18.	Meghalaya	3.12	0.00	3.12	0.00	0.00	0.00
19.	Mizoram	0.50	0.00	0.50	0.00	0.00	0.00
20.	Nagaland	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
21.	Orissa	0.00	0.00	0.00	25.49	0.00	25.49
22.	Punjab	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.29	0.29
23.	Rajasthan	0.00	718.00	718.00	0.00	574.19	574.19
24.	Sikkim	2.00	0.00	2.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
25.	Tamil Nadu	150.00	0.00	150.00	435.15	0.00	435.15
26.	Tripura	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
27.	Uttar Pradesh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
28.	Uttaranchal	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
29.	West Bengal	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
30.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
31.	Chandigarh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
32.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
33.	Daman and Diu	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
34.	Lakshadweep	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
35.	Pondicherry	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Grand Total		1594.24	1118.00	2712.24	1229.50	790.04	2019.54

Note 1: Bases on information received from FCI on 5.5.2005.

Note 2: Offtake includes offtake against backlog quota.

*However, Dy. General Manager FCI, Hyderabad vide fax dated 16.9.2005 has intimated that the entire allotment of 4.02 lakh MT of rice has been lifted during the validity period.

Statement XVI*Allocation and offtake of Foodgrains under National Food for Work Programme during the year 2004-05*

(fig. in '000' tonnes)

Sl.No.	State	Annual Allocation (P)			Offtake (P)		
		Rice	Wheat	Total	Rice	Wheat	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	125.41	0.00	125.41	46.41	0.00	46.41
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
3.	Assam	108.98	0.00	108.98	0.15	0.00	0.15
4.	Bihar	271.18	0.00	271.18	7.90	0.00	7.90
5.	Chhattisgarh	109.05	0.00	109.05	0.30	0.00	0.30
6.	Delhi	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
7.	Goa	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.87	0.87
8.	Gujarat	0.00	41.04	41.04	0.16	17.15	17.31
9.	Haryana	0.00	2.89	2.89	0.00	0.00	0.00
10.	Himachal Pradesh	1.74	1.39	3.13	0.00	0.30	0.30
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	3.58	1.49	5.07	0.00	0.00	0.00
12.	Jharkhand	165.45	66.56	232.01	2.67	2.44	5.11
13.	Karnataka	24.03	6.01	30.04	3.75	0.82	4.57
14.	Kerala	3.75	1.87	5.62	0.00	0.00	0.00
15.	Madhya Pradesh	54.53	107.79	162.32	32.98	0.00	32.98
16.	Maharashtra	75.34	83.66	159.00	19.63	9.86	29.49
17.	Manipur	2.61	0.00	2.61	0.00	0.00	0.00
18.	Meghalaya	3.56	0.00	3.56	0.00	0.00	0.00
19.	Mizoram	0.63	0.00	0.63	0.00	0.00	0.00
20.	Nagaland	1.49	1.49	2.98	0.00	0.00	0.00
21.	Orissa	228.86	0.00	228.86	143.56	0.00	143.56
22.	Punjab	0.00	7.36	7.36	0.00	20.20	20.20
23.	Rajasthan	0.00	36.27	36.27	0.00	4.91	4.91

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
24.	Sikkim	2.07	0.00	2.07	0.00	0.00	0.00
25.	Tamil Nadu	49.82	0.00	49.82	9.90	6.00	15.90
26.	Tripura	10.11	0.00	10.11	0.00	0.50	0.50
27.	Uttar Pradesh	57.52	213.26	270.78	3.99	1.49	5.48
28.	Uttaranchal	6.93	3.49	10.42	0.86	0.80	1.66
29.	West Bengal	117.57	0.00	117.57	35.89	0.00	35.89
30.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
31.	Chandigarh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
32.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
33.	Daman and Diu	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
34.	Lakshadweep	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
35.	Pondicherry	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Grand Total		1424.21	574.57	1998.78	308.15	65.34	373.49

Note: Based on information received from FCI on 5.5.2005 in respect of offtake.

Statement XVII

Allocation and offtake of Rice and Wheat for the year 2005-2006 (P) under TPDS

(In '000 Tonnes)

Sl.No.	States/UTs	Allotment				Offtake				% Offtake			
		BPL	APL	AAY	Total	BPL	APL	AAY	Total	BPL	APL	AAY	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1,086.129	2,228.740	620.247	3973.116	1101.87	1507.07	60.8.58	3217.5	101.449	68.488	98.116	80.98
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	28.580	69.750	12.936	111.246	25.52	43.25	12.4	81.17	89.356	62.007	95.857	72.96
3.	Assam	625.416	955.140	175.104	1755.86	585.48	444.48	181.09	1221.15	95.213	46.546	103.419	69.56
4.	Bihar	2,188.851	2,291.520	472.533	4930.704	670.01	25.55	421.06	1118.62	31.106	1.115	89.107	22.89
5.	Chhattisgarh	532.812	1,045.800	254.820	1833.432	536.803	52.25	229.189	818.242	100.749	4.988	89.942	44.83
6.	Delhi	148.464	996.516	23.316	1168.296	145.19	302.61	22.15	469.95	97.795	30.367	94.999	40.23
7.	Goa	10.221	118.296	5.739	134.256	3.804	6.103	2.447	12.354	37.217	5.159	42.838	9.20
8.	Gujarat	618.063	2,787.564	258.785	3664.412	471.11	178.29	192.34	841.74	76.224	6.396	74.324	22.97

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
9.	Haryana	242.516	1,014.204	86.056	1342.778	195.25	18.07	76.89	290.21	80.510	1.782	89.349	21.61
10.	Himachal Pradesh	116.848	348.990	62.284	527.832	95.56	179.07	55.6	330.23	81.922	51.224	89.289	62.58
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	220.335	447.420	88.749	756.804	225.77	346.96	73.09	645.82	102.467	77.495	82.356	85.34
12.	Jharkhand	700.224	216.300	305.268	1221.792	360.91	21.16	282.63	684.7	54.398	8.783	92.584	56.04
13.	Karnataka	876.317	2,035.014	407.752	3318.083	875.89	877.57	378.35	2131.61	99.928	43.124	82.789	64.22
14.	Kerala	445.560	1,808.940	207.880	2461.588	436.973	323.932	200.722	961.627	96.073	17.907	96.926	39.07
15.	Madhya Pradesh	1,195.315	2,535.372	534.141	4264.828	1217.046	153.02	509.58	1879.646	101.818	6.035	95.402	44.07
16.	Madhya Pradesh	1,914.488	4,700.880	829.836	7445.184	1647.21	127.48	736.41	2511.1	86.040	2.712	88.742	33.73
17.	Manipur	36.566	47.460	23.078	107.104	33.93	14.89	13.96	62.78	92.791	31.374	60.491	58.42
18.	Meghalaya	53.568	45.024	23.292	121.884	54.7	22.81	22.72	100.03	102.113	50.218	97.544	82.07
19.	Mizoram	18.279	72.020	10.401	100.7	17.65	55.89	10.01	83.55	96.559	77.803	86.241	82.97
20.	Nagaland	35.817	102.400	16.283	154.48	35.61	94.86	16.44	146.71	99.422	92.441	101.088	94.97
21.	Orissa	1,261.907	1,155.564	434.785	2852.256	797.408	109.77	450.493	1357.671	63.191	9.499	10.618	47.80
22.	Punjab	164.067	1,473.240	32.489	1669.776	71.11	8.84	18.24	98.19	43.342	0.800	56.177	5.88
23.	Rajasthan	593.382	2,763.756	340.018	3997.156	489.57	204.17	300.57	974.31	79.135	7.387	88.398	26.35
24.	Sikkim	14.078	25.812	4.184	44.052	14.05	24.04	4.32	42.41	99.815	93.135	103.746	96.27
25.	Tamilnadu	1,397.897	3,787.980	644.679	5830.356	1391.6	1663.797	657.63	3713.027	99.564	43.923	102.009	63.88
26.	Tripura	85.364	179.232	28.356	303.132	92.77	86.96	28.53	188.26	97.890	37.859	99.979	62.10
27.	Uttar Pradesh	2,945.106	6,494.460	1,539.686	10979.252	2560.263	40.166	1438.283	4036.718	86.933	0.618	93.414	36.79
28.	Uttaranchal	162.413	333.552	46.759	542.724	166.282	53.216	34.615	254.231	102.382	15.984	74.029	46.84
29.	West Bengal	1,447.969	4,089.180	562.571	6099.72	1294.459	1029.41	454.3	2778.189	89.398	25.174	80.754	45.55
30.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	7.428	36.360	1.800	45.588	1.81	15.79	0.53	18.13	24.367	43.427	29.444	39.77
31.	Chandigarh	8.748	75.516	0.888	85.152	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
32.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	5.192	7.140	1.528	13.86	1.67	0.89	0.72	3.28	32.615	12.465	47.120	23.67
33.	Daman and Diu	1.236	9.420	0.444	11.1	0.44	0.15	0.22	0.81	35.599	1.582	49.550	7.30
34.	Lakshadweep	0.372	3.360	0.168	3.9	0.47	2.98	0.33	3.78	126.3444	86.690	196.429	96.82
35.	Pondichery	22.862	13.200	12.250	48.312	12.53	5.2	7.91	25.64	54.807	39.394	64.571	53.07
Total		19,199.748	44,353.332	8,068.433	71,621.513	15,642.518	8,020.494	7,442.335	31,105.347	81.473	18.083	92.240	43.430
1.	CRP/BSF	NA	53.58	NA	53.58	NA	21.38	NA	21.38	NA	39.903	NA	39.903
2.	Defence	NA	285	NA	285	NA	248.53	NA	248.53	NA	87.204	NA	87.204
3.	Bhutan	NA	24.997	NA	27.977	NA	11.89	NA	11.89	NA	47.566	NA	47.566
Grand Total (All India)		19,199.748	44,716.909	8,068.433	71,965.090	15,642.518	8,302.294	7,442.335	31,387.147	81.473	18.566	92.240	43.602

*Statement XVIII**Nutritional Programme for Adolescent Girls during 2005-06 allocation and offtake of Rice & Wheat*

(fig. in '000' tonnes)

Sl.No.	State/UT	Allocation			Offtake		
		Rice	Wheat	Total	Rice	Wheat	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	9.35	0.00	9.35	9.35	0.00	9.35
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.05	0.00	0.05	0.00	0.00	0.00
3.	Assam	2.05	0.00	2.05	0.00	0.00	0.00
4.	Bihar	0.00	9.00	9.00	0.00	1.40	1.40
5.	Chhattisgarh	2.80	0.00	2.80	0.90	0.00	0.90
6.	Delhi	0.00	1.15	1.15	0.00	0.06	0.06
7.	Goa	0.75	0.00	0.75	0.00	0.00	0.00
8.	Gujarat	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
9.	Haryana	0.00	2.00	2.00	0.00	1.33	1.33
10.	Himachal Pradesh	1.50	1.50	3.00	1.20	1.50	2.70
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	1.10	0.00	1.10	0.00	0.00	0.00
12.	Jharkhand	0.00	3.05	3.05	0.00	0.00	0.00
13.	Karnataka	8.85	0.00	8.85	6.03	0.00	6.03
14.	Kerala	4.05	0.00	4.05	0.00	0.00	0.00
15.	Madhya Pradesh	0.00	4.75	4.75	0.00	1.10	1.10
16.	Maharashtra	10.50	0.00	10.50	0.00	0.00	0.00
17.	Manipur	0.25	0.00	0.25	0.20	0.00	0.20
18.	Meghalaya	0.30	0.00	0.30	0.00	0.00	0.00
19.	Mizoram	0.10	0.00	0.10	0.09	0.00	0.09
20.	Nagaland	0.60	0.00	0.60	0.59	0.00	0.59
21.	Orissa	5.00	0.00	5.00	1.95	0.00	1.95
22.	Punjab	0.00	2.10	2.10	0.00	0.00	0.00
23.	Rajasthan	0.00	4.05	4.05	0.00	1.95	1.95
24.	Sikkim	0.20	0.00	0.20	0.10	0.00	0.10

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
25.	Tamil Nadu	7.10	0.00	7.10	7.10	0.00	7.10
26.	Tripura	1.55	0.00	1.55	1.42	0.00	1.42
27.	Uttar Pradesh	0.00	5.30	5.30	0.00	0.86	0.86
28.	Uttaranchal	0.00	1.80	1.80	0.00	0.00	0.00
29.	West Bengal	10.65	0.00	10.65	10.14	0.00	10.14
30.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0.30	0.00	0.30	0.19	0.00	0.19
31.	Chandigarh	0.00	0.50	0.50	0.00	0.00	0.00
32.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0.60	0.00	0.60	0.49	0.00	0.49
33.	Daman and Diu	0.20	0.00	0.20	0.00	0.00	0.00
34.	Lakshadweep	0.05	0.00	0.05	0.00	0.00	0.00
35.	Pondicherry	0.20	0.00	0.20	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total		68.10	35.20	103.30	39.75	8.20	47.95

Note: Offtake includes backlog quota also.

Statement XIX

National Food for Work Programme during 2005-2006

(fig. in '000' tonnes)

Si.No.	State/UT	Allocation			Offtake		
		Rice	Wheat	Total	Rice	Wheat	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	150.97	0.00	150.97	72.15	0.00	72.15
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
3.	Assam	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.46	3.39	3.85
4.	Bihar	75.40	2.37	77.77	93.03	0.00	93.03
5.	Chhattisgarh	118.29	0.00	118.29	0.79	13.41	14.20
6.	Delhi	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
7.	Goa	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
8.	Gujarat	0.00	13.36	13.36	0.51	55.44	55.91
9.	Haryana	0.00	1.04	1.04	0.00	3.93	3.93
10.	Himachal Pradesh	2.08	1.67	3.75	2.15	1.72	3.87

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	1.51	1.80	3.31	0.60	0.07	0.67
12.	Jharkhand	0.00	27.76	27.76	30.28	37.63	67.91
13.	Karnataka	0.00	2.17	2.17	23.06	6.03	29.09
14.	Kerala	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
15.	Madhya Pradesh	31.18	126.89	158.07	42.23	112.39	154.62
16.	Maharashtra	1.91	19.02	20.93	80.36	73.74	154.10
17.	Manipur	5.00	0.00	5.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
18.	Meghalaya	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.30	0.30
19.	Mizoram	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
20.	Nagaland	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.01	0.49	2.50
21.	Orissa	245.74	0.00	245.74	185.14	0.00	185.14
22.	Punjab	0.00	2.66	2.66	0.00	0.22	0.22
23.	Rajasthan	0.00	43.66	43.66	1.06	34.60	35.66
24.	Sikkim	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.28	0.00	2.28
25.	Tamil Nadu	0.00	0.00	0.00	34.07	0.00	34.07
26.	Tripura	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
27.	Uttar Pradesh	0.00	9.31	9.31	19.69	54.07	73.76
28.	Uttaranchal	0.00	0.99	0.99	5.91	2.62	8.53
29.	West Bengal	32.57	0.00	32.57	61.18	8.27	69.45
30.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
31.	Chandigarh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
32.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
33.	Daman and Diu	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
34.	Lakshadweep	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
35.	Pondicherry	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total		664.65	252.70	917/35	658.96	408.32	1067.28

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
25.	Tamil Nadu	44.00	0.00	44.00	64.90	0.47	65.37
26.	Tripura	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
27.	Uttar Pradesh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
28.	Uttaranchal	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
29.	West Bengal	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
30.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	7.50	0.00	7.50	0.00	0.00	0.00
31.	Chandigarh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
32.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.30	0.00	0.30
33.	Daman and Diu	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.04	0.04
34.	Lakshadweep	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
35.	Pondicherry	1.50	0.00	1.50	0.15	0.00	0.15
Total		599.20	714.80	1314.00	744.21	982.34	1726.55

Note: offtake includes lifting against backlog quota also and based on information received from FCI.

*Senior Regional Manager, FCI, Jaipur have intimated the Govt. of Rajasthan has lifted the entire stock of 5.00 lakh MT wheat allotted to them prior to 21.9.2006. On 21.9.2006 we have further allotted 1.50 lakh MT wheat.

Statement XXI

Sampoorna Gramin Rojgar Yojana during 2005-2006

(Fig. in '000' tonnes)

Sl.No.	State/UT	Allocation			Offtake		
		Rice	Wheat	Total	Rice	Wheat	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	195.00	0.00	195.96	307.34	0.00	307.00
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
3.	Assam	277.42	0.00	277.42	401.33	1.42	402.75
4.	Bihar	388.07	0.00	388.07	319.07	0.00	319.52
5.	Chhattisgarh	109.37	0.00	109.37	3.97	0.00	3.97
6.	Delhi	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
7.	Goa	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
8.	Gujarat	0.00	85.80	85.80	0.16	32.14	32.30

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9.	Haryana	0.00	45.20	45.20	0.00	48.38	48.38
10.	Himachal Pradesh	8.98	8.07	17.05	12.90	10.81	23.71
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	16.47	6.28	22.75	18.44	7.06	25.50
12.	Jharkhand	187.67	75.50	263.17	79.81	81.81	161.62
13.	Karnataka	117.08	29.26	146.34	131.80	33.12	164.92
14.	Kerala	43.77	21.89	65.66	62.13	26.97	89.10
15.	Madhya Pradesh	65.97	170.22	236.19	95.34	249.88	345.22
16.	Maharashtra	114.22	175.05	289.27	101.94	166.87	268.81
17.	Manipur	18.62	0.00	18.62	21.71	0.00	21.71
18.	Meghalaya	20.86	0.00	20.86	23.56	0.00	23.56
19.	Mizoram	4.83	0.00	4.83	4.88	0.00	4.88
20.	Nagaland	7.16	7.16	14.32	7.82	5.00	12.82
21.	Orissa	221.65	0.00	221.65	168.64	0.00	168.64
22.	Punjab	0.00	50.28	50.28	0.00	35.97	35.97
23.	Rajasthan	0.00	111.12	111.12	0.00	552.16	552.16
24.	Sikkim	5.34	0.00	5.34	6.71	11.49	18.20
25.	Tamil Nadu	171.35	0.00	171.35	207.42	0.29	207.71
26.	Tripura	33.62	0.00	33.62	26.40	0.00	26.40
27.	Uttar Pradesh	201.45	453.45	654.90	109.32	288.20	397.52
28.	Uttaranchal	25.17	18.58	43.75	31.73	19.29	51.02
29.	West Bengal	246.32	0.00	246.32	277.65	0.00	277.65
30.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
31.	Chandigarh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
32.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
33.	Daman and Diu	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
34.	Lakshadweep	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
35.	Pondicherry	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total		2481.35	1257.86	3739.21	2420.91	1570.86	3991.77

Statement XXII**Welfare Institutions and Hostels during 2005-2006**

(Fig. in '000' tonnes)

Sl.No.	State/UT	Allocation			Offtake		
		Rice	Wheat	Total	Rice	Wheat	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	60.76	13.84	74.60	159.29	0.03	159.32
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.76	0.10	0.86	0.07	0.00	0.07
3.	Assam	13.40	0.02	13.42	1.16	0.00	1.16
4.	Bihar	17.60	26.40	44.00	0.00	0.01	0.01
5.	Chhattisgarh	12.35	2.12	14.47	0.00	0.59	0.59
6.	Delhi	0.80	2.04	2.84	0.00	0.00	0.00
7.	Goa	0.40	0.17	0.57	0.00	0.00	0.00
8.	Gujarat	5.96	15.64	21.60	0.00	2.27	2.27
9.	Haryana	0.05	5.59	5.64	0.00	0.13	0.13
10.	Himachal Pradesh	2.12	1.56	3.68	1.99	1.41	3.40
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	3.92	1.24	5.16	0.00	0.00	0.00
12.	Jharkhand	9.96	7.08	17.06	0.21	0.00	0.21
13.	Karnataka	27.93	8.21	36.14	11.08	3.11	14.19
14.	Kerala	10.20	2.39	12.59	0.63	0.08	0.71
15.	Madhya Pradesh	5.82	28.07	33.89	4.97	6.39	11.29
16.	Maharashtra	23.20	39.32	62.52	5.84	9.32	15.26
17.	Manipur	1.14	0.10	1.24	0.41	0.06	0.47
18.	Meghalaya	1.94	0.28	2.22	0.72	0.00	0.72
19.	Mizoram	0.93	0.19	1.12	0.61	0.00	0.61
20.	Nagaland	1.51	0.52	2.03	0.57	0.50	1.07
21.	Orissa	34.54	2.68	37.22	8.86	0.00	8.86
22.	Punjab	0.01	3.30	3.31	0.00	0.00	0.00
23.	Rajasthan	0.29	16.06	16.37	0.00	0.49	0.49
24.	Sikkim	0.38	0.02	0.40	0.06	0.05	0.11

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
25.	Tamil Nadu	52.12	7.76	59.88	33.05	0.91	33.96
26.	Tripura	2.40	0.14	2.54	0.51	0.00	0.51
27.	Uttar Pradesh	35.14	40.10	75.24	0.01	1.10	1.11
28.	Uttaranchal	2.30	1.22	3.52	0.00	0.00	0.00
29.	West Bengal	18.26	17.41	35.36	6.08	0.00	6.08
30.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0.14	0.06	0.20	0.00	0.06	0.06
31.	Chandigarh	0.07	0.08	0.15	0.00	0.06	0.06
32.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0.12	0.03	0.15	0.00	0.12	0.12
33.	Daman and Diu	0.02	0.01	0.03	0.00	0.00	0.00
34.	Lakshadweep	0.05	0.00	0.05	0.00	0.00	0.00
35.	Pondicherry	0.78	0.08	0.86	0.39	0.00	0.39
Total		347.39	243.85	591.24	236.61	26.63	263.24

*Statement XXIII**Wheat based nutrition programme scheme during 2005-2006*

(Fig. in '000' tonnes)

SI.No.	State/UT	Allocation			Offtake		
		Rice	Wheat	Total	Rice	Wheat	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	27.16	28.00	55.16	34.24	27.73	61.97
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
3.	Assam	0.00	0.00	0.00	15.27	0.00	15.27
4.	Bihar	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.40	1.40
5.	Chhattisgarh	0.00	29.46	29.46	0.41	36.73	37.14
6.	Delhi	2.08	0.76	2.84	0.00	0.97	0.97
7.	Goa	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.40	0.40
8.	Gujarat	0.00	31.50	31.50	0.00	10.04	10.04
9.	Haryana	0.00	0.87	0.87	0.00	2.19	2.19
10.	Himachal Pradesh	2.50	1.60	4.10	1.04	1.28	2.32

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.95	0.95
12.	Jharkhand	0.00	0.00	0.00	16.35	0.00	16.35
13.	Karnataka	2.30	3.10	5.40	35.57	4.70	40.27
14.	Kerala	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
15.	Madhya Pradesh	1.61	80.00	81.61	9.62	55.13	64.75
16.	Maharashtra	18.80	0.00	18.80	16.78	23.12	39.90
17.	Manipur	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.20	0.00	0.00
18.	Meghalaya	0.00	0.92	0.92	0.26	0.92	1.18
19.	Mizoram	0.73	0.00	0.73	0.73	0.00	0.73
20.	Nagaland	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.30	0.22	0.52
21.	Orissa	41.11	20.69	61.80	54.48	19.90	74.38
22.	Punjab	1.75	1.50	3.25	1.85	3.11	4.96
23.	Rajasthan	0.00	3.10	3.10	0.00	4.72	4.72
24.	Sikkim	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.22	0.96	1.18
25.	Tamil Nadu	0.00	5.52	5.52	9.89	12.70	22.59
26.	Tripura	3.91	0.00	3.91	2.54	0.00	2.54
27.	Uttar Pradesh	0.00	73.54	73.54	0.00	6.57	48.31
28.	Uttaranchal	0.00	0.98	0.98	0.00	11.42	6.57
29.	West Bengal	0.00	0.00	0.00	6.79	0.00	0.18
30.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.18	0.00	0.00
31.	Chandigarh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
32.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0.08	0.08	0.00	0.48	0.00	0.48
33.	Daman and Diu	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
34.	Lakshadweep	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
35.	Pondicherry	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.13	0.00	0.13
Total		102.03	281.62	383.65	207.33	273.33	480.80

*Statement XXIV**Mid day meal scheme during 2005-2006*

(Fig. in '000' tonnes)

Sl.No.	State/UT	Allocation			Offtake		
		Rice	Wheat	Total	Rice	Wheat	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	114.10	0.00	114.10	115.40	0.00	115.40
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	4.54	0.00	4.54	3.13	0.00	3.13
3.	Assam	92.13	0.00	92.13	67.54	0.00	67.54
4.	Bihar	218.07	0.00	218.07	157.02	0.00	157.02
5.	Chhattisgarh	52.35	0.00	52.35	0.00	7.25	7.25
6.	Delhi	10.08	10.08	20.16	9.36	0.00	9.36
7.	Goa	1.41	0.00	1.41	0.11	0.00	0.11
8.	Gujarat	33.96	33.96	67.92	30.30	29.59	59.89
9.	Haryana	14.34	14.34	28.68	16.21	6.93	23.14
10.	Himachal Pradesh	11.45	0.00	11.45	10.85	0.00	10.85
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	18.76	0.00	18.76	8.77	0.00	8.77
12.	Jharkhand	82.69	0.00	82.69	64.16	0.00	64.16
13.	Karnataka	107.83	5.03	112.86	79.91	2.55	82.64
14.	Kerala	28.22	0.00	28.22	27.62	0.00	27.62
15.	Madhya Pradesh	46.46	144.62	191.08	37.66	125.24	162.90
16.	Maharashtra	207.81	0.00	207.81	149.59	0.00	149.59
17.	Manipur	6.54	0.00	6.54	5.24	0.00	5.24
18.	Meghalaya	10.04	0.00	10.04	9.00	0.00	9.00
19.	Mizoram	1.84	0.00	1.84	2.00	0.00	2.00
20.	Nagaland	3.76	0.00	3.76	2.75	0.00	2.75
21.	Orissa	104.11	0.00	104.11	85.57	0.00	85.57
22.	Punjab	12.80	15.26	28.06	3.05	5.71	8.76
23.	Rajasthan	58.83	137.28	196.11	31.93	90.40	122.33
24.	Sikkim	2.13	0.00	2.13	1.89	0.00	1.89

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
25.	Tamil Nadu	76.59	0.00	76.59	68.42	0.00	68.42
26.	Tripura	9.88	0.00	9.88	8.46	0.00	8.46
27.	Uttar Pradesh	225.10	110.87	335.97	190.60	95.61	286.21
28.	Uttaranchal	14.81	0.00	14.81	14.69	0.00	14.69
29.	West Bengal	206.42	0.00	206.42	161.99	0.00	161.69
30.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0.67	0.00	0.67	0.25	0.00	0.25
31.	Chandigarh	0.00	1.01	1.01	0.00	0.00	0.00
32.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0.61	0.00	0.61	0.17	0.00	0.17
33.	Daman and Diu	0.30	0.00	0.30	0.09	0.00	0.09
34.	Lakshadweep	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
35.	Pondicherry	0.88	0.00	0.00	0.65	0.00	0.00
Total		1777.88	472.45	2250.33	1364.38	363.28	1727.66

*Statement XXV**Annapurna scheme during 2005-2006*

(Fig. in '000' tonnes)

Sl.No.	State/UT	Allocation			Offtake		
		Rice	Wheat	Total	Rice	Wheat	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	11.18	0.00	11.18	11.16	0.00	11.16
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.57	0.00	0.57	0.47	0.00	0.47
3.	Assam	8.27	0.00	8.27	2.45	0.00	2.45
4.	Bihar	8.00	12.00	20.00	7.11	11.16	18.27
5.	Chhattisgarh	3.20	0.00	3.20	0.00	0.00	0.00
6.	Delhi	0.00	0.02	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.00
7.	Goa	0.00	0.00	0.09	0.00	0.00	0.00
8.	Gujarat	0.00	1.00	1.00	0.34	0.51	0.85
9.	Haryana	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
10.	Himachal Pradesh	0.77	0.00	0.77	0.38	0.00	0.38

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	1.23	0.00	1.23	00.00	0.00	0.00
12.	Jharkhand	6.59	0.00	6.59	6.52	0.00	6.52
13.	Karnataka	8.16	0.00	8.16	0.00	0.00	0.00
14.	Kerala	3.72	0.00	3.72	3.78	0.00	3.78
15.	Madhya Pradesh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
16.	Maharashtra	5.40	9.00	14.40	4.96	8.36	13.32
17.	Manipur	1.03	0.00	1.03	1.87	0.00	1.87
18.	Meghalaya	1.11	0.00	1.11	1.05	0.00	1.05
19.	Mizoram	0.31	0.00	0.31	0.31	0.00	0.31
20.	Nagaland	0.81	0.00	0.81	0.81	0.00	0.81
21.	Orissa	7.78	0.00	7.78	7.74	0.00	7.74
22.	Punjab	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
23.	Rajasthan	0.00	12.64	12.64	0.00	10.61	10.61
24.	Sikkim	0.30	0.00	0.30	0.33	0.00	0.33
25.	Tamil Nadu	8.64	0.00	8.64	8.62	0.00	8.62
26.	Tripura	1.78	0.00	1.78	1.79	0.00	1.79
27.	Uttar Pradesh	0.00	42.00	42.00	0.60	39.23	39.83
28.	Uttaranchal	1.26	0.00	1.26	0.44	0.00	0.44
29.	West Bengal	9.60	0.00	9.60	8.57	0.00	8.57
30.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0.06	0.00	0.06	0.00	0.00	0.00
31.	Chandigarh	0.00	0.06	0.06	0.00	0.00	0.00
32.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0.05	0.00	0.05	0.00	0.00	0.00
33.	Daman and Diu	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
34.	Lakshadweep	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
35.	Pondicherry	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total		89.93	76.72	166.65	69.36	69.87	139.23

Statement XXVI**Village Grain Banks Scheme***Statement showing funds recommended/required for establishment of Grain Banks during 2005-2006*

Sl.No.	State	No. of Banks recommended	Quantity of Foodgrain(R/W) MT	Financial assistance for foodgrains* Rs.	Funds for establishment of Grain Banks** Rs.	Total Financial Assistance Rs.
2005-06						
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1214	4856(R)	6,24,57,872	1,48,10,800	7,72,68,672
2.	Orissa	240	960 (R)	1,23,47,520	29,98,000	1,52,75,520
3.	Chhattisgarh	262	1048 (R)	1,34,79,376	31,98,400	1,66,75,776
4.	Madhya Pradesh	926	3704 1852R+1852W	4,20,25,399	56,12,200 56,85,000	4,76,37,599
5.	Jharkhand	583	2,332 (R)	2,99,94,184	71,12,600	3,71,06,784
	Total	3225				19,39,64,351
NE Region						
1.	Tripura	13	52(R)	6,68,824	1,58,600	8,27,424
2.	Meghalaya	44	176(R)	22,63,712	5,36,800	28,00,512
	Total (NE)	57				36,27,936
	Total	3282				19,75,92,287

*at economic cost: Rice: Rs. 12,862/- per MT and Wheat: Rs. 11276.30/- per MT.

** @Rs. 12,200/- per grain bank.

*[Translation]***Integrated Murrah Development Projects**

3723. SHRI KULDEEP BISHNOI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has approved Integrated Murrah Development Project (IMDP) of Haryana under Special Area Scheme;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the time by which it is likely to be approved and funds provided?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, the proposal submitted by the State Government of Haryana has been considered by the Government and Murrah bull production programme is included as one of the components under National Project for Cattle and Buffalo Breeding (NPCBB), Phase-II.

(c) The question does not arise.

*[English]***Problems of Tiger Reserves**

3724. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had decided to codify the problems of tiger reserves in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether many States have sought more funds and powers to deal with such problems; 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) On the recommendations of the Tiger Task Force set up by the National Board for Wildlife to look into the problems of tiger conservation, the Wildlife (Protection) Amendment Act, 2006 has been enacted, which has come into force w.e.f. 4.9.2006. Based on the enabling provisions of the said Act, the National Tiger Conservation Authority has been constituted w.e.f. 4.9.2006 to strengthen tiger conservation in the country.

(c) and (d) The protected areas belong to States, which have the required legal powers under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 to implement measures for protecting and conserving wildlife. Funds are provided to States based on annual demands received from them and as per availability in the various Centrally Sponsored Schemes of the Ministry.

Environmental Clearance to Industrial Projects

3725. SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of industrial projects cleared under the Environmental (Protection) Act, 1986 as on date;

(b) whether such projects have complied with all the conditions and implemented all the safeguards imposed by the Government; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) Ministry of Environment and Forests has granted environmental clearance to 874 industrial projects during the period January, 2004 to November, 2006.

(b) and (c) Regular monitoring of the projects is carried out by the respective Regional Office of Ministry of Environment and Forests and follow-up action in the form of continuous persuasion with the project authorities is undertaken for ensuring an effective compliance of the stipulated conditions. In cases of significant non-compliances, to begin with show cause notices are issued.

Plantation of Karanja

3726. SHRI K.C. PALLANI SHAMI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has initiated any programme for the plantation of Karanja for the purpose of bio-diesel production in the country particularly in Tamil Nadu;

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

(c) the details of infrastructure provided by the Government for identification of suitable lands, necessary training to the farmers in the country, particularly in Tamil Nadu;

(d) the area of land at present covered under Karanja cultivation;

(e) whether any assessment has been made regarding prospects of its expansion in near future; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (f) National Oilseeds and Vegetable Oils Development (NOVOD) Board, a statutory and autonomous body under the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, has initiated the programme for plantation of Tree Borne Oilseeds including Jatropha and Karanja in various States in the country including Tamil Nadu for bio-diesel production under the Central Sector Scheme "Integrated Development of Tree Borne Oilseeds" during 10th plan. The State-wise detail of plantation of Karanja is given in the enclosed statement.

There is no provision for setting up of infrastructure for identification of suitable lands and training to farmers in the country under the Scheme. However, the NOVOD Board has organized 62 Farmers training and 20 Trainers'

training in the country including 3 farmers' training and 1 Trainers' training programme in Tamil Nadu to disseminate the technical know-how about package of practices, quality seed collection, oil extraction, marketing etc. of Tree Borne Oilseeds benefiting about 200 field functionaries/seed collectors.

Department of Agriculture and Cooperation has not made any assessment of prospects of expansion of area under Karanja cultivation. However, plantation of Jatropha and Karanja in 3 lakh ha. of waste, degraded and marginal lands belonging to public agencies (forest land, department land including road, rail and canal bunds, common lands owned by panchayats, etc.) as well as marginal individual private lands, fields bunds, etc. has been envisaged by the Ministry of Rural Development, Department of Land Resources under the demonstration Phase of "National Bio-diesel Mission" during 2006-2012.

Statement

State-wise plantation of Karanja undertaken during 2002-2007

Sl.No.	Name of State	Karanja (ha.)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	407
2.	Bihar	10
3.	Chhattisgarh	530
4.	Gujarat	140
5.	Goa	10
6.	Haryana	10
7.	Jharkhand	100
8.	Karnataka	695
9.	Kerala	50
10.	Madhya Pradesh	150
11.	Maharashtra	21
12.	Sikkim	50
13.	Tamil Nadu	30
14.	Uttar Pradesh	156
Total		2359

[Translation]

Besalpur Project

3727. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of important "Besalpur" scheme for the supply of drinking water in Rajasthan;

(b) whether the Government of Rajasthan has sought special financial assistance from the Union Government for the said scheme;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether any project for the extension, development and strengthening of the above said scheme is pending with the Union Government; and

(e) if so, the time by which the action is likely to be taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Bisalpur Irrigation cum Drinking Water supply project envisages construction of a concrete dam across river Banas near village Bisalpur in Tonk district to provide annual irrigation of 55224 ha. in Tonk and Sawai Madhopur districts and water supply (16.2 TMC) to Jaipur, Tonk, Ajmer Beawar, etc. towns and en-route villages. The dam as well as both right and Left Main Canals have been completed. The total length of canal distribution system 663 km out of which 618.60 km has been completed.

(b) and (c) In response to CLA proposal of Government of Rajasthan under AIBP, CLA of Rs. 41.56 crore has been released during 1998-99 and 1999-2000. Thereafter, the Government of Rajasthan obtained financial assistance for the project from NABARD.

The Government of Rajasthan requested for release of funds to its 16 on-going major water supply projects and certain new schemes to tackle water quality problems to Union Ministry of Rural Development. Bisalpur-Dadu water supply project is one of these ongoing projects targeted to tackle water quality problems in 694 villages/

habitations. Funds to the tune of Rs. 206.00 crore have been released to State Government of Rajasthan as Central Share during the current financial year against their allocation of Rs. 206.63 crore.

(d) and (e) The Government of Rajasthan has not proposed any ERM scheme for Bisalpur Project. However, Bisalpur Drinking Water Supply cum Irrigation project with culturable command area of 81800 ha. and estimated cost of Rs. 129.34 crore has been included in the Centrally sponsored command area development and water management during the current financial year.

[English]

Irregularities in DD

3728. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY:
SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:

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

(a) whether there have been irregularities in short listing of films to be screened on Doordarshan;

(b) whether films already screened on Doordarshan were accepted as fresh films;

(c) if so, whether any inquiry in this regard has been conducted;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof;

(e) the number of persons found involved in such irregularities;

(f) the loss of revenue of the Government due to such irregularities; and

(g) the action taken by the Government to check the recurrence of such instances in future?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) to (e) In a preliminary enquiry conducted by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting into the functioning of

the Films Wing in Mumbai, irregularities in the selection and gradation of films were *prima-facie* observed which were found to be deviating from the normal practice. Prasar Bharati have informed that based on the findings, three official have been transferred. A CBI enquiry has been ordered and further investigation is in progress.

(f) Prasar Bharati have informed that there is no quantification of any losses.

(g) Prasar Bharati have informed that a new film selection committee has been set up. New tighter guidelines will reduce the possibility of future lapses.

Artificial Recharge of Ground Water

3729. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government recently constituted an Artificial Recharge Ground Water Advisory Council; and

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating composition, membership, tenure and terms of reference of the council?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Ministry of Water Resources vide Resolution dated 17.04.2006 has constituted an 'Artificial Recharge of Ground Water Advisory Council' under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Minister of Water Resources. The main objective of setting up the above Council is to popularize the concept of artificial recharge among all stake holders and its adoption including development of area specific technology, co-ordination among various Central, State organisations and NGO's Industries/stake holders, funding strategies including private participation and R&D — especially of development of low cost technology. The Advisory Council comprises of Members from different concerned Ministries/ Departments, representatives of State Governments, Public Undertakings, Financial Institutions, representative of Industries and renowned Subject Experts/Farmers/NGOs. Details of Advisory Council's composition, membership, tenure and its terms of reference are given in the enclosed statement.

Statement***Composition, Membership, Tenure and Terms of reference of the artificial recharge of Groundwater Advisory Council*****1. Composition:****(A) Permanent Members (11)**

(i) Minister of Water Resources	—	Chairman
(ii) Secretary/Additional Secretary, MoWR	—	Member
(iii) Advisor, Planning Commission	—	Member
(iv) Chairman, Central Water Commission	—	Member
(v) Chairman, Central Ground Water Board	—	Member
(vi) Chairman, Central Pollution Control Board	—	Member

(vii) to (x) One representative each from:

Ministry of Rural Development (Department of Land Resources), Ministry of Urban Development, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Environment and Forests.

(xi) Commissioner (GW), MoWR	—	Member-Secretary
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(B) Members on rotational basis (for two years) ... (7)

Secretary Incharge of Water Resources of the States/UTs — one each from eastern-States, western-States, northern-States, central-States, southern-States, north-eastern States and hilly States/Islands/UTs.

(C) Subject Experts/Farmers Representative ... (6)**(D) Representative from financial institutions like National Bank for Agricultural and Rural Development (NABARD), Rural Electrification Corporation Ltd. (REC), etc. ... (2)****(E) Industries/Public Undertakings like Federation of India Chambers of Commerce and Industries (FICCI), Confederation of Indian Industries (CII), Associated Chambers (ASSOCHAM), Oil and Natural Gas Commission (ONGC), Coal India Limited, etc. ... (5)****(F) Representative from NGOs**

In respect of Members for (B) above, the rotation will be decided by the Advisory Council. The nomination of Members for (C), (D), (E) and (F) above will be decided by the Ministry of Water Resources. Members of Central Ground Water Boards will invariably join the meetings of the Council as Special Invitees.

Terms of Reference:

1. Prioritizing areas
2. Area specific technology
3. Co-ordination among various Central and State Organisations
4. Co-ordination among NGO's, Industries/stake holders
5. Periodic review of action taken by Centre and States
6. Power to set up sub-committees—function/area based
7. Funding strategies including private participation
8. Role of Stake holders
9. Creating awareness/education/capacity building
10. R&D—especially of development of low cost technology.

*[Translation]***Indo-EU Trading and Investment Promotion Programme**

3730. SHRI TEK LAL MAHTO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the countries in the European Union (EU) have shown interests in promoting agriculture in India;

(b) if so, whether the said countries have mobilized themselves to pressurise the European Commission into reducing the subsidies on agriculture; and

(c) if so, the details regarding the Indo-EU Trading and Investment Promotion Programmes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) The Government has not received any proposal from the European Union (EU) showing interests in promoting agriculture in India. However, the E.U. has shown interest to promote bilateral trade of agricultural and allied products between India and E.U. and for this purpose India-EU Joint Working Groups have been formed.

(c) In order to strengthen the strategic partnership between Europe and India, the European Commission on behalf of the European Union has developed EU-India Trade and Investment Development Programme (TIDP), with the following components:

1. Sanitary and Phyto-sanitary measures
2. Investment facilitation desk
3. Trade portal
4. Customs
5. Intellectual Property Rights (IPR)

The implementation of the programme started in the December, 2005.

*[English]***Agreement with Mozambique on Agriculture**

3731. SHRI UDAY SINGH:
SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India Mozambique have recently signed an agreement for cooperation in the field of agriculture;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the benefits likely to accrue therefrom and the funds allocated by the Government for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Based on the Memorandum of Understanding for cooperation in the field of agriculture between India and Mozambique signed 12.5.2003, a Work Plan for the year 2006-07 was signed on 21.11.2006 during the visit of Mozambican Agriculture Minister to India.

Under the Work Plan both the countries agreed to immediate collaboration in the activities of research programmes, training/visit of Mozambican Scientists in India, training/visit of Indian Scientists to Mozambique, exchange of germplasm and consultancy.

(c) The activities of the Work Plan would boost up cooperation in the field of agriculture between India and Mozambique.

Ministry of External Affairs has been allocated Rs. 20 lakhs by transfer of their funds to Department of Agriculture and Cooperation for providing assistance to Mozambique in the field of agriculture. Accordingly, the activities of imparting training to Mozambican candidates in the Agricultural Training Institutes under the Department of Agricultural Research and Education (DARE) have been activated.

Online Redressal of Consumer Complaints

3732. SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has launched any project for online redressal of consumer complaints;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the address of the website and benefits likely to accrue therefrom; and

(c) the number and the present status of consumer complaints registered online as on date, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The CORE Centre project is an initiative taken by the Ministry towards web based Consumer Awareness and Protection Programme aimed at identification of consumer problems and their redressal through institutional approach, utilising the vibrant Information Technology methods. The project is being executed through Consumer Coordination Council, a platform of voluntary consumer organisations.

The objectives of the project are generating awareness, development of consumer rights, focusing corporate attention on consumer needs, preferences and problems, and orienting government functioning *vis-a-vis* citizens through enforcement of Citizen Charters.

The website of the project is <http://www.core.nic.in>.

(c) Details are furnished in the enclosed statement.

Statement

State-wise breakup of Complaints, Received/Resolved from 15th March 2005 to 30th November 2006

	State	Total Complaints Received	Total Complaints Resolved
1	2	3	4
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	2	0
2.	Andhra Pradesh	498	116
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	8	1
4.	Assam	198	16
5.	Bihar	187	22
6.	Chhattisgarh	153	36
7.	Delhi	6687	1352
8.	Goa	27	2
9.	Gujarat	781	27

	1	2	3	4
10.	Haryana		1299	168
11.	Himachal Pradesh		80	12
12.	Jammu and Kashmir		48	6
13.	Jharkhand		188	26
14.	Karnataka		827	126
15.	Kerala		234	78
16.	Madhya Pradesh		582	86
17.	Maharashtra		2654	254
18.	Manipur		16	2
19.	Meghalaya		32	3
20.	Mizoram		4	1
21.	Nagaland		11	0
22.	Orissa		206	38
23.	Pondicherry		10	0
24.	Punjab		881	134
25.	Rajasthan		501	117
26.	Sikkim		4	0
27.	Tamil Nadu		631	108
28.	Tripura		3	1
29.	Uttar Pradesh		1806	80
30.	Uttaranchal		143	6
31.	West Bengal		1228	48
32.	Abroad		18	5
Total			19947	2871

Pesticide Residues Test by ICAR

3733. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:
SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Council of Agriculture Research (ICAR) and certain other agencies have been conducted pesticide test of soil regularly;

(b) if so, the findings thereof and if not, the other modes followed for monitoring and deducting the pesticide residues in soil;

(c) whether the Government has assessed the benefit of organic farming in the country; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to encourage the organic farming in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) Yes, Sir. Studies have been conducted in ICAR to determine the persistence of pesticides on crops following good agricultural practices and their terminal residues in soil at the time of harvest through an All India Network Project on Pesticides Residues.

(b) No residues have been detected in soil samples at harvest based on the field trails conducted during 2002-06 on different part of the country.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) A Network Project on Organic Farming has been launched at Project Directorate for Cropping Systems (ICAR), Modipuram with 13 centres-spread all over the country, since April, 2004. The entire package regarding most suitable, profitable and sustainable cropping systems under organic cultivation are being developed. Likewise, the management of on-farm and off-farm organic inputs under predominant and high value crops is being investigated.

Ministry of Agriculture has also started National Programme on Organic Farming w.e.f. October, 2004 with an outlay of Rs. 57.05 crores for Xth Five Year Plan. Under this project, the components includes:-

- Capacity building through service provider.
- Setting up of commercial input units like biofertiliser unit, Food/Vegetable wastes compost unit, vermiculture hatcheries, training for quality production of input for farmers and extension staff on Organic Farming.

- Field demonstration by use of different organic inputs.
- Setting up of model Organic Farm.
- Market development, etc.

Broadcast from Private Channels

3734. DR. M. JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether violent episode programmes like World Wrestling Federation (WWF) being telecast by private channels are creating violent and criminal tendencies among children and youngsters;

(b) if so, whether the Government proposes to take preventive steps to check such programmes; and

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

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) No such study has been brought to the notice of the Government.

(b) and (c) All programmes and advertisements carried in the cable service are required to adhere to the Programme and Advertising Codes prescribed under the Cable Television Networks (Regulations) Act, 1995 and rules framed thereunder. The Programme Code, *inter alia*, prohibits programmes which offend against good taste or decency and prescribes that:

- Care should be taken to ensure that programmes meant for children do not contain any bad language or explicit scenes of violence.
- Programmes unsuitable for children must not be carried in the cable service at times when the largest numbers of children are viewing.

In case of any specific case of violation, action is initiated as per rules upon the recommendations of the Inter-Ministerial Committee set up by this Ministry.

Contract Labour

3735. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has reviewed and laid down a new National Labour Policy, especially with respect to the works to be carried out through contract labour;

(b) if so, the steps taken in that direction; and

(c) the details of the policy and the strategy worked out to adopt and implement the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Work Force In Organised and Unorganised Sector

3736. SHRI K. SUBBARAYAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of the work force employed at present in the retail sector;

(b) the number of workers engaged by type of enterprises in the organised and unorganised retail sector separately, State-wise;

(c) whether the self-employment in this sector is increasing; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) Reliable 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 2004-05. Estimated number of the work force employed in the retail trade (except of motor vehicles and motor cycles, repair of personal and house hold goods) as per usual status basis was estimated to be in the order of 33.51 million during 2004-05.

(b) State-wise percentage of work force employed in trade, hotels and restaurant (industry division 50 to 55) as per usual status basis during 2004-05 is given in the enclosed statement.

(c) and (d) Estimated number of workers engaged in self-employment for the economy as a whole has gone up from 21.0 crore in 1999-2000 to 26.1 crore in 2004-05.

Statement

Percentage of workers employed in Trade, Hotel and Restaurant (industry division 50 to 55 in organised and unorganised sector combined) as per usual status basis during 2004-05

Sl.No.	State/Union Territory	Percentage of workers employed in Retail Trade	
		Rural	Urban
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	6.6	24.7
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	2.3	23.2
3.	Assam	9.0	27.6
4.	Bihar	7.5	32.9
5.	Chhattisgarh	2.9	26.2
6.	Delhi	35.4	26.8
7.	Goa	20.7	23.1
8.	Gujarat	4.7	23.4
9.	Haryana	7.5	25.3
10.	Himachal Pradesh	4.3	24.9
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	5.0	21.5
12.	Jharkhand	4.8	24.1
13.	Karnataka	4.5	26.9
14.	Kerala	12.2	21.5
15.	Madhya Pradesh	4.0	25.4
16.	Maharashtra	4.7	23.1
17.	Manipur	6.6	20.0

1	2	3	4
18.	Meghalaya	5.5	15.2
19.	Mizoram	3.5	17.2
20.	Nagaland	4.9	40.4
21.	Orissa	6.7	24.0
22.	Punjab	6.4	28.0
23.	Rajasthan	4.1	22.5
24.	Sikkim	8.6	33.6
25.	Tamil Nadu	6.4	22.3
26.	Tripura	10.9	27.2
27.	Uttaranchal	4.4	26.9
28.	Uttar Pradesh	6.2	26.6
29.	West Bengal	9.5	23.2
30.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	11.9	18.2
31.	Chandigarh	19.8	17.0
32.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	6.7	28.2
33.	Daman and Diu	11.6	24.3
34.	Lakshadweep	2.1	6.0
35.	Pondicherry	10.6	20.3
All India		6.1	24.6

*As per usual status approach.

Unemployment rate is the percentage of unemployed with reference to Labour Force.

Submission of Incomplete Price Lists by Drug Producer

3737. CH. MUNAWAR HASSAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether most of the major drug producers are introducing their products without price approval and not implementing the fixed/notified prices and also found submitting incomplete price lists to the authorities;

(b) if so, the names of these drug producers alongwith the name of the products; and

(c) the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) to (c) National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) fixes/revisees prices of the formulations based on the bulk drug specified in the First Schedule of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995 (DPCO, 1995). Ceiling prices fixed under paragraph 9 of DPCO, 1995 are applicable to all the manufacturers including those who introduce their products. NPPA issues notices for recovery of overcharged amount if the notified prices are not followed by the manufacturers. Notices have been issued in 394 cases for recovery of Rs. 738.14 crores since inception of NPPA in August, 1997 till November, 2006 for various products on account of recovery of overcharged amount.

The price list/supplementary price list has to be submitted by the manufacturers, to the dealers, State Drug Controllers and the Government as per Para 14(3) and 15(2) of DPCO, 95. As and when any deficiency in the submission of the price lists is noticed, manufacturers concerned are directed to furnish the complete information. This is a continuous and ongoing process.

Exchange of Zoo Animals

3738. SHRI MANI CHARENAMEI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of zoos in the country category - wise and State-wise;

(b) the amount of grant released to different zoos by Central Zoo Authority during the last three years;

(c) whether exchange of zoo animals is still continuing;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the details of animals gifted to zoos outside the country during the last five years along with the names of countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) The number of recognized Zoos in the country category-wise and State-wise as on 1.12.2006 is provided at statement-I.

(b) The amount of grant released to different zoos by Central Zoo Authority for the last three years is provided at statement-II.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The proposal of animal exchange approved by the Central Zoo Authority during 2005–2006 is provided at statement-III.

(e) During the last five years (2002–06) no animals have been gifted to zoos outside the country.

Statement

Type Name	State Name	Establishment Name	City Name
1	2	3	4
Large Zoo	Andhra Pradesh	Indira Gandhi Zoological Park	Vishakhapatnam
		Nehru Zoological Park	Hyderabad
		Sri Venkateswara Zoological Park	Tirupati
	Assam	Assam State Zoo Cum Botanical Garden	Guwahati
	Bihar	Sanjay Gandhi Biological Park	Patna
	Delhi	National Zoological Park	Delhi
	Gujarat	Kamia Nehru Zoological Garden	Ahemadabad
		Sakkarbaug Zoo	Junagarh
	Karnataka	National Park, Bannerghatta Zoological Garden	Bannerghatta
		Sri Chamarajendra Zoological Gardens	Mysore
	Kerala	Thiruvananthapuram Zoo	Thiruvananthapuram
	Maharashtra	Rajiv Gandhi Zoological Park	Pune
	Orissa	Nandankanan Biological Park	Bhubneshwar
	Punjab	Mahendra Chaudhury Zoological Park	Chhatbir
Tamil Nadu	Arignar Anna Zoological Park	Vandalur	
	Madras Crocodile Bank Trust/Centre for Herpetology	Mahabalipuram	
Tripura	Sepahijala Zoological Park	Sepahijala	
Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow Zoological Park	Lucknow	
West Bengal	Alipore Zoological Garden	Kolkata	
Medium Zoo	Gujarat	Sayaji Baug Zoo	Vadodara
	Karnataka	Pillikula Wildlife Safari at Madushedde	Mangalore

1	2	3	4
	Kerala	State Museum and Zoo	Thrissur
	Madhya Pradesh	Gandhi Zoological Park	Gwalior
	Maharashtra	Veermata Jijabhai Bhosali Udyan and Zoo	Mumbai
	Manipur	Manipur Zoological Garden	Imphal
	Rajasthan	Jaipur Zoo	Jaipur
	Tamil Nadu	Chennai Snake Park Trust	Guindy
		Childrens Corner	Guindy
	Uttar Pradesh	Kanpur Zoological Park	Kanpur
	West Bengal	Calcutta Snake Park	Badu
Small Zoo	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	Mini Zoo, Haddo	Port Blair
	Arunachal Pradesh	Biological Park	Itanagar
	Chhattisgarh	Maitri Baagh Zoo	Bhilai
	Goa	Bondla Zoo	Usgao
	Gujarat	Indroda Nature Park	Gandhi Nagar
		Nature Park, Surat	Surat
	Haryana	Rohtak Zoo	Rohtak
	Himachal Pradesh	Himalayan Nature Park (Kufri)	Kufri
	Jammu and Kashmir	Manda Mini Zoo	Ramnagar
	Jharkhand	Bhagwan Birsa Biological Park	Ranchi
		Jawaharlal Nehru Biological Park	Bokaro
		Tata Steel Zoological Park	Jamshedpur
	Karnataka	Children Park and Zoo	Gadag
		Tiger and Lion Safari, Thyarekoppa	Shimoga
	Madhya Pradesh	Kamla Nehru Prani Sanghralalay Zoo	Indore
		Van Vihar National Park	Bhopal
	Maharashtra	Aurangabad Municipal Zoo	Aurangabad
		Mahatma Gandhi Rastriya Udyan Zoo	Solapur
		Nisargakavi Bahinabai Choudhary Pranisanghalay	Pune
	Meghalaya	Lady Hydari Park, Animal Land	Shillong
	Mizoram	Aizawal Zoo	Aizwal
	Orissa	Indira Gandhi Park Zoo and Deer Park	Rourkela

1	2	3	4
	Punjab	Deer Park, Bir Moti Bagh	Patiala
	Rajasthan	Jodhpur Zoo Udaipur Zoo	Jodhpur Udaipur
	Tamil Nadu	V.O.C. Park Mini Zoo	Coimbatore
	Uttaranchal	PT. Govind Ballabh Pant High Altitude Zoo	Nainital
	West Bengal	Jhargram Deer Park Marble Palace Zoo Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park	Jhargram Kolkata Darjeeling
Mini Zoo	Andhra Pradesh	Deer Park - Satyam Technology Centre Deer Park, Chittoor Reserve Forest Deer Park, Kandaleru Deer Park, Kesoram Cement Deer Park, NFCL Green Belt G.V.K. Industries Deer Park Himayat Sagar Mini Zoo Jawahar Lake Tourist Complex Karimnagar Deer Park Kinnerasari Deer Park Pillalamarri Deer Park Vanavigyan Kendra, Hunter Road, Hanamkonda,	Ranga Reddy Chittoor East Division Kandaleru Basant Nagar Kakinada Hyderabad Ranga Reddy Shamirpet Karimnagar Kinnerasari Pillalamarri Complex, Mahabub Nagar Warangal
	Arunchal Pradesh	Miao Mini Zoo Mini Zoo, Roing	Miao Roing
	Chhattisgarh	Kanan Pandari Zoo	Bilaspur
	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	Lion Safari - Vasona	Vasona
	Gujarat	Rajkot Municipal Corporation Zoo Sir Peter Scott Nature Park Sundervan Nature Discovery Centre	Rajkot Jamnagar Jodhpur Tekra
	Haryana	Deer Park, Hissar Mini Zoo, Bhiwani Mini Zoo, Pipli	Hissar Bhiwani Pipli
	Himachal Pradesh	Dhauladhar Nature Park Pheasantry and Aviary and Musk Deer Form Renuke Zoo/Lion Safari	Gopalpur Sarahan Sirmur

1	2	3	4
	Jharkhand	Birsa Mrig Vihar Chandrapura Deer Park Deer Park Maithon Satstang Zoo for Children Education	Kalimati Chandrapura Hazaribagh Satsang
	Karnataka	Bellary Childrens Park-cum-Zoo Deer Park at Shri Kshetra Sogal Deer Park, N.M.D.C. Ltd. Indira Priyadarshini Sangrahalaya Kittur Rani Channamma Nisarg Dhama Mini Zoo A.M. Gudi Balvana Mini Zoo at Gendekatta Mini Zoo cum Children Park Namadachilume Deer Park Tungabhadra Dam Mini Zoo	Bellary Soundatti Bellary Davangere Taluk Belgaum Chitradurga Hassan Gulbarga Tumkur Bellary
	Kerala	Lion Safari Park at Nayyar Dam Parassinikardavu Snake Park	Thiruvananthapuram Kanur
	Maharashtra	Maharaja Shahaji Chhatrapati Zoo Maharajabag Zoo Pal Wild Animal Orphanage Sanjay Gandhi National Park Snake Park, Shikshan Mandal Somnath Prakaipa Zoo	Kolhapur Nagpur Jalgaon Borivali Kolhapur Chandrapur
	Meghalaya	Nehru Zoo, Danakgre, Tura	Akhongini Tura
	Mizoram	Deer Park, Thenzawl	Thenzawl
	Nagaland	Nagaland Zoological Park, Rangapahar Zoological Park, Kohima	Dimapur Kohima
	Orissa	Gharial Research and Conservation Unit H.A.L. Deer Park, Koraput Kapilash Zoo Kuanria Deer Park Nayagarh Forest Division Taptapani Deer Park Wild Animal Conservation Center, Motijharan	Tikarpara Sunabeda Dhenkanal Nayagarh Parlakhemundi Sambalpur
	Punjab	Deer Park, Bir Talab Deer Park, Neelon Ludhiana Zoo	Bhatinda Ludhiana Ludhiana

1	2	3	4
	Rajasthan	Deer Park, Shri Goverdhan Trust Kota Zoo Panchwati Deer Park Safari Park, Haridasji-Ki-Magri	Udaipur Kota Pilani Udaipur
	Sikkim	Himalayan Zoological Park, Butbuley	Gangtok
	Tamil Nadu	Amirdhi Zoo Deer Park, Udhagai, Nilgris Kurumbapatti Zoological Park Shivganga Garden Mini Zoo	Vellore Nilgris District Salem Thanjavur
	Uttar Pradesh	Ban Devi Recreation Park Deer Park at Bareilly Deer Park, Hindalco Industries Ltd. Nawabganj Deer Park Samath Deer Park Triveni Environment Park, Allahabad Van Prani Udyan, I.V.R.I. Vinod Vani Mini Zoo, Ramgarh	Mau Bareilly Sonbhadra Unnao Varanasi Allahabad Izatnagar Gorakhpur
	Uttaranchal	Deer Park, Narain Tewari Dewal Malsi Deer Park	Almora Dehradun
	West Bengal	Adina Deer Park Gar Chumuk (Ulughata) Deer Park, Kumari Kangeabuti Deer Park, Bonapakuria West Bengal Snake Park and Laboratory, Badu	Malda Howrah Bonapakuria, Bankura Badu
Rescue Centre	Arunchal Pradesh	Centre for Bear Rehabilitation and Conservation	Pakke
	Assam	Centre for Wildlife Rehabilitation and Conservation	Golaghat
	Gujarat	Animal Hospital, Madalpur	Ahmedabad
	Haryana	Hanuman Vatika-Rescue Centre Rescue Centre at Meham Wildlife Rescue Centre	Gurgaon Near G.T. Road, Meham Gurgaon
	Himachal Pradesh	Nehru Pheasantry Rescue and Rehabilitation Home	Manali Tutikandi
	Kerala	Wild Animal Rescue Centre, Kodanadu	Kodanadu
	Maharashtra	Antes Animal, Park Leopard Rescue Centre Uttaras Animal Rescue and Rehabilitation Centre	Wardha Manikdoh Pune

1	2	3	4
	Uttar Pradesh	Wildlife SOS Agra Bear Rescue Facility	Agra
	West Bengal	Animal Rescue Centre, Surulia Bochamari Gharial Rescue Centre Karuna Kunj	Kolkata Kolkata Baruipur, Parganas South
		Kunjanagar Eco-Park Rescue Centre Malda Sarpa Uddan O Sanrakshan Sambaya Samity Ltd.	Jalpaiguri Malda
		Ramnabagan Wild Life Sanctuary	Kolkata
		South Khairbari Leopard Rehabilitation Centre	Madarihat
Circus	Assam	Moonlight Circus Rhino Circus	Khelmati Lakhimpur
	Gujarat	Great Golden Circus	Ahmedabad
	Kerala	Great Bombay Circus Great Rayman Circus Jambo Circus Jamuna Circus Raj Kamal Circus	Tillicherry
	Maharashtra	Rambo Circus The Great Royal Circus	Pune
	Tamil Nadu	Gemini Circus	
	Uttar Pradesh	Great Apollo Circus Rajmahal Circus	
	West Bengal	Ajanta Circus Asiad Circus Empire Circus Famous Circus Great Sangam Circus Kohinoor Circus Natraj Circus Olympic Circus Samrat Circus Weston Circus	Kolkata Kolkata Kolkata Kolkata Kolkata Kolkata Kolkata Kolkata Kolkata Kolkata Elliot
	Grand Total		186

Statement II*Grant released to different zoos by Central Zoo Authority between 2003-2006*

(Rs. in Lakhs)

Name of the State	Name of the Zoo	Year		
		2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
1	2	3	4	5
Andaman and Nicobar Islands				
	Chidiya Tapu Biological Park Port Blair	Nil	17.36	Nil
Andhra Pradesh				
	Indira Gandhi Zoological Park, Vishakhapatnam	72.37	54.03	106.00
	Nehru Zoological Park, Hyderabad	13.09	30.00	50.00
	Sri Venkateswara Zoological Park, Tirupati	167.56	53.93	211.10
	Total Andhra Pradesh	253.02	137.96	367.10
Arunachal Pradesh				
	Itanagar Zoological Park, Itanagar	12.90	20.00	155.49
Assam				
	Assam State Zoo-cum-Botanical Garden, Guhawati	72.45	70.42	Nil
Bihar				
	Sanjay Gandhi Biological Park, Patna	12.35	20.00	23.00
Chhattisgarh				
	Kanan Pindari Zoo, Bilaspur	Nil	6.00	Nil
Delhi				
	National Zoological Park, Delhi	63.91	100.65	105.70

1	2	3	4	5
Goa				
	Bondla Zoo, Bondla	8.65	Nil	Nil
Gujarat				
	Nature Park, Surat	24.00	20.00	41.52
	Sakkarbaug Zoo, Junagarh	25.00	25.00	Nil
	Sayajibaug Zoo, Vadodara	20.00	25.00	16.12
	Total Gujarat	69.00	70.00	57.64
Haryana				
	Rohtak Zoo, Rohtak	Nil	Nil	50.00
Himachal Pradesh				
	Himalayan Nature Park Kufri, Shimla	10.00	22.50	Nil
	Pheasantri, Aviary and Musk Deer Farm, Sarahan	10.00	7.50	30.00
	Total Himachal Pradesh	20.00	30.00	30.00
Jharkhand				
	Bhagwan Birsa Biological Park, Ranchi	9.74	Nil	9.00
Karnataka				
	Bannerghatta Zoological Garden, Bangalore (Rescue Centre)	68.46	85.34	98.30
	Sri Chamarajendra Zoological Garden, Mysore	20.00	25.00	25.75
	Tiger and Lion Safari, Shimoga	Nil	83.25	21.00
	Total Karnataka	98.46	193.59	145.05
Kerala				
	Thiruvananthapuram Zoo, Thiruvananthapuram	8.00	21.94	30.00
Madhya Pradesh				
	Gandhi Zoological Park, Gwallor	20.00	Nil	Nil

1	2	3	4	5
	Kamla Nehru Prani Sangrahalaya, Indore	60.79	Nil	40.35
	Van Vihar Zoo, Bhopal	Nil	144.15	25.00
	Total Madhya Pradesh	80.79	144.15	65.35
Maharashtra				
	Rajiv Gandhi Zoological Park, Pune	21.00	21.35	50.00
	Total Maharashtra	21.00	21.35	50.00
Mizoram				
	Aizawl Zoo, Aizawl	217.62	300.10	133.50
Nagaland				
	Rangapahar Zoological Park Dimapur	36.70	Nil	48.50
Orissa				
	Nandankanan Zoological Park, Bhubaneswar	Nil	19.00	72.80
Punjab				
	M.C. Zoological Park, Chhatbir	Nil	48.70	Nil
Rajasthan				
	Jodhpur Zoo, Jodhpur	21.10	10.00	11.30
	Nahargarh Biological Park, Jaipur	29.02	50.32	52.23
	Total Rajasthan	50.12	60.32	63.53
Sikkim				
	Himalayan Zoological Park, Gangtok.	Nil	9.00	38.50
Tamil Nadu				
	Arignar Anna Zoological Park, Vandalur, Chennai	52.19	88.80	48.44
Tripura				
	Sepahijala Zoological Park, Agartala	33.40	Nil	Nil

1	2	3	4	5
Uttaranchal				
	G.B. Pant High Altitude Zoo, Nainital	NII	6.00	6.39
Uttar Pradesh				
	Kanpur Zoological Park, Kanpur	17.90	2.00	NII
	Lucknow Zoological Park, Lucknow	NII	18.00	19.43
	Total Uttar Pradesh	17.90	20.00	19.43
West Bengal				
	Zoological Garden, Alipore, Kolkata	6.00	6.00	NII
	Kharabari Rescue Centre, Madarihat, Cooch Behar	NII	54.99	35.57
	Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park, Darjeeling	50.72	45.75	NII
	Total West Bengal	56.72	106.74	35.37

Statement III*Exchange of animals among Indian Zoos approved by the Central Zoo Authority during 2005-2006*

Sl.No.	Name of the zoo and animals exchanged	Name of the zoo and animals exchanged
1	2	3
1.	Sakkarbaug Zoo, Junagarh Four horned antelope (<i>Tetraceros quadricornis</i>) 1:2	M.C. Zoological Park, Chhatbir Barking deer (<i>Muntiacus muntjak</i>) 1:2
2.	Bhagwan Birsa Biological Park, Ranchi Jungle Cat, (<i>Felis Chaus</i>) 1:2	National Zoological Park, Delhi Leopard (<i>Panthera pardus</i>)
3.	Nehru Zoological Park (i) Leopard (<i>Panthera pardus</i>) 1:1 (ii) Kalij Pheasant (<i>Lophura leucomelana</i>) 1:1	Jaipur Zoo, Jaipur (i) Gharial (<i>Gavialis gangeticus</i>) 2:2 (ii) Sika deer (<i>Cervus nippon Yakushimae</i>) 1:2
4.	Nehru Zoological Park, Hyderabad. Leopard (<i>Panthera pardus</i>) 1:1	Bhagwan Birsa Biological Park, Ranchi (i) Jungle cat (<i>Felis Chaus</i>) 1:1 (ii) Hyena (<i>Hyaena hyaena</i>) 1:1

1	2	3
5.	Bannerghatta Biological Park, Bangalore (i) Giant squirrel (<i>Ratufa indica</i>) 1:0 (ii) Zebra (<i>Equus burchelli bohmi</i>) 1:0	Sri Chamarajendra Zoological Park, Mysore Nil
6.	Kamla Nehru Zoological Garden, Ahmedabad. Gujarat	Rescue Centre at Borivalli National Park, Mumbai, Maharashtra Leopard, (<i>Panthera pardus</i>)—4 (2:2)
7.	Aurangabad Municipal Zoo, Aurangabad, Maharashtra Bengal tiger (white coat) (<i>Panthera tigris tigris</i>)—1 (1:10)	M.C. Zoological Park, Chattbir, Punjab —
8.	Bhagwan Birsa Biological Park, Ranchi, Jharkhand Lion (unknown lineage)—2 (1:1)	Nature Park, Surat, Gujarat —
9.	Sri Chamarajendra Zoological Garden, Mysore, Karnataka Leopard (<i>Panthera pardus</i>)—3 (1:2)	Thiruvananthapuram Zoo/Trissur Zoo Hog deer (<i>Axis porcinus</i>)—3 (1:2)
10.	Jaipur Zoo, Rajasthan Gharial (<i>Gavialis gangeticus</i>)—4 (2:2)	National Zoological Park, Delhi —
11.	Kanan Pendari Zoo, Bilaspur, Chhattisgarh Leopard (<i>Panthera pardus</i>)—2 (1:1) Sloth bear (<i>Melursus ursinus</i>)—2 (1:1)	Kamla Nehru Zoological Garden, Ahmedabad, Gujarat Rosy pelican—4 (2:2) Silver pheasant—2 (1:1) Lover birds—10
12.	Van Vihar National Park and Zoc, Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh	Rescue centre at Madhav National Park, Shivpuri, Madhya Pradesh Bengal tiger (<i>Panthera tigris tigris</i>)— 1 (0:1)
13.	Van Vihar National Park and Zoo, Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh Bengal tiger (<i>Panthera tigris tigris</i>)— 2 (1:1)	National Zoological Park, Delhi Bengal tiger (white coat) (<i>Panthera tigris tigris</i>)—2(1:1)
14.	Rescue Centre at South Khairabari, Cooch Behar, West Bengal Tiger (unknown linerage)—2 (1:1)	Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park, Darjeeling, West Bengal —
15.	Jumbo circus (animal camp at Jaipur) Leopard (black coat) (<i>Panthera pardus</i>)—1 (0:1)	National Zoological Park, Delhi —

1	2	3
16.	Van Vihar National Park and Zoo, Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh Bengal tiger (<i>Panthera tigris tigris</i>)- 2(1:1)	Sanjay Gandhi National Park and Tiger safari, Borivali, Mumbai, Maharashtra Bengal Tiger (<i>Panthera tigris tigris</i>)- 2(1:1)
17.	Sanjay Gandhi National Park and Tiger Safari, Borivali, Mumbai, Maharashtra Bengal tiger (white coat) (<i>Panthera tigris tigris</i>) -2(1:1)	Rajiv Gandhi Zoological Park, Pune, Maharashtra —
18.	Arignar Anna Zoological Park, Vandalur (i) Rhesus macaque (<i>Macca Mulatta</i>) 2:2 (ii) Bonnet macaque (<i>Maccaca radiata</i>) 2:2 (iii) Brow antlered deer (<i>Cervus eldi eldi</i>) 1:0 (iv) Alexandrine parakeet (<i>Psittacula eupatria</i>) 1:1 (v) Grey pelican (<i>Pelecanus philippensis</i>) 3:3 (vi) Night heron (<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>) 3:5 (vii) Painted stork (<i>Mycteria leucocephala</i>) 5:5 (viii) White peafowl (<i>Pavo cristatus</i>) 1:1 (ix) Common peafowl (<i>Pavo cristatus</i>) 1:1 (x) Grey heron (<i>Ardea cinerea</i>) 3:3 (xi) Reticulated Python (<i>Phython reticulates</i>) 1:1	Maitri Bagh Zoo, Bhilai Bengal tiger (white coat) (<i>Panthera tigris tigris</i>) 1:1

BSP

3739. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:
SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether new production set up at Bhilai Steel Plant (BSP) has been commissioned;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the works so far executed; and

(c) the funds allotted therefor and utilised so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (DR. AKHILESH DAS): (a) and (b) Recently during September-November 2006, three units have been commissioned at BSP. The details are as under:

(i) Turbo Generator at Power Plant-1 was commissioned in September 2006 and the unit is in regular operation. The rated capacity of the turbo-generator is 15 MW.

(ii) Hydraulic Automatic Gauge Control in Plate Mill was installed in October 2006 and presently the hydraulic system is under stabilization. The unit will help in meeting customer requirement of closer thickness tolerance, less crop cuttings and improved yield of the plates.

(iii) B-strand of Wire Rod Mill has been revamped in November 2006 and presently rolling is under stabilization. The unit will increase production of wire rods by 54,900 tonnes per annum, facilitate production of higher grades of TMT products with closer tolerances.

(c) The details of funds for the above three units are as under:

Name of the Project	Sanctioned cost	Expenditure till Nov'06
Turbo Generator at Power Plant—1	48 crores	39 crores
Hydraulic Automatic Gauge Control in Plate Mill	64 crores	36 crores
Revamping of B-Strand of Wire Rod Mill	75 crores	49 crores

Mango Crop Hit by Disease

3740. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether mango crop has been severely hit by disease in Karnataka this year;

(b) if so, the extent of loss suffered by mango growers in the State;

(c) whether the Union Government proposed to give any financial assistance to them; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) The mango crop is not affected by any serious disease this year in Karnataka.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Expenditure on Advertisement

3741. SHRI K.C. PALLANI SHAMY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the expenditure on advertisements by various Government departments has been steadily increasing over the year;

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

(c) whether any direction has been issued to all the Government departments to route their advertisements through DAVP;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether there is also a proposal to ease the eligibility conditions for empanelment to promote newspapers published in remote areas and languages with limited reach;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. A copy of the letter written by Secretary (I&B) on 31.05.2005 to all Secretaries of Government of India, is as enclosed statement.

(e) to (g) No, Sir. The Advertisement Policy of Government of India already provides for relaxed eligibility conditions for empanelment with DAVP, for newspapers/journals in Sanskrit or in tribal languages and those published from remote areas.

Statement

S.K. Arora
Ph: 23382639

Secretary
Information and Broadcasting
Government of India

Dated New Delhi-1, the 31st May, 2005

D.O. No.3/5/2004-Coord

Dear Shri

The Directorate of Advertising and Visual Publicity (DAVP), a media unit under the Ministry of Information

and Broadcasting, is the nodal agency for multi-media publicity of the policies/programmes and achievements of Government of India including Central Public Sector Undertaking and Autonomous Bodies.

2. DAVP provides single window cost effect publicity through Press Advertisement, Audio-Visual, Printed Materials, Exhibitions and distribution. It has played a crucial role in reaching out to the target group. Over the years it has developed an expertise to handle campaigns on all-India basis.

3. The Standing Committee on Information Technology in its 9th Report on Action Taken by the Government on the Recommendation/Observations contained in the 57th Report (13th Lok Sabha) on "working of the Directorate of Advertising and Visual Publicity" has expressed concern over the violation of the instructions regarding routing of advertisements through DAVP. It has laid stress on setting up of a monitoring cell to keep track of violations, which may be brought to the notice of Standing Committee.

4. As per Allocation of Business Rules "production and release of all display advertisements of the Government of India through the media of press, posters, folders, calendars, blotters, leaflets, hoardings, cinema slides etc. and also release of classified advertisements on behalf of Government of India" should be made through DAVP.

5. The need of routing of all advertisements of Ministries/Departments of Government of India and Central PSUs and Autonomous Bodies through DAVP has been emphasized by various Committees from time to time.

6. The Committee of Secretaries in their meeting held on 19.02.1991 decided "all the Ministries/Departments and Government Organizations should generally use the services of DAVP for the publicity requirements. However, for their creative advertisements the Ministries should be free to draw up their advertisements using specialized or other voluntary agencies, but should go through DAVP for placing their advertisements in newspaper and other media. Wherever the Ministries/Departments use agencies other than DAVP for creating their advertisements it may be advisable to associate DAVP with the process".

7. In view of the above, you may like to issue appropriate directions within your Ministry/Department and to the Heads of the organizations including Public Sector

Undertaking/Autonomous Bodies under your charge to route their publicity work through DAVP besides issuing instructions to the Financial Advisors of these organizations not to concur in proposal where publicity work is being undertaken in violation of the above instructions.

With regards,

Yours sincerely,

Sd/-
(S.K. ARORA)

To

The Secretaries to the Government of India.

Oxfam Report

3742. SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU:
SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR:

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

(a) whether the poor people are needlessly dying because drug companies and the Government of rich countries are blocking the developing World from obtaining the affordable medicines as per Oxfam report as reported in 'The Hindustan Times' dated November 15, 2006;

(b) if so, whether the Government has examined the report of Oxfam;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) to (d) The Oxfam report as quoted under the title 'Rich nations blocking cheap drugs' in *The Hindustan Times* dated 15.11.2006 alleges that Doha Declaration on the TRIPS Agreement and Public Health is not being given effect to. The Doha Declaration was adopted by the 4th Ministerial Conference of the WTO in Doha in 2001. This declaration reaffirmed flexibility of the WTO member countries in circumventing patent rights for better access to essential medicines. The Doha Declaration also set a task before the TRIPS Council to find a solution to the problems that countries may face in making use of compulsory licensing if they

have too little or no pharmaceutical manufacturing capacity. As per the decision in the TRIPS Council, as adopted by the General Council of the WTO in its meeting held in August, 2003 waivers from the obligations of the TRIPS Agreement have been provided. Accordingly, a compulsory licence can not only be issued for domestic use, but also for the purpose of production of a pharmaceutical product and its export to such countries that have insufficient manufacturing capacity, subject to certain conditions.

The Patent (Amendment) Act, 2005 has already incorporated the elements of the Doha Declaration on the TRIPS Agreement and Public Health. This amendment allows manufacturing and export of patented pharmaceutical products to any country having sufficient or no manufacturing capacity in the pharmaceutical sector for the concerned product to address public health problems.

Equality and Dignity of Work Force

3743. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the recommendations by various International Organisations including Anti-Slavery International Human Rights Watch, UN Human Rights Committee etc. regarding improvements in the general conditions of work to protect the equality and dignity of workforce; and

(b) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) and (b) According to the information received from the Ministry of External Affairs, the main multilateral organization dealing with issues of the workforce is the International Labour Organisation (ILO). India has so far ratified 40 Conventions. Human Rights Watch and Anti Slavery International are Civil Society Organisations. The Human Rights Committee (HRC) is the body of independent experts that monitors implementation of the International Covenant of Civil and Political Rights by its State Parties. The HRC, while considering India's periodic report in 1997 had recommended, *inter-alia*, for conducting study for identification and eradication of bonded labour and taking urgent steps for removal of all children from hazardous occupations.

For identification, release and rehabilitation of bonded labourers, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme is in operation under which financial assistance to the extent of Rs. 20,000 per bonded labour is provided for rehabilitation, which is shared by the Central and State Governments on 50:50 ratio basis. In case of North-Eastern States, 100% Central assistance is provided. In addition, Central assistance under the Scheme is provided to the State Governments for conducting surveys of Bonded Labour, awareness generation activities and evaluatory studies. So far about 2.67 lakh bonded labourers have been rehabilitated and central assistance of Rs. 68.75 crore have been provided for their rehabilitation. In addition, Rs. 4.20 crore have been provided to States for undertaking surveys, etc.

In case of eradication of child labour in hazardous occupations, a sequential approach has been adopted. So far 15 occupations and 57 processes have been declared as hazardous under the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986, where employment of child labour is prohibited.

ILO on Child Labour

3744. SHRI UDAY SINGH: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether International Labour Organisations (ILO) has recently called for zero tolerance of violence against the child labourers and adolescents legally employed world wide as reported in *The Hindu* dated November 22, 2006;

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

(c) whether the Government proposes to take effective steps to prevent children from working with any establishment; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) and (b) Government has noted the contents of the News-item published in the Hindu 22.11.2006. As such, Government is committed to elimination of child labour phased manner beginning with those engaged in most hazardous occupations and processes first.

(c) and (d) Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986 prohibits employment of children in 15 occupations and 57 Processes and it regulates the

working conditions in occupations which are not declared as hazardous. Sufficient deterrent provisions already exist in the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986 for persons violating the provisions of the Act. The Act provides that any persons who employs any child in contravention of the provisions of the Act, is liable for punishment with imprisonment for a term which shall not less than three months, but which may extend to one year or with fine, which shall not be less than Rs. 10,000 but which may extend to Rs. 20,000 or both. Instruction are issued, from time to time, to the State Governments who are the appropriate Government for the strict enforcement of the same.

[Translation]

Development and Augmentation of Ground Water

3745. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) has had consultations with the Government of Rajasthan for development and augmentation of ground water;

(b) whether the State Government has also given some suggestions to the Board;

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

(d) the amount provided for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (d) Central Ground Water Board (CGWB), a sub-ordinate office of the Ministry of Water Resources, carries out ground water exploration to identify the potential aquifer zones worthy of ground water development. In the State of Rajasthan, the sites for exploratory wells are handed over to the State Public Health Engineering Department for drinking water supply in urban and rural areas. The scientific data generated during the course of exploration is utilized by the State in planning development of ground water. Ground Water Department, Government of Rajasthan was consulted for construction of rain water harvesting structures for recharge to ground water during the IX Plan. CGWB also provides technical guidance and training to the officers of the State organizations for designing rain water harvesting structures whenever requested.

For augmentation of ground water resources, CGWB has prepared a conceptual plan for mega recharge to ground water in parts of Thar desert utilizing surplus IGNP water. Ministry of Water Resources has approved an R&D project on "Ground Water Recharge Studies in the Thar Desert terrain of Rajasthan through surplus water" for this purpose and allotted Rs. 88 lakh to the State Water Resources Planning Department. The objective of the project is to improve overall water balance situation of the study area. Another R&D Project has been approved by the Ministry of Water Resources for 'Identification and mapping of palaeochannels in the eastern fringe of the Thar desert for water resources augmentation plan' for which an amount of Rs. 16 lakh has been provided to B.M. Birla Science and Technology Centre, Jaipur. The objective of the study is to identify and precisely map the palaeo channels in Jhunjhunu, Sikar, Churu, Pall, Jalore and Barmer districts of Rajasthan and to study the behaviour of ground water in palaeo drainage in terms of quality, quantity and recharge capabilities.

[English]

Protection of Rare Wild Species

3746. DR. M. JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether schools and colleges across the country are illegally buying and stocking rare marine and jungle species thus threatening their extinction as reported by 'The Times of India' dated September 22, 2006; and

(b) if so, the action taken by the Government under Prevention of Wildlife Act to save the rare species?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) Information is being collected and would be laid on the Table of the House.

Hybrid Paddy Crops

3747. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCIINDIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has issued directions to States for encouraging the farmers to undertake cultivation of hybrid paddy; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the response of the States thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) Government of India is implementing the restructured scheme "Development and Strengthening of Infrastructure Facilities for Production and Distribution of Quality Seeds" since 2005-06. Hybrid Rice Seed Production is one of the main components of the scheme. Under this component, production subsidy @ Rs. 20 per Kg. and distribution subsidy @ Rs. 25 per Kg. is given to various implementing agencies, including State Governments. Financial assistance is also given in organizing training programmes on hybrid rice seed production @ Rs. 15,000 per training. Under this component, Rs. 241.45 lakhs were released during 2005-06. Rs. 166.24 lakhs have been released so far during 2006-07.

Production Cost of Fertilizers

3748. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether increase in the price of fuel has affected the cost of production of fertilizers;

(b) if so, the extent to which the fertilizer industry had been affected as a result thereof; and

(c) the measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Union Government to reduce the production cost of fertilizers in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) Yes, Sir. The cost of production of urea is, among other things, dependent on the cost of feedstock and fuel. Presently, for gas based units, cost of feedstock accounts for 60% of the total cost of production, whereas for naphtha and Fuel Oil/Low Sulphur Heavy Stock (FO/LSHS) based units, it is about 75%. As for decontrolled phosphatic and potassic fertilizers, normative delivered cost of the P&K fertilizers (except SSP) covered under the Concession Scheme is worked out as per the recommendations of Tariff Commission (TC). The normative delivered cost of fertilizers is updated with reference to the imported raw material/intermediates as per the formulae recommended by TC.

(b) Under New Pricing Scheme (NPS) for urea units, the cost of feedstock and fuel is reimbursed to urea manufacturing units subject to pre-set norms. Thus, any increase in the cost of feedstock and fuel is borne by the Government in the form of higher subsidy outgo and the fertilizer industry is not affected.

(c) As the Natural Gas/Liquified Natural Gas (NG/LNG) is cheaper and more energy efficient feedstock as compared to naphtha and FO/LSHS, Government has formulated a policy for conversion of non-gas based units to NG/LNG. Further, the Government has formulated a policy which provides that new and expansion projects of urea will be based on NG/LNG only. The Government is also implementing a policy of rewarding energy efficient urea units.

For decontrolled fertilizers, Government is encouraging manufactures of phosphatic fertilizers to explore the possibilities of setting up joint ventures abroad in phosphatic and potassic field to ensure uninterrupted supply of raw material/intermediates on long term basis at reasonable price.

Assistance to BRL

3749. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:
SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has provided/proposes to provide concessions and financial assistance to Bharat Refractories Limited (BRL) on the basis of techno economic viability study;

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

(c) whether despite such concessions and assistance BRL has failed to achieve the targets set in the techno economic viability report; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to achieve such targets?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (DR. AKHILESH DAS): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government has provided following concession and financial assistance to Bharat Refractories Limited (BRL) in 2002-03 on the basis of techno-economic viability study.

- Rs. 55.00 Crores as Non-Plan loan Assistance to liquidate statutory dues in respect of employees who had either already accepted VR/ Superannuated or were likely to accept VRS.
- Rs. 90.00 Crores as Non-Plan loan for implementation of Voluntary Retirement Scheme to bring down the manpower of the company from 2766 to 1311.
- Govt. Guarantee (without any guarantee fee) for raising Rs. 30.00 Crores for meeting working Capital Requirement of the Company.
- Rs. 35.00 Crores (Rs. 7.00 crores every year during the next five years) for Addition Modification Replacement Scheme as equity to replace obsolete machinery.
- Conversion of Existing Plan and Non-Plan amounting to Rs. 97.89 Crores as on 2000-01, into equity.
- Moratorium on the repayment of loans and interest up to 2010-2011
- Exemption from payment of guarantee fees in respect of Rs. 24.00 Crores cash credit limit.

(c) Due to reasons such as non achievement of VRS targets, high interest rate on Government of India loan and increasing input costs, etc., BRL partially achieved the targets set in the techno-economic viability report.

(d) Following steps have been taken/being taken by the Government and the company to achieve the targets;

- More emphasis on value addition to products.
- Continuous persuasion and counseling of employees to opt for VRS.
- Control on expenditure.
- Thrust on new marketing areas.

[Translation]

Protection of Wildlife

3750. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Rajasthan has forwarded any scheme to the Union Government to check

the decreasing number of tigers and to check poaching/smuggling of animals organs;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (c) A proposal, soliciting financial support which *interalia*, includes biodiversity conservation, habitat restoration, protection and participatory management of Ranthambhore National Park, its buffer and recovery and development of Sariska Tiger Reserve has been received from the State. Action has been taken for providing Central Assistance to the State in this regard, subject to the availability of funds.

[English]

Store and Sale of Drugs by Grocery Shops

3751. DR. M. JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to allow neighbourhood grocery stores to stock up and sell a range of potentially dangerous non-steroidal and anti-inflammatory and gastrointestinal drugs without any prescription from the medical practitioner;

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

(c) the names of the drugs which are proposed to be allowed to store and sell by the grocers; and

(d) the *modus operandi* to be followed by the Government to keep vigil over the grocers to ensure that all drugs specify the correct prescription particularly in case of children like quantity, frequency and duration of the intake?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) to (d) On the basis of examination of the issue of permitting certain household remedies as Over the Counter Drugs (OTC) by sub-committee of Drugs Technical Advisory Board (DTAB) and its report the Government published amendment rule under Gazette Notification GSR 471(E) dated 4.8.2006

regarding amendment of Schedule K of the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, 1945. The proposed amendment in Schedule K gives relief to certain household remedies/ commonly used drugs whose names are mentioned in the said Gazette Notification from the purview of sale licence.

According to this Gazette Notification, the OTC drug shall be exempted from the provisions of Chapter-IV of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act and Rules thereunder, which require them to be covered by a sale licence subject to the following conditions:

- (a) No drugs shall be sold or stored after the date of expiration of potency recorded on its container, label or wrapper, or in violation of any statement or direction recorded on such container, label or wrapper.
- (b) Drugs shall be purchased from a manufacturer or dealer licensed under these Rules, and records of such purchase shall be maintained.
- (c) Drugs are stored separately.
- (d) Drugs are sold in the original unopened container of licensed manufacturers, provided that in case of drugs packed in strips, single strips can be sold.

Evaluation of TPDS

3752. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any study has been conducted for the evaluation of Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) and Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY);

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

(c) the reaction of the State Governments thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) to (c) Programme Evaluation Organization of Planning Commission (PEO) and ORG Marg, New Delhi have conducted studies on Performance Evaluation of Targeted Public Distribution (TPDS) and Evaluation study of TPDS and Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) respectively.

The Programme Evaluation Organization (PEO) of the Planning Commission has in its report based on study of 18 major States submitted in March, 2005 reported that the Foodgrains leakage (as a percentage of offtake of BPL quota) through ghost ration card is 16.67% and at Fair Price Shop is 19.71% (all India basis).

The PEO has pointed out that the main reasons for leakages are that implementation of TPDS is plagued by targeting errors, prevalence of ghost cards and unidentified households and siphoning off of foodgrains from the supply chain.

An Evaluation Study on TPDS and AAY was undertaken by the ORG Centre of Social Research, New Delhi. As per the findings of the Study there was a diversion of wheat and rice of 53.3% and 39% respectively at the all India level. The final report has been received in September, 2005 and forwarded to States/UTs for comments.

The issue of diversion has been discussed in the recently held Regional Conferences with the State Governments. The issue was also discussed in the Food Ministers/Food Secretaries Conference held on 29.03.2006. The State Governments have however, expressed reservations in these Conferences on the findings of the study. The participants States/UTs were requested to take necessary immediate steps to strengthen TPDS and to curb diversion/leakage. On the basis of the discussions, this Department has drawn a Action Plan and sent to all State Governments for taking necessary action thereon. The Action Plan contains the following points:

1. States should undertake a campaign for Review of BPL/AAY lists, to eliminate ghost ration cards.
2. Strict action should be taken against the guilty to ensure leakage free distribution of foodgrains. In this respect information asked for under clause 8 and 9 of PDS Control Order, may also be sent.
3. For sake of transparency involvement of elected PRI members in distribution of foodgrains be ensured. As far as possible, FPS licenses be given to SHGs, gram panchayats, cooperatives, etc.
4. BPL/AAY lists should be displayed on all FPSs.
5. District-wise and FPS-wise allocation of foodgrains should be put up on websites and other prominent places, for public scrutiny.

6. Wherever possible, door step delivery of foodgrains should be ensured by States, instead of letting private transporters/wholesalers to transport goods.
7. Timely availability of foodgrains at FPS level and fixed dates of distribution to ration card holders should be ensured.
8. Training of members of FPS level Vigilance Committees should be ensured.
9. Computerisation of TPDS operations be undertaken.

In addition, the Government has also taken steps introducing electronic transfer of funds to FCI and issued instructions for display of Banners/Boards on the wind shield as well as rear end of the truck/vehicles carrying PDS articles indicating name of State Government, destination, commodity and Agent's name.

National Policy on Petrochemicals

3753. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the National Policy on Petrochemicals is being formulated by the Government; and
- (b) if so, the stage at which the matter stands as on date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) Yes Sir,

(b) It has been considered by the Committee of Secretaries (COS) and is being put up to the Cabinet.

Relaxation in Specification for Procurement

3754. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) the targets fixed for production and procurement of wheat and paddy during the ensuing season;
- (b) whether the Government has decided to relax procurement specifications regarding moisture content in

foodgrains in view of delayed rain in some parts of the country; 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) The target of production as reported by Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, in respect of crop year 2006-07 is 928 lakh tonnes for rice and 755 lakh tonnes for wheat.

As per the existing policy, no targets for procurement of foodgrains are fixed. However, procurement estimates for wheat and rice are drawn up based on the estimates given by the State Food Secretaries before the respective Marketing Seasons. The estimate for procurement of rice (including paddy in terms of rice) for Kharif Marketing Season (KMS) 2006-07 is 270 lakh tonnes. The estimate for procurement of wheat for Rabi Marketing Season (RMS) 2007-08 will be drawn up in February 2007.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Based on the request of States the specifications for wheat were relaxed in respect of Madhya Pradesh in RMS 2006-07, while in KMS 2006-07 they have been relaxed for 3 States in respect of paddy and one state for Maize. Details are given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

During Rabi Marketing Season 2006-07, on the request of Government of Madhya Pradesh following relaxation has been allowed in respect of wheat:

- (a) Relaxation in luster lost grains allowed upto 40% with value cut.
- (b) Damaged grains allowed upto 3% against the existing limit of 2% with value cut.

2. During Kharif Marketing Season 2006-07 based on the request received from the State Governments following relaxations have been granted.

Tamil Nadu:

In order to reduce the hardship of farmers and to avoid distress sale, it has been decided to relax the maximum limit of moisture content in paddy upto 20%

against the existing limit of 17% and damaged, discoloured, sprouted and weeviled grains upto 5% against existing limit of 3% with full value cut, which has further relaxed upto 22% over and above 20% already allowed with full value cut.

Orissa:

1. The maximum limit in respect of damaged, discoloured, sprouted and weeviled grains allowed upto 5% against the existing limit of 3% provided under uniform specifications with full value cut.
2. The maximum limit in respect of immature, shrunken and shrivelled grains allowed upto 5% against the existing limit of 3% provided under uniform specifications with full value cut.

Paddy procured under relaxed specifications has been allowed reductions in out turn ration (OTR) by 2%. Accordingly, the out turn ratio stands reduced to 65% for raw rice against the existing limit of 67% and 66% for par boiled rice against the existing limit of 68% for par boiled rice against the existing limit of 68% in case of custom milled rice, obtained from the paddy procured under relaxed specifications.

Rice:

Sl.No.	Refraction	Raw Rice/Common/Grade "A"		Parboiled Rice Common/Grade "A"	
		Existing limit %	Relaxation allowed %	Existing limit %	Relaxation allowed %
1.	Broken	25	28	16	17
2.	Damaged/Slightly damaged grains	2	3	4	4.5
3.	Discoloured grains	3	5	5	8

Construction of ESI Hospitals

3755. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:
SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:

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

(a) the details of expenditure incurred in construction of ESI hospital in Faridabad;

Andhra Pradesh:

In order to avoid distress sale Government of India has relaxed the following specifications for the Kharif Marketing Season 2006-07 as under:

Maize:

1. The existing limit of 1.5% in respect of damaged grains has been relaxed upto 2.5%.
2. The existing limit of 3.0% in respect of shriveled and immature grains has been relaxed upto 4.5%

Paddy:

1. The maximum limit in respect of damaged, discoloured, sprouted and weeviled grains allowed upto 13% (Damaged, discoloured, sprouted grains will not exceed 4%, 5% and 4% respectively) against the existing limit of 3% provided under uniform specifications with full value cut.
2. The maximum limit in respect of immature, shrunken and shrivelled grains allowed upto 5% against the existing limit of 3% provided under uniform specifications with full value cut.

(b) whether the Government has made any assessment of the expected number of beneficiaries in the area; and

(c) if so, the reasons for non-utilisation of three floors of the hospital building since 1999 and the remedial steps proposed to be taken therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF
LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR

FERNANDES): (a) The ESI Hospital at Faridabad was constructed in the year 1993 and the expenditure was as follows:-

Cost of Land	:	Rs. 10,52,643/-
Cost of Construction		Rs. 7,80,60,461/-
Total Expenditure		Rs. 7,91,13,104/-

(b) Yes, Sir. The number of Insured Persons in Faridabad as on 31.03.2006 is 2.37 lakhs and the number of beneficiaries as on 31.03.2006 is 9.48 lakhs.

(c) The ESI Hospital, Faridabad was constructed for 200 beds, but commissioned with 50 beds in 1993. The bed occupancy is about 40%. As only 50 beds are utilized, the three floors of the hospital building remained unutilized. The main reason for non-utilization of some parts of the building is the existence of another ESI Hospital with 200 beds capacity at NH-3 which is just 8 kms. from this hospital.

[Translation]

MSP on Unit Cost

3756. SHRI CHANDRA MANI TRIPATHI:
DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some proposals from States to fix Minimum Support Price on the basis of unit cost have been received by the Union Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government has held any deliberation on the said proposals; and

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith 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 KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (d) The Government has not received such proposal so far.

News Readers

3757. SHRI RAM SWAROOP KOLI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the daily honorarium for casual news readers/translators/editors in AIR has been increased recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposed to increase the daily honorarium of casual Hindi News Editors working in Doordarshan News like-wise, both being under Prasar Bharati; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The daily honorarium for Casual News Readers/Translators and Casual News Editors in AIR has been increased w.e.f. 1st April, 2006.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. The rate of fee of Casual News Editors in Doordarshan News has recently been increased from Rs. 740 to Rs. 858 per day/per shift for compiling major news bulletins in the National Network (including Hindi). The rate of fee of Casual Assistant News Editor for Assistance in Editorial work including Hindi and Urdu and other regional languages from Delhi and regional news units functioning at various Doordarshan Kendras has also been increased from Rs. 635 to Rs. 670 per day/per shift.

[English]

Broadcast by FM Radio Stations

3758. SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to allow FM Radio Stations to air sports, news and current affairs content as part of their broadcast;

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

(c) whether Association of Radio Operators of India have issued press statements appeared in some newspapers on October 25, 2006 that the Government has agreed to their demands; and

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) and (b) As per the policy, the private FM broadcasters are free to air broadcasts of audio on main carrier and data on sub carrier both excluding news and current affairs. Government do not propose to allow FM Radio Stations to broadcast news and current affairs.

(c) and (d) This Ministry is not aware of any press statements issued by the Association of Radio Operators of India in this regard. However, current Government policy does not allow broadcast of news and current affairs by private FM channels.

Theft of Tapes

3759. SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:
SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:

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

(a) whether the Government is aware of theft of number of tapes from All India Radio Museum recently particularly the tapes containing the speeches of the then Chief Minister, Sheikh Abdullah of Jammu and Kashmir State;

(b) if so, the details of each tape missing from the museum;

(c) whether any responsibility has been fixed in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the measures taken by the Government to locate the missing tapes and other remedial measures to check the recurrence of such incidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Prasar Bharati have informed that one tape containing recorded speech of former Chief Minister of J&K, late Shri Sheikh Abdullah was found missing on

18.11.2004 from Studio Complex of Central Archives, AIR, New Delhi.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Prasar Bharati have informed that disciplinary proceedings under Rule 14 of the Central Services (Classifications Control and Appeal) Rules, 1965 (major Penalty proceedings) have been initiated against two concerned officials.

(e) Prasar Bharati have informed that a Group of Officers, was formed by Director, Transcription and Programme Exchange Service (DTPEs) of DG:AIR for locating the missing tape. The Group did the physical verification of the tapes but it was not found. A complaint was also lodged with Station House Officer, Parliament Street Police Station, New Delhi on 25.09.2006, with the request to take immediate necessary action to lodge/file FIR and follow up to trace the missing tape.

Adequate arrangements have been made in Central Archives, Digital Archives and PEU Library of DTPEs to check the recurrence of such incidents in future. From time to time, instructions are issued on the use of Archives Library and Digital Library. The tapes issued are required to be returned the same day by concerned official/officials.

National Seed Act, 2004

3760. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposed to withdraw the National Seed Act, 2004; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) There is no proposal to withdraw The Seeds Bill, 2004. The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Agriculture, to which the Bill had been referred, has submitted its report. The report was placed on the Tables of Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha on 28 Nov., 2006.

Spurious Fertilizers

3761. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA:
SHRI G. NIZAMUDDIN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the farmers are reportedly getting duplicate/sub-standard/adulterated/spurious fertilizers and the same is damaging the soil and crops;

(b) if so, the number of fertilizer samples collected and analysed during the last three years and the number of out of them found to have been sub-standard, State-wise;

(c) the details of the manufacturers penalized for manufacturing/marketing sub-standard/duplicate/adulterated/spurious fertilizers; and

(d) the steps taken to ensure availability of standard fertilizers to farmers well in time?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a)

No such complaint regarding duplicate/sub standard/adulterated/spurious fertilizer has come to the notice of the Government due to which the soils and crop are being damaged.

(b) Statement I(A), I(B) and I(C) indicating State-wise number of samples analysed and found non-standard during 2003-04, 2005-06 is enclosed.

(c) Statement II(A), I(B) and II(C) indicating State-wise follow up action on non-tandard samples is enclosed.

(d) The State Governments are empowered under the provisions of the Fertiliser (Control) Order, 1985 to ensure that fertilizers sold to farmers are as per quality specification laid down under FCO, 1985. Also no manufacturer/importer is permitted under FCO to manufacture/import or sell fertilizers which does not meet the quality specifications.

Statement I(A)

State-wise number of fertiliser samples analysed and found non-standard during 2003-04.

Sl.No.	Name of State	No. of Labs.	Annual Analysing Capacity	No. of samples Analysed	Non-Standard			% Capacity Utilisation	% Samples Non-standard
					Nutrient deficient	Physical parameter & impurities	Total		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	Assam	1	250	76	1	0	1	30.4	1.3
2.	Mizoram	1	250	0	0	0	0	0.0	0.0
3.	Jharkhand	1	1500	432	2	0	2	28.8	0.5
4.	Bihar	1	2000	861	43	13	56	43.1	6.5
5.	Orissa	2	3500	2534	112	27	139	72.4	5.5
6.	West Bengal	3	4500	3180	249	92	341	70.7	10.7
Total East and NER		9	12000	7083	407	132	539	59.0	7.6
7.	Gujarat	3	7750	8267	102	5	107	106.7	1.3
8.	M.P.	4	9150	5060	872	143	1015	55.3	20.1
9.	Chhattisgarh	1	2843	2007	92	0	92	70.6	4.6

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
10.	Maharashtra	4	12000	12145	719	350	1069	101.2	8.8
11.	Rajasthan	3	6000	4671	106	10	166	77.9	2.5
	Total West Zone	15	37743	32150	1891	508	2399	85.2	7.5
12.	Haryana	2	3305	3082	91	0	91	93.3	3.0
13.	Himachal Pradesh	2	2000	1335	9	0	9	66.8	0.7
14.	Jammu and Kashmir	2	1280	1268	2	1	3	99.1	0.2
15.	Punjab	2	3500	3525	65	0	65	100.7	1.0
16.	Uttar Pradesh	3	10000	11098	1061	0	1061	111.0	9.6
17.	Uttaranchal	2	800	396	12	0	12	49.5	3.0
	Total North Zone	13	20885	20704	1240	1	1241	99.1	6.0
18.	Andhra Pradesh	5	15000	9207	183	28	211	61.4	2.3
19.	Karnataka	4	8150	5872	177	170	347	72.0	5.9
20.	Kerala	2	5000	4355	249	6	255	87.1	5.9
21.	Pondicherry	1	700	519	0	0	0	74.1	0.0
22.	Tamil Nadu	14	16800	17028	285	231	516	101.4	3.0
	Total South Zone	26	45650	36981	894	435	1329	81.0	3.6
22.	Govt. of India	4	8500	7729	191	86	277	90.9	3.6
	Total All India	67	124778	104647	4623	1162	5785	83.9	5.5

Statement I(B)*State-wise number of fertiliser samples analysed and found non-standard during 2004-05.*

Sl.No.	Name of State	No. of Labs.	Annual Analysing Capacity	No. of samples Analysed	Non-Standard			% Capacity Utilisation	% Samples Non-standard
					Nutrient deficient	Physical parameter & impurities	Total		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	Assam	1	250	167	2	0	2	66.8	1.2
2.	Mizoram	1	250	0	0	0	0	0.0	0.0
3.	Jharkhand	1	1500	677	1	0	1	45.1	0.1

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
4.	Bihar	1	2000	881	34	0	34	44.1	3.9
5.	Orissa	2	3500	2429	184	13	197	69.4	8.1
6.	West Bengal	3	4500	3286	218	33	251	73.0	7.6
Total East and NER		9	12000	7440	439	46	485	62.0	6.5
7.	Gujarat	3	7750	8206	95	1	96	105.9	1.2
8.	Madhya Pradesh	4	9150	5388	844	153	997	58.9	18.5
9.	Chhattisgarh	1	4800	1933	124	0	124	40.3	6.4
10.	Maharashtra	4	10000	9106	936	276	1212	91.1	13.3
11.	Rajasthan	3	6000	4096	153	32	185	68.3	4.5
Total West Zone		15	37700	28729	2152	462	2614	76.2	9.1
12.	Haryana	2	3300	2801	162	25	187	84.9	6.7
13.	Himachal Pradesh	2	2000	1762	211	7	218	88.1	12.4
14.	Jammu and Kashmir	2	1280	822	7	10	17	64.2	2.1
15.	Punjab	2	3500	3513	91	0	91	100.4	2.6
16.	Uttar Pradesh	3	10000	10847	1033	0	1033	108.5	9.5
17.	Uttaranchal	2	800	437	15	0	15	54.6	3.4
Total North Zone		13	20880	20182	1519	42	1561	96.7	7.7
18.	Andhra Pradesh	5	15000	13551	186	39	225	90.3	1.7
19.	Karnataka	4	8150	5756	187	101	288	70.6	5.0
20.	Kerala	2	5000	4209	376	0	376	84.2	8.9
21.	Pondicherry	1	700	682	1	0	1	97.4	0.1
22.	Tamil Nadu	14	16800	17221	356	237	593	102.5	3.4
Total South Zone		26	45650	41419	1106	377	1483	90.7	3.6
22.	Govt. of India	4	8500	11089	311	81	392	130.5	3.5
Total All India		67	124730	108859	5527	1008	6535	87.3	6.0

Statement I(C)*State-wise number of fertiliser samples analysed and found non-standard during 2005-06*

Sl.No.	Name of State	No. of Labs.	Annual Analysing Capacity	No. of samples Analysed	Non-Standard			% Capacity Utilisation	% Samples Non-standard
					Nutrient deficient	Physical parameter & impurities	Total		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	Assam	1	500	28	3	0	3	5.6	10.7
2.	Mizoram	1	250	5	0	0	0	2.0	0.0
3.	Jharkhand	1	2015	515	6	0	6	25.6	1.2
4.	Bihar	1	2000	1432	17	0	17	71.6	1.2
5.	Orissa	2	3500	2465	76	15	91	70.4	3.7
6.	West Bengal	3	4500	2599	191	4	195	57.8	7.5
Total East and NER		9	12765	7044	293	19	312	55.2	4.4
7.	Gujarat	3	7500	8422	50	0	50	112.3	0.6
8.	Madhya Pradesh	4	9150	5565	788	265	1053	60.8	18.9
9.	Chhattisgarh	1	2843	2570	264	0	264	90.4	10.3
10.	Maharashtra	4	10000	8268	1237	323	1560	82.7	18.9
11.	Rajasthan	3	6000	4965	192	25	217	82.8	4.4
Total West Zone		15	35493	29790	2531	613	3144	83.9	10.6
12.	Haryana	2	3400	2525	75	45	120	74.3	4.8
13.	Himachal Pradesh	2	2000	1443	58	1	59	72.2	4.1
14.	Jammu and Kashmir	2	1280	926	8	1	9	72.3	1.0
15.	Punjab	2	3500	3515	49	0	49	100.1	1.4
16.	Uttar Pradesh	3	10000	10735	990	0	990	107.4	9.2
17.	Uttaranchal	2	800	453	17	2	19	56.6	4.2
Total North Zone		13	20980	19597	1197	49	1246	93.4	6.4
18.	Andhra Pradesh	5	15000	13796	250	0	250	92.0	1.8
19.	Karnataka	4	6960	5390	205	40	245	77.4	4.5
20.	Kerala	2	5290	4238	243	13	256	80.1	6.0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
16.	Uttar Pradesh	1061	0	750	0	0	12.7mt	0	43	0	32	0	105
17.	Uttaranchal	12	0	8	0	3	2	0	0	0	1	0	0
18.	Andhra Pradesh	211	0	4	0	96	2	0	22	0	0	85	2
19.	Karnataka	347	0	0	0	44	0	0	0	0	0	303	0
20.	Kerala	255	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
21.	Pondicherry	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
22.	Tamil Nadu	516	4	31	10	19	0	0	3	1	0	240	150
Total		5507	8	1106	10	2156	79	31	117	1	339	848	285

NA—Information not received.

*Statement II(B)**State-wise details of follow up action of non-standard samples during 2004-05*

Sl.No.	Name of State	Non Std. Samples	Charging higher price	Administrative action			Seizure of stock/ stop sale	Disposal allowed under Cl.23	Prosecution launched	Conviction awarded	Cases pending in court	Cases pending for action	No. of cases other violation of FCO
				DRC Cancelled	DRC suspended	Other action							
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
1.	Assam	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2.	Bihar	34	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
3.	Jharkhand	1	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
4.	Orissa	197	0	12	0	197	1	0	0	0	0	66	20
5.	West Bengal	251	0	1	0	151	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
6.	Mizoram	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
7.	Gujarat	96	0	2	0	55	17	0	15	0	307	42	0
8.	Madya Pradesh	997	0	85	270	616	0	0	47	0	4	0	0
9.	Chhattisgarh	124	0	0	2	128	0	0	0	0	0	34	0
10.	Maharashtra	857	0	2	0	486	181.77 mt and 1635 lt	0	56	0	56	315	0
11.	Rajasthan	185	0	0	0	338	0	0	21	0	0	38	0
12.	Haryana	187	0	4	0	155	0	0	28	0	0	0	0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
10.	Maharashtra	1481	11	10	0	716	47	0	117	0	117	548	0
11.	Rajasthan	217	0	2	0	455	0	0	26	0	11	117	0
12.	Haryana	55	0	0	0	88	0	34	0	0	0	0	0
13.	Himachal Pradesh	59	0	0	0	0	91	0	0	0	0	0	0
14.	Jammu and Kashmir	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0
15.	Punjab	20	1	10	0	6	12	0	2	2	76	5	5
16.	Uttar Pradesh	990	0	927	0	378	245.25	0	60	0	0	0	58
17.	Uttaranchal	19	0	9	2	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
18.	Andhra Pradesh	250	20	9	0	0	759.63	0	18	0	16	261	55
19.	Karnataka	212	0	0	0	58	0	0	0	0	0	154	0
20.	Kerala	256	0	0	0	256	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
21.	Pondicherry	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
22.	Tamil Nadu	872	0	0	252	104	0	0	0	0	14	483	208
Total		6095	32	1047	431	3187	177	34	243	2	554	1602	324

Advisory Panel of CBFC

3762. SHRI J. M. AARON RASHID: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has constituted Advisory Panels of Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) with headquarters at Delhi, Chennai, Mumbai and Hyderabad;

(b) if so, the names of members of such Advisory Panels; and

(c) the criteria of selection of the members of Advisory Panels of CBFC alongwith their background of film related issues?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) Yes, Sir. Advisory Panels of Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) for Regional Offices at Delhi, Chennai, Mumbai and Hyderabad, have been constituted.

(b) Names of Advisory Panel members of Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) at Delhi, Chennai, Mumbai and Hyderabad are given in the enclosed statement.

(c) Advisory panels of CBFC consist of persons, qualified in the opinion of the Central Government to judge the effect of films on the public.

Statement

Mumbai Advisory Panel

Sl.No.	Name
1	2
1.	Manoj Dubey
2.	Kailash Muraraka
3.	Rakesh K. Upadhye
4.	Renu Jain
5.	Nitin P. Mavani

1	2
6.	Kishore Shankar Bhoir
7.	Nadeem Nusrath
8.	Dharamiji M Bedi
9.	Devyani Khankhoje
10.	Mithaiwala Sarah Hasanali
11.	Vinay Kumar Sinha
12.	Sushma Agarwal
13.	Zafar Jung
14.	Madhu Jain
15.	Iftekar Khan
16.	Anil Shah
17.	S. Y. Khan
18.	Rizwan Ahmed Khan
19.	Shankar Gangadhar Sonawane
20.	Laxraj S Sanap
21.	Iqbal Singh Sarang
22.	Rani Kailash Poddar
23.	Puneet Bagrodia
24.	Teejay Sidhu
25.	Mohan Swaroop Maheewari
26.	Dr. Pratibha D Singh
27.	Hisamul Islam Siddiqui
28.	Prashand R Deshpande
29.	Sahebrao S Dangde
30.	Mamata Kanade
31.	Pradeep K Patil
32.	Rajubhai Brahmhatt
33.	Khaleed Ahmad
34.	Suraj Ramesh Parmar
35.	Vasuben Bhatt

1	2
36.	Poomimaben Khandheriya
37.	Nitaben Yashwantbhai Shah
38.	Cashmiraben Munishi
39.	Mayaben Dave
40.	Asifa Khan
41.	Vijayabhai Sanghvi
42.	Kirtibhai Ganatara
43.	Devendra Patel
44.	Sunil Patel
45.	Chetan Rawal
46.	Nishant H Patel
47.	Pareeh Dhanani
48.	Narendra Rawat
49.	Jitubhai Bhatt
50.	Dharmesh A Patel
51.	Hanif Mehri
52.	Shivkumar Ramlal Ruplal
53.	Manglal Surajkar
54.	M.I. Patel
55.	Manoj Barot
56.	Devendra Makwana
57.	Jawaharbhai Chavda
58.	Himanshu Joshi
59.	Sanjay Dadlika
60.	Arun Duggal
61.	Kanchan Kashinath Ghanekar
62.	Seva Raghavendra Chouhan
63.	Subha Temikar
64.	Sumitra Bhawe
65.	Sudhir Gadgil

1	2
66.	Jayanthkumar Tribhuvan
67.	Kadam
68.	Radhika Borgaonkar
69.	Vanita Dikshit
70.	Bhavana Kamal Sharma
71.	Vitthal Umap
72.	Ramdas Phutane
73.	Shridhar Gajanana Madgulkar
74.	Raziya Patel
75.	Dr. Manasi Magikar
76.	Anjali Pathare
77.	Nilima Deshmukh
78.	Kirti Jayram Shiledar
79.	Rauf Ahmad
80.	Meenakshi Shede
81.	Suehil Dalvi
82.	Ashok Singh
83.	Shalini Chavan
84.	Asha R. Paranjape
85.	Clara Lewis
86.	Sujata Anandan
87.	Ravi Kiran Deshmukh
88.	Raghavendra Dwivedi
89.	Afzal Hussein Sidhiqui
90.	Lakshmikant Satelkar
91.	Bharat Nair
92.	Ms. Alka Pande
93.	Shri Kapil Chandrakant Gorpode
94.	Ms. Talluri Rameshwari
95.	Dr. Mrunalini D. Patel

1	2
96.	Ms. Vidya A. Debu
97.	Smt. Gauri Bapat
98.	Prof. Nandini Sardesai
99.	Mr. Ashok Saxena
100.	Shri Narender Reddy
101.	Prof. Chandansingh Rotele
102.	Shri Nandu Sadu Bansode.
103.	Ms. Yogita Tai V. Nandarkar
104.	Shri Sharad V. Aher
105.	Shri Sunil Ahire
106.	Shri Mirsaheb Sheeb Ali
107.	Shri Jagdambika Prasad Tiwari
108.	Shri Shallendra Sodhi
109.	Ms. Lella Almedia
110.	Ms. Neena Cheema
111.	Ms. Rashmi D. Braganza
112.	Smt. Lalshram Mema
<i>Chennai Advisory Panel</i>	
1.	Shri Kavingar
2.	Shri Rajem MP Nathan
3.	Shri C. Rathnasamy
4.	Smt. S. Kathēja Sheersen
5.	Ms. S. Jothimani
6.	Ms. A. Girija
7.	Shri Rama Narayanan
8.	Shri Muktha V. Srinivasan
9.	Shri A.A. Jinnah
10.	Shri Thiyagaraja
11.	Smt. M. Saroja
12.	Shri E.V. Rajan

1	2
13.	Shri Kayal Dinakaran
14.	Shri Sa. Ganesan
15.	Shri S. Kannappan
16.	Shri Ku. Ka. Selvam
17.	Shri A. Kamaraj (Nakkoran)
18.	Ms. Jayashree Sundar
19.	Shri Guna Sekaran
20.	Prof. M.P. Balasubramanian
21.	Shri Mu. Mehta
22.	Shri P.V. Kalyanasundaram
23.	Shri Althaf Hussain
24.	Prof. Dr. Erode Tamilanban
25.	Shri S. Abdul Rahman
26.	Shri S. Thiyaagu
27.	Shri K. Swamam
28.	Shri R. Srinivasan
29.	Shri Poochi S. Murugan
30.	Smt. Vasanthi Stanley
31.	Dr. Nalli Kuppaswami Chettiar
32.	Mrs. Geetha Lakshmi
33.	Shri P.N. Rajendran
34.	Shri Venkatachalam Thayanban
35.	Shri S. Muthukrishnan
36.	Shri B. Selvan
37.	Shri R.L. Kannan
38.	Shri H.M. Musthafa
39.	Shri Arul Anbarasu
40.	Shri A.S.T. Jayaraman
41.	Smt. Lakshmi Rajaram
42.	Smt. Rani Venkatesan

1	2
43.	Smt. S. Dhivija Kumari
44.	Shri C. Balasundaram
45.	Shri E. Ekambaram
46.	Shri T. Vijaya Ravi Verma
47.	Shri P. Chandrasekaran
48.	Shri A.G. Poovaraghavan
49.	Shri T.L. Sivalingam
50.	Shri K. Selvaraj Pandian
51.	Shri V.K. Arvizhagan
52.	Shri Mannai Mathyalagan
53.	Shri Suba Somu
54.	Shri C.R. Sunder Rajan
55.	Shri B. Sualalyandi
56.	Smt. G. Saraswathy Naladiyar
57.	Smt. Meena Venkatraman
58.	Shri Manirappa Basker
59.	Shri S. Munaver Basha
60.	Shri M.C. Zabarullah
61.	Smt. Jayakala Prabhakar
62.	Smt. Susheela Padmanabhan
63.	Shri K. Swaminathan
64.	Shri K.P. Srinivasa Raja
65.	Shri A.J. Joy
66.	Shri Ilango
67.	Shri Nethaji Ganesan
68.	Smt. Prema Srinivasan
69.	Shri Ibrahim Rawthar
70.	Shri Ravi Bharti
71.	Shri Balakrishnan
72.	Shri A Sakthivel

1	2
73.	Smt. Rani Krishnan
74.	Smt. Banu Lawrence
75.	Smt. Meena Selvaraj
76.	Smt. Jaishree
77.	Smt. Saraswati Naladiyar
78.	Shri G.R. Venkatesh
79.	Shri Katipara Janardhanan
80.	Shri M.A. Muthalagan
81.	Shri S. Ramadass
82.	Shri Kakkan Kasturibhai
83.	Shri E.K. Arunakumar
84.	Prof. Dr. V. Nagarajan
85.	Smt. Thiruppur Saroja
86.	Shri Balasubramanian
87.	Shri V.S. Naidu
88.	Shri A.V. Srinivasan
89.	Shri S.M. Palanippan
90.	Shri S. Suresh
91.	Shri M. Kumaresan
92.	Shri T. Vishnu Vardhana Reddy
93.	Shri C.S.S.N. Arun Raja
94.	Shri R. Udayadevan
95.	Shri K. Pandian
96.	Shri Manick Tagoore
97.	Shri Mayura Jay Kumar
<i>Delhi Advisory Panel</i>	
1.	Shri Avadh Shama
2.	Ms. Uma Rao
3.	Shri Prem Chand Gagodia
4.	Shri Rajiv Jai

1	2
5.	Shri Dharmendra Solanki
6.	Shri S.M. Sultan
7.	Shri Rajesh Gupta
8.	Shri Manoj Mano
9.	Ms. Monica Burman
10.	Dr. Devanand Balodhi
11.	Ms. Aruna Mukim
12.	Shri R.R. Gill
13.	Shri Rakesh Kumar Singh
14.	Shri Ayub Singh
15.	Shri J.K. Palit
16.	Shri Masroor Ahmad
17.	Shri Rajneesh Sahota
18.	Ms. Kandukuru Padmaja
19.	Shri Vijay Verma
20.	Shri Pinku Biewas
21.	Shri G. Kishore Babu
22.	Smt. Saroj Sharma
23.	Shri H.R. Hashmi
24.	Shri Harbhajan Singh
25.	Smt. Sheila Chaman
26.	Smt. Indira Swarup
27.	Shri Swami Divyanand
28.	Smt. Gayatri Ray
29.	Ms. Renu Mittal
30.	Shri Pradeep Zaidar
31.	Shri Satvinder Singh Sandhu
32.	Shri Nitin Sharma
33.	Shri Vikram Malhotra
34.	Shri Mohd. Amin Bhat

1	2
35.	Ms. Parpreet Brar
36.	Shri Amrinder Singh 'Raja'
37.	Shri Raminder Awla
38.	Ms. Chynika Uniyal
39.	Shri Manish Dhamia
40.	Shri Neeraj Dangi
41.	Shri Prakash Joshi
42.	Shri Rajpal Khairola
43.	Shri Yogesh Dixit
44.	Shri Nadeem Ashraf Jaisi
45.	Ms. Madhumita Chakraborty
46.	Shri Sukhpal Singh Bhullar
47.	Ms. Anita Katyal
48.	Shri Prahlad Yadav
49.	Dr. Amarjeet Singh
<i>Hyderabad Advisory Panel</i>	
1.	Shri P.R. Subhas Chandran
2.	Shri M.R. Kondal Reddy
3.	Smt. Vadlamudi Ammajamma
4.	Smt. Madhu Nirmla Devi
5.	Smt. Kota Suneela
6.	Dr. Haseena
7.	Shri C.V. Subba Rao
8.	Shri B. Rajesh Babu
9.	Smt. K. Aruna Vyas
10.	Shri G. Bhageeradha
11.	Dr. R. Vatsala
12.	Smt. G. Vijaya Lakshmi
13.	Dr. Talluri Anjaneyulu
14.	Smt. B. Suguna

1	2
15.	Shri Sripada Jittu Mohan Mitra
16.	Smt. K. Anita Reddy
17.	Shri Rakesh Jaiewal
18.	Smt. Ratnasri
19.	Shri M. Surya Naik
20.	Smt. S. Radha Balasubramanyam
21.	Shri A.V. Ramana
22.	Shri G. Chandrasekhar
23.	Shri M. Rama Rao
24.	Shri Mandadi Udaya Kumar
25.	Smt. K. Jyotsna
26.	Shri Ananada Babu Srungarapati
27.	Shri Shri Ram Yadav
28.	Shri Mohd. Yousufuddin (Y.R. Babu)
29.	Smt. Narella Sarada
30.	Smt. Srivara
31.	Smt. Soudamani
32.	Smt. Anuradha K. Raju
33.	Shri J.C. Pavan Reddy
34.	Smt. Saranya Loka Reddy
35.	Dr. Yala Sonia Reddy
36.	Dr. Vaddepalli Krishna
37.	Smt. T. Vijaya Lakshmi
38.	Shri N. Shiva Ram
39.	Smt. D. Vijaya Laxmi
40.	Dr. V. Sitadevi
41.	Shri K.C. Sheker Reddy
42.	Shri G. Radhuveer Singh Thekur
43.	Dr. A Sudhakar Yadav
44.	Shri B. Venkatrama Reddy

1	2
45.	Shri P. Purushottam Reddy
46.	Shri. M. Manmohan Reddy
47.	Smt. K. Shalini Ramesh Kumar
48.	Shri Jonna Satyanarayana
49.	Ms. Guduru Venkata Aruna
50.	Shri Pogaku Visweshwer
51.	Shri V. Narayana Rao
52.	Shri Muppalla Govinda Rao
53.	Shri Katta Venkateswara Rao
54.	Shri Pakkala Suri Babu
55.	Shri K. Ramana Venkat
56.	Shri B. Vishnu Vardhan Reddy
57.	Shri P. Prajoth Reddy
58.	Smt. Manorama
59.	Dr. (Smt) Susheela
60.	Shri P. Sarath Kumar
61.	Smt. Sreemani M.
62.	Shri I. Tirumala Rao
63.	Smt. Ch. Sobha Rani
64.	Smt. Polavarma Kalyani
65.	Smt. P. Anjani Devi
66.	Shri Boola Prasad Samuel
67.	Shri Y. Amarendhar Reddy
68.	Shri A. Rajender
69.	Shri Dokala Murali
70.	Shri Diddi Rambabu
71.	Shri S. Harinath Reddy
72.	Shri A. Vijay Kumar
73.	Smt. Aparajita
74.	Shri Sambasiva Rao Alla

1	2
75.	Shri Jagadish Chandra Prasad
76.	Shri Seetha Rama Raju
77.	Smt. Namellkanti Suvaranalatha
78.	Smt. Kousalya Suram,
79.	Smt. Deepika Reddy
80.	Smt. E. Jaya Laxmi
81.	Shri S. Gopal Reddy
82.	Smt. Ananatha Laxmi
83.	Ms. Potta Bharati
84.	Shri T.N. Viswambar
85.	Smt B. Vijaya Reddy
86.	Shri J. Narsing Rao
87.	Shri Potturi Ranga Rao
88.	Shri M. Pandu Ranga Rao
89.	Shri Sitaram Avvas
90.	Shri B.V.S. Surya Naraina
91.	Shri Katna Venkata Ratnalu
92.	Smt. Sallka Anantha Lakshmi
93.	Shri S. Venu Gopal Reddy
94.	Smt. E. Jaya Lakshmi
95.	Shri Jalla Prasad Yadav
96.	Shri G. Chandra Sekhar Reddy
97.	Smt. Madapati Sarlarani
98.	Shri Srinivasa Raju
99.	Shri P. Sunil Kumar Goud
100.	Shri Gopi Naidu
101.	Shri Vinukonda Nagaraju
102.	Smt. Paluri Seshumamba
103.	Smt. V. Choodamani
104.	Shri B. Narsi Reddy

1	2
105.	Shri B. Purushotam Reddy
106.	Shri K. Jagannatha Rao
107.	Shri Utlia Buddalaha Choudary
108.	Shri Karamsetty Srinivas Rao
109.	Sheikh Mastan Wali
110.	Shri Boola Franky Roy

Percentage of Household In Debt

3763. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of households in debt in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether indebtedness has come down during the last three years and the current year;

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

(d) if not, the remedial steps likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) Details are given in the enclosed statement.

(b) The National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO) conducts debt and investment surveys decennially and the last such survey is NSS 59th round (January-December 2003), results of which is referred to in part (a).

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Statement

State-wise percentage of households in debt in the country

State	Incidence of indebtedness(%)	
	Rural	Urban
1	2	3
Andhra Pradesh	42.3	29.8
Assam	7.5	6.0

1	2	3
Bihar	21.8	9.5
Chhattisgarh	19.8	13.2
Delhi	—	1.5
Gujarat	28.1	21.4
Haryana	27.3	16.0
Himachal Pradesh	15.3	10.1
Jammu and Kashmir	3.6	5.0
Jharkhand	12.0	6.6
Karnataka	31.3	18.6
Kerala	39.4	37.3
Madhya Pradesh	26.1	17.7
Maharashtra	27.5	15.5
Orissa	26.4	19.2
Punjab	25.7	13.1
Rajasthan	33.8	16.5
Tamil Nadu	31.3	25.5
Uttaranchal	5.5	6.8
Uttar Pradesh	23.4	13.0
West Bengal	21.8	17.1
All India	26.5	17.8

Source: National Sample Survey Organisation Report No.501.

Agreement for Indo-UK Cooperation in Films

3764. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Federation of India Chambers of Commerce and Industry and the Commonwealth Business Council, UK have organised the Indian Media and Entertainment Conference at London recently;

(b) if so, the number of high profile delegation of more than 30 senior personalities from the core sectors

of Indian media and entertainment industries who visited the said conference and the decisions taken;

(c) whether any final agreement for Indo-UK cooperation in the films have been signed; and

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

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a)

Yes, Sir. The conference was held on 16th October, 2006.

(b) The conference was primarily a private sector affair. According to FICCI, the conference deliberated on a number of topics relating to the Indian film industry. A list containing the personalities who formed the Indian delegation enclosed as statement.

(c) and (d) No final agreement for Indo-UK Cooperation in films have been signed during the conference.

Statement

Sl.No.	Title	Name	Sumame	Designation	Organisation
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Mr	Kunal	Dasgupta	Chief Executive Officer	Sony Entertainment Television India (P) Ltd
2.	Mr	A P	Parigi	Mg Director and CEO	Entertainment Network India Ltd
3.	Ms	Apurva S	Purohit	CEO	Music Broadcast Pvt Limited
4.	Mr	Amber	Basu	CFO	Radio City
5.	Mr	V J	Lazarus	President	The Indian Music Industry
6.	Dr	J K	Jain	Chairman	Jain TV Group
7.	Mr	Deepak	Kapoor	Partner	PWC
8.	Mrs	Sujata	Dev	Managing Director and CEO	Time Broadband Services
9.	Mr	Munjaj	Shroff	Director and COO	Graphiti Multimedia
10.	Mrs	Bala	Deshpande	Director, Investment	ICICI Venture Funds Management Co. Ltd
11.	Mr	Salil	Bhargava	CEO	Paradox
12.	Ms	Vineeta	Dwivedi	FM Project Leader, India	British Broadcasting Corporation
13.	Ms	Smita	Jha	Principal Consultant, Entertainment and Media Practice	Pricewaterhouse Coopers Pvt Ltd
14.	Mr	Michel	Lobelle	Head of Business Development	BBC World Service
15.	Mr	Shubho Shekhar	Bhattacharjee	President, Filmed Entertainment	Planman Motion Pictures
16.	Mr.	Ashis S	Kulkarni	Founder and Executive Producer	ANI Rights Infomedia Pvt Ltd
17.	Mr	Rahul Prasad	Barua	Secretary General	South Asia Foundation
18.	Ms	Madhunka	Sona Jain	Director and Head of Entertainment	Jain TV Group

1	2	3	4	5	6
19.	Mr	Pardlep	Chhabra	Me Director	401, Building No. 3
20.	Ms	Siddhartha	Mukherjee	Head - Corporate Communications	TAM Media Research Pvt Ltd
21.	Mr	Mukesh	Jain	Associate Director/Transaction Advisory Services	Ernst and Young
22.	Mr	Amit Lal	Yogi	Proprietor	Five C's Cinemas
23.	Mr	Maheesh	Ramanathan	COO	Percept Picture Company
24.	Ms	Amita	Sarkar	Director	FICCI
25.	Ms	Leena	Jaisani	Deputy Director	FICCI
26.	Mr	Abhijit	Saxena	CEO	Zee TV
27.	Mr	Kapil	Sharma	Partner	VISION ON - the entertainment company
28.	Mr	Badejal	Singh	Partner	VISION ON - the entertainment company
29.	Mr	Feku Lal	Baliram Raydas	Partner	Kar Entertainment
30.	Mr.	Pradeep	Hejmadi	Vice President	TAM Media Research Pvt. Ltd.

12.00 hrs.

REFERENCE BY THE SPEAKER

(I) 15th Asian Games held at Doha, in which India finished 8th in the medals tally by bagging 10 Gold, 18 Silver and 26 Bronze medals and he congratulated the medal winners

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, it is a matter of great pride that in the recently concluded 15th Asian Games at Doha, India which finished 8th in the medals tally, bagged 10 gold, 18 silver and 26 bronze medals.

India's golden journey began with the winging performance of Ms. Koneru Humpy in the women's rapid format chess event. She won another gold along with Pentala Harikrishna and Krishnan Sasikaran in the Chess Mixed team Classical Swiss Event.

The title clash for men billiards event was an all Indian Affair. In the finals Pankaj Advani defeated Ashok Shandilya thus winning both the gold and silver medals respectively of the country.

India won yet another gold medal in the Kabbadi event when they defeated Pakistan in the finals.

Our ace shooter Jaspal Rana who won three gold medals in the pistol shooting event, was also a nominee for the Most Valuable Player Award at the Games. Along with him, two of his team mates Vijay Kumar and Samresh Jung also won gold in the team event.

The women's 4x400m relay team also had a golden run when the Indian quartet of Pinki Paramanik, Chitra K. Soman, S. Geetha and Manjeet Kaur finished first.

India also won two gold medals in tennis. The first was by the team of Leander Peas and Mahesh Bhupathi in the Men's doubles and another in the mixed doubles by the team of Leander Peas and Sania Mirza.

The achievement of our sportspersons has done the country proud. I am sure the House would join me in congratulating all of them on their accomplishments.

12.01 hrs

(II) Universal Minorities' Rights Day

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, today is the Universal Minorities' Rights Day. India has always been a votary for the cause and rights of the minorities.

Let us once again reiterate our commitment to the welfare of the minorities.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, do you want to say something?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): Sir, with your permission, may I propose that in today's List of Business, that you kindly take up, after disposing of Calling Attention and introduction of new Bills, item No. 42, Administrative Tribunals Bill and dispose it of and thereafter, item No. 38, 39 and 40 pertaining to the three Universities Bill together, as much as progress of item No. 38, 39 and 40 could be made till 2 p.m? They could be so done and thereafter we have to take up and dispose item. No. 43 pertaining to the Discussion on the Statement of the External Affairs Minister and then resume and conclude the pending part so the debate of item No. 38, 39 and 40, the three University Bills today itself.

Through you, sir, I present to the House for the support of the House in this regard subject to your concurrence.

MR. SPEAKER: Is that the sense of the House?

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

MR. SPEAKER: All right, that will be done. Now, the House will take up Papers to be laid on the Table.

12.04 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[English]

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual report (Hindi and English versions) of the Betwa River Board, Jhansi, for the year 2004-05, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Betwa River Board, Jhansi, for the year 2004-05.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT—5576/2006]

- (3) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619 A of the Companies Act, 1956:—

- (a) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the National Projects Construction Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2005-06.
- (ii) Annual Report of the National Projects Construction Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2005-06 alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT—5577/2006]

- (b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Water and Power Consultancy Services (India) Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2005-06.

- (iii) Annual Report of the Water and Power Consultancy Services (India) Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2005-06, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT—5578/2006]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Prasar Bharati (Broadcasting Corporation of India), Annual Statement of Accounts of Corporation Rules, 2006 (Hindi and English versions) Published in Notification No. G.S.R. 731 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 1st December, 2006 under section 34 of the Prasar Bharati (Broadcasting Corporation of India) Act, 1990.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT—5579/2006]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy of the Employee's Provident funds Appellate Tribunal (Presiding Officer) Recruitment Rules, 2004 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 297 in Gazette of India dated the 3rd September, 2005 under sub-section (3) of section 21 of the Employee's Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT—5580/2006]

- (2) A copy of the Employees' State Insurance (Central) (1st Amendment) Rules, 2006 (Hindi and English versions) Published in Notification No. G.S.R. 591 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 22nd September, 2006 under sub-section (4) of section 95 of the Employees' State Insurance Act, 1948.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT—5581/2006]

- (3)
 - (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the V.V. Giri National Labour Institute, NOIDA, for the year 2004-2005, along with Audited Accounts.
 - (ii) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the V.V. Giri National Labour Institute, NOIDA, for the year 2004-2005.
- (4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT—5582/2006]

- (5)
 - (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Instructional Media Institute, Chennai, for the year 2005-2006, alongwith Audited Accounts.
 - (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Instructional Media Institute, Chennai, for the year 2005-2006.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT—5583/2006]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Vigilance Commission, New Delhi, for the year 2005, under sub-section (3) of section 14 of the Central Vigilance Commission, Act, 2003.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT—5584/2006]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy of the statement (Hindi and English versions) explaining reasons for not laying the Annual Report and Audited Accounts of the Hindustan Antibiotics Limited for the year 2005-06 within the stipulated period of nine months after the close of the accounting year.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT—5585/2006]

- (2)
 - (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Institute of Plastics Engineering & Technology, Chennai, for the year 2005-06, alongwith Audited Accounts.
 - (ii) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Central Institute of Plastics Engineering & Technology, Chennai, for the year 2005-06.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT—5586/2006]

(3) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619 A of the companies Act, 1956:—

- (a) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Hindustan Insecticides Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2005-2006.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Hindustan Insecticides Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2005-2006, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT—5587/2006]

- (b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Hindustan Organic Chemicals Limited, Raigarh, for the year 2005-2006.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Hindustan Organic Chemicals Limited, Raigarh, for the year 2005-2006, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT—5588/2006]

(4) A copy of the statement (Hindi and English versions) explaining reasons for not laying the Annual Report and Audited Accounts of the Bengal Chemicals and Pharmaceuticals Limited for the year 2005-2006 within the stipulated period of nine months after the close of the accounting year.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT—5589/2006]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Centre for Materials for Electronics Technology (C-MET), Pune, for the year 2005-2006, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Centre for Materials for Electronics Technology (C-MET), Pune, for the year 2005-2006.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT—5590/2006]

- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Electronics and Computer Software Export Promotion Council, New Delhi, for the year 2005-2006, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Electronics and Computer Software Export Promotion Council, New Delhi, for the year 2005-2006.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT—5591/2006]

[*Translation*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table:—

- (1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under of section 619 A of the companies Act, 1956:—
- (a) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Haryana Agro Industries Corporation Limited, Chnadigarh, for the year 2005-2006.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Haryana Agro Industries Corporation Limited, Chandigarh, for the year 2005-2006, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT—5592/2006]

- (b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Maharashtra Agro Industries Development Corporation Limited, Mumbai, for the year 2004-2005.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Maharashtra Agro Industries Development Corporation Limited, Mumbai, for the year 2004-2005, 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 item No. (b) of (1) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT—5593/2006]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Council for Co-operative Training, New Delhi, for the year 2004-2005.
- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the National Council for Co-operative Training, New Delhi, for the year 2004-2005, together with Audit Report thereon.
- (iii) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Council for Co-operative Training, New Delhi, for the year 2004-2005.
- (4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.
- [Placed in Library. *See* No. LT—5594/2006]
- (5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Co-operative Union of India, New Delhi, for the year 2004-2005.
- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the National Co-operative Union of India, New Delhi, for the year 2004-2005, together with Audit Report thereon.
- (iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Co-operative Union of India, New Delhi, for the year 2004-2005.
- (6) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (5) above.
- [Placed in Library. *See* No. LT—5595/2006]
- (7) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Co-operative Union of India, New Delhi, for the year 2005-2006.
- (ii) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Co-operative Union of India, New Delhi, for the year 2005-2006, together with Audit Report thereon.
- (iii) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Co-operative Union of India, New Delhi, for the year 2005-2006.
- [Placed in Library. *See* No. LT—5596/2006]
- (8) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Horticulture Board, Gurgaon, for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Horticulture Board, Gurgaon, for the year 2004-2005.
- (9) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (8) above.
- [Placed in Library. *See* No. LT—5597/2006]
- (10) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Coconut Development Board, Kochi, for the year 2005-2006.
- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Coconut Development Board, Kochi, for the year 2005-2006, together with Audit Report thereon.
- (iii) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Coconut Development Board, Kochi, for the year 2005-2006.
- (iv) A copy of the Progress of work (Hindi and English versions) by the Government on the Annual Report and Audited Accounts of the Coconut Development Board, Kochi, for the year 2005-2006.

- (v) A copy of the Comments (Hindi and English versions) on the Audit Report of the Coconut Development Board, Kochi, for the year 2005-2006.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT—5598/2006]

- (11) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management, Hyderabad, for the year 2005-2006.
- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management, Hyderabad, for the year 2005-2006, together with Audit Report thereon.
- (iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management, Hyderabad, for the year 2005-2006.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT—5599/2006]

- (12) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Society of Agricultural Economics, Mumbai, for the year 2005-2006, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Society of Agricultural Economics, Mumbai, for the year 2005-2006.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT—5600/2006]

- (13) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Society of Agricultural Statistics, New Delhi, for the year 2005-2006, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Society of Agricultural Statistics, New Delhi, for the year 2005-2006.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT—5601/2006]

- (14) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the All India Federation of Co-operative Spinning Mills Limited, Mumbai, for the year 2005-2006, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the All India Federation of Co-operative Spinning Mills Limited, Mumbai, for the year 2005-2006.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT—5602/2006]

- (15) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) issued under the Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Act, 2001:—

- (i) S.O. 1797(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 19th October, 2006 appointing the 19th day of October, 2006 as the date on which the sections mentioned therein of the Protection of the Plant Varieties and Farmers' Right Act, 2001, shall come into force.

- (ii) S.O. 1883(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 1st November, 2006 making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 1589(E) dated the 11th November, 2005.

- (iii) S.O. 1884(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 1st November, 2006 notifying the crops mentioned therein with their genera eligible for registration of varieties under Protection of Plant varieties and Farmers' Right Act, 2001.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT—5603/2006]

- (16) A copy of the Protection of Plant varieties and Farmers' Rights Regulations, 2006 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 740 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 7th December, 2006, under section 97 of the Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Act, 2001.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT—5604/2006]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): Sir, on behalf of Shri Taslimuddin I beg to lay on the Table:—

- (1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:—

- (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Karnataka Meat and Poultry Marketing Corporation Limited, Bangalore, for the year 2005-2006.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Karnataka Meat and Poultry Marketing Corporation Limited, Bangalore, for the year 2005-2006, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT—5605/2006]

- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Cooperative Consumers Federation of India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2005-2006, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Cooperative Consumers' Federation of India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2005-2006.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT—5606/2006]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Federation of Fishermen's Cooperatives Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2005-2006, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Cooperative Consumers Federation of India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2005-2006.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT—5607/2006]

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): I beg to lay on the Table:—

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Centre for Environment Education, Ahmedabad, for the year 2005-2006, along with Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Centre for Environment Education, Ahmedabad, for the year 2005-2006.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT—5608/2006]

- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the C.P.R. Environmental Education Centre, Chennai, for the year 2005-2006, along with Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the C.P.R. Environmental Education Centre, Chennai, for the year 2005-2006.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT—5609/2006]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Plywood Industries Research and Training Institute, Bangalore, for the year 2005-2006, along with Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Plywood Industries Research and Training Institute, Bangalore, for the year 2005-2006.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT—5610/2006]

- (4) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Institute of Forest Management, Bhopal, for the year 2005-2006, along with Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Institute of Forest Management, Bhopal, for the year 2005-2006.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT—5611/2006]

- (5) A copy of the Notification No. S.O. 2031 (E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 27th November, 2006, recognising the Environmental Laboratories under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, issued under sections 12 and 13 of the said Act.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT—5612/2006]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): Sir, on behalf of my colleague Shri Jay Prakash Narayan Yadav, I beg to lay on the Table—

(1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:—

(i) Review by the Government of the working of the Kerala Land Development Corporation Limited, Thiruvananthapuram, for the year 2000-2001.

(ii) Annual Report of the Kerala Land Development Corporation Limited, Thiruvananthapuram, for the year 2000-2001, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

(2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT—5613/2006]

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): Sir, on behalf of Dr. Akhilesh Prasad Singh, I beg to lay on the Table:-

(1) A copy of the Central Warehousing Corporation (Amendment) Rules, 2006 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 704 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 16th November, 2006 under sub section (3) of section 41 of the Warehousing Corporations Act, 1962.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT—5614/2006]

(2) A copy of the Sugar Development Fund (Amendment) Rules, 2006 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 558(E)

in Gazette of India dated the 15th September, 2006 under sub-section (3) of section 9 of the Sugar Development Fund Act, 1982, together with a corrigendum thereto published in Notification No. G.S.R. 729(E) dated the 30th November, 2006.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT—5615/2006]

(3) A copy of the Statement (Hindi and English versions) explaining reasons for not laying the Annual Report and Audited Accounts of the Food Corporation of India for the year 2004-2005, within the stipulated, period of nine months after the close of the accounting year.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT—5616/2006]

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (DR. AKHILESH DAS): I beg to lay on the Table—

(1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619 A of the Companies Act, 1956:—

(a) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (Visakhapatnam Steel Plant), Visakhapatnam, for the year 2005-2006.

(ii) Annual Report of the Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (Visakhapatnam Steel Plant), Visakhapatnam, for the year 2005-2006, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT—5617/2006]

(b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the National Mineral Development Corporation Limited, Hyderabad, for the year 2005-2006.

(ii) Annual Report of the National Mineral Development Corporation Limited, Hyderabad, for the year 2005-2006, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT—5618/2006]

12.09 hrs.

MESSAGES FROM RAJYA SABHA

[English]

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Sir, I have to report the following messages received from the Secretary-General of Rajya Sabha:-

- (i) "In accordance with the provisions of rule 127 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to inform the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 14th December, 2006 agreed without any amendment to the Dalmia Dadri Cement Limited (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Amendment Bill, 2006 which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 13th December, 2006."
- (ii) "In accordance with the provisions of sub-rule (6) of rule 186 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to return herewith the Appropriation (No. 5) Bill, 2006, which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 12th December, 2006 and transmitted to the Rajya Sabha for its recommendations and to state that this House has no recommendations to make to the Lok Sabha in regard to the said Bill."
- (iii) "In accordance with the provisions of sub-rule (6) of rule 186 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to return herewith the Appropriation (No.6) Bill, 2006, which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 12th December, 2006 and transmitted to the Rajya Sabha for its recommendations and to state that this House has no recommendations to make to the Lok Sabha in regard to the said Bill."
- (iv) "In accordance with the provisions of rule 127 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to inform the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 14th December, 2006

agreed without any amendment to the Commissions for Protection of Child Rights Amendment Bill, 2006 which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 13th December, 2006."

12.09¹/₄ hrs.

COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES

Twelfth Report

[English]

SHRI C. KUPPUSAMI (Madras North): I beg to present the Twelfth Report (Hindi and English versions) of Estimates Committee on 'Insurance schemes for weaker sections of society' relating to the Ministry of Finance (Department of Economic Affairs—Insurance Division).

12.09¹/₂ hrs.

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

Thirty Eighth Report

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to present the Thirty Eighth Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Public Accounts Committee (2006-2007) on performance Audit of Department of Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy (AYUSH).

12.10 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN

Tenth Report

[English]

SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH (Karol Bagh): Sir, I beg to present the Tenth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Empowerment of women (2006-07) on the subject 'Hostel Accommodation for Working Women.'

12.10¹/₄ hrs.

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**

Twelfth and Thirteenth Reports

[Translation]

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY (Mandsaur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to present a copy each of the following reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on External Affairs:—

- (1) 12th Report on Action Taken on the recommendations contained in the 10th Report (14th Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs for the year 2006-07.
- (2) 13th Report on Action Taken on the recommendations contained in the 11th Report (14th Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants of the Ministry of External Affairs for the year 2006-07.

12.10¹/₂ hrs.

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION
TECHNOLOGY**

Thirty-seventh to Thirty-Ninth Reports

[English]

SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR (Aurangabad, Bihar): Sir, I beg to present the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Information Technology (2006-07):—

- (1) Thirty-Seventh Report on action taken by Government on the Recommendations/Observations of the Committee Contained in their Twenty-Second Report (Fourteenth Lok Sabha) on "Implementation of e-Governance Projects" relating to the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (Department of Information Technology).

(2) Thirty-Eighth Report on action taken by Government on the Recommendations/Observations of the Committee contained in their Twenty-Fifth Report (Thirteenth Lok Sabha) on "Working of Prasar Bharati" relating to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

(3) Thirty-Ninth Report on action taken by Government on the Recommendations/Observations of the Committee contained in their Thirty-First Report (Fourteenth Lok Sabha) on "Demands for Grants (2006-07)" relating to the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (Department of Posts).

12.11 hrs.

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON PETROLEUM
AND NATURAL GAS**

Statement

[English]

SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY (Visakhapatnam): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Statement (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Petroleum & Natural Gas showing further Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in Chapter I and final replies in respect of recommendations contained in Chapter V of the 2nd Report of the Committee (14th Lok Sabha) on 'Parallel Marketing in Petroleum Products.'

12.11¹/₄ hrs.

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL
JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT**

(I) Twentieth to Twenty-second Reports

[English]

SHRIMATI PRATIBHA SINGH (Mandi): Sir, I beg to present the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment:—

- (1) Twentieth Report on "The Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order (Amendment) Bill, 2006."

- (2) Twenty-first Report on action taken by the Government on the Recommendations/ observations contained in the Fifteenth Report of the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment on the subject "National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation" of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.
- (3) Twenty-second Report on action taken by the Government on the Recommendations/ Observations contained in the Seventeenth Report of the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment on Demands for Grants-2006-2007 of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.

(II) Statements

SHRIMATI PRATIBHA SINGH (Mandi): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table the following Statements (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment:—

- (1) Statement showing further action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the Twelfth Action Taken Report of the Standing Committee on social Justice and Empowerment (2005-2006) (Fourteenth Lok Sabha) on the recommendations contained in the Seventh Report (Fourteenth Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants, 2005-06 of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.
- (2) Statement showing further action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in Eighteenth Action Taken Report of the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment (2005-2006) (Fourteenth Lok Sabha) on the recommendations contained in Ninth Report (Fourteenth Lok Sabha) on the subject Working of National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation (NMDFC) of the Ministry of Minority Affairs.

12.12 hrs.

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

- (I) **Amendments made to the Salary, allowances and Pension of Members of Parliament Act, 1954 and rules made thereunder**

[English]

*THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS
AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND

BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): Sir, the Salary, Allowances and Pension of Members of Parliament (Amendment) Act, 2006 was notified on September 15, 2006. As per this Amendment Act, the Salary and Daily Allowance of the Members of Parliament were revised to Rs. 16,000/- per month and Rs. 1,000/- per day with effect from September 14, 2006. The other provisions of the Act namely, revised road mileage of Rs. 13/- per kilometer, revised minimum pension of Rs. 8,000/- per month, revised minimum family pension of Rs. 4,000/- per month etc. were made effective with effect from September 15, 2006.

As mentioned by me during the discussion of this Bill in this House on August 23, 2006, increase was also proposed in Constituency Allowance to Rs. 20,000 per month; Office Expense Allowance to Rs. 20,000 per month; revision in the ceiling of durable and non-durable furniture to Rs. 60,000 and Rs. 15,000 respectively. These modifications were to be made effective through amendments to the various Rules under this Act. Some of these amendments like revision in the ceiling of durable and non-durable furniture and extension in the retention period of Government accommodation after the demise of a Member were to be made effective from retrospective dates.

Normally, the Rules made under the provisions of this Act are made effective from the date of publication in the Gazette. Hence, the question of giving retrospective effect to some of these facilities was examined in consultation with the Ministry of Law and Justice. The Law and Justice Ministry has pointed out that Section 9 of the Salary, Allowances and Pension of Members of the Parliament Act, 1954 relating to the power of the Joint Committee to make Rules do not have a provision for giving retrospective effect to the Rules to be framed under the Act, and, therefore, these Rules, if given a retrospective effect, will be *ultra vires* of the Act of 1954.

In view of the above, it was decided to notify the Rules with prospective effect, and to consider the question of amending Section 9 of this Act to make a provision to give retrospective effect to the Rules after following the due procedure.

The amendments in the Rules relating to revised Constituency Allowance, Office Expense Allowance, etc. have since been notified by the Lok Sabha Secretariat with prospective effect, and will be available to the hon. Members of Parliament with effect from December 12, 2006. So far as retrospective is concerned, we will examine it.

*Placed in Library. See No. LT—5619/2006.

12.12¹/₄ hrs.

(II) Status of Implementation of the recommendations contained in the 13th Report of the Standing Committee on Coal and Steel

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am making this statement regarding the status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 13th report (14th Lok Sabha) of the Standing Committee on Coal and Steel in pursuance of Direction 73-A of the hon. Speaker, Lok Sabha issued vide Lok Sabha Bulletin-Part-II dated 1 September, 2004.

The 13th report is based on the recommendations contained in the 10th report. The action taken report on 10th report was sent to the committee on 25.08.2005. The Standing Committee on Coal and steel presented the 13th Report in Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha on 22 December, 2005 after considering the action taken report of the Government on the 10th report. I had made a statement regarding the status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 10th report in both the Houses of the Parliament during the last winter session, 2005.

A statement regarding action taken on the recommendations/observations of the Committee contained in their 13th report was sent to the Standing Committee on Coal and Steel on 25 September, 2006.

The current status of the implementation of various recommendations made by the committee in their 13th report is indicated in the Annexure to my statement laid on the table of the House. I do not want to take the valuable time of the House by reading out all the contents of the Annexure. I request that it may be considered as read.

12.12¹/₂ hrs.

(III) Status of Implementation of recommendations contained in the 5th report of the Standing Committee on Water Resources on Demands for Grants (2006-07) pertaining to the Ministry of Water Resources

[English]

**THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): Sir, I beg to lay this statement on the

*Placed in Library. See No. LT—5620/2006

**Laid on the Table and also placed in Library. See No. LT—5621/2006

status of implementation of recommendations contained in the Fifth report of Standing Committee on Water Resources in pursuance of Direction 73A of the hon. Speaker, Lok Sabha issued vide Lok Sabha Bulletin-Part II dated September 01 2004. sir, I will lay the statement on the Table of the House.

The Fifth Report of Standing Committee on Water Resources (Fourteenth Lok Sabha) was presented in the Lok Sabha on 18th May 2006. This Report related to the examination of Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Water Resources for the year 2006-2007.

Action Taken Notes on the recommendations/ observations contained in the above said report of the Standing Committee had been sent to the Committee on 18th September 2006. There were 26 recommendation paragraphs in this report containing recommendations/ observations made by the Committee where action was called for on the part of Government. These recommendations/observations mainly related to the issues like proper utilization of funds allocated to the Ministry, need for a single Administrative Ministry for Water Resources, strengthening of monitoring mechanism for expeditious completion of major and medium irrigation projects, effective implementation of Command Area Development and Water Management Programme, Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme, Hydrology Project-II and various Flood Control Schemes, making justifiable allocations and their effective utilization under the Research and Development Programme, repairing of spillway/river sluice gates of Farakka Barrage Project, need of taking urgent steps to prevent diversion/ misutilisation of funds released to state Governments under Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme, etc.

The present status of implementation of various recommendations made by the Committee is indicated in Annexure to my Statement, which is laid on the Table of the House. I would not like to take the valuable time of the House to read out all the contents of this Annexure. I would request that this may be considered as read.

12.13 hrs.

***(IV) Status of implementation of recommendations contained in the 32nd Report of the Standing Committee on Finance**

[English]

*THE MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table

*Laid on the Table and also placed in Library. See No. LT—5622/2006

of the House the statement on the status of implementation of recommendations contained in the Thirty-Second Report of the Standing Committee on Finance (14th Lok Sabha) in pursuance of Direction 73A of the hon. Speaker, Lok Sabha.

In all seven recommendations were made by the Committee in the above report where action was required on the part of the Government. The present status of implementation of the various recommendations made by the Committee is given in the Annexure to this Statement, which is laid on the Table of the House. I would not like to take the valuable time of the House to read out all the contents of the Annexure. I would request that this may be considered as read.

12.13 $\frac{1}{2}$ hrs.

- (v) Status of implementation of recommendations contained in the 15th Report of the Standing Committee on Urban Development on Demands for Grants (2006-07) pertaining to the Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation

[English]

*THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): Sir, with your permission, I beg lay on the Table of the House a statement regarding the status of implementation of recommendations contained in the 15th Report (14th Lok Sabha) of the Standing Committee on Urban Development on Demands for Grants (2006-07) pertaining to Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation.

This statement is in pursuance of Direction 73A of the hon. Speaker, Lok Sabha, which reads as under:

"the Minister concerned shall make once in six months a statement in the House regarding the status of implementation of recommendations contained in the Reports of Departmentally Related Standing Committees of Lok Sabha with regard to his Ministry."

I would like to inform for the benefit of the hon. Members of the House that the 15th Report of the Standing Committee of the 14th Lok Sabha on Demands

*Laid on the Table and also placed in Library. See No. LT—5623/2006

for Grants of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation was presented in Lok Sabha on 22.5.2006.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, all the 18 recommendations of the Committee have been accepted by the Government. Status of action taken on recommendations for the standing Committee accepted by the Government has been indicated against each recommendations in the enclosed statement. I would like to inform the hon. Members that further follow-up action, wherever necessary, will be taken by the Ministry.

12.14 hrs.

- (vi) Status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 11th report of the Standing Committee on Chemicals and Fertilizers pertaining to the Department of Chemicals and Petro-Chemicals

[English]

*THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): Sir, with your permission, I beg to lay a statement on the status of implementation of recommendations contained in the Eleventh Report of the Standing Committee on Chemicals and Fertilizers in pursuance of Direction 73A of the hon. Speaker, Lok Sabha, as it is a very lengthy statement.

This statement is on the status of implementation of the Recommendations contained in the Eleventh Report of the standing Committee on Demands for Grant 2006-07 of the Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers (Department of Chemicals & Petrochemicals) in pursuance of the directions issued by the hon. Speaker, Lok Sabha.

The Standing Committee on Chemicals & Fertilizers examined the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers (Department of Chemicals & Petrochemicals) for the year 2006-07 and presented their Eleventh report to Lok Sabha on 19th May, 2006. The Report contains 21 Recommendations. The gist of the Recommendations is as follow:

- (i) Implementations of the partially implemented/not implemented Recommendations in the Vth report on Demands for Grants (2005-06).

*Laid on the Table and also placed in Library. See No.—LT 5624/2006

- (ii) Requirement of funds at supplementary stage, if any for the Plan projects.
- (iii) Measures to remove shortcomings in the plan performance of PSUs.
- (iv) Implementation of the provision of new schemes under Secretariat Economic Services head in a time bound manner.
- (v) Establishment of three new CIPET centres.
- (vi) Pro-rata compensation to victims of Bhopal Gas Leak Disaster
- (vii) removal of Toxic wastes from Union Carbide Plant site at Bhopal
- (viii) Early commissioning of Assam Gas Cracker Project
- (ix) Full Utilisation of funds for IPFT
- (x) NIPER to complete its programmes/projects in a time bound manner for proper Utilisation of funds
- (xi) Substantial increase in the non-plan budget of PEPS
- (xii) Health Insurance scheme for the poor and lower middle class people.
- (xiii) expeditious Finalisation of the New Schemes of the Department
- (xiv) Speedy computing of the liabilities of the companies regarding recovery of the overcharged amount.
- (xv) Funds for NE Region to be utilized during the financial year and transferred to the non-lapsable pool in rare cases
- (xvi) Proper analysis/evaluation of projects to avoid loss to exchequer.
- (xvii) Implementation of rehabilitation schemes of HOCL/HAL
- (xviii) Implementation of rehabilitation schemes of HIL
- (xix) Revival of IDPL/HIL in a time bound manner
- (xx) Revival of BCPL
- (xxi) Revival of all PSUs under the Department of Chemicals & Petrochemicals

The partially implemented/not implemented recommendations of the Standing Committee contained in the 5th Report on Demands for Grants (2005-06) of Department of Chemicals & Petrochemicals have been re-examined. The Department has been making all efforts in rehabilitating the sick PSUs. A sum of Rs. 423.69 crore has already been approved by the Ministry of Finance in the 1st Batch of Supplementary Demands for Grants for 2006-07. Rehabilitation of Hindustan Antibiotics Ltd. (HAL) is in process and based on the recommendation of the Cabinet, a sum of Rs. 123.69 crore through 1st Supplementary Demand for Grants (2006-07) has been released in favour of the company. In the rehabilitation of HOCL, a sum of Rs. 250.00 crore has been released towards redeemable non-cumulative preference shares of the company. CCEA in its meeting held on 27.7.2006 approved the revival proposal in respect of Hindustan Insecticides Ltd. The revival proposal is being implemented by the PSU. IDPL is expected to submit its rehabilitation scheme soon for consideration of the Government. On receipt, it would be examined on priority. However, a sum of Rs. 6.00 crore has already been released for making the units of IDPL Schedule M compliant and upgrading the facilities at Muzaffarpur and Hyderabad. The Department has appointed a Committee to explore the possibilities of Revival of Bengal Immunity Ltd. (BIL). The Committee has since submitted its report and the same is under consideration of the Department.

The Rehabilitation Scheme for revival of Bengal Chemicals & Pharmaceuticals Ltd. (BCPL) has been approved by BRPSE. The scheme will be placed before the CCEA for its approval. The Government is making all efforts to ensure that new centres of Central Institute of Plastics Engineering & Technology (CIPET) at Panipat, Jaipur and Aurangabad are fully set up by March 2009. an amount of Rs. 16.50 crore has been released up to 31.10.2006 for this purpose. Assam Gas Cracker Project has been approved by CCEA. The cost of the project is Rs. 4460.61 crore (fixed cost). A capital subsidy for Rs. 2138.00 crore for the project on fixed cost basis and a feedstock subsidy for Rs. 908.91 crore for the project spread over 15 years shall be provided by Government of India. Department of Chemicals & Petrochemicals has constituted a Monitoring Committee for early implementation of the Project. The Monitoring Committee has taken several meetings to review the implementation of Assam Gas Cracker Project. IPFT has already initiated necessary action for filling up of various posts and the whole process of recruitment is expected to be completed by 31st December 2006. The process of distribution of

pro-rata compensation to Bhopal Gas victims is still going on. As on 10.11.2006, a sum of Rs. 1494.65 crore has been disbursed among 5,58,072 claimants. A Task Force has been set up under the Chairpersonship of Secretary (C&PC) for monitoring the removal/disposal of the toxic wastes lying in and around the UCIL plant at Bhopal. The Cabinet has approved the Note of this Department on Purchase Preference Policy (PPP) for products of Pharma Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) and their subsidiaries. The decision will help Government Institutions in making available quality drugs to the beneficiaries under various Health Schemes. It will also help in optimum utilization of assets of PSUs created with public funds. A draft Cabinet Note on National Pharmaceutical Policy 2006 with various proposals including provision of free/cheaper medicines to the poor was circulated by the Department amongst various Ministries/Departments. The comments have been received and will be taken into consideration in finalizing National Pharmaceutical Policy 2006.

12.15 hrs.

(ii) **Status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 12th Report of the Standing Committee on Chemicals and Fertilizers, pertaining to the Department of Fertilizers**

[English]

*THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): Sir, I rise to make a statement on the status of implementation of recommendations contained in the Twelfth Report of the Standing Committee on Chemicals and Fertilizers in pursuance of Direction 73A of the hon. Speaker, Lok Sabha. I would like to lay it on the Table of the House as it is a very lengthy statement.

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, you can lay it on the Table of the House.

SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE: *The Department of Fertilizers (DoF) comes under the Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers. The main objective of the Department is to ensure adequate and timely availability of fertilizers for maximizing

agricultural production in the country and for this purpose to promote and assist industries in the fertilizer sector and to plan and arrange import and distribution of fertilizers.

2. The main activities of DoF include planning promotion and development of the fertilizer industry, programming and monitoring of production, pricing, import and supply of fertilizers and management of financial resources by way of subsidy/concession for indigenous and imported fertilizers. The Department also disburses payments to manufacturers/importers of decontrolled fertilizers under the concession scheme made available to the farmers at the indicative Maximum Retail Price (MRP).

3. In addition, the activities of DoF also include the administrative control of the following public sector undertaking and Cooperatives in the fertilizers sector:—

- (i) FCL (under closure)
- (ii) FACT
- (iii) MFL
- (iv) NFL
- (v) RCF
- (vi) BVFCL
- (vii) HFC (under closure)
- (viii) PDIL
- (ix) PPCL (under closure)
- (x) FCI, Aravali Gypsum Minerals India Ltd.
- (xi) KRIBHCO.

4. The office of the Executive Director, Fertilizers Industry Coordination Committee (FICC) also works under the Department of Fertilizer. This office provides the secretariat support to FICC constituted to administer the Retention price Scheme for Nitrogenous Fertilizers and various incentive schemes to augment indigenous production of fertilizers.

5. I am making the statement on the status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the twelfth report of the Standing Committee on Chemicals & Fertilizers in pursuance of direction 73A of the hon. Speaker, Lok Sabha, issued *vide* Lok Sabha Bulletin Part II dated September 01,2004.

*Laid on the Table and also placed in Library. See No. LT—5625/2006

6. The Standing Committee on Chemicals and Fertilizers examined Demand for Grants of the Department of Fertilizers for the year 2006-2007, and presented the twelfth report to Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha on 19th May, 2006. The Report contained 19 recommendations. These recommendations related to:—

- (i) Regional imbalances in fertilizers consumptions; direct subsidy to the farmers and containment of hoarding/black marketing of units; revival of the sick, loss making and closed fertilizer PSUs; Namrup-II revamp project and recovery of the balance amount from M/s. Karsan Limited etc.
 - (ii) Stagnation in the production capacity of fertilizers in the country. The entire process of project planning and implementation in the PSUs/cooperative/Units under the administrative control of the Department of Fertilizers should be reviewed and streamlined. The Department of Fertilizers should review the progress of all projects in a scientific manner on a regular basis.
 - (iii) The Department of Fertilizers is to identify the projects and other related issues to be taken up in the 11th Five Year plan and evolve suitable plan strategies for meeting the fertilizer requirements of the country.
 - (iv) The efforts should be made to enhance the production capacity of fertilizers so as to reduce the dependence of the country on import for making fertilizers available to the farmers particularly when the cost of indigenously produced urea is less than the cost of imported urea.
 - (v) The Department of Fertilizers should continue their efforts for getting requisite funds to implement the plans/projects as also to meet the subsidy bills which have even carried over liabilities of the year 2005-2006.
 - (vi) The Department of Fertilizers should vigorously pursue the matter with the Ministry of Finance and Planning Commission for increasing allocation for fertilizers subsidy in the supplementary grants.
 - (vii) All necessary steps should be taken to ensure timely and adequate availability of fertilizers, so that, the farmers are not left at the mercy of the hoarders and black marketers.
 - (viii) The process of formulating a policy for urea beyond 31.03.2006, should have been completed well in advance to avoid the prevailing uncertainty. The Government should finalize the same without further delay.
 - (ix) The whole process of examination of proposals for revival of fertilizer units should be expedited and a time frame should be fixed for their compilation.
 - (x) The Department of Fertilizers have sought priority for allocation of gas to the fertilizer industry. The Committee have recommended that like the energy sector, fertilizer sector should be given top priority in the allocation of gas.
 - (xi) The scope and quantum of the Rainfed Farming project should be enlarged substantially as this will help in enhancing the livelihood of the tribal and rural communities which will result in their economic empowerment and integration in the mainstream of the society.
 - (xii) Committee are of the opinion that the Department of Fertilizers should play a major role in production, promotion and publicity for maximum use of bio-fertilizers by the farmers in the country, particularly when all the fertilizer production units are under its administrative control.
7. All the recommendations, of the Standing Committee contained in the twelfth report of 2006-07, have been received and considered in the Department of Fertilizers. The Action Taken Replies to these recommendations have been sent to the Committee.

12.15½ hrs.

- (vii) Status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 160th report of the Standing Committee on Science and Technology, Environment and Forests on Demands for Grants (2006-07), pertaining to the Department of Atomic Energy

[English]

*THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): Sir,

*Placed in Library. See No. LT—5626/2006

in June 2006, the Department had received the 160th Report containing recommendations of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Science and Technology, Environment and Forests (Rajya Sabha) on Demands for Grants (2006-07) of the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE). Action Taken Report on the recommendations of the Committee was submitted by DAE on 8th August, 2006 to Rajya Sabha Secretariat. Thereafter, in September, 2005, Rajya Sabha Secretariat had called for some additional information in respect of some of the points/issues. These additional details were furnished to the Rajya Sabha Secretariat on 14th September, 2006.

12.16 hrs.

(viii) **Status of implementation of recommendation contained in 19th and 20th Reports of Standing Committee on Railways**

[English]

*THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): Sir, with your kind permission, I beg to lay a statement regarding status of implementation contained in the 19th and 20th Reports of the Standing Committee on Railways.

I am making this statement on the status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 19th and 20th Reports of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Railways in pursuance of Directive 73A, of the Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha issued vide Lok Sabha Bulletin-Part II, dated 1st September, 2004.

The 19th Report of the Committee on "Safety & security in India Railways" presented to the Lok Sabha on 23.05.2006 contained 5 recommendations and Action Taken Notes thereon have been furnished to the Committee on 19.09.2006 (English & Hindi versions).

The 20th Report of the Committee on "Demands for Grants 2006-07" presented to the Lok Sabha on 23.05.2006 contained 14 recommendations and Action Taken Notes thereon have been furnished to the Committee on 29.09.2006 (English version) and on 09.11.2006 (Hindi version).

*Laid on the Table and also placed in Library. See No. LT—5627/2006

Statements showing details of all the recommendations contained in these Reports and implementations status thereof are enclosed. Since the statements are voluminous, I request that the same may be taken as read.

12.17 hrs.

(ix) **Status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 11th Report of the Standing Committee on External Affairs on Demands for Grants (2006-07)**

[English]

*THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI ANAND SHARMA): Sir, with your permission, I beg to lay a statement regarding the status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 11th Report of the Standing Committee on External Affairs on Demands for Grants (2006-07).

I am making this statement on the status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the Eleventh Report of the Standing Committee on External Affairs in pursuance of the Direction 73A of the Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha.

2. The Standing Committee on External Affairs examined the Demands for Grants of the MEA for the year 2006-07 and laid its Eleventh report in Lok Sabha on 18th May, 2006. The Report included 36 recommendations on which Action Taken Report was submitted to the Committee in August, 2006. Now, I am laying on the Table of the House the progress made on the recommendations of the Committee, as required under Hon'ble Speaker's above direction.

3. We are grateful to the Committee in recommending the need for additional funds for the Ministry to carry out more effectively the enhanced activities of the Ministry in pursuance of our dynamic foreign policy. To take care of the current requirements, Ministry has submitted Revised Estimates of Rs. 4567.00 crores representing an increase of 872 crores as compared to BE of 2006-07. We are also grateful to the Committee in acknowledging evenly paced utilization of budgetary allocations.

*Laid on the Table and also placed in Library. See No. LT—5628/2006

4. On the filling up of posts, Ministry is happy to report that the Staff Selection Commission has selected 8 candidates against backlogged reserved vacancies and requisite approval for creation of posts for the newly opened Missions at Kinshasa and Melbourne has been obtained. Ministry recognizes the need to curtail expenditure on rental liability and action is under way to acquire built-up properties and construct buildings in high rental stations. The Ministry also would like to inform the Committee that it has reached a final settlement with the NOMC for clearance of all dues relating to Akbar Bhavan.

5. On the External Publicity front, a review of publicity budget was carried out and Missions were asked to redouble their efforts to fully utilize the publicity budget and accomplish the objective of projecting and promoting India globally in an effective manner. Fifteen key Missions were selected to improve perceptions about India through strengthened media interventions in the countries of their accreditation. On the Public Diplomacy front, the outreach has been extended to the strategic community, number of international think tanks, research institutions, leading institutes, media and many universities in India. PD Division is laying special emphasis on how Ministry can contribute to and sustain the national objectives of achieving 8-10% economic growth and re-connecting with neighbours.

6. In keeping with the Committee's recommendations, an increased allocation of Rs.147.98 crores has been provided at the RE stage to open new passport offices at Dehradun, Raipur and Shimla by March, 2007 and at Amritsar in the near future. Passport issuance guidelines have been simplified including the police verification system and measures put in place to reduce the pendency in passport offices.

7. To cater to the increasing activities of ICeR, Ministry has provided an enhanced allocation of Rs. 68.50 crores in the RE of 2006-07. The Council's advisory body in different regional centres has been constituted. Meetings of regional offices at Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata are scheduled to be held in January, February and March, 2007 respectively.

8. I am happy to report that the working Committee of the Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA) has been constituted under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Vice-President of India with 15 members. ICWA is in process of drawing up detailed rules and regulations for its smooth functioning.

9. On assistance to Nepal, a generous package was announced during the visit of H.E. Prime Minister Koirala, amounting to nearly Rs. 900 crores. Bhutan is also receiving generous assistance from the GOI for implementation of various projects in that country.

10. Some of the multilateral projects undertaken by India are operationalisation of the SAARC Disaster Management Centre in New Delhi in October this year and the second BIMSTEC Summit proposed to be held in India in February, 2007.

11. The progress made in the implementation of the recommendations is detailed in the Annexure which is laid on the Table of the House. I would not like to take the valuable time of the House to read out all the contents but would request that this may be considered as read.

12.18 hrs.

(x) Status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 9th Report of the Standing Committee on Petroleum and Natural Gas on Demands for Grants (2006-07), pertaining to the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.

[Translation]

*THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): Sir, I am making this statement regarding status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 9th report the Standing Committee on Petroleum and Natural Gas on demands for grants (2006-07) pertaining to the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas in pursuance of Direction 73 (A) of the hon. Speaker, Lok Sabha issued vide Lok Sabha Bulletin-Part II, dated 1 September, 2004.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You can lay it on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

SHRI DINSHA PATEL: The 9th report of the Standing Committee on Petroleum and Natural Gas (14th Lok Sabha) was presented in Lok Sabha on 15.5.2006. This report pertains to examination of the demands for grants

*Laid on the Table and also placed in Library. See No. LT—5629/2006

of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas for the Year 2006-2007.

The statement regarding action taken on the recommendations/observations contained in the committee's report was sent to the Standing Committee on Petroleum and Natural Gas on 18.8.2006.

The committee had made 15 recommendations in the said report on which action taken report has been sought from the Government. These recommendations are mainly related to full utilization of the funds allocated to the PSUs for their plan expenditure, the efforts made by Oil India Limited in achieving the targets related to earthquake surveys and exploration activities, signing of gas supply agreement by Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL) and the measures taken by it to ensure completion of projects without time and cost overrun, to prepare a comprehensive scheme for supply of PNG in the entire city of Delhi within five years the measures taken for merger of Indo-Burma Petroleum (IBP) with Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), the efforts made by the refineries for processing excessive alkaline/heavy crude oil, the incentive schemes introduced by the oil companies to reward the employees playing a special role in investigating the gravity of adulteration in petroleum products, to examine the possibility of setting up of an LNG terminal at Krishnapatnam on the eastern coast.

The current status of implementation of the various recommendations made by the Committee is indirected in the Annexure to my statement which has been laid on the Table of the House. I do not want to take the valuable time of the House by reading out all the contents of the Annexure. I would request that it may be considered as read.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Item No. 33, Calling Attention by Shri Prabh Nath Singh.

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): Before you take up calling Attention, I may remind you that we had given a notice to you on the Indo-US Nuclear Agreement under Rule 184. We are afraid that hon. Prime Minister may give in to the US pressure at the time of signing the agreement there if the sense of the House is not taken and views expressed on the subject are not considered. We therefore, request you to admit it under

Rule 184 instead of Rule 193 so that the sense of the House comes to the fore. The opinion of all the parties is almost against it. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: That has been admitted under Rule 193. You cannot question that decision.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): Sir, hon. Prime Minister himself will intervene today at four o' clock.

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): what objection do you have in admitting it under Rule 184?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please, take your seat.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Sir, we insist that it should be admitted under Rule 184.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY (Pur): Sir, on this issue I would like to say something.

MR. SPEAKER: No, sorry. You cannot question the decision of the Speaker.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: I am not questioning your decision. With respect I want to submit something in this regard. Please allow me one minute.

MR. SPEAKER: On what basis should I allow you? Under what rule?

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Please listen to me, Sir. I will take just half a minute.

MR. SPEAKER: Very well, I watch you for half a minute.

You know that the session is going to adjourn tomorrow and there are many important issues pending before us. Please cooperate. Everyday I am sitting with all of you. I have discussed this.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: I would respectfully draw your attention to the provisions of Rule 187.

MR. SPEAKER: There is no business before the House. You cannot raise a point of order now.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: I am not challenging your decision. You have rightly taken that decision and we cannot challenge it. I would respectfully like to submit something. I request you to please listen to me.

Rule 187 says, "The Speaker shall decide whether a motion or part thereof is or is not admissible under these rules and disallow any motion or part thereof when. ..." this is the most significant part, "... in his opinion it is an abuse of right of moving a motion or it is calculated to obstruct or prejudicially affects the procedure of the House or it is calculated to obstruct or prejudicially affects the procedure of the House or is in contravention of these rules."

MR. SPEAKER: Thanks for your advice. I will remember your advice for the future.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: So, this is not contravening any of these provisions. I again respectfully submit that it may be admitted under Rule 184.

MR. SPEAKER: I have applied my mind and taken this decision.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: You may please have a relook at it.

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will be recorded. Why are you disturbing the proceedings. Go to your seat and keep quiet, Shri Athawale.

*(Interruptions)...**

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Please, take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

12.20 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTERS OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

(I) Need to include Bhojpuri language in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution

[Translation]

*SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajganj, Bihar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I, through you, would like to draw the

*Not recorded.

*Placed in Library. See No. LT—5630/2006

attention of hon'ble Minister of Home Affairs for including Bhojpuri language in the Eighth Schedule. *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I have enough trouble. Do not further add to it.

...(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): The Government has been receiving demands for inclusion of various languages in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution. *...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Sir, the hon'ble Minister should speak in Hindi. He is conversant with the language.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You can only request him.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am requesting him through you.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL: I do not have the Hindi translation of the statement. I shall participate in the rest of debate not in Hindi but in Bhojpuri.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, turn over the page and speak in Hindi.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: That you cannot hear as yet.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL: Over the past few years government has been receiving demands for including various languages in the Eighth Schedule. At

[Shri Shriprakash Jaiswal]

present there are 22 languages in the Eighth Schedule. There are:—(1) Asamee, (2) Bengali, (3) Bodo, (4) Dogari, (5) Gujarati, (6) Hindi, (7) Kannada, (8) Kashmiri, (9) Konkani, (10) Maithili, (11) Malayalam, (12) Manipuri, (13) Marathi, (14) Nepalese, (15) Oriya, (16) Punjabi, (17) Sanskrit, (18) Santhali, (19) Sindhi, (20) Tamil, (21) Telugu, (22) Urdu.

(2) Since no criteria have been fixed for including language in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution, therefore, a high-level committee was set up by this Ministry under the chairmanship of the then Secretary, official languages for formulating certain norms for including more languages in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution in October 1986.

(3) The Committee submitted its report in April 1998 and recommended following criteria for including more languages in Eighth Schedule:—

1. One official language of a State may be included in the Eighth Schedule.
2. It must be spoken by the majority of the people of that particular state.
3. It should be an independent language and it should not be a dialect of a language derived from one of the languages included in the Eighth Schedule.
4. It should have the recognition of Sahitya Academy.
5. It should have a developed literature of a high level.

(4) Above criteria are being used to examine the demands for including more languages in the Eighth Schedule.

(5) Accordingly action has been taken to consider the inclusion of Bhojpuri and Rajasthani languages in the Eighth Schedule.

MR. SPEAKER: You have got your answer now.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Sir, Has the action been taken.

MR. SPEAKER: Action has already started.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, first of all I express my gratitude to you as whenever I

requested you that I want to raise the question of Bhojpuri language, whether it was during the zero hour or through calling attention motion, you always allowed me to speak. Though this issue has not been raised for the first time in the House. For the first time I raised this question through a private resolution in the year 1999 when our NDA Government was in power at the centre. But our government did not respond positively, the answer was negative. After that in the year 2002, I again raised this issue through calling attention motion, at that time the Minister of State of the Ministry of Home Affairs, Shri I.D. Swami had replied but none of the answer was satisfactory. After that with your permission, I raised this issue through calling attention in 2004 and hon'ble Minister of Home Affairs Shri Shivraj V. Patil had replied to it. The reply given was the same which was the reply of I.D. Swami. But in the lower part of the reply there was some improvement. When several hon'ble Members i.e. Devendra Yadavjee, Raghunath Jhajee, Basudeo Acharyajee, Ram Vilas Paswanjee, who is not present here and Sushil Kumar Modijee and many others from this side expressed their views, only then he replied. I would like to read it out within one minute.

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Chail): We also raised this issue in the zero hour. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You do not speak Bhojpuri.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: We do speak Bhojpuri. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: All right.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon'ble Minister had said "Sir, earlier also the matter in this regard was brought to our notice outside the House by many hon'ble Members. Therefore, the Mahapatra Committee was constituted. The Committee was constituted to find out the norms on the basis of which a language can be included in the 8th Schedule of the Constitution. We have received the report submitted by the Committee. The contents of the report are nearly identical to the views of the Government. However, we are not accepting the report in toto. The facts given by you in the House in this regard are broadly in conformity with the norms of the Committee. It will facilitate the

Government in arriving at decision whatsoever in this regard. You have asked that I should give assurance here but giving assurance would not be right. But, you can fully understand the meaning of what I am saying and I do not feel that any hurdle is likely to come up in this way." When the hon'ble Members raised a question after that then he said that he would take a decision soon.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, Hon'ble Home Minister had said in the House in 2004 that he would take a decision soon. Today, 2006 is nearing its end. I am raising this question again with your permission. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: It is written here that a decision has been taken and action thereon has been in progress.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: They are going to take action thereon. In the meanwhile, a statement of the Home Minister appeared on the TV and newspaper. We have seen that statement. He has stated that he is going to refer it to the Cabinet. But, hon'ble Minister nowhere stated in this reply that he has sent it or is sending it to the Cabinet.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to urge that the ground for including Bhojpuri language in the VIIIth Schedule is very strong. The reason being that the Bhojpuri soil has had a lot of important role in any war that was waged in the country. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: We acknowledge its importance and is why I have allowed you to speak.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I will not speak if you do not permit. I lose my momentum when you. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: I am only supporting you.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: That is why I am urging you to give me 10 minutes time so that I can apprise the Government and the House of the importance of language. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: You can speak for three minutes more.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: I shall deal with it at length in Bojpuri language when Bhojpuri gets included in the VIIIth Schedule. It will not form part of the House's proceedings if I start right now in Bhojpuri, therefore, at the moment you please hear me in Hindi only.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, regarding grounds for its inclusion, I wanted to tell that Champaran is the district of Bhojpuri soil which was Gandhiji's 'Karma Bhoomi' (area of action). Only Bhojpuri soil had given support during the struggle against the British. The revolt against the British in 1857 had its origins in the Bhojpuri soil itself under the leadership of Babu Kunwar Singh. Not only this, even Loknayk Jaiprakash Narayan belonged to Bhojpuri soil. That Voice had its origin in Bhojpuri soil. The land of such luminaries, whether it was their battle field or area of action or their birth place, has a total population of 24 crore including 18 crore in India and 6 crore in 17 countries of the world. Now, this language is spoken widely at some places and to a lesser extent at other places. The Government has included languages spoken by lesser number of people in the VIIIth but has shown disrespect to the Bhojpuri speaking people by not including it in the VIIIth Schedule even though it is spoken by a population of 24 crore in India and abroad.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I want to draw the attention of hon'ble Minister of State of Home Affairs to what Bhartendu Harish Chandra has said—

"Nij Bhasha Unnati Ahal, Sab Unnati Ke Mool
Bin Nij Bhasha Gyan Ke, Mitat Na Hiya Ke Shool."

Mr. Speaker, Sir, even the section 350 of the constitution speaks of providing primary level education through the medium of mother tongue. Not only this, even the Father of the National Mahatma Gandhi had also said that primary education should be imparted only through one's mother tongue. Any language is the document of the Society. Civilization and culture of its speakers. It is a mirror of that society. Bhojpuri speaking people are able to meet this objective in the Bhojpuri language. Great Poet Tulsidas, Munshi Premchand, Hazari Prasad Dwivedi, Dr. Namvar Singh, Dr. Kedar Nath Singh, Rahul Sankrityayan, Bhartendu Harishchandra, Raghubir Narayan, Manager Pandey, Mahendra Mishra, Bhikhari Thakur, Dr. Viveki Roy etc. are among hundreds of scholars of Bhojpuri language of international repute. Sir, the literature and philosophy of the tenth Guru of Sikhs Govind Singhji is in Bhojpuri language. Many of the literary works of world famous scholar Rahul Sankrityayan are in Bhojpuri language. More than 150 newspapers and

[Shri Prabhunath Singh]

magazines are published in Bhojpuri language in the country. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: All right. Ask your question.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Sir, Bhojpuri is spoken in many countries of the world in varying percentages. Here, I would like to just tell the names of those countries instead of giving information about them separately. Bhojpuri speaking people live in Mauritius, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobagos, British, Guyana, Holland, Fiji, Jamaica, Nepal, Uganda, Thailand, Kenya, Burma, Singapore, Maldives, Philippines, America (Peninsular) and South Africa. There is difference in the percentage of Bhojpuri speaking people these countries. While 45% people speak Bhojpuri in Suriname, 10% people speak it in the peninsular parts of America.

Due respect has not been given till date to this language which is spoken by 6 crore people in 17 countries of the world. The majority of people who speak this language in the country belong to Bihar and Uttar Pradesh. Besides, Bhojpuri has a stronghold in Chhattisgarh and in your State *i.e.* West Bengal. Shri Dasmunaji is not present here at the moment. He gets elected to the House shows that Bhojpuri-speaking people support him. The day Bhojpuri-speaking people stop supporting him he would live in Bengal, he would not be able to get elected to the House. That is why I would like to urge him to give a clear assurance in this regard since his party is in power at the moment. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I am sure he would be very happy to know that you are so concerned about him.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Sir, Bhojpuri language has gained so much importance that a number of artistes from Hindi Cinema, including Amitabh Bachan are taking up roles in Bhojpuri films. People belonging to other countries dance to the times of Bhojpuri songs even if they do not understand the language. You may observe this in England as well. 18 crore people in our country speak Bhojpuri. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please put your question. If you speak for a longer time other hon' Members would not get a chance to speak.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Sir, respecting the 18 crore people in the country and the 6 crore speaking people living in other countries, I would like to request the hon'ble Minister, through you, to make it clear without any prevarication as to whether he intends to present the Bill to include Bhojpuri and Rajasthani in the eighth schedule of the Constitution during the budget session which commences in February, since it is not possible to do so during the current session? If the Minister says 'Yes' in reply to this question. I will sit down instantly.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: He will not speak now, he will reply when his turn comes.

[English]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): Sir, we also want to associate ourselves with this matter.

[Translation]

SHRI ALOK KUMAR MEHTA (Samastipur): Sir, I have also given notice on the subject.

MR. SPEAKER: Who told you that merely giving notice would suffice? You have to take my permission too. I have given permission only to Shri Shailendra Kumar.

Shri Shailendra Kumar, you are permitted to put question only.

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: Sir, I respect you a lot. I never argue with you. I have stood to speak only after you gave me permission to do so. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I will believe that you respect me only if you confine yourself to putting your question.

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: Sir, my friend Shri Prabhunath Singh has raised an important issue. I had raised this matter last Friday during zero hour. I have been trying to raise this issue for the last two weeks but I got the opportunity to do so only on Friday at 7.30 in the evening.

Sir, I would not like to go into the details of the points put forward by Shri Prabhunath Singhji I would like to associate myself with the matter. Budget session is going to commence in February. I would like to ask

the hon'ble Minister whether he would make arrangements for interpretation in Bhojpuri language for the convenience of the Members on lines of interpretation facilities provided in respect of other languages.

SHRI ALOK KUMAR MEHTA: It is impossible to measure the vastness of Bhojpuri language. 24 crore people speak this language.

MR. SPEAKER: All this has already been said. You only put your question.

SHRI ALOK KUMAR MEHTA: I associate myself with the previous speakers and demand that Bhojpuri language be included in the Eighth Schedule at the earliest.
...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Rasa Singhji, your language is not Bhojpuri.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): I would like to demand that Rajasthani language may also be included in the Eighth Schedule alongwith Bhojpuri. Rajasthani is spoken by four to five crore people and its grammar and literature have been given recognition by the 'Sahitya Academy'. A resolution to this effect has also been passed by the Rajasthan Legislative Assembly four years ago. I would like to ask the Government whether the Minister would make an announcement for including Rajasthani language in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution in the forthcoming budget session? Like Bhojpuri, Rajasthani is also spoken all over the country. Hence, the Minister may give a clear reply, regarding the time by which a positive action in this regard is likely to be taken.

MR. SPEAKER: Rajasthani is a very sweet language. What is the need to speak so loudly.

SHRI SITARAM SINGH: (Sheohar): I associate myself with the views expressed by Prabhunath Singhji. He has made a strong case for Bhojpuri. I would like to know whether the Minister intends to bring the Bill for inclusion Bhojpuri language in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution in the forthcoming Budget session of the Parliament?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: There are names of four other Members whose notice came much later, at 12.23 hours. I would mention the names of those hon'ble Members. They will be allowed to associate themselves for the

purpose of record, without making any statement. They are Md. Salim, Dr. Devendra Prasad Yadav, Shri Brajesh Pathak, Shri G.L. Bhargava and Shri Vijoy Krishna. They are associating themselves with the demand.

[Translation]

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (Jaipur): I would also like to request that the Rajasthani language which is spoken by crores of people be included in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution.

MR. SPEAKER: Bhargavaji, I have called your name and it has come into record. You are such a good speaker then why are you behaving like this.

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in my statement I have clarified all the points raised through a calling attention motion by hon'ble Member Shri Prabhunath Singhji. There is no doubt that there has been a demand to include Rajasthani and Bhojpuri languages in the eighth schedule of the constitution since long. This long pending demand of the people has not been fulfilled. Hence I can understand the concern of hon'ble Members. This issue has been raised many a times here and many governments gave some indications in this regard but any assurance was not given. I can just say that Bhojpuri and Rajasthani are very rich languages of our country. These languages are spoken in every nook and corner of the country. These languages are spoken not only in our country but also in many other countries of the world as well. Prabhunath Singhji has informed that particularly Bhojpuri language is spoken in almost half a dozen countries of the world. I would like to tell the hon'ble Member that he should not have even a little bit of doubt after my statement in this regard. Like you I also hail from Bhojpuri region. Now it would not take much time. We hope that the Bill in this regard will be passed in the next session and both these languages will get recognition which has been a matter of concern for not only the people of Bhojpuri region but also for our Hon'ble members.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I hope Shri Prabhunath Singh will also arrange for interpreters.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am grateful to you and through you I welcome the hon'ble

[Shri Prabhunath Singh]

Minister for Giving an assurance for bringing in a Bill in this regard during the next session.

12.40 hrs.

(II) **Situation arising out of the increasing incidents of female foeticide leading to continuous decline in the number of female child and steps taken by the Government in this regard**

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The House will now take up item no. 34.

Shri Gurudas Dasgupta.

*SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA (Panskura): Sir, I call the attention of the Minister of Health and Family Welfare to the following matter of urgent public importance and request that he may make a statement thereon:

"Situation arising out of the increasing incidents of female foeticide leading to continuous decline in the number of female child and steps taken by the Government in this regard."

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, you can lay the Statement on the Table of the House. I hope all the hon. Members have received the Statement.

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): Sir, with your permission I would like to lay the Statement on the Table of the House.

*Sir, Sex ratio (number of females per thousand males) is one the most important indicator used for studying the population characteristics. Declining trend in sex ratio has been a matter of concern for all in the country. Sex ration in India has declined over the century from 972 in 1901 to 927 in 1991.

In contrast the child sex ratio for the age group of 0-6 years in 2001 is 927 girls per thousand boys against 945 recorded in 1991 Census. The encouraging trend in the sex ratio during 1991-2001 was marred by the decline of 18 points in the sex ratio of children below the age of 6 years or below. The Census 2001 figures reveal

*Laid on the Table and also placed in Library. See No. LT—5631/2006

*Laid on the Table.

that the situation is worse in respect of child population in the age group 0-6, Particularly in the affluent regions of Punjab (798), Haryana (819), Chandigarh (845), Delhi (868), Gujarat (883) and Himachal Pradesh (898).

The research studies on declining sex ratio and female foeticide reveal that strong son preference, and low valuation of girls, increasing dowry demands, difficulties involved in bringing up a girl child, easy availability of ultrasound and abortion services by various private clinics and people's desire to have a son when they desire a small family of two children are main reasons for increase in female foeticide in the country.

Sex determination techniques have been in use in India since 1975 primarily for the determination of genetic abnormalities. However, these techniques were widely misused to determine the sex of the foetus and subsequent abortion if the foetus was found to be female. Invariably the person who seeks the illegal service and the service provider, both are in agreement to defeat/circumvent the provisions of the law. Unlike in other cases, both the parties are gainers in this matter. On the one hand, the people are able to get rid of the foetus of unwanted sex and on the other, the service providers are benefited financially. Non-availability of evidence/witness is therefore the main hindrance in the way of punishing errant doctors unless they are caught red-handed.

In order to contain the determination of the sex of the foetus. Which often leads to female foeticide, the pre-natal Diagnostic Techniques (Regulation and Prevention of Misuse) Act, 1994, was brought into operation from 1st January, 1996. The said Act has since been amended with effect from 14.2.2003 to make it more comprehensive and renamed as "Pre-conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (Prohibition of Sex Selection) Act, 1994" to make it more comprehensible.

The techniques of pre-conception sex selection have been brought within the ambit of the Act so as to pre-empt the use of such technologies, which significantly contribute to the declining sex ratio. Use of ultrasound machines has also been brought within the purview of the Act more explicitly so as to curb its misuse for detection and subsequent disclosure of sex of the foetus lest it should lead to female foeticide. The Act prohibits determination and disclosure of the sex of foetus. It also prohibits any advertisements relating to facilities of pre-natal determination of sex. Punishments are also

prescribed for contravention of its provisions. The person who contravenes the provisions of this Act is punishable with imprisonment upto 5 years and fine up to Rs. 1,00,0000.

The central Supervisory Board (CSB) constituted under the Chairmanship of Minister for Health and Family Welfare has been further empowered for monitoring the implementation of the Act. State level Supervisory Boards in the line of the CSB constituted at the Centre has been introduced for monitoring and reviewing the implementation of the Act in States/UTs. The State/UT level Appropriate Authority have been made a multi-member body for better implementation and monitoring of the Act in the States. More stringent punishments are prescribed under the Act so as to serve as a deterrent for minimizing violations of the Act. Appropriate Authorities are empowered with the powers of Civil Court for search, seizure and sealing the machines, equipments and records of the violators of law including sealing of premises and commissioning of witness. It has been made mandatory to maintain proper records in respect of the use of ultrasound machines and other equipments capable of detection of sex of foetus and also in respect of tests and procedures that may lead to pre-conception selection of sex. The sale of ultrasound machines has been regulated through laying down the condition of sale only to the bodies registered under the Act.

Ministry of the Health and Family Welfare has taken number of steps for implementation of the Act and directions of the Supreme Court.

National Inspection and Monitoring Committee

A National Inspection and Monitoring Committee (NIMC) has been constituted at the Centre to take stock of the ground realities by field visits to the problem States. The Committee visits vulnerable States/districts and submit the report to the Central Supervisory Board (CSB) and the concerned State authorities. It also monitor the prosecutions launched against unregistered bodies and bodies violating provisions of the Act/Rules and directions of the Supreme Court of India in the matter. The Committee has been reconstituted in March, 2005 and representatives from Department of Women and Child development, National Commission for Women, Ministry of Law and reputed NGOs have also been included in the committee. After its reconstitution, the NIMC has visited the States/UTs of Maharashtra, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Delhi, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh,

West Bengal Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh and Uttaranchal. The NIMC again visited the state of Delhi in December 2005 and April 2006.

National Support and Monitoring Cell

A 'National Support and Monitoring Cell' with external assistance for effective implementation of the Act by appointing professionals from police, medical, law and social sciences as consultants has been set up. Initially, the Cell is focus on Punjab, Haryana, Guajarat, Chandigarh and Delhi where the problem is more intensive. The major expectation is that the cell will help in putting a mechanism in place so that actual wrong doers who are committing female foeticide/abetting female foeticide by are apprehended by the Appropriate Authorities. They are expected to network with the Appropriate Authorities/medical officers in the State and step up successful "sting operations" by the Appropriate Authorities to nab the actual wrong doers.

Sensitization of the Appropriate Authorities

The Act empowers the Appropriate Authorities for search, seizure and sealing of machines, equipments and records. Training programs and sensitization workshops have, therefore, been organized to sensitize these Appropriate Authorities on an ongoing basis on various legal issues for the effective implementation of the provisions of the Act and to remove the doubts. A handbook on the Pre-conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (Prohibition of Sex Selection) Act, 1994 (revised edition) released on 17th February, 2003 has been made available to the Appropriate Authorities.

Sensitization of the Medical Community

Department of and Family Welfare had co-sponsored the December, 2003 issue of Journal of India Medical Association on the law and related issues. An appeal from the Secretary, Department of Family Welfare has also been published in this issue, requesting the doctor community to restrain from pre-natal sex determination and pre conception sex selection. The Journal has a wide circulation of about 1.2 lakh medical professionals.

States/UTs and Appropriate Authorities appointed under the Act are continuously arranging meeting with the representatives of Medical Associations like IMA, IRIA, FOGSI for the proper implementation of the Act.

[Dr. Anbumani Ramadoss]

A special edition of this Department's News Letter of April, 2003 was issued on amendment to the Act & Rules. This Newsletter, which has a wide circulation, sent to all health centres in the country and NGOs. Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has given financial assistance to the IRIA for organizing zonal seminars for its members during 2006-07 covering various aspects of the PC & PNDT Act.

Sale of Ultrasound Machines

The Pre-conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (Prohibition of Sex Selection) Act, 1994 regulate the sale of ultrasound machines only to the bodies registered under the Act. Ministry of Health and Family Welfare issued advertisement in various newspapers all over the country about the amendments made in the PNDT Act regulating sale of ultra-sound machines/imaging machines to clinics registered under the Act for the information of doctors and manufactures of such machines.

Reports are received from the manufacturers of the ultrasound machines about the details of clinics/doctors to whom the machines have been sold, so that a check could be kept on the use of these machines by the Appropriate Authorities.

Awareness Generation

It is, nevertheless, recognized that mere legislation is not enough to deal with this problem that has roots in social behavior and prejudices. Various activities have been undertaken to create awareness against the practice of pre-natal determination of sex and female foeticide through Radio, Television, and print media units. Workshops and seminars are also organized through voluntary Organizations at State/regional/district/block levels to create awareness against this social evil. Cooperation has also been sought from religious/spiritual leaders, as well as medical fraternity to curb this practice.

The situation could change only when the daughters are not treated as burden and the sons as assets and start treating daughters at par with sons. Equal opportunity for the girls in education, equal right in the property etc. will be essential to accomplish the desired objective.

The Government of India has launched 'Save the Girl Child Campaign' with a view to lessen son preference by highlighting achievements of young girls. Theme of the tableau of the Department of Family Welfare shown in Republic day parade 2004 was 'Save the girl child.' During 2003-2004, Sania Mirza was the brand ambassador for the 'Save the Girl Child Campaign' CBSC

topper Ms. Aruna Kesavan has been appointed as the brand ambassador for the Government's 'Save the Girl Child' Campaign, 2004-2005. Ms. Joshna Chinappa, Jr. and Sr. National and Asian Squash champion is the brand Ambassador for 2005-2006.

With the massive efforts started to implement the Act in its true spirit and the simultaneous awareness generation activities on the issue of girl child and female foeticide, the overall overall scenario is expected to move towards improvement.

Publications

(i) **Annual Report, 2005 on Implementation of the PC & PNDT Act:** Ministry of Health & Family Welfare has brought out an Annual Report 2005 on the implementation of the PC & PNDT Act 1994. It has been circulated to all the State Health Secretaries and State Appropriate Authorities besides District Collectors and Chief Medical Officers. The Report has also been circulated to all the Hon'ble Members of Parliament.

(ii) **Brochure titled 'Missing':** A brochure titled Missing, (November, 2003) showing maps exhibiting areas of adverse child sex ratio in India was released by the Hon'ble Minister for Health and Family Welfare.

(iii) **Handbook on PNDT Act:** Handbook on PNDT Act 1994 and amendments (revised edition) has also been released on 17th February, 2003. It gives complete act and rules including the amended portion. Copies of the same have been sent to all State Governments and Appropriate Authorities. The Act and the Rules including amendments made to the Act and Rules have been put on the website of the Department for the use of general public.

(iv) **Frequently Asked Questions:** The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, in collaboration with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) are developed 'frequently asked questions' about the PNDT Act which will be useful to the lay persons, medical community and to the Appropriate Authorities in understanding the provisions of the Act for better implementation.

Training of Judiciary: With a view to sensitize the judiciary, services of National Judicial Academy, Bhopal were taken during 2005-2006. The National Judicial Academy provided training to training from the state judicial academies who in turn will provide training to the judiciary in the area under their jurisdiction. The training of trainers took place in September 2005. National Judicial academy has been requested to impress upon the State Judicial Academies for starting the training of judiciary and include the issue in the regular curriculum of the training of judiciary.

Involvement of District Magistrate: District Magistrate have been requested to regularly review the implementation of the PC & PNDT Act along with other programmes in their district.

Website on PNDT: A website for informing the public about the information/activities being undertaken by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has been developed. For accessing the website the user has first to go to the website of the Ministry (www.mohfw.nic.in). From the main page one can then go to 'Implementation of pre-conception and Pre-natal Diagnostic Techniques Act.' Provision for registering online complaints about the doctors/clinics doing sex determination has been made on this website.

Meetings of the Central Supervisory Board: Meetings of the Central Supervisory Board (CSB) of PC & PNDT Act are being held regularly every six months under the Chairpersonship of Minister of Health and Family Welfare. So far, 14 meetings have been held and the last meeting was held on 14th June, 2006 where Hon'ble Members of Parliament from the States of Punjab, Haryana, Chandigarh, Delhi, Rajasthan and Gujarat were invited besides the women Members of Parliament.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Sir, if you permit me to say, this is a mediocre, intermediate class essay.
...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Strong words do not help in this matter.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: The Government, at least the Minister, is not talking into account the problem arising out of gender syndrome in the country, which seeks to upset the balance of demographic composition of the country. The statement is unfortunate and is devoid of any commitment whatsoever with regard to the most challenging question and problem before the nation.

It is with a deep indignation, a sense of grief, and a feeling of shame with a degree of anger, that I seek to raise – a matter of national catastrophe, rather a calamity – the shocking revelation of slide in child sex ratio in the country.

It is not the doctors who are to be blamed and hauled up for this; and it is not the Government alone

which is to be put on the dock. We all should be blamed for not being able to build up a national awareness movement in order to tackle this basic problem of imbalance which is slowly creeping into the population of the country.

The imbalance of demographic composition its liable to tarnish the image of India, and it is sure to tamper with the dignity of Indian nationalism. It is not the men alone who is to be blamed; it is women who are also to be blamed equally. What is the most shameful is that India is at the bottom of international chart, far worse than even Nigeria and far worse than even Pakistan. India has the distinction of being followed by our great neighbour, that is China. If the magnitude of the negative sex ratio is measured, it is 937 girls as against 1000 boys. According to the UNICEF Report, which has not yet been published, it is found that in eighty per cent of the districts of the whole of India, the sex ratio is on the decline.

The worst offender is Punjab. It is only 798 girls per thousand male children. It is so in the prosperous state of Punjab. Punjab is closely followed by Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Uttaranchal. Even the long distance Arunachal Pradesh has entered into the hall of shame. Even Delhi, the citadel of Indian political power, shamefully can be accused of falling a victim to gender cynicism. It is a cosmopolitan city, as we claim. Even then, the situation is so awfully bad. It is continuing. There has been a drop of 41 points in the composition of population in Delhi in the recent period. It has come down to 865 from 915. I am sorry to say that my state of West Bengal is also in default. Kerala stands out as the shining example of the symbol of difference. It is in the company of Poducherry and Lakshadweep.

Apart from the UNICEF report, there is another report. The hon. Minister does not refer to any inconvenient report that has been published by the international agencies. He is depending only on his access to information. The Indo-Canadian Report says about this. Sir, what a shame that in 20 years, we have killed one crore infant girls in womb of the mother! What a shame! It is a shame and there is no lamentation by the Minister in charge of it.

MR. SPEAKER: Now, come to your subject. What is the good of accusing each other? It does not help.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Yes, Sir, I am accusing because the Statement is devoid of any commitment whatsoever.

MR. SPEAKER: Please put your question now.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: The point is this. What is the impact of this negative sex ratio? There is an impact. The impact is that millions will remain bachelors. In China, 40 million bachelors are there at the moment. This negative ratio will lead to social perversion, strife, explosion of AIDS and HIV. Above all, it is going to upset the social tranquillity. Hon. Prime Minister, it is a shame. We need a peaceful atmosphere in the country. But the negative ratio is going to upset the social tranquillity in the country.

MR. SPEAKER: Now, you put your question. I have allowed you for more than six minutes.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Sir, please allow me for two more minutes.

MR. SPEAKER: No. The whole purpose of calling Attention is being frustrated with long speeches.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: It is not. The country must know.

MR. SPEAKER: There are methods of knowing it. You can come with a notice under Rule 193.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: There is the issue of to what extent the law has failed. The country must know the wider ramifications, which the Minister is not conscious of at the moment. ...*(Interruptions)*

Nearly 60 years of political freedom has not been able to generate the gender awareness in the country.

MR. SPEAKER: The problem is there. Please put relevant questions.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: It is not only that. There is a downgrading of women and degenerated male chauvinism in the country.

MR. SPEAKER: We are all responsible for that.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: We are all responsible. I hold me to be responsible for that. But I am the father of only one child which is a female child.

MR. SPEAKER: You could not have organized that.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: I left it to the hon. Presiding Officer to take care of the problem of organization! ...*(Interruptions)*

Most unfortunately, it is the rich and the affluent people of our country who are in default. It is not the poor people who are in default to that extent. Unfortunately, it is the shining urbanity which is in the wrong side of it. It is the dwindling down rural areas which are not in default to the extent of the urbanity of India. It is most unfortunate. Therefore, I would appeal to the nation through this national forum, under your leadership, Sir, to ponder over it. I appeal to all social forces, to the nation as a whole, to rise in revolt against this social atrocity that is got to be committed unnoticed in the country and not taken care of by the Government.

Sir, in my opinion, it is the male child mania that has over taken the country. It is a terrorism of superior sex. So, multi-pronged programme has to be undertaken. Of course, the Government is there at the Centre, but there has to be a social movement, there has to be a social awareness and all political parties, social groups must take upon themselves to counter act the catastrophic impact on the negative sex ratio in the country.

At the same time, the Government must take care of the issue of stringent application of law. I plead for incentive for the girl children of the country. There should be financial incentives for the girl children, for the empowerment and for the education also. At the same time, I appeal that violation, which is taking place all over India, is taken more seriously by the Ministry, by the Government than it is being taken at the movement.

I wish the nation rises to the occasion and takes care of the crippling catastrophe which will kill India's own social system. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY: (Mandsaur) Mr. Speaker, the incidents of female foeticide in the country is a major social crime. We should take it seriously and it is necessary to take steps to check it. A statement was made here in the House and I would not like to mention the States which have been referred to in the statement but the declining sex ratio in prosperous states like Delhi, Haryana, Chandigarh, Gujarat and Himachal Pradesh is a matter of concern for us. The Government had taken some steps in this regard. One "Save girl

child campaign" was launched. I would like to know from the Government as to what were the results of the said campaign? This campaign continued for sometime only and now it has been stopped. Today that campaign is not even discussed. Will the Government again take any steps to create social awareness to check female foeticide.

My third point is that the supervisory boards constituted in this regard are state level boards. It is not sure that whether these state level supervisory boards have been constituted so far or not? If the boards have been constituted at all, how many meetings thereof have been held so far? What steps are you taking to constitute these boards in the states where these boards have not been constituted so that the supervisory boards could start functioning? Hon'ble Minister has made a mention of a monitoring Committee. Nobody is aware of that and the ground reality in this regard is not clear. How is that committee functioning? I would like to know which states, as some states were selected for the purpose, have been visited by the national monitoring committee? Whether ground reality has been ascertained? If so the details thereof? How many such bodies have been identified which are not registered but are having ultrasound machines and using ultrasound techniques even today for sex determination? Whether the companies manufacturing ultrasound machines have been directed to furnish the information to the Government regarding purchasers of ultrasound machines so that unregistered or registered institutes having ultrasound machines and conducting sonography can be identified and female foeticide might be stopped.

MR. SPEAKER: You were given an opportunity to put one question but you have asked five questions.

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY: Sir, I am concluding. I would like to know the results of the measures taken to stop this and the arrangements made in this regard at state level?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Chandramani Tripathi. Put your question only.

SHRI CHANDRA MANI TRIPATHI (Rewa): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I will put my question but before that I want to make a request. According to the figures given in the statement the major gap in sex ratio is in Punjab, Haryana and Chandigarh. I want to refer to the root cause of this menace because any disease cannot be cured without proper diagnosis. The root cause of this has been

that our country was invaded mostly from these regions and modesty of girls outraged by the invaders created a sense of insecurity for girls in the minds of people. Hence, until that inferiority complex is removed from the minds of the people. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: It is not a discussion.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI CHANDRAMANI TRIPATHI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, please listen to my request.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: No, I would not allow this.

[*Translation*]

Ask your question.

SHRI CHANDRAMANI TRIPATHI: Mr. Speaker Sir, there are two reasons for this sex-ratio. One is the males' right to inherit the property and the other is continuous outrage of the females. People have five daughters but they keep on bearing children for the sake of a son. Hence I want to submit that female foeticide cannot be stopped until and unless awareness is created among the people. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: No, I would not allow this.

[*Translation*]

SHRI CHANDRA MANI TRIPATHI: Mr. Speaker Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister, through you, that during the last ten years' there has been a decline in Sex-ratio and the number of cases of female foeticide have increased. The cases of female foeticide are more in number among the educated class in comparison to the poor class. Hence laws can not stop female-foeticide. Therefore, I would like to know from hon. Minister whether the Central Govt. is taking any initiative for those having single girl child? This often repeated statement would not stop female foeticide and the decline in sex ratio until and unless this arrangement is but in place. I would like to request the hon. Minister, through you, to give an assurance to the House and the country in this regard.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I do not mind such a matter being discussed under Rule 193. I would be very happy if such a matter is discussed under Rule 193. Earlier also, I had allowed another Call Attention on this. The matter is very important. But we have to follow the rules and procedures.

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): Mr. Speaker Sir, this question is not related to any special class or politics. This is a question of the whole country and there has been decline in Sex-ratio since 1901. Hence it is not that one government or the other government is responsible. I want to know only two or three things from hon. Minister. The law lays down five years imprisonment and a penalty of one lakh rupees. Has a single person been punished with five years imprisonment and a penalty of one lakh rupees? Everybody knows the doctors who are doing it. A long list of doctors involved in these female foeticides was produced after a sting-operation. No action has been taken against any of them till now. Even after the enactment of this Act you ask anybody and he will tell you some doctor's name and there you will know that abortion is done there. All the people know all these things but no action has been taken against anybody till now. Therefore the first thing is that the stringest action should be taken in this case.

The second thing is whether hon. Minister will be talking with all the religious leaders because some religions have banned it. In a few religions, for example in our religion, after marriage one gets such blessing as "May God bless you with 100 sons" I Whether it is possible to have a dialogue with them and to make some changes in this regard Nobody talks of a daughter in these blessing. Likewise there is a ban on it in Muslim religion and other religions that one must not do any act of this kind. Will the hon. Minister hold talks with religious teachers and strive for creating awareness in this regard? Because I think this is a curse and the whole country should be unanimous about this and not only the males but females also are very much responsible for this. Only the females come forward for this. The entire nation should make efforts together to eliminate this curse.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Prof. Malhotra. Yours was a very pertinent question.

SHRIMATI MINATI SEN (Jaipalguri): Sir, I urge upon the Chair to recall a presentation made by Ms. Bharati Ali of HAQ, Center for child Rights on "Girl Child", which was circulated on 10th December, 2006 to Members of Committee on Parliamentary forum on Children.

The Report depicts a horrible picture of girl child infanticide. I want to know from the Government whether the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare agrees to the views, data and information presented by Ms. Ali. What is the opinion of the Government regarding this Report?

13.00 hrs.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: Sir, firstly, I would like to thank the hon. Members who have brought out a very, very sensitive, very emotive and very important issue by way of Calling Attention of the Government. Like the hon. Members have said, this issue is not only a medical issue but this is also a social issue which is there in our culture, which has been there for quite some time. Also, this requires not only the Government but everybody, the civil society, NGOs, should come together to address this very, very huge problem.

We are doing a lot of progress on the economic front. But then we have this problem of declining sex ratio. In 1901, it was 972. In 1991, the sex ratio came down to 927. In 2001, it had risen to a small amount to 933 per thousand male children. But then this is the total sex ratio. But the child sex ratio is a huge problem. In 1991, it was 945 and it came down to 927 in 2001. It is again a huge problem and it is very much alarming the Government also.

The Government, after taking over, has been taking a number of steps. In fact, my predecessor, Mrs. Sushma Swaraj has done wonderfully well in this regard when she was Minister and she had taken a lot of steps. We are continuing with that. We have a lot of improvisations that are being done. The Government, as such, has brought an Act called 'The Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Test Act'. Under this Act, we have this body, which the hon. Members have said about. It is called 'The Central Supervisory Board' where the Health Minister is the Chairman. Recently, we have enacted an amendment. The Head of the Women and child Development (WCD) Ministry also co-chairs so that both the Ministries will be involved in tackling this huge problem.

Similarly, there are State Supervisory Boards. Then, we have appropriate authorities at all districts and States.

These are the main authorities which are going into this issue. If there is any issue, they go there. They have the powers to go, inspect the institute, take action, seize the ultrasound equipment and recommend action also.

Then, we have the National Inspecting and Monitoring Committee which helps and assists the Government in going to the entire country, going out there and in inspecting them. We have another National Support and Monitoring cell. These two committees and the Cell do even sting operation on any of these deterring institutes or doctors or any other diagnostic centres. *...(Interruptions)* I will come to that.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: He is only reading out the statement.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: I am coming to that. Allow me to answer. I know it is a very emotive issue. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Do not interrupt the Minister.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: Definitely, I had a consultation with the hon. Members. I am coming to that. I am telling the hon. Members about the steps that we are trying to take. The Government has gone through sensitizing the judiciary which needs a lot of sensitization. In Bhopal Academy, we have sensitized because we catch the people but then, due to judiciary, they are released. They release these doctors. So, we are trying to sensitize them to the situation.

Also, again we are trying to sensitize the medical communities. Of course, we have a regulation of the sale of ultrasound machines. Today, we have about 30,370 ultrasound machines all over the country. We have a very stringent pattern of registration and regularization of them. Even if they replace the older machines, they need to get the permission of the authorities. Also, we are involving a lot of NGOs, we have mother NGOs in almost all the districts of the country and we are using them to go through and sensitize the people out there.

Of course, we are doing a lot in the last few years and you could have seen a lot of IEC campaigns that have been coming out in the television and the radio. A lot of spots have been going under the National Rural Health Mission about 'Save the Girl Child' campaign and the importance of the girl child. In fact, Prof. Malhotra was asking about the religious leaders. We are using a

lot of religious leaders. I have also participated in functions of religious leaders where Swami Agnivesh and others were there. They have taken up this campaign. They had gone for Padayatras and we are sensitizing them and asking them to take up this issue. We are conducting workshops at the Panchayat level because they are the main people who should be involved in this programme and this starts from that Panchayat level.

The Government of India has launched a National Rural Health Mission last year and ASHA, Affiliated Social Health Activists, is created. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: What is his view? *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: What is this? He cannot go on changing his statement because he is replying. Let him complete.

...(Interruptions)

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: I am coming to that. You need to know what the Government is doing. I am saying the same thing. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: If he is interrupted, how can he complete? Let him complete.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: I will come to your question later on. First I will tell what the Government is trying to do and I will come to your individual queries later on. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please go on.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: It is my duty to tell the House what are the steps that the Government is taking. Then I will answer the queries.

Sir, in the National Rural Health Mission ASHA, Affiliated Social Health Activists, is an important component. ASHAs are being sensitized that they go immediately when there is a pregnancy or a birth. It is their duty to inform the officer. That is the main problem. As soon as there is a pregnancy, the ASHA people have to register the pregnancy so that these people cannot go and have abortions, feticides etc. this is a very, very important component which we are trying to link up in the National Rural Health Mission.

Also, we have taken a number of steps. Shri Maxwell Pereira, former Joint Commissioner of Police, has been

[Dr. Anbumani Ramadoss]

on the National Supervisory and Monitoring Cell. He is advising us and going around.

Coming to the queries of the hon. Members, I know that Shri Gurudas Dasgupta is a very emotional man using very strong words. He is right in saying that not only the Government but everybody should be blamed. We are not going and blaming here. Sir, this is not only a medical issue but also a social issue.

MR. SPEAKER: There should be introspection everywhere.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: Yes, Sir, definitely. In the month of June, in fact on 14th of June, I have invited all the women Members of Parliament and also the Members of Parliament of five States, namely Punjab, Haryana, Delhi, Gujarat and Himachal Pradesh, to attend the Central supervisory Board meeting. I have sent invitations to them. But then only 17 of them turned up and only one woman Member of Parliament came for that meeting. In that meeting we had discussed a lot of serious issues. I have told them to give me suggestions as to what to do and what the Government should do and how should the Government cooperate with all the Members of Parliament. This is a social problem where the Members of Parliament should be leaders and in their constituencies they should take up this issue in a very-very challenging manner.

* Also at that meeting we decided that we will give Rs. 5 lakh to each Member of Parliament in these five States just for awareness creation. Every year we will give them Rs. 5 lakh for awareness creation only for this issue of reduction of sex ratio in these States of Gujarat, Punjab and Delhi. This is something which we are trying to do. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI KIRAN MAHESHWARI (Udaipur): Sir, for Rajasthan also something should be given. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not interrupt him, Kiranji.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Do not do that. What is this?

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: This grant of five lakh rupees to MPs,

[English]

It will create a problem. ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: Sir, let me complete. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Then I will have to close this discussion. You cannot go on interrupting the Minister.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: The hon. Members were saying that in the most developed States the problem is bigger. Yes, Sir. It is there. In fact, it is more of the rich people who take up these issues in Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh and Delhi. In fact, in Delhi recently the Government had gone and sealed about 195 ultrasound machines which were doing these procedures. Of course, two of the doctors were jailed. This is something which has taken place in Delhi.

Of course, Shri Gurudas Dasgupta is very right in saying that if this trend goes on then more people will become bachelors. Already a social problem has been there. He has appealed to all political parties. Incentive as such to the girl child is given. Some of the States have been doing this at the State level also. The Government will definitely consider it. Of course, Dr. Laxminarayan Pandeya has asked—what happened to the Save the Girl Child campaign. This is an on-going campaign which is going on in a very big way. If you could see, in the last few months and years, there has been a lot of campaign going out in the media. We have our Brand Ambassadors. Earlier it was Ms. Sania Mirza. Now we have Ms. Aruna Kesavan, Ms. Jyotsana Chinnappa. All these Brand Ambassadors we have as a symbol of achievements of girl child.

We go out. This is the biggest programme of the Government. A lot of campaigns and the multimedia have been going on at this time. Almost all the Boards in all the States have been put in place. The problem, again, is at the level of the appropriate authority at the district level. The medical officers are the Chairmen of these Boards. There are problems which we are facing today because some of the Medical Officers do not tend to take action against erring doctors as such because they are their colleagues. So we are trying to change this. In the next Central Supervisory Board meeting, which is going to be held in a few weeks from now in the month of January, we have a lot of changes and we will try to bring in a lot of changes. We are trying to have stricter laws.

In fact, Prof. Malhotra was saying about Rs. 5 lakh in one year. We are trying to increase the penalty and through this, we are going to sensitise them. We are also trying to bring an amendment to the PNDA Act in this regard. Of course, we will address the problems of the Committee, we have identified a number of institutes.

As on 30th November, a total of about 405 ongoing cases have been filed against the violators. Out of 405 cases, 56 cases are booked for communicating sex of foetuses, 192 for non-registration, 79 for non-maintenance of records, 36 for advertisements and 42 cases for other violations. There are 74 ongoing cases in Punjab, 71 in Gujarat, 56 in Delhi, 53 in Maharashtra and 47 in Tamil Nadu. In addition, 246 cases were decided and closed.

About sting operations, I would submit that some of the private individuals and channels have tried to do it. They had three sting operations in UP, six in Bihar, one in Delhi, and 62 in Rajasthan. We had written to all the State Governments to take action. The Government of Rajasthan has taken action against them. FIRs have been filed. Gujarat had three and MP had four such operations.

Shri Tripathi wanted incentive and Prof. Malhotra wanted to know whether any person has been held under the Act. Since this is a very sensitive issue, the Government is trying to introspect the problem again. There has been one conviction so far, but the Government is introspecting on this issue. That is why, I say we would have a lot of suggestions in the next CSB meeting. Already in the last meeting, we had a lot of suggestions. In the next meeting, we are going to have more suggestions so that we will bring an amendment to the PNDA Act so as to bring in more stringent and penalty clauses. We will involve more personnel to handle this issue as such because today the appropriate authorities are taking action and we need to involve a lot more social society and NGOs into it.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Will the Minister take lead in developing a national campaign involving everybody and set up a national campaign for that?

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: Definitely, Sir,

MR. SPEAKER: He said that he had called a meeting and hardly any Member of Parliament was present.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Let us make some introspection.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: This does not sound well so far as Members are concerned.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: Sir, I submit that I will take up this personally as a challenge and definitely, the Government will go all out because this is a problem which the country is going to face in future and will affect the future development of the country. This is a very serious and sensitive issue.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: The Government has to be committed!

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: The Government is 100 per cent committed on this. That is why, I need all the co-operation of all the hon. Members to take up this issue. I would request them that when they go to their constituencies, they may try to address this problem since this is a social problem.

He asked whether the Minister will hold dialogues with religious leaders. We are already holding dialogues. I have personally attended the functions with religious leaders because they are the ones who go out there. A lot of *padyatras* have been taken out.

Shrimati Minati Sen has said whether the Government agrees to the Report of Shri Ali. I have not yet come across the Report. I will go through the Report and if there are some issues in the Report, we will bring them to the next meeting of the Central Supervisory Board.

Sir, I would like to reiterate the Government's 100 per cent commitment. This is a very serious and important issue for the development of our country. We will go all out to tackle this problem. We need some modifications and changes which we are trying to do. In fact, from the last CSB meeting, we have now reconstituted the same Board. We are putting a lot of very committed NGOs in the Board and also the National Commission for Women.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: What about panchayats?

MR. SPEAKER: He has said about that.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: I have already answered. We are conducting workshops for panchayats. This is where the main issue stems from. The main issue starts from the Panchayat level. In fact, we have had a series of workshops, which we will increase again. I would need the participation of hon. Members of Parliament in the Panchayats. We are very committed on this issue.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Sir, much more needs to be done. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I think that this is a national issue.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Sir, the reply of the hon. Minister is totally unsatisfactory. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I am sorry. There will be no luncheon recess.

13.15 hrs.

**STATE BANK OF INDIA (AMENDMENT)
BILL, 2006***

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now, Item No, 35, Shri P. Chidambaram.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the State Bank of India Act, 1955.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the State Bank of India Act, 1955."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I introduce** the Bill.

13.15½ hrs.

**CENTRAL ROAD FUND (AMENDMENT)
BILL, 2006***

[English]

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): I beg to move for

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**Introduced with the recommendation of the President.

leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Central Road Fund Act, 2000.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Central Road Fund Act, 2000."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI T.R. BAALU: I introduce** the Bill

13.16 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Item No. 37, Matters under Rule 377 may be treated as laid on the Table of the House.

...*(Interruptions)*

- (i) **Need to Implement the Urban Development Schemes to augment civic amenities in Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh**

[Translation]

SHRI M. ANJAN KUMAR YADAV (Secundrabad): Mr. Speaker Sir, the population of Hyderabad city is increasing rapidly due to which the people in Hyderabad are not getting facilities. The software and hardware industries are growing fast in this city and many foreigner tourist come prefer to visit Hyderabad first. Generally there is a traffic jam in the city. It is essential to make Hyderabad a beautiful city.

I request the government through this House to implement urban development schemes in Hyderabad at the earliest.

- (ii) **Need to install traffic signal at the intersection of N.H. 8 and RSH-14 at Behror, Rajasthan**

DR. KARAN SINGH YADAV (Alwar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, RSH-14 linking Namaul, Behror, Alwar and Bharatpur intersects National Highway-8 at Behror and the flow of

*Treated as laid on the Table.

**Introduced with the recommendation of the President.

traffic at this intersection is completely unregulated. Absence of a traffic signal at this crossing leads to frequent accidents and also slows down the fast moving traffic on NH-8.

Hence, the Transport Minister is requested to review the situation at the Behror intersection and put a traffic signal at the crossing on an immediate basis. Consideration may be given to construction of a six lane flyover at this intersection in future.

(III) Need to provide basic facilities to the villagers in Junagarh, Gujarat.

SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD (Junagarh): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Junagarh district in Gujarat has an extensive area under forest cover. This forest area contains a large number of revenue villages and forest villages. Basic facilities are not being provided to the occupants of these villages. Drinking water, water for irrigation, electricity and road linkages are in short supply. The department has to incur a lot of expenditure for laying water pipelines for supply of drinking water or water for irrigation. This used to be a small amount earlier. The forest department does not give permission for carrying out even the works like putting-up of electricity poles or repair of roads. As a result either there are no roads or are in a dilapidated condition. Circle office, situated outside the district, has to be approached for getting permission for carrying out any works. Which takes two or three years for granting permission.

The budgetary allocation made by the government for development of revenue villages and forest villages is not utilized because the forest department takes two or three years to grant permission for starting any work in these villages. By that time, the stipulated time-period for utilization of funds and for implementation of development proposals gets lapsed.

These villagers should be granted the basic rights to which they are entitled as per the rules and laws of the Government of India. Permission for carrying-out developmental and other works in revenue villages and forest villages located in forest areas should be granted by the main office of the district. The forest department should lower the fees for granting permission for carrying-out of any kind of work so that developmental works and other works for the benefit of the villagers may not be delayed.

I would like to request the Union Government and the Ministry of Forest to take action at the earliest keeping in view the problems being faced by the villagers.

(iv) Need to clear the pending projects of the State Government of Karnataka relating to the Ministry of Human Resource Development

[English]

SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI (Gulbarga): Karnataka Government had submitted following proposals to the Ministry of Human Resource Development:

- (i) Releasing of food grains at BPL rates for class 6th and 7th students on 4.12.2005 vide D.O. No. ED 144 HMS 2004, to provide additional quantity of rice to the additional 19.77 lakh children at BPL rates;
- (ii) request for sanction of additional class rooms to Karnataka on 21.4.2006 vide C.M. 1274/SIP/2006, as per data applicable for the year 2006-07 for the districts (1) Hassan – 933; (2) Mandya – 2158; and (3) Bangalore Rural – 780, as a special case during the same year;
- (iii) Request to change norms for sanction of school grant amount under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan vide letter no. 1.10.2005/SSH/SCHL Grant Revision 2005-2006 to revise the norms for sanction of school grant to 5% of the total teachers salary in the school as is done in the State of Maharashtra, by increasing the school grants.

All the above proposals are pending and I urge upon the Government to clear the projects at an early date so that it may be beneficial for the State Government to provide necessary infrastructure to the students in Karnataka.

(v) Need to change the alignment of the border fencing at the historical site of 1857 sepoy mutiny at Malegarh, Assam

SHRI LALIT MOHAN SUKLABAIIDYA (Karimganj): I wish to draw the attention of the Government that there is a site at malegarh in Latu (my constituency in Assam), which is regarded as historically important because this was the place where a battle took place between the British Commanders and sepoys. The sepoys were killed during the sepoy Mutiny in 1857. It, therefore, attracts people of this region as it is the only such place of

[Shri Lalit Mohan Shuklabaidya]

historical importance. Though the site is located beyond 150 meters from the zero line, it is left outside the barbed wire fencing. I, therefore, urge the Government to consider changing the alignment of the fencing to enclose the site so that the particular spot gets the respect it deserves and is clearly understood to be within India so that the tourists could visit the site without any hesitation as the Government of Assam also contemplates to develop it as a Tourist Spot of historical importance. This will also relieve of the miseries of about 200 families of Indian citizens living around the memorial site and outside the barbed wire fencing.

(vi) Need to make the 'Krishi Vigyan Kendra' at Amreli, Gujarat functional

[Translation]

SHRI V.K. THUMMAR (Amreli.): Mr. Speaker, Sir, sanction has been granted for establishment of a Krishi Vigyan Kendra in my constituency Amreli but the said Kendra has not started functioning as yet. As a consequence, till date, the farmers in my constituency are not being able to avail of the facility being offered by the Government. This is how the matters stand in constituency, district Amreli, despite it being. Predominantly agriculture based where crops like cotton, peanuts and sesame are grown on a large scale.

I would like to request the Government through the House, that keeping the interests of the farmers in view, the Krishi Vigyan Kendra sanctioned for my constituency Amreli may be made functional at the earliest.

(vii) Need to take steps for gauge conversion of Rewari-Sadulpur, Sadulpur-Hisar, Sadulpur-Bikaner and Ratangarh-Degana railway sections

SHRI RAM SINGH KASWAN (Churu): Mr. Speaker, there is a long standing demand for gauge conversion of the Rewari-Bikaner, Sadulpur-Hisar, Ratangarh Degana railway sections. Sanction for gauge conversion of Rewari-Sadulpur and Sadulpur-Hisar railway section had been granted 8 years earlier but there is hardly any progress to speak of. The above areas have been utterly neglected in the matter of carryig-out gauge conversions. Sridungargarh in Bikaner district and Ladanu legislative assembly area in Nagaur district come under the Churu Parliamentary Constituency. This entire area has historical and geographical importance. The part of Bikaner which lies adjacent to Pakistan is a sensitive military area. Gauge conversion would lies adjacent to Pakistan is a

sensitive military area. Gauge would enable this area to get direct linkage to the rest of the country. The oil companies would be able to transport oil from Kandia port to Punjab and Haryana via the Jodhpur-Degana-Ratangarh-Sadulpur route which would result in savings of crores of rupees for them every year. Migrants from this area carry-out trading activity all over the country. They have to face the problem of having to change many trains to reach their destination. Migrants from this area and our brave soldiers have played an important role in the nation building. A 400 km. Long rail line had been laid during 1910 to 1912 when Bikaner was a princely state. But it is painful to see that even 95 years down the line the rail line in this area has not been developed.

Hence, it is my humble request that gauge conversion of Rewari-Sadulpur, Sadulpur-Hisar railway section which has already been sanctioned, may be carried-out at the earliest. Also, sanction should be granted for gauge conversion of Sadulpur-Bikaner and Ratangarh-Degana railway section and efforts should be made to provide the complete amount of funds required for the purpose in the forthcoming budget.

(viii) Need to release the funds for implementation of the projects under SGSY in Bellary, Karnataka

[English]

SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY (Bellary): I would like to mention about the two most important proposals of the Bellary District of Karnataka which were duly forwarded by the Karnataka Government, are pending with the Union Government.

The first proposal is regarding release of financial assistance for Clean Milk Production Programme, expansion and modernization of Ballary Dairy as well as creation of infrastructure facilities at Dairy Co-operative societies in Ballary District under SGSY Special Project. The revised cost of the project is Rs. 672.50 lakhs.

The second proposal is regarding financial assistance for rehabilitation of Devadasis in Bellary District under the same SGSY Special Project. For the sake of livelihood, these women folk are practicing Devadasi system and in turn they are affected by sexual transmitted deadly diseases such as HIV/AIDS. So, there is an urgent need to discourage this evil practice and to bring them to mainstream by providing self-employment through assistance from bank and Government Departments. The

total cost of the project is Rs. 963.727 lakhs and the Central Government's share is Rs. 395.98 lakhs.

Therefore, I urge upon the Union Government to release financial assistance for the above two proposals immediately so that the people of my Bellary Constituency can be benefited to a great extent.

- (ix) Need to devise schemes to augment the financial resources of Panchayats to enable them to carry out developmental works in their respective areas**

[Translation]

SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA (Hosiarpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, 70 percent of the population of the country lives in villages, India is a country of villages and it has always been the dream of Indian leaders and the people that villages must progress. But the development of villages failed to keep pace with the passage of time. The tendency of the rural people has been to migrate to cities. There is no regular income of village Panchayats. The Municipal Corporation, Nagar Panchayats, Municipalities in cities have regular income from different sources which is used for the development of cities. There is a need to formulate such schemes by the Government that may ensure regular source of income for the village Panchayats. The villages shall develop only when village Panchayats shall have income.

- (x) Need to open a computerized railway reservation counter at Murtijapur and Aakot Railway Stations in Maharashtra**

SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE (Akola): Mr. Speaker, Sir, important trains of Central Railway ply day in and day out through my constituency district Akola Howrah-Mumbai, Pune-Howrah, Surat-Howrah and South bound mail and express trains regularly ply and the people of this area are also benefiting from this. These trains pass through the railway station of two important towns Murtijapur and Akot, but people do not get reservation in these long distance trains because computerized reservation counters have still not been opened at railway stations of both the above towns. I have made repeated request to this effect to the Ministry of Railways but they turn a deaf ear to it. Every year they do make announcements to open new computerized reservation centres in rail budget, but these counters are not opened at the places where they are needed most.

I request the Ministry of Railways to announce the opening of computerized reservation centres in both the above towns in the next rail budget.

- (xi) Need to Include Rajasthani language in the Eighth schedule to the constitution**

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (Jaipur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Rajasthani language is one of the richest languages not only of India but also of the world. The mother tongue of 16 crore people, Rajasthani language is the symbol of Rajasthan state. The Rajasthani Language is being taught in schools, colleges and Universities, Programmes in Rajasthani language are being telecast through Doordarshan and Akashwani Kendras regularly and they are immensely popular. Rajasthani language has 1200 year old rich literature, history in which lakhs of books have been written in nine rasas including Virata, Shringar, Bhakti, Karuna rasas. Out of them five lakh manuscripts are still intact. Despite all this it has not been included in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution which is hampering its development and growth. Its vast Lexicon folk-songs folk-lores and proverbs, judged by any standards are by no means less than those of any other language in the world. Kendriya Sahitya Academy, which works for the promotion of Indian languages, in which Rajasthani is also included the Legislative Assembly of Rajasthan passed an unanimous resolution on 25 August, 2003 to this effect that the feelings of 16 crore people of Rajasthan be honoured by including Rajasthani language in the Eighth Schedule to Constitution. A peaceful movement is going on for the last 50 years seeking recognition for the Rajasthani language. It would be in the interest of our country and the state of Rajasthan if Government takes notice of the movement and decides to grant statutory recognition to this language at the earliest.

- (xii) Need to Implement the Right to Information Act as per envisaged guidelines**

[English]

SHRI SUNIL KHAN (Durgapur): The Indian Right to information Act was introduced to the Indian Parliament in July 2000. It came into effect on 12 October, 2005. Under this law the information has become a fundamental right of the citizen. Under this law all Government Bodies or Government funded agencies have to designate a Public Information Officer (PIO). The PIO's responsibility is to ensure that information requested is disclosed to

[Shri Sunil Khan]

the petitioner within 30 days or within 48 hrs in case of information concerning the life and liberty of a person.

A number of high profile disclosures revealed scams in Public Distribution Systems (ration stores), disaster relief, construction of highways etc. The law itself has been hailed as a landmark in India's drive towards more openness and accountability.

However the RTI India has certain weaknesses that hamper implementation. The lack of a central PIO makes it difficult to pin-point the correct PIO to approach for requests. The state of Maharashtra it was estimated that only 30% of the requests are actually realized under the Maharashtra Right to Information Act. The law also bars disclosures of information that affects national security, defence and other matters that are deemed of national interest.

Therefore, I urge upon the government to implement the RTI Act as per set guidelines.

(xiii) Need to construct Inter-state road from Payyannur to Bangalore

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN (Kasargod): I would like to raise the long pending demand of the people of Malabar area for the construction of Inter-State Road from Payyannur to Bangalore.

Representations have already given to the Central Government to construct the Inter-State Road from payyannur to Bangalore. This road would be shortcut road to Bangalore. It would be convenient to the famous Ezhimala Naval Academy, CRP camps at Puligom and many other Pilgrim tourist centre of both States. With the construction of the road the distance would reduce about 100 Km.

Therefore, I urge upon the Government to take necessary steps in this regard.

(xiv) Need to fill up the post of Principals in Kendriya Vidyalayas by promotion instead of filling the post through deputationists

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Chail): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards the issue of promotion of Principals in Kendriya

Vidyalayas. Teachers are not being promoted as Principal for the last few years but the said posts are being filled up through deputation and as a result of it ST/SC Candidates are not getting chance because there is no quota in deputation.

Therefore, the vacancy for the posts of Principals should be filled through promotion instead of deputation.

(xv) Need to declare Minimum Support Price for Sugarcane.

SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD (Salempur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, sugar cane farming is being done on a large area in the country and many families earn their livelihood through it only. The Government has announced the minimum support price for paddy and wheat in the country whereas the same has not been announced for sugarcane even though the sugarcane crop is ready and it is being sold in the market at many places. The sugarcane farmers are selling their crops at prices lower than their cost today.

I want to urge, through the House, that hon. Minister of Agriculture should announce the minimum support price for sugarcane soon.

(xvi) Need to set up another Kendriya Vidyalaya in Patna, Bihar

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the population of Patna city has touched around 18 lakh. Many offices of various departments of the Govt. of India are situated there in addition to cantonment of the Ministry of Defence in Danapur. Two Kendriya Vidyalayas have been established there by the Ministry of Education. One more Vidyalaya has been started this year too but they are still insufficient in proportion to the population of the city, while Bihar is already lagging in every field. Primary education is the fundamental right of the citizens but good education is not available to the children due to lack of sufficient Kendriya Vidyalayas there.

I, therefore, through this House, would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister of Human Resource Development and request him to kindly give sanction for setting up of one more Kendriya Vidyalaya in Patna city without delay.

(xvii) Need to conduct an inquiry into the functioning of Ramgarh Sugar Mill in Uttar Pradesh

SHRI ASHOK KUMAR RAWAT (Mirikh): Mr. Speaker, Sir, sugarcane farmers had lodged a complaint

with the district officer against the irregularities being committed in the Ramgarh Sugar Mills falling under my constituency Mirrikh but no concrete action has been taken by the officials. Poor farmers are not getting remunerative prices for their sugarcane. Consequently, the farmers are facing serious financial situation and it may force them to commit suicide.

I, therefore, would like that the irregularities being committed by the said sugar mill are looked into and payment for sugarcane is made as soon as possible.

(xviii) Need to implement Kasturba Gandhi Girls Residential School Scheme in Parbhani and Jalana districts of Maharashtra

SHRI TUKARAM GANPAT RAO RENGE PATIL (Parbhani): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Kasturba Gandhi Girls Residential School Scheme has been implemented in the country and it has also started working at many places. But, no Kasturba Gandhi Girls Residential School has been set up so far in two districts namely Parbhani and Jalana under my parliamentary constituency Parbhani due to which my parliamentary constituency has not yet got the benefit of this scheme being run by the Central Govt. besides, no approval has been granted so far regarding the places where such schools are to be set up.

Through the House, I request the Govt. that Kasturba Gandhi Girls Residential School Scheme should be implemented immediately in districts Parbhani and Jalana under my parliamentary constituency Parbhani.

(xix) Need to Install BSNL Mobile/WLL Towers in blocks at Phulbani, Orissa, so that the people of the area can avail mobile telephone facilities

[English]

SHRI SUGRIB SINGH (Phulbani): Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards my Parliamentary Constituency Phulbani, which is backwardness and tribal dominated. The telephone department has not so far installed BSNO Mobile/WLL Tower in most of the blocks. Villagers of Raikia, Khjuripada, K. Nuagam and Brahmunigam are facing difficulties in the absence of BSNL Mobile/WLL telephone services. The service of existing mobile telephone is also not in a good condition and people of my constituency are feeling extremely annoyed.

In the age of internet, technology and modernization we should not leave behind our Tribal brothers and sisters. We have to give them priority while deciding any development programme/schemes relating to Communications and Information Technology in the country.

I, therefore, urge upon the Minister of Communications and Information Technology to kindly sanction at least four BSNL Mobile/WLL Towers for my constituency so that the people of my constituency can avail mobile telephone facilities.

(xx) Need to provide Rs. 1000 Crore to develop five satellite towns around Bangalore in Karnataka

SHRI M. SHIVANNA (Chamrajnagar): Bangalore city is registering an average two deaths and eighteen injuries per day. The road traffic congestion situation is worsening day by day.

"Bangalore is role model for public-private partnership (PPP) and all other cities want to replicate it" says the Governor of Maharashtra. In fact, it is true.

Unfortunately, traffic on the roads of Bangalore city are mesmerizing the public. Kempe Gowda Road, Avenue Road, Bangalore Bus and Railways Stations, Krishna Rajendra Road, Mahatama Gandhi Road, Chickpet, Balepet, Shivajinagar are over crowded and precious lives are lost everyday.

Looking at this serious situation Karnataka Government has decided to develop five Satellite towns at Bidadi and four other centres around Bangalore. This ambitious project can become a reality only when substantial amount is made available. I, therefore, urge upon the Hon. Prime Minister and the Hon. Minister of Urban Development to sanction at least Rs. 1000 crores immediately to help Karnataka to successfully complete this dream project of the people of Karnataka.

(xxi) Need to provide central assistance for restoration/reconstruction work in flood affected districts of Orissa

SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO (Bolangir): Orissa has suffered devastating floods in five phases between July to August 2006. Out of 30 districts in the State 27 have been badly affected. The death toll was 105 and the number of livestock lost was 1658. The number of houses damaged are 1,20,448.

[Shrimati Sangeeta Kumari Singh Dev]

The total crop area under submergence was 6,82,643 hectares, out of which 50% or more crop-loss has been estimated in an area of 3,09,201 hectares.

There has been extensive damage to public utilities & infrastructure and the Government of Orissa had asked for an central assistance or Rs. 2,38,242 crores for the purpose of reconstruction.

A central team was deputed to assess the damage caused by the floods. The Hon. Prime Minister also visited the State & declared an assistance of Rs. 200 crores out of NCCF. But unfortunately no amount has been released so far.

Orissa is natural calamity prone state, where the highest number of people 'below poverty line.

I request the Govt. to release the funds announced by the Hon. Prime Minister as well as demanded by the state Govt. of Orissa for early restoration and reconstruction work at flood affected areas of Orissa.

13.19 hrs.

GOVERNMENT BILLS

(I) The Administrative Tribunals (Amendment) Bill, 2006

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: It has been agreed by the House that item No. 42, namely, the Administrative Tribunal (Amendment) Bill will be taken up now.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I think that it can be passed without discussion. There is a request to pass it without discussion.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): No, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: Do you want to speak on the Administrative Tribunals Bill? You were not present in the House, and there was a consensus in the House on this issue.

...(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): Sir, we have no objection if somebody wants to speak on this Bill. There is noly a minor amendment in it.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI): I beg to move.

"That the Bill further to amend the Administrative Tribunals Act, 1985, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

[Translation]

Sir, the parliament had passed the Administrative Tribunals Act, 1985 in pursuance of article 323 (A) of the constitution. Provision was made to establish Administrative Tribunals for hearing and deciding disputes related to service matters of civil officials of the Central Government, State Government, local or other authority under this Act. Accordingly, Central Administrative Tribunal was set up by the Government on 28.9.1985 for deciding the service related disputes of the officials of the Central Government and notified corporations and bodies under central Government. Administrative Tribunal was set up with the objective of providing prompt justice to the civil officials and I feel happy to tell that the objectives have been met for which the tribunals were set up. A total of 482579 cases were instituted in CAT and 458059 cases were disposed during the period from 1.11.1985 to 31.10.2006. the need for raising the standard of the administrative tribunals by attracting able and qualified persons has been felt from time to time right from the moment Administrative Tribunals Act, 1985 was implemented. Judiciary has also made observations from time to time from the moment Administrative Tribunals Act, 1985 was implemented. Judiciary has also made observations from time to time on the quality of the rulings/orders given by the administrative tribunals.

Sir, the retirement age for the member of the Tribunals under the Administrative Tribunal Act, 1985 was fixed at 62 years at a time when the retirement age of Govt. Employees was 58 years. Accordingly, the retired Govt. employee normally got 4 years in office on his appointment as a Tribunal member. Now, the retirement age of the Govt. employees has been increased to

60 years. Therefore, the retired Govt. employees getting appointed as a member get only 2 years in office. Appointment as a member is not so lucrative now for the retired senior Govt. servants in view of all these points.

The members appointed presently for 5 years are eligible for next term of five years but they have to go through the whole selection procedure once again before their names could be considered for re-appointment. The uncertainty in this regard has also been an important factor in these appointments. This uncertainty will end by increasing their term for 5 years and this will help in attracting qualified, experienced, able persons for Tribunals. In fact, hon. Supreme court had expressed concern in this regard in *Smpat Kumar vs. Govt. of India* case and had suggested to take into account the availability wider options for the whole of the selection process, whenever amendment to the Act is brought up. The present Bill has been prepared especially with a view to make appointments to the Central Administrative Tribunal more attractive so that more talented, experienced, senior and better officials could be attracted. Keeping in view this objective, it is proposed in the Bill to increase the present retirement age of members from 62 years to 65 years, to improve their service conditions and to make their other service conditions at par with the service conditions of the judges of High Courts. Besides, there is a provision in the Bill to increase the term of the members for 5 years subject to the age limit of 65 years. In order to have smooth functioning of the Tribunals, it is necessary that a Chairman of the Tribunal should have fixed term of at least 5 years. Presently, the Chairman is appointed from amongst the retired judges of the High Courts. Therefore, his term is very short. The objective of the proposed amendments of the Bill is to appoint more suitable persons as members and make the term at the level of Chairman stable. There is a proposal to implement these amendments from retrospective effect because the very purpose of these amendments will be defeated if the retirement age of the present members is raised on in-situ basis as the present amendments aim to attract qualified, experienced and senior persons. However, the present Chairman and members will be provided protection till the end of their present term or their achieving of the stipulated age-limit, as the case may be. They can compete with other candidates after the expiry of their present term and they can be considered for fresh appointment on the basis of their qualification under the amended provisions of the Act.

Sir, I am sure that after the implementation of the Act, the way for the appointment of talented, experienced

and suitable persons as members of the Tribunal will open and it will lead to efficiency in the functioning of the Tribunal.

With these words, I present introduce the Bill for consideration in the House.

[English]

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA (Panskura): Sir, I have question to the hon. Minister. Is the hon. Minister looking for raising the retirement age to 65 years? Mr. Minister, are you going to increase the retirement age to 65 years from 62 years? . . . (*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: You should ask during the third reading.

[English]

Good people are not forth coming.

[Translation]

SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Hon. Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is a proposal for increasing the age-limit of the member of the Tribunal from 62 years to 65 years and from 65 years to 68 years for the Chairman because in other Tribunals, like Consumer Protection Tribunal the age limit for both Chairman and member is 70 years, while it is 70 years for Chairman and 62 years for member in National Environment Tribunal; 68 years and 65 years in National Tax Tribunal and 70 years and 65 years in National Human Rights Commission respectively. Sir, this has been done because earlier the Govt. officials retired at the age of 58 years which is now 60 years while the retirement age of a member was 62 years. Now, the Govt. officials get only 2 years when they retire at 60. secondly, this has been decided keeping in view the age limit of the Chairman and member of the Tribunal and the fact that the retirement age of the Govt. official has been raised to 60 years from 58 years.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: There is no proposal to reduce the retirement age. That is the problem.

The question is:

"That the Bill further to amend the Administrative Tribunals Act, 1985, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

The Motion was adopted.

MR. SPEAKER: The House shall now take up clause by clause consideration of the Bill.

The question is:

"That clauses 2 to 15 stand part of the Bill."

The Motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 to 15 were added to the Bill.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Long Title were added to the Bill.

[Translation]

SHRI SURESH PUCHOURI: Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That the Bill be passed."

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY (Puri): This is a simple legislation and I do not have anything to object. But I want to know only one thing. The post of Vice-Chairman is being abolished. The Minister apprised that more than four lakh cases are pending for disposal, which is under the purview of this Act. But I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government will consider increasing the number of members of the Tribunal so that the cases can be disposed of quickly.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: I have the same point. Cases are pending in very large numbers. What does the Government propose to do? We have understood the point.

MR. SPEAKER: You can ask the Tribunals. Crores of cases are pending in the courts.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: My point is either they have more benches in the Tribunal or they should ensure that fast track judgments are given in the cases involving this Tribunal.

MR. SPEAKER: That will encourage more cases.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: My experience is that there are a large number of cases pending and there are a large number of vacancies also. When the Central Administrative Tribunal was set up to provide expeditious

justice to the aggrieved employees, what is happening? Whenever there is a judgment in favour of an employee, then the Government or the Department or the Ministry prefers an appeal in the higher court. I have seen this in each and every case; whenever there is a favourable judgment in regard to some employees, each time, it prefers an appeal, and that remains pending for years together. The employee does not get justice.

MR. SPEAKER: You cannot prevent anybody from going in appeal.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: The purpose was to provide expeditious justice to the aggrieved employee, but that is not happening. That is our experience. I would like to know from the hon. Minister what improvement it proposes to take in regard to functioning of central Administrative Tribunal as well as implementation of the judgment of the Tribunal.

SHRI SURAVARAM SUDHAKAR REDDY (Nalgonda): As I understand, according to the amendment, the post of Vice-Chairman is going to be abolished. I would like to know why it is to be abolished and in that case, who will preside over the Tribunal in other areas. In that case, there will be only one Chairman for the whole country.

SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: As far as the post of Vice-Chairman is concerned, I would like to make it clear that it is proposed to enhance the retirement age of members from 62 years to 65 years. Further, to make the office of members more attractive to prospective candidates, it is also proposed to enhance the Service Conditions of the members to those of sitting Judges of the High Court. This will make the Service Conditions of the Vice-Chairman and that of the members, same. Hence, it is not necessary to continue with the post of Vice-Chairman separately.

However, amongst the members, certain members would be designated as Vice-Chairman to perform financial and administrative functions, as may be delegated by the Chairman. They would also be paid Rs. 1000 per month to do the job of Vice Chairman which would be given for the administrative and financial work in the capacity of Vice Chairman.

[Translation]

The second question was how many cases were pending? I would like to inform that if we look at the

graphical position of cases since earlier times we find that it is showing a downward trend with regard to the number of cases pending. About 25 thousand cases are pending at present. Then the question seeks to elicit whether we propose to set up more benches?

Sir, I would like to inform that most of the members are selected as administrative and judicial members in a one-to-one ratio. As I have just said that as of now, people are not much inclined to become members because they are not provided as many facilities as should be provided to them. Now they have been brought at par with High Court Judges. Such enhancement in their facilities and status is necessary with a view to improving the service conditions of the officers who would work here after rendering service as Additional Secretaries and Secretaries. Earlier, Joint Secretary level officers were being inducted but now officers of the level of Additional Secretary and Secretary are being inducted. We have made things more attractive for them by this dual measure.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: More retired judges will come now.

[Translation]

SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Sir, our last point is— what are the steps being taken by us to fill up the vacancies? This is a lengthy procedure. Though prompt action is being taken on the part of the Government and applications are invited within six months after advertising vacancies but the process of selection is very lengthy involving consultations by us with the Chief Justice. For that, a meeting is held and scrutiny is made of the traditions to which the individual might have been subscribing. All this is time consuming.

So far as the question of Benches is concerned, I have no hesitation in saying that little inclination is exhibited by eligible persons to join as members either on the judicial side on the administrative side for benches other than the one at Delhi but when we are upgrading the status and service conditions then inclination too is likely to increase. I do not think there will be any problem from now on.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Let us hope for the best.

The question is:

"That the Bill be passed.

The motion was adopted.

13.32 hrs.

- (I) SIKKIM UNIVERSITY BILL, 2006
- (II) TRIPURA UNIVERSITY BILL, 2006
- (III) RAJIV GANDHI UNIVERSITY BILL, 2006

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now, the House will take up Item Nos. 38, 39 and 40 together.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): On behalf on Shri Arjun Singh, I beg to move:

"That the Bill to establish and incorporate a teaching and affiliating University in the State of Sikkim and to provide for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration.

That the Bill to establish and incorporate a teaching and affiliating University in the State of Tripura and to provide for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration.

That the Bill to establish and incorporate a teaching and affiliating University in the state of Arunachal Pradesh and to provide for matters connected there with or incidental thereto, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

[Mr. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair]

13.33 hrs.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: We will discuss these Bills up to 2 p.m. Motions moved:

"That the Bill to establish and incorporate a teaching and affiliating University in the State of Sikkim and to provide for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration.

That the Bill to establish and incorporate a teaching and affiliating university in the state of Tripura and to provide for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration.

[Mr. Deputy Speaker]

That the Bill to establish and incorporate a teaching and affiliating University in the state of Arunachal Pradesh and to provide for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

SHRI KIREN RIJJU (Arunachal West) Sir, I rise to support the Rajiv Gandhi University Bill, 2006, along with the other two Bills, namely the Tripura University Bill and the Sikkim University Bill, 2006.

Sir, today I find myself in an extremely happy frame of mind because a historic Bill concerning my state is getting passed in this August House. This House has passed many a historic Bills, but today is a historic day far as my State is concerned. I, on behalf of the people of Arunachal Pradesh, would like to congratulate the hon. Minister and the Government of India for bringing forward this very important piece of legislation.

Sir, I would just like to briefly dwell upon the history of the evolution of this university in my State. Prior to 1973 the entire North-Eastern region did not have any kind of higher educational institution. It was only in the year 1973 that the North-Eastern Hill University was established in Shillong and the Central Government subsequently converted three universities, namely the Nagaland, Mizoram and Manipur into central universities, but the State of Tripura, Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim was left out. In the year 1984 the State Government established a state university, namely, the Arunachal University. I would like to point out here. We feel proud about the fact when various universities like the Punjab University, the Delhi University, the Calcutta University or the Mumbai University celebrate their glorious existence of 100 years highlighting their history and achievement. But the existence of Arunachal Pradesh University is only 22 years old and within this short span, though we have progressed enough, yet not very satisfactorily.

Sir, when I look at the three Bills, namely, the Tripura University Bill, the Sikkim University Bill and the Rajiv Gandhi University Bill, I find the name of Arunachal Pradesh missing, though the Rajiv Gandhi University Bill is meant for my state of Arunachal Pradesh. That is why I have moved an amendment in this regard saying that in place of Rajiv Gandhi, the name Arunachal Pradesh

should be inserted. I must make it clear that the late Rajiv Gandhi is an icon. I respect him and adore him. He has rendered a great service to this nation and he was the former Prime Minister of our country. But no individual in this country is above one's state and one's country. As everyone would, I also love the name of my State and the name of my country. I feel sad when I find that the name is being changed and replaced by somebody else's name. I already have made it clear that I do not mean to undermine, in any manner the status and respect of the late Rajiv Gandhi, but at the same time I would like to submit that it should not come at the cost of the name of one's state. The State is of utmost priority. I would believe that the Government would ponder over the deletion of the words 'Arunachal Pradesh'.

Sir, I am raising this matter in the House because an impression sought to be created that the name of the University was changed only to get Central University status. I am in no way blaming the hon. Prime Minister or Shrimati Sonia Gandhi or the Central Government, but when this issue of change of name was discussed in the State Assembly it was categorically stated that they sought to change in order to get more funds and get the Central University status. I do not think the Central Government is so parochial in their approach that they would compare Central support to the changing of a name of the University. I respect the Government; I do not blame the Central Government at all. But the impression that has been given out by the state is totally wrong. I firmly believe that the Central Government will come out with some kind of a solace and that the name of the University would be retained as Arunachal Pradesh University.

[Translation]

One is overtaken by grief at the sight of a child, born just 22 years ago and strangled at the age of only 22. Our University was born in 1984. You may see section 3 in which it has been written as Rajiv Gandhi University 1984. This may create a misunderstanding. This is Arunachal Pradesh University 1984 which has now become 22 years old just at the age of 22, this University was nipped and its name was changed. We are aggrieved to witness it. Politics should not be played in issues like University. We must work with open mind and open heart. Politics should not meddle in issues like education. That is why I am expressing such feelings and echoing the feelings of the entire state.

[English]

Since 1984, the kind of support that we are getting has been very minimal. When it came to the matter of University Grants Commission, till 1994-95, we have not received any kind of money from the UGC. The financial assistance in the last three years of the Eighth Five year Plan was only Rs. 75 lakhs.

[Translation]

The hon'ble Minister may look into this that we got only Rs. 75 lakh. After that we got Rs. 2.2 crore during the Ninth Five Year Plan and rupees four crore during the Tenth Five Year Plan. How can a University be run with such a meager amount? But we are happy that despite all this, the University is functioning, however, we feel sorry when we look back into the past.

[English]

My State is one of the least literate States of the country and for that, we cannot blame the younger generation of my state. They were never given an opportunity to study.

[Translation]

We have no proper Institutes where children can study. When we do not provide better facilities, funds and infrastructure where would the children go to study? When we say that Arunachal Pradesh lags behind in literacy, the blame for it must be shared by all of us and also the government who are responsible for this. Therefore, there is a need to rejuvenate it.

We invite the hon'ble Minister to visit our University. Apart from four-five buildings an open ground is also there. But other than open ground there is no scope for extra curriculum activities there. More declaration does not make it a University. For that all the essential facilities are to be provided. Only conventional subjects are taught there. Today is the age of Computer Science and if, apart from conventional subjects, job oriented subjects, are also taught there, it would enable the children being educated there to lead a better life.

There are no accommodations for non-teaching staff there. They live in the small huts made by themselves, but there is no facility of any kind of accommodation provided by the Government. That University is being run

in such conditions. When I visit that place, I feel sorry. I have also seen Delhi University and Universities of other states. When I compare them with our University, I find that such facilities are almost non-existent in our University.

[Translation]

It is painful for me. The Government has not deliberated upon it and ignored this aspect since long.

Last time when I had walked out the House, I was very much upset as to why I am not being heard. I personally met the hon'ble Minister on this issue. We had pressurized the Government and the Chair had also insisted in this regard and after that this Bill has been presented today. Really, we will remember it for long.

[English]

This is the first time that the Rajiv Gandhi University is seeing the light of the day.

[Translation]

I would like this good beginning to reach its logical conclusion. Secondly I would like to say something about one or two amendments in it. Section 3(4) lays down that the headquarter of university shall be in Itanagar but the word 'Ronohills' should be added after Itanagar because it is situated in a remote area which is an isolated place and a hilly region. If Ronohills is not mentioned, there will be a problem in address. The Hon'ble Minister should think over this. The objects of university laid down in section (5) are good but I would like to add one thing more which is

[English]

"preservation of traditional interests."

[Translation]

He should add this in the statement of objects. There are 26 tribes in Arunachal Pradesh. They have their own culture and traditions and it is necessary not only to preserve them but also to promote them. The objects of university must be taken care of as it will be advantageous. It would be better to add Dean of Students Welfare, an important institution, in the list of officers of university mentioned in Section 11. You have named it as a university but you will have to work out a model of

[Shri Kiren Rijiju]

financial package which will be helpful in making it operational. I shall see you again in person after the passage of this Bill. A delegation consisting of M.Ps, MLAs and Students from Arunachal Pradesh has been here but no solid step has been taken. I am reiterating the issue of name. You must add Arunachal Pradesh in the name of the university at some point. If you do not want to delete Rajiv Gandhi's name, you can name it as Rajiv Gandhi Arunachal University. But we want the name of our state to be added to the name of this university. If the name of our state is not associated with the name of university, it is painful for people of our state. Only one logic has been given for changing the name of university that if its name is changed only then it will get status of central university and it will get funds. If Rajiv Gandhi's name is not associated, the university will not get funds. I think that you must never have said so. I neither think nor believe that the Central Government would have desired so. But it is on record in state assembly. Therefore, I want to submit that we should act by rising above the party politics. Hon'ble Minister, Sir, I thank you and your officers because you people have done a great job for our state by bringing this Bill in the House. You have included Tripura and Sikkim University as well which were not there in the list earlier.

[English]

SHRI FRANCIS FANTHOME (Nominated): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, thank you. I rise to support the establishment of Central University in Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh and Tripura.

Sir, this is undoubtedly, as my colleague was mentioning, one of the most important occasions for the North-Eastern Region. As a person who has served in the educational division of the state of Sikkim, I know and I understand what it means for that region to support and to have a university for their people.

Sir, I would focus my conversation, particularly in relation to the University of Sikkim because my colleagues would be speaking about the other two universities. The State of Sikkim is known for its peaceful traditions and its contributions to art, culture and music. It is undoubtedly a great happening for the State of Sikkim that it will now have a Central University. The University, as you know, would be coming into the state after nearly three decades of Sikkim's inclusion in the Indian Union and all these

years, there has been a long-standing aspiration of the region that there be a central University. Today, with the establishment of the Central University in Sikkim, Undoubtedly there will be a great rejoicing in the region.

Sir, the North-Eastern Region, particularly the state of Sikkim, has had this great urge to identify with the rest of the nation. This University would be an indication of that merger in terms of its identity with the rest of the country.

Sikkim, as we know, does not have very strong traditions of high academic contributions. With the establishment of the University, it will now find itself integrating and including itself in terms of its role in the sphere of higher education.

Sir, the Bill provides for innovations in teaching and learning practices for high value in terms of social-sciences and the development of an inclusive cultural identity with emphasis on forestry, research, including the flora and fauna of the region. The State of Sikkim is particularly known for its high quality of hybrid products in terms of orchids and fruits and the University would now be able to draw its resources in terms of enhancing this great drive that the state has set itself in terms of the development of very special flora in that region.

I would like to think that while we are establishing a University run by the Centre in the state of Sikkim, the Centre would also see that the standards of that University are those equivalent in terms of facilities, amenities and in terms of their general arrangements equal to that, being provided in other regions and other central universities. Often it happens that we establish an institution, but the standards there do not meet with the aspirations with which that university rivals other central universities. So, I would like to think that the Centre would look into this aspect, particularly as was being mentioned by my friend, that the financial arrangements are very different from what prevails in other Central Universities. I would like to think that the Centre would pay particular attention to this aspect that once we have a Central University, it should not be felt or seen to be short in any manner of other Central Universities like the University of Delhi or for that matter the other Universities in the rest of the states that are there.

Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister, once again, to clause 42 of the University of Sikkim Bill. Clause 42 bars any kind of legal action to

the work carried out in good faith by the officers or the employees of the University. Now, every action of an employee or an officer could be seemingly in good faith. But it is not meeting the standards of law or the legality of an issue. Therefore, there needs to be a provision particularly in terms of transparency and accountability and particularly in the context of the knowledge economy where standards of action leads to any discontent and these practices do not prevail in this region. I would like to think that the actions of the officials of the University would meet the test of law.

With these words, I would like to support the University of Sikkim Bill, the University of Tripura Bill and the Rajiv Gandhi University in the State of Arunachal Pradesh.

SHRI KHAGEN DAS (Tripura-West): Sir, I am from the State of Tripura. I rise to support the Tripura University Bill, 2006. While welcoming the Bill, I would first congratulate the hon. Minister of Human Resource Development and the official of the Ministry, on behalf of the people of Tripura, for taking the long-desired steps towards the full-fledged development of the University. It is the only University of the State. By converting it into a Central University through the enactment of this Legislation, it would go a long way.

I would also convey my thanks for converting to Rajiv Gandhi University and the Sikkim University into Central Universities. Tripura is located at the farthest corner of the North-Eastern Region. Being a landlocked state, development of human resource, which constitutes the most important resources, is of utmost importance. As a result of State intervention, Tripura has a high literacy rate. The State Government has taken steps for universalisation of school education through the *Serva Shiksha Abhiyan* and other programmes. The school education is required to be followed up by a suitable programme for providing higher education facilities. To meet these needs, the Tripura University was established in 1987 as a State University for providing higher education in the State. Since then, the State Government has been taking several steps to develop Tripura University as a centre of excellence. But financial constraints being typical to a special Category state like Tripura, it has been affecting this process. Unlike the other States in the North-Eastern Region, Tripura does not have any other national-level institute for higher education. This has caused regional imbalances which require to be rectified.

Due to limited facility for higher education in the State, parents have to send their wards to other States for post-school higher education. This involves travel by air, rail and heavy expenditure which many people cannot afford. As a result, a large number of meritorious students are deprived of getting that higher education. Now, the setting up of the Central University will help meet the gap and provide the much-needed quality of education for attaining academic excellence.

There has been a long-standing demand of the people of the state for the setting up of a Central University in the state. So, conversion of the Tripura University into a Central University would have the following advantages.

First, it will provide quality of education for attaining academic excellence. Second, it will facilitate research and development programmes. Third, it will help in proper utilization of available natural resources for sustainable development. Fourth, it will help networking with other institutions for utilization of available resources optimally. Fifth, it will help in dissemination of knowledge. Sixth, it will help widening the scope of advanced science-based courses, and, seventh, suitable faculties from the rest of country would be attracted.

14.00 hrs.

Then, the new vocational streams for promoting entrepreneurship will help in solving the problems of poverty and unemployment to some extent by generating productive employment. In addition, the conversion of the Tripura University into a Central University will usher in a new era of development of human resource in the State in general and development of higher education in Particular.

With these words, I support the Tripura University, Bill, 2006, the Sikkim University Bill, 2006 and the Rajiv Gandhi University Bill, 2006.

14.01 hrs.

DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

**Statement made by Minister of External Affairs
on 12.12.2006 regarding Indo-US Civil
Nuclear Cooperation**

(English)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: It is 2.00 p.m. now. We will now take up item no. 43. We shall continue this discussion on these Bills after the discussion under Rule 193 is over.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, this is a very important discussion. Neither the Foreign Minister nor the Prime Minister is present here. At least one of them should have been present here.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER. They will come.

[Translation]

SMT. KIRAN MAHESHWARI (Udaipur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, sir, it is very important issue and the hon. Minister is already aware of it. He must be present in the House.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Those people, who have to reply and intervene, should have been present

[English]

Neither of them is present here now.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, sir, the Prime Minister will intervene in the debate at 4 o' clock. The Minister of State for External Affairs is here to take notes and the Cabinet Minister will come now. ...(Interruptions)

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Sir, the Foreign Minister who is to reply to the debate should have been here. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, since he has to reply to the debate, he should reply in proper manner and that is why he will get all the inputs and prepare himself and then he will reply. ...(Interruptions)

Sir, I fully appreciate the concerns expressed by them. I express my apology that at this time we could not bring the External Affairs Minister. I am rushing to his room immediately now. Meanwhile, you can start the debate. The Minister of State for External Affairs will take notes. I, once again, express my apology to Shri L.K. Advani. I am going to the room of the Leader of the House immediately.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: The Chair must tell them to do the needful.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Basu Deb Acharia has requested that Shri L.K. Advani be allowed to raise this Discussion under Rule 193. The hon. Speaker has given his consent. I now request Shri L.K. Advani to initiate the discussion.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI (Gandhinagar): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, at the very outset, I would like to express my deep gratitude to Basu Deb Achariaji. In the ballot, it was his name which came first, mine was second and that is indicated even in the List of Business, but he has kindly agreed that I may initiate the debate. I am grateful also to the Speaker for permitting me to do so.

Sir, this is the second time that Parliament is discussing this issue in a major way. There have been occasions earlier also where references were made and questions were put, but the major debate took place last time in August and then this is the second debate. We may call the earlier debate also a major debate, but the first one came when there was a Joint Statement by our Prime Minister and the American President. I can recall that even then after concluding the deal on 18th July, 2005, the Prime Minister said at his Washington Press Conference on 20th July, 2005 before returning to India as follows:

"It goes without saying that we can move forward only on the basis of a broad national consensus."

This is a statement that the Prime Minister made in Washington on 20th July, 2005, two days after the Joint Statement had been signed and issued.

I am happy that the hon. Prime Minister is here. I would start to say that before moving forward he expected a broad national consensus on this issue. Would he find this in the country today? Is there a broad national consensus that this Deal should go forward? Let me recall that at that point of time, we did not have the Hyde Act. It was only a Joint Statement and an agreement between the Prime Minister and the American President, even about which the Prime Minister felt the need that there has to be a broad national consensus before we can move forward. By now, we have this so called Hyde Act. If there is a broad national consensus, I think, there would be no hesitation for the Government to seek the approval of the whole House. This morning, my colleague

raised that issue that instead of Discussion under Rule 193, why can we not have a discussion under Rule 184 in which at least the sense of the House would be available.

Mr. Prime Minister, as far as I can see the opinions expressed by various parties, by various MPs, by various nuclear scientists, today, there is no consensus in Parliament on this particular Deal. There is no consensus among political parties on this particular Deal. There is no consensus even in the UPA Government or rather the United Progressive Alliance. I would not call it a Government, I would say, the UPA. There is no consensus in favour of this Deal and certainly what is most crucial in this matter is that because as far as I recall, there was a time when the Prime Minister took a view that we would go ahead with this kind of Deal only if the scientists have agreed.

Today, there is no consensus even among the nuclear scientists, what to say of a broad national consensus in the country on this Deal. I am sorry to say, it is, therefore, also my first plea because of the lack of broad national consensus, which the Prime Minister had in mind even in respect of the Joint Statement, in so far as this act is concerned, about which we are going to discuss now and about which I would like to point out to the House, how obnoxious it is. I think, there can be no consensus.

Early this morning, I was surprised to get a call from a veteran of this country for whom I have always had respect, though I did not agree with his view nor did he agree with my views and my party's views. I am referring to Justice Krishna Iyer. After many years, perhaps he telephoned to me. He has been back from his illness. He has been in hospital for two months. He would be 90 plus now. This veteran judge, who is highly respected, rings up to me and uses a language which I would only quote.

He tells me what is going to happen in Parliament today when this issue is discussed. Is this Parliament going to reject it? I did not go into lengths that there is no question of Parliament either accepting it or rejecting it because as has been pointed out, there is a reluctance even to take the sense of the House. But he said:

"I am phoning you because I feel that the country's Nuclear Swaraj is at stake."

This is the phrase that he used. It is a very forceful phrase but this is how he viewed it, and I can quote it here. It shows the intensity of a feeling that many thinking people in the country have about the consequence of this particular deal if this goes through in the form which has been given to it by the Hyde Act. I remember that when it was first brought here or in the other House, there was a stress that the country needs nuclear fuel for its reactors, and this was an attempt essentially to get America to agree to giving the nuclear fuel or the other nuclear countries which can supply or give us this thing or removing a ban on various technological knowledge that was there, and it would give immense scope for this country to move forward. I would like to deal with all these points later.

Today, I would like to say that when we see the Hyde Act, we see that the primary objective of the Hyde Act is to cap, then roll back and ultimately eliminate India's nuclear weapons capability. It deals more with India's nuclear weapon credibility and only incidentally with the question of nuclear fuel to be provided to our civil reactor, and that too under conditionalities which are humiliating.

This debate is taking place at time, and I say that the fate of India's strategic defence is hanging in a balance. Therefore it is a very important debate. In fact, this issue itself is the most important issue that has come up before the nation in the entire year or perhaps in many year so to make Justice Krishna Iyer to say that our nuclear swaraj is at stake. I go further than nuclear swaraj, and I would say that it is taking place at a time when India's independence in Foreign Policy and our seeking options of its sovereign choice in strategic matters also is in stake, and that is being questioned.

It is true that there is a reference to Iran here but the other provision that is there is that in the India's foreign policy, if they are to assist India in the matter of nuclear fuel, it has to be congruent with the foreign policy of America. Here is something which no Government in New Delhi in the past has been willing to accept. Maybe we may have our preferences, independent choice, and there may be things that we did which may have been approved by Moscow and not by Washington or sometimes by Washington but not by Moscow. From 1947, we have always had an independent Foreign Policy, and if this particular deal goes through, then I would say that we would be mortgaging our independence of Foreign Policy.

[Shri L.K. Advani]

Sir, I say this because every single assurance, almost every single assurance given by the Prime Minister in Parliament and mainly in the Rajya Sabha would be violated if the UPA Government were to go ahead to negotiating a bilateral Civil Nuclear Cooperation Agreement with the United States on the basis of this Hyde Act. Therefore, we are surprised when the passing of this Act, the Hyde Act, first by the Senate and then by the House is tom-tommed as a big achievement as if something remarkable has been achieved.

The stress is on bipartisan support that the Bill has received. The Bill has received bipartisan support; I do not deny that. There have been a very few dissenting voices because most of those who have voted for the Bill or against the Bill were concerned with whether the Bill imposes curbs on our weapons capability or not; and if they did they supported it.

As I said, the nuclear fuel issue is incidental in whole Act, and therefore, when I see this euphoria about both the Houses as well as the Senate having approved it, passed it so quickly; and the Prime Minister and the United States President have agreed to this Bill, this euphoria makes me feel that this is not justified. This is only what is described as the theatre of the absurd.

Here is something; we are binding ourselves to humiliating conditions, and there are people applauding here in this House also, though it is perhaps only the Congress party. I wonder whether the Prime Minister realizes how isolated his party has become on this particular issue.

I would quote before the Prime Minister what he himself had said on August 17, 2006. He said:

"I would again reiterate in view of the apprehensions expressed that the proposed US Legislation on Nuclear Cooperation with India will not be allowed to compromise India's sovereignty."

This is what the Prime Minister said. He further said:

"Our foreign Policy is determined solely by our national interest."

Again, he went on to say:

"No legislation enacted in a foreign country can take away from us this sovereign, right. Thus, there is no question of India being bound by a foreign legislature."

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, if you go through this relevant law carefully, it makes a mockery of all these assurances given by the Prime Minister because at that time when people were criticizing; when my two colleagues in the other House quoted on the provisions of the Foreign Affairs Committee's from the proceedings of the two House that had gone on, they were told: "Wait, wait; wait for the Act to come." And, now, it is before us in black and white. Does it not compromise our sovereignty and independence of the Foreign Policy? After all, the Prime Minister has made numerous statements, the most important being on the 17th. But even on earlier occasions he had made statements on 7th March and 10th March, 27th February and 29th July. For Ruling party Members to describe this as a great factory, I feel sad.

There has been criticism that America has been shifting its goalposts again and again, periodically over the process of legislating this particular law. We are not concerned so much with what America is doing. We are more concerned with the Government of the UPA shifting the *Lakshman Rekha* we drew, in his 17th August speech that 'these are the promises within which we will accept, and if these parameters are not kept, we will not accept.'

And if these parameters are not kept, we will not accept. If you go to see the statement issued on 15th by an eminent nuclear scientist or by almost all the important nuclear scientists, you will perceive how disturbed the Bill about the Hyde Act. I quote from the statement of these nuclear scientists:

"In responding to the concerns earlier expressed by us, namely, the scientists, the Prime Minister stated in the Rajya Sabha on 17th August, 2005," and I quote: "Nuclear weapons are an integral part of our national security and will remain so pending the elimination of all nuclear weapons and universal non-discriminatory nuclear disarmament. Our freedom of action with regard to our strategic programmes remains unrestricted." This is the Prime Minister's statement. I feel happy what he said about nuclear weapons being an integral part of our national security. "The nuclear agreement will not be allowed to be used as a backdoor method of introducing NPT type restrictions on India."

What will happen now? From Mrs. Gandhi's time, we have refused firmly to accept the NPT. We will not accept the Non-Proliferation Treaty which imposes any restriction on our choice to go nuclear or not, which

imposes other severe restrictions on us. We will not accept the NPT. We will not accept the CTBT. Now, by the backdoor, we are permitting ourselves to be a member of the NPT arrangement.

In fact, if this Bill is passed or if this deal is accepted as it is described by the Hyde Act, I am sorry. Mr. Prime Minister, I know you have not been in favour of India going nuclear. Even at that time, when Pokharan-II was done, you had criticized us. You had criticized us for taking a step which would make price skyrocketing. What would be there to defend them? I do not want to quote the whole speech that you made in the Rajya Sabha because you spearheaded the attack on the decision taken in Pokharan. I concede your right to do this. I do not deny that. But today you have said that nuclear weapons are an integral part of our national security, as I quoted, I welcome it. It is a change. But even with this change, if you allow this to happen, then it would mean that that NPT comes into our country from the backdoor. We become part of it.

In fact, if this particular deal had been signed earlier, there could have been even no Pokharan-I. Mrs. Gandhi could not have done it. Therefore, certainly there could be no Pokharan-II. It is because I have seen provisions in this Act in which it is said that even if the country says that it is purely for peaceful purposes, you are not to allow it. If anyone does it, if anyone does a test, then it would be the duty of the President to report this and the President would be entitled to take back all the nuclear facilities that have been given and stop all nuclear fuel that is being given even to the civil reactors.

Now, all these provisions are there. Anyone, who has gone through the provisions, knows this. My colleague, Mr. Arun Shourie, in the other House has written as series of articles, and they have been published. Not one single fact has been denied. Therefore, if you accept this, the Opposition would be left with no option but to say that the Prime Minister is consciously and willingly keeping the backdoor open for the US to bring in the Non-Proliferation Treaty fetters on India, shackles on India.

Sir, there is another disturbing feature about the U.S. Legislation. That is how it equates India and Pakistan. The Hyde Act not only equates India with Pakistan repeatedly but it also directs the U.S. Administration to "continue its policy of engagement, collaboration and exchanges with and between India and Pakistan."

The other day the U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Mr. Richard Boucher came here and he observed that India should define its deterrent only in relation to conventional and nuclear areas. I, for one, belong to a party which, when it first demanded that India should have a nuclear deterrent of its own, there were no problems from Pakistan. We had suffered a humiliating defeat in a conventional war with China in 1962. In 1964 when China was not as economically strong as it may be today, even then it went in for a nuclear blast at Lopnor. It was in 1964 that my party for the first time felt that security is very important. If we had paid attention to the country's security from the very beginning in a proper manner, may be, even 1962 would not have been that humiliating. Therefore, now that our immediate neighbour is moving towards becoming a nuclear power, let India also develop a minimum nuclear deterrent of its own. This was our Resolution passed in 1964.

Since then, even though we found no support from any other political party, we continued to pursue that line consistently that India must become a nuclear weapon state, though we agreed with the proposals made at various points of time, say by Shri Rajiv Gandhi that there should be non-discriminatory universal nuclear disarmament. We agreed with that. I am sure that even today every Party in the country agrees with that. That is India's stand. But so far as our problems are concerned, security considerations are concerned, while the Congress approach was, keep our options open, they did not sign the NPT, they did not sign the CTBT for the same reasons which prompted us to refuse it. But keeping the options open meant that uncertainty remains.

So, when we got a mandate from the people and the mandate was on the basis of a programme to which not only the BJP but all our allies also agreed that if we come to power the common manifesto of the NDA would mean that we would go in for a nuclear deterrent. The moment we got that mandate we did not take time. We assumed office in March and in May we had the Pokharan-II. I am recalling all this only to say that we have all along maintained that India's strategic nuclear weapons programme is not Pakistan-centric and India should have credible minimum deterrence against any threat from any source to our national security.

Let us take the hon. Prime Minister's second assurance. I have with me that statement also which he made that today there are only five nuclear *Brahmins*. No one else, even if it has weapon capability, can be incorporated as a weapon state. It was a very good

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statement. I compliment him for that statement at that point of time. He said that this agreement that we are signing with the United States would end decades of nuclear apartheid. He used the word 'apartheid' that for decades we had been kind of *pariahs* in this situation.

He further said that India would get its due place in the global nuclear order. He says:

"We believe that when implemented, the understanding reflected in the Joint Statement will give India its due place in the global nuclear order."

Now, everyone knows that even after this statement, there has been nothing of this kind. We continue to be regarded as a non-nuclear weapon state. In fact, when Condoleezza Rice, the US Secretary of State, was asked about the status that India would have under the US law as well as in regard to the IAEA, her reply was candid and categorical. She said:

"While India has nuclear weapons. ..."

So, that is a concession that India has nuclear weapons. It further says:

"And we must deal with this fact in a realistic, pragmatic manner. We do not recognize India as a nuclear weapon State or seek to legitimize India's nuclear weapon programme. The 1968 Treaty on Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, NPT defines a nuclear weapon state as one which has manufactured and exploded a nuclear weapon or other nuclear explosive device prior to January 1, 1967. India does not meet this definition and we do not seek to amend the Treaty to provide otherwise. US law adopts the NPT definition. So, India is a non-nuclear weapon state for purposes of US law."

Therefore, Mr. Prime Minister would be able to reply what happened to his promise that India would no longer be subjected to a regime of nuclear apartheid or what happens to his promise of securing for India its due place in the global nuclear order.

My third objection is that when the first debate took place, the Prime Minister emphasized repeatedly and word reciprocity and said that our arrangement with America is on the reciprocal basis. He used the phrase reciprocity is key to the implementation of all the steps enumerated in the Joint Statement by President Bush and Prime Minister,

Dr. Manmohan Singh.' He had assured Parliament on July 29, 2005. I quote:

"That India will reciprocally agree that it would be ready to assume the same responsibilities and practices and acquire the same benefits and advantages as other leading countries with advanced nuclear technology, such as the United State."

The Hyde Act explicitly rules this out. As I said, it imposes fetters on us, shackles on the Indian nuclear military capability, which none of the five nuclear *Brahmins* are subjected to.

Our fourth objection is that if this is accepted, there can be no Pokharan-III or Pokharan-IV. Let us understand that. Some in the Government may be happy about it. I really do not know. At least when Pokharan-II happened, there was displeasure expressed. As I have already said, today's Prime Minister was the Leader of the Opposition in the other House and there, he expressed his unhappiness. The whole speech is there. Section 106 of the Hyde Act decrees that civil nuclear energy co-operation with India shall cease to be effective if the President determines that India has detonated a nuclear explosive device after the date of the enactment of this law. In its explanatory notes, the Hyde Act leaves no scope for uncertainty. It says:

"There should be no ambiguity regarding the legal and policy consequences of any future India test of a nuclear explosive device. In that event, the President must terminate all export and re-export of US-origin nuclear materials."

It is categorical.

The US law makers do not stop there. I am quoting the exact words from the Act:-

"In the event of a future nuclear test by India for any reason including such instances in which India describes its actions as being for peaceful purposes, the President must make full and immediate use of the US right to demand the return of all nuclear related items, materials, and sensitive nuclear technology that they have exported, and re-exported to India."

Has India accepted such a deal earlier for the sake of getting nuclear fuel from America? Otherwise, neither

the Congress Government would have been able to conduct Pokhran-I nor the NDA Government would have been able to conduct Pokhran-II.

This is my question to the hon. Prime Minister. Would you like to mortgage away India's sovereign right to conduct Pokhran-III and Pokhran-IV in the future? Would you not be agreeing to push India back to its pre-Pokhran status, that is, as a non-nuclear weapon state both *de jure* and *de facto* by signing this coercive deal? I demand a clear answer from the Prime Minister on this issue.

As I have said, there is a lurking suspicion in my mind. I have worked with people who have been categorically against India going nuclear. I have worked with them, and I know how keen they were always to see that India never even thinks in terms of going nuclear. I have a lurking suspicion that the Prime Minister perhaps wants no more Pokhrans, and that he would indeed be happy if under this Act, which first puts a cap on our nuclear weapons capability, then reduces it and ultimately and eventually eliminates it. These are the words used by the Act, and they are not mine.

If Dr. Manmohan Singh genuinely shares the goal of other people about de-nuclearization of India, let him say so. After all, the nuclear scientists do not agree with this. They say that:

"In view of the uncertain strategic situation around the globe, we are of the view that we must not directly or indirectly concede our right to conduct future nuclear weapon tests if these are found necessary to strengthen our minimum deterrence."

Another assurance given by the Prime Minister on August 17 was that: "Our offer to put our civil nuclear facilities under safeguards." We have agreed to it that we will undertake a programme of separation of civil reactors and the military reactors. This would be put under safeguards in perpetuity is conditional upon these facilities securing fuel from international sources for their lifetime.

This is the Prime Minister's own word, namely, "for their lifetime." In a statement made in the Parliament of March 7, 2006 while commenting on India's plans to separate its nuclear programme into civilian and military parts. The Prime Minister again assured the House that the United States will support an Indian effort to develop a strategic reserve of nuclear fuel to guard against any

disruption of supplies over the lifetime of India's reactors. The Hyde Act does not say this. The Hyde Act neither guarantees uninterrupted supply of fuel nor allows India to accumulate fuel to cover and safeguard the reactors lifespan. In fact, it explicitly bans this kind of cooperation. It says:

"Any nuclear power reactor fuel reserve provided to the Government of India for use in safeguarded civilian nuclear facilities should be commensurate with reasonable reactor operating requirements."

It is not for lifetime, and it is not for reserve. The Act's explanatory statement states that India will not be allowed to build any uranium stock of a size that would permit its driving out any sanction that might be imposed by the USA in the future. The purpose itself is very disturbing. Fuel supply thus has to be limited to the operating needs, as opposed to the prospective needs, even in those civil nuclear reactors. If this is not a humiliating condition, I wonder what else can be!

The Prime Minister asserted in Parliament on August 17 that we are not willing to accept a moratorium on the production of fissile material. Yet the Hyde Act seeks to impose both qualitative and quantitative ceilings on India's nuclear deterrent capability, and lays great stress on getting India to cease all fissile material production.

The seventh, and I would say perhaps the most important, disturbing aspect of the Hyde Act is this. Contrary to the Prime Minister's assurance that nothing would be done to affect the country's independent nuclear programme or its sovereign foreign policy the Hyde Act—how does the statement and assurance square with the Hyde Act – in Section 102 says that one of the reasons why it recommends nuclear cooperation with India is that India would have a foreign policy that is congruent to that of the United States and in working with the United States on key foreign policy initiatives related to non-proliferation.

Section 103 states that one of the US policy objective to be realized through the nuclear deals is to secure India full and active participation in the United States efforts to dissuade, isolate, and if necessary, sanction, and contain Iran for its efforts to acquire weapons of mass destruction. When I go through the explanatory memorandum attached to the Hyde Act I find Iran was

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mentioned at least fifteen times. The sum and substance is that US policy objectives in respect of containing various nuclear devices have to be supported by India. It is obvious that by this act Washington is virtually dictating what India's foreign policy should be.

We can have our own policy towards Iran or any other country which may sometimes be not very different from America's, but we cannot be dictated by them because they are giving us nuclear fuel, therefore, we sign it out that we are going to cooperate with them in all these matters. How can India mortgage its foreign policy to the strategic objectives of the United states?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the Prime Minister had pledged in Parliament on August 17 that if the final product is in its present form – and that was before this Act was adopted – India will have grave difficulties in accepting the Bill. Now, those grave difficulties should have become in the eyes of the Government far far graver, far more ominous. The final product is now before us in clear, categorical black and white terms, and it flies in the face of all the assurances that the Prime Minister had solemnly given. It was repeatedly said that our friends in America are taking note of all these and we are sure that the Act as finally passed will take cognizance all of these misgivings of ours.

Not only our concerns are not addressed but the US legislation has placed new controls on India. It is almost as if the US wants to have extra-territorial jurisdiction over India's nuclear programme and the UPA Government seems intent to help Washington in this regard.

My colleague Arun Shourie the other day in the articles that he wrote related the provisions of the Hyde Act to the assurances given in Parliament and challenged the Prime Minister – "Let the Prime Minister square the circle." Let me affirm that—as far as I can understand it this circle cannot be squared, not even by our scholarly Prime Minister, I am sorry to say, therefore,—there is no alternative but to reject the idea of entering into a nuclear deal with the United States.

As far as I can read the Opposition's mind, I can say that the irreducible demand of the Opposition before the Government is not to push India into this dangerous trap of self-enslavement. Please do not do it; stop before it is too late. This view has been endorsed by many people who do not belong either to NDA or to the Left. I have seen the former Prime Minister, Shri V. P. Singh criticizing this very strongly. I have seen a strong statement of Dr. Jayalalitha condemning this.

PROF. M. RAMADASS (Pondicherry): She is not a nuclear scientist. We need not go by what she says.
...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please do not interrupt. Nothing will go on record except the speech of Shri Advani.

...(Interruptions)*

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: I can understand his reaction!
...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please sit down. Nothing should be recorded except the speech of Shri Advani.

...(Interruptions)*

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: There was a demand from my Party as well as from the Left, the Communists that the sense of the House should be taken; a resolution should be passed, etc. I remember, we were criticized; and they were also criticized. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA (Panskura): Communists are not your convenient friends!
...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

SHRI L.K. ADVANI (Gandinagar): I know that; that is why, there had been occasions when we, in the Rajya Sabha, acted together on issues of national interest!

Sir, Shri Prakash Karat has written a full article on this, in *The Hindu* on 12th August, saying that certain sections in the ruling establishment have sought to project the efforts for a sense of Parliament as the lining up of CPI (M) with the BJP. This is being raised only to sidetrack the real issue. This is what he said.

I would like the Government not to sidetrack the issue and come to the core of the whole Act and reply to that. Do you realize how isolated you have been on this? It is not that we are not aware of the need of nuclear energy for our civil reactors; we are conscious of it. India's rapidly growing economy requires increased energy production from various sources including nuclear. But we do not think that indo-US Nuclear Deal in its

*Not recorded.

present shape is the best way of ensuring India's energy security. Experts have also voiced doubts about the government's steep projections about nuclear energy in the coming years, to raise the current share of nuclear energy in India's total energy production, which is just 3 per cent; it is abysmally low.

[SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL *in the Chair*]

14.48 hrs.

How can we anticipate that this kind of a deal will give us all that we need? I would also like to make this clear. After all, after the end of the Cold War, when we came to power later on—maybe earlier also—there had been a conscious effort to see that the relations and understanding between the two major democracies of the world keep growing. Therefore, I am in favour of better relations and greater understanding between India and America in all fields including nuclear cooperation.

But I emphasize and I insist that this relationship must be based on non-negotiable principles of equity, reciprocity, non-discrimination and acceptance of India's sovereign right to take decisions independently, guided by our national interests. India cannot become a client state of the United State. This is precisely the status that we would get if we were to sign this Treaty. The UPA Government may be ready for that.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Who is the writer of the script that says, India is a client State of the US?

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: It is not; I do not think, it is. But if you proceed to make our policy subject to the foreign policy of America and congruent to it, it would become a client State.

The UPA Government may be willing to do it but the proud and patriotic people of India are certainly not.

Some experts tell me that with the kind of promises that we have made now, there is no exit route for India from the Indo-US Nuclear Deal if it is based on US Congress Legislation in its present form. I am sorry if it is so, this country can reject; this Parliament can reject; and this Government can reject as well. After all, you yourself have said that if it does not fit within the parameters, we will not accept it. Please implement it. Otherwise, there may be a quick exit route for your Government. That is all I can say.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, there is no law in this country to stop anybody's dreams.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: It does not matter. If they would have said so, you would have thought it correct. But I have made all the points that I wish to make. The Hyde Act does not square up with the assurances given by the Prime Minister to Parliament, more Particularly in the Rajya Sabha on 17th of August.

Furthermore, I started my observation saying that even in respect of the Joint Statement which is much feebler than this particular Hyde Act, the Prime Minister had categorically stated that we will move forward only if there is a broad national consensus. I want to point out that there is no consensus what to say of broad national consensus. There is no consensus in Parliament; there is no consensus in the UPA Alliance, there is no consensus among nuclear scientists; and there is no consensus among the political parties. Therefore, let the Government boldly decide that this Act, as passed, we cannot accept it.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hooghly): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I was listening to the speech made by the hon. Leader of the Opposition with rapt attention and I was really delighted when he said that our country should not be subjected to the dictates and pressures of the US. I was only reminded of the days when the former Prime Minister, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayeeji openly declared India as a junior partner of the United States. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: He is not yielding.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record.

...(*Interruptions*)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record except the statement of Shri Rupchand Pal.

...(*Interruptions*)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Only unparliamentary words can be removed.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: You can clarify later on. If there is anything wrong, it will not be recorded.

...(*Interruptions*)

*Not recorded.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Pal, kindly address the Chair.

Nothing, except the speech of Shri Rupchand Pal, will go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please do not reply to them. You may kindly address the Chair.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Sir, this is such an important issue that it would have to be analyzed on the basis of cost and benefit. What is the cost that the country has to pay and what is the benefit that this country would derive out of this? That has to be the criteria for judging this deal.

Some of the major concerns have been mentioned by the hon. Leader of the Opposition. Me too have certain concerns to which I shall come a little later. It has been stated that the three decades old technology denial regime is sought to be dismantled in the energy sector. It has been done to strengthen our energy security as per the vision of the country, as per the vision of the Planning Commission and as per the vision of the Atomic Energy Commission. We know that nuclear energy, in a country like ours, has a huge potential particularly where the resources in hydro electricity, non-conventional energy and coal are limited. I shall come to that also later.

Now, a picture is sought be painted here that of all the options before it. India should primarily go in for nuclear energy. Different figure have been given by different sources. The hon. Minister for External Affairs in his statement has mentioned about certain figures. The hon. Prime Minister, in his statement has given certain other figures. I would here just like to refer to a document of the Planning Commission. This is from the Parikh Committee Report. I quote:

"It is seen that even if India succeeds in exploiting its full hydro potential of 1,50,000 MW, the contribution of hydro electricity to energy mix would five to six per cent. Similarly, even if there is a 24 fold increase in nuclear power capacity by 2031-32, the contribution of nuclear energy to India's energy mix is, at best, expected to be five to six per cent."

*Not recorded.

Now we are being told that after the dismantling of this technology denial regime we would stand to benefit immensely. I have another report with me here. Why is America, both economically and politically, so enthusiastic about it? I would first like to refer to the economic part of it. I am now referring to a report that was brought out of a conference attended by over 200 companies in America a few days before this law was enacted. They had said that over the last 30 years, since 1979, after an accident in Central Pennsylvania, the US power industry had been paralyzed. In order to rejuvenate the power sector there, they had made a calculation. The calculation is that over the years they would be getting an opportunity to exploit at least 40 per cent of the nuclear energy sector here in India.

15.00 hrs.

And it will create employment to the extent of 2,70,000 and that will be to the extent of 20 billion dollars of trade. So, this is one of the major interests to revive the ailing nuclear sector in America and politically, they want to just have a new policy framework to get India with its known concept of alignment against the contentments of China. So, these are the two goals before America, that is, economic interest to rejuvenate the ailing nuclear sector there and politically, an ally like India will be helpful for their long-term political strategy in Asia. In such a scenario, I do not disagree that, is there is any opportunity still, for a country like India, to have access to technology to broaden its nuclear energy potential, this should be utilized. I am not against it. But ultimately, is it going to be like that? These are the concerns. These concerns were raised and the hon. Prime Minister had given an assurance. What was that assurance? The assurance was nothing short of commitments like full, complete and irreversible civil nuclear cooperation. But we find that, although he had assured the House on removal of restrictions on all aspects of cooperation and technology transfer pertaining to (i) supply of nuclear fuel (ii) nuclear reactor, and (iii) reprocessing of spent fuel and other aspects. But what do we find in the law? We find that only import of nuclear fuel, only import of nuclear reactors and no reprocessing of fuel. This is the major concern.

The political parties have expressed their concerns. The scientists have expressed their concerns and earlier also, the hon. Prime Minister had met the Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission along with retired nuclear

scientists of nuclear establishments and given them an assurance. They have again expressed their concern that there has been a shift of goal posts. In spite of the assurance of the Prime Minister to the nation, to the House and to the nuclear scientists, nothing like that has happened. As regards the parameters, the international nuclear community, the reciprocity and all these things, we find that there is a serious violation with regard to the assurance given.

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

15.04 hrs.

Now, our question is on violation with regard to the full cycle and the full nuclear civil cooperation, with regard to reciprocity and the IAEA safeguards. It has been mentioned by the Leader of the Opposition and it was stated that although we are a nuclear weapon State, we are still not a signatory of the NPT. In such a situation, the country's specific safeguards in this matter should be taken up. Accordingly, it was stated that the separation plan was so visualized that our strategic programme separated, our civil nuclear programme which was put by phases will be opened up for these inspections and all these things. There too, it has been clearly stated that no third party inspection will be there. Our Prime Minister said that American inspectors roaming around our nuclear plants will not be tolerated. But now, do find that it has not happened. The Prime Minister may again explain regarding all their nuclear restrictions not being withdrawn, India's specific safeguards and commitments not being honoured.

On certification clause, it has been said that there is a cosmetic change. The word has changed as reporting.

Now, the "annual certification" is continuing. It may be non-binding. What did the Prime Minister say at that time on the floor of the House? It is contrary to the letter and spirit of the July Statement. It is a temporary waiver. Every year a certification, "a good certificate" is needed. He has stated that the overall perspective planning of the energy sector, particularly the nuclear energy sector will be in serious difficulty and it will diminish the permanent waiver clause. It will be annual one and not a permanent one. There is an element of uncertainty. We know and we have the experience of Tarapur. Suddenly supply was disrupted. Earlier the situation was different. If the supply was not there, we could go somewhere else. Now, in such a situation, a new clause

has been added. Even if it is a case of market failure, there is no mention of "termination". If it is unilaterally terminated, where will we go? Earlier one was that the person will arrange a meeting with friendly countries. Now, because I am terminated no other country in NSG will be allowed to supply the fuel. What will happen to our nuclear programme? What will happen to our long-term nuclear energy interests? It is not acceptable. The Prime Minister said that the element of uncertainty regarding the future cooperation is not acceptable. But we find that it is continuing. It is very much there. How will the nation look at the 123 Agreement? It is easy to say that it is not binding on us and that it is their domestic law. But we cannot ignore it. It may be said that the reporting clause was already there. It may be said that in 2002 the BJP was in power and that at that time the Government of India did not know it, etc. I am not going into it. It has been continued in the Hyde Act. I do not have time. Otherwise, I would have quoted what has come out in the Press, that the 2002 Act has crept into the present Act. It was already existing. The Government of India did not know. The BJP was in the government at that time.

What has been stated as status of India? It is said, "India is a advanced Nuclear Technology State." It may be very difficult to say "Nuclear Weapon State" because there are non-proliferation issues and there are non-proliferation lobbies. I understand that. I am not very fuzzy about the nomenclature or about a particular word being used or a particular expression being used. So, it was agreed that India is a State with Advanced Nuclear Technology, enjoying the rights and benefits of other States with Advanced Nuclear Technology, such as the US. But we are not equal partners. We are at the receiving end. How can we accept that? The Prime Minister had assured the nation on 17th August and subsequently also this, when my Party had submitted a note for consideration that all the nine points be addressed. But we do find that there is a deviation; there is a shifting of goal posts. We find that when he said that these provisions were unacceptable, these provisions were existing. They have not been removed. The restrictive clauses are there. There is a denial of technology and dual use of technology. Dual use of technology is not simple that from the civilian technology you can surreptitiously go in for nuclear technologies and for the strategic programmes.

Our scientists are disheartened. Our nuclear establishment is unhappy as to what will happen for the

[Shri Rupchand Pal]

micro-material management and all these things where these nuclear technologies and the dual use are essential. We are proud that our scientists have achieved a level and are compared to the best in the world. In such areas, they are denied in every stage to proceed further. It is very unfortunate. The scientists' establishment and the nuclear scientists in particular are very unhappy. *...(Interruptions)* If it is found that for some plea or other, it has happened that we have a minimum nuclear deterrent and we have our nuclear policy and we have our policy of three-stage management of the nuclear programme, we do find that at the three stages it has been emphasized that if we have to have long-term security, we have to go in for the thorium-based and if we have to pass from the uranium to the plutonium to the thorium stage of which we have abundant resources, we do find that it is being denied.

The reprocessing is being denied and the reserve is denied for any event that may be undertaken for the strategic programme. Even when you have a great reserve, what to do with that? We will be in serious difficulty with the spent fuel. Again, there is a clause. The hon. Prime Minister may assure us as to what steps he proposes to take when all these concrete cases on which he has given the assurance on the floor of the House are being violated?

Sir, on the very specific issues which are raised and on which he has stated that India cannot compromise—on the issue of Iran—he had bluntly told them that regime change India does not accept it and does not approve of it. So, on the issue of Iran he has mentioned it. But he was mentioning to the hon. Leader of the Opposition 15 times, if not more, for several times, Iran has been mentioned that India has to do that and they have to toe the American line, congruent of their foreign policy even in respect of their sovereign rights to go for nuclear programmes for civilian and peaceful purposes. How can a country which is committed to for independent foreign policy can subjugate its foreign policy to such an extent? What is the reply? The hon. Prime Minister should reassure this House that he sticks to his commitment, he sticks to his assurance as given on the 17th August on the floor of this House, to the Parliament and from the Parliament to the nation. This is the minimum requirement.

Now, I come to strategic research, about the inspectors, about the safeguards clause, about the nuclear State's status and here we find that modified protocol is being applied to India, which is applied to non-nuclear

NPT signatories. Although different things were assured, but something different is being done. The Government says that after all it is a domestic clause. Let us wait. But Mr. Nicholas Burns says that commensurate with the commitment made in the July statement and the 2nd March Separation Plan, everything has been done and nothing remains to be done. When he was leaving India, he made this observation. Whom to believe? Of course, we must believe what the hon. Prime Minister has said. We must believe what the hon. Minister of External Affairs has said. *...(Interruptions)*

Sir, I am concluding. About the moratorium on production of Fissile material. *...(Interruptions)* India is willing to join only non-discriminatory multilaterally negotiated and internationally verifiable FMCT as and when concluded in the Conference which is proceeded by the security interests is fully addressed. What do they say? The Government has reiterated its commitment to Rajiv Gandhi Action plan, Universal Nuclear Disarmament. What is the reality? We want to know about it. The Government said; "We do not accept regional Non-Proliferation, Regional Disarmament. *...(Interruptions)* What is happening?

MR. SPEAKER: Your time is over. Please conclude.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: I am concluding by making only two or three sentences.

South-East Asian Disarmament Plan is there. Japan, India and some other country will be brought with America's effort. It is non-acceptable to the Government of India. It was repeatedly stated. But again and again it is coming up. Further, the Government said: "We are not prepared to go beyond the unilateral voluntary moratorium and nuclear testing." The Government owes to the nation as to what is their current position. I believe that it will stick to the assurances given.

I am concluding by making one point. The Hyde Act is unacceptable. It is violative of the assurances given by the hon. Prime Minister on the floor of the House. It is violative of the basic interests. It does not serve our long-term nuclear energy interest. It affects our sovereign, autonomous nuclear programme. It tries to bind us with its own foreign policy and philosophy at the cost of our independent foreign policy. It is unacceptable. I believe that the Prime Minister will re-assure the country through this Parliament that the Prime Minister and the Government would stick to its own position of 17th August

assurances given. There should not be any violation by anyone, by any Act.

With these words, I conclude.

SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR (Aurangabad, Bihar): Sir, I rise to support the deal between the United States and India which is commonly referred to as the nuclear deal.

I was hearing the hon. Leader of the Opposition with rapt attention. I must confess my feeling about it. I was disappointed by his performance. I will begin by making a reference to what the Leader of the Opposition had mentioned about India not being a Nuclear Weapon State. He quoted from a letter of Ms. Condoleezza Rice in which she had attempted to justify how India is not a Nuclear Weapon State. We are not squabbling over the etymology. What we want to know is where there is an understanding of a position which is *de jure* and a position which is *de facto*. The *de jure* position is governed by a decision taken with reference to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty that was signed in 1968. Those who are signatories to this Treaty can alone qualify to be a Nuclear Weapon State. But it does not mean that those who are not signatories to this Treaty cannot be treated as a Nuclear Weapon State. What is necessary to understand here is that India has acquired nuclear weapons capability. It is this which makes it *de facto* Nuclear Weapon State.

This Bill then grants to India *de facto* recognition as a Nuclear Weapon State, even though, I repeat, it is not a signatory to the NPT. What is more important is that this Bill does not require India to sign the NPT. This is a remarkable achievement in itself. More importantly, the US will not deny civil nuclear technology to India and will instead favour applying the IAEA safeguards to only such nuclear facilities that are meant for purely civilian purpose.

India can now import uranium, the shortage of which has stalled our reactor programmes and has stunted our nuclear development.

Sir, having said this, I would also like to mention here that this Bill would ensure that India gets its required supply of fuel and nuclear technology for both its present and future nuclear reactors. Another point that the hon. Leader of the Opposition had mentioned was that there was an attempt in the Hyde Act to cap our nuclear weapons programme. I must make it clear – I have seen the Hyde Act myself also – that there is nothing in the Hyde Act which attempts to cap India's nuclear weapons

programme. In fact, at the heart of this US legislation is something very significant which is a permanent waiver granted by the US Administration from applying the provisions of the US Atomic Energy Act to India and thereby permitting civilian nuclear energy cooperation between the two countries. There are three waivers and these are:

1. The requirement that the partner country should not have exploded a nuclear explosive device.

India has exploded it not once, but twice.

2. The requirement of that country having all its nuclear facilities under safeguards, that is, full scope safeguards.

India is not going to be covered by this. The only safeguard that we are opening our facilities to are those which are meant for civilian use.

The third one is important and this will meet the objections raised by the Leader of the Opposition.

3. The requirement that the country does not have any active nuclear weapons programme involving development and production of nuclear weapons.

Now, if these are the waivers that have been build into the Hyde Act, where is the question of capping our nuclear weapons programme? Where is the question of subjecting our nuclear weapons programme to the US supervision? Where is the question of reporting our progress in our nuclear programme to the US? I think, the attempt that was made by the hon. Leader of the Opposition in his speech was to mainly confuse the issue and we should be careful that we are not confused. This is a remarkable achievement of the UPA Government that it has brought about a strategic partnership with the United States of America which signal the end of a 30 year wait for us to be recognized as a nuclear power. I think this is a tremendous achievement. We should compliment the UPA Government on this success, we should compliment the Prime Minister, we should compliment the Chairperson of the UPA and we must also acknowledge the fact that this deals has been possible only because of the almost single-minded devotion of the US President.

Sir, we are already being hailed as an emerging power. This deal will help us graduate to the big league.

[Shri Nikhil Kumar]

When I talk of the big league, it is not a big league only of national which are militarily strong. We are aiming to become a super power because we want to become a knowledge power and we want to combine the knowledge power with economic might.

But at the same time, we are conscious of the fact that we want to deter people from viewing us with this favour and it is because of this that we need to build our country, to build our nation to make it a self-reliant nation. That is why, the UPA Government' six flagship programmes are all devoted to, targeted to Bharat Nirman, the building of this nation. These six programmes will include road connectivity, especially through a programme of rural road construction, provision of rural irrigation, rural electrification, rural health care, all these aim to secure for us the status of self-reliant nation.

This nation building is our earnest aim and we shall achieve it. But to achieve it, we need, among other things, to develop our own power and we are exploring its various options to achieve this power. As the hon. Minister of External Affairs had mentioned in his *suo motu* Statement on 12th December, we are exploring several energy options, like clean coal technologies, exploitation of coal bed methane and gas hydrate, wind solar power and hydro and hygro energy.

There is also this little thing about nuclear power. There are obvious benefits of nuclear power. It is cheap. It is non-polluting and it has scope for multiple-usage. We are using it already. But this is extremely in a limited way. So, it is only three per cent of our total energy utilization. We would like to make greater use of energy, nuclear energy and we have set ourselves certain targets. We wish to be in a position to generate up to 30,000 MW by the year 2022 and 63,000 MW by the year 2064.

But our capability is restricted. It is restricted because of limited availability of indigenous uranium. We would like to get it from abroad. But access to that is also limited, in fact, it is not limited, it is restricted because of the prohibitive international regime. We want to get rid of this prohibitive international regime. Had we got access to uranium earlier, we would have been able to achieve our targets fixed many years ago, some decades ago of 1 lakh MW of power generation. We could not do it only because we have not had the access to uranium. We,

therefore, have to look for means of acquiring nuclear fuel and ensure also its assured supply. It is in this context that this Deal with United States becomes significant.

Sir, the development also needs to be seen in its proper perspective as to how we have been able to reach this agreement with the United States. For over 40 years, starting with Pandit Nehru, the successive Government in India have consistently advocated the elimination of nuclear weapons. We have consistently supported the CTBT, but we did not sign it. We did not sign it only because we found it to be discriminatory and even while we considered it discriminatory and did not sign it, we kept supporting it.

Later, in 1968 when the NPT came, we again kept away from it because it too was discriminatory. We refused to succumb to pressure exerted on us mainly by countries like the United States to sign it. It is because of this that the United States has consistently being hostile to us on this issue. It had applied sanctions to us in the 1970s and as you know even after 1998, it did so.

When we had the United States so hostile to us, suddenly what has happened that it has got to this turn around? It has had a change of hearts. It indicates a rethink on its part. It could be because the United States has come to realize that India has acquired nuclear capability.

It has done so entirely on its own without recourse to any underhand tactics and without reverting to theft or pilferage of nuclear technology. Our nuclear programme is, therefore, clean. Though we may not have signed the NPT, we are *de facto* a nuclear weapon State. Having acquired this capability, the United States is of the opinion, that we cannot give it up. Over the past 30 years, the US had been trying to browbeat India into changing its stand and they failed to do. That is why, they thought that they should join hands with India. It has also been influenced by the fact that India's growing economic clout on economy is known all over the world, also its steadily rise in growth rate, its fertile ground for foreign investment and its undisputed pre-eminence in the field of information technology. This was acknowledged when the Chinese Prime Minister had come four years ago and had made a famous statement, "China's hardware and India's software can create wonders for the world". This was something which was repeated when recently the Chinese President was in the country on a visit.

We have our Bangalore and Hyderabad being touted as IT capitals. These are progress indicators which none can afford to ignore. The US has not ignored it. Way back in 1991, our foreign exchange reserves had fallen to a position where it was for just 14 days. Then came a turnaround. The then Finance Minister opened up India's economy, liberalized it, brought in investments, and today we are now considered in the world over as an emerging economic power because of what I just now mentioned, its growth rate and foreign investment potential.

Much the same thing is going to happen in respect of this deal. We are opening up India to enormous possibilities because of the access to nuclear power, and posterity will tell us, will hold us responsible and will give us credit for ushering in this deal, and therefore, I have the privilege to speak on this issue because this is an issue which will in due course turnaround and transform India.

Here, I would like to mention why a historic and far reaching strategic partnership brings to an end the US' long standing policy of not being friendly towards India. It acknowledges openly India's status as a legitimate nuclear power. In signing this deal, let us also be clear that this is an arms control or a limitation deal. Our strategic programmes remain unaffected. The hon. Leader of the Opposition had mentioned about capping it. I have gone through the Hyde Act. There is nothing in it, there is absolutely nothing in the Hyde Act which leads us to cap our nuclear weapons programme. On the other hand, no doubt there is a mention in the Conference Report that was held to reconcile the differences between the US House of Representatives and the Senate that the conferences understand that the US Peaceful Nuclear Cooperation with India is not intended to inhibit India's nuclear weapons programme. This should make it clear that the Hyde Act has nothing in it that asks to cap our nuclear weapons programme. We are at liberty to pursue it as we feel.

There was a reference made also to the opinions expressed by our nuclear scientists.

Apparently, the opinion expressed by the nuclear scientists is only an expectation, a hope, a wish and a desire. We will be in a position to assure them that their

wish, their expectation, their hope and their desire will be fulfilled. There is nothing that is going to interfere with India's independent pursuit of its Nuclear Policy.

Sir, there is a reference, therefore, by some people, some critics who say that the law says: "If India carries out a nuclear test in future, there will be complete cessation of Civil Nuclear Energy Cooperation, and this amount to placing a limitation on our nuclear weapons programme.

Sir, here, I would take you back to India's Nuclear Policy from the times of Jawaharlal Nehru. We have consistently followed the principled policy of condemning nuclear proliferation; we have consistently, in a principled way, sought nuclear non-proliferation; we have consistently asked the Nuclear Powers to dismantle their nuclear arsenal as a precondition to signing the Nuclear Proliferation. Even earlier, during the days of CTBT, this was our stand. We have consistently been against the proliferation of nuclear arms and weapons. On the other hand, even after acquiring the nuclear capability ourselves – and this has to be understood, it is very significant – we have ourselves voluntarily expressed a moratorium on our tests. And, it is this that we have made very clear to the United States Administration that we will go thus far and no farther and we shall stick to it.

Sir, the law that has been passed by the US Senate and the US Congress has been passed by a sovereign body; it is as sovereign as any legislature anywhere in the world, and we are as sovereign as any one else. Here, we can pass any law, but can we expect our law to be binding on the United States or on any other country? We are sovereign nations. The law passed by them is binding on them; it is not binding on us. We shall reserve to ourselves the right to pursue our Foreign Policy, our weapons programme as we think proper; and if we decide today that whatever has been mentioned in the Hyde Act is unacceptable to us, there is still the 123 Agreement left. We shall sign it only after negotiating; and negotiations will see to it that all rough edges are smoothed out; and we are in a position to accept only that, which is consistent with and commensurate with our national interest.

There is this misunderstanding going around that the Hyde Act is applicable to us. I must make it very clear that the Hyde Act is not applicable to us; it is applicable

[Shri Nikhil Kumar]

to the United States. We reserve to ourselves our sovereign right to react to whatever provisions it contains. The hon. Leader of the Opposition was reading from a prepared text, in which it was said that: we should guard ourselves from being driven into a corner.' There is no question of being driven into a corner; there is no corner here. It is a question of United States exercising its own sovereign rights to pass a legislation. We have our own sovereign right to do whatever we think, is in our sovereign interest. If we do not find anything in keeping with our interest, it is up to us to say 'yes' or 'no'. This, therefore, is something we must understand, we must accept that India's sovereignty is not going to be affected by whatever law, the United States Passes. But 'yes', you must also understand that there has been a honest and sincere attempt on the part of the United States to accommodate our concerns, to adjust to whatever we have been saying. And, the finished product, so far, gives us, the impression and confidence in the ability of the United States Administration to cater for our doubts, cater for whatever clarification we need to be adjusted, to be accepted; and we should look forward to that.

We should look forward to that, instead of quibbling over little things here, quibbling over little etymology and quibbling over the provisions which are incidentally recommendatory and are not binding on us. We should only see this Bill in its proper perspective. But here is a country, the United States, which, for 30 years, was hostile to us. Today, it has turned around and the same country is reaching out to us for an alliance, for a deal and this deal promises so much for both of us.

The United States has done so by passing these three waivers. One of the points that these waivers will also cover is about the moratorium on fissile material production. There is a reference in the Hyde Act to this. But once again there are different Sections in the Hyde Act. One Section is recommendatory and this provision is in the recommendatory part of the Hyde Act. It only calls upon the administration to persuade India to accept moratorium on fissile material production. This is only recommendatory in character and it is not a pre-condition. I repeat that it is not a condition for the civil nuclear energy co-operation that is envisaged under the legislation. However, on our own, I must also say we remain committed to negotiate a Multi-lateral Fissile Material Production Cut Off Treaty.

In the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva, we have taken a position that such a treaty must be both

non-discriminatory as well as internationally and effectively verifiable. I do not think there should be any cause for any kind of apprehension, any kind of doubt over the production of fissile material. The United States itself has accepted the fact that: "This waiver will be necessary because India will presumably continue to produce fissile material for its nuclear weapons programme." Now, there cannot be something clearer, more specific than this. If we are still unable to see this, then I think there is something wrong somewhere.

Allied with this is also another point. That is commonly being raised by critics. It says that we are required to report to the United States' President about our own programme. Let us be clear this reporting is not to be done by us. This is not requirement that is being imposed on us. This is a requirement that the United States' law has cast on its own administration and incidentally this report is not specific to India. This report is something that the United States' law provides for in different contexts, and is being followed on a regular basis. We may not be aware of it, but this is so.

But I know that the United States administration has been furnishing reports on our nuclear programme much like what we would do about other countries something that is within our sovereign right. This happens to be within their sovereign right. If they do so, it is up to them. There is no responsibility cast on India. There is no obligation cast on India to furnish any kind of report to the United States President or the United States administration. This criticism therefore, is totally invalid. It is totally misplaced.

It is a fact that this Bill has to go through but there has been much uncertainty. I would say this uncertainty is because of criticism about the United States. Let us note that there has been tremendous criticism of the United States within and outside the US for entering into this deal with India. The Americans are being accused of going against the grain of proliferation of nuclear weapons. The philosophy of nuclear proliferation, they feel, has been violated by the Americans and it is this that President Bush has to explain to his own people. Not only to his own people but also to the whole world because there were so many statements made by countries as to how can a country like India which was never a signatory to the NPT be accepted today as a nuclear weapons State.

I think this is a remarkable achievement and this remarkable achievement needs to be applauded. I very

humbly submit that this euphoria about which the hon. Leader of the Opposition spoke in the beginning was very justified. But the fact still is that this Act, in itself, is not the final Act. It is not the finality of the relationship between the United States and India over the question of this nuclear deal. We still have to negotiate an agreement. It is this agreement which has been enabled by this law. This law was necessary to enable an agreement to be reached between the United States and India and we look forward to negotiations with the United States to reach this agreement. When that agreement is reached, we will be in a position to say as to how much we have been compromised or how much we had gained. But there is no doubt about it that so far, whatever we have achieved is a remarkable thing and we must applaud this and we must say that this is historic and it is justified.

There is another criticism. This is about the requirement for acceptance of perpetual safeguards on US supply materials. There is also a mention that we will not be in a position to re-use the spent fuel. The acceptance of perpetual safeguards has to be seen along with the assurance of uninterrupted fuel supply. We are also being given the right to build our own strategic supplies for the lifetime of each operating reactor. This is another important achievement. We reserve to ourselves the right to take corrective measures if and when they be required.

Can there be a greater assertion of a nation's sovereignty than this? It is this that has to be seen in its proper light, in its proper perspective. We have reserved to ourselves the right to function as a sovereign nation and we shall do so. There is no denying it.

The final point is this. I was talking about the development plans, about Bharat Nirman, about the flagship programmes of the UPA Government. We need nuclear power. We need nuclear power for so many things. In assessing our requirements of nuclear power, I am today reminded of the vision of late Shri Homi Bhabha. He had, way back in the 1950s, envisioned a nuclear programme which was to be in three stages. The first stage was of a uranium based nuclear reactor. The second stage was of a plutonium-based reactor and it was in the third stage that it was supposed to take off. We have all along been true to that vision in respect of developing nuclear power for civilian purposes and even as we have been doing so, we have kept very clearly our focus on our strategic programmes.

Therefore, when I said finally, I want to mention that the safeguards that have been given to us or rather we have been requirement to subject ourselves to, are only meant for the 14 civilian nuclear reactors. They are not meant for the eight which are to be used for our strategic purposes. This is an important point that has to be understood. It is included in the separation plan that we had agreed upon in the United States.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Prime Minister will intervene at 4 p.m.

SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR: Unless this separation plan works, if it had not been agreed upon, we would not have been in a position today go around saying that this is an achievement of UPA Government. We have done it. We have clearly told the whole world that we have a nuclear programme, we have a weapons programme, and you will not be in a position to inspect our nuclear weapons programme. It is ours, it shall remain our and it will not be open or subject to any kind of safeguards. It is this that marks out this deal. We must not lose sight of the fact that this is a tremendous achievement and for this I applaud the UPA Government. I give my heartiest congratulations to the hon. Prime Minister. I give my heartiest congratulations to the Chairperson of the UPA and also I commend the role played by the President of the United States, Mr. Bush in reaching this agreement.

[Translation]

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA (Kheri): Mr. Speaker Sir, I am grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to take part in the ongoing debate on nuclear agreement between India and America. Today a very important point is being discussed. The entire nation has all ears to this debate. Hon. Prime Minister had given a statement in this regard on 29th of July, 2005. After that the facts coming to light are that India needs energy for development and this agreement is essential for coming out of energy crisis. This fact also came to the fore that Hon. Prime Minister had himself acknowledged that efforts would be made to create consensus on this issue in the country and only after that any further action will be taken. You as well as we are listening to the members of the House and it is clear that the House is not unanimous on this issue.

There cannot be two opinions in this regard that energy requirements of India are important but it seems that India is changing its track. India has led the non-

[Shri Ravi Prakash Verma]

aligned movement for a long time and showed the whole world how self reliance is acquired with self-respect. The word has been a witness for long as to how a power centre is created by increasing cooperation among small nations. As the world has become unipolar and there is a race among all the nations to become supreme. Who will not like to be with the boss? In this context I want to tell NDA that even they can't be absolved.

When hon. Atal Bihari Vajpayee was the Prime-Minister, we had witnessed the talks of making India a pro-American State. The entire nation has been witness to the fact that India tilted towards America on Iraq-Iran issue keeping aside the age-old friendship. More or less, the situation is same at present also. UPA Govt. also is following the same path which is a matter of grave concern. Today India is emerging as a powerful nation and it is not on the mercy of any other nation. This is the strength of Indian scientists, farmers, traders, managers and all the responsible people of the country who are working harmoniously. I had submitted earlier in the meeting that treaty and friendship is good between equals, there can be no friendship between a mouse and a cat. In such cases only vested interests of powerful party are served. As Mr. Pal was saying that this treaty between the two countries is not above board. American nuclear industry was in trouble; there were problems in facing it. This has been done to rejuvenate it. Hon'ble Prime Minister shall have reply to this question.

Once I had said in this House that the biggest strength of India lies in its geo-strategic location. The house and the country are aware how the big powers of the world used to create problems and compete with one another to increase their influence in the Indian Ocean. We have forgotten this strength. The expanding Indian market is the biggest strength of India. It would have made a big difference had the industrialists, the capitalistic powers of the entire world vied with one another for this market and we would have been in a better position to take decisions and conclude agreements by virtue of this strength. Our strength is the strength of democracy. The democracy of India has continued to function properly even in the adverse circumstances. Today we have shown beacon light to the entire world in this field. This was our strength and we should have capitalized on it. The projected 10 per cent economic growth of India is our strength. Today India has a strong technical base and the way technology is developing here it can boast of the largest technical pool of the world. According to different surveys, majority of the population of the world

will grow older and there will be no younger people to work there, but there will be no such problem in India. India is having the largest younger population. The technocrats, managers, engineers, economists, politicians and people from all other fields will be the youngest people in the entire world. This is our strength and any talk should be held on this basis. The circumstances under which this decision was taken should be clarified before the country. Who does not know about the American diplomacy that they are literally ruling the world.

Recently we read in newspapers that America is making a personal trade block. Why America is forming this trade block, its intentions are any body's guess? This is a new type of colonialism which is coming before us in a new form. Do we and our entire democratic power reply in the same manner as is being done right now? This is not the proper way. There are plenty of talent conditions, resources in this young country through which we can guide the entire world. Today we have the opportunity to ponder over it.

So far as the nuclear deal is concerned my preceding speakers said many things in favour and against it but it appears to me that it will be necessary for this government and our hon'ble Prime Minister to take all the secular people of this country especially the minorities into confidence at a point when efforts are being made to evolve a consensus on this issue. Recently, we saw how America pushed the countries like Iran, Iraq and Afganistan into miserable plight and at what cost? It took such action to establish its monopoly and exercise control over middle east. It was said that Iraq has atomic weapons, but even after destroying Iraq no atomic weapon could be recovered. Americans are using UNO as they like. What are the plan with the help of which we are going to protect the pride of India? Had America taken a single step to remove the differences, distances and political blocks between India and Pakistan and to unite south-east Asia nobody would have harboured any doubt about them. Earlier we have also seen that whenever India took any meaningful step, America supplied arms to Pakistan. Recently American Senate cleared the supply of best fighter planes to Pakistan. Have we lost sight of all this? I do not think that this should be over looked. Today America claims to wipe out terrorism from the entire world. Earlier they used to turn a deaf ear to all but after the incident of September 9, they have understood that it is a big problem. But the manner and style of their functioning are not aimed at ending terrorism

but to establish a kind of hegemony. They think that who soever stands by them should dispense with their hegemony and live under the fear of their power and technology – this is not the way. Hence, the hon'ble Prime Minister must explain it. Today America needs the best talents, technical talents and managerial talents of India. Through this House, I want to remind that the labourers of India, who went to Fiji, Mauritius and other countries as girmitya labourers, built those nations. We have seen what happened to the WTO, when the question of labour came before it. If India has the technology, it has also the world class labour.

16.00 hrs.

Nobody needs it. After all why our entire diplomacy and our strength could not secure good position for the labourers of our country. Whether America will provide any kind of help in this regard? The country wants reply from him on this issue.

Recently we read in newspapers about a statement issued by China that it is rising. It will have long term diplomatic consequences. Lest India is being used to contain the political, economic rise of China. We go abroad as the members of Parliamentary delegation. Several representatives of south-east Asian zone to protect its sovereignty? I want to ask him the same question. Shall we secure it through the atomic deal concluded with America? It appears to me that as America is using Israel in the middle east Similarly time has come when we may have to work as the pet agent of America in the South-East Asia. It is a serious apprehension and it must be clarified.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I, conclude in just two minutes because it is a very serious matter and that is why I would like to speak a little more.

India is a growing market. Growth rate of Indian economy is touching double digits. For this, I would like to congratulate the Government for taking some wise decisions. But the newspapers say that this a one-dimensional growth. Primary and secondary sectors are not experiencing any growth. Growth is taking place only in the services sector. America desires to take benefit of this growth to make a breakthrough in the country's market. Multi-national companies such as Walmart want to operate in India. Recently, I got to know that it has signed an agreement with Bharti in order to enter the Indian market. America does not allow outsourcing in such

sectors. It is on outsourcing terms with countries like Brazil, Argentina, Latin America, Venezuela etc. in sectors like food, textiles and electronics, etc. Will America help us in this matter as well? Would this agreement help us create an atmosphere of growth which would enable us to open food processing units in each village in the country? All consumer items should be outsourced from villages in the country and the turnover of each village should cross two or three crore rupees. The people of India would like to know if America is ready to help us technically, ideologically and materially.

A few more clarifications need to be made with regard to this agreement. Nuclear co-operation is just a beginning. From what I have read about it, I understand that we had to make this nuclear deal with America in order to meet our energy requirements. The fact is that the American Senate has made crucial changes in the agreement details finalized here and thereby in the proposal as it had been envisaged by us. And this is just the beginning. I know that the electronic media and the country works under pressure to the consumer market. I am sure that all hon'ble Members would agree that the print media and the electronic media do not place the unvarnished truth before the people. They act under pressure of the consumer market. Facts and people are presented and promoted in the manner the market dictates. It is my apprehension that the print and electronic media are twisting the presentation of India's interest in such a way that India would end up endorsing the American perspective of truth instead of its own.

I have asked many people to name their ultimate ambition. They say that they want to migrate to America after completing their studies and to settle there. It is their wish. They can live where they want to. But we should give a thought to where we are going to end up if we continue down this path. As Roop Chand Pal Saheb was saying there is no reciprocity in this relationship. It is a one-way traffic. A musclemans is dictating to us and we are bowing to his diktat under pressure. It is a harsh fact and we have to acknowledge it.

We have always had an independent foreign policy. It is a result of following such a policy that India is emerging as a major power among the countries that are part of the Indian Ocean belt and each Indian should be proud of the fact.

The previous speaker was saying that India has many alternative energy resources. We have hydel-power.

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Power can be generated through ocean waters and through wind energy. We have many such resources. Hence, we should reconsider the ways in which the nation can progress so that every Indian feels proud of his country. His Excellency, the President has said many times that India will be counted amongst the developed countries by 2020 and it would not need anyone's support to achieve this. It will achieve this through its own efforts. I thank you for giving me time to speak.

[English]

THE PRIME MINISTER (DR. MANMOHAN SINGH):

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am grateful for this opportunity to intervene in this debate on an issue of high national importance. I pay my tribute to Members who have participated in these discussions. This debate does credit to our democratic ethos and principles. The Hon. Leader of the Opposition has tried to paint a scary picture, which has no relation with the facts of the matter. In process, he has sought also to divide the UPA alliance in the expectation that perhaps he may succeed in toppling this Government. I can assure Shri Advani that he will have to wait for a very-very long time. In any case, he will have to seek the permission of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, in this debate, there are certain basic issues. What is it that we are trying to seek in this Civilian Nuclear Cooperation with the United States and other members of the international community. I would like to emphasize that this is programme about Civilian Nuclear Cooperation. We have never discussed with the United States or anybody else about the content and scope of our strategic programme and I gave assured the House before, and I repeat the assurance that our strategic programme will respond to our own decisions and will not be subjected to any international scrutiny of any country. I have also assured the House before that in going forward with this programme of Civilian Nuclear Cooperation, we will do nothing which will hurt the ability of our Department of Atomic Energy to pursue research and development; to pursue the development of Fast Breeder Reactors; and to pursue the complete three stage cycle programme from Uranium to Plutonium to Thorium. I can assure the House that I stand by that commitment.

Then, the question arises: why all this turmoil? It is certainly true that the Act that has been passed by the United States Congress has several features which are in our favour. The fact that the United States Government has gone to the US Congress to seek a waiver for India speaks volumes for India's recognition in the world community as a power to be reckoned with.

There are elements in the Act which we welcome and there are other elements which cause us concern. The United States Administration has assured us that they will be able to fully comply with their commitments as outlined in the July 18 Statement and the March 2 Separation Plan but whether this thing materializes or not will depend much upon the content of the 123 Bilateral Cooperation Agreement which we have to negotiate with the United States Government. I believe you can judge us from the content of that Agreement when the time comes. But right now, quite frankly, it is premature to pass the type of verdict that the Leader of the Opposition has sought to do.

Our primary concern has been the lifting of international restriction on international trade with India in nuclear materials, nuclear equipment, and nuclear technologies which has lasted for nearly 35 years. Our nuclear scientists have done us proud but it is also a fact that the nuclear programme which Dr. Bhabha had envisaged was intended to generate immense power. That objective has not been realized. I was a member of the Atomic Energy Commission and it was in the seventies that we had laid down the objective of 10,000 megawatts capacity. We are in the year 2006 and entering 2007. Our total capacity is only about 3600 megawatt. I am not saying that nuclear power is a panacea for all our ills on the energy front but the purpose of government intervention in the nations affairs must be to widen development options. I do believe that if you have access to international trade in nuclear technologies and equipment then it will widen our development options with regard to our energy supplies. That is the primary objective that we seek and that is the primary objective by which we should be judged. At the same time, of course, if, in the process we make compromises which hurt our national interest, if in the process we make compromises commitments which interfere with the pursuit of our national interest or the independence of our national foreign policy, the House can take legitimate exception and I would be the last one to plead to the House that we should live with an arrangement where India's foreign policy is made in Washington or any other place.

Therefore, I do believe that a sense of proportion is necessary in dealing with a sensitive matter which has a vital bearing on not only the future of development in our country but the future of our relations with major powers in the world.

I was in Japan three days ago and the amount of enthusiasm about India's development prospects that I

found in the Japanese government, in Japanese industry and trade, I have never seen before. I say with humility that it is partly the result of the recognition that has come our way. Despite the fact that we were till yesterday a pariah in the nuclear world, today we have acquired a place in the nuclear order which protects our essential interests. We must not, therefore, ignore the transformation that has come about in the world's view of India in the process of these nuclear negotiations.

Sir, as I was saying, the first important stage to cross was the waiver that has been granted by the US Congress to the US President. Despite the fact that we have a nuclear weapons programme the US is willing to co-operate with us in the development of our civilian nuclear capacities. That, itself I think, is a great advantage. We may not be considered a nuclear weapon state in the sense of the term in which the term is defined in the NPT. However, for all practical purposes we are being treated as such and this is a recognition which has come from the US, Russia, France, United Kingdom and many other countries are willing to recognize the reality that India is a nuclear weapon State. That this nuclear weapon programme will not be subjected to any extraneous, intrusive supervision or monitoring is a commitment which I gave on many occasions and I repeat that assurance. An important stage has been reached in the process of civil nuclear co-operation with the United State with the Passage of legislation by the US Congress with substantial bipartisan support. Shri Advani ridiculed that bipartisan support. I do not minimize its importance.

Shri Advani's Government was negotiating in secret with Mr. Strobe Talbot for umpteen number of months. They never had the courage to tell Parliament what they were negotiating. I have at every stage taken Parliament into confidence. After July 18, after March 02 and at every stage Parliament has been fully kept in the picture. This was not the case with the NDA. We do not know till this day what is it that Shri Jaswant Singh discussed with Strobe Talbot. We had to find out from Strobe Talbot's book that there was a promise to deliver India's signature on the CTBT by a particular date. If my friends in the NDA value the words of Mr. Strobe Talbot more than mine, he was shown on channel – a few days ago saying that he was opposed to this deal with India because it gave India too much. He said that if India were now to say that we reject it, then, he said, that would not be in India's interest. But what is in India's interest is not something to be determined by Mr. Talbot. It has to be determined by this Parliament and this

Government and we will not do anything behind the back of our country. We will keep the country fully informed of all these matters.

What has been passed basically is an enabling law in pursuance of the undertakings of the United States in the July Joint Statement that it would seek to adjust US laws and policies to achieve full civil nuclear cooperation with India. This Act is necessary for the United States to resume civil nuclear cooperation with India and is also an important step leading to the lifting of international restrictions currently applicable to India.

Let me say that we appreciate the efforts made by the US Administration and the bipartisan support in the US Congress which led to the passage of this legislation. This law has several positive features which take into account our concerns. However, I will be the last one to deny that there are areas which continue to be a cause for concern and we will need to discuss them with the US Administration before the bilateral cooperation agreement can be finalized.

What has been done enables the US Administration to enter into negotiations with us. The negotiations with India have yet to begin and the House has my assurance that the promises and the commitments I made in the House on earlier occasions, will form the basis of our guidelines for these negotiations.

Sir, the passage of the legislation enables the US Administration to follow up on another commitment made by the US in the July 18 Joint Statement, namely, approaching its international partners, particularly in the Nuclear Suppliers Group to lift restrictions to allow civil nuclear cooperation with India. We will seek to ensure that the Nuclear Suppliers Group takes action to permit full civil nuclear cooperation with India in terms acceptable to us.

India is interested in long-term, stable and predictable cooperation in civil nuclear energy with the United States and other members of the International community. Such a partnership with the United States can be facilitated if the legislation – its scope, content and implementation— were to strengthen the hands of the Administration to fulfill all the commitments agreed to by the US in the July 18 Joint Statement and the March 2 Separation Plan. On the other hand, this objective can be hindered by extraneous issues that were not part of the understandings in the July 18 Joint Statement and the March 2 Separation Plan. India will find it difficult to and cannot accept any

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conditions over and above those already agreed to in the understandings with the US. I have mentioned it earlier also.

Our strategic programme was outside the discussions that led to the July 18 Joint Statement. There was no discussion on our strategic programme, in the talks which culminated in the March 2 understandings. Our strategic programme will not be subject to external scrutiny or programme, in the talks which culminated in the March 2 understandings. Our strategic interference of any kind. So, Shri Advani does not have to worry about the future of the nuclear programme.

Safeguarding the autonomy of the strategic programme is a solemn duty of this Government. Nothing will be done that may compromise, dilute or cast a shadow on India's full autonomy in the management of its security and national interests. I repeat that no legislation of a foreign country can take away from us our sovereign right to conduct foreign relations, be it with Iran or with other countries, solely in accordance with our national interest.

The US, for its part has assured us that the legislation, as passed by the US Congress, will enable it to fulfill all its commitments *vis-a-vis* the July 18 Joint Statement and the March 2 Separation Plan. We feel clarifications are necessary because there are areas in the Act which cause us concern. Therefore, clarifications are necessary and will be sought from the US on how this will be done.

International negotiations are a complex process. We recognize that the outcomes are not entirely predictable nor always under our control but I do affirm that compromises, if any, cannot violate basic principles. I believe that any calculation of risks and opportunities will need to be done in a reasoned and transparent manner but evidently we cannot agree to anything that is not consistent with our vital national interests, including protecting the autonomy of our strategic programme, maintaining the integrity of the three-stage nuclear power programme and safeguarding indigenous R&D, including the Fast Breeder Programme. This will be our underlying approach—and here I am replying to Shri Rupchand Pal—when we negotiate the bilateral 123 Agreement, which will form the basis of our civil nuclear cooperation.

Looking back, though the July 18 Joint Statement and the March 2 Separation Plan involved complex issues, I believe, we were able to achieve outcomes that in no way compromised India's interests. In fact, there was wide public support when the issues were fully explained. This has been made possible using innovative and creative

approaches to these complex issues. There is, I believe, a large measure of support within the country in favour of breaking out of our isolation, and for joining the international mainstream in a manner that secures for India full civil nuclear cooperation with the international community while protecting our strategic programme, maintaining the integrity of our three-stage programme and indigenous R&D. This is the objective set out as far as the bilateral nuclear agreement is concerned.

Parliament has my solemn assurance that while the Government will make every effort so that the vision of the July statement becomes a reality, this objective will not be achieved at the cost of our vital national interests. Clearly, difficult negotiations lie ahead. Our broad approach and expectations of these negotiations are a matter of public record. My August 17th 2006 Statement, dwelt at length on how India perceives the implementation of the July statement and the March Separation Plan. I stand by the commitments that I have made to Parliament.

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhunjharpur): Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, the House is discussing an issue of national and international import *viz.* The Indo-US Civil Nuclear Cooperation Agreement. The interjection by our Prime Minister has clarified a lot of points. The Hon'ble Leader of Opposition had raised some questions and mentioned a few apprehensions in this regard. In fact the commitment of the Government towards maintaining the sovereignty of the country had been questioned. It was even said that our nuclear strength does not match the stature and size of our country and that the interest of the country was not kept in mind while making the deal. Many things were said. Hence, our hon'ble Prime Minister has now made it clear that the national interest would not be compromised and foreign policy would never be dictated by the USA. I think this would have laid to rest the doubts of the hon'ble Leader of Opposition. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI HARIN PATHAK (Ahmedabad): Have your doubts been cleared? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please address the Chair.

16.31 hrs.

[SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH in the Chair]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YAVAV: This matter does not relate to treasury benches or the opposition. It

is a subject which has national importance. Even if your doubts are not resolved you cannot cast aspersions on the integrity of the Government. The hon'ble Prime Minister has the trust and faith of the entire country regarding the subject of nuclear agreement. Your line of thought may be slightly different. You may have difference of opinion but you cannot question the integrity of the government on matters of overall national interest and the most important national issue. The hon'ble Prime Minister had clarified his position on 17th August. He mentioned this today as well and on 11th December the hon'ble External Affairs Minister clearly said that the integrity and sovereignty of the country would be compromised in any manner. This is why I have said that to cast aspersions on the integrity of the action is unjustified. This is an international matter of concern as to what the country wants in this regard. Not only does the question of the country's economic growth hang on Indo-American civil nuclear cooperation but the answer to the power crisis being faced by the country also depends upon it. I am mentioning this because India has one lakh twenty four thousand megawatt electric power systems in place at present. Out of these, 55 percent of the power systems are coal based.

Hydel based power-systems are 26 percent, natural gas based power-systems are 10 percent and non-conventional like wind energy, solar energy based power systems are 5 percent. The nuclear energy based power systems are just 3 percent. Today there is a shortage of 8 percent power supply in India. During peak hours, in the evening and morning it is 12.5 percent. Today many lakhs of villages in India have no electricity. It is 11.7 percent in villages of Bihar. Our economy is progressing at the rate of 8 percent. I have raised this question because our country should have six or seven times more power than what it has today and only then we can meet the requirements of power in our country. Nuclear energy is the only alternative, particularly in the power sector. The country has no other alternative. Therefore, to meet the requirement of power in the country requires nuclear energy and it is the need of the hour. Hence, it is essential to promote nuclear energy in the general interests of our nation. It is essential for the requirements of our country and specially in the field of technology. There has been a shift in America's technological denial policy. Due to this policy our civil nuclear programme came almost to a standstill. But after this Indo-US civil nuclear agreement, our civil nuclear sector has got a new direction. This agreement will give a new dimension to India. This agreement is not limited to nuclear energy

but it would also boost trade sector also. Our country is a sovereign country. Hon'ble Prime Minister has just now categorically mentioned that our country cannot enter into an agreement against its general interests. He has further mentioned that we cannot enter into an agreement against our interests with any country, be it United States of America or any other imperialist country. We cannot bow down against any country; it is a matter of self-respect. Hon'ble Prime Minister has categorically reiterated that no country would have any right either to monitor or interfere with our nuclear plants.

Madam Chairperson, some scientists have expressed their concerns on this nuclear deal. I think hon'ble Prime Minister must think over the concerns expressed by the scientists. In order to address their concerns there should be a dialogue, if necessary, if with the scientists and their views and suggestions should be considered. I think that after addressing their concerns of the scientists we should discuss the rest of the matter. Therefore, the suggestions of our scientists must be considered.

Madam Chairperson, India and US have been viewing each other with suspicion and it was quite natural. Keeping in view the circumstances, but, today, the dialogue between India and us for nuclear cooperation is strengthening bilateral ties between the two countries. I think and believe that this agreement will strengthen the bilateral relations and enhance the trust between the two countries by eliminating lack of confidence. Therefore, I have submitted that if our scientists have expressed their apprehensions as well as concerns over this agreement, the nuclear policy of our country must not be allowed to impede that agreement. We have to ensure that this agreement will not do any harm to our strategic interests. We will keep our strategic programmes free from foreign scrutiny. We are not giving any right to any country to interfere with our strategic interests as hon'ble Prime Minister himself has categorically mentioned in his statement.

Madam Chairperson, hon'ble Prime Minister had assured both the Houses that his commitment should not be doubted and nobody is doubting that. The question of safeguarding the sovereignty of the country was raised but I do not think it is justified. A similar question was raised with regard to nuclear energy. I think these issues need not be raised. Today it is the requirement as well as demand of the country that nuclear energy of the country be increased because it is only 3 percent at

[Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav]

present and we will increase it further. There is a shortage of 8 percent and I think it needs to be increased further upto 5 to 6 percent and our country will progress. Everybody knows about our position in the energy and power sector. Hence, this nuclear agreement between India and USA is in favour of general interests of India. This agreement is no way an impediment to the general interests of India. Therefore, the hon'ble Prime Minister issued a statement on 17th August and the agreement dated 2nd of March is not against Indian interests and the Minister of External Affairs, on 11th December had December had clearly submitted in the House that he had been assured by the US administration that the legislation being discussed there would not go against the Indian interests. It has been clearly mentioned in that legislation that this legislation enables USA to fulfill all the commitments based on that agreement. This fact was mentioned in the statements dated 18th July and 2nd March. This legislation authorizes USA for civil nuclear cooperation with India in accordance with both the statements. We hope that the text of 123 agreement will reflect the statement dated 18th of July and the Separation scheme of 2nd March. There is no scope of any doubt with regard to those principles or this agreement. It is in the general interests of our country and it will ensure our country a place in the mainstream of international stage and I believe that we may not be a nuclear weapon state technically according to the definition but we will be part of international mainstream in the field of nuclear capacity. With these words, I conclude.

[English]

SHRI B. MAHTAB (Cuttack): Madam Chairman, at the outset, I should say there is a lot of confusion in our country about the significance and implications of the Bills passed in both the Houses of the US Congress. The hon. Minister of External Affairs has rightly said:

"Although the passage of any legislation is an internal matter of that country on which we would not otherwise comment..."

He has very rightly said so, But as those Bills concern us, there is a need to discuss them. The political opposition stems partly because of the ambiguities in the American legislation. Our Government also is at fault. Since last July, the Government has been saying that everything would be all right after the next stage. When it was before the Congress, we were told: 'wait till the Senate passes the Bill'. Then, when it went to the Senate,

we were told: 'let us wait for the 123 Agreement'. Today also we are being said that. Now, we are told to wait for the final product. The Government should tell us clearly as to which will be the final product and when it will come.

Madam, at present, when we are deliberating on the statement made by the Minister of External Affairs regarding the Indo-US Civil Nuclear Energy Cooperation, at least, for the first time, the word 'deal' has been deleted now and the word 'cooperation' has come in. Now we are told:

"The test of this process is for India to secure full civil nuclear cooperation with the international community while protecting our strategic programme and maintaining the integrity of our three-stage nuclear programme and indigenous research and development."

I would like to compliment the hon. Prime Minister that he has come out with full details quite convincingly. Yet I hope—and I only hope—the US, the 45 member Nuclear Suppliers Group and the International Atomic Energy Agency will allow the Government of India to do so. As far as I understand, there are still three more stages to cover. Here, I would also like to say that there is a need for a lot of maneuvering and steadfastness. Mr. Henry Elis had once said:

"All the art of living lies in a fine mingling of letting go and holding on."

We are aware that the US Constitution is basically different from our Parliamentary Constitution. Their legislative processes, their impact on the administration, and the responsibility of the Executive, which is the President of United States to conduct Foreign Policy on his own initiative, etc. are quite different than ours. I need not go into the details of that, but only thing which has already been told earlier was that this legislation is a domestic one of the US Congress, amending an earlier legislation which forbids the United States from having any civil-nuclear cooperation with any country, which is not a member of the NPT, such as India.

Now, this legislation authorizes the US administration to go in for negotiations and to enter into a civil-nuclear cooperation with us. At the same time, I need not repeat, that is not binding on us. It cannot be. But my question is whether that legislation is binding on the United States'

President or not. We would like to hear from the Government.

The Legislature of the United States has a different view. What will be the next step. Our national goal should be clear. It is to get ourselves free from the technology denial to which US had subjected us for more than four decades. The United States, in its own national interest, has decided that it should have India as a strategic partner if it is to maintain successfully its pre-eminence as a competitive and innovative power in a world of balance of power.

The US is keen to lift the technology apartheid *vis-a-vis* India. I would like to mention this here Mr. Bush will not be there after two years. There is no guarantee also that the UPA will be there at the crease for another term. In any agreement or deal, especially in a Parliamentary democracy, there is a need for inter-change of ideas. My impression is, that is lacking.

Repeatedly we are discussing this in the House. Utterances are being made. But I would request and I would urge upon the Government, why not take all political parties into confidence. Why not take other nuclear scientists into confidence? Why not take the thinking public of this country into confidence? I am saying this because we are going for a long-term agreement. We want good relations with the United States. People may say, it has become a uni-polar world. It is not so. My impression is that it is not so.

We have options today. At one point of time, after the Cold War, the option was before us and during that time, the leadership itself decided in its wisdom that we will keep away from both the super powers and this is how this non-Aligned Movement was started. Today, the options are many. The United States is not the only option. France is there, Russia is there, Japan is there, China is there, and you have ample options. So, better play your cards and protect the national interest.

There has been a U-turn in the United States' Policy towards India. The major powers of the world are known to carry out such U-turns in their policies as the US and China did in 1971, just after 18 years of a bloody war.

If the situation is changing in the global arena, we should take advantage of that. Today's polycentric world consists of a balance of power system and India's leadership had played successfully the balance of power

game in a bipolar world and it had given rise to non-aligned movement.

We should understand the support, the Hyde Bill got in the US Congress cutting across the party lines. Yes, India has to negotiate ... (*Interruptions*)

MADAM CHAIRMAN: You kindly conclude now.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): Madam, it is a very important matter. Please allow him to some more time. ... (*Interruptions*)

MADAM CHAIRMAN: He has already taken 10 minutes. Time limit is there.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Sir, they do want the Opposition to say what they want. ... (*Interruptions*)

MADAM CHAIRMAN: There are so many Members to speak on this discussion.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Madam Chairman, every time when a Member from the Opposition starts speaking, in every two minutes' time you are ringing the bell. ... (*Interruptions*)

MADAM CHAIRMAN: He has already taken 11 minutes.

... (*Interruptions*)

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Let him take his own time.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI B. MAHTAB: Madam Chairman, the US would like to get the Indian partnership at the lowest possible cost. If we are to get an optimum bargain, than we should increase our manoeuvrability, develop strategic partnership with Russia, European Union, Japan, and even China. But that can only be done if we throw away the shackles of the technology denial regime that we have been subjected to for over more than three and a half decades. ... (*Interruptions*)

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Kindly conclude now. You have already taken 12 minutes.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Madam, he will take some more time. The House can sit late and discuss this matter. ... (*Interruptions*)

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Please do not say like this to the Chair. There are many Members to speak on this. Let him conclude his speech now.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: We can sit beyond six o' clock also. Let him speak for some more time now. ... (*Interruptions*)

MADAM CHAIRMAN: This is not the way to speak to the Chair.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: It is very serious matter. We must have our say on this important matter. ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI B. MAHTAB: Madam, I would like to mention about interesting Report. It says:

"The US does not reprocesses its own spent fuel. Tens of thousands of tonnes of spent fuel has accumulated in the US.

"Just recently, the President Bush has announced a change of policy. He proposes to burn up all plutonium in newly designed proliferation-proof reactors to get rid of plutonium and also to enhance clean energy generation. This programme is called GENP and includes all major nuclear technology nations."

I would like to ask a question. I am told that India has also been invited to join it. I would like to know as to what is the position, and whether India has been asked to join in that or not. If that is so, the Government should express itself whether India has been invited or not. If it is so, what does this mean? What is its implication? I would also like to know whether India can reject the arrangement to get the technology ban lifted by the NSG and put its civilian reactors under India's specific IAEA safeguards if we do not find the final agreements arrived at are not in our national interest? Please say that in clear terms. We need a specific answer.

America is important to us. We too are important for the United States. The US is wooing us with with intensity. Do not be carried away. The primary job is to further our national interest and develop strategic partnership with the rest Five Major Powers.

Lastly, I would ask the opponents of the Indo-US Nuclear Cooperation that how they propose to meet the deficit of natural uranium that afflicts India's Civil Nuclear Power Programme? The shortage is not a matter of speculation.

The Mid-Term Appraisal Document of the Tenth Five Year Plan states this.

'In July, 2005, the former Chairman of the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board, Dr. A. Gopalakrishnan wrote in the *Economic and Political Weekly* :

"At present the DAE (Department of Atomic Energy) is beginning to face a serious shortage of natural uranium, even to fuel, the 18 pressurized heavy water reactors currently under operation or construction."

When this is the situation, what answer do you have ?

I conclude by saying that a beginning is being made. We are poised to break out 35 or 36 year old nuclear apartheid. A few steps still remain to be taken but are to be tread with caution. I remember what once Mark Twain had said:

"Age is an issue of mind over matter. If you do not mind, it does not matter."

With these few words, I conclude.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA (Panskura): Madam, Chairperson, I rise to welcome the statement of the hon. Prime Minister. I appreciate his position, and I would like to him also to appreciate our genuine concerns, our *bona fide* concerns. We have always a lurking suspicion about the *bona fide* of American Management, American Government, and American Administration.

In different periods of Indian history, there have been occasions when we have found American to be on the other side. Therefore, to believe at the moment that America is genuinely coming to our aid, to taken care of our power scarcity problem, we take it with a pinch of salt. But that does not mean that we have a suspicion

about the strategy of the Government of India. His assurance is welcome.

But the way, the American Imperialism, the American Government is behaving in the world, that gives rise to serious suspicions.

Madam, the hon. Prime Minister says that 'we will take Parliament into confidence.' I welcome it. The hon. Prime Minister also says that 'our concerns should be addressed.' It is nice. May I ask most respectfully, Mr. hon. Prime Minister, if it is so, is he ready? will the Government agree to place the Draft of the Agreement before it is signed in Parliament and seek the broad opinion of the Parliament? I make this point deliberately. In the United States, international agreements are approved by the American Parliament. In the Indian Constitution, there is no provision like that. Since there is not provision like that, and since the hon. Prime Minister is saying that he will take the opinion of his friends, also of the Opposition, into consideration before finalization of the Agreement, this is most opportune moment for us to make the submission to the Government. Let the Constitution be amended and let the important agreements be placed before the House for approval.

17.00 hrs.

Otherwise, there is no end to speculation. Otherwise, our suspicion cannot just be taken care of by a statement, however straight forwards it is, from the Prime Minister.

Madam, let the Government be not annoyed. On the face of it, the move of the Government to have an agreement with the United States does not enjoy the confidence of the Parliament at the moment. The Opposition does not agree and the friends who are supporting the Government also do not believe that it is a nice step. Therefore, there is a problem and it is not an artificial problem. It is a problem of faith. It is a problem of confidence. Faith and confidence is not related to the Government of India. Faith and confidence is related to the Government of the United States.

Therefore, in a situation like this, when my Prime Minister believes that it is a step in the right direction and when we believe that it is not a step that is being taken in the right direction, when the hon. Prime Minister says he will take us into confidence and address our concerns, it is an opportunity for me to suggest to the Government that let us drift away from the past. Let us

drift from the past and let us take a decision that such type of agreement will be placed before the Parliament and they should seek its approval.

Otherwise, how it is being looked? Hon. Prime Minister will kindly bear with me. How does it look? The Executive is taking a decision not backed up by the majority of Parliament. But the Executive is taking a decision on the basis of minority support in Parliament. On the face of it, it looks like that. On the face of it, if it comes to that the Executive is taking a decision not backed up by Parliament majority, there is bound to be a concern however confident or whatever confidence I may or shall or bound to have in the good wishes of the hon. Prime Minister. It appears that this step is being taken by the Executive on the basis of minority support in Parliament.

What is the reason? The reason is two-folds. May I ask most respectfully the Government this question? How do you gain politically by entering into this agreement? I do not say 'tentacle'. But how do you politically gain? How do you politically gain when it is given to understand, when the country knows that most of the political forces have not backed. I do not talk about the people. If the hon. Prime Minister talks about the people, there is a course of taking referendum but that is not possible. I am not suggesting that too. Therefore, we have to measure the majority opinion of the people on the basis of parliamentary support. Therefore, it looks that the Government will not gain politically by taking this step.

Then the question comes, how do we gain economically? Economically, how do we gain? I agree there is a power shortage. To tackle the power shortage, we are looking for atomic energy. As far as cost calculation is concerned, it is high cost. All over the world, it is recognized that atomic power generation is high cost. Why do you go for high cost when we have Thorium, when we have coal and when we have hydro electric power generation? Why are you going for the lowest option? What could be the economic consideration?

The hon. Prime Minister is an Economist in his own right. What is the economic evaluation of this low option being taken up as a high priority by the Government? The country needs power. Is it necessary for us to look for fuel from America for that? Country needs power. But does it mean that we need power reactors from America? There are other options too. Therefore, I have a belief—I do not say suspicion—that something more is in the

[Shri Gurudas Dasgupta]

mind of the Government. Something more is there which is not divulged. Everything cannot be divulged.

What is that something more? That something more is that the Government would like to come closer to America to get more investment for the country. Since the Government do not have the political commitment to raise the domestic resources, therefore, the Government is banking on international investment to bring about higher growth rate to take care of the basic human problems. If it is so, let the Government speak frankly.

Secondly, I have a belief—whether founded or unfounded, only the history can say—that we want to come closer to America politically believing that the world is unipolar, believing there is no Soviet Union, believing that we should not pay with the most powerful super power and come close to it. It is for so many reasons. Is it that we are afraid of any of our neighbours? Is it that in order to contain and fight Pakistan's terrorism we need the help of America? Is it that in order to solve the problem of Kashmir, we need to play safe with America? There are so many reasons, so many points, so many ideas in the minds of the people. It is important that the Government takes care of them.

Madam, I have a copy of the Act that they have enacted. May I respectfully draw the attention of the hon. Prime Minister and the hon. Minister of External Affairs to page 8, Section 3 wherein it says: "Secure India's full and active participation in United States' efforts to dissuade, isolate and if necessary sanction and contain Iran from its efforts to acquire weapons of mass destruction including a nuclear weapon for military and the capability of rich uranium and re-processed nuclear fuel". Is it there in the law? How do you reconcile? How do you reconcile the position, most courageous position taken by the hon. Prime Minister with this stand that the American law has taken? How do you reconcile? There is a basic contradiction.

I understand that this must have been playing in his mind. Otherwise he would not have said there are areas of concern. To me this is an area of grave concern. What is the price that we are paying for coming so close to America? We are paying a price and price is not nominal. The price is that the gas supply project from Iran may be in jeopardy. Secondly, I am told that it may not be in jeopardy but Iran is asking for more money. High cost, as demanded by Iran, may a fallout of our coming too close to America. This may be a fallout. This

goes against our interest. There is an apprehension, genuine apprehension. You cannot just rule it out by speaking wise in Parliament. It is a genuine apprehension.

Madam, I am concluding. Please give me two more minutes.

Secondly, there is another point here. It is—achieve at the earliest possible date a moratorium on the production of fissile material for nuclear explosive purposes by India and Pakistan on People's Republic of China. They want to persuade us. Does it mean that America would like to persuade India to be instrumental in persuading China to give up its nuclear strategy? We are being pitted against China. Should we do it like that?

There is another point in it. It is—seek to halt the increase of nuclear weapon arsenals in South Asia. Should we become—I do not use the word appendage; it may be too harsh for you—a partner; should we become a partner of the American nuclear strategy so as to create a situation where reduction of arms can take place in South Asia.

We should become a partner of America. Is it right? Is it wrong? Is it conducive to our national interest? I understand your predicament, Mr. Prime Minister. There are many concerns which you cannot express. May be, I am giving vent to the feelings of yours. It may be or may not be so. But the point is that these are the genuine concerns. Therefore, while concluding, I must submit that this is economically not viable and politically not prudent to enter into the agreement, unaware of the problems that may befall us in the future. Look before you leap. Therefore, I am suggesting to the Government to give up this move of having an agreement with America. At least on this issue, the country is sharply divided. This coalition Government is enjoying our support. We extend our support genuinely. You have to keep the prestige of the Prime Minister. Out of political compulsions, we are doing it and we shall do it, but is it correct on your part to take such a step when the country is so divided and friends are so critical?

PROF. M. RAMADASS (Pondicherry): Madam, I am happy to participate in this scintillating discussion on the Indo-US deal. At the outset, I would say that *Pattal Makkal Katchi*, one of the partners of the UPA Government, supports the earlier statements of the hon. Prime Minister on the Indo-US deal. I think that after hearing the statement made by hon. Prime Minister today,

even the BJP and other parties would now support the stand of the hon. Prime Minister because the explanation given by the hon. Prime Minister is so convincing that none of the concerns of India would be sacrificed at the last stage of signing the agreement.

BJP always has a tendency of misrepresenting the facts and creating sensation in the country and today's intervention of Shri Advani is no exception to it. He must know that. While he was intervening in the debate, he said that the Prime Minister was isolated. Now, after hearing the Prime Minister, he must know that it is Shri Advani and his BJP that has been isolated. We are all with the Prime Minister. We are all with the UPA Government. We know that this Government would take care of the interest of this country. Our bright Prime Minister would be the last person to mortgage the interest of this country.

We know that he is a first-rate patriot, a nationalist and not only an internationally known economist. He has told us that when he went to Japan, he was able to perceive an unprecedented enthusiasm among the Japanese about India's growth potential. Now, this has been made possible because he is heading the Government. His knowledge of economics and his profound expertise in economics has taken India to very great height. That is why, every country in the world today is sharply looking at India. While the world economy is registering only 3.2 per cent growth *per annum*, Indian economy has been made to record 8 to 9 per cent growth in the last two and half years. It is the single-most conviction of the Prime Minister and his conviction in policy-making which has gone to making India into the fastest developing country in the world. Therefore, I do not agree with whatever Shri Advani has said.

I also do not agree with whatever Shri Dasgupta has said. He says that coming together with USA has got some political motivation. Irrespective of whether there is political motivation or otherwise, our association with America becomes indispensable at this point of time, when the country is making faster progress. We are getting whatever is not available with us from the USA without sacrificing our interest. Therefore, we know what is best for us, and we should not worry about all these things.

What are we discussing today? Any dispassionate looker on this issue must know that we are discussing

about the Indo-US agreement in the context of US Bill. We are discussing about a Bill and Shri Advani said that it is the Hyde Act. I am only happy that he did not say that it is a hidden agenda because BJP is always known for it. As he was mentioning about the Hyde Act, I thought that he was mentioning about the hidden agenda. There is no hidden agenda here, and there is only the transparent agenda of the UPA Government. It is an open book that anybody can understand.

Shri Dasgupta said that the Parliament can also be taken into confidence with respect to Indo-US deal. If it is possible and if there is a Constitutional requirement, then it can also be taken into account.

The Henry J. Hyde United States—India Peaceful Atomic Energy Cooperation Act, 2006 has been passed, and the Bill is to be signed by the US President Mr. George Bush for final passage. The Bill has not been finally passed. Only the legislation has been passed in the American Houses. It has not been passed yet, and if you permit me, then I would like to give an analogy as you are occupying the Chair. Suppose, a mother is conceived, and the child is not born. Shri Advani is saying that the child is black and weak even before the child is born. How can he say so? Who is going to accept it if he says that the child is black and weak even before the child is born? Similarly, we do not know about our final settlement, and the issues that we are going to discuss are not yet clear. It is premature to say that it will affect our interest just because a legislation has been passed in a foreign country. Therefore, it is not correct to say this.

I would only indicate four important concerns that must be kept in mind. Firstly, the Minister of External Affairs has rightly said that this Bill is an internal matter of the US. However, the US Administration has assured our Government that they would address all our concerns when we sign the deal. The ball is now in President Bush's court. It is up to him and his team to find the space to draft a deal that adequately satisfies our requirements. It is only at that stage that our negotiators have to find the best possible deal for India. It is too premature to discuss those details now. While there is no Constitutional requirement in India for the Government to seek Parliament's approval for international treaties, it is not unfair to expect that the concerns expressed by the Parliament will be kept in mind by the Government.

[Prof. M. Ramadass]

Secondly, we should not see this Agreement in a purely Indo-US term. We should see this in the wider geo-political context. The bi-polar world of the cold war era is evolving into a multi-polar world. While the US is the strongest power both militarily and economically, the European Union, Japan, Russia, China, Brazil and, of course, India are emerging as counter-power centres. The current deal should be seen as the first of a series of improving relationship with other powers. Indeed, the recent visits of the hon. Prime Minister to Brazil and Japan, and the Chinese President's visit to India have led to greater engagement with these countries. India should evolve a foreign policy of being an effective player in the global geopolitical game.

Thirdly, this deal ends out technology apartheid. India has been denied access to the latest technology not only in the field of nuclear power, but also in other critical areas. For example, India's agriculture sector could gain a lot by increasing the accuracy of its meteorological predictions.

Finally, let us take the worst case scenario. Suppose, India finds itself in a bind with respect to foreign policy or national security due to any conditionalities in this deal, then we can renegotiate the terms at that time. We have done this successfully in the past also. We did not meet some of the IMF conditionalities imposed in 1991 such as full capital account convertibility. I think that the House will know that in 1991—when India was faced with economic crisis and when we entered into an agreement with IMF and World Bank—there were a number of conditionalities, but we did not subject ourselves to all those conditionalities. Even today, the conditionality relating to capital convertibility has not been satisfied. Who can say that we are economically weaker today than prior to the 1991 crisis? At the present time let us concentrate on opening the door to advanced technology and getting the best deal that we can. Even if we need to walk out of the agreement at a future date, we would not be worse off than at the current stage when we are denied much needed technology and fuel supplies. Therefore, in my opinion, it is too premature to sensationalise this issue. Leave the matter in the safe hands of the hon. Prime Minister. He will take care of our concerns. The concerns of sovereignty, national, economic development and everything will end after the passage of this Bill in the US Senate.

SHRI MANVENDRA SINGH (Barmer): Madam, the Fourteenth Lok Sabha seems to be repeatedly discussing either the nuclear agreement or the office of profit. These are two issues that have come up repeatedly in this House. Both the issues are similar for what were the unsaid aspects of it rather than the said aspects.

The Prime Minister intervened today to repeat the assurances he made to Parliament in August, I am grateful for that. But what is left unsaid—and that is the critical determinant of this agreement—is the fact that society—as we know it, as the world knows it—is not static. Society is not static and neither is technology static. If the Indian deterrent is based on the data collected in 1998 and that is regarded as credible today, as technology evolves that same deterrent is not relevant, is not applicable as technology will evolve and as society will evolve. If a country when it requires a further round of testing in order to update its technical base, the technology of this deterrent, that testing will nullify this agreement as and when this agreement comes about.

No matter what assurance you give to the House, no matter what remains unsaid, there is no provision in the US law which allows the US to engage with another country if that country has tested a nuclear device. If the Government of India wants to bind the future generations of this country to a situation where no future Government will be allowed to test and modernize and update its nuclear deterrent based on then available technologies, I think that is the greatest harm that is being done to India's security and that is the unsaid aspect that I was alluding to earlier.

Commitment on testing remains the most important aspect of this so far unwritten agreement. I understand that the agreement follows a certain chronology. After the Bill, what is called the Hyde Act comes into the form of a Bill later today or tomorrow when President Bush signs, India's negotiators and the US negotiators will get together to put it into form of an agreement. So, what we have today is a proposal from the US side and we have a proposal from the Indian side. To use a colloquial term, these two proposals have to be married. That marriage process, the marrying of these two widely separated proposals, is the trick. The Prime Minister has given an assurance to the House, repeated the assurance today, that in that marrying process, India's three-stage programme, India's strategic programme, none of it will be affected. But after the agreement is done, that agreement will have to go back to the US Congress

because, as the hon. Gurudas Dasgupta reminded us, international obligations, international treaties that the US Government enters into go back to the US legislators.

When it goes back to the US legislators, are they going to accept something which departs from a Bill that they have already agreed to? If we have to come to an agreement based on the assurance given by the Prime Minister, if we have to come to an agreement based on Indian national security interest, then, certainly this Hyde Act is insufficient. If we have to go beyond this Hyde Act, beyond this declared policy of the US legislators entering into 123 agreement, when that goes back to the US Congress, I have a fear that we will be repeated this process all over again. Besides, committing all future administrations of this country, Governments of this country, to refrain from testing, we will also be tying down our civil and energy programmes to the conditions as imposed by this Bill. In this vision statement of theirs, of the US legislators, there is no scope for participation in the reprocessing process. The three-stage programme as we understand is something that they do not support and where we are being bound by those conditions, is it fair for the country to forfeit and to sign away the security?

It is ironic that on 18th July when the two Governments entered into this agreement or enunciated this agreement process, India had higher installed capacity in wind than it had in nuclear. I am proud to say that in that installed capacity that India has, my district and my State contribute a significant amount of it. Since July 18, 2005, till today, the installed capacity in wind has grown exponentially. There is no technical argument that anybody can give to say that wind is not clearer than nuclear, to say that wind supply can be barred by any international agreement with another country. Whereas, in this case, any Indian test in the future, completely bars this agreement that we set out to achieve. Besides barring the Indo-US aspects of it, it also compels the US administration to put pressure on other members of the energy to deny India, the technologies and the fuels to sustain our programme. It is not merely a bilateral barring that is of concern but it has also larger international aspects of it, and if we were to enter into commercial deals as the Bill envisages, entering into various commercial deals and those various reactors that are supposed to come up, they come up, and for national security reasons, as I enunciated earlier because, technology will evolve, and technology will compel us to test in future. Global situation may compel us to test in future. When that happens, all fuel supplies, equipment

supplies for those reactors for which we will have to make significant banking concessions and significant insurance concessions will become a liability on the people of India. That liability, I believe, is too heavy a price to pay for forfeiting what is the crucial strategic autonomy that this country has achieved on the basis of its nuclear programme.

Madam, India's nuclear policy and weapons policy are based on credible minimum deterrence. The Credible Minimum Deterrent is not a static figure. It changes according to the global changes, the regional changes and the neighbourhood changes. It is not a finite figure. We may need to expand the deterrent and if conditions improve, we may be in a position to let it shrink also. But that flexibility is going to be taken away from our scientists, from nuclear planners and from the Government of India once 123 Agreement becomes binding on us because as India repeatedly says what if we agree to a Treaty and we enter into an international agreement, we do not violate. If we are not to violate this hypothetical agreement, then I fear that our national security interests are not going to be served by the binding aspects of this Act as we have seen it today.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Shri Adhir Chowdhury to speak. You have only five minutes.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY (Berahampore, West Bengal): Madam, the discussion on Indo-US Nuclear Deal has been initiated by the Leader of the Opposition and various high sounding words have been uttered by the Leader of the Opposition. What I would like to say is that the international instrument to deal with the proliferation regime was constituted in the year 1945 in the presence of Harry Truman, Atlee and Mckenzie. At that time, India had not attained Independence. In the year 1947, being a representative of the interim Government of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Shrimati Vijayalakshmi Pandit had argued in the General Assembly of the United Nations that this proliferation regime is discriminatory and she argued for disarmament. Therefore, if anybody now tries to shower homilies upon us, I think they should first go for introspection. It is because throughout the ages, the Congress Party has been regarded as a Left of the Centre ideologically believed party. It was also believed that Hindu Maha Sabha, RSS had been playing an appendage to US imperialism.

On the other hand, we are observing that the dragon China has been emerging at a rapid pace and already America had awarded China, the Most Favoured Nation

[Shri Adhir Chowdhury]

status that we do not have. However, China did not lose its shine and prominence in the global arena. Therefore, suspicion induced belief by some members should not be indulged in this House along with the argument that has been prescribed by Ms. Jayalalitha. Therefore, I would like to point out in the House that it is the Congress regime since the inception of Independence which has been fighting against the nuclear apartheid being practiced by global super power. India first took a call to ban nuclear testing in 1954. India argued for a non-discriminatory treaty on non-proliferation in 1965.

India has been arguing for a treaty on non-use of nuclear weapon since 1978. India has been arguing for a nuclear freeze since 1982 and India has been arguing for a fresh programme for complete elimination of nuclear weapons in 1988. Therefore, we should know first that it was the Congress party led Indian Government that has been vigorously pursuing this independent policy in keeping with its sovereignty and national security interests.

Madam, I would like to draw the attention of Shri Manavendra Singh that what he has understood today was not understood by Shri Jaswant Singh. After the nuclear test, 1998 he was quoted as having said:

"It will henceforth observe voluntary moratorium and refrain from conducting underground nuclear test explosions. It has also indicated its willingness to move toward a *de jure* formulation of this declaration. The basic obligation of the CTBT is thus met to undertake no more nuclear tests since India already subscribes to the substance of the Test Ban Treaty and all that remains is its actual signature."

Madam, here I would also like to refer to a statement made by Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee on September 24, 1998 at the 53rd Session of the UNGA. He said:

"This test ban signals dilution of India's commitment to the pursuit of global nuclear disarmament. Accordingly, after concluding this limited testing programme India announced voluntary moratorium on further underground nuclear test explosions. We conveyed our willingness to move towards a *de jure* formulation of obligations. In announcing a moratorium India has already accepted the basic obligation of the CTBT. In 1996 India could not have accepted the obligation as such because it would have eroded our capability and compromised our national security."

Therefore, what I would like to say is that since 1974 we have been denied the modern technology as all our technological and scientific experiments have been affected.

So, over the years, we have been pursuing with the global powers that being a responsible nuclear State this technology denial regime should be dismantled. India now has been transformed from a work power to a brain power. India is a responsible country which has been maintaining its export control regime very stridently. It is due to the prominence of India, due to the economic growth of our country and due to the brain power of our country that now America has conceded to our demand and there lies our success. So, I would like to say to the hon. Leader of the Opposition that one should not count the chickens before the eggs are hatched.

Madam, Herodotus once said and I quote:

"I am satisfied that people are less confident of what we say than what we do."

What we are doing is based on the directions of our national security, in the interest of the growth of our economy and in the direction of carving out a niche for our country in the global arena.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (Muvattupuzha): Madam, an assurance which has been given by the Prime Minister follows the earlier assurance which was given on 29th July, 2005, 27th February, 2006, 7th March, 2006 and thereafter. Those assurances were to the effect that this deal would give full access to civilian nuclear technology, lift all sanctions for not signing the NPT and not to limit India's strategic nuclear programme.

India, in turn, agreed to separate its civilian nuclear facilities from its military ones meaning that the separation would be purely on India's decision. But the terms of the Bill would tend to have serious doubts on these assurances. For example, it contains some provisions which clearly deviate from this understanding and also tend to lock India's Foreign Policy to US requirements and subject its scientific R&D capabilities to intrusive inspections by IAEA and other American inspectors. It is also a serious concern of any displeasure to US in this regard. If the US suspends its supplies to India, what will happen? For any reason, it must then push for Nuclear Suppliers Group and it is not that India can turn to any other vendor. It is a serious lock in our interest. It is also a matter on

whether the sanctions on India on fuel processing, enrichment and production of heavy water continues for equipment and technologies. The only relaxation is on non-proliferation barriers limited to nuclear fuel and reactors.

The real concern is, there is one section in the Bill which prohibits exports of equipments, materials or technology related to the enrichment of Uranium, the reprocessing of spent nuclear fuel and production of heavy water. These are some of the concerns.

I would also submit that the references—I would not go into their details—which have been made about Iran, China and South Asia are also of serious concern. When we regard our right, our foreign policy should be separate without being influenced by any other country.

Lastly, I would also submit that there are some clauses which are of recommendatory in nature. For example, there are clauses about mortgaging, etc. which have been already been highlighted. But can we expect that the US Administration go in any manner against the wishes of the Legislature if it is finally passed? These are some of the concerns which we have. I am happy that the hon. Prime Minister has already dwelt upon some of the concerns and has said that it will be dealt with positively. But these concerns will again remain when the Agreement is to come into force.

Therefore, I would submit that this is a matter on which further introspection has to be done before the Government takes any further step in this regard.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Madam Chairman, I have listened with full attention to our hon. Prime Minister. I am correct in my assumption that the media says that the Prime Minister has started to learn to retort nowadays. It is very good. This is a great transformation to a shrewd politician and not a statesman. He has now learnt how to hit below the belt making personal and sarcastic comments on the floor of the House against the Leader of the Opposition. If any day, Shri Advaniji becomes the Prime Minister of our country, he will be a Prime Minister by virtue of his own right and merits and not on the mercy of somebody else. ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA (Panskura): Let the debate be continued with dignity. Let us discuss the issue with dignity. Indignity does not bring any relief to the argument. ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: I would like to repeat the same thing. ... (*Interruptions*) You should have told the same thing to him when he told Shri L.K. Advani that he would become Prime Minister with the permission of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee. ... (*Interruptions*) Do not advise only me ... (*Interruptions*)

Madam Chairman, the Prime Minister in the past, at all times, had been saying, "Wait for the next proposal. Wait for House of Representative's proposal; and wait for the Senate's proposal." But each time the nations is in a mode of distrust and it is in a state of doubt.

The hon. Prime Minister said that what the hon. Leader of Opposition said is "scare mongering". These are newspaper items. One headline says, "Nuclear Jewel is up for sale". Who has written this article? It was written by ex-Chairman of Atomic Energy Commission of India, Dr. A. Gopala Krishnan. Another headline says, "India may lost control over its nuclear future." Who has written this article? It was written by Shri M.R. Srinivisan, ex-Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission. There is one more headline which says, "Not so fine print". Who has written this article? It was written by Shri Satish Chandra, the Permanent Representative in the United Nations from India. Do they mean to say that all these things are "scare mongering." Shri Gurudas Dasgupta said something. Though we do not agree with him, does it amount to "scare mongering"? It is not at all "scare mongering". We are just voicing our genuine concerns and we are just expressing our genuine concerns. So, let not the Prime Minister say that we are resorting to "scare mongering."

Then, all the time, we are informed, through the print and electronic media, "Wait for 123 Agreement". Hyde Act leads to 123 Agreement, which is an enabling legislation. It allows Washington and New Delhi to enter into a bilateral agreement. The leaders of the Government say that whatever US does through the Hyde Act is their internal business and that it does not affect India. It is being said by the Government all the time.

Another important thing that is being said is that India is only bound by the bilateral 123 Agreement. It is not bound by anything else, whether it is Hyde Act or the Senate's proposals or the House of Representatives' proposals.

Hon. Leader of this House, the Minister of External Affairs, when he made a categorical statement on the

[Shri Gurudas Dasgupta]

floor of this House last week said, "There are some extraneous and prescriptive provisions in the Hyde Act which can somehow be mitigated through the 123 Agreement." We think that it is misleading to say that 123 Agreement will clear all the doubts which are just voicing. Why I am saying this is because of this. There is one Atomic Energy Act, 1954 in the USA. This is an overarching law that governs the US policies on nuclear issues. Section 123, Chapter 11, talks about cooperation with other nations. That is why the Atomic Energy Act, the Hyde Act, the bilateral 123 Agreement are all related hierarchically. Hierarchically, these three are related. Any Agreement under Section 123 of this Atomic Energy Act, would be, by definition under the US law. In negotiating such an agreement, the US administration cannot go against its internal law and in any conflict between an international agreement and US law, the US law will prevail and not this international agreement. I will give you one simple example. India had the fuel supply agreement with USA for fuel supply to Tarapur Atomic Plant. But when India tested atomic bomb in 1974 under the leadership of late lamented Shrimati Indira Gandhi, the fuel supply to Tarapur was stopped as was the reprocessing of the spent fuel because the US domestic law kicked in. So, I am just putting up the question to the hon. Minister of External Affairs, who is present here that if the same thing happens in future and, if we are being told that because you have tested a nuclear bomb, we are going to stop all these supplies, technologies, etc. to you, then what will happen to us? What will we do in that case because there is a glaring example that the same thing happened in Tarapur? So, that is why, I may say that if the Hyde Act does not meet India's requirements, and this can be corrected in the 123 Agreement, it does not seem to be true. The Act does not provide for full nuclear cycle cooperation. There are no guarantees of life of fuel supply in return for safeguards in perpetuity for civilian nuclear power plants.

Take for example, US is working on the design of a Reliable Replacement Weapon (RRW) to modernize its nuclear arsenal and may indeed carry out a test in future, if it considers it a necessity. China may then test its own improved design. Pakistan may carry out a test for its own reasons. A future Indian Government will be placed in a totally indefensible position if its hands are tied under the Indo-US deal, which would be the case if India had installed imported reactors using nuclear fuel. So, this is my major point to tell the hon. Minister of External Affairs. So, when he will reply, he will just convince us that whatever we are saying is wrong.

Now, the assurance of this fuel supply is also not going to be met. It assuages India's concerns. ... *(Interruptions)* Madam, I will not take much time. I will conclude within three or four minutes. So, to assuage India's concerns, US agreed that India could maintain adequate stockpiles of nuclear fuel to tide over any possible disruption in supply. That was the first assurance given to us by the United States of America. It also agreed to work with other nuclear supplies to enable India to secure nuclear fuel so that its nuclear power stations could continue to operate till the end.

Madam, the Hyde Act has removed this protection. The assurance which was given to us, we do not find the same thing in this present Hyde Act. It is very surprising that the Act also calls upon the US Administration to work with the Nuclear Supplier Group (NSG) to ensure that India cannot get supplies of nuclear fuel, if for reasons contained in this Act, and the US is required to suspend supplies to India. So, that is why, my point is that the negotiations in future are going to be more and more difficult. It is just like the uphill climbing. Now you will have to negotiate with IAEA and you will have to negotiate with the China's Nuclear Supply Group. China now says it is a member of the 45-member non-nuclear supply group. Every decision in the NSG is taken on unanimous basis. China, though not directly but indirectly said that this is some sort of parochialism which is being shown by America; it is not fair; this is not a question of neutrality. It questions like this: When America is objecting to North Korea, objecting to Iran, how could it supply nuclear technology to India which is also having it? Also, this Additional Protocol which India signs with the IAEA should be based on the Model Protocol 540 which applies to the Nuclear Weapons States.

So, at the end, I shall appeal to the hon. Minister to consider this. We are also in favour of this nation. It is said that the National Democratic Alliance Government did not intimate it to the nation, intimate it to Parliament. It is because we did not have any Joint Statement with America. We did not have anything. Only negotiation was going on. When we did not arrive at any conclusion, how could the Government have intimated the Parliament? So, the negotiation process that started from the time of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee is being carried forward by this Government. It is raising so many doubts in the minds of the people of this country cutting party-line, cutting across political spectrum. So, I appeal to the hon. Minister that if he thinks that he goes to protect the sovereignty of this country, the free will of this country, then he should explain and clear all our doubts.

With these words, I conclude.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur): Madam Chariman, I am thankful to the hon'ble Prime Minister and heartily felicitate him that he has tried to introduce a good thing in the House to strengthen India's power. The Leader of the Opposition has said that the House is not being taken into confidence in regard to the agreement being signed with America. Hon'ble Prime Minister had replied in the presence of Advaniji that government is trying to strengthen India. That is why hon'ble Prime Minister instead of taking single runs took the help of 10 sixes and 10 fours to complete his century. Advaniji tried to uproot our batting but he did not get an opportunity to do so.

Madam Chairman, it is a matter of pride for us that a country like America is ready to conclude atomic deal with India. America is a big country and it is entering into an atomic agreement with us. When our Prime Minister visited USA, President Bush accompanied him continuously for three days; it was an unprecedented incident. It is a very good thing. I would like to request Advaniji not to worry about our government because our government is not going to fall. Communist brothers are our friends. They will support us. They know that our government will continue for five years. Yes, there are differences. Differences were also in the NDA Government and also in our government but our government is secular whereas NDA government consisted of some secular and some non-secular parties. The constituents of our government do not fight among themselves and they stand united and that is why our government is not going to fall in the next five years.

Madam Chairman, I am grateful to hon'ble Prime Minister. Before the signing of the agreement between America and our country, the people sitting in the front row had said that House should have been taken into confidence.

18.00 hrs.

So please do not worry about it. They never consulted us, but we shall consult them because we have to run our government for five years and for that we need an Opposition. I would not take more time. I am the only person from our party, so I get lesser time but despite that I at times, get more time. Once again, I felicitate

hon'ble Prime Minister and I want to say in the end that as India registered win in South Africa and defeated South Africa, similarly hon'ble Prime Minister has defeated Advaniji's team and we have won the match. With this, I conclude.

[English]

MADAM CHAIRMAN: It is 6 o' clock now. After this discussion, we have to pass three pending Bills regarding universities and then we shall taken up matters of urgent public importance. If the House agrees, we can extend the sitting of the House till all these items are disposed of.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: I think the House agrees to this proposal and so we extend the sitting of the House till all these items are disposed of.

Now, I request the hon. Minister to reply.

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): Madam Chairman, I express my gratitude to all the hon. Members who have participated in this discussion. A number of points have been raised in this discussion. The Members have highlighted some of the issues concerning the national interest and also the broad vision keeping in view the way the Government is proceeding on this matter.

Normally, in a debate like this, there would be divergence of views. That is the essence of democracy. But at the same time, it speaks of the mind of the nations in a way that the divergent views which are prevailing in the body politic get reflected in the observations of the representatives of various political parties.

When the Prime Minister mentioned that there is a broad national consensus, he meant that a broad national consensus is there that India must move forward and India must have access to the technology which has been denied for so long. If our scientists and technologists have access to this technology, they can do wonders and I do not think anybody, wherever he or she may be sitting in this House, will disagree with this objective. This is precisely the objective with which the Government initiated the process to have the civil nuclear cooperation arrangement with the United States of America.

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Keeping that broad objective in view, the Joint Statement of 18th July, 2005, which reflected the essence of all the essential parameters of this agreement, was placed before the House. The Separation Plan which was worked out—America was fully involved with this Separation Plan—was also placed before the House as also the agreement of 2nd March, 2006. Thereafter, the Prime Minister explained in detail concerning all issues in his reply to the debate on 17th August 2006.

I will touch upon the first point on which the Leader of the Opposition has made, to my mind, a very strong plea. He has indicated that we have mortgaged the Foreign Policy; we have jeopardized our security concerns; there will be no Pokhran-III and Pokhran-IV. Pokhran-I and Pokhran-II had already taken place. But most respectfully, I would like to submit for the consideration of the House, who declared unilateral moratorium. What prompted them to do so? What prompted them to do so within a few months of the Second Pokhran Explosion?

It took place in May 1998. They came to power in March 1998. Surely, a layman would appreciate that everything was ready. The previous Government, for the best reasons, did not take the decision and they owned that decision. The only phrase which we use repeatedly, justifiably and we stuck to that is that, yes, we have the capabilities. That is why we kept our nuclear option open. We did not close that option. That was the message which our young Prime Minister conveyed to the international community in the Disarmament Conference that we are in a position to manufacture nuclear weapons, if we so desire. We are almost a screwdrivers turn away from that stage, that we are willing to continue at the threshold level and we do not want to graduate ourselves to be a nuclear weapon State, provided uri-nuclear weapon States and other countries of the world agree for the total nuclear disarmament. That is what we said.

18.08 hrs.

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

We established our capabilities in 1974. We were just a screwdriver's turn away. That is why, within less than three months after coming to power, they could do that. What prompted the Leader of the Opposition to say that Pokhran-III and Pokhran-IV are mortgaged for all time to come? What did they say?

The then Prime Minister, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee stated on 24th September, 1998 in the UNGA and I quote:

"These test do not signal a dilution of India's commitment to the pursuit of nuclear weapon disarmament. Accordingly, after concluding this limited testing programme, India announced a voluntary moratorium on further underground nuclear test explosion. We conveyed our willingness to move towards a *de jure* formalization of this obligation. In announcing a moratorium, India has already accepted the basic obligation of the CTBT in 1996, India could not have accepted that obligation as such a restraint would have eroded our capability and compromised our national security."

Therefore, they did and they accepted it. This statement was repeated in the following year by the then Foreign Minister and today they are accusing us that there cannot be a Pokhran-III and there cannot be a Pokhran-IV.

You yourself accepted that nuclear disarmament is one of the basic objectives of it. Even today, we have submitted a working paper to the United Nations, we want nuclear disarmament. The Prime Minister has already assured you as to what is the rationality of having a separation plan. If the civilian nuclear agreement with the USA would cover the strategic programme, then what was the rationality of having a separation plan? This itself speaks that it cannot be a part of the arrangement which we are entering into with the United States of America. This is completely a different plan, and surely we are not expecting to have any support from them for this programme. We will carry on this programme; we will carry on our own the strategic programme; and we will use our own fuel and materials, whatever would be needed, and that is why the Prime Minister is quite confident that there cannot be any compromise on it, and there cannot be any inspection so far as this is concerned.

Now, Sir, certain portions have been quoted by a large number of Members. Most respectfully, I would like to submit that it is the pattern of the US legislation, particularly two Sections. Almost in every legislation, Section 101 is the normal short title of the Bill; Section 102 and Section 103, one speaks of the sense of the House and another speak of the policies of the United States of America, and these are of recommendatory nature. These are not of the mandatory nature. If there

is a reference to FMCT, there is a reference to the nuclear weaponization programme, in respect of some of these recommendations, it would be the obligation of the United States Administration to provide the necessary information to the Congress but it is not an obligation to me, to us, not even to provide the necessary information. They can collect that information on their own, and actually they are doing so.

A number of Reports are made to the Congress by the US Administrations in respect of human rights, in respect of bonded labour, in respect of child labour. It is their practice. So far as we are concerned, the Prime Minister has very correctly pointed out as to what this Bill is. Why did I say that normally we do no comment on the legislations of another country? What is the purpose of this Bill? The purpose of this Bill is to provide waiver, waiver not to India, waiver to the US Administration to enable them to enter into an agreement with India for the civil nuclear programme. Why was this waiver needed? It was needed because of the 1954 Act that if any country had tested nuclear explosions, then they would be debarred to be a partner with the USA in any nuclear programme.

If all the nuclear arrangements of a country are not under total safeguard of the IAEA, that country is not eligible to be a partner with the USA for any nuclear cooperation programme. If a country has nuclear weapons, that country is not eligible to a partner in an arrangement for Civilian Nuclear Cooperation with the USA as per US law. Therefore, these waivers were necessary. Without these waivers, the US Administration is unable to deal with India in respect of the Civilian Nuclear Cooperation arrangement. So, this is being done.

A number of questions have been raised saying: "When this is debated in the US Congress, it is not a final state; when it is debated in the US Senate, it is not a final stage." When the reconciliation conference takes places, even then you are saying that is not the final stage. Yes, it is not the final stage. These are the various stages of the process. The process is yet to be completed. Negotiation under Section 123 of their Act is to re-start; and what we have said is how we are going to safeguard our interest.

When the Prime Minister talks of reciprocity, what does he say? He says that 'before we accept safeguards, this 123 Agreement is to be finalized.' That is the arrangement, because once we enter into safeguards,

the safeguard would be for perpetuity in respect of those imported materials, equipment and fuel. But before we enter into that, all our concerns are to get reflected in the 123 Agreement, which is yet to be done. NSG (Nuclear Supplier Group) is also to amend their rules, their guidelines because they do not deal with a country, which is having a nuclear weapon programme.

Therefore, those guidelines are also to be amended to suit the Indian requirement. When we are going to enter into an arrangement with IAEA on safeguard and a protocol, that will also have to be India-specific because the one conditionalities that are required for entering into Civilian Nuclear Cooperation, and India does fulfill that requirement. That is why these agreements ought to be made India-specific.

Now, somebody is saying; "What is great in it?" It is true, that in the immediate context nuclear power is not a big component in our energy basket. We are to depend on coal; we are to depend on hydro power; we are to depend on imported hydrocarbons; and we are to depend on our non-conventional energy. But at the same time, nuclear energy is going to be a very major component in the foreseeable future because that is the cleanest energy, which is available. Volatile oil market is known to everybody; it need not be explained in details.

Somebody was talking that we have huge quantity of Thorium. Yes, we know that one-third is in our country. Thirty per cent of the Thorium reserves are in our country.

But the big block is access to technology. This barrier should be removed. It is not merely in respect of mere nuclear energy, nuclear power that we have to remove apartheid. The Leader of the Opposition took exception to the word 'apartheid'. It is apartheid. Despite the best brain, best talent, our scientists cannot show their mettle to the fullest extent because of the lack of access to these technologies and lack of access to the equipment. Are we not aware of how much problem we had to face to get a supercomputer or the cryogenic engine and how it affected some of our very important strategic programmes? We do not even have access to the dual use technology.

What is the relevance of USA? Somebody tried to import extraneous political elements. There is no need of bringing it. Unless you have okayed it from the US, unless US extends the collaboration and co-operation, no other country is going to do that. At least, the Leader of the

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Opposition should be fully aware and he should be fully conversant with that fact because he was in the Government during the current period for at least five to six years.

How much problem we are facing to have access to the technology, to have equipment, to have the materials which we want to have? But does that mean we should compromise our basic national interest? The Leader of the Opposition says Indian Foreign Policy has been mortgaged. I have heard this phrase umpteen number of times. I do not know how many times sovereignty can be mortgaged. IN 1994 when I signed the Agreement of WTO, Mr. Speaker, Sir, a senior colleague—I cannot take his name—on the floor of this House, said you have bartered our sovereign right of international trade. After a couple of years, when they came to power, they did not change a comma or a full stop of that Agreement and, to justify the agreement, they had to reprint the argument which I gave on the floor of both the Houses.

Therefore, do not take these things so lightly. Nobody is going to mortgage sovereignty, not to speak of the Congress Party which has struggled for the freedom of this country in its long history. Even after Independence, they had to fight all sorts of obscurantist forces; and to fight against obscurantist forces, they even had to sacrifice the lives of their supreme leadership starting from Mahatma Gandhi, Indira Gandhi to Rajiv Gandhi. Therefore, do not think that a Congress Prime Minister is going to mortgage the sovereignty, independent decision making or broad national interest.

Then, regarding the expression of opinion by different legislative bodies. The other day I was watching with interest, though I have nothing to do with it. But my friends from West Bengal may be interested in knowing the language in which the West Bengal Legislative Assembly passed a unanimous Resolution condemning the attack on Iraq. It is their own sovereign legislation. They have expressed it. Many Legislatures expressed their views on different issues.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I do feel that we need not be unnecessarily agitated on non-issues. The basic issue is whether we are going to maintain the parameters which have been clearly indicated in the July 18th Statement and in the 2nd March Statement in the 123 Agreement which we are going to sign.

Therefore, the option would be this. If we cannot have the full agreement and if our parameters do not get reflected in it, it may not go through. But why should we say so? Why should we not try? Everybody in the world recognizes it and I am pretty sure if by accident, there is no way by normal chance, they come to power on this side, they will use the same argument to defend the action which they will be pursuing. Therefore, let us not go to that aspect of the issues.

A question has been raised whether our independent, three-stage research programme would be maintained. It would be maintained. It cannot be interfered with. It is because we have to protect it. Why are they saying that the US Administration is saying that? Even after this Bill being passed, the Secretary of State was on record that it would be possible for the Administration to implement the commitments which they have made to India in the 2nd March and 18th July Statements. They are fully aware of it. They have analysed their own legislation which has been passed by their own Congress. When they are saying it and when we are going to have this agreement, after this when we will be entering into it, let us wait for it. What is the harm in it?

We are not doing anything behind the back of Parliament. At every stage, whenever a demand has been there that there should be a discussion, readily we have agreed. This is the third or fourth, I think fourth, discussion here. If it is required, it would be done there. Next time it would be done. But if somebody wants to expand the scope of the debated and discussion, I am afraid, Mr. Speaker, Sir, it cannot be done. It cannot be done that the international agreements will have to be ratified by the Parliament. That position cannot be accepted because it is a larger issue. For that you require a mandate. None of us spoke that we will amend the Constitution and bring this provision within the Constitution. Yes, many countries have it. When our Constitution-makers drafted the Constitution, they were fully aware of it. They had not got it.

I would not give the example; but I know. I signed one agreement with my neighbouring country for having some hydel power project some time in 1995 as the then Foreign Minister. But because of the internal political situation and the situation prevailing in the Parliament of that country, till 2006 it has not been ratified. Therefore, these issues are also to be kept in view. Let us not be carried away by emotion. Yes, on the demand that Parliament should be taken into confidence, the Parliament should be informed, we are already ready to do that.

Questions have been raised about the scientific community. I do not know whether any Government discussed with the scientific community in so many details or so many times as this current Government has done. Dr. Manmohan Singh himself was a member of the Atomic Energy Commission, for umpteen years he himself has the fraternity with the scientific community. Naturally, the scientific community may feel concerned on certain areas. Whenever they feel concerned, their concerns are taken note of. As he has pointed out, I can reiterate that nothing will be done which will stand in the way of our indigenous development, indigenous research and development programme because that is the core of our strength and we cannot compromise, under any situation, with that core strength of our economy, of our national asset.

On foreign policy, the hon. Prime Minister has already explained in detail.

We do not believe that our relationship with one country is dependent on our relationship with an other country. We have never accepted that proposition. We had a very successful visit of the Chinese President very recently. China has excellent relations with Pakistan. That does not stand in the way of our building up excellent relations with them. Therefore, these relations are independent. If somebody wants to say that it is intrusive, then I have myself stated that certain phrases are there which are extraneous and prescriptive. It is for them to use that type of phrase, but it does not concern us.

So long as the text of the main agreement is concerned, Mr. Speaker, Sir, I think that I have covered in general terms the issues which have been raised. An assurance has been given by no less a person than the Prime Minister. I need not reiterate it.

Thank you Mr. Speaker, and hon. Members, for giving me this opportunity of sharing some of my thoughts with you.

18.31 hrs.

- (II) SIKKIM UNIVERSITY BILL*, 2006
(III) TRIPURA UNIVERSITY BILL*, 2006
AND
(IV) RAJIV GANDHI UNIVERSITY BILL*,
2006—*Contd.*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Let us resume our discussion on items No. 38, 39 and 40.

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Chail): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to speak in support of all the three Bills viz. Sikkim University Bill, Tripura University Bill, Rajiv Gandhi University Bill 2006, which is located in Arunachal Pradesh.

18.32 hrs.

[SHRI ARJUN SETHI *in the Chair*]

All the hon'ble Members expressed their views and put forward their suggestions, especially our respected colleague Shri Kiren Rijju expressed his views in detail about all three universities in north-eastern states, I strongly support what he said. If we look at the entire country, it is true that such universities are also located at other places. A little while ago Shri Bwiswmuthiaryji was saying that there is no university in his Bololand. Hon'ble Minister should take this into account that Bodoland is located in Assam, in north-east and is a part of India. That is a good area and such university should also be set up there.

It has also been seen, whether it is Sikkim, Tripura, Arunachal Pradesh or Assam or any other state in northeast region, that the Indian culture and civilization is still intact there while most of the states are located at borders. We should take lesson from it. They have to be encouraged on educational and cultural basis. We also find that the rate of literacy has also increased there in comparison to other states. But the youths and educated people of north-eastern states have to go to other states for higher education. Our colleague Nakul Das Rai had got his education in Allahabad Agriculture University, Naini. I was pleased when he told me that he had got his education from my city.

The literacy rate of north-eastern states is good, people want to be educated, but face many difficulties in getting higher education, they have to go to Delhi and other states for higher education. I want to request hon'ble Minister that special care should be taken of these states.

You have prepared action plans for all the three universities and all our colleagues from north-eastern states expressed their views in this regard. If there is any shortcoming that should be removed so that our country may progress, people after getting educated here may go abroad and make a name of our country. I

[Shri Shailendra Kumar]

demand that at least one Central University should be set up in any of the north-eastern states so that youth of that region do not have to go to other states and can study in their own states. There are different types of subjects, technologies, streams and by studying them they will get connected with the main stream of the country. With this I support all the three Bills.

[English]

SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY (Basirhat): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Sir. I convey my thanks to the Government, particularly, the Minister concerned for bringing these Bills in order to establish Central Universities in Sikkim, Tripura and Arunachal Pradesh. These three States belong to the North East region, which are detached from the mainstream of the country. Many of the hon. Members in this august House have desired announcement of a package to bring these North East States in the mainstream of the country.

The hon. Member from Arunachal Pradesh has expressed his sentiments on the issue of the name of the Bill. In the case of the Bills for Tripura and Sikkim, the name of the State has been mentioned, but in the case of Arunachal Pradesh, the name of the State has not been mentioned and the Bill is named as Rajiv Gandhi University Bill. Why is the name of late Shri Rajiv Gandhi being used for it? With due respect to late Shri Rajiv Gandhi, I also appreciate the feelings of the hon. Member from Arunachal Pradesh. Therefore, the Government should consider, and think over this matter.

The students of these three States along with the other States of the North East region including Assam, Meghalaya, etc. are very much deprived of getting higher education. There is no university in Tripura, and they have no facility to get higher education. If the students from Tripura, Sikkim, or Arunachal Pradesh want to get higher education, then they have to go to Kolkata, Delhi or other cities. This exercise becomes highly expensive for the students belonging to the middle-class, lower middle-class, and poorer sections of the society. Barring a few exceptions, a large number of students have not got higher education even after lapse of so many years of our independence. They are being deprived of higher education. I hope that this Bill will fulfill their aspirations, and fulfill their future prospects. The Government should look into this matter.

The Government as well as the UGC should not only think of establishing a Central University in these

three States, but also provide adequate money to start making available different subjects. These universities should start making available different subject for the student, provide lecturers of different subjects, etc., and all this requires money. Therefore, the Government should not only establish these three universities, but the Government should also take care of providing sufficient money for the smooth running of these three Universities.

I would like to make one more point while taking part in this discussion. Our country is a very democratic country as the students between the age group of 18 years and 21 years are also getting their franchise right. I have gone through the Bill carefully and found that there is no scope for students to form student unions. Students are the future leaders of our country. Many senior leaders of the present like Shri Chandrapan, Shri Sudhakar Reddy, Shri Hannan Mollah began their journey of politics through students unions. Several leaders of not only my party but all other political parties have come from the students' movement. Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi was a student leader in Calcutta University in West Bengal. However, we find it unfortunate that no scope is provided for formation of student unions in these three universities. It is a legitimate right of the students to form students union.

What happened in Lucknow is sad and none of us would want that to be repeated. We do not support the mischief created by the students union there in Lucknow University. After the Lyngdoh report those students were ousted from there. We support the formation of students union. I hope the Government would consider this matter. The Minister should not be guided by the bureaucrats. They are all democratically elected people. They are elected from among the people. They should look after the welfare of the students and provide for formation students unions in these universities.

It is a very good gesture on the part of the Government to take over these three Universities and convert them into full-fledged universities. After the establishment of a Central University, the hopes and aspirations of the people living in this backward region of the country will be fulfilled. From days prior to independence they have been deprived of opportunities of higher education. This step by the Government will bring these areas into the mainstream of the country and the students of these areas will get an opportunity to progress in every sphere of learning including science and technology. I believe the hopes and aspirations of the students and the people in general of these areas will be fulfilled by this enactment.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY (Puri): Mr. Chairman, sir, right now we are discussing the Sikkim University Bill, 2006, the Tripura University Bill, 2006 and the Rajiv Gandhi University Bill, 2006. I stand in support of these three Bills.

It is good that the Government of India has decided to take over these three Universities and make them Central Universities. As we all know, these three Universities and the colleges in these three States Sikkim, Tripura and Arunachal Pradesh are affiliated to the North Bengal University of West Bengal. These Universities did not have any faculty for post-graduate studies. Therefore, the students of the North-East were facing a lot of difficulties in pursuit of post-graduate studies. However, their need for technical, engineering and medical studies will not be covered by these Central Universities. So, I would request the Government to consider providing these facilities also in these universities.

We should see that the people of North-East are integrated into the mainstream of the country. We must honour their national spirit and their cultural symbols. We must support and help them. These students should have access to medical education. The Central Government should run technical, engineering and management colleges also in these three Universities so that students of the North-East are benefited by that.

I am very pained to say that the sentiments of the people of Arunachal Pradesh would be hurt by the name being given to the University. While the Sikkim and Tripura Universities have been named after the names of their States, the Arunachal Pradesh University has been named after the Rajiv Gandhi. I have tremendous respect to the late Rajiv Gandhi and I do not have any objection in the University being named after him. But the sentiments of the people have also to be taken into account. We must honour the sentiments of the people. As Shri Kiren has said, the people of Arunachal Pradesh are feeling uncomfortable with the name given to their University. It shows that we are trying to play politics even in academic field by resorting to such naming convention.

It would not be helpful for us, for the Government and for the nation. Hence, I would request the Government to take cognizance of the requests of the people and the representatives of Arunachal Pradesh and

change the name of the University. The Government should come out with another amendment as suggested by the hon. Members. I am extending my support to them and request the Government to keep the name of their State in the University so that their sentiments will not be wounded and their sentiments are respected. I hope the hon. Minister while giving his reply would respond to this.

We have quota in different States. Students of North-East are studying in different States. By the setting up of these Central Universities, their difficulties will be over and their educational needs would be fulfilled.

I would like to bring to the attention of the hon. Minister the matter concerning my State, Orissa. Of course, I am very much happy about the setting up of Central Universities in the North-East. Orissa is also not having single Central University so far. Will the hon. Minister and the Government consider giving the recognition of Central University to one of the premier colleges or universities of Orissa. This is one of the demands of the people of Orissa. One of its universities should be considered as a Central University. Previously, it was the convention and the standard that a Central University specializes in certain subjects and certain aspects. Different Governments run Central universities with specialization in certain subject. Now, they are giving way. Previously, Jawaharlal Nehru University and other Universities were specialized on certain subjects.

Orissa has the tribal population of about 36 per cent. Hence, I request the Government to consider setting up such type of university which would just cater to the needs of the tribal people of Orissa. Tribal people have separate culture, tradition, etc. The Government should respect the sentiments of the people of Orissa in this regard.

We have been demanding time and time in this House and we have also requested the Government of India and all the MPs of Orissa have also met the Prime Minister demanding a National Institute of Science. But the Government have betrayed the people of the State in this regard. The previous Government had decided to set up a Central institution like the National Institute of Sciences at Bhubaneswar in Orissa but the same has been shifted to some other part of the country. We have not objected to it. But we demand that the Government should also reconsider opening of a National Institute of Sciences. We are happy that the hon. Prime Minister

[Shri Braja Kishore Tripathy]

has declared something at Bhubaneshwar regarding setting up of an Indian Institute of Science, Technology and Research under the auspices of the Ministry of Atomic Energy. I do not know why so far nothing has been decided about the Institute although the Prime Minister has declared at Bhubaneshwar in August. The Government has not taken any decision as to how the Ministry of Atomic Energy would run the Institute and as to why it has not been set up by the Ministry of HRD, which manages the affairs of this subject.

I do not know as to how the Atomic Energy would set up this Institute. Nothing has been done so far. The Government has not taken any decision so far. As far as I am concerned, there is not financial arrangement or budgetary arrangement. Nothing has been done in this respect. The hon. Minister has replied in this House and the other House that they do not have any programme of setting up of such an institute. I do not know as to how they can say that when the Prime Minister has declared something to this effect in August at Bhubaneshwar and as to how HRD Ministry has stated that nothing of such type or any proposal is there with them. I can understand that the HRD is not having any proposal to this effect because the Ministry of Atomic Energy would take up setting up of this Institute as declared by the Prime Minister. But what I would like to say is that the Government should not have replied in both the Houses, in the present Session, that there is no such proposal in the Ministry. I want a clarification from the hon. Minister as to what is the actual position particularly when the hon. Prime Minister has declared. I would like to know the response from the hon. Minister as to whether such an Institute would be set up by the Government in Bhubaneshwar or not.

SHRI TAPIR GAO (Arunachal East): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I seek your permission to speak from here.

On behalf of the people of Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim and Tripura, I really salute the hon. HRD Minister, Shri Arjun Singh and also hon. Minister of State of HRD, who have really taken pains to facilitate the people, the younger generation of the North Eastern States by granting Central Universities to Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim and Tripura.

Last time we agitated and the hon. Minister, Shri Arjun Singh assured us in this House that in the next Parliament Session, he would come up with the Bills. So, he came up with these Bills now and there are no

words to express my thanks, on behalf of the people of the North Eastern States.

We represent the North Eastern States; we, the hon. Members of Parliament, face the consequences when the boys and girls from the North East face a lot of problem in getting admission in Delhi and other metropolitan cities of this country. But with granting of Central Universities to these three States, at least our younger generation and the future generation will avail the facilities in these three States; it will be a great opportunity for our boys and girls in the North Eastern States.

I have really got a lot of respect—I say this from the core of my heart—for our Parliamentary Affairs Minister, Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi; and I would like to pinpoint the issues. Shri Shailendra Kumar was naming the three institutions of the North East. Proudly it indicates the geographical locations of the States; they kept Sikkim University and Tripura University for those States, but when it came to Arunachal Pradesh, they kept it as Rajiv Gandhi University. In that Bill, you have to turn 2-3 pages to find out the name of the State of Arunachal Pradesh. We honour Shri Rajiv Gandhi. He was our young Prime Minister of this country; we have got a lot of regard for him; the people of Arunachal Pradesh and the country love Rajiv Gandhi; no one dishonour Rajiv Gandhi.

But in this particular case, when they kept the name as Rajiv Gandhi University, one has to turn 2-3 pages in the Bill to find the name Arunachal Pradesh State. Really, it touches the sentiments of tribal people of Arunachal Pradesh. We do not say that the words 'Rajiv Gandhi' should not be there. My colleague Shri Kiren Rijju and I have given notices of amendment also. If at all, you feel that it would not be an honour, if we remove that name, we request you to kindly insert the word 'Arunachal' after 'Rajiv Gandhi' in the name of the Bill. We can make that as 'Rajiv Gandhi Arunachal University'.

I would like to draw the attention of our hon. Parliamentary Affairs Minister, Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi to this. When Shrimati Sonia Gandhi, the Chairperson of UPA came to Twang, during the Buddhist festival time, she said something and I was really happy to hear this voice from Shrimati Sonia Gandhi; she said: 'Ham apke feels proud to hear such statement, to name this University without adding Arunachal, may hurt the sentiments of people and go contrary to what Shrimati Sonia Gandhi said during the festival time there. So, it is

my humble submission—seeing the sentiment of our students union, seeing the statements of the political leaders in Arunachal Pradesh and seeing the sentiments in general for the people Arunachal Pradesh—I urge upon the hon. HRD Minister to kindly insert after 'Rajiv Gandhi', the word 'Arunachal', in the name of the Bill pertaining to Arunachal Pradesh University. It will be a great relief and recognition of the indications of geographical locations of this University.

Sir, it would have been better if this Bill could have been drafted on the ground. It has not been drafted on the ground but it has been drafted by the officials or the ministerial staff sitting in Delhi. Now one very astonishing line is there in the Bill which I would like to point out. In clause 4, the name has been mentioned as the Rajiv Gandhi University, Itanagar. But the actual location of the University is Rono Hill which is 30 kilometres away from Itanagar. According to this Bill, the Government of Arunachal Pradesh have to shift all the structure to Itanagar. So, I would request that the words 'Rono Hill' should be inserted in place of 'Itanagar'. Otherwise, if you send some letter or some person to Arunachal Pradesh University, Itanagar, he has to come back another 30 kilometres to locate that University. Therefore, the words 'Rono Hill' in place of 'Itanagar' may kindly be inserted for the real address of that University where infrastructure has already been established to some extent.

In addition, in Clause 8 of this Bill, the hon. Minister may kindly request the provisions of Clause 4 of the recently passed Bill, namely, the Central Educational Institutions Reservation in Admission Bill, 2006. It will be a greater indication for the reservation and policies of that institution. It may kindly be inserted after Clause 8 of the University Bill.

We need the Central Universities whether it is in Tripura or Sikkim or Arunachal Pradesh but we need to achieve the true spirit of Central Universities. The law of the land immediately reaches to the interior parts of Arunachal Pradesh and Eastern part of the country but the development never reaches to that part of the country. Therefore, the true spirit of the Central University may kindly be facilitated to these three institutions so that our boys and girls do not have to rush here and there in the metropolitan cities of the country of opting other subjects.

I would like to highlight two institutions. The first college of Arunachal Pradesh falls in my Parliamentary Constituency. The name of that college is Jawaharlal

Nehru College which was established in 1964. Now you would not imagine still some of the girls and boys hostels are located in some ordinary buildings. Our hon. Minister visited that particular institution also. It really makes us hurt that we are blackmailing the architect of this country, Jawaharlal Nehru. But still most of the hostels are made like an ordinary building with wooden material. Even the extension of colleges are in ordinary buildings. This is a great dishonour to the man after whom it has been named. There is another college in my Parliamentary Constituency, namely, Indira Gandhi College. I hesitate to visit that institution because one of my teachers who taught me in the Pasighat college is the Principal of that college today. When I went to the Indira Gandhi College, Teju, I found that there is no hostel accommodation in the institution. The college students have constructed on Self-Help basis with leaves and bamboos some ordinary building type huts around the compound of the college. This is the situation in Arunachal Pradesh.

19.00 hrs.

Sir, we do not have any problem about having the name of the University as Rajiv Gandhi but I would like to request the hon. Minister to kindly add the words, 'Arunachal Pradesh' to it. Otherwise, this university would also meet the same fate as that of the colleges named after great visionaries like the late Jawaharlal Nehru and the late Indira Gandhi. It should have all the requisite facilities as are there in a Central University like the Benaras Hindi University. I had the fortune of visiting that university twice. If this University is not given all the facilities, then it would also suffer the same kind of fate as the other two colleges named after the late Jawaharlal Nehru and the late Indira Gandhi have met with.

Sir, I would like to make another point. When this institution is given autonomous power, then it would run its affairs independently. But it has often been seen, particularly in the North-Eastern region whether it is in Tripura, or in Sikkim or Arunachal Pradesh, there is lack of proper monitoring and there is lack of accountability in matters of development, imparting education and providing necessary amenities and facilities. So, the monitoring mechanism would need to be strengthened in these institutions, otherwise representatives of the UGC will not visit the place. So, the management of the university would have to be strong enough.

Sir, once again I would like to remind the hon. Minister that with the same 'Rajiv Gandhi' one would not

[Shri Tapir Gao]

be able to locate it geographically and therefore, insertion of the words 'Arunachal Pradesh' would be of great help and it would also help in soothing the sentiments of the people of Arunachal Pradesh.

Sir, with these words, I thank you once again.

[Translations]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to take part in this important discussion. Tripura University Bill, 2006, Sikkim University Bill, 2006 alongwith Rajiv Gandhi University Bill, 2006 for establishing Rajiv Gandhi University in Arunachal Pradesh have been presented in the House today. A University named after Shri Rajiv Gandhi ji is being established there. These North-Eastern areas have remained neglected for long. There is a paucity of Universities in the region and the region and the existing Universities are in a bad state. I think that this is a very good decision because this region has remained neglected so far. In view of this, it is an appropriate decision to open Rajiv Gandhi University there. It will be a Central University and I fully support the proposal but at the same time I would like to remind you that there are many other such States where Central Universities are needed. The inability of the State Governments of these three states to mobilize adequate funds to provide educational opportunities to students who wish to go in for higher education has been cited as the reason for presenting these Bills. The children from these States have to go to Delhi or Bangladesh or elsewhere for higher education. It is not possible for poor families to support their children far away from their homes or abroad for education. The government has taken a commendable decision and it deserves fulsome praise. There is need to open a Central University in Bihar as well. I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister, through you, towards the situation in Bihar because it is inarguable that Bihar is a backward State in every sphere. I have always raised this demand and the people of Bihar have also been demanding that Bihar should be accorded a special status. I do not deny that time and again the Government has made efforts for Bihar's progress and upliftment but these were half-hearted efforts. This is the reason for the sad situation of Bihar, today. Bihar has its own history. You must have heard of Nalanda University. People from all over the world come there to learn. It has a rich historical background. 'Vaishali' in Bihar is the place which gave birth to the Licchavi Republic from where the concept of democracy spread

to other parts of the world. Look at the condition of that Bihar today. You also belong to that State which is in such a bad shape today. Your State and mine were one but now have been separated. Bengal, Bihar and Orissa were one earlier but in the course of time all three were separated and all are in a bad state now. Separation of Jharkhand from Bihar has led to a further deterioration in the economic condition of the state. The State Universities in Bihar are not equipped to provide proper educational facilities to the bright students. I would particularly like to talk about Patna University which has got its own historical background. It had its own status and identity. A number of renowned personalities have passed through its portals. I am placing a longstanding demand of the people of Bihar before you. Although the hon. Minister has undertaken a number of measures to improve secondary education in Bihar, even so if the backwardness and poverty in Bihar is to be removed and the standard of higher education is to be improved then Patna University has to be upgraded. The Minister has not paid attention to the plight of Patna University which is the institution of higher learning in Bihar. I have placed this demand in the House many a times and have been demanding for many years that Patna University should be accorded the status of a Central University. But the Government has not given any positive response in this regard so far. The hon. Minister is not present here at the moment. Shri Arjun Singhji had visited Patna when centenary celebrations of DN college were going on. He had given an assurance there but that assurance has not been fulfilled till date. I would like to say, through you, that we would not mind it even if the name of Patna University is changed to Rajiv Gandhi University to accord it the status of Central University. We would welcome it. Rajiv Gandhi's contribution towards nation building has been immense. He was a great leader. The status of Central University may be granted in his name. The process of granting special status to Bihar may continue but first some assistance should be given to bring about improvement in the educational backwardness of the States. Hence, it is my request that a Central University should be set up there.

The hon. Minister also belongs to Bihar. He feels for Bihar and I think that the entire House must feel for Bihar—be it Treasury Benches or the Opposition. The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs Shri Dasmunsi is also present. Shri Kapil Sibalji has also represented Patna, but he is silent. Please do something. ... (*Interruptions*)

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): I have already spoken in the morning.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna): I congratulate you for that.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Ram Kripalji, please conclude, there is time constraint.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Sir, I have just started. I am of the view that Orissa too should have a Central University. The economic scenario there is not good and the children there are also deprived of good education. I am speaking for you as well. I have already said that it is difficult for children in poor States to study in Universities. Our Universities do not have well-equipped laboratories and libraries, and their buildings are also in a dilapidated condition. There is no lack of talented teachers and students. You are also aware about the history of Patna University. The government is establishing Central Universities in Arunachal Pradesh, Tripura and Sikkim. These are the backward regions of North-East. ... (*Interruptions*) It is my humble request to the government that it should establish Central Universities in all the States where none exists but Patna should definitely have a Central University. Bihar has a right to it. Hence, I would again request you to grant the status of Central University to Patna University and thus do justice with it. It is a backward State, which has a big pool of talent. You can carryout a national assessment. You will find that students of Patna University go on to become IAS officers, engineers and scientists. The talent is there but the opportunity is missing. I hope that the hon. Minister will give a positive reply in this regard and the entire House would applaud him for it. ... (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have made your point, please conclude now.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Sir, I have stood to support this Bill. Sir, allow me to support it. ... (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Very well. You have done it. You also spoke about Patna. Now Shri Adhir Choudhury may speak.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Sir, I need your cooperation and patronage.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have cooperated with you.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Sir, please ask the Minister to establish a Central University in Patna. It is the demand of the people of Bihar and justice should be done to them.

[*English*]

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY (Berhampore, West Bengal): Sir, I rise to support the three Bills, the Tripura University Bill, the Sikkim University Bill and the Rajiv Gandhi University Bill.

You know that North-Eastern region of our country is very strategic one. So, we need to put our emphasis on the North-Eastern region in all respects. It is a land of cornucopia in terms of natural resources, in terms of bio-diversity and water asset. But it is deplorable to state that the funds provided by the Central Government do not permeate to the grassroots level, which sometimes provoke simmering discontent. The expression of ethnic identity is very much palpable in the entire North-Eastern region.

After partition, the entire North-Eastern region has been reduced to a land-locked area. So, due to lack of communication, educational and other facilities, the insurgent groups over the years have been rearing up their uncouth faces in this particular region.

As far as the Tripura University Bill is concerned, the stated objective of this legislation is to give adequate funds because the State of Tripura has been suffering from resource crunch. Therefore, it is the magnanimity of the Central Governments which seeks to provide adequate funds so that the educational imbalance that is prevalent in various parts of North-Eastern region could be done away with. To this end, the Central Government has already conferred Tripura University into a Central University. The financial requirement of the University has been estimated at Rs. 38.27 crore for non-recurring and Rs. 9.82 crore for recurring per annum. Tripura is a very small State. It has borders with Bangladesh. Incidents of infiltration is continuing over the years due to the porous nature of the border. Tripura is such a region which has been infected by ethnic strife over the years. I think educational integration of the entire North-Eastern region will be able to curb the influence of insurgent activities in a tangible way because in the entire North-Eastern region, numerous ethnic entities, numerous tribals have been

[Shri Adhir Chowdhury]

residing over the years. So, the ethnic identity is very much distinct in that particular region. The simmering discontent among the ethnic people sometimes get flared up into an explosion of ethnic strife. So, education will provide the socio-economic integration, cultural, academic, and intellectual integration of the entire North-Eastern Region which will ultimately help stabilization of that region which has been over the years sensitive for various aspects. The entire North-Eastern region is an earthquake-prone region. I would propose to the Government that those universities which are going to be set up should include the subject in regard to meteorology, bio-diversity and environment. The hon. Minister of Science and Technology is also present here. I would draw his attention also to this issue.

I would also like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to an important issue. Here in this Bill, there is no provision for formation of students union. I think being a democratic entity, we should allow students to form their associations to express their independent views.

Secondly, as far as appointment of Vice-Chancellor is concerned, no background has been prescribed here. I think the background of any Vice-Chancellor should be included.

Thirdly, the age of Librarian has not been mentioned in this Bill. I would specially propose to the hon. Minister that insofar as Tripura is concerned, the tribal people should be given a fair opportunity for admission in these universities because Tripura is such a State where Tribal population should be given special priority so that the population could merge with the mainstream population of the North-Eastern Region.

With these few words, I conclude.

PROF. BASUDEB BARMAN (Mathurapur): Sir, I rise to support the Sikkim University Bill, 2006; the Tripura University Bill, 2006; and the Rajiv Gandhi University Bill, 2006.

Sir, before I go to the Bills, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Members of this House, through you, to some general points regarding education in India, especially higher education and research.

Sir, the National Policy on Education, 1986 reviewed and reiterated in 1992, emphasized that in the context of the unprecedented and ever-accelerated growth and

expansion of knowledge and ever-expanding database, the system of higher education must be dynamic and oriented towards the present and future needs of the country and the human kind at large, continuously visioning and covering newer areas of learning, imbibing in the minds of our younger people a spirit of adventure and experimentation in the domain of academic activities with a view to achieving a mindset for doing good for all. The National Policy on Education proposed that a good number of universities and colleges in the country needed all-round improvement in their infrastructural facilities and the principal thrust should be on their consolidation and expansion, making education more accessible to such sections of our populace who may not afford for formal higher education for various reasons. Emphasis was also given on the rural universities for equipping people to take up challenges for economic uplift and cultural progress of our rural and hilly area people in order that the nation may take effective steps towards achieving an egalitarian society, without further delay. Therefore, most importantly, the emphasis and special attention are needed almost on an emergency basis. And, therefore, most importantly, emphasis and special attention are needed almost on an emergency basis for improving access and equity and geographically disadvantaged places like Jammu land Kashmir and the North-Eastern Regions in particular.

Now, coming to the three Bills, I would congratulate the Government of India and especially the Ministry of Human Resource Development for initiating steps for establishing three Central Universities in one of the disadvantaged regions of the country. Actually, through these three Bills, when passed, two State Universities—one in Arunachal Pradesh and the other in Tripura—will be given the status of Central Universities and a new Central University will come up in Sikkim.

At present, there is no University in Sikkim as has already been pointed out and the undergraduate colleges of the State are affiliated to the North Bengal University of West Bengal. There is no arrangement of offering Post-Graduate courses in the State of Sikkim. As a result, the students do not get the opportunity to pursue higher studies. So, the installation of a Central University in Sikkim will cater to the educational facilities available in the North-Eastern Region thereby meeting the legitimate and long-overdue aspirations of the people.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

PROF. BASUDEB BARMAN: If you ask me, I will take my seat.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am telling you to conclude because of time constraint.

PROF. BASUDEB BARMAN: I have taken only two or three minutes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Exactly, that is the amount of time that has been allotted to every Member.

PROF. BASUDEB BARMAN: Thank you, Sir. It will reduce the imbalance in the educational facilities available in our North-Eastern Region thereby meeting the legitimate and long-overdue aspirations of our brothers and sisters living in the State of Sikkim.

The Tripura University was established at Agartala, as a State of University in 1987. We may recall that it started as a Post-Graduate Centre of the University of Calcutta in the seventies of the last century. The Rajiv Gandhi University at Itanagar was established at Itanagar, the Capital of Arunachal Pradesh in 1984. The Governments of these two States, with their limited resources, are not in a position to provide adequate funding for the development of these Universities, particularly funding for special fields like bio-technology, nanotechnology, information and communication technology, space science, material science and technology, mountain and hill areas studies and research including inter-disciplinary research is lacking.

The University Grants Commission had constituted Committees one for each of the two Universities to consider the issue. ... (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Barman, if you like, you can lay the written speech on the Table of the House.

PROF. BASUDEB BARMAN: Well, Sir, I request to tell me whether you were asking me to sit down. I told you that I would sit down. I am not going to lay down any paper there. Thank you.

MR. CHAIRMAN: What can I say? Due to constraint of time, I am repeatedly interrupting you.

PROF. BASUDEB BARMAN: With folded hands, I am saying that I have not taken much time. I am sitting as you wish.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am sorry Shri Barman. I did not mean that you should sit down. But I tried to request you to be precise and speak within the limited time. Please carry on.

PROF. BASUDEB BARMAN: I was saying that the UGC constituted Committees to consider the issue of their conversion into Central Universities and the relevant issues of funding, etc. The UGC Committees so constituted recommended conversion of the Rajiv Gandhi University, Itanagar and the Tripura University, Agartala into full-fledged Central Universities through an Act of Parliament. The objects of these three Universities are, more or less, on the same lines. They will be to disseminate and advance knowledge by providing instructional and research facilities in such branches of learning as the University may deem fit, to make provisions for integrated courses in humanities, natural and physical sciences, social sciences, forestry and other allied disciplines; to make special provisions for studies in tribal life and culture; to take appropriate measures for promoting innovation in teaching-learning process, inter-disciplinary studies and research; to educate and train manpower for the development of the respective States and to pay special attention to the improvement of the social and economic conditions and welfare of the people of the States, their intellectual, academic and cultural development.

Sir, from what I have stated so far, it is amply clear that establishment of these Central Universities in the three States, *vis-a-vis* the existence of such institutions at Kohima, Silchar, Tezpur, Aizwal, Imphal and Shillong will go a long way to meet the aspirations of the people of the North Eastern Region. However, I want to add one sentence here. The Union Government, through the Ministry of Human Resource Development and the University Grants Commission, must keep a vigilant but a loving eye on these young institutions for their sustained growth and development in the coming decades.

With these words, I, once again, support the Bills and request my hon. colleagues in this August House to pass the Bills today.

[*Translation*]

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY (Kokrajhar): Mr. Chairman, Sir, thank you for giving me an opportunity to take part in this ongoing debate on these three Bills namely Rajiv Gandhi University Bill, 2006; Tripura University Bill, 2006 and Sikkim University Bill,

[Shri Sansuma Khunggur Bwiswmuthiary]

2006. I thank hon'ble Minister also for presenting these Bills. I take this opportunity to extend my hearty congratulations to all the people of Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh and Tripura.

[English]

Today is a red letter day for the people of Arunachal Pradesh, for the people of Sikkim and for the people of Tripura. So, on this very auspicious occasion, I would like to congratulate the people of Arunachal Pradesh, the people of Tripura and the people of Sikkim.

But at the same time, I would like to apprise you of the fact that a great discrimination has been done against the people of Bodoland Territory in the matter of sanctioning Central University and other higher educational institutes. You are aware that the Bodoland Territory is very much backward, very much neglected and discriminated territory in all respects. Although this territory has been brought under the provisions of the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution of India in the year 2003, but in the field of education as well as in other field also, it is very much neglected.

[Translation]

No university has been established in Bodoland area till now. There are a few higher educational institutions in some areas of north-eastern States but there has been a great discrimination against our Bodoland area in this regard. What I now read out is illustrative of this discrimination. There is a state university and a medical college in Guwahati of Assam. A veterinary college is also there. There is a state university and a medical college also in Dibrugarh. There is an agricultural university in Jorhat too and an agricultural engineering college is also there. There is a central university in Teipur and an agriculture college is also there. There are Assam Central University, a medical college and an NIIT in Silchur but what is in our Bodoland area? Few years ago, a campus of Guwahati University was opened in Kokrajhar but even that campus is of no use. How much discrimination are we supposed to suffer further at your hands?

19.29 hrs.

[SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV *in the Chair*]

Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is my strong demand from the Union Government, through you, that a Central University

namely Bodoland Central University should be established for development of the people of Bodoland region.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, Bodoland needs a central agricultural university, a medical college and an A.I.I.M.S. Few years ago the NDA Government made an announcement to establish six institutes in six states on the lines of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences but there was no talk of establishing a single such institute in our Bodoland. Did our share of sacrifice during struggle for independence go in vain? Bodoland needs an IIT. Bodoland needs an Institute of AIIMS model, a national institute of textile and fashion design technology, a national institute of bio-technology and a R.E.C. As many as seven polytechnic institutes are required there. Not a singly polytechnic college has ever been set up in any of the four districts of Bodoland till date. What is our fault?

[English]

What crime the people of Bodoland have committed? Why this discrimination is there? It is very unfortunate.

[Translation]

Sir, besides our Bodoland area a large number of students in all the prominent areas of Assam are getting their education in Bodo language, but many of those schools are in private sector. My demand is that the Union Government should pressurize Assam Government to bring all such primary schools, Secondary schools under regional system. You will find that rest of north-eastern region has its fair share of Central Universities but Bodoland has none out of them. Meghalaya has a Central University known as NEHU, Nagaland has Nagaland Central University and Manipur also has a central university. Today Sikkim is getting a central university. I thank the Union Government for this. I thank you for the proposed recognition to the university of Arunachal Pradesh as a central university and proposed upgradation of the regional university of Tripura as a Central University. But the question is whether we will get a central university or not?

[English]

I would like to get a clear cut commitment from the Government, particularly, from the Ministry of Human Resource Development.

[*Translation*]

Where will our young generation go? Where will the students of Bodoland go after passing the matriculation exam, higher secondary exam and graduation exam? Should they not get an opportunity to acquire Master's degree, M. Phil and Ph.D.

[*English*]

So, should they keep on going to the jungle and so should they keep on going underground only? The time has come to realize the ground reality. Today my heart is very much burnt and hurt indeed. It is very unfortunate. I have been telling the Government of India since 1998, the day I entered this august House, the apex legislature of this country about the manifold tragedies of the Bodo people and their psyche. But nobody cares. Here statements are recorded only. There is no befitting reply. There is no positive response to our queries, to our problems and grievances. What does the Government want to do? What will the Government do? It is very unfortunate. Who will listen to us? Who will address all those genuine grievances? You always love to talk about your GDP growth rate from 8 percent to 10 percent. You talk about developmental prospect of India's economy and that it will be one of the strongest economies in the world by 2020.

[*Translation*]

What will we get from that? If you do not want to do justice to us, what is the benefit of that economic growth for us?

[*English*]

You talk about Indo-US Nuclear Agreement. You always talk about this and that big things and issues. You talk about this Finance Commission and that Commission and so on.

[*Translation*]

What is the use of these things for us? Mere talking with mouth will not do, 'dil se pyar aur mohabbat karne se kaam chalega' (sincere efforts are required). ...
(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Expunge this word from proceedings.

[*English*]

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY: I am very sorry to say that you always keep on talking with your mouth, but you do not talk with your hearts, with your sentiments.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please take your seat now.

[*Translation*]

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY: I conclude with my demand of a central university, at least one central agriculture university, one IIT, one IIM, one nursing college and one National Institute of Textile and Fashion Technology and one medical college for our Bodoland area from the Government. ... (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record. Please take your seat now.

... (*Interruptions*)...*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, Shri Nakul Das Rai.

... (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please take our seat, your speech is not going on record. I have called Shri Nakul Das Rai.

... (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now you have concluded your statement. Nothing is going on record.

... (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Nakul Das Rai, you may speak. Your Statement will go on record. Mr. Bwiswmuthiary's statement will not go on record.

... (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please take you seat. You have concluded. Nothing, you say, is going on record. You speak, your speech will go on record, Mr. Bwiswmuthiary's speech is not going on record.

*Not recorded.

[English]

SHRI NAKUL DAS RAI (Sikkim): Mr. Chairman, Sir, thank you for giving me this opportunity to take part in this debate. I rise to support these three Bills—Sikkim University Bill, 2006; Tripura University Bill, 2006; and Rajiv Gandhi University Bill, 2006.

Today, I am very happy and with great pleasure I welcome these three Bills and I would like to extend my thanks to the Ministers of Human Resource Development and also the UPA Government on behalf of the people of Sikkim.

Sir, as you know, Sikkim is very small but beautiful. On the top of that, it is one of the very peaceful States in the region and a stable Government led by Dr. Pawan Chamling, has ensured good governance. Effective administration, guaranteed peace and tranquillity, no extremists, and grass root democracy through devolution of power to the Panchayat, which have won praise from all quarters.

Under such circumstances, a larger number of students will take admission from all parts of the North-Eastern Region, Bihar and West Bengal in the Sikkim University as any student wants to study in a peaceful atmosphere. Therefore, the Sikkim University's infrastructure should be at par with other Indian Universities.

In this context, I would like to raise a few points which are to be included in the amendments. I came to know through the financial memorandum that the financial requirement of the University is estimated at Rs. 55 crore non-recurring and Rs. 32.60 crore recurring for the year 2006-07 to 2008-09.

The money which has been allotted is inadequate because the infrastructure cost of the University will be double in the hills than in the plain area.

Therefore, the Union Government and the hon. Minister of Human Resource Development may kindly look into this matter and enhance the allotment and support till the full establishment of university in Sikkim.

Sir, as my colleague Mr. Kiren Rijju rightly mentioned, the financial package should be good enough. Only then, at the university side, the educational activities will take place in a proper manner. So, there should be a financial economic package given to us.

Similarly, while participating in the debate, our colleague Mr. Adhir Chowdhury, also raised a very important point regarding infrastructure. The whole of the North-Eastern Zone is a seismic zone; and as per the Geneva University's prediction, any time an earthquake may take place, any catastrophe may take place in the North-East. So, in near future, when the infrastructure is going to be built there, earthquake-proof buildings should be constructed.

Then, as regards courses, apart from usual courses, I am requesting the hon. Minister of Human Resource Development to consider inclusion of certain departments, which would equip the students in professional world, such as Information Technology, which has huge demand across the globe; Biotechnology; Journalism and Mass Communication; MBA; Environment and Himalayan Studies. Sikkim being located in the Himalayas, this course would be of great significance and importance for the region. In fact, the University could have a separate Centre for Himalayan Studies in the years to come. Moreover, it is also a new subject.

Then, other department, namely, International Politics—Post Graduate; Film Studies/BA Music(Hons.)-Theoretical and Practical; BA/MA(Hons.)-Psychology/Geography; Physical Education; and Law may be included there. I would request that these courses should be introduced from the Sikkim University.

Sir, there are some universities in India, which have got wide range of courses. For example, the Aligarh Muslim University has got Dental, Medical, Engineering, Polytechnic and vocational courses. Similarly, Banaras Hindu University has got the Institute of Medical Sciences, Institute of Technology, Institute of Agriculture Science and so on and so forth. The Sikkim University also should allow the same pattern or model of these universities where there is focus on technical education and job-oriented courses. Only then, the Sikkim University would be at par with other Indian universities at least in terms of courses.

I would, therefore, urge upon the Government of India and the Union Minister of Human Resource Development to consider all these points, which I have raised in my speech.

I once again welcome the Sikkim University Bill, 2006; Tripura University Bill, 2006; and Rajiv Gandhi University Bill, 2006.

DR. THOKCHOM MEINYA (Inner Manipur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to participate in the consideration and passing of the three Bills, namely, Sikkim University Bill, 2006; Tripura University Bill, 2006. I stand here to support these three Bills.

At the very outset, I would like to congratulate the UPA Government and the Ministry of Human Resource Development for having brought out these Bills in this current Session. It has been the longstanding demand of the people of these areas. This will definitely help our North-Eastern region, in order to bring them at par with the rest of the country in terms of human resource development and particularly in the high education sector.

While supporting these Bills, I would like to place on record the history of higher education in this region. The North-Eastern Region was not having proper infrastructure for higher education. The entire region was under the control of Calcutta University till 1948. Then, the University of Guwahati was established at Guwahati to cater to the needs of higher education of that area. Then, in the 70s' we had started some State universities. One is Dibrugarh University. But the yearning of these people was met when the North-Eastern Hill University was established for the hill regions, particularly Nagaland, Meghalaya, Arunachal Pradesh and Mizoram. Now, from this North-Eastern Hill University we have Nagaland University. Then Meghalaya is having North-Eastern Hill University. Then we have Mizoram University.

Last year, in this Fourteenth Lok Sabha, the Government of India has given the status of Central University to Manipur University along with Allahabad University. So, the three States, namely, Sikkim, Tripura and Arunachal Pradesh, were left out.

Of course, assurances were given by the Hon. Minister of Human Resource Development that these University Bills would be brought this time and passed. I really congratulate him because this time we are very happy, rather I join my friends from Arunachal Pradesh. They were demanding all through these days. It is a very good day. Rather it is a memorable day for the people of Arunachal Pradesh and other two States.

With these few words, I would like to put my last point that, as you know, 'better late than never.' I once again support the Bill. I thank you for giving me the time.

DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA (Lakhimpur): Sir, I stand here on behalf of my Party to support the Bill for creation of three Universities in Tripura, Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh.

Sir, I want to make only two points which other Members had already supported. These universities which produce graduates who are unable to get any gainful employment. I would request, through you, the Minister to introduce new subjects and modern courses which can cater to the needs of the present time so that they can contribute gainful employment to them.

I also support what Mr. Bwiswmuthiary has suggested because from Guwahati to Dhuburi, the entire lowest part of Assam does not have any institute for higher education, leave alone university. So, I strongly support the proposal which has been forwarded by Mr. Bwiswmuthiary for establishment of any kind of institute for higher education in the Bodoland. It is very genuine and it is really a deserving demand of the people of Bodoland.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHD. TAHIR (Sultanpur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, first of all I congratulate hon. Minister through you, on behalf of Bahujan Samaj Party for Sikkim University Bill, Tripura University Bill and Rajiv Gandhi University Bill, 2006. This is a welcome step of the hon'ble Minister. It will be a big relief for the North Eastern States and lot of development will take place therein. I congratulate the Government also for this.

Uttar Pradesh is adjacent to Bihar and hon. Minister belongs to Bihar. The eastern Uttar Pradesh is very poor. I have been elected from Sultanpur. Amethi, the Lok Sabha constituency of Shri Rahul Gandhi, is adjacent to it. There is no university specially in the Sadar Area. ... *(Interruptions)* The condition of that belt is very bad. The students of that area have to travel a long distance for study. They have no other option. There is extreme poverty in that area. I would like to draw hon. Minister's attention towards Sultanpur. I would like to draw specific attention of the Government towards Sultanpur Lok Sabha constituency in eastern Uttar Pradesh. This is a very backward area. Please establish a university there too.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Mani Charenamei to speak. Please speak the point and for two minutes only.

SHRI MANI CHARENAMAI (Outer Manipur): Thank you Mr. Chairman for giving me this opportunity. I stand to support the passing of the Sikkim University Bill, the Tripura University Bill and the Rajiv Gandhi University Bill. The North-Eastern region is a region which is known for its backwardness. It has been lagging behind in many fields, in many fronts particularly in the field of education the North-Eastern region has been lagging behind the other parts of the country. As such the people of the North-Eastern parts of the country have not been able to participate fully and actively in the nation-building process.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude. Please come to the main point.

SHRI MANI CHARENAMAI: Sir, the people of this region, in spite of our richness in biodiversity, are not able to learn much about the richness and the uniqueness of our areas. We are rich in terms of our biodiversity. But we do not have a University, we do not have a place of study. Moreover, in the North-Eastern region, particularly in the States of Tripura, Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh, where there is a sizeable population of the tribals, we do not have any Department or any Faculty where importance is given or where research is done on the culture of these tribal people. Sir, this Faculty on research of tribal cultures should also be given importance.

Sir, besides this, the latest science and technology courses like the information technology, computer science, nanotechnology, biotechnology and business and management courses should also invariably be part of these Universities.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

SHRI MANI CHARENAMAI: Sir, one minute please.

Moreover, qualified professors and teachers who wish to teach in these areas, who volunteer to go and teach in these areas should be given proper incentives.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Prof. Mahadeorao Shiwankar to speak now.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI MANI CHARENAMAI: Until and unless we have good and regular teaching staff, we will not be able to get the kind of education that we are expecting. Besides

this, we are congratulating the hon. Minister. ...
(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing except the speech of Prof. Shiwankar will go on record.

(Interruptions) ..."

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now Shri Shiwankar ji to Speak. He is at home in Hindi.

PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR (Chimur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to draw hon. Minister's kind attention towards only two issues. The first issue is that after going through the details of the Bill I found that hon. President will be the chancellor and the governor of the state will be Registrar of the University. Thereafter, rest of the office bearers will be appointed according to the procedure. I want to know whether you are creating the departments of Central Government? I expect from you to clear it before passing this Bill whether there will be democracy or not in those universities. Generally, it is seen that administrators, staff and offices try to keep all the powers in their hands while preparing the Bill. If you go through the Bill, you will find it. Suppose, if ever universities do not get funds, there is any irregularity and there is an audit objection, hon. President being the Chancellor and the hon'ble Governor being Registrar will be responsible for that. Therefore, I think that hon. President and hon. Governor should not hold any honorary post in any university or other institutions. The office of the President is Supreme in the country and we have belittled it by making him the chancellor of universities and, therefore, I request you to exclude these two posts from the universities set up in the next session, though you won't be able to do it now because I have not tabled any amendment in this regard and appointment on the post of Registrar and other posts should be made as per procedure being followed in other states. This is my earnest request to you.

My second request is that you will get this Bill passed but it is not clear when these universities will become functional. If there is no cut off date, these universities will not start functioning even after passing of this Bill in the Parliament. I want to know when these universities will become functional? Besides, I want to know whether

you have made any financial estimate, how much funds will be spent thereon, how much fund you have provided for these and how much you want to spend. ...
(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Financial memorandum is enclosed.

PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR: Financial assessment needs to be explained and I would like to know technical education will be imparted in these universities because there is so much competition in the world today. ... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Shiwankar ji you are right, but please cooperate.

PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR: Sir, Lok Sabha cannot pass this Bill blindly. I would like to request hon. Minister to explain it and it should be amended in future otherwise, I will oppose these Bills.

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA (Kheri): Sir, I welcome all these Bills brought in by hon. Minister. Today, Sikkim University Bill, Tripura University Bill and Rajiv Gandhi University Bill have been brought in the House. Preceding Speakers have put forth their views in this regard and I associate myself with them, specially I support the statement of my colleague Shri Kiren Rijju regarding land for these and addition of the word Arunachal Pradesh with the name of Rajiv Gandhi University. In addition, I would like to say two things. Though the standard of primary education in North-east is good, but access to higher education is less than national average. I hope that human resource will be developed there through these universities and a large number of people will have access to higher education. It is a fact that when the level of education of the society goes up, it has a positive impact on the society and politics of the country which creates positive thinking and feeling.

Sir, it must be ensured that a large number of boys and girls from North-eastern states may enter in the administrative services. Today, it is a painful situation that the number of boys and girls from all the North-eastern states in administrative services is very low because a few people could manage to go for studies in Delhi or other cities. I hope that after the establishment of these universities, the children of rural areas will have access to higher education and they will be able to enter in the administrative services.

20.00 hrs.

After creation of knowledge based society, the public will have access to its research base, gene pool data and social interaction data. I think that now the time has come to develop good institutes in not only North-eastern states but the existing reputed institutes in the country as Centre of Excellence so that the children may come forward as it will help development of India.

North-eastern region is the main centre of bio-diversification. Today, global trade systems are developing and gene monopoly is emerging through patents and these gene pools. Our young generation and politicians hailing from there can work on these probabilities that North-east despite being a remote area, has the potentiality of gene pool reserve and they can harness global business.

With these words, I support this Bill and congratulate the people of North-east and hon. Minister for the creation of such universities.

[English]

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): Sir, I rise to support these three Bills. I am very much associated with the functioning of the universities. I was also acquainted with their functioning in many ways. My deceased wife was a Professor in the Kerala University, and my two daughters are working in the Kerala University in the grade of Professors. In all these ways I had the occasion to get acquainted with the functioning of a university.

I have many things to add about the present functioning of the university, but I cannot do it as there is shortage of time. Therefore, I will do it on a future date. I would like to make only one point about the student community. A couple of days ago the Kerala High Court pronounced a judgement that was really shocking for me. The Kerala High Court's judgement is in continuation of a Supreme Court direction giving guidelines for the conduct of elections in the colleges. The Kerala High Court declared that hereafter no students organization can take part in the elections. This is the decision taken by them. ABVP is banned, the Students Congress is banned, and the SSI is banned. The students themselves contest the election on their individual basis, and this is the declaration of the Kerala High Court.

[Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan]

I was elected as an office bearer of the erstwhile Travancore State Congress 60 years back. I was elected the President of a Congress organization, which participated in the freedom movement. Therefore, the students organization is not a novel concept as it is in existence in India for long. But, unfortunately, the learned judges occupying the chair are not aware of this fact.

Now, I will draw your attention to one interesting provision. In all these three universities there is a section dealing with the visitor. The visitor is none else than the President of India. He will be called the visitor of all these universities, and he has powers of issuing directions. He has been given ample powers of making the university function in a proper way, and I welcome this step. But who is the President? He is elected on party basis. The visitor of the university is the most important person. That visitor himself is an elected representative. He gets elected with the party support. But, unfortunately, the Kerala High Court came to the conclusion that there can be no party affiliation or any organization affiliation in college elections.

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPAN (Trichur): There is no provision in these Bills for students union.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: I will come to that.

The visitor is an elected person. The universities are functioning to create people who are capable of taking over the administration at a future date. What is the basis of administration in a Parliamentary democracy? Parliamentary democracy means that there will be a ruling party and an opposition party. Without that there can be no Parliamentary democracy. But our learned judges are quite unaware of the fact that the students will not get training in the colleges if what they say is implemented.

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPAN: Students are voters also.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: They are saying that they should not be given any training about elections, they should not be permitted to get elected on organizational basis. This is a shocking development. So, I would request the hon. Minister to bring in a legislation in this regard.

Clause 21 of the Bill talks about the authorities of the universities. You must add a provision for college students council or college union in that clause. You have given many authorities but unfortunately the students union

or the college union is absent there. So, I would request you to put in a provision like that. Otherwise, the judgment of the Kerala High Court will prevail. More or less, it will be followed by the Supreme Court's decision also. We had a bitter experience in the past. When the Kerala High Court declared that bandh is illegal, the Supreme Court confirmed it. So, the next step will be that the Supreme Court also in conformity with the Kerala High Court judgment ban all students organizations in the whole nation. Now it is limited to Kerala only. That will be extended to all States. This is the precedent the Kerala High Court has set. They said no ABVP will be allowed and no SFI will be allowed. This is the decision. People who are controlling the administration here are also banned from contesting the elections. I do not know whether Shrimati Sonia Gandhi is aware of this position. If it is confirmed by the Supreme Court, the net result will be that we will have people with no experience in Parliamentary practice.

Ours is a parliamentary democracy. We believe in elections. Our judiciary has gone to such an extent. It is an influence of globalization. Forgetting the fundamental principles of Parliamentary democracy, even the basic section of the Constitution they have forgotten and in their anxiety to give a judgement in favour of the management they have not allowed all those candidates who are contesting elections on organizational basis. So, I would request the Minister to bring in a legislation to correct this position.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): Mr. Chairman, Sir, nineteen of my colleagues participated in the discussion on the three Bills presented in the House today. This day has been one of great pleasure for me for it is a rare sight in Parliament that a Bill presented by the Government gets unanimous support. I would like to thank the entire House for promising to pass this Bill and for giving it their support. It is the need of hour and a geographical necessity to establish universities in these regions. There are many reasons which make the establishment of universities in these regions very important. You are aware that there are eight North-Eastern States and five of these States have already six Central Universities there. But in the rest three States, there is not even a single Central University. Today is a great day because all these three States are going to get a Central University. Now each

of the eight States would have a Central University. ... (*Interruptions*) Bodo Land will also get its turn. I would like to inform you that at the time of India's independence there were a total of 20 Central and State Universities. Today before the passage of this Bill, the count of Central Universities stands at 20 and if all the Universities are included than there are a total of 357 Universities in the country. There were 500 colleges at the time of country's independence. Today there are 18 thousand colleges. We are progressing slowly but steadily. English and Foreign Languages Bill was passed a few days back. Now, the country has 24 Central Universities and nearly 105 lakh students are enrolled therein. Only 1.14 percent of eligible youth are able to attend college. Hence, we have to give a further boost to higher education.

I have seen some area of the region where these Universities have been established. When the UPA Government had come to power it had made a commitment that it would provide all possible support to the North-East in all matters including education. I think that with the presentation of this Bill, that commitment has been fulfilled. I would like to congratulate the people of that region. This Bill has been presented in Lok Sabha today. The Bill was first presented in Rajya Sabha and thereafter referred to the Standing Committee. The Standing Committee had made 17 recommendations in respect of the Rajiv Gandhi University and 16 recommendations were related to the Tripura and Sikkim University. 9 recommendations in respect of the Rajiv Gandhi University have been accepted by us. Eight other recommendations regarding other Universities have been incorporated in the Bill. Our colleagues have raised many queries. Demand has been raised for establishment of Central Universities in certain States by my colleagues from Orissa, Bodo Land and Eastern UP. Shri Ram Kripal Yadav here had demanded a Central University for Bihar. I would like to say only that we should first try to provide all facilities in the existing universities. We have asked for funds in the Eleventh Plan. ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: Please give information about Uttar Pradesh.

SHRI M.A.A. FATMI: Uttar Pradesh has four Central Universities—Aligarh Muslim University, Benaras Hindu University, Allahabad University and Ambedkar University. The Eastern region of the State has Benaras Hindu University. Many States do not have any Central University even now.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): There is none in Rajasthan either.

SHRI M.A.A. FATMI: Yes, there is none in Rajasthan. No one has mentioned it earlier. It was mentioned in the Rajya Sabha so I had replied to it there. A Central University for Bihar is being demanded inside and outside the House. We have asked for funds in the Eleventh Plan. If we get the funds and we have sufficient means to establish a university then we would give consideration to the demand. ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna): Bihar should have a Central University.

SHRI M.A.A. FATMI: I specifically took your name when I mentioned Bihar's demand. I talked about the need for a Central University. ... (*Interruptions*) I was talking about all the States when I said that work would be undertaken according to availability of funds. ... (*Interruptions*) There is a large scope for development of higher education in the country. Universities and colleges have to be established. Only 1.4 percent of the youth, who are our future, are able to attend college. Their needs would be kept in mind. Further action will be taken on availability of funds.

Some questions have been raised about the nomenclature of the Universities. Some of the Members raised particular objections to naming a University after Shri Rajiv Gandhi. Many Members raised this question. First of all, I would like to say that highest regard should be shown towards persons who are no longer with us. A person who has done so much for the nation. ... (*Interruptions*) Objections should not be raised for naming a University after a person who was Prime Minister of the country, who did so much for the country and who laid down his life in its service. We did not propose his name. Rajiv Gandhi University was the name already given to the proposed Central University. We accepted it as such. Tripura University was given its name by the State itself and we accepted it as such. Locations were also discussed. We have decided to accord Central status to Universities, which exist because their facilities also have to be used. We are changing neither the location nor the names of the Universities. Please understand this.

One of my colleagues has raised a point about student unions in particular. His concern is justified. I believe that Universities are seats of learning. I myself

[Shri M.A.A. Fatmi]

have been a member of Student's Union. I was a member for not one but two years in Engineering College Association. I was Cabinet Member of Union for three years and the General Secretary of the Aligarh Muslim University Student's Union for two years. Hence, I think that there should be a Student's Union and it should be actively functional. There is no bar on forming a Student's Union anywhere. Student's Union can be formed in the Universities and can carryout its functions.

A question has been raised that the NDA Government had sanctioned the establishment of some institute in Bhuvaneshwar. As far as I know an announcement had been made about setting up of a National Institute of Science in Bhuvaneshwar. I think, the announcement was made by the UGC when in fact it did not have the right to make such announcement. When the proposal was sent to the Legal Department it was found that UGC did not have the right to make such announcement and hence the proposal was dropped.

SHRI B. MAHTAB (Cuttack): The hon. Prime Minister had made the announcement about establishing Indian Institute of Science, Technology and Research last August when he had visited the place.

SHRI M.A.A. FATMI: I am talking about the announcement regarding a Science Institute in Bhuvaneshwar.

[English]

SHRI B. MAHTAB: That was of 2003 and I am talking about last August when the Prime Minister had gone there, he had announced setting up of Indian Institute of Science Education and Research. The Department of Atomic Energy is supposed to provide the funds but nothing has come up. The Ministry of Human Resource Development had given a reply in the Rajya Sabha that it is not being done. That was raised by Mr. Tripathy.

[Translation]

SHRI M.A.A. FATMI: I would like to talk about the announcement made regarding Department of Atomic Energy and National Institute of Science Education and Research.

[English]

The National Institute of Science Education and Research was announced by the Prime Minister to be established

in Bhubaneswar under the Homi Bhabha National Institute which is a deemed University under the Department of Atomic Energy. The Homi Bhabha Institute is taking further steps in the matter according to the DAE.

[Translation]

Sir, so far as the question of funds required is concerned, for that provisions are contained therein. According to this an amount of Rs. 105 crore under non-recurring head and Rs. 9.34 crore under recurring head will be provided to Rajiv Gandhi University, an amount of Rs. 38.27 crore under non-recurring head and Rs. 9.82 crore under recurring head to Tripura University and an amount of Rs. 55 crore under non-recurring head and Rs. 32.6 crore under recurring head will be provided to Sikkim each year. Hon'ble Members have desired to know as to when these three Universities are likely to start functioning? As soon as the Bill is passed and becomes an Act all these universities will start functioning.

[English]

Rs. 198.59 crore will be given to three Universities as non-recurring fund and Rs. 51.78 crore as recurring fund.

[Translation]

This is the expenditure likely to be incurred on this.

[Translation]

Many of our colleagues have raised the question in regard to Bodo Land.

[English]

A Central Institute of Technology at Kokrajhar, Bodo Land, has been set up with financial support from the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Central Government. The Director, NERIST, Itanagar has been given the responsibility of starting a diploma course from the year 2006-07.

[Translation]

These steps are being taken there. As we shall have the resources, we would provide such facilities in remote and poverty stricken areas, there have been similar demands from various regions of India.

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY: It is only for the diploma course.

SHRI M.A.A. FATMI: At least Diploma course is run, it will start in 2006-2007. All of you have supported the Bill. The Bill contains all those things which they desired. I think such university was needed especially in the education sector in those areas of India which lagged behind in development. And this is likely to be passed by the House today. I hope as all of you extended your support from the very beginning so also you will help in passing this Bill.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House will now take up item No. 38.

The question is:

"That the Bill to establish and incorporate a teaching and affiliating University in the State of Sikkim and to provide for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, as passed by the Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House would now take up clause by clause consideration of the Bill.

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN (Trichur): Sir, I had given notice for moving certain amendments, but those amendments have not been circulated.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Your amendment was beyond the scope.

[English]

I have to inform you that your amendments have been disallowed. There are several instances in the past when such amendments which were beyond the scope of the Bill have been disallowed.

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN: Sir, I do not agree with that. You may kindly see rule 80 (i). It says and I quote:

"An amendment shall be within the scope of the Bill and relevant to the subject matter of the clause to which it relates."

This amendment was about setting up of unions in these universities about which many Members have spoken. How is it then not related? I sought to move an amendment that after clause 24, there should be insertion of a clause 24(a) to give effect to setting up of unions in these universities.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Student's union is not mentioned in the Bill.

[English]

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN: The Government has not said about that and that does not mean that it is beyond the scope of the Bill. ... (*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: This has already been disallowed because you can see that is not related. It is already mentioned in clause 80, so it is beyond the scope. It has already been disallowed.

[English]

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN: How can it be disallowed? It is not in order. ... (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: The amendment shall have to be within the scope of the Bill and relevant to the subject matter of the clause of which it relates.

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN: How can one say that it does not relate to the subject matter of the Bill. ... (*Interruptions*) Would you please see the rule? ... (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have already mentioned rule 80(i) and your amendment is beyond the scope of the Bill.

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN: Sir, I am questioning your ruling, but I am unable to understand as to how this is beyond the scope of the Bill. ... (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: This is not the opportune time for this.

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN: Sir, if this is not the opportune time, then when could I move my amendment? ... (*Interruptions*) I must say this is quite arbitrarily done. ... (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That clauses 2 to 46 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 to 46 were added to the Bill.

The Schedule was added to the Bill.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Long Title were added to the Bill.

SHRI M.A.A. FATMI: Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let us now take up item No. 39, namely, Tripura University Bill, 2006.

The question is:

"That the Bill to establish and incorporate a teaching and affiliating University in the State of Tripura and to provide for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House shall now take up clause by clause consideration of the Bill.

The question is:

"That clauses 2 to 48 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 to 48 were added to the Bill.

The Schedule was added to the Bill.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Long Title were added to the Bill.

SHRI M.A.A. FATMI: I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let us now take up item No. 40, namely, Rajiv Gandhi University Bill, 2006.

The question is:

"That the Bill to establish and incorporate a teaching and affiliating University in the State of Arunachal Pradesh and to provide for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House shall now take up clause by clause consideration of the Bill.

[Translation]

SHRI KIREN RIJJU (Arunachal Pradesh): Sir, let me clarify it because whatever hon'ble Minister said was a misunderstanding.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please take your seat. No clarification can be allowed.

... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI KIREN RIJJU: Sir, I want to elaborate on one point. It is essential to clarify it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It has been done. You are moving your amendment? Please speak.

... (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI KIREN RIJJU: I beg to move:

"Page 2, line 43,—

for "Rajiv Gandhi"

substitute "Arunachal".

[Translation]

Sir, hon'ble Minister said that we had objections to the name of Rajiv Gandhi. We have clarified in the very beginning that we respect Rajiv Gandhijee. We have no objection to it. Our objection is to the impression that

was sought to be created and whatever was said in the Assembly to the effect that if the name of university was not changed from Arunachal University to Rajiv Gandhi University then it would not be granted the Central University status nor any funds would be forthcoming.

[English]

This will give a wrong impression. And that is why, I have moved this amendment. Please clarify my point. I am totally in support of the Rajiv Gandhi University Bill.

[Translation]

There is nothing objectionable in it, but misunderstanding has been deliberately created while the truth is that the last word that has been spoken from our side was that you can name it after Shri Rajiv Gandhi if you so desire, we have no objection to it. We shall also withdraw the amendment but please do put the word Arunachal therein because the nomenclature has vanished. If hon'ble Minister gives assurance to that effect, .

[English]

I am prepared to withdraw my amendment.

[Translation]

SHRI M.A.A. FATMI: It is a matter of happiness that he has no objection to retaining the name of Rajiv Gandhi in the nomenclature. ... *(Interruptions)* Please listen to me. Since I have already told that we are not giving it any name. We are giving it the same which has been recommended from there. Whatever the name was in the State, we are considering the same name. Secondly, the name Rajiv Gandhi University has been sent to us after being passed by the State Assembly. We cannot interfere there. ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI KIREN RIJIJU: It is essential to clear here. I have clearly said that whatever the State government has said is wrong. ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI M.A.A. FATMI: Listen one thing. Central Government never says that funds will be provided only when so and so nomenclature will be kept. We never said such things. ... *(Interruptions)* First of all listen to me. I do not know what happened in the State. Whatever name was recommended by the State we have only placed that name in the Bill. And since this Bill has been

passed by the Council of States, after being referred to the Standing Committee and reached here after passing through all these stages. So they should not have any objection to it. It is a good step and this should be forwarded. This name has been given to it by the State Assembly and not by us. ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI KIREN RIJIJU: I have moved this amendment to add the name of Arunachal. I have no objection to the name of Rajiv Gandhi. I would request to hon'ble Minister to consider it.

SHRI M.A.A. FATMI: This was needed to be done by the State Assembly itself. Since this name has come from there, so that very name has been kept. I request hon'ble Member to withdraw the amendment.

[English]

SHRI KIREN RIJIJU: We are not against Shri Rajiv Gandhi's name.

[Translation]

Mr. Chairman, Sir, if hon'ble Minister gives assurance I am ready to withdraw. Hon'ble Minister should only tell that he would consider it in future.

SHRI M.A.A. FATMI: This will come from your own State. The House has the right to consider it; nobody has any objection to it. ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI KIREN RIJIJU: But it has become a Central University.

SHRI M.A.A. FATMI: Let the Bill first be passed after that we would consider it.

SHRI KIREN RIJIJU: I am repeatedly requesting please at least give assurance to this effect.

SHRI M.A.A. FATMI: Let the Bill be passed first, after that we would consider it.

SHRI KIREN RIJIJU: Mr. Chairman, Sir, when the hon'ble Minister has replied then I withdraw the amendment.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Is it the pleasure of the House that amendment No. 2 moved by Shri Kiren Rijiju be withdrawn?

The amendment was, by leave, withdrawn.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That clause 2 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 2 was added to the Bill.

Clause 3 Establishment of the University

SHRI KIREN RIJIJU: I beg to move:

Page 2, line 45,—

for "Rajiv Gandhi"

substitute "Arunachal" (3)

Page 2, line 47,—

for "Rajiv Gandhi"

substitute "Arunachal" (4)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Are you withdrawing your amendments?

SHRI KIREN RIJIJU: Yes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Is it the pleasure of the House that amendments No. 3 and 4 moved by Shri Kiren Rijiju be withdrawn?

The amendments were, by leave, withdrawn.

SHRI TAPIR GAO: I beg to move:

Page 3, line 7,—

for "Itanagar"

substitute "Rono Hill". (5)

I would like to seek one clarification. The countrymen know that the hon. Prime Minister's residential address is 7, Race Course Road. If the hon. Prime Ministers' residential address is mentioned as Rashtrapati Bhawan, how will it look like? Likewise, here the University is located in Rono Hill. But in the Bill it has been mentioned as "Itanagar." So, I would request the Minister to substitute "Itanagar with "Rono Hill."

[Translation]

SHRI M.A.A. FATMI: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have already said that university will function from the same place where it is located and Central University has been set up as such.

[English]

SHRI TAPIR GAO: I agree with your point.

[Translation]

There is no difference of opinion on this but the university is located in Rono Hills and it is away. It would be better if "Itanagar" is substituted by "Rono Hill".

SHRI M.A.A. FATMI: The place will remain the same.

SHRI TAPIR GAO: But the name of the place is Rono Hills.

SHRI M.A.A. FATMI: That will automatically remain.

[English]

SHRI TAPIR GAO: I need one more clarification. The hon. Minister of HRD is relying on what the Assembly has passed. Suppose, the Assembly of Arunachal Pradesh passes a resolution to move to China, will this Parliament agree? ... *(Interruptions)* This is subject to correction. ... *(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): It was referred to the Standing Committee. ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI TAPIR GAO: Sir, when there is subject to correction, we can also have a correction in the Parliament itself. I am not misguiding the honourable House. ... *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI M.A.A. FATMI: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have already said that the Bill was introduced in the Council of States, then referred of standing committee and again passed by the Council of States. The name, as I have already said, has come through the State Assembly. We have considered that very name. When the other hon'ble

Member has withdrawn, I also request him to please withdraw.

[English]

SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE: The corrections can always be done. ... (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Tapir Gao, are you withdrawing your amendment?

SHRI TAPIR GAO: Sir, I will not withdraw it. Let the people of Arunachal Pradesh see as to what is happening in this House. As far as changing the address is concerned, I am not going to change the address. I am giving the real address that 'Rono Hill' is the place. I am not against the Bill and I am not against anything. But I want only correction in the name. ... (*Interruptions*) So, I move the amendment. ... (*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

SHRI M.A.A. FATMI: We have only placed the same name which has been sent to us by the State Assembly. We have not made any changes in it. And the address is also the same as it was earlier.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Tapir Gao, are you moving or withdrawing your amendment?

SHRI TAPIR GAO: Sir, when someone speaks the truth on the floor of the House, we should not add the number game of politics where we are going to have the wrong impression to the younger generation of Arunachal Pradesh. Even then, I urge upon the hon. Minister and the Government to kindly relook in future giving the right address. Otherwise, if the Parliament sends a letter to the University, it will reach Itanagar which is 30 kilometers away. So, to make it sure, I withdraw my amendment. I also request the hon. Minister to take action of what we have spoken here in the Parliament. I withdraw the amendment.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Has the hon. Member leave of the House to withdraw his amendment?

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

The amendment was, by leave, withdrawn.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That clause 3 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 3 was added to the Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Kiren Rijiju, are you moving your amendments Nos. from 6 to 12?

SHRI KIREN RIJIJU: Yes, Sir. I beg to move:

Page 3, line 9,—

for "Rajiv Gandhi"

substitute "Arunachal". (6)

Page 3, line 11,—

for "Rajiv Gandhi"

substitute "Arunachal". (7)

Page 3, line 13,—

for "Rajiv Gandhi"

substitute "Arunachal". (8)

Page 3, line 15,—

for "Rajiv Gandhi"

substitute "Arunachal". (9)

Page 3, line 33,—

for "Rajiv Gandhi"

substitute "Arunachal". (10)

Page 3, line 37,—

for "Rajiv Gandhi"

substitute "Arunachal". (11)

Page 3, line 43,—

for "Rajiv Gandhi"

substitute "Arunachal". (12)

... (Interruptions)

SHRI KIREN RIJJU: Sir, after an assurance I got from the hon. Minister, I am satisfied. I withdraw my amendments, subject to correction in the future time. ...
(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Has the hon. Member leave of the House to withdraw his amendment?

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

The amendments were, by leave, withdrawn.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That clause 4 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 4 was added to the Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That clauses 5 to 30 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 5 to 30 were added to the Bill.

Clause 31 — *Power to make ordinances*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Kiren Rijju, are you going to move your amendment?

SHRI KIREN RIJJU: I beg to move:

Page 11, lines 23 and 24,—

for "Rajiv Gandhi"

substitute "Arunachal". (13)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Do you withdraw it?

SHRI KIREN RIJJU: I withdraw my amendment.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Has the hon. Member leave of the House to withdraw his amendment?

The amendment was, by leave, withdrawn.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That clause 31 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 31 was added to the Bill.

Clauses 32 to 49 were added to the Bill.

The Schedule was added to the Bill.

Clause 1 — *Short Title and commencement*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Kiren Rijju, are you going to move your amendment?

SHRI KIREN RIJJU: I beg to move:

Page 1, lines 3,—

for "Rajiv Gandhi"

substitute "Arunachal" (1)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Do you withdraw it?

SHRI KIREN RIJJU: I withdraw my amendment.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Has the hon. Member leave of the House to withdraw his amendment?

The amendment was, by leave, withdrawn.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Title Stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Long Title were added to the Bill.

SHRI M.A.A. FATMI: I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, I am going to take up 'Zero Hour'. Shri Ramji Lal Suman—not present. Shri Shailendra Kumar.

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Chall): Mr. Chairman, Sir, with your permission and through this House I would like to express my views on a very important issue. The

Lok Sabha T.V. Channel has been started few months ago and for that an Advisory Council has also been set up under the chairmanship of the hon'ble Speaker. I am fortunate to be a member of that council. In the first sitting it was said that this channel should be telecast all over India. An expense of Rs. 16 to 22 crore has also been incurred on it. All of us wanted this channel to be shown in the far-flung areas of the entire country. Hon'ble Members of this House also wanted the people to see how their elected representatives to this biggest Panchayat i.e. Lok Sabha rise the various issues and problems and matters related to development of their constituency and how they perform.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I through you would like to demand from the Government to issue a letter on its behalf to the Chief Ministers or Chief Secretaries of all the States asking them to ensure that Lok Sabha channel be shown even by the private operators in remote areas of our hon'ble Members' constituencies, failing which their license will be cancelled. I, through you, emphatically demand from the Government that such arrangement be ensured.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI (Jodhpur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I through you would like to draw the attention of the hon'ble Minister of Finance towards the picketing and demonstration organized by the Agents of Life Insurance Corporation of India throughout the country on the 16th of this month. The agents of LIC have three-four main demands. They have to work for 10-15 years there.

Sir, the Agents of LIC are doing work but their services are discontinued on small complaints and nobody is there to address their problems. The Agents of LIC neither get any pension or gratuity; there is no facility of medical claim whereas they are always eager to carry forward the business of LIC. They are not provided any kind of facility.

Sir, on this very issue, they organized 'dharana' few days ago. They were resenting that LIC distributed 800 k.g. of gold among their officials in the name of golden jubilee programme but Agents were not given even one gram of gold or any kind of other benefit. On the other hand corporation spent Rs. 8 crore on the programme of ex-chairman's daughter but it has still not provided any kind of facility to its 10 lakh Agents spread throughout the country. Therefore, I, through you, would like to request especially hon'ble Minister of Finance to provide

all the facilities to those LIC Agents who are expanding the business of Corporation and are like the backbone of LIC.

20.51 hrs.

[SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN *in the Chair*]

[*Translation*]

*SHRI LONAPPAN NAMBADAN (Mukundapuram): In the matter of disgrace to us that even after 59 years of independence hand pulled rickshaws and cycle rickshaws exist in our country. The rickshaw labourers are condemned to carry the burden of fellow human beings. The rickshaws are a remnant of the slavery system and it is time we stop it.

Even today, we can see hand pulled rickshaws and cycle rickshaws in several cities and towns. Lakhs of poor labourers are employed in this sector. Several among them succumb to serious diseases and meet with premature death.

We have made progress on several fronts, but it is regrettable that we could not improve the living conditions of the rickshaw labourers. Subsidy should be given to rickshaw labourers to buy auto-rickshaws on interest free loan. A central legislation should be drafted on these lines. Rickshaw labourers should have welfare funds and pension scheme.

I urge upon the Government to take immediate steps and salvage lakhs of poor labourers in this sector.

[*English*]

SHRI B. MAHTAB: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want to raise an important matter of urgent public importance. It relates to the need to take up river cleansing as a Central project.

While India's most ambitious river cleaning project the Ganga Action Plan-I and Ganga Action Plan-II have proved to be huge failures with the projects running nearly 13 years behind schedule, it is high time to declare some of the most polluted rivers as national rivers and intervene directly to clean up such rivers.

*English translation of the speech originally delivered in Malayalam.

[Shri B. Mahtab]

The national rivers concept is nothing new and the Central Water Commission should formulate the criteria for rivers and finalise it soon. Then only the Union Government can take up river cleansing as a Central project. One is aware that water was transferred from the Union and listed as a State Subject by a special ordinance in 1997.

The 2006 official audit of the Ganga Action Plan says that the Plan has met only 39 per cent of its sewage treatment target. The Central Pollution Control Boards says that even after spending Rs. 30 crore on cleaning it, the Ganga remains as dirty as ever.

This is the case with all major rivers of the country. Be it in Cuttack or Sambalpur, the Mahanadi is gradually meeting the fate of the Ganga. Mahanadi is facing high levels of pollution and gradual deterioration of water quality. Nearly 86 per cent of the catchment and major industries of Mahanadi are located upstream in Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh. Big towns like Rajnandgaon, Bhillai, Durg, Bilaspur and Korba are on the banks of these tributaries. The industries located there release effluents into the river and thus begins the story of the river pollution.

What is disturbing is that river with its pollutants further degrade the water level and as it passes through Sambalpur and reaches Cuttack, it becomes unfit for human consumption.

I urge upon the Government to take up river cleaning as Central Projects at the earliest and include Mahanadi and Brahmini in it.

[Translation]

SHRI KISHAN SINGH SANGWAN (Sonepat): Sir, every year the problems of farmers are discussed throughout the country. The farmers' financial condition is precarious due to which they are taking recourse to suicide. The whole country knows how many times it has been discussed.

Land is being acquired in the whole country including Haryana in the name of SEZ; farmers are resorting to 'Satyagarh' for water at some place and for other things at other places. In Haryana farmers are resorting to Satyagarh at eight to nine places. The farmers are agitated because their land is being acquired at cheaper

rates for developing SEZ. One-acre of land worth 2.5 crore rupees is being acquired at the rate of 18 lakh rupees whereas at some other places the farmers are staging agitation due to non-availability of fertilizers like DAP and Urea. At some places the farmers are panic-struck by drought and the farmers of Baga in Bhiwani district have been agitating for months for want of electricity. Their demand is that they are not getting power-connection despite having deposited money in advance for connection many years ago. The water level has receded drastically and they demand for introduction of slab-system. On the one hand the farmers are not getting power and on the other hand the government has increased the tariff of electricity. There is no question of their getting two phase electricity and the situation is that their motors are burnt because they don't get proper voltage to run their motors.

The people are doing politics in the name of farmers in a prosperous state like Haryana. The politicians forget the farmers after coming to power. Today the farmers of the entire state are agitated due to shortage of power and fertilizers, and the acquisition of their land at cheaper rates. The farmers are being looted, therefore, it's my demand from the Central Government, through you, that the Central Government should interfere and direct the State Government to listen to the grievances of the farmers. At least the State Government should listen to them; today nobody is ready to listen to them. Today the farmers feel insulted and therefore, the government should redress their problems.

SHRI RAJNARAYAN BUDHOLIA (Hamirpur, U.P.): Mr. Chairman Sir, I want to raise an important issue regarding school going children. Now-a-days the children of 4 to 12 years' age-group, going to primary schools, have to carry heavier school bags than the percentage of their body-weight. Where there are no means of transport and no schools nearby, these children have to go on foot while carrying these bags due to which pain in back, waist and stomach of the children has become common phenomenon. Now-a-days the aforesaid complaints are increasing amongst the children, particularly amongst the children studying in nursery to class VIII in most of the public schools.

Surveys have been carried out in this regard in many countries which clearly state that the weight of schoolbag must not be more than ten percent of the weight of a child.

21.00 hrs.

But in India the weight of children aged 11 to 14 years is 30 to 35 kilograms whereas the weight of their schoolbags should be seven to ten kilograms i.e. Indian children are carrying weight about double the prescribed limit.

Therefore, for the sake of future of the children, I request the Government to take immediate steps to reduce the weight of schoolbags of the children studying in the government run schools as well as other private schools.

SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR (Bareilly): Sir, I would like to bring it to the notice of the Government, through you, that the single largest artificial rubber manufacturing factory in Asia namely Ms. Synthetics and Chemicals Ltd, situated in my Lok Sabha constituency Bareilly, has been lying closed since 15th of July, 1999 due to shortsightedness and mismanagement of management of this factory. About three thousand permanent and more than one thousand daily wage workers of the said factory and about ten thousand families are getting affected due to the closure of this factory. The above-mentioned factory being the only artificial rubber-manufacturing factory in Asia used to save foreign currency of worth crores of rupees for the country.

Though the administration has sent all the employees on paid leave yet the administration has not paid the salary and other dues to the employees since February, 1999. The administration has been giving false assurance from time to time regarding making the factory operational and payment of all the dues of the workers.

All the employees are going through severe financial crisis due to these continuous false and misleading assurances. Some of the employees have to commit suicide due to penurious condition and the rest of the employees are facing a lot of problems due to penury.

The case of the said factory has been referred to B.I.F.R. and there has been no positive outcome due the failure in following the right course by the management. Sustained efforts are going on.

I would like to request the Central Government, through you, to take over the said factory and directions should be issued for the revival of this factory and necessary action should be taken to make payment of dues and salary of the workers at the earliest.

[English]

SHRIMATI TEJASWINI SEERAMESH (Kanakapura): Respected Chairman, Sir, through you, I would like to raise the issue regarding the unfortunate Circular issued by the Central Railway Board to install all instruction-informative signboards in Hindi and English, and to remove all regional language boards, which has thus caused widespread unrest among the people of my State, Karnataka.

Over the years, my people enjoyed the privilege to know the Railway information in their mother tongue. How can the irresponsible officers of the Railway Board snatch away the basic right of my people overnight? What is the intention behind this crude act? While they excluded Tamil Nadu from displaying Hindi boards and allowing the Tamilians to use the local State language, that is, Tamil instead of Hindi, why do not they allow Karnataka to use Kannada? Are they insensitive to the ground repercussion escalated by this blind act?

Our language, Kannada, is an official State language of Karnataka which is constitutionally recognized Regional language of the country. It won seven Gyanpeeth Awards, the highest awards of the nation. It is having 2,000 years of rich ancient linguistic history, and Kannadigas are eagerly expecting to receive the award of classical language status from the Central Government to Kannada. Sir, I demand the Government to award the classical status to Kannada language at the earliest. ... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: You come to your demand.

SHRIMATI TEJASWINI SEERAMESH: Sir, it is a very sensitive issue. Please allow me some more time.

Sir, at this juncture, the act of the Railway Board is very provocative and hurt the pride of the Kannadigas. As an patriotic Member of Parliament belonging to INC, I always defend the national unity and integrity. Unlike the Tamilians, we never violently opposed to Hindi language. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID (Periyakulam): Please do not say violent Tamilians. ... (Interruptions)

SHRIMATI TEJASWINI SEERAMESH: Please listen fully. It is your right to be violent. ... (Interruptions) I am supporting your right. Why are you getting agitated? ... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Madam, please address the Chair.

SHRIMATI TEJASWINI SEERAMESH: Sir, towards Hindi, the views of the Kannadigas are very progressive. But our broadmindedness should not be considered as our weakness. At the same time, we accept Hindi language for our convenience provided our own local language of the land, that is, Kannada being given the priority on all fronts. We will not allow or accept the superiority, the dictatorship or imposition of Hindi or English over our Kannada language. ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: This is not a Special Mention. This is a speech.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI TEJASWINI SEERAMESH: In spite of my prayer to withdraw the Railway Board circular and to maintain the earlier *status quo* to allow Kannada sign, information and instruction boards at railway station, on trains, they have not done so. If they proceed with the new Circular. I would be forced to launch a strong protest and sit on *dharma* in front of the Mahatma Gandhi Statue in the Parliament House.

Therefore, I would urge upon the hon. Railway Minister, Shri Laluji to look into this ... *Otherwise, these types of actions will divide the country and cause a lot of damage to the integrity and brotherhood of the country.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mrs. Tejaswini, please take your seat. You are making a speech. This is a 'Zero Hour' and not a debate.

SHRIMATI TEJASWINI SEERAMESH: Sir, it is a very important point.

Sir, I demand the hon. Minister to allow all the Constitutionally recognized State languages to use in the concerned destinations of the Railways. We should not forget that we are living in the federal system of democracy where States enjoy their own powers. ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record.

*(Interruptions) ...**

*Not recorded.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Madam, you may please lay it on the Table of the House.

... *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, Shri Chengara Surendran.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI TEJASWINI SEERAMESH: Sir, I request Laluji to act on this soon, and instruct the Railway Board to withdraw the new Circular. Once again, I condemn the poisonous and crude Circular issued from the Railway Board without understanding the consequences.

MR. CHAIRMAN: This is too much of you.

Those portions, which are not in conformity with the policy may be deleted.

SHRI CHENGARA SURENDRAN (Adoor): Sir, I would like to raise an important matter concerning the problems of Indian workers in Gulf countries.

Lakhs of Indians are working in the Gulf countries. The majority of them belongs to Kerala. Their contributions to the development work in India is very significant. But their problems are seldom attended to by the Government. Their problems start from the very stage of recruitment. Now-a-days, the Government of India has actually no control over these recruiting agencies. A good number of workers are, therefore, subjected to the cheating and exploitation of these agencies. The unskilled workers especially the lady workers are the most affected ones. They are not getting the jobs specified in the VISA. Newspaper reports show that some of them happened to reach even in prostitution centres. Harassment, both mental and physical of the sponsors, is another area of difficulties.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Surendran, please conclude.

SHRI CHENGARA SURENDRAN: I am just concluding, Sir. It is a very serious matter.

I would, therefore, submit that the Union Government may take urgent steps to provide to the workers in the Gulf countries adequate help such as: (i) proper control over recruiting agencies in India and abroad; (ii) fair air ticket charges; (iii) avoid complications in getting emigration clearance; (iv) job security and salary protection; (v) action to transport mortal remains without

undue delay; (vi) utilize the fund collected towards immigration fees for the welfare of the workers; and (vii) avoid cumbersome procedure of customs clearance at airports.

SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR (Vadodara): Sir, I am raising a very important matter regarding setting up of Indian Institutes of Technology. In the year 2003, it was declared by the then Prime Minister as also the Minister of Human Resource Development to set up five Indian Institutes of Technology in five States including Gujarat. I am sorry to state that no action seems to have been taken in the matter so far.

I would, therefore, urge upon the Government to take necessary action at the earliest in the matter.

[Translation]

SHRI SHISHUPAL N. PATLE (Bhandara): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to draw your attention towards an important issue. The Government is aware that the highest number of suicides have been committed by farmers in the Vidarbha region in Maharashtra. We had to appeal to the Prime Minister and the President to intervene in the matter to stop farmers from committing suicide. Ironically, where on the one hand financial packages are being provided to stop suicides by farmers, on the other hand class four category labourers for working in mines in the region are being recruited from other States. The local farmers had surrendered their lands for development of these mines. Manganese extracted from Chikhla mines in Bhandara Lok Sabha constituency is in great demand in the international market. The farmers surrendered their lands for such development purposes. The mines have started functioning properly. But now, when the time of recruitment of class four labourers has arrived, the farmers and children of the region have been overlooked and labourers from other States are being recruited. This is the reason why the children of farmers in that region are on strike. They have been making this demand for the last ten years but the Government has failed to lend an ear to their demands so far.

I would like to demand, through you, that the Government should employ the children of farmers of the region to work in the mines because the land for the mines was given by the local farmers. The mining officers who are responsible for recruiting class four category labourers from other States should be penalized.

[English]

SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY (Bellary): Please allow me to speak for two or three minutes because I have been waiting since this morning.

MR. CHAIRMAN: If it is a written speech, you can give it.

[Translation]

*SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Mr. Chairman Sir, thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak. I wish to bring to the notice of the Government of India the problems and ignominy that are posed before Kannada people and Kannada language. The people of Karnataka are peace loving and self respect is more important for them. My Karnataka is the place of beautiful gardens and rivers. It is popularly known as the centre of famous poets. Sandal wood is abundant in Karnataka. The Silicon city of India is the capital city of Karnataka which has most of the Information Technology companies flourishing for the last one decade.

Now, the entire state of Karnataka is celebrating "Suvarna Karnataka" to commemorate the glorious moments of its unification on 1.11.1956. Shockingly, on this auspicious occasion the Kannadigas and Kannada languages are being ill-treated severely by the Government of India. I am mentioning this with deep anguish.

Kannadigas are peace loving people. At the same time I would like to make it clear that they do not keep quiet when their language and people are in trouble. They are prepared for any sacrifice. It was Kappagal Ramjan Sab from Bellary who sacrificed his life for the unification of Karnataka. In the same way Anjavadi Sanna Basavangowda rendered yeoman's service to retain Bellary in Karnataka by contesting in the election and winning.

Sir, it is my humble duty to remember those selfless, towering personalities who sacrificed for the unification of Karnataka.

The pride of establishing Veerashiva Vidyavardhaka Sanga Kannada school before Indian independence goes to Bellary. Kannada language has a history of more than

*English translation of the speech originally delivered in Kannada.

[Shri G. Karunakara Reddy]

two thousand years. Kannada language is developing stronger and stronger amidst all adversities.

Ancient Kannada literature, Dasa literature, Modern literature, Dalita literature, Bandaya literature and other innovative literary movements have come up with great success.

Kannada language has been accorded seven Jnanapeetha awards (highest award in the country for literary works). Kuvempu, Bendre, Shivarama Karantha, Mastivenkatesh Iyengar, U.R. Anantha Murthy, V.K. Gokak, and Girish Kamad have brought laurels to Kannad by bagging these highest literary awards. Karnataka is proud of these literary luminaries.

Bellary district has contributed its night in the field of literature. Those prominent writers who have enriched Kannada language hailing from Bellary are Shri Nagesh Shastri, Vyakarana Thirtha Sri Chandra Shekara Shastry, Bellary Raghava, Jolada Rashi Doddana Gowda, Bellary Beechi and others.

Daraji Eramma, though an illeterate, she can sing poems of ancient Kannada literature. G.S. Shivarudrappa has been accorded the coveted "Rastrakavi Award". G.S.S. along with K.S. Nissar Ahmed, G.P. Rajarathnam, K.S. Narasimha Swamy, Sashi Marulaiah and Kaiyyara Kinnarai of Kasaragod are serving the cause of Karnataka. Noted writer Patil Puttappa hails from my state Karnataka. He is second to none in fighting for the cause of Kannada.

This noble state of Karnataka is being insulted today. The Railway Ministry's recent circular has shocked all Kannadigas. It has degraded the Kannada language. According to that circular the Kannada name plates on the bogies have been removed and the name plates of Hindi and English have been retained can any one in this august House imaging this kind of treatment to a national language in the twenty first century? I demand that this circular should be withdrawn immediately. In fact, many agitations have started opposing this circular. This is the dishonour to all Kannadigas which cannot be tolerated under any circumstances.

There is insult and ignominy for the Kannadigas in the railway departments also. They are not getting jobs in the railways. The Ministry should take urgent appropriate steps in this regard and Kannadigas should be given preference at least in Karnataka state.

Sir, Kannada literature has a history of more than two thousands years. Kannada words are found in Shilapadikarm, the most ancient Tamil Grammer book. Kannada words have been mentioned in the ancient greek literature. The word "Karnataka" which means Kannada has been used in Ramayana and Mahabharata. This ancient language is being relegated to the background and it is being insulted. The Government of India should wake up immediately and try to understand the emotional and sentimental feelings of six crore Kannadigas. The Union Government should accord the status of classical language to Kannada without any further delay. Protest, agitations are taking place all over Karnataka demanding the status of classical language of Kannada. This may take an ugly turn and many untoward incidents may take place. Hence the Centre should take appropriate steps to avoid all such incidents. Classical language status should be accorded to Kannada forthwith. All the Railway Department name plates, signboards etc. should be in Kannada. The announcements for Karnataka trains should be made in the railway stations for all the trains running from and to Karnataka. I thank you sir and conclude my speech.

[English]

SHRIMATI ARCHANA NAYAK (Kendrapara): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for giving me this opportunity. I would like to raise the following matter for the consideration of the hon. Minister of Rural Development. The Indira Awas Yojana being implemented by the Ministry of Rural Development gives financial assistance for shelter to the poor living below the poverty line. The Indira Awas Yojana provides immediate and timely relief to the victims of riots, flood, cyclone and fire. But the irony is that a citizen who has lost his sole house and property is denied this facility only because of the fact that he belongs to the category of Above the Poverty Line. This inequality should be removed.

Therefore, I would like to request the hon. Minister of Rural Development to give Indira Awas Yojana to all those who lost their houses during riot, cyclone, flood, fire or other natural calamities irrespective of the fact that he is a BPL or APL category person

Similarly, the fund allocated under the Indira Awas Yojana is too inadequate amount being Rs. 25,000 per unit for plain areas and Rs. 27,500 for hilly or difficult areas. The amount should be increased to Rs. 35,000 for plain areas and Rs. 45,000 for hilly or difficult areas. Thank you.

[Translation]

PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR (Chimur): Sir, cotton growing farmers in Vidarbha region in Maharashtra were fired upon last week. One farmer was killed and some were injured in the incident. The farmers were frustrated because of delay on the part of the Government in purchasing their produce and shortage of cotton procurement centers. Hence, they were organizing an agitation by climbing up on water tanks in the style popularized by the film 'Sholay'. I would like to demand from the Union Government that a large number of procurement centres should be set up with the help of NABARD, FCI or other agencies; procurement price of cotton should be fixed at Rs. 3000 per quintal and debts of paddy and cotton growing farmers should be waived-off. Also, interest on agriculture loan should be fixed at 4 percent; large scale afforestation should be carried out; Union Government should provide a special package for water management in Vidarbha; subsidies on fertilizer, seed, electricity, water pesticides and farming equipments should be enhanced; more use of science and technology should be made in villages; every house should be given 20 milch cows; and special attention should be paid to fisheries.

[English]

SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI (Dharwad North): Thank you, Sir, for giving me the opportunity. Associating myself with Shrimati Tejaswini Seeramesh and Shri Karunakar Reddy I strongly condemn the attitude of the Indian Railways, UPA Government. They have created a fresh furor all over the country by what is being protested strongly, the new circular which provides for displaying the destination boards on the trains only in English and Hindi. The Government is aware that hitherto the names of all the Express and other trains were displayed in vernacular also along with English and Hindi. For example, in my State of Karnataka, the Kannada destination boards were displayed on all the trains which was most essential for the passengers who know Kannada language only.

This system not only was most useful but also had instilled a sense of satisfaction and a matter of pride for them. But now it is most disgusting that the Railway Board is understood to have done away with this useful system and issued instructions to display nameplates only in Hindi and English by their circular dated 22.11.2006.

However, trains based for primary maintenance in coaching depots located in Tamil Nadu are exempt from this circular. Why is there this discrimination? I want to ask this question to the Government. Then, the Government should respond to this.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It has already been asked.

SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI: I must say that this is not only undemocratic but also against the national integrity and federal structure of the Constitution. I am just coming from my constituency where the people have already come on the streets, vehemently and emotionally protesting against this decision of the Railway Board. If the Government does not open its eyes to such a sensitive public outcry, very soon there will be a widespread unrest all over the State. I also urge upon the Government to explain the reasons and circumstances leading to such senseless decision of the Railways to suddenly change the existing system of displaying the vernacular nameplates.

I also demand the reply of the Railway Minister in this regard. I also urge this Government to immediately withdraw this unpopular decision.

Sir, this matter was raised last week by my colleague, but so far no response has come from this UPA Government. In the State of Tamil Nadu, they are giving such an exemption. ... (*Interruptions*)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): Sir, I shall bring it to the notice of the Railway. ... (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: That should not go on record.

*(Interruptions) ... **

SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI: Please listen to me. ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE: I shall bring it to the notice of the Railway Minister. ... (*Interruptions*) I know that this is violation of the direction of the Rajbhasa Committee. ... (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Any reference to any particular language will not go on record. ... (*Interruptions*)

*Not recorded.

SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI: Please listen to me for a second. ... *(Interruptions)*

Sir, this will apply even to your State and boards in Malayalam will be withdrawn. The boards in State's language will be withdrawn.

This is a very serious matter. The Government should respond and take action in this regard. Otherwise, I am warning that if it is not done, no train will move from Kamataka. I am giving this warning from the floor of this august House. ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Basangouda R. Patil (Yatnal)'s name will be associated with this matter.

[Translation]

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (Jaipur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am raising a simple question. Jaipur city is not getting regular supply of gas cylinders. The gas cylinders that are being supplied are underweight. Time taken for supplying gas cylinders is two months. This is the winter season and shortage of gas cylinders is causing a lot of problems for the people. Moreover, the quota of kerosene allocated to Rajasthan has also been reduced. As a result, the people who use chimneys and stoves are also facing difficulties. In a meeting with GAIL, I had been assured that Jaipur city would be supplied gas through gas pipelines. If it happens, it would be a very good thing. This would free my city from gas shortage and the effect of reduction in the quota of kerosene would also be nullified. It is my request that till the time gas pipelines are laid in the city, regular supply of gas cylinders to Jaipur may be ensured. Also, complete quota of kerosene may be released to the Rajasthan Government.

Mr. Chairman, thanks for giving me time to speak.

SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH VERMA (Jalaun): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to draw the attention to the Government towards the suicides by farmers in Jalaun district in Uttar Pradesh. A marginal, harijan farmer Ram Kumar in Kathonth Block in my Lok Sabha constituency Jalaun district committed suicide in December because he was not able to get water for tilling in time. Kamal Singh Kushwaha of village Ganora in Dakut block also committed suicide for the same reason. Ram Kumar who belonged to Bicholi village of Block Kathonth has 80 biswa land. He earned his livelihood by cultivating this piece of

land. I demand that the Union Government should ensure adequate supply of water for the farmers in my district because the farmers in Bundelkhand have also started committing suicide because of the problems they have to face due to inadequate supply of water. The families of the two farmers who have committed suicide should be granted two lakh rupees each as compensation. To check this trend at the outset, Bundelkhand should be given special status on the lines of Vidarbha.

SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR (Sagar): Sir, my parliamentary constituency Sagar in Madhya Pradesh is an extremely backward area in terms of industry and employment. No resources such as large industries, mines or progressive farming are available here. Due to this reason the young men and women of my area lack enterprise. Besides, the lack of skilled workers has expanded the dimensions of this already big problem. If the youth of this area are trained and small industries are established here, than a single industry would be able to provide employment to a large number of people which would lead all around development of the area.

The young men and women who have received technical education from the engineering college in my area are not able to get proper employment. Establishment of an Entrepreneurship Development Cell would enable the youth to participate in the development of the area by making use of their abilities and would act as an exemplary model for the future generations.

Hence, I would like to request the Union Government's help in establishment of Entrepreneurship Development Cell in Indira Gandhi Engineering College in Sagar, Madhya Pradesh under the scheme being implemented by National Entrepreneurship Development Board of Department of Science and Technology to provide entrepreneurship development training and for promotion of technical expertise through scientific and technical means.

SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR (Chandrapur): Sir, the Ministry of Water Resources, taking cognizance of consistently decreasing ground water level issued directives to the State Governments to keep it in check. But the scarcity of ground water resources due to inordinate disregard shown by the State Government in this regard will be a matter of concern and contemplation in future. Due to tapping of water in large quantity by heavy plant of Ambuja Cement, situated in my constituency, the ground water level in its premises has

drastically gone down. The wells, ponds, drains, tubewells of nearby villages have dried up or their water level has gone deeper due to tapping of water by this plant through boring 200 to 250 metre deep tubewells. The tapping of water in large quantity by Ambuja Cement Plant without any sanction from district administration has created water-crisis in surrounding rural areas. Keeping in view the indifference of administration and the water crisis faced by the people of rural areas, the act of tapping of water in large quantity by Ambuja Cement Plant should be investigated and action should be taken against them for being guilty of bringing ground water level down. The people, whose wells and tubewells have dried up because of receding water level in nearby villages and the affected farmers, should get compensation from Ambuja Cement. Keeping in view the gravity of the matter, I request the Government, through you, to give it priority and take necessary action and a report should be sought from the state government in this regard.

*SHRI P. MOHAN (Madurai): Sir, in our country lakhs of men are engaged directly or indirectly by the oil companies, especially their LPG—cooking gas Divisions to deliver gas cylinders at the doorstep of their customers throughout our country. In Tamil Nadu alone there are more than a lakh of such men engaged as delivery boys by the distributors and gas agencies. All these delivery staff do not have any job security. They are not covered by ESI and PF benefits. They are not on the rolls to get wages and salary on a regular basis. The gas agencies are paid by the oil companies Rs. 16.50 per cylinder as commission or handling charges. It is also reportedly stipulated that the delivery staff must be paid Rs. 8 per cylinder. The oil companies pay this Rs. 8 specially towards door delivery expenses. I find some of the gas agencies are not paying this to the delivery boys and they even collect money from them to be engaged as delivery staff. All over the country we find lakhs of these delivery staff are working for gas agencies without job security, regular salary and service benefits like ESI and PF. This is a cause for worry as it affects the interest of all concerned. I would like to urge upon the Government to regularise the services of cooking gas cylinder delivery staff who do not have job security with other regular service conditions like ESI and PF with fixed salary from the funds earmarked for the delivery of LPG cylinders.

*English translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA (Kheri): Mr. Chairman Sir, I would like to raise an issue of urgent public importance. The Union Government had decided to set up a free sale depot in every district in order to stop the black marketing of kerosene oil from Public Distribution shops but the price of kerosene oil for free sale has not been fixed yet. Though the companies had authorized their dealers, this scheme has not been fully implemented due to non-fixation of price of kerosene oil. Therefore, I request the Government, through you, to fix the price of kerosene oil at the earliest for sale through free sale depots so that black marketing of kerosene oil throughout the country might be stopped.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Mr. Chairman Sir, in Rajasthan the wheat distributed from FCI godowns through Public Distribution System to BPL families, for Mid-day meals, ICDS schemes, ration shops is red coloured, of very poor quality and tasteless and the people consuming it are suffering from malnutrition. There have been constant complaints in this regard from rural consumer institutes as also through print media at many places. The people are falling ill. Therefore, I would like to request the Government, through you, to stop urgently the distribution of imported wheat of inferior quality through ration shops for mid-day meal and to provide nutritious wheat of good quality for mid-day meal, IDCS and BPL families.

[English]

SHRI ABU AYES MONDAL (Katwa): Hon. Chairman, Sir, a proposal from the State Government of West Bengal for setting up a new deep-sea port on the coastline of West Bengal had been submitted to the Central Government more than a year ago. However, no concrete step has been taken by the Central Government in this regard so far. Hon. Chief Minister of West Bengal met the hon. Prime Minister on the 28th of September, 2006 in New Delhi, discussed the issue and sought his intervention for an expeditious clearance of the proposal for setting up a deep-sea port in the State. The project is still under the consideration of the Plan panel. I urge upon the hon. Minister of Shipping, Road Transport and Highways to take necessary measures for setting up of a new deep-sea port on the coastline of West Bengal without further delay.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY (Berhampore, West Bengal): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Minister of Shipping to this issue of urgent

[Shri Adhir Chowdhury]

public importance. You are well aware that the Central Inland Water Transport Corporation is an age-old organization which operates in the stretches of National Waterway-One and National Waterway-Two under the Inland Water Transport Authority where the private sector is reluctant to venture into. However, it has been found that the Central Government is now going to divest the Central Inland Water Transport Corporation's River Division. The Raja Bagan Dockyard, which was earlier a component of Central Inland Water Transport Corporation, has already been handed over to the Ministry of Defence and it has been performing well. I would urge upon the Ministry of Shipping that the River Division of Central Inland Water Transport Corporation should be merged with any organization which has a structural affinity to it, like Inland Water Transport Authority of India, like Calcutta Port Transport, or any other fraternal organization, so that it could survive. As for the potential of CIWA, it has more than 100 vessels.

It has expertise and a large pool of employees who have still left with the tenure of more than 10 to 20 years. In spite of huge potentialities in the Inland water System in India, due attention and importance has not been paid as is evident that the modal share of inland water transport has been low. At present, only two per cent share it enjoys. The 11th Five Year Plan has proposed an increase of modal share of inland water transport to four per cent. In view of this fact, I think, the River Division of Central Inland Water Transport Corporation can play a very important role, if it is paid due attention. Therefore, I would urge upon the Minister of Shipping to merge River Division of Central Inland Water Transport Corporation with any other fraternal organization.

DR. C. KRISHNAN (Pollachi): Thank you very much. I am speaking on behalf of *Marumalarchi Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam* headed by Shri Vaiko. I wish to bring to the kind attention of the Government about the painful feelings of the people of Tamil Nadu, particularly, the people of the districts, Theni, Dindigul, Madurai, Sivagangai and Ramanathapuram for which the Dam Mullaiperiar provides water for drinking and irrigation.

This Dam was built during 1886 under an agreement with the then King, His Highness the King of Travancore. When built, it was meant for a water level of 152 feet height. The agreement was for 999 years. But during 1970, under the impression that the Dam is weak, the water level of the Dam was reduced to 136 feet. But

reinforcement work was carried out by the Government of Tamil Nadu and the Dam was strengthened, according to the stipulations of the experts. After which, even though the expert committee headed by Shri S.S. Brar and Shri T.K. Mittal said that the water level can be raised to 145 feet, the water level is still maintained at 136 feet only. More than that, the hon. Supreme Court found the Dam to be strong enough and gave a clear cut verdict on 27th February, 2006 to raise the water level from 136 feet to 142 feet. Unfortunately the Government of Kerala has made an illegal legislation to nullify the 27th February, 2006 verdict of the Supreme Court. More so, and it is unfortunate that Indian Naval personnel were sent by the Kerala Government to assess and give a report about the strength of the Dam.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Place your speech on the Table. The issue is being discussed by the concerned Ministers representing each Government.

DR. C. KRISHNAN: This act of taking the power and privileges of the Central Government by a State Government should not become or form an example to other States which are also capable to take such untoward steps which might lead to an assault against the unity and integrity of India.

Hence, I would request on behalf of *Marumalarchi Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam* that the Central Government should intervene and the water level in the Dam shall be raised from 136 feet to 142 feet and justice be given.

MR. CHAIRMAN: *Kalaignar* has already taken up the issue. Why do you want to waste the time of the House?

DR. C. KRISHNAN: My beloved leader, Shri Vaiko, leader of the Tamils, is on a *Pada Yatra* from Madurai to Koodalur for six days to impress upon the Central and State Governments to achieve our long pending demand of raising the Mullaiperiyar Dam level from 136 to 142 feet. Thank you, Sir.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHD. TAHIR (Sultanpur): Mr. Chairman Sir, in my Lok Sabha Constituency, Sultanpur due to connivance of the executive engineers of Public Work Department and Irrigation Department with the contractors, ninety per cent of work done is of very low quality and this is going on even today. I request you to hold an impartial

inquiry into irregularities committed and fraudulent payments made to take punitive action against the guilty persons.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Aaron Rashid. I was wondering why you are present here. Now, I realize that you have given your name and thus, you are here!

SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID (Periyakulam): Kindly permit me to speak in Tamil.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): We are waiting for such a long time; let him also speak.

SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID: In Tamil Nadu, the LPG customers are suffering due to delayed supply of cooking gas cylinders. The customers can book for gas only after 30 days from the previous date of supply and the gas refills are being supplied only after 5-10 days. This is the practice for the past two years. Earlier, during the BJP's rule, they have had good supplies; pro-BJP officers are there in the Department and they are causing inconvenience to the general public.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Do not bring party politics at this late hour.

SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID: Sir, they are causing hindrance to the general public by delaying the supplies. This has caused extreme hardship to all the housewives. The supply criterion is the same for both single and double cylinder holders. As a result, the second cylinder does not serve any purpose as a standby cylinder, as it cannot be refilled and is left empty always. The hardship faced by the households in general is more acute during this winter and festival season. As you know, Bakrid is coming, Christmas is coming, New Year is coming and Pongal is coming, but the refills are not given properly to the households. The rural households are facing one more hardship to get their supplies. Most of the rural villages are being catered by the nearest urban distributors.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You need not reply to your own submission! If you want to read, you may place it on the Table of the House.

SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID: This is important.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I never expect a reply from you.

SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID: In urban cities, there is no alternative fuel available to the customers, in the absence of an uninterrupted cooking gas supply.

[Translation]

*The people in small income groups, in case they get gas connection from Government Oil Companies are not able to get Kerosene from Public Distribution System as their ration cards indicate the same. They are denied kerosene. Booking of gas cylinders and refills require production of ration cards. This causes great inconvenience and hardships to people in the small income groups and lower middle class when they want to exercise their options. There are many people who do not have ration cards. They suffer both ways.

[English]

In the regulated supply system, oil companies have fixed per capita consumption for every customer arbitrarily and due to this, the supply of gas cylinders to the distributors has been reduced by 25 per cent when compared to last year. All these hardships faced by the customers, particularly housewives can be overcome, only if the oil companies take a realistic view of the regulated supply by adopting a realistic per capita offtake. All these restrictions on booking need to be necessarily removed, to save the housewife from the mental agony she is going through due to this short supply of LPG.

I request the hon. Minister, through you, Sir, to restore the supplies immediately and give them sufficient supplies.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Are you satisfied now?

SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID: Yes, Sir.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: You always try to shout us down, but we only come to your rescue!

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House stands adjourned to meet again tomorrow, the 19th December, 2006 at 11 a.m.

21.44 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Tuesday, December 19, 2006/ Agrahayana 28, 1928 (Saka).

*English translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil

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